
Dance Division Rules

1. **First place ties in a category at the local competition MUST be re-judged at the local level as only one entry for each category will be accepted from each VA facility.** A formal competition is not required at the local level but is strongly encouraged. All eligible Veterans should be given the opportunity to participate regardless of degree of talent.
2. **All entries in the dance, drama and music divisions must be recorded after April 1, 2017.**
3. **Dance entries must include a video recording of the Veteran(s) performing the entry and last approximately three minutes or less in length.**
4. Judges reserve the right to move an entry to the appropriate category or disqualify the entry if rules are not followed.
5. Dance entries will be judged based on the dance style and steps incorporated in the performance as opposed to the style/genre of music selected.
6. Whole-body (head to toe) video recording for dance entries is necessary. Video recording can include close-ups of the body and/or feet but whole body view of the movement should be included as well.
7. It is considered a solo when one Veteran dances with a non-Veteran partner.
8. **Entries MAY NOT be expanded with non-eligible Veterans or any other individual unless it is a partner dance where the partner is necessary to perform the dance movements.** It should be noted that although the National Veterans Creative Arts Program recognizes the therapeutic value of participation of staff, volunteers and ineligible Veterans in groups, it is essential in keeping with the fairness of the competition that **only eligible Veteran inpatients or outpatients** are competing against each other.
9.  The **CD accompaniment** of the dance division entries are **NOT required to be sent to the dance chairperson.** However should the entry place first in the national competition and the Veteran(s) be invited to perform their entry in the Festival stage show the CD audio track must be sent to the dance division chairperson in June.
10. **Title Slides for SharePoint entries, CDs, DVDs:** Each entry must have a title slide displayed prior to the entry being shown. This is crucial to the judging process. The title slide can be inserted during the editing process or it can be done manually prior to the taping of the Veteran. A handwritten sign can be held up that states the **category, title of piece and name of Veteran or Veterans in the entry.** *Please do not include elaborate menus or graphics.*
11. Following the national judging, all of the first place-winning entries from the national competition in the dance, drama and music divisions will advance for viewing and **possible** selection for inclusion in the 2018 Festival stage show performance. Please note: Not all first place winning entries in the dance, drama and music divisions are invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Those invited to attend the Festival will be notified by mid-June, 2018 via their staff contact person.

**Note: VA staff contact persons will be notified via E-mail with the 2018 competition results.*

Tips for Taking Better Video Recordings

Please take a few extra minutes preparing a video correctly to give your Veteran the best chance possible during the judging process and to save hours of time with the judging process for our judges who donate their time.

- **Focus on the performer**, not the accompanists. Avoid taping from the back of the room. Stage presence cannot be judged if you cannot clearly see the performer.
- When video recording dance acts, it is necessary to include the whole-body in the entire recording, including the feet.
- **Sound control** is important! Clear audio makes a performance much easier (and enjoyable) to judge. Make sure your sound is good and balanced.
- Consider holding your local competition and then video recording **ONLY** the first place acts that will be sent forward for national judging.
- **Dance, drama, and music entries** will be accepted digitally via the NVCA Competition SharePoint site or via CDs or DVDs for the 2018 competition. **If submitting entries on CDs or DVDs, A SEPARATE CD OR DVD MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR EACH ENTRY IN EACH CATEGORY. More than one entry on a CD or DVD will not be accepted.**
- It is necessary to **label each entry with a title slide (for all SharePoint, CD and DVD entries)**. This can be done electronically when editing your entries or it can be done manually by holding up a handwritten sign that states the category, title of piece and name of the Veteran(s) being shown. This is crucial to the judging process.
- Check your CDs and DVDs before mailing them and **make sure every act you intend to be on there is in fact there.**
- **Label your CDs and DVDs according to the instructions given on Page 11, Rule 21 – The Competition Phase.**
- Be sure to make a copy of your final CDs and DVDs for your own file/library in the event of lost or damage. **CDs and DVDs will be shredded post-judging and will not be returned to the VA medical facility staff contact persons.**

Dance Categories



New!

Note: Dance categories have been renumbered. Please look at the categories closely before submitting entries to the national level of competition.

Wheelchair Dance Categories

1. Structured Ballroom - Solo or Group. Pattern of wheelchair movement in a choreographed routine. Structured ballroom dances such as the waltz, jitterbug/swing, hustle, disco, polka, lindy hop, fox-trot, quick step, samba, cha-cha, salsa, Meringue, Machida, rumba, tango, etc. Veteran(s) should maintain physical contact with partner for greater part of dance.



New!

2. Novelty - Solo or Group. A wheelchair routine consisting of original, imaginative, or innovative dance movements that incorporate a theme concept or characterization throughout the entire performance.

3. Country/Western/Folk/Ethnic/Cultural - Solo or Group. Country/western wheelchair dances such as: Two Step, Waltz, Cowboy or Traveling Cha Cha, Polka, Schottische, promenade dances, East Coast Swing, West Coast Swing, Line Dance, Square Dance. Choreographed wheelchair dances associated with various cultures or countries. Examples may include: Clogging, Jewish Hora, Jig, May Pole, Mexican Hat, etc.

4. Line Dance - Set pattern of movement done with the wheelchair so individual ends up facing 2 or 4 walls. Suggest a minimum number of 3 to form the line. **All group members must be Veterans unless the line dance requires a partner where the partner is necessary to perform the dance.**

5. Interpretive Movement - Solo or Group. Interpreting song lyrics or feelings through hand movements or gestures. Example may include sign language or other hand movements. Wheelchair does not need to move.

Ambulatory Dance Categories

6. Structured Classical Ballroom - Solo or Group. Pattern of movement to music in a choreographed routine. American style structured ballroom dances such as the waltz, jitterbug/swing, hustle, disco, polka, lindy hop, fox-trot, quick step, etc. Veteran(s) should maintain physical contact with partner for greater part of dance.

7. Structured Latin Ballroom - Solo or Group. Latin style structured ballroom dances such as samba, cha-cha, salsa, Meringue, Machida, rumba, tango, etc. Veteran(s) should maintain physical contact with partner for greater part of dance.



New!

8. Novelty - Solo or Group. A routine consisting of original, imaginative, or innovative dance movements that incorporate a theme concept or characterization throughout the entire performance.

9. Country/Western/Folk/Ethnic/Cultural - Solo or Group. Country/western dances such as: Two Step, Waltz, Cowboy or Traveling Cha Cha, Polka, Schottische, promenade dances, East Coast Swing, West Coast Swing, Line Dance, Square Dance. Choreographed dances associated with various cultures or countries. Examples may include: Clogging, Jewish Hora, Jig, May Pole, Mexican Hat, etc.

10. Line Dance - Set pattern of steps that repeat, with quarter or half turns facing 2 or 4 different walls. Suggest a minimum number of 3 Veterans to form a line. **All group members must be Veterans unless the line dance requires a partner where the partner is necessary to perform the dance.**
11. Interpretive Movement - Solo or Group. Interpreting song lyrics or feelings through movements or gestures. An example may be sign language. Movement of feet not required.

Wheelchair or Ambulatory Dance Categories

12. Freestyle/Hip-Hop - Solo or Group. Non-choreographed/non-patterned movements that can involve any style of dance. Movements are spontaneous/improvisational. Entries into this category may contain many diverse steps and movements allowing dancers to use freedom of expression to enhance their dance style. Example: Freestyle, hip-hop, etc.
13. Tap, Jazz or Ballet - Solo or Group. Traditional tap, jazz, or ballet patterns of movement choreographed to music in a routine.



14. Dance Meditation - Solo or Group. Using physical movements to meditate. Yoga dance and tai chi dance should be entered into this category.
- New!** 15. Mixed Performing Arts - Solo or Group. Entries in this category must combine two or more performing arts styles. For example: dance and vocal solo, drama and instrumental. Entries will be judged on musicality and total presentation.

Senior Dance Category

16. Senior - Solo or Group. Wheelchair or Ambulatory. The purpose of the senior categories is to allow Veterans who may have experienced diminished physical or cognitive functioning an opportunity to compete in a category with persons who are at a similar level and age. **The senior categories are special categories for Veterans age 65 and older.** Entries may be ANY type of dance. Group members must all be eligible Veteran inpatients or outpatients 65 years of age or older. As with other group entries, groups may not be expanded by staff, volunteers or ineligible Veterans. If a partner is needed for the dance, then a staff member, volunteer or other person may be used, but the entry would be counted as a solo if only one Veteran is present. Seniors may also enter other categories in the dance division as well.

Dance Special Recognition Category

17. Special Recognition - Solo or Group. Wheelchair or ambulatory. **All specific category rules still apply when entering the special recognition category.** Entries that recognize individuals who exhibit creative expression through the use of dance while possessing significant physical or psychological limitations. The intent of this category is to reinforce the concept of the arts as therapy, where an individual uses artistic expression to facilitate successful treatment outcomes.

Entries in this category **MUST** also include:

- **A written statement/narrative** (25 to 225 words) by a VA staff person or the Veteran of why the Veteran is deserving of special recognition
- Consent form 10-3203 (on pages 67-68) and 10-5345 (on page 22) must be signed and dated by the Veteran. The staff contact person submitting the entry for the Veteran should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.

Dance Judges' Score Sheet

Judges at the 2018 National level of competition will be ranking each dance entry according to merit in the following criteria. Please consider using this score sheet for your local competitions.

- **Technical Skills** - body placement, quality of movements
- **Musicality** - rhythm, timing/phrasing, movement related to music
- **Stage Presence** - confidence, focus, artistic expression, mastery of choreography

Dance Judging Score Sheet

Category Number:	Category Name:
Title of Entry:	

CRITERIA	POINTS									
Technical Skills	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Musicality	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Stage Presence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

TOTAL SCORE _____

Submitting Digital Media Files

For the 2018 competition year, performing arts division entries will be accepted in the following formats. Our preference is listed in the following order for receiving entries:

OPTION 1: Upload to SharePoint

Digital media files uploaded to the NVCA Competition SharePoint site:

<https://vaww.visn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition>. The only file extensions that will be accepted are: .wmv and .mov (the preferred format is .wmv). These extensions are the most standard digital formats and can be opened on most computers. We recommend video files uploaded to the SharePoint site be **50 MB or less**. If entries are not submitted in the formats indicated above they risk not being playable and therefore not able to be judged at the national level of competition. Entries submitted via the SharePoint site **MUST** also contain title slides prior to each solo and group entry shown.

OPTION 2: Digital media files provided on individual CDs or DVDs

A separate CD or DVD must be submitted for each entry in each category. More than one entry on a CD or DVD will not be accepted. For data CDs and DVDs, the only file extensions that will be accepted are: .wmv and .mov (the preferred format is .wmv). These extensions are the most standard digital formats which can be opened on most VA computers. If entries are not submitted in the formats indicated above they risk not being playable and therefore not able to be judged at the national level of competition. Entries submitted on CDs or DVDs **MUST** also contain title slides prior to each solo and group entry shown. Authored DVDs will also be accepted. **CDs and DVDs sent to the national level of competition cannot be returned. Please make duplicate copies of the media files and all paperwork for your records.**

Digital Media File Naming:

Division abbreviations: Dance = **DA** Vocal Music = **VM**
 Drama = **DR** Instrumental Music = **IM**

Use CAPS for the title of the entries and use small letters for initials (first and last name initials of Veteran performer) Example: The dance entry of a Solo Novelty entry titled "Funny Face" created by John Doe from St. Cloud VA Medical Center would be named:

DA-02-FUNNY-jd-656

Division Abbreviation-Category #-FIRST 5 LETTERS OF TITLE-Veteran initials-Station Number

*Note: For group entries, omit the Veteran(s) initials. ***DA-02-FUNNY-656***

Division Abbreviation-Category #-FIRST 5 LETTERS OF TITLE-Station Number

Do not use any spaces when naming the entries.

2018 Dance Division Entry Submission Process



For the 2018 competition, **entry form information** may be submitted through the NVCA Competition SharePoint site.

National Veterans Creative Arts Competition SharePoint Site Link

<https://vaww.visn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition>

The National Veterans Creative Arts Competition SharePoint site can only be accessed by VA employees using a networked VA computer. Non-VA employees cannot access the SharePoint site.

If entries are submitted via the link above it is not necessary to submit hard copies of the entry forms. All information on the following pages must still be collected for VA staff input into the electronic database on the SharePoint site. The electronic database will not allow you to successfully submit an entry into the competition unless each field is complete. Please be sure to provide as detailed a description of the mediums and techniques used as possible.

VA staff contact person: Be sure to obtain additional Veteran contact information for your reference use only, to notify the Veteran of the competition results.

- All entries submitted to the national level of competition **must be uploaded or postmarked on or before Friday, March 23, 2018.**
- The National Veterans Creative Arts Chairpersons prefer entries be sent via the NVCA Competition SharePoint site however CDs/DVDs containing images and digital video files will also be accepted.
- It is recommended to send your mailed items with the option to track the packages to ensure delivery.
- It is recommended to send a cover page with any paperwork that is faxed.

Dance Division Checklist

Madge Scherer (EC117) National Dance Chairperson VA Healthcare System 4801 Veterans Drive St. Cloud, MN 56303	Phone: (320) 252-1670 x7336 FAX: (320) 255-6327 E-mail: Madge.Scherer@va.gov
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Checklist of Items Necessary for National Judging:	
✓	Entry Forms
✓	List of Entries Form
✓	Local Level Participation Form
✓	Submit a video recorded entry. Entries may be submitted via upload to the SharePoint site https://vaww.visn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition OR mail a separate CD/DVD for each entry in each category.
✓	Therapeutic Arts Scholarship (TAS) Submission Forms – Only if nominating a Veteran for consideration to attend the Festival based on a therapeutic objective. <i>Each VA medical facility may only send <u>one</u> TAS Submission to the national level of competition.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomination Form (page 19)



New Consent Form Information

Consent Form 10-3203 <i>(page 67-68)</i> Consent for Production and Use of Verbal or Written Statements, Photographs, Digital Images, and/or Video or Audio Recordings by VA	This form must be signed and dated by every Veteran entering the competition.	The staff contact person submitting the entry(ies) for the Veterans should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.	It is no longer necessary to send this consent form to the national chairpersons.
Consent Form 10-5345 <i>(page 22)</i> Request for and Authorization to Release Medical Records or Health Information	This form must be signed and dated by every Veteran entering a category that requires a write-up including the Therapeutic Arts Scholarship (TAS) nominations.	The staff contact person submitting the entry(ies) and TAS nominations for the Veterans should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.	It is no longer necessary to send this consent form to the national chairpersons.