

# Official Rules

This is an official statement for the rules and regulations for participating in Cardinal Clash. Cardinal Clash is a 1v1 dance battle event where top 16 dancers battle in bracket format.

## Disclaimers

### 1. Personal Injury/Damages

By signing up for Cardinal Clash, you agree to be solely responsible for any kind of injury that may occur to yourself or your person(s) during the event. Please fill out the individual participation safety form here: [PDF Individual Participation Form 2026.pdf](#)  
Participants are not able to try out for Cardinal Clash without signing this form.

### 2. Media Consent

By signing up for Cardinal Clash, you consent to being a part of any media coverage or promotional material that includes Cardinal Clash. AnthrOhio will not be held liable for media released by third parties, including but not limited to public press, television, and independent videographers. All disputes regarding sensitive or inappropriate material relative to 'Cardinal Clash' will be dealt with by the involved parties directly, with the exception of material released by other parties.

### 3. Behavioral Consent

By participating in Cardinal Clash in any form or manner, you agree to behave in a manner that conforms to all rules set forth by the Cardinal Clash Official Rules, Terms & Conditions, the host convention's Code of Conduct, and all applicable policies relevant to the event. As an attendee of our event and convention, you are inherently an ambassador of your peers and the community as a whole, and we wish to maintain a positive image of our community. Please treat your peers, and the environment around you with respect. Any belligerent, dangerous, or disrespectful behavior may result in temporary or permanent disqualification from the event, as well as further repercussions at the discretion of the event and/or convention organizers.

## Clothing/Attire

**Fursuits and Nonsuits are both allowed.** No revealing articles of clothing. This is a PG-13 event, please dress accordingly. Offensive logos & graphics are not allowed to be

worn. Loose articles of clothing/accessories must be secured or taken off for safety purposes.

## Sign-Ups

Sign-ups for Cardinal Clash will be submitted in a google form found on the AnthrOhio website. Dancers will be required to participate in preliminaries, and the top 16 competitors will be selected for finals. **Competitors must fill out an individual participation form and bring it to preliminaries to be able to participate in the event.**

Signing up online is **preferred**, but we will be taking in-person signups.

Each competitor may only sign up once. If there are any questions, changes, or cancellations that need to be made prior to the event, e-mail [dance@anthro.io](mailto:dance@anthro.io).

## Battle Format

For those who have watched or participated in a dance battle previously, the format will be the same. Dancers will each be paired against another dancer in a 1-on-1 dance 'battle', and compete in a single-elimination style tournament until a winner is decided.

-Each round, a song will start and one dancer will dance for 30-45 seconds. After that, the second dancer will dance 30-45 seconds to the same song. The song will then change and that process will repeat for a second round. The dancer that goes out first is up to the two dancers on stage, however, excessive waiting may negatively impact your time and review from the judges. If someone takes too long to start dancing first, the MC will decide who goes first.

-After both dancers have danced two rounds, the judges will vote for which dancer they think should progress in the battle. The dancer with the most votes will move on. In the event of a tie, a third song will be played and the dancers will each dance again, and the judges will make a final deciding vote.

## Judging Guidelines

**Dynamics:** Moves have crowd & judge appeal, difficulty levels are higher

**Originality:** Moves are unique and not repeated, shows advanced knowledge and/or creativity

**Personality:** Dancer shows their own style/character with their dance

**Execution:** Moves match with the music, with clarity and/or control

**Response:** Dancer(s) show active response to the music or their opponents - moves create a “battle” against the music and/or opponents

(Note that while these are the general judging guidelines, each of our judges may use their own criteria in order to determine their vote. The categories listed above are guidelines and not the definitive system of judging in effect)

## Rules

1. No non-clothing props allowed. This includes any items that are not on your body/clothing such as water guns, cups, etc. HOWEVER, clothing articles such as hats, scarves, shoes, glasses may be used as long as they are not thrown at anyone within the space of the event.
2. No excessive cursing/insults. This is a PG-13 event. “Burns” executed during the battles are allowed, but keep it moderated and under control.
3. No waiting out/choosing songs. We understand that everyone has different song preferences and dance styles, but the point of an all-styles dance battle is to test your ability to apply what you know to the music you are given.
4. **ARRIVE ON TIME!** To be respectful of your fellow competitors and the event, we ask you to arrive at least **30 minutes prior** to the event. We will do roll call 15 minutes before the event start-time and if you are not present, you will be replaced with a substitute from the waitlist. There are NO exceptions to this rule. If you are going to miss roll call, please inform Shayde (@shaydestuck on telegram) or an AnthrOhio dance event coordinator before the event. Even with prior notification, we cannot guarantee you will retain your spot.
5. Even though this is a battle competition, we’re all here to have fun. Remember good sportsmanship, no need to get salty! Encourage your fellow dancers and cheer for them as loud as you can!
6. Dancing in fursuit for several rounds is exhausting — please ensure that you are well-hydrated during the event and rest up when you are not battling.

## FAQ

**What is the finals format?**

This year is a freestyle/all styles 1v1 battle in a single-elimination tournament form. There are no nonsuit or fursuit divisions.

**Can I Battle in Fursuit?**

Definitely! But fursuits are not required. Note that if you battle in fursuit, you may go up against someone not in fursuit.

**What is the preliminaries format?**

Preliminaries will be a showcase style where 5 individuals are lined up and will dance in the order they are called to a random song one at a time for 30 seconds. We will go through this format until all competitors have gone.

**When will we get results?**

Results with the top 16 finalists should be posted/emailed no later than 1-2 hours before the event. We will have a small waitlist if the amount of sign-ups allows it. Dancers on the waitlist ARE required to come to finals in case another dancer is unable to make it. This information will also be relayed in our AnthrOhio dance announcement channel.

**How old do I have to be to compete?**

Anyone who has an AnthrOhio badge can participate in Cardinal Clash.

If you have any questions or concerns about the event, please send us an e-mail at [dance@anthroho.org](mailto:dance@anthroho.org) or message @shaydestuck on telegram.