

Competition Series



Dancing in a competition is a great way to improve your dance skills. Comps make 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 competitor, some of which are the best in Australia.

Are you ready?

If you are enthusiastic and keen to dance a competition, then you're ready! 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 teacher and student events. Not having a partner does not preclude you from competitions.

How comps work:

Once entered, competitors are divided into events - usually by age and then by experience. The age groups are as follows:

Juvenile (below 13), Junior (13-16), Youth (16-21), Adult (21-35),
Masters (over 35)

These ages 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. 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.

Costs involved:

- \$25 for a Dancesport Australia registration paid to Ballroom Baby - each year per competitor.
- Students who want to compete must have private lessons (this should be weekly for around 4-6 months prior).
- Tickets for competitions can vary in price but can sometimes be higher than \$50 each
 - Your outfit (see below)

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.

How to start:

Firstly, talk to your instructor to let them know you're interested. We can look at the Comp schedule to decide when you might start and who you could dance with. Then you will have to organise private lessons and complete the Comp registration form for this year.