

THE COMMITTEE SHALL ENFORCE THE RULES LISTED IN 2025

1. **Placing Decisions:** The Adjudicator's decision is final.
2. **Risk:** All competitors dance completely at their own risk.
3. **Proof of Age:** The Committee reserves the right to ask for a birth certificate or proof of age at any time during the competition.
4. **Age and Novice/Open Entry:** Competitors entering solo sections must enter their own age group only as either Novice or Open, not both.
5. **Definition of "Novice":** A "Novice" is a dancer who has never been placed (1st, 2nd, or 3rd.) in any competition at any time. The only exception to this ruling is the Under 6 Years classification. Competitors coming out of this age group may enter Novice sections. Once a competitor has won a 1st, 2nd or 3rd. prize in a section at any competition prior to our entry closing date each year, they must enter the Open division for that section/style at Dandenong ("Casey Comps") or any other competition in the future offering Open/Novice sections.
6. **Competitor Registration/Checking In:** All competitors must be checked in at the foyer check-in desk prior to the commencement of their section. This allows for knowledge of their intent to compete to be sent to the Bio-Box, Backstage and the Adjudicator. Competitors arriving after the commencement of their section may be allowed to dance at the end of their section for a report only, if time and the Adjudicator allows.
7. **Dance in Order:** Competitors must appear in the order in which their names appear in the program, and may appear once only in any section. This includes solos, duos/trios and troupes. No exceptions will be made to these rules unless the Committee allows a change of order to accommodate reasonable time for costume change of a competitor between consecutive sections - or any other reason deemed to be valid by the Committee.
8. **Late arrivals/re-starts:** Late arrivals and Competitors restarting their dances may dance at the end of their Section for a report only, unless the issue proves to be at the fault of the Committee or Theatre equipment which would not be at the fault of the Competitor. Ultimately, both opportunities for presentation would be allowed at the Adjudicator's discretion, if not counter to any other rule of the Eisteddfod.
9. **Report Only:** Teachers and Competitors should note that performances dancing for a report only will not be considered as contributing toward qualification requirements for Championships, Aggregate or other awards.
10. **Entry Fee Refunds:** Competitors are not entitled to a refund of fees in cases of non-appearance, regardless of the reason.
11. **Combining Sections:** The Committee reserves the right to combine similar sections (e.g. Novice/Open) if insufficient entries are received. Sections are only cancelled if no competitors present/enter. If only one competitor presents, they will be awarded a placing as the Adjudicator deems appropriate.
12. **Song and Dance sections – Vocal backing.** The Committee will not permit music with vocal backing to be used in these sections. This includes vocal content in the dance part of the choreography. Competitor will be immediately disqualified.
13. **Performance Music through 'Stardom' Upload:** After closing of entries and preparation of the Program/Running Sheet, information will be sent out to competitors as to how they might upload their performance music as digital audio files to their appropriate section and competitor number. In 2025 all music is to be uploaded by Saturday, 4th. October. There is no additional charge for the upload of performance music. Competitors are advised to have available a back-up copy at the venue in USB/Phone format – just in case – but this is not an excuse to expect using back-ups at the venue. A link to an upload demonstration of the new process will be sent to competitors using the email given in their entry.
14. **Protests:** are to be made in writing within 15 minutes of adjudication and before the beginning of the next section, where possible, and to be accompanied by a deposit of \$50.00, which will be forfeited if deemed frivolous.
15. **Communication with the Adjudicator/s:** It is strictly prohibited for the Competitors or those associated with the Competitors and/or participating dance schools to communicate with the Adjudicator/s during the Competition. The Committee reserves the right to disqualify any person from the competition, being dancers, teachers or other interested parties, following communication with the Adjudicator/s.
16. **Item Rehearsal:** Rehearsal of any item at the venue must be restricted to the areas set aside for this purpose. Rehearsal on the venue stage will not be permitted.
17. **Timing:** Please note that items will be timed using the audio equipment or manually. Competitors will be disqualified if they are over the time limit. This may involve disqualification later or to have the music stopped at the expiration of the applicable time limit for the section.
18. **Private audio/video recording or the taking of photographs is not permitted within the auditorium, change spaces or side stage:** Under Child-Safe provisions, the use of video recording equipment and/or cameras by members of the audience within and backstage at the theatre and/or change spaces **is prohibited**. Photos may be taken in the foyer only. A backing banner has been provided, should you wish to use it for this purpose. Offenders may be removed and recorded material may be forfeited to the Committee, or the competitor/s concerned disqualified. This includes presentations. **Teachers entering students should advise their students' families of this rule.**
19. **Troupe Minimum:** Troupes must have a minimum of 6 members. (any less will dance for a report only).
20. **Check your Entries against your 'Stardom' Invoice when the Running Sheet becomes available! We have allowed two weeks for changes to be made due to error after the Running Sheet is published.**

CHANGES WILL NOT BE MADE ONCE THE PROGRAM IS PREPARED.

21. **Presentations/Clear Stage:** Once a competitor has performed, he or she and those accompanying are to leave the stage area immediately unless asked to remain for the purpose of presentations. All Under 6 Sections, Championships, Troupes with Perpetual Trophies and the Entertainment Section will be presented on stage. Standard sections will be announced in the auditorium for the prizes to be collected from the Check-In Table in the foyer.
22. **Authority of the Stage Manager:** Competitors, Teachers, Parents and others associated with competitors must obey the directions of the Stage Manager when in the area of the stage. Failure to do so may lead to disqualification of the competitor/group.
23. **Coaching during a performance:** Coaching competitors from the wings is not permitted. Failure to observe these rules is at the risk of the competitor's/group's disqualification. This rule is applied at the discretion/perception of the Stage Manager.
24. **Prop Storage:** Props must be stored at the direction of the Stage Manager or Committee and be removed from the backstage area as soon as is practicable following the conclusion of the section concerned.
25. **Definition of a Teacher:** **This competition is intended for Students, not Teachers.** For this competition, Teachers' being defined as: "Someone who teaches classes or individuals unsupervised and is being paid". Full-time students are permitted to enter.
26. **Payment of Fees Owning** Sometimes, incorrect calculation of entry fees required causes the Eisteddfod to be in deficit. Payment of any entry fees owing is required prior to the competitor/s taking the stage.
27. **Dandenong Festival of Music and Art for Youth Scholarship Section** Finalists in the Scholarship must have presented during the Eisteddfod in at least three Open Sections. Previous winners are not able to qualify.
28. **Competitors' ID Passes will not be issued in 2025 as door entry to the theatre is free.** In sessions where the audience is at capacity, e.g. Troupe sections, competitors may be requested to not enter the theatre.
29. **Championship Entrants Please Note:** Each competitor participating in a Championship section **must** have a representative complete a full rostered position for, ideally, a session in the days preceding this section or they will forfeit their championship eligibility/entry or any money award earned. If no spaces are available on the roster prior to the Championship section, it is hoped the family will still meet this commitment in days following or be liable not to have their entries accepted in the future. No person under the age of 18 can fill any rostered position.
30. **Those filling a rostered position must obtain a Working With Children Check/Card.** Dandenong Eisteddfod can be cited as the volunteer organisation for the purposes of having the check undertaken. Volunteer checks are free and are done on line. Please supply a copy of the card or its number to the Secretary (Sheila Daniells on dandenongeisteddfod@gmail.com) or the President (Garry Martin) on garry.mar1956@gmail.com.
31. **Neo-Classical/Contemporary Combined Sections-Novice/Open Rule** (for Under 12s) If a competitor has gained a place previously for either of these styles, they must enter the Open section, regardless of the style being presented.
32. **Respectful Conduct** Casey Comps has a long history of being known as a "Friendly Eisteddfod". We achieve this by being welcoming and courteous to all. We expect competitors to demonstrate sportsmanlike and respectful behaviours to each other, to the committee and to the volunteer helpers, and for the audience to show courtesy to all competitors, including not using phones or distracting competitors while they are on stage.
33. **Note: In all situations not directly covered by the above rules, the Committee's decision should be considered final.**