

AO Dance Comp Rules 2026

Eligibility

Signing Up

Sign Ups: Signing up in advance is PREFERRED, but not required. Each Competitor is allowed to sign up for one Solo and as part of one Group performance.

Group Entries: For those teams of 2 or more wishing to compete as Group performances, only one member of a Group should submit a single signup form on behalf of the Group, and this person will be responsible for sharing all competition communications with the rest of the group as Lead.

Each Competitor can only be part of one Group, if they are listed on multiple Groups they will be contacted by the Organizer to choose which Group they are part of. If there are not enough groups that enter, the category will not be separated from Solo.

AnthrOhio Registration Badge

Competitors must possess a valid AnthrOhio Badge, no exceptions.

Individual Participation Forms

Competitors must fill out the Individual Participation Form you can find here:

 [Individual Participation Form 2026.pdf](#)

If there is not a button for the form then the online sign ups are closed. If a Competitor is under the age of 18 then a Custodial Parent or Legal Guardian must countersign.

Music Submission

All competitors are requested to have their music in preferably a high quality MP3 format. (Other formats may be converted)

- Music should be cut and ready to play.
- Music for Solo Performances should be no more than 2 minutes (120 seconds) in length.
- Music for Group Performances should be no more than 3.5 minutes (210 seconds) in length.
- Music will be checked for obscenities, graphic content, and/or objectionable matter (AnthrOhio is a PG13 event).

If Music is rejected, the Competitor will be notified immediately and shall be requested to submit a replacement.

Costume Restrictions & Expectations

Appropriateness: In keeping with AnthrOhio's Code of Conduct, all competitors are required to wear appropriate clothing and costumes, free from profanity or inappropriate accessories, at the discretion of the competition organizer.

Props: Must be approved before preliminaries and may be inspected at preliminaries by the Organizer and AnthrOhio's Safety Team.

Completeness: All costumes should be arranged so that no skin will be exposed or visible at any point during the dancer's performance.

Minimum requirement: All competitors are required to wear, at minimum, the following components of a Fursuit:

Fursuit head: A full-face costume mask that fully covers the dancer's whole head, but can include head designs that expose the dancer's eyes

Fursuit hands: Costume gloves that fully cover the dancer's hands, but cannot include store-bought gloves lacking further modification.

Preliminaries

This Event is not open to the General Public, only Dancers and up to one Assistant per Dancer.

If more assistance is needed, please contact dance@anthro.io.

This is a Photography or Video by Consent Only Event, with the exceptions for AnthrOhio taking publicity photos/video and Safety Team. Each Dancer before their Preliminary will state if they Consent or do not Consent to being Photographed and or Videoed.

This Event will be used by the Judges to select up to 18 Dancers for the Finals.

Preliminary Attendance

All Dancers are required to attend the Preliminaries. Preliminaries will be held on Saturday, May 23rd, from 10am-12pm in the Johnson Room with an absolute cut off of 11am for late arrivals. In the event that you are unable to make it to Prelims due to emergencies or will be late please contact dance@anthro.io and we can discuss further options. Any other failure to attend Preliminaries will result in a drop.

If you expect to be late or have extenuating circumstances, please contact dance@anthro.io in advance with at least 24 hours notice so that we can work with you.

Group

If a Member of a Group is unable to attend they may be dropped from the Group's lineup. If a Member misses the Preliminaries, they cannot perform in the Competition.

Costume

Each Dancer must Perform in the Costume they plan to Compete in. Any Props that are planned to be used must also be used in the Preliminary.

Competition

All Finalists will be announced via emails and in a dedicated dancer telegram channel to all competitors, as well as on AnthrOhio Social Media no less than 2 hours prior to the Competition. (and shall also be posted in the Headless Lounge.)

In the case of Groups, only the team name or lead may be listed.

Competition Attendance

Competitors should arrive at the Competition venue at least 30 minutes prior to the event, no later than 10 minutes otherwise the dancer will be marked absent and considered a drop.

The order of Competition acts will be shared at the event. Dancers are expected to be in full costume and ready to dance as of the beginning of the performance preceding theirs. All Dancers will share the same Green Room/Backstage Area when not Performing.

Competition Style

Competitors will dance their performance routine on the convention provided dance floor before a theater-in-the-round, seated audience with the judging panel on the “front” of the performance area. The music will begin when Competitor(s) are in the middle of the dance floor, unless an alternate cue is requested during Preliminaries.

❖ Note! Unless given permission please do not touch audience members during your performance.

Judges

There will be three Judges

Judges will use a modified version of the Ballroom Judging system.

Categories for judging include but are not limited to the following:

- Technicality
- Artistry
- Musicality
- Composition
- Crowd Appeal

Placements

Announcements

After all Competitions, the Judges' votes will be collected and the First, Second, and Third of each Category shall be announced.

For any questions, clarifications, or comments, please contact the competition organizer at dance@anthro.io.