

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

First and foremost, we want to thank all our studios for your continued patience and overwhelming support during all the challenges that have come our way over the past year. As we move forward into our preparations for the 2021 season, **SUMMIT DANCE CHALLENGE** has placed safety and the well-being of our performers and attendees as our top priority. Due to the ever changing climate of Covid-19, we ask in advance for your continued understanding if/when our guidelines become modified at any point before or during our season. We continue to work diligently to provide all our studios with a fun, inspiring, and most importantly, safe competition experience for our 2021 Season!

GENERAL

- ★ **COVID-19 WAIVERS** to be signed by all attendees and their legal guardians in order to participate in a 2021 SDC live event.
- ★ **WELLNESS QUESTIONNAIRE & CONTACT TRACING FORM** will be sent via email to each studio and to share with their dancers/families the day before they attend our event. The questions will be in alignment with the health regulations of the appropriate health authority, and updated to match the changing guidelines. When the parents fill out the questionnaire and form, they will be prompted to add all attendees they are responsible for (ie. additional dancers, parents, siblings, etc.). Every participant will require this completed form to enter the venue. Anyone who has been in contact with has been exposed to Covid-19 within a 14 day window of the event, and/or is feeling ill or is exhibiting symptoms, we must require that they refrain from attending the event.
- ★ **MASKS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES** in all public areas, and venue spaces. See below for more info on masks during performances.
- ★ **NO MASK** = NO ENTRY! ***See below for health exemption clarification.*
- ★ **WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN**
- ★ **HAND SANITIZER** will be available throughout the venue. Attendees are also encouraged to bring their own sanitizer and use before and after rehearsing or performing with their cohort.
- ★ **SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED** between staff and studio cohorts. Cohorts are not to come in close contact with persons outside of their studio cohort during the event.
- ★ **NO FOOD** will be permitted by cohorts in the venue whatsoever. Personal water bottles only are allowed.
- ★ **SANITIZATION** will be done between each studio cohort block session. The facility will be sanitized and cleaned. This includes the stage, dressing rooms, and high-contact areas.
- ★ **DESIGNATED ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TIMES** will be assigned for each studio. No entry will be permitted into the venue outside of these established times. Arrival times will be approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of each studio block. Dancers and cohort staff will be allowed to enter after the cleaning protocols have been completed.

- ★ **GATHERING / CONGREGATING** outside of the event (i.e. sidewalks & parking lots) is prohibited. We ask that anyone waiting outside of the event stay in their car.
- ★ **MERCHANDISE** will be available by pre-sale only via our online store. There will be no in-person sales. Orders made in time will be available to pick up at your studio block time, labeled with dancer's name, and studio name. Orders not received in time to pick up at the venue, will be shipped to the dancers studio.
- ★ **VIDEOS & PHOTOS** will be available for purchase via our APP. There will be no in person sales.
- ★ **PROGRAMS** will be provided to each studio by email to share with their members, and will also be made available during the event on our APP. There will be NO printed programs this season.

COMPETITION

- ★ **SCHEDULING** will be done by studio cohort block sessions for our 2021 Season. We are planning events based on the mandates in each city that allow dancers to gather in their dance studio. If mandates are allowing a studio cohort to gather under certain protocols and restrictions, we are essentially the same protocols and restrictions to gather in the SDC venue. Therefore we must adhere to any additional mandated protocols in which each dance studio is allowed to conduct open business. Studios with less than 10 entries could be assigned to a combined block with another studio, provided we can maintain approved separation within the venue. All studios must adhere to their assigned time blocks. Please note that SDC will add padded time to each block for costume changes and to allow dancers to catch their breath. Studio cohorts with a larger number of entries may be broken into a maximum of three blocks over a three day competition. We encourage studios to keep their costume changes simple or perform without costume if there are concerns regarding dance fatigue or costume change time. SDC will be diligent in providing each studio a fair amount of time based on each studio's number of entries, however keeping on schedule is vital to our Covid Safety Protocol plan. Only the entries that performed up to their allotted time will be tabulated and the remaining performances will be disqualified without refund. ***Studios may request to create their own block schedules provided the request is made minimum one month in advance of the event and under certain conditions.*
- ★ **MASKS DURING PERFORMANCES** may be required. However, we are optimistic that each province and venue will permit dancers to remove their masks during their performances on stage. Dancers should be prepared to dance in masks as restrictions can change at any time. All dancers are required to bring a pre-labeled bag with their name on it to place their mask, and leave on a designated table while they are performing. Any studio or individual that fails to comply with our mask mandate will be asked to leave the event premises immediately and could result in disqualification. ***SDC supports individuals with a health exemption for mask wearing, however any individuals with a health exemption must carry a physician's note with them at all times, have the permission of their dance studio to be with their cohort for the event, maintain strict and social distancing in all common areas.* **Note: Venue policies and community restrictions have authority over SDC protocols for health exemptions and must take precedence.**
- ★ **DRESSING ROOMS** may only be used by ASSIGNED STUDIOS. Each dressing room will be disinfected before use by another studio cohort and therefore cannot be used even if they are

empty by not being assigned to that studio. All personal items must be removed from the venue immediately at the conclusion of the block session.

- ★ **ARRIVE STAGE READY IN COSTUME & MAKEUP** for dancers first performance. Dancers should avoid bringing in any non essential items into the venue and only use the dressing room if they have more than one costume. Dancers should avoid make-up changes and should not share makeup or apply makeup to their peers.
- ★ **NO POINT DEDUCTIONS** will be taken if dancers choose to wear a mask, gloves, or any other health and safety articles during their performances. No point deductions will be taken off if dancers / studios choose to not wear costumes. No point deductions will be taken off if dancer / studio has chosen to choreograph or adapt routines to adhere to social distancing.
- ★ **LIVE STREAMING** will be offered at all events free for guests to watch.
- ★ **AUDIENCE / SPECTATORS** at this time will not be permitted in our 2021 in-person events. While we will certainly miss performing with a live audience and the energy the audience members bring, the safest and most socially responsible position for us to take is to change from a PUBLIC EVENT to a **PRIVATE CLOSED STUDIO COHORT EVENT**, minimizing the number of attendees and contacts.
- ★ **MUSIC** must be uploaded online, and is due 2 weeks before each event. Please double check all of your music uploads to ensure they are the correct version and uploaded correctly. We will not be able to allow changes to audio tracks during the competition.
- ★ **PROPS** must be carried and assembled by dancers or a designated studio representative. Venue and SDC staff may NOT touch or assist with props. Studio representatives must be approved cohort members and would be included in studio number count. Studios who have large props that need use of the loading docks, must contact us to coordinate prop loading times two weeks in advance. Loading dock may not be used without prior consent and planning with SDC and venue.
- ★ **CHANGES TO SCHEDULE OR CATEGORIES** will NOT be permitted once the schedule has been released. SDC has always been proud to be accommodating to studios regarding any of the many situations that tend to arise leading up to or on the day of competition. This season, due to the many adaptations we are implementing in order to run, we will not be able to accommodate any changes of this kind. Routines missing dancers will be permitted to perform without penalty but must perform in their schedule slot.
- ★ **REMOTE LOCATION JUDGING AND SDC STAFFING** will be necessary in many of our cities for 2021. Interprovincial travel is not possible in all provinces in Canada, and with the new variants becoming an increased concern, our responsibility is to minimize risk to communities, attendees, and staff by planning accordingly. Our technology allows for a seamless transition to remote judging from an outside location by our judges in real time. When our SDC team members are not able to be present on location, they will be working remotely in constant contact with their designated (local) assistant. This added measure has reduced our safety risk factor, while increasing odds percentage for approval to run.
- ★ **THE SDC ENCORE CHALLENGE** will be a virtual event this summer. Our head judges will select a limited number of group routines from regional events held in 2021 to recompete for the JUNIOR ENCORE CHALLENGE TITLE and the SENIOR ENCORE CHALLENGE TITLE. Videos collected from attending live events will be used, promoted, and streamed on our social media feeds!

AWARDS

- ★ **AWARD SESSIONS** will be done via live stream. No live award sessions with attendees will take place in 2021.
- ★ **AWARD SCHEDULES** will show on your studio schedule so that can plan studio watch parties if local mandates permit.
- ★ **DELIVERY OF AWARDS** will commence after completion of the competition by mail or delivery to the studio.

POTENTIAL EVENT / VENUE SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

Local or venue mandates may change as we progress through our season. Thus, the following guidelines may or may not come into effect:

- ★ **TEMPERATURE CHECKS** could become mandatory for all persons entering the venue.
- ★ **STAGE R / STAGE L ENTRANCES AND EXITS** could be assigned for traffic flow at venues. Dancers should rehearse in order to be adaptable. Additional traffic flow measures may be implemented at each venue.
- ★ **STAGE CAPACITY** could be limited based on stage size. Example: maximum 1 dancer per 6 squared feet. In the average stage size, this may mean a maximum of 20 dancers on stage at a time. We will reach out to all studios as this pertains to their event. Large group routines should be prepared to adapt their performance to less dancers onstage at one time with choreographed "ons" and "offs".

*****For the Safety of All Attendees, Summit Elite Dance Challenge Inc. and each venue partner **RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ENTRY OR REMOVE A GUEST** who is NOT adhering to the safety measures.

*****SDC **RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER** these safety protocols depending on the updated regulations in community, province, and venue.

*****SDC will directly contact studio owners regarding any specific guideline alterations for their event. We also encourage each participant to download the **DANCBUG APP** before your event to receive instantaneous notifications during the event.