

We are thrilled to be able to say that our Pigeon Forge Nationals event is continuing the week of July 5-10. These have been tumultuous times and to be able to present you a National Competition is really a huge sigh of relief and hope that there is an end to all the craziness. That being said, there will be many guidelines and restrictions put in place to ensure that we can maintain a safe and healthy event for you and your families. Studios are coming to this event from many different states and every state is dealing with a different set of guidelines and restrictions. Please remember that this event is happening in Tennessee and we are required to follow Tennessee state guidelines and regulations as well as the CDC.

Per Tennessee Governor Executive Orders, maintaining social distancing is the highest priority and all of the guidelines are meant to enforce those orders. Please go to [www.Tennessee.gov](http://www.Tennessee.gov) to see the latest in social distancing guidelines as set forth by the Governor. The Sevierville Convention Center is adhering strictly to these guidelines.

We will be incorporating 'Block Scheduling' during the week of Nationals, this type of schedule will replace the previous tentative schedule that has been on the website. During Block Scheduling all of your studio's dances will perform their dances in a block of time, there will then be adjudications read from the stage and presented to the studio owner following the ceremony. Because of gathering restrictions, after your studio's block, you should leave to allow the next studio entry into the facility. Because of tight turn around between sessions, it is recommended to arrive in your first costume with hair and makeup done. All Overall Awards, Specialty Awards and Gala Finalists will be announced later in the week once everyone in a particular division has finished competing. The entire Nationals will be Livestreamed, so you will be able to watch your competition and any of their award ceremonies. All Overall and Specialty Award Ceremonies will be clearly identified for you to be able to attend or watch.

There will be many safety precautions put in place for your safety and for our safety. Everyone entering the building will have their temperature taken, should anyone appear with a temperature beyond CDC guidelines of 100.4 they will not be admitted into the facility, no exceptions. After your temperature check, everyone will be issued a wristband to wear throughout the days event. If you are without a wristband, you will be asked to leave the facility. Dancers will need to wear these wristbands during their performances. Please arrive in a timely manner as there will be a line to get in. Prop Dads will be able to access the theatre through the loading dock area where there will also be a temperature check station. If you leave the facility for any reason, you will have to enter through a temperature check station again.

All attendees will be required to wear a mask while in the facility so please plan accordingly. Dancers will not be required to wear a mask onstage during their performance. However, keeping in line with Tennessee Governor Executive Orders, **dancers are not permitted to have contact on stage during their performances**, this will include lifts, partnering or contact of any kind. Please prepare choreography to include this restriction. It is also why contact sports are still not

allowed, and the same rules and restrictions are applying here per Tennessee Governor Executive Order.

Seating in the auditorium is designated 6 ft apart and the chairs cannot be moved to be closer to someone. There will be family seating tables in the auditorium as well to accommodate 4 family members at one table. We will not be limiting attendance to our National Event. However, if you are at risk or vulnerable, we ask you to stay home and watch the livestream instead. There will be hand sanitizer placed throughout the facility and on both sides of the Backstage. We will require dancers to use sanitizer before entering and after exiting the stage. After a studio finishes their block, and before the next studio arrives, we will be cleaning and disinfecting the dressing room areas, theatre seating and stage.

Sevierville Convention Center Staff will be onsite to clean and disinfect high traffic and high touch areas throughout the day's events, this includes bathrooms, dressing rooms, seating areas and the stage.

Dancers will be able to practice routines in Exhibit Hall A in a designated area or in the dressing room. Practicing in the corridors or in any carpeted area will be strictly prohibited.

Our Retail area will be open throughout the event. It will be cashless, so please plan accordingly. There will be Concessions open throughout the event and please remember **no outside food or drink is allowed**.

We will still have Master Classes, Improv Competitions, Solo Battles, Duet/Trio Battles, Title Finals, and all levels Gala Finals. The Opening Number will be done virtually. You will still need to register for Opening Number and provide your shirt size. We will send everyone an instructional video for the choreography and the deadline to return the video will be June 21<sup>st</sup>. There is no limit to the amount of dancers from a studio that can participate in the Opening Number. We will edit the video together and present before each Gala performance on the last day of competition.

There is a waiver you will be receiving as well that every dancer's parent will need to sign agreeing to these precautions.

Seeing all of these restrictions and guidelines is likely very overwhelming, however, they are only in place to provide necessary safety precautions for all in attendance. Anyone not adhering to these guidelines will be asked to leave, but everyone accepting these guidelines will only make for a more positive experience. We need to take these preliminary steps to be able to open up and participate in events like this. Hopefully in the next several weeks, more restrictions will be relaxed, and as there are updates, we will pass them along to you.

***Because of the new block scheduling, space will be limited for this event, so please send us an email with a confirmation that you will be attending and how many routines you anticipate bringing.***

Of course, you will have questions and we are here to answer them. Please call and leave a message and we will return it or send us an email and you will receive a prompt response.

We are really excited to be able to spend this summer with you, even under these trickier circumstances and look forward to seeing your dancers soon!