



BPAC 2026 Rules – Troupes and Schools

Purpose statement

Brisbane Performing Arts Challenge Inc (BPAC) is committed to fostering a professional environment that maximises opportunities for all students of the performing arts. This allows students to realise their full potential both in the performing arts industry, and in their own lives, by providing a high standard of competition at a professional venue, and opportunities to work with professional performers.

Convenor information

All queries should be addressed in the first instance to the relevant Convenor. Contact with the Convenor is to be sent via email to the relevant address as listed below:

troupes@bpacdance.org.au

schools@bpacdance.org.au

The Convenor has responsibility for all aspects of his/her assigned genre and is responsible for the acceptance of registration of all participants.

The Convenor has the right to refuse acceptance of registration for any participant who does not comply with BPAC's registration requirements. Any issues requiring escalation beyond the Convenor will be referred to the BPAC Management Committee for consideration and resolution.

Entries close on **15 March 2026**. No entries will be accepted after this date.

Specific terms and conditions of entry to BPAC 2026

BPAC reserves the right to make amendments to its schedule and/or sections without prior notice either before or during a session and reserves the right to cancel a session if necessary.

BPAC will endeavour to advise of such amendment or cancellation through the BPAC social media pages and through communication with the audience members at each session.

BPAC reserves the right to refuse to register any participant whose application for registration does not comply with BPAC's requirements.

Any performer taking part in a dance event takes certain inherent risks in so doing. Participation in BPAC 2026 indicates the acceptance of such risks by all participants and/or the participant's parent/guardian.

In registering for BPAC 2026, all participants (and/or their parents/guardians) acknowledge that performances are physically demanding, and may involve the risk of injuries occurring.

By virtue of entering BPAC 2026, it is acknowledged and agreed that no participant shall hold BPAC, or its officers, directors, officials, staff or employees liable for any injury

sustained or illness contracted by the participant whilst in attendance at BPAC 2026, including in any activity related to BPAC 2026.

Neither BPAC, nor the Riverlife Church, nor any other venue at which BPAC events are held, is liable for any personal injury or property loss to either participants or spectators at BPAC 2026.

All participants are required to undertake appropriate warm up prior to the commencement of every performance.

Participants participate in BPAC events at their own risk and agree they are of good health and are physically able to participate. BPAC is not liable for any injury sustained during the BPAC events.

BPAC reserves the right to eject a participant, if the participant breaches any of the BPAC terms and conditions, behaves inappropriately or is disruptive to other participants.

Judge's decision is final

The Judge's decision is final, and no discussion will be entered into by BPAC with any participant or participant's parent/guardian or any other associate of a participant in relation to the Judge's decision.

Verbal feedback will be given only at the Judge's discretion and at the time of judging. No individual feedback will be given to any participant.

Should the Judge be dissatisfied with the standard of competition, the Judge may elect not to award prizes for any category, even if such prize is listed in the BPAC programme.

If it is determined that a participant, a participant's parent/guardian, or any other person associated with the Participant/s has attempted to make personal contact with the Judge prior to or during BPAC Events, the participant/s will be immediately disqualified.

Prize monies

All prize monies **MUST** be claimed by **30 September 2026**. Any prize monies unclaimed by this date will be forfeited, and no discussion will be entered into as a result of such forfeiture.

To claim prize monies, prize winners must provide their receipts and documentation to the BPAC Treasurer before the 'Prize Claim' closing date of 30 September 2026.

The BPAC Treasurer can be contacted at treasurer@bpacdance.org.au

Refund Policy

Prize monies are generously provided by both BPAC and its sponsors. BPAC is funded by sponsorship, registration fees, donations, and ticket sales. Accordingly, **NO REFUNDS** will be given for withdrawal from BPAC for any reason unless BPAC 2026 events are cancelled by the BPAC Committee due to Government mandated restrictions or natural disaster.

Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions set out in this document, or any further terms and conditions advised during BPAC events may result in the withholding of prizes and/or disqualification of the participant/s.

No correspondence will be entered into as a result of such action.

Specific entry eligibility guidelines for Troupes and Schools

1. Age is taken as at 1 January 2026.
2. Each student may only dance twice in each section.
3. Music copyright payments are the responsibility of the individual school.

4. Each school requires its own public liability insurance policy (minimum \$10 million).
5. A copy of the school's Certificate of Currency of insurance policy must be forwarded to the Convenor.
6. All participants and other persons attending BPAC do so at their own risk.
7. Entries will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and will be limited to the amount of performance time available.
8. All entries must include the name, contact phone number and email addresses of two volunteers per studio or school per session entered, or entries will not be accepted.
9. Personal video recording and photography are prohibited in the performance auditorium. BPAC engages our trusted professional partner organisations to record performances.
10. Music must be uploaded using Music Uploads. Each registrant will be required to set up an account to upload their music to www.musicuploads.com.au
11. Time limits will be 4 minutes for all items except those with a vocal content, which have a time limit of 5 minutes (song and dance; song and tap; musical theatre, and cabaret). There are also special time limits for Musical Theatre sections (refer to Stardom for further details).
12. Receipt of entries automatically entitles schools to membership of BPAC. Schools may then nominate one representative to sit on the BPAC Management Committee. This person may not be on the committee of any other performance competition or eisteddfod.
13. OPEN Choruses sections will be open to all dance schools.
14. Elite sections will be open to dance schools by invitation only.

Section definitions

Song & Dance/Song & Tap – Must be 50% dance and 50% song. Will be marked by two judges – vocal & dance (whenever possible). Please note that microphones may not be used under any circumstances.

Musical Theatre – From a stage or film musical and must include live singing, acting, and choreographed movement and or dance. Must be presented in the style and context of the musical. Song and dances are not acceptable. Microphones may be used. May include dialogue.

Cabaret – A stylised entertainment suitable for performance at sophisticated venues. May include singing and different styles of dance. Microphones may be used.

Novelty – Should be novel and usually humorous. May incorporate different styles of dance and singing. Microphones may be used.

Contemporary – Abstract or experimental. An innovative way to move the body. Broad and creative technique.

Lyrical – Slow Modern or Neo-Classical dance.

Traditional Tap - Stylised and of the original training methods.

Street Tap – relaxed arms and bodies.

Hip Hop – a modern dance style, where traditional jazz technique is not the focus.

Jazz – may include elements of Hip Hop but must be predominantly technical jazz.

Cultural/ Ethnic /National – Any style representing culture of a group, country or nation.

Troupe Improvisation – Troupes will be given a short piece of music for 15 minutes' preparation time (isolated from other troupes) and then perform on stage. Each troupe may have one teacher to coordinate.

DanceAbility (Disability) - For the purposes of the DanceAbility sections, it is understood that participants meet the definition of disability, being a person having a physical, cognitive, developmental and/or neurological impairment that has a substantial or significant and long-term adverse effect on the ability of the person to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Disability also includes any condition that makes it more difficult for a person to have equitable access within society. For the purpose of the performance, wheelchairs and care-givers may be included.

Elite Sections (by invitation only)

Open Elite Jazz – only available to schools by invitation

Open Elite Ballet – only available to schools by invitation

These sections will receive higher cash bursaries: 1st - \$1000; 2nd - \$500; 3rd - \$250

Please note: After several years of trying to develop a special section for Elite trained dancers, we are dropping the level across the board and instead only holding 2 Elite sections for schools by invitation only.

To the teachers and schools who have come along for the ride, we thank you for the support, but it is not working, so back to the drawing board.

All schools will be eligible for Choruses Sections.

Chorus sections (minimum 4 participants, no maximum)

6 & Under

Any Style Dance or Novelty; Song & any Style Dance; Ballet; Jazz; Tap

8 & Under

Jazz; Song and Dance; Ballet; Lyrical; Tap; Song and Tap

10 & Under

Jazz; Ballet; Tap; Lyrical; Song & Dance; Song & Tap; Musical Theatre; Contemporary

12 & Under

Jazz; Ballet; Tap; Lyrical; Song & Dance; Song & Tap; Contemporary; Musical Theatre; Novelty; Acrobatics; National; Hip Hop

15 & Under

Jazz; Ballet; Tap; Lyrical; Song & Dance; Song & Tap; Contemporary; Musical Theatre; Hip Hop

Open

Jazz; Ballet; Traditional Tap; Street Tap; Lyrical; Jazz; Song & Dance; Song & Tap; Contemporary; Musical Theatre; Novelty; Acrobatics; Cabaret; Hip Hop

Cultural/Ethnic/National

Any age cultural/ethnic/national dance groups representing nations from around the world.

Mature and Motivated

A group of mature aged dancers.

DanceAbility

Any age. Please refer to DanceAbility section above for entry criteria and definition.

These sections will receive prize money as follows: 1st - \$100; 2nd - \$50; 3rd - \$25

Ensembles (minimum 4 participants, maximum 12 participants)

Ensembles are an introductory level to competitions and are only available to recreational schools. The Ensemble groups must contain no fewer than 4 performers and no more than 12 performers in total.

Dance schools that offer Certificate courses, full-time training courses, elite level training courses are not eligible to enter Ensembles in any age group. Any dance school which enters Ensembles in any particular age group may NOT enter Choruses in the same age group.

Please note that not all section genres are available in Ensembles sections.

Ensemble sections (Minimum 4 participants, maximum 12 participants)

8 & Under

Jazz; Song and Any Dance; Ballet; Lyrical; Tap

10 & Under

Jazz; Ballet; Tap; Lyrical; Song & Any Dance; Musical Theatre; Contemporary

12 & Under

Jazz; Ballet; Tap; Lyrical; Song & Any Dance; Contemporary; Musical Theatre; Novelty; Acrobatics; National; Hip Hop

15 & Under

Jazz; Ballet; Tap; Lyrical; Song & Any Dance; Contemporary; Musical Theatre; Hip Hop

18 & Under

Jazz; Ballet; Traditional Tap; Street Tap; Lyrical; Jazz; Song & Any Dance; Contemporary; Musical Theatre; Novelty; Acrobatics; Cabaret; Hip Hop

These sections will receive prize money as follows: 1st - \$50; 2nd - \$30; 3rd - \$20

Please note – care should be taken to ensure dancers are costumed appropriately for their age group and that choreography and music choice considers the audience in attendance at the event.

Microphones

Two handheld radio microphones will be supplied for each school to use as they choose in sections such as Musical Theatre, Cabaret and Novelty.

Educational schools

Dance Clubs

Dance Clubs sections are for those schools who do not run any type of Dance Excellence Program

These sections will continue to receive prize money as follows: 1st - \$50; 2nd - \$30; 3rd - \$20.

Dance Excellence

Dance Excellence is for those schools who have Dance Excellence program and/or troupes made up of 50% or more of technically trained dancers who attend formal dance tuition outside of the school domain.

Please note: Many of our Committee members are trained dance teachers who have worked in the local industry for 20 years or more and know which schools fit into which category.

We are relying on the honesty and integrity of each School Dance HOD to ensure entry in correct sections for Schools events.

These sections will receive higher prize money as follows: 1st - \$100; 2nd - \$50; 3rd - \$25 (the same as the dance school sections)

Participant code of conduct

BPAC's core values are founded on respect and integrity.

Every person attending BPAC has the right to feel physically, psychologically, and culturally safe.

During its history, BPAC has enjoyed a supportive, friendly, safe, and enjoyable environment, where the camaraderie of the performing arts industry is highlighted and promoted.

It is inherently understood and accepted that all participants at BPAC 2026 will adhere to the principles of self-respect, respect for other persons, and respect for property, and that appropriately respectful and courteous behaviour is exhibited by all persons.

Under no circumstances will BPAC tolerate verbally and/or physically abusive behaviour, offensive language, or disrespectful behaviour toward BPAC officials, staff and/or volunteers, other participants, or any other person present at BPAC. Should such behaviours occur, the offending participant will be asked to leave immediately.

This code of conduct also applies to parents, family members and friends of participants.

BPAC reserves the right to remove any person/s in breach of any of the BPAC terms and conditions, who behaves inappropriately, or who is disruptive to other participants and/or patrons. Police will be called if necessary.

Provision of music

It should be noted that all participants must be aware of the rules of music copyright.

Any rights that should be obtained in respect of recorded music for performance are the responsibility of the participants.

BPAC will not be liable for any copyright infringement occurring on the part of any participant.

In 2026, BPAC will be using Music Uploads to receive music for all BPAC events. Users new to this service will be required to set up an account. Existing users may transfer music over to BPAC 2026 if the user's storage account is active. Accounts may be established or renewed through www.musicuploads.com.au

An overview video is available to assist new users with account establishment. Overview video <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/crVVj5PV6d>

Scheduled programme changes

BPAC reserves the right to make amendments to its listed schedule without prior notice, either before the commencement of, or during a session, and reserves to cancel a session if necessary.

BPAC will endeavour to advise of such amendment or cancellation through immediate communication with participants and audience members at each session, and through the BPAC Facebook page, which is updated regularly throughout the entire duration of BPAC.

Venue

The Riverlife Church, 47 Jennifer Street, Seventeen Mile Rocks QLD 4073 is the official host venue of BPAC 2026.

The floor surface used at BPAC 2026 is the Harlequin vinyl performance floor owned by BPAC. No rosin or other gripping powder or product is permitted be used at any time during BPAC 2026, as it will damage the floor.

Riverlife Church is a non-smoking venue. Under the provision of legislation smoking is not permitted at any time inside the venue. Smoking is also not permitted in any area where food is being served or consumed. Riverlife Church is bound by Queensland Government work health and safety legislation, and venue-specific risk management policies are in place to manage all potential work health and safety risks.

All persons attending the above venue will be bound by the rules of each venue and by the direction of its staff and/or agents. Any person disobeying an order given by a duly authorised representative of the above venues or by BPAC officials may be requested to leave the premises, and may be removed by security, or the Queensland Police should such action become necessary.

Child safeguarding

All BPAC staff and volunteers are the holders of Blue Cards and have undergone a Working With Children Check as required by the Queensland Government.

It is the responsibility of each teacher, parent, and/or guardian to supervise participants aged under 18 years, and to supervise all other children within the Riverlife Church public areas and auditorium premises during attendance at BPAC 2026.

All teachers, parents/guardians and/or supervisors must obey the direction of BPAC staff and the staff of Riverlife Church, including directions relating to supervision of students. Failure to comply with such direction may result in the expulsion of such person and the disqualification of the associated participants.

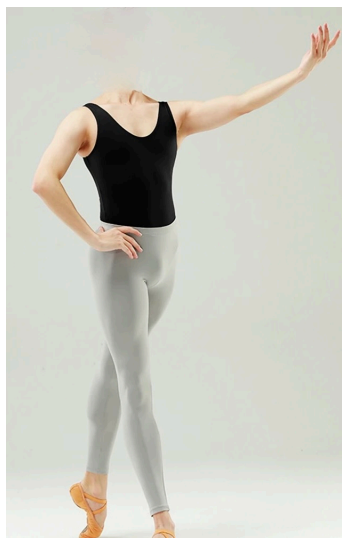
Costumes and performance content

Commencing in 2026 to assist BPAC in meeting the requirements of the *Child Safe Organisations Act 2024*, and to provide an enjoyable performance environment for everyone, costumes and performance content will be strictly monitored.

Participants arriving in attire which does not meet the requirements will be asked to change and will not be permitted to participate until the participant's attire meets the requirements.

Costumes must be conservative in coverage of the participant's body. Please use the photos below as a guide to the minimum coverage that will be accepted for costumes for performances.

Performance costumes must cover the participant's body well and maintain their dignity. No mid-riffs. The **minimum** coverage accepted for costumes should be determined by the pictures below.



Any queries regarding performance attire should be directed to the Convenor.

Performance content for all age groups

In each genre, performance choreography and music selection must be age-appropriate and meet the standards of public expectation regarding decency and protection of human rights and children's rights.

BPAC has zero tolerance for all forms of exploitation, harm, and/or abuse of children and young people. This includes actual or potential harm (including vicarious trauma) arising

from inappropriate choreography or music selection that may be caused to participants, judges, BPAC staff, and people attending BPAC events.

For children under the age of 16 years, performance content (including choreography and music selection) that could be interpreted as being of a sexual nature in any way is not permitted. The actual or perceived sexualisation of children is unacceptable in any form and will not be tolerated.

For participants aged 16 and over, music selection containing lyrics that refer to, suggest, or imply, sexual activity will not be permitted.

For participants of all age groups, music selection or monologues containing lyrics that refer to, suggest, or imply, racism, homophobia, gendered violence or any activity that promotes physical abuse, coercive control, gaslighting, or other forms of emotional abuse will not be permitted.

BPAC reserves the right to disqualify any participant whose performance content breaches BPAC's requirements. Judges will be required to disregard and not mark the work of participants whose performance content does not comply with BPAC's performance content requirements.

Photography and video services

BPAC will take and use photographs and videos during all sessions for promotional and archival purposes. All material recorded during the event is the copyright of BPAC and will not be provided for resale. The official partners of BPAC for the purposes of photography and video are BWP Studios (www.bwpstudios.com.au) and Limelight Multimedia (www.limelightmultimedia.com.au).

Photographs and professional footage of performances are available for purchase through these event partners.

Under the terms of governing copyright, child protection and privacy legislation, no recordings (audio, videos, or photos, including the use of mobile phones, iPads, tablets or any other device) may be made of any class, performance, or workshop in Riverlife Church Auditorium. Any person found breaching this condition will be requested to leave the venue immediately, and the participant/s associated with the person will be disqualified. All footage or photographs must be deleted in the presence of a BPAC official.

Medical emergencies

BPAC staff will not be responsible for the administration of medication, other than that required in an emergency as directed by a paramedic or medical professional.

It is the responsibility of the appropriate participant, parent and/or guardian to ensure that all appropriate medical and health arrangements are in place for the participant prior to attendance at BPAC.

In the event of a medical emergency, all participants and/or the participant's parent/guardian authorise BPAC to obtain all medical assistance and medical treatment deemed necessary.

The participant and/or the participant's parent/guardian will be responsible for meeting all expenses associated with such medical treatment.

Lost property

BPAC will not be liable for personal items lost or stolen during BPAC 2026. Valuables should not be brought to any of the venues associated with BPAC.

It is the responsibility of the individual to monitor all bags and personal property brought to BPAC.

Unidentified lost property will be listed on the BPAC Facebook page, and reasonable efforts will be made to return the lost property to its rightful owner.

BPAC reserves the right to dispose of any unclaimed lost property one month after the completion of BPAC 2026.