

Dorset County Dance Festival 2025

2. Points to Consider

The Festival crew have put together an overview of how the event will run together with a few details to keep in mind when planning your choreography and logistics for being with us at the competition.



Changes for 2025 have been highlighted.

Taking Entries

We are excited to announce that we now have a website able to take your membership and entry bookings. Please see below the steps to enter your routines:

1. Each school/organisation will first require a DCDF 2025 membership. Once your school/organisation has one of these in place, schools will then be able to enter as many routines as they wish. Your DCDF Membership can be purchased here- [LINK](#)
2. Please make sure all participating families have read our full policies prior to entering any routines.
3. Please follow this link to our 'How to enter' page to browse all the categories you are able to enter. New for this year we are excited to be offering 'Choreography' and 'Interpretive' sections as well as a category just for our performers 3&4yrs. [LINK](#)
4. Once you've found the category you would like to enter, please click "Book Now" which will take you to the booking page, showing the time limit and category description. Due to the website setting, we have to put a date and time on each booking, however please note this is not the date/time of your routine. All dates and times of the categories will be confirmed once entries close.
5. When adding entries to your basket please make sure to fill out the form which will give us all the necessary info such as the performer(s) name, date of birth, postcode as well as agreeing to our policies and terms and conditions.
6. All entries will be reviewed by the team before being accepted. Please note routines are not accepted until you have received a confirmation email from the DCDF address (not the website confirmation booking).

If you have any questions or issues please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Your DCDF Membership

In order to take part, each organisation will need to register with us at a small cost of £30 per competition-link to booking is above.

All entries must be under a school, team, club or organisation with whom we will correspond throughout. With an active DCDF membership you will then be able to enter as many routines as you wish, the following will also be included with your £30 membership fee:

- Up to 3 Unlimited Passes - for up to 3 of your organisation's leaders & teachers to enjoy unlimited entry into the auditorium. Please note these cannot be a parent/guardian of any performers, however at the discretion of the school, this may be a senior student. **(Value of over £90)**
- X3 DCDF Lanyards
- X2 DCDF Programmes
- Your organisations logo published in the participating schools page of the programme

The Stage

We are excited to be at a new venue for our 2025 competition- The Thomas Hardy School, Dorchester.

This venue has a newly renovated theatre with a lovely big stage and auditorium seating for over 400 people. Unlike previous years, there are backstage wings on both stage left and right, however we would recommend beginning in the stage left wings as this has a larger waiting area- specifically for group dances. There is also a small space behind the back curtain for performers to cross backstage from one side to the other, however we would advise against this where possible. In the coming months we will be putting together a little walk through video so performers can know what to expect at this competition and where they need to go.

Safety

As always, safety is of the utmost concern to us. Although we understand many participants may be familiar with this venue, please ensure that during the DCDF festival, performers are abiding by the policies we have in place with the building, and don't try to access buildings on the grounds which are not in use for the festival. We of course also have the necessary child protection, safeguarding and general health and safety to consider in order to keep everyone as safe as possible and make everything as fun as possible. Please ensure that all children under the age of 18 have an adult to care for them during their visit, whether this be parents/guardians or your school representative, the festival will only be able to accept responsibility for performers while they are onstage and waiting to go onstage. At this new venue, we will not be collecting performers from the prep space, instead all performers will need to register at the backstage door at a specific time before they are allowed backstage. The backstage rooms have limited space so only the dancers in that specific category will be allowed backstage. We will also no longer be allowing any representatives backstage for solos, duets, trios or quartets, however a maximum of 2 reps per school will be allowed backstage for group dances for quick change purposes and to help manage the larger numbers for these categories. These reps however will not be able to watch the group routines from side stage.

The Prep Space

Please note the festival will not be able to offer any changing facilities as such, and so all performers will need to arrive as ready as possible with their hair and makeup complete, and as much of their costume ready on underneath a suitable cover up (school jumpers/jackets or onesie etc). For performers needing to quick change between routines, there will be a quick change space set up for you to use, any performers requiring quick changes will be contacted prior to the festival so they are aware of this. For any complicated or large costumes such as tutus, we recommend having a tights and leotard base ready on so your costume can be carried in and put on in the preparation space.

We have a large classroom as our Prep Space in this new venue, however it is quite a lot smaller than what we had at the Corn Exchange so we want to remind schools of the use of this space. This is NOT a changing room, it is open to all ages and genders to prepare prior to their performance. Please may we reiterate that this space will not be open to parents, friends and family. For teachers, if you need to run something through, have accessories to secure, ballet ribbons to tie or a team talk to fulfil, this will be your space to use to prepare your young people. Only appointed reps will be permitted into the prep space and for safeguarding reasons, a photo ID system linked to the appropriate DBS/Chaperone documentation will be in place to ensure the safety and well-being of the young people taking part in the event. Performers 10yrs and under will need to be accompanied by a representative at all times in this prep space.

Your Organisation's Reps

Preferably all performers will require a representative present at all times who will be responsible for any care or preparation needed prior to going on stage. Students 10yrs & under will require a representative to be allowed to access the preparation space, if a representative is not present, the students will still be allowed to perform however they will not be allowed in the prep space.

Your representatives must be a teacher, staff member, coach, or under the discretion of the organisation, this may also be a senior student, who need to be approved by the DCDF crew. Please note that we are no longer allowing parents/carers and/or family members to be representatives. Your organisation will be responsible for submitting a copy of an up to date DBS or Chaperone Licence to the festival for each chosen rep, only persons with this documentation and who have been approved by the DCDF and local council will be permitted. Each organisation may have up to 3 representatives who will be recognisable by photo ID on their unlimited DCDF pass (which must be on show at all times). If the documentation doesn't reach us by our given date, we will be unable to provide passes for your representatives.

For safeguarding, space and also keeping a calm pre-performance environment, adults other than the appointed representatives will not be allowed in The Prep Space.

Our Non Competitive Sections

We are delighted to have something to cater for all. Our non competitive sections will be perfect for perhaps newer dancers, particularly young dancers, or simply those who wish to enjoy the stage experience itself with

out the pressure of being placed. Along with non-competitive group dances, schools can also enter non-competitive duets, trios and quartets, under the classical or cabaret genre. If your not sure where to enter your students, please chat to one of the festival crew who together have many years of experience in festivals and competitions.

Music Submission

We are completely digital for music and look forward to sending you more information on how you can securely submit your tracks. Please may we ask you to send your tracks only when we have emailed the details. Please note that tracks will not be accepted if they do not adhere to the time limits explained in the syllabus and product descriptions on our website.

Professional Film and Photography

Throughout the festival **Common Bird** will also be working hard to enable everyone involved to enjoy professional films and photographs, again this side of things will be handled by the experts in this area, so more information to follow.

Running Order / Planning your week

We have worked hard to pre plan a running order that will not only make crowd numbers as safe and as manageable as possible, but enable you to plan your week and have an idea of what days and times you'll be performing. Our main aim is to begin the day with the youngest age groups and gradually work through to the eldest while also keeping genres together.

(Please note the following will not be confirmed until all entries are submitted)

Wednesday 19th February- Classical Non-Competitive duets, trios, quartets & groups, Classical & Contemporary Ballet solos, Novice Ballet solos, Global Dance & Greek solos, Classical duets, trios & quartets.

Thursday 20th February- Jazz / Modern Solos, Novice Modern solos, Modern duets, trios & quartets

Friday 21st February- Cabaret Non-Competitive duets, trios, quartets & groups, Musical Theatre solos, duets, trios quartets & groups, Narrative solos, Contemporary solos, Lyrical Jazz/Modern solos

Saturday 22nd February- Tap solos, duets, trios & quartets, Novice Tap solos, Choreography, Interpretive solos, Presentation of Awards & Festival After Party

Like previous years, we are hoping to put together a little walk through video at the venue so that participating schools, students and families know what to expect and this will also give schools an idea of the layout and size of the stage. As soon as we have done this, we will email a link to schools as well as posting on our social media channels.

Thank you so much for your interest in the festival so far, we look forward to receiving your entries.

Don't forget that places will be filled on a first come first served basis.

The closing date for final entries is **Sunday 1st December 2024**

With very best wishes from all of the DCDF crew.