

## JAZZ CATEGORY | EXPLANATION

A Jazz routine can encompass any range of jazz movement including traditional jazz, commercial jazz, musical theater, jazz funk or stylized hard-hitting jazz. Movement is crisp and/or aggressive in approach and can include moments of softness while complementing musicality. Emphasis is placed on style, body alignment, extension, control, uniformity, technical elements, and communication.

### PRESENTATION

#### Communication

Judges will credit: genuine use of projection, confidence, expression and emotion to convey and maintain mood and emotion of intended style/story/concept through both facial expression and body energy.

#### Suitability

Judges will credit: fulfillment of the genre per the category description; and suitability for family viewing.

### CHOREOGRAPHY

#### Composition of Movement

Judges will credit: how well the movement creatively explores the music; the unique structure of routine, concept, musicality, and full-body movement. The purposeful inclusion of elements that avoid dominating the piece; individual and small group work supporting a balanced use of all dancers.

#### Staging

Judges will credit: how the choreography utilizes the stage and how the dancers are presented on the floor; the structure of challenging formations and seamless transitions. Incorporation of original and surprising visual effects within the movement developed through use of creative floor work, group/partner work, level changes, opposition, etc.

#### Degree of Difficulty

Judges will credit: difficulty of the routine considering both movement and elements/skills (does not reflect execution); overall level, pace, and intricacy of movement such as footwork and direction changes. Appropriate utilization of team's ability level.

### EXECUTION

#### Movement Proficiency

Judges will credit: the individual dancer's ability to exhibit the presented style of genre effectively and continually throughout the routine; the dancer's understanding of correct posture, body placement, control, strength, alignment, and extension.

#### Dynamics of Movement

Judges will credit: movement in terms of intensity, musicality, strength, and velocity.

#### Elements & Skills

Judges will credit: demonstration of correct approach, execution and completion of elements such as, but not limited to: leaps, turns, lifts, partnering etc.

#### Synchronization

Judges will credit: how well the team dances together as a group, rather than the execution. The ability of the team to maintain accuracy, clarity and control along with uniformity and commitment to the style and interpretation of movement as a group.

#### Spacing

Judges will credit: the ability of the dancers to use spatial awareness to position themselves correct distances between each other in and throughout all formations and transitions.