

# **Guidelines**

**1. REGISTRATION FORM:**

All team captains must complete the registration form **no later than date mentioned for REGISTRATION FORM in the deadline section of the online form**

All forms should be submitted online. Forms are available under **Festival of Lights** → **Forms** → **High School** Competition. Upon online form submission, a confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided in the form. If you do not receive any email then please contact IRCC Cultural Committee via e-mail ([cultural@irccflorida.com](mailto:cultural@irccflorida.com)). The form must be completed with all participant names listed, email addresses for communication, and the title of the participant.

**2. REGISTRATION FEE:**

There is NO registration fee for entry. However, you MUST pay \$10.00 per participant for the mandatory mixer night .

**3. ACCEPTANCE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

The captain acknowledges and accepts the terms and conditions on behalf of the entire team by signing and submitting the entry.

**SELECTION, NOTIFICATION, AND MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

**Selection Process**

Only the Cultural Committee of the IRCC will have access to the Registration packets and videos.

**Notification Process**

Team captains will be notified of their entry status with in a week of the close of the entries via phone and/or email and this will be your confirmation for acceptance of the entry by Cultural Committee of the IRCC. If you do not received your confirmation after a week of the closing date please email to [cultural@irccflorida.com](mailto:cultural@irccflorida.com) to follow up.

# High School Dance Competition Terms and Conditions

## Waiver and Release Form

### **ALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST READ AND SIGN THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**

Each individual (including dholis, singers, managers, etc.) participating in High School Dance Competition must read the following statements and sign affirming that they understand the conditions of this competition.

“I” refers to each individual on the team (including, dholis, and singers).

“High School Competition” hereinafter refers to the IRCC organization who represents High School Dance Competition.

- I. I declare that I have read the Guidelines and Rules & Regulations and agree to abide by all information implemented by Cultural Committee of IRCC.
- II. I agree that I will not, without the consent of Diwali High School Dance Competition, use the logos, advertisements, or promotions of Diwali High School Dance Competition for personal interests.
- III. I understand that Diwali High School Dance Competition has the rights to any music, video, pictures, or other media that may be presented or taken during the show and may use it for any present or future promotional purpose.
- IV. I declare that Diwali High School Dance Competition is not responsible for any bodily/personal injury or damage/loss that may occur as a result of participating in Diwali High School Dance Competition. I hereby release, discharge and affirm that I will not take legal action against Diwali High School Dance Competition if any of the preceding takes place.

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## ACCEPTANCE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

The team captain acknowledges and accepts the full responsibility of the understanding of the rules and actions of his/her team members and the team as a whole.

All members must adhere to all guidelines, deadlines, rules, and regulations for the Diwali High School Dance Competition.

If at any time during the competition, be it before, during, or after the show, a team member violates any rules, that member can be asked to leave immediately, regardless of whether or not he/she has performed. The team must perform without this individual. Upon discretion of the organizational committee, a team may also be disqualified if the following rules and regulations are not adhered to. If any of the following rules and/or regulations are violated, the organizational committee may revoke the prizes from that team post competition.

1. Each member of the team MUST sign the liability release form when registering. If this paperwork is not completed, the participant will NOT be able to compete.
2. By signing below, the team captain is stating that the individuals he/she is representing during the competition are the same individuals that are listed on the original registration form and who have signed the "Waiver and Release Form." If a team captain purposefully falsifies this information, the team will automatically be disqualified, and legal action may be taken against the team captain.
3. Any high School or independent team is allowed to submit a registration packet. The Diwali High School Dance Competition organizers do not discriminate against any team based on its collegiate affiliation or location.
4. All members of the team must be high School Student. Documentation proving the authenticity of your claim will be required before an exception is provided to your team.
5. All members of the team must be currently in High School, Minimum of 14 and Maximum age of 19 years or younger at the time of performance , **please attach a copy of your Birth Certificate or Passport at the time of submission. (mandatory)**
6. We allow 25% exception to age of the performing (on Stage) participants. They can be younger but not older than the Maximum age requirement. e.g if you have 10 participants performing on the stage then only 2 can be under the minimum age of 14. the gophers, helpers, Choreographers are not to be considered when calculating the exception.

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7. All team members welcome to join the Official Mixer on the **date mentioned for OFFICIAL MIXER in the deadline section of the online form.** at 6:00pm. The cost of admission to the mixer is \$10 per participant. It is MANDATORY that each team is represented at the Official Mixer, and is required that all team members are present for the purpose of rehearsal. That is the only day for High School team rehearsal.
8. All "non-performing" team members MUST be approved beforehand. "Non-performing" members may include: a gopher, lighting technician, sound technician, etc.
9. All team captains MUST check-in before 6:00 PM, **date mentioned for CAPTAINS MUST CHECK-IN BEFORE in the deadline section of the online form.**
10. There is a MANDATORY PRE-EVENT MEETING on the day before the show that all the team captains MUST attend. Other team members are welcome to attend this meeting.
11. There is a MANDATORY REHEARSAL on the day of the show. You will be informed of your performance slot at the MANDATORY MIXER.
12. PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT: All teams are limited to minimum 6 minutes and maximum 8 minutes for their performance. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS, so please do not seek any. If your team goes over this limit, your team will be penalized by the judges. Each team's performance time will begin when the team makes its very first impression. This may be live music, a singer, music from the audio track, or some other movement that implies that the performance has started.
13. The audio track which is provided must contain ALL the music on one continuous track. All breaks or pauses must be pre-mixed onto the track. We will not stop or break your track upon request. The whole routine must be on one continuous track.
14. **Audio tracks MUST be submitted no later than date mentioned for AUDIO TRACK in the deadline section of the online form.** If your audio is submitted later than this date, Cultural Committee of the IRCC is not responsible for any difficulties with the audio if they may occur. No audio will be accepted on the day of the show, or in the week prior to the show. We advise teams to listen to the track before sending it, to ensure there are no problems with sound quality. Submitted audio should be clearly labeled with the name of the team. Submitted audio will become the property of the Cultural Committee of the IRCC organizers. Audio can be submitted online ONLY.

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If your audio is not received by the **date mentioned for AUDIO TRACK in the deadline section of the online form**, 1 point per day will be deducted. If we do not receive the audio tracks by **date mentioned for WAIVE RRELEASE FORM in the deadline section of the online form**, the team will be not be able to participate in the competition.

15. Each team must bring two extra copies of their CD in case any technical difficulties arise.

16. **Intro Videos must be submitted no later than date mentioned for INTRO VIDEO in the deadline section of the online form.** Intro Videos for all teams must be no longer than 60 seconds. Video must be submitted online ONLY and in AVI format.

If the video is not received within the deadline, IRCC will use a generic video for your team.

17. On the day of the show, the performers must report backstage at their assigned time: Teams in the first three acts **MUST BE DRESSED AND BACKSTAGE BY 5:00 PM**. The remainder of the teams has until 5:30 PM. Failure to comply will lead to penalization by the judges.

18. IRCC does not allow any Glitter, confetti, or any other items to be used. Points will be deducted if any team fails to follow this requirement.

19. No hazardous props may be used. Each team **MUST** submit a prop request **no later than date mentioned for PROP REQUEST in the deadline section of the online form** to ensure the prop may be used during the show. There is no guarantee that your prop will be permitted on stage, so you **MUST** get prior approval. A props list must be submitted online ONLY. Also to ensure that you can get a reply from us, please try to give us reasonable time to inquire about the use of the prop; we are obligated to ask the Broward County Convention Center if the use of certain props are permissible, thus we need ample time to receive an answer from them in order to get back to you. There are no guarantees that we will get an answer back to you if we have not received ample time to get an answer from the Broward County Convention Center.

20. Oversized props will be permitted on stage, as long as they do not require more than 60 seconds to set-up during show time. If a team spends more than 60 seconds setting up, points will be heavily deducted from the overall score for “delay of show.”

21. All teams must use discretion while selecting costumes. All members of the teams should wear long shorts or tights and tanks tops beneath their costumes, and secured tops so not to be revealing.

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22. Performances CAN NOT be longer than 8 minutes. Do not ask the committee for extensions with the time limit. There are specific reasons why this time limit is set to a maximum 8 minutes. If any team goes over the allotted 8 minutes, points will be heavily deducted from the team's overall score and if the team goes over by more than 30 seconds, the team will be automatically disqualified.
23. Any delay of the show will NOT be tolerated. The stage will not have an open close curtain, thus as soon as the stage coordinator signals the end of the performance, your team MUST start picking up your props and begin leaving the stage. The stage coordinator will count 10 seconds after the mix has ended and will then call the end of the performance, the team is permitted to begin clean-up before the signal but not after.
24. Only one item per participant. If you are performing in the Children's section of Diwali, then you cannot participate in the High School Competition.
25. IRCC requires a minimum of 3 entries and a maximum of 5 entries per category (Bhangra, Fusion, and Folk Dance/ Garba/Raas) to compete. **If 3 entries are not received, then your item will be an exhibition item ONLY. It will not be eligible for competition or prize money.**
26. Each team must have a minimum of 6 dancers on stage; the number of dancers cannot be less than 6 for the team to be qualified as a competition item.
27. The maximum number of people on a roster is 25. This includes all gophers, managers, musicians, and dancers.
28. If any team member, or a team as a whole, uses the stage time inappropriately, the team may be disqualified or penalized by the judges. You will have 15 minutes allotted to your team during rehearsal.
29. Cultural Committee of the IRCC will choose qualified judges to judge the competition. Cultural Committee of the IRCC will only subtract points for penalties incurred for late submissions or violation of Diwali High School Dance Competition rules.
30. Members of the Cultural Board of IRCC event organizers, or affiliates, will not judge the competition.
31. All scores will be ranked based on the judging criteria scoring system, which will be provided. The judges will discuss the scores and decide on placing performances.
32. The judges will ONLY use the judging criteria as a guide, but will make the final decision according to their discretion and overall impression.
33. All belongings are the responsibility of the team members. Cultural Committee of the IRCC

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does not take the responsibility of any props, personal items, costumes, etc. left back-stage.

34. If belongings are found, they will be kept for 2 weeks, after which, they will be discarded or become the property of the Cultural Board of IRCC.
35. If any such found belongings need to be shipped, the shipping must be paid by the recipient.
36. Each team's captain is responsible for the actions of all of their participants. TEAM (Cultural Committee of the IRCC and all its affiliates) will not be held responsible for any actions by the participants that result in legal action.
37. Any rules, outlined previously and presently, that are violated may lead to an individual's or a team's DISQUALIFICATION, the decision is upon the discretion of the organizers. All team captains MUST make sure all participants are aware of this rule.
38. The Cultural Committee of the IRCC reserves the right to add new and updated rules and regulations that it deems necessary and appropriate with regards to the venue and the competition itself. Any additions to the rules and regulations will be posted on the official Diwali High School Dance Competition website, and team captains will be notified via email of the changes and/or additions.
39. The size of the Stage is 30 Feet Deep and 40 Feet wide.
40. All team members MUST abide by Ft. Lauderdale and FL state laws.
41. At any point in time the organizers may require a participant to show proof of school attendance in the form of a current class schedule or student ID. It is the participant's responsibility to procure these documents upon request of an official Cultural Board of IRCC.
42. 50 Volunteer Hours will be given to all High school competition participants. They will be signed only by Cultural Chair and needs to be submitted by the Team Captain at or after the Performance. Please do not approach other board members. They will be signed only till December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year. IF anyone forgets please mail the form along with a prepaid self-addressed envelope to IRCC and they will be sent back .

**We read and understand all rules and regulations of Waiver & Release Form and Acceptance of Rules and Regulations Form.**