

With the aim of supporting all dancers and ensuring a fair, transparent path to competition, we recognize the need to provide clear guidance regarding the qualification process for the 2026 USA Dance Nationals. Over the past month, we have received some feedback that there is some confusion among both athletes and organizers of about what constitutes the “qualification events”. To ensure that every competitor and organizer can proceed with confidence and clarity, we’ve written the following explanations and updates to help everyone prepare for Nationals with greater certainty and enthusiasm.

Events that will be offered at Nationals 2026 and will count toward qualifications in all age categories.*

Proficiency Level	Invigilation Level	Standard	Latin	Smooth	Rhythm		
Qualification Events						Old Nomenclature Level	Dancers with a personal proficiency class that is listed below, may dance in any class that is higher than their personal proficiency level. (See #2)
S-class	Open	W,T,V,F,Q	S,C,R,P,J	AW,AT,AF,AV	AC,AR,SW,M,B	Championship	S-class (All classes may participate)
B-class	Open	W,T,F,Q	S,C,R,J	AW,AT,AF,AV	AC,AR,SW,B	Pre-Champ	B-class (B-class down thru N-class)
C-class	Open	W,F,Q	S,C,R	AW,AT,AF	AC,AR,SW	Novice	C-class (C-class down thru N-class)
C-class	Gold	W,T,F,Q	S,C,R,J	AW,AT,AF,AV	AC,AR,SW,B	Gold	C-class (C-class down thru N-class)
D-class	Silver	W,F,Q	S,C,R	AW,AT,AF	AC,AR,SW	Silver	D-class (D-class down thru N-class)
E-class	Bronze	W,Q	C,R	AW,AF	AC,AR	Bronze	E-class (E-class down thru N-class)
N-class	Pre-Bronze	W,Q	C,R	AW,AF	AC,AR	Novice	N-class (N-class only)

* The offered proficiency levels can be limited for younger age groups, for example, Pre-Teen’s do not dance above C-class Gold.

Notes

1. If dancers qualified at a particular proficiency level, they are automatically eligible to enter all events at that level, regardless of the invigilation level applied.
For instance, qualifying in D-class Standard (W, F, Q) means you may participate in D-class Standard (W, F, Q) & (T)(V) at Nationals, provided these events are offered. Note: qualifying in either C-class Gold or C-class Open allows dancers to enter any C-class events, but the invigilation for C-class Gold will be different than for the invigilation for C-class Open.
2. Two consecutive proficiency levels rule still applies, but it must be read as "two consecutive qualification levels". If an A-class event is offered by the organizer, it will not be counted toward the two consecutive levels rule. C-class Gold and Open levels are counted as one level.

Allowed combinations of two event levels in the same style	
Proficiency Level of 1 st Event	Allowed Proficiency Level of 2 nd Event
B-class	S-class
C-class	B-class
D-class	C-class
E-class	D-class
N-class	E-class

3. A couple may not compete in an event if one partner has a proficiency class higher than that required for the event. If a couple has already qualified for a certain proficiency level but one partner advances in proficiency before Nationals, the couple is then qualified for events at the higher proficiency level in the same style.

Example1. A couple qualified in D-class in Latin, prior to Nationals they exceeded the maximum points for D-class, and they were automatically leveled up to C-class in Latin. This couple is eligible to compete in C-class Gold and/or Open events at the Nationals.

Example 2. An E-class couple qualified in E and D classes in Standard. One of the partners danced with more than one partner and leveled up from E-class to D-class before the Nationals. This couple will be eligible to participate in D-class Standard events only. If this couple wants to participate in C-class events in Standard, they need to acquire the qualification for C-class.

IMPORTANT. We encourage dancers to plan their qualification competitions according to their situation with proficiency points.

4. The organizers of Regional or Challenge competitions may offer additional events with any combination of Proficiency Level, Invigilation Level and set of dances.
For example, A-class Open, B-class 5-dance, D-class Gold 5 dance, etc. These events, however, do not count toward Nationals qualification.
5. If the Nationals Committee finds it appropriate, these types of events can also be held at Nationals as “non-qualification-required” events. Qualified dancers who have entered any “qualification-required” event in the same style are eligible to participate in these, if their proficiency level allows.
6. A dancer’s proficiency level is determined by their class as of the first day of the National Championships.