



# **SPECTRUM**

## **HIP-HOP COMPETITION RULES**

**EFFECTIVE FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

**NEWEST UPDATES ARE IN GREEN TYPE**





# RULES FOR HIP-HOP COMPETITIONS

(EFFECTIVE FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019)



Every dancer that competes at a SPECTRUM event (whether that be solo, pair or crew entry) **MUST HAVE AN UP-TO-DATE STATUS CARD!**  
For further details read information under "General Competition Guidelines"

## COMPETITIVE RULES FOR DANCERS

ALL DANCERS SHOULD FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THESE RULES.  
(THESE RULES REPLACE AND CANCEL ANY PREVIOUS VERSIONS  
OF THE SPECTRUM HIP-HOP COMPETITIONS RULESBOOK.)

### **AGE:** (how to determine a dancer's age)

Age is based on what age a dancer will be at EACH individual competition. Therefore a dancer may find themselves moving age category during the calendar year. Age categories are as follows:

6 and Under  
8 and Under  
10 and Under  
12 and Under  
14 and Under  
16 and Under  
Over 16

Age must be checked by the status-card registrar at the results of every section.  
A dancer that is found to be dancing in the wrong age category will be disqualified.

If a crew (or members of a crew) is found to be dancing on the wrong age category, the whole crew will be disqualified.

### **FIRST-TIMER SECTIONS:**

**This section is for FIRST-TIMERS ONLY!** Anyone who has previously competed at ANY dance competition IN ANY SECTION cannot enter First-timers solos or doubles.

In case of First Timer Doubles the dancers must be dancing for the first time and NOT for the first time together, if the dancers are dancing together for the first time but have previously competed in a competition the double must compete under the standard of the higher dancer.

The First Timers section should help raise the standards in starter sections & is not to be abused.

First Timer crew section is aimed at First Timer crews only. The crew can be made up of STARTER dancers (NO CHAMPS). However more than half the dancers on the crew MUST be First-Timers

### **SOLOS:**

Each round is 1 minute long

For Solos dancers must stay in their own space.

You may move within reason, but there will be no "GRAND PRIX" dancing (around the dance floor)  
All judges will be briefed to walk around the floor, and also between dancers on the floor, so as to make sure they clearly see each individual dancer.

Dancers should be free-styling, not doing a routine or choreography, and should be dancing New-School/New Style Hip-Hop ONLY.

**There are FOUR categories in solos: First Timer / Starter / Champion / Premiere Champs.**

First Timers is for first timers only

Starter section is strictly for starters only.

Champion section is for more experienced dancers.

Premiere Champs is for dancers who have placed FIRST in Champions three times. This section was introduced at Hip-Hop Idol 2015. All dancers who are eligible for this section, teachers will be notified before September and as dancers move up/qualify. This section will not be run at every comp, but at selected events only.

In CHAMPION / PREMIERE CHAMPS finals ONLY, dance-ons will be held. Each Champion Finalist Solo will be allowed 30 seconds for their dance-on, including their entrance and exit from the floor. Music must be different between heats and dance-ons in the champion section only.

### **BREAKDANCE SOLOS (B.Boy, B.Girl):**

This section is strictly B.Boying / B.Girling.

Break-beats, Funk, Old School Rap will be used throughout this section.

Solos must include: Top-Rock, Footwork, Freezes & Power Moves.

**This Section is run in 3 age sections: 12+Under / 16+Under / Over 16**

A cypher elimination will be run to pick 8 dancers although if large entries it could be 16 dancers.

Cypher: in a cypher all the competitors will stand in a circle around the dance floor and they go in and dance with no time restrictions or order, it up to the dancer to make sure they have their time on the circle for the judges to see him/her.

Once 8 dancers are picked they will proceed to a battle. The battle will consist of 1 round in the semi-finals and 2 in the finals; in the case of ties another round will be allowed.

### **LOCKING & POPPING SOLOS:**

Locking/Popping Solos will be 1 minute long. Solos must include strictly Locking and Popping style moves only & some element of technique should be shown.

**This Section is run in 3 age sections: 12+Under / 16+Under / Over 16**

Time permitting the top 4 dancers in the U12 and over12 sections, will battle to decide the top 3 places with 1 round for semi-final and 2 rounds for final, this will not happen at every event.

Once 4 dancers are picked they will proceed to a battle. The battle will consist of 1 round in the semi-finals and 2 in the finals; in the case of ties another round will be allowed.

### **BATTLE SECTIONS (NORMALLY ONLY APPLICABLE AT WEEKEND FESTIVALS)**

Time permitting the top 8 dancers (in the 16+Under and Over-16 Champion sections only) will battle to decide the top 3 places with 1 round for semi-final and 2 rounds for final.

**BATTLE ETIQUETTE:** No touching. / No rude movements or gestures.

### **DOUBLES/TRIOS:**

Each round is 1 minute long.

Dancers in the doubles/trios section should be dancing New-School/New Style Hip-Hop ONLY.

**There are three categories in doubles: First Timer / Starter / Champion.**

However at some day-comps we run First-Timer and OPEN doubles (Starter/Champion combined)

**There is one category in trios: OPEN.**

First Timer is for first timers only

Starter section is strictly for starter only.

Champion section is for more experienced dancers.

The age and status of the double is decided by the oldest dancer and the higher standard.

After each semi-final in First-Timer and Starter doubles, BOTH dancers must come to the stage (with their status-cards) to be checked that they are dancing in the correct section!

**In CHAMPION DOUBLES finals ONLY, dance-ons MAY be run (time permitting and at the decision of SPECTRUM). Each Champion Finalist Double will be allowed 30 seconds for their dance-on, including their entrance and exit from the floor.**

## **MOVING UP (SOLOS/DOUBLES/TRIOS):**

Dancers who get placed first, second or third in a Starter section final will have to lose THREE LIVES to move to Champion. The loss of life will be controlled as follows:

6-11 dancers in the first round of an age section - ONLY first place in the final loses a life.

12-17 dancers in the first round of an age section - first AND second place in final lose a life.

18+ dancers in the first round of an age section - first, second AND third place in final lose a life.

Once a dancer qualifies to the Champion section, he/she must remain at Champion status and will not be permitted to return back to Starter at any stage. This includes when the dancer moves up an age category!

## **JUDGING FOR SOLOS:**

Judges will be asked to look for the best dancer; this is mainly determined by MUSICALITY & HIP HOP PRESCENCE

In this section, your freestyle should include the following:

### **Technical:**

Combination of footwork and arm work.

The use of single, double, half-timed and syncopated musical patterns.

### **Performance:**

Musicality / Hip Hop Knowledge / Originality / Presence / Confidence & Attitude / Costume

## **JUDGING FOR DOUBLES & TRIOS:**

Judges will be asked to look for the best couple, this is mainly determined by THE COUPLES MUSICALITY, HIP HOP PRESCENCE. In these sections, your routines should include the following

### **Technical:**

Combination of the above outlined hip-hop and funk categories.

Combination of footwork and arm work.

The use of single, double, half-timed and syncopated musical patterns.

### **Performance:**

Originality / Musicality / Presence / Confidence & Attitude / Costume

## **COMPETITIVE RULES FOR CREWS**

**TEACHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT ALL CREWS ARE REGISTERED IN APPROPRIATE AGE & STATUS CATEGORIES**

When a teacher is registering crew music, he/she must also submit a "Green-Form" confirming name, date of birth and status-card number for all dancers who are going to compete in the crew. The green-form is normally done in advance of a competition as an online-form, however at some events it is an actual form to be filled on the day.

Crew CDs MUST be brought up to the stage immediately when a school arrives at a competition so as not to delay start times. There will be a final call for crew music announced 20 minutes before we do the draw for running-order of the crews and again at 10 minutes before the draw. Once we have done the draw and announced the running order of the crews we WILL NOT accept any more entries!

### **Age Sections:**

OPEN 8+Under (OPEN meaning ALL 8+Under dancers compete in the one section).

OPEN 10+Under (OPEN meaning ALL 10+Under dancers compete in the one section).

First-Timer / Starter / Champion: 12+Under / 14+Under / 16+Under / Over 16

**Note: There is no minimum age for any of the Crew sections.**

Crew Numbers: Minimum Number of Dancers: 5 / Maximum Number of Dancers: 16

When crew sections are run as "OPEN AGE" this means that all ages within the standard compete against each other, this does NOT mean that crews can mix dancers from outside a set age category.

## CREW MUSIC:

The clock will start from the first sound or movement and will be stopped on the last sound or movement. **(For more info on music check the music section.)**

Open 8+U:	Minimum 1 minute 30 seconds	/	Maximum 1 minute 30 seconds
Open 10+U:	Minimum 1 minute 30 seconds	/	Maximum 1 minute 30 seconds
First-Timer:	Minimum 1 minute 30 seconds	/	Maximum 1 minute 30 seconds
Starter:	Minimum 1 minute 45 seconds	/	Maximum 2 minutes
Champion:	Minimum 2 minutes	/	Maximum 2 minutes 30 seconds
MEGAcrew	Minimum 3 minutes	/	Maximum 3 minutes 30 seconds

**Please note deductions will be made to crews who not comply with these times!**  
**(please see deductions section)**

- \* Minimum of 2 songs must be used for each routine (Sound Effects will not be counted as a track).
- \* A variety of formation changes, transitions and level changes must feature in every crew routine.
- \* The crew must stop in position for 5 seconds once the performance is finished.
- \* The performance order of the crew section will be at random before the competition starts and will be announced on the day of the event.
- \* Crews that are not in the hall at the time of call will be bypassed and will not be allowed to compete.
- \* All crews will have dancers status cards checked off the green-forms.
- \* Any crews with dancers NOT within the correct age limits will be disqualified.

## JUDGING FOR CREWS:

Crews will be judged on the following, other styles may be danced but overall theme **MUST BE HIP HOP!** In the event of a tie in the crew section, points awarded in "Dance Moves" will decide the winner.

### (1) Originality:

Defined as the teacher's original moves & ideas without use of excerpts from workshops, dance classes provided by guest choreographers, movies & videos.

### (2) HIP-HOP Dance Moves:

Difficulty and complexity of HIP-HOP moves.

### (3) Musicality:

Interpretation of music through the choreography combined with co-ordination and on-time beats.

### (4) Showmanship:

Costumes reflecting Hip-Hop Culture, Knowledge, Presence, Performance & Attitude.

Originality	25 Points	/	Dance moves	25 points
Musicality	25 points	/	Showmanship	25 Points

## MOVING UP CREWS:

Crews who get placed first, second or third in Starter Crew section will have to lose **THREE LIVES** to move to Champion Crews. The loss of life will be controlled as follows:

4-7 Crews in the age section - **ONLY** first place Crew loses a life.

8-11 Crews in the age section - first **AND** second place Crews lose a life.

12+ Crews in the age section - first, second **AND** third place Crews lose a life.

## MEGACREW RULES

There is no maximum or minimum number of songs or recordings that may be used in the routine. The music tracks may be edited to enhance choreography and personal performance.

A MEGAcrew must have a minimum of 16 dancers up to a maximum of 30 dancers.

The members of the MEGAcrew may be made up of any combination of males and females.

There is no minimum or maximum age limit. MEGAcrew is an OPEN category and can consist of beginner, starter & champion dancers, of any age group.

Props allowed for the MEGAcrew division are those that are small enough to be held in a dancers hand comfortably, easily mobile and are an element of the attire and/or are related to the theme or nature of the performance.

The usual competition etiquette applies (status card, costumes, music etc).  
The same judging sheets will be used as in regular crew sections and judging will be marked out of 100 (this also means the same disqualifications apply).

**SHOW TEAM:** (Only 1 team per school with no age or status requirement.)

Crew Numbers: Minimum Number of Dancers: 5 / Maximum Number of Dancers: 10

Music: Minimum 5 minutes / Maximum 6 minutes

**The venue must have a stage with wings, lights, everything to provide a show experience.**

All dance styles are allowed (apart from disco freestyle).

You are allowed to use props but you need to bring yourself or arrange with the venue in advance.

It is up to you to arrange what you need for your show and not Spectrum.

It is the responsibility of every school to ensure they have their props.

### **JUDGING FOR SHOW TEAMS:**

There will only be announced one winner, no 2nd or 3rd places.

Judging will be done on performance, musicality and originality.

#### **MUSIC:**

In the heats the music will be the same for all heats in that round apart from the champion section.

The music track & BPM range of music "may change" from round to round.

The music is at the DJ's discretion and it will not be changed at the request of teachers or dancers.

Crews music: must be on a CD only **no iPods, iPads, iPhones, MP3 players or any other format.**

The CD must only have 1 track per CD per crew properly identified with name of the school/crew, age-category and section. Failure to do so will result in the team not being allowed to compete.

The teacher must have a backup in case the CD fails. Is up to the teachers to make sure the CD's are playable on a CD player not mp3 players or other devices failure to do so will result in the crew not being permitted to compete. **Teachers please ensure you CD is an "audio disc" and NOT MP3 or WAV music files on a disc !**

Music must be clean at all times throughout the competition, failing to do so will result in the crew being disqualified.

Music must be professionally made with no major level changes in the mix, mix must have a minimum of 4 tracks, a mix cannot be downloaded from the internet, it must be custom made for the school/crew.

Sound effects will not be counted as a track.

### **COSTUMES:**

Your costume and style must be in keeping with Hip-Hop Culture.

No explicit wording is allowed on costumes.

Failing to do so will result in the dancer(s) being disqualified.

It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that no inappropriate clothing is worn. The costumes must not be overtly revealing or offensive and should be reflective of the children's age. When wearing skirts dancers must wear hot-pants/ shorts underneath. Failure to do so will result in the dancer(s) being disqualified.

In Doubles & Trios sections, there must be a common link between the costumes.

Accessories such as hats, scarves, caps, gloves etc. **are allowed**. Removing parts of costumes during the performance is permitted providing it is not offensive. Discarded clothing should never be thrown into the audience or anyone's direction. It is only permitted within the dancers own space and must be picked up after the routine by the dancers from the routine only. Props that are not considered part of your attire **are not allowed**. ie. chairs, canes, balls, confetti etc.

## **DANCE MOVES:**

Dance moves must be tasteful. (Lewd gestures, comments or movements are prohibited.)

Hip-Hop dance moves THAT THE JUDGES WILL BE ASKED TO LOOK FOR (because of the sections being offered) fall under the following categories:

B-Boy/B-Girl (Breakdance) / Locking (Old school) / Popping (Old School) / New-School (New Style)  
All other styles will be taken into account as part of the overall showmanship ie. Hip Hop knowledge, presence & attitude.

## **GENERAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES & COMPETITION ETIQUETTE:**

All dancers must have a status card. No dancer will be permitted to compete unless they hold a valid Spectrum status card. If a dancer is found to have danced without a status card they will be disqualified. In the case of un-registered dancers, the teacher MUST inform Spectrum at least 2 weeks before the competition of the fact these dancers will be competing and supply Spectrum with all these dancers' names. For all un-registered dancers the teacher MUST have the status-card form, photo, copy of birth-cert and fee to give to the registrar on the morning of the competition, before the dancers will be given competition numbers to dance.

### **To be 100% clear:**

- If you do not have your status card with you at the competition you cannot compete. (replacement cards can be bought but this must be done in advance of a competition).
- If you lose your number at a competition you cannot compete.
- If the crew entry is not received by the due date the crew cannot compete.

The choreographer or teacher is permitted to dance with his/her crew and also in Solo/Double sections, (Hip-Hop / Locking / Popping) but are only allowed compete in **Adult Champion Section**.

**A dancer can only dance once in each section (once in crews, once in doubles, once in trios).**

Dancers numbers will be recalled TWO times in heats, and THREE times in semi-final/finals.

Once the music for a heat starts, or a crew performance starts, there should under no circumstances be ANYBODY running or walking across the dancefloor. Please show the respect to other competitors that you would expect yourself.

There should be no "coaching" from the sidelines, by either other dancers, parents or teachers, especially in the crews section. Anyone found to be doing so will result in the crew being deducted points !

Any photographs or video footage taken for, or on behalf of, the organizer/ promoter of the event may be used without notice as part of any future promotions, advertising, or for training purposes for judges and rules-masters. By attending the competition you are showing your agreement to this fact and you therefore give implicit permission that your image may be used in said promotional/advertising and training materials.

Teachers and/or dancers are asked to respect the hard job that judges have at competitions and are asked not to engage in conversation with the judges at any stage during competition unless the competition or session is officially finished. Any queries or comments can be dealt with by other designated staff. Any teacher/dancer highlighted by the judges during a session to be causing disruption may be subject to disqualification or may result in a dancer/s being disqualified. Judges are not allowed to discuss the competition results with any of the dancers or teachers while the event is in progress. Any judge that is deemed to have inappropriate interaction with a dancer/teacher will be removed from the judging panel.

Under no circumstances should be promoter, MC, DJ or the scrutineer be approached during the running of a competition. Teachers may at any time deal with either Mary Kelly, or Ben Quinn, who are always available to deal with any queries or issues. SPECTRUM will announce at each event, and on each day at a festival, who to approach in relation to any lost property.

Dissatisfaction with an event/competition does not entitle you to a refund.  
The entry fee to a competition is **NON REFUNDABLE**.

In all results and sections the decision of the judges is FINAL. If a teacher is dissatisfied with a decision they must be addressed to the rules master on the day of the competition. Complaints regarding the competition must be done to the rules master on the day of the competition any other complaints regarding venue location and others must be to the organizer.

All competitions/festivals will start at the advertised time on the flyer/brochure. All sections following the first event of the competition/festival will start as soon as the previous section has finished (while allowing suitable time for any dancers to change costume, make-up etc). Any times listed in running orders are APPROXIMATE times and we would suggest that dancers be in the hall 30 minutes to 1 hour BEFORE the listed time in the programme for their section.

### **At all times any complaints MUST be put in writing !**

Any queries / complaints during a competition will be dealt with ONLY from the teacher.  
Spectrum will not engage in any queries / complaints from parents or dancers.

Teachers are advised to video their team should a query arise as it's hard to remember every single crew that the judges see. Please note teachers must video at a good distance behind the judges and must not video any other crew. Only one person may video the crew on behalf of the school.

## **ORGANISATION & ETIQUETTE:**

Once a dance school reserves places/tickets for a day competition, they can ONLY return 10% of their places/tickets, and must do so by the Friday of the week before the event (9 days before the event) and the teacher must inform the organizer of this, in order to give time for the promoter to offer those places to another school. If a school doesn't comply with this they will only be offered places for the next event after all the other schools have been facilitated.

For weekend festivals, payment of deposits secures your PLACES, and guarantees that you will receive your requested accommodation. If the accommodation you request is NOT available, due to already being booked by other people, you will be informed of this immediately so you can make alternative selection. FULL final payments for weekend festivals MUST be made to Spectrum at least 2 weeks BEFORE the start date of the event.

Supervisors & Supporters: It is very important that all schools have sufficient supervisors and the correct adult to child ratio for weekend events. However in recent times some schools have brought excessive amount of supporters which have taken the places of possible dancers. Weekend events have limited spaces available Teachers are asked to take into consideration when booking places that the more parents, friends and supporters that attend these weekends, the less places then can be offered to competing dancers.

All teachers are responsible for their dancers and supporters. All people attending the competition (dancers / parents / supporters) must respect the Spectrum staff who are there for your comfort and safety and are not to be subjected to any form of abuse. A Spectrum "child protection officer" has been appointed, and he will be at ALL events to supervise any first-aid treatment, as well as watching out for people videoing and taking photographs during the competitions!

All dance schools are responsible for their seating area and are expected to keep it clean, and to leave it in a tidy condition at the end of a competition. SPECTRUM will announce at each event an incentive for schools to do this, with the school having the cleanest area winning the prize.

Schools that constantly have issues with other schools for example accusing dancers of competing in the wrong age/status or creating problems to the running of the event will be issued a warning and if it continues will be issued with a 3 strike penalty rule which may result in not being admitted to Spectrum events. Offending schools will be allowed back into Spectrum events at the organizer discretion. Spectrum will ONLY deal with issues between schools, dancers or parents which arise at our competitions. Any personal issues between parents of schools, or teachers of schools, regarding matters that occur outside Spectrum competitions we cannot get involved with. Any emails received from a parent or dancer will be replied back (along with a copy of the original email) to the TEACHER of the dance school.

The perimeter of the dance-floor will be marked. Dancers/Spectators must NOT cross the dance floor at any stage while the competition is in progress. All schools are given sections with seating areas. No dancers need to be sitting on the dance floor. To try and prevent this from occurring at future events a 3 strike penalty system is being introduced. The strikes will be issued to dancers and can be carried from competition to competition. If one or more dancers from the same school keep offending the school can be disqualified from the event.

### **DEDUCTIONS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS:**

Numbers will be called back twice. If you miss your call back you cannot enter the section. It is up to the teacher to ensure the dancers are in the hall ready for the section.

- \* Dancers that leave, or come onto, the floor half-way through the section will be disqualified.
- \* Dancers found to be dancing in the incorrect age group in any section will be instantly disqualified.
- \* Any dancer wearing inappropriate or offensive costume he/she will be disqualified.

If a dancer is found to have danced First-Timers more than once, or has previously been a Starter/Champion this will result in disqualification at current event.

Any crew found to be receiving coaching while competing, whether from the audience or from a teacher standing behind the judges, will receive a 25 point deduction due to the failure of the crew to compete without guidance.

If a crew is found to break the First-Timers rules, this will result in disqualification at current event.

- \* Crews that use props will be disqualified.
- \* Crews not adhering to minimum or maximum time requirements in the teams sections will be deducted 5 points for every 5 seconds (or part thereof) above or below the requirements.
- \* Crews failing to use a minimum of 2 songs within their routine will receive a 5 point deduction.
- \* Crews failing to follow the min/max number of dancers will be deducted 5 points for each person below or above the allowed amount.
- \* In the crew section if one dancer leaves the floor the whole team will be disqualified.
- \* In the crew section if any of the above rules are broken, by any dancer, the whole crew will be penalized or disqualified.

**Please Note:**

**Spectrum** and **IDO** are two different promoters and run under different rules.  
If you are interested in competing at IDO events, please ask us for the IDO rules.

**SPECTRUM website:** [www.spectrumdanceevents.com](http://www.spectrumdanceevents.com)

**SPECTRUM Email:** [info@spectrumdanceevents.com](mailto:info@spectrumdanceevents.com)

**Facebook / Twitter / Instagram:** Spectrum Dance Events

### **SPECTRUM BANK DETAILS:**

**Bank: Ulster Bank**

**Branch: Walkinstown**

**Name: Spectrum International Artists**

**Account: 31204063**

**Sort-code: 98-50-80**

**IBAN: ie95ulsb98508031204063**

**BIC: ulsbie2d**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES REGARDING THESE RULES  
PLEASE CONTACT SPECTRUM HIP-HOP RULES-MASTER.  
MARY KELLY: 086 - 8048492**



[www.spectrumdanceevents.com](http://www.spectrumdanceevents.com)

[info@spectrumdanceevents.com](mailto:info@spectrumdanceevents.com)

Facebook / Twitter / Instagram: Spectrum Dance Events

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MARY KELLY: 086 - 8048492**

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