

MACKAY DANCE FESTIVAL

2026 COMPETITION RULES AND CONDITIONS

Open to all dance schools and dance students.

EVENT DATES:

Thursday July 02 - Sunday July 05, 2026.

EVENT VENUE:

CQCM - Conservatorium of Music Theatre.

AGE:

- A. The competitor's age as of JANUARY 1st, 2026 will be deemed to be the age of the competitor for the competition.
- B. If required, Proof of Age must be presented upon request. Mackay Dance Festival reserves the right to withhold any prizes until such ID has been sighted.

REGISTRATION:

- A. Entries open on May 24, 2026 and must be lodged on or before the closing date via Online Registration at www.comps-online.com.au
- B. Entries close May 30, 2026. MDF reserves the right to close the entries earlier if the entry limit is reached. We advise everyone to enter early to avoid disappointment.
- C. No Late entries will be accepted.
- D. Entries will ONLY be accepted via Comps-Online.
- E. Once entries close and have been sorted the program will be released.
- F. Mackay Dance Festival reserves the right to change/combine/split any section if insufficient or excess entries are received.

- G. No entry will be accepted until the full entry fee has been received. This is to be completed at the time of entry.
- H. No refunds will be given.
- I. Competitors are unable to compete under any other name other than what is submitted at the time of entry.
- J. Competitors can only enter in their own age group and only one (1) entry will be accepted from each competitor per section.

TIME LIMITS:

Tiny Tot Solos 2.5 minutes

All other Solos 3 minutes (with the exception of Song & Dance which can be up to 4 minutes)

MUSIC:

- A. Please ensure all music choices are suitable for family audiences.
- B. Music arrangements with lyrics are not be used for Classical or Demi Character Solos, and NO lyrics are permitted in the singing section of the Song & Dance Solos.
- C. Music is to be provided via Music Uploads. An email will be sent to all entrants with instructions in regards to music submission once entries are closed. All associated costs from Music Uploads are the responsibility of the competitor.
- D. A back up copy of the music on a USB must be ready at the event in case required.
- E. Teachers are responsible for all copyright and music licensing. Mackay Dance Festival holds no responsibility for copyright issues.
- F. If the music is faulty during a competitor's performance the sound technician will turn off the music and the competitor will be given the option of repeating their dance at the end

of the section (with back up music), without disqualification. Mackay Dance Festival holds no responsibility for incorrect music being submitted, so please check your music carefully before submission.

ADJUDICATION:

- A. The Mackay Dance Festival reserves the right to substitute an official adjudicator with any qualified person in the event of unforeseen circumstances.
- B. Competitors must not have been taught or have been a pupil of the Adjudicator during the 12 months prior to the competition.
- C. Communication regarding MDF with the Adjudicator either by competitors, teachers or other interested parties during the Competition is absolutely prohibited, except by Mackay Dance Festival officials.
- D. All competitors and teachers must accept as final, any decision made by the Adjudicator and no correspondence will be entered into.
- E. The onus is on the competitor to collect all medals, trophies, and awards from the foyer. Audio Critiques will be uploaded at the conclusion of each session (time permitting) otherwise they will be uploaded at the end of each day.

GENERAL RULES:

- A. The Mackay Dance Festival reserves the right to amend the program at any time.
- B. On the day of the competition
 - (1) Competitors must book in back stage with the marshal at least ONE FULL SECTION prior to the start of their section.
 - (2) Competitors must be ready backstage at the beginning of

their section. Once checked in, competitors are not to leave the backstage holding area.

(3) Competitors must be ready to take their places on stage at the given time and must compete in the order in which their names appear in the program.

(4) If not present when called upon, competitors may face disqualification.

- C. Late competitors will be allowed to perform at the end of the section for a critique only.
- D. Where a competitor leaves the stage before the completion of their routine (for reasons other than faulty music) and requests a second attempt.
- (1) The competitor may re perform at the end of the section.
- (2) The competitor will not be eligible for a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize.
- E. Choreography, Music and Costuming must be suitable for a family audience.
- F. Only ONE person per competitor will be permitted in the dressing spaces.
- G. Dressing Rooms are not allocated to individual Dance Schools but open to all competitors.
- H. Competitors must comply with the time limits stated previously.
- I. All care has been taken in the completion of the schedule and program; Mackay Dance Festival reserves the right to rectify any errors or omissions.
- J. The use of mobile phones, ipads, video cameras and/or cameras by members of the audience during the competition is

strictly prohibited. Offenders will be removed and recorded material will be erased in the presence of a Mackay Dance Festival official.

- K. MDF prides itself on being a family friendly competition. Therefore, any unsportsmanlike behaviour. Intimidation, Physical/Verbal Abuse, Outbursts will not be tolerated and may result in attendees involved being asked to leave the event and or disqualified. This will be at the discretion of MDF Organisers.
- L. NO alcohol is to be consumed at the event.
- M. NO light candles, naked flames, fresh fruit, fresh flowers, real vegetables, powder, sand, water, glitter, straw, glass, aerosols or any dangerous props are to be used on stage. NO props requiring 240v power are to be used.
- N. All props must be able to be set up and removed within a reasonable time frame. All props must be used during the performance. NO scene sets.

MDF will provide a person to help with props backstage. NO curtains will be provided to place or remove props from the stage. Competitors are required to remove their props from the backstage area immediately after their section. All props are requested to be kept with the size of 1.5mtrs x 1.5mtrs and must be of the highest construction quality.
- O. The stage will NOT be available for practice before, between or after any session.
- P. Prompting from the audience or side stage is strictly prohibited.
- Q. It is agreed upon when entering this competition that participants, including students, parents, family, teachers and other spectators, will not hold Mackay Dance Festival organisers, volunteers, venue, or host facilities liable for injuries sustained, illnesses contracted, or loss of property while in the attendance and/or participating in any activity related to this event.

R. **NEW in 2026!!!** SOLO ENTRY CAP - 6 Solo entries per Performer will be accepted - this does NOT include 'Everybody Impro' section. If the entry cap is exceeded the extra solos will be randomly withdrawn with NO refund offered.

AWARDS:

Mackay Dance Festival will organise the following awards.

If you wish to have the naming rights to any of these awards please contact the festival at mackaydancefestival@hotmail.com

Encouragement Awards:

5yrs & under, 6yrs, 7yrs, 8yrs, 9yrs, 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, & 14yrs & over.

Most Promising Performer Awards:

6yrs & under, 7yrs, 8yrs, 9yrs, 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, & 14yrs & over.

Most Outstanding Performer Awards:

6yrs & under, 7yrs, 8yrs, 9yrs, 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, & 14yrs & over.

Overall Most Outstanding Junior Performance (8yrs & under)

Overall Most Outstanding Intermediate Performance (9-11yrs)

Overall Most Outstanding Senior Performance (12yrs & over)

Most Outstanding Choreography Junior (8yrs & under)

Most Outstanding Choreography Intermediate (9-11yrs)

Most Outstanding Choreography Senior (12yrs & over)

Spirit of the Festival Award

ALL awards are decided by the Adjudicator except the Spirit of the Festival which will be decided by the Mackay Dance Festival backstage crew.

The awards will be presented at the Awards Ceremony to be held at the end of the Festival. The Mackay Dance Festival will endeavour to contact each award winner before the ceremony. If the winner is unable to attend the award will be forwarded to the winner at a later date.

2026 SOLO SECTIONS:

- 4yrs & under Solo (Any Style)
- 5yrs & under Solo (Any Style)

CLASSICAL SOLO

- 6yrs & under, 7yrs, 8yrs, 9yrs, 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, 14yrs, 15yrs & over

TAP SOLO

- 6yrs & under, 7yrs, 8yrs, 9yrs, 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, 14yrs, 15yrs & over

JAZZ SOLO

- 6yrs & under, 7yrs, 8yrs, 9yrs, 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, 14yrs, 15yrs & over

SLOW TAP SOLO (including Waltz)

- 8yrs & under, 9yrs, 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, 14yrs, 15yrs & over

SPEED/FAST TAP SOLO

- 8yrs & under, 9 & 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, 14yrs, 15yrs & over

SONG & DANCE SOLO

- 8yrs & under, 9yrs, 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, 14yrs, 15yrs & over

HIP HOP SOLO

- 8yrs & under, 9yrs, 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, 14yrs, 15yrs & over

CONTEMPORARY SOLO

- 8yrs & under, 9yrs, 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, 14yrs, 15yrs & over

LYRICAL SOLO

- 8yrs & under, 9yrs, 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, 14yrs, 15yrs & over

CABARET SOLO

- 13yrs (NEW), 14yrs (NEW), 15yrs & over

"EVERYBODY IMPRO with a PROP!

- This is an Improvisation Section with a difference. Competitors will have access to all of their dance shoes and once they have heard the music will choose the shoes they wish to perform in. We also have added PROPS this year! A box will be side stage with various handheld props for the dancer to chose from. Even if your child only learns one genre they can still compete in this section. Age groupings will be decided once entries have been received.