

# Dance Competition Information

Dancing in a competition is a great way to improve your dance skills. Competition makes you focus and work hard to reach a goal - which of course is not to win but do the best you can (and improve on that next time). They are also a great way to meet other dancers from around the country and improve your confidence. They are often less stressful than exams because the focus isn't solely on you (usually there's anywhere between 2 and 12 couples on the floor). At competitions you can also get dressed up, and watch higher level competitors, some of which are the best in Australia. Competitions are also an important step in a career in Dancesport.

## Are you ready?

If you are enthusiastic and keen to dance, then you're ready to start thinking about competition! If you're feeling a little nervous about it, your instructor can recommend a smaller competition which may be good to start at. Once you start training for a competition, if you or your instructor feels like you're not ready to start just yet - you can withdraw anytime up until the day of.

## Do you need a partner?

You will always need to dance with someone for the competition. However, if you don't have a permanent partner, there are lots of options - there are individual events where only one person is judged so your partner could be someone who is dancing as a couple with someone else, and there are also teacher and student events. Not having a partner does not preclude you from competitions. However, we do require that you practice often with your partner for the competition.

## Costs involved:

- Between \$30 and \$80 for an annual Dancesport Australia registration.
- Students who want to compete must have private lessons (this should be weekly for at least a few months prior).
- Tickets for competitions can vary in price but can sometimes be higher than \$60 each.
- Your outfit (see over).

## How competitions work:

Competitors are divided into events based on age and experience. The age groups are as follows: Juvenile (below 13), Junior (13-16), Youth (16-21), Adult (21-35), Masters (over 35). These age groups can vary and be further divided or combined based on the comp. Then competitors are divided by experience levels. Dances will be nominated for each event, usually 1 or 2 for lower levels and up to 5 for higher levels. The couples dance the event all at one time, and then a panel of adjudicators mark the couples in order of merit. You receive a number of points based on your placing and this is added to your Dancesport registration. When the competition is announced (usually 2-3 months prior), the dance list is also announced.



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## What to wear:

Rules about outfits at competition are strict and at entry level, you'll be required to wear 'street wear' ie something that can be worn in normal circumstances, like what you would wear to dance examinations. Costuming is not allowed until you move up into the higher levels. All outfits must be pre-approved by Ballroom Baby's Director, at least 2 months prior to the competition. Girls should have light makeup and tan with hair done. Boys should have a light tan, with hair cut short. You will need to buy proper ballroom dance shoes, which can be purchased through our website.

## Rules:

There are many rules relating to competitions, including; dress codes, syllabus (routines), behaviour and procedure. Ballroom Baby Geelong, being a registered dancesport facility, strictly adheres to these rules and expects the same of it's students. All decisions relating to competitions, including which ones you attend, what you wear, events you dance and more, must be cleared by the Director of Ballroom Baby Geelong, prior to competing. This is of the utmost importance.

## How to start:

Firstly, talk to your instructor to let them know you're interested. We can look at the competition schedule to decide when you might start and who you could dance with. Then you will have to organise private lessons with your partner. Then you must:

1. You must register yourself with Dancesport Australia here:  
<https://dancesport.org.au/join/join.php>
2. Notify the studio of your registration through our website:  
<https://www.babygeelong.com.au/awards-competitions>

Once you notify the studio, you will be given access to our competition resource page which includes a number of important links, as well as a competition calendar where you'll be able to see which competitions are upcoming.

