



The Official Rules Book for the 2026 CCA Regional Competitions
and the 2026 *Showdown of Champions*

TEAM CATEGORIES, DIVISIONS & QUALIFICATIONS FOR
“SHOWDOWN OF CHAMPIONS”

All regional competitions will use the same rules and age divisions.

Contemporary Amateur / Challenge Team Qualifying Categories:

1. Artistic Expression
2. Exhibition Large Team
3. Exhibition Small Team
4. Moving Line
5. Precision
6. Standing Line

Traditional Amateur/ Challenge Team Qualifying Categories:

1. Traditional Large Standing Line
2. Traditional Small Standing Line
3. Traditional Moving Line
4. Traditional Freestyle Couple Categories:
Hoedown, Country Hoedown, Running Set Hoedown, Southern Appalachian.
5. Traditional Precision Couple Categories:
4, 6, or 8 Couple Precision, Running Set Precision, Smooth Mountain Square Dance, Traditional Precision

TEAM DIVISIONS:

There are two (2) levels of competition for teams: Amateur and Challenge.

Amateur: This team division is open to new and existing teams. Dancers on these teams will be allowed to compete in the Amateur division for three Clogging Champions of America seasons unless the dancers/teams have previously competed at the Challenge level at a CCA sanctioned event. A dancer's three years begins the first time they compete as an amateur

dancer. (Example: If a dancer begins in October, they will have completed one season of their Amateur status.)

Please note that rules regarding Amateur solo dancers are completely separate than those for Amateur team dancers.

Up to 25% of dancers (rounded down) on an Amateur team may be comprised of Challenge dancers. Violation will result in disqualification.

If an Amateur team or dancer competes in the Challenge Division; they may no longer dance in Amateur as an Amateur team or dancer. The dancer will be deemed a Challenge dancer and must comply with the above referenced 25% rule to compete with an Amateur team.

A Challenge dancer is defined as a clogger that has competed in the Challenge division of CCA competition, or who has completed his/her three-year run in the Amateur team categories. Once a dancer moves to the Challenge division, they can not regain Amateur status.

The Overall Amateur Contemporary Team National Champions at the Showdown of Champions must compete in the Challenge Division the following year.

Challenge: This team division is open to any team.

TEAM QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE SHOWDOWN OF CHAMPIONS:

General Team Qualifications, Rules & Guidelines (Amateur, Challenge, Traditional):

1. This CCA season is January 2026 to November 2026.
2. A team only needs to qualify once per category during the qualifying competition season to advance to the Showdown of Champions.
3. Qualification is determined by Star point placement, not by placement in each category at a regional event.
4. Once a team has qualified in a particular category, that team is NOT prohibited from competing in that same category at other regional qualifying competitions. Teams can accumulate "Star Points" that will determine order of dance at the Showdown of Champions. See notes below on "**Star Points**".
5. *Showdown of Champions* qualifiers are subject to the *Showdown of Champions* Category Competition Rules and Guidelines.
6. The *Showdown of Champions* 50% Rule applies for all teams and team categories.

The 50% Rule:

The team that competes at the *Showdown of Champions* **must** be comprised of at least 50% of the same dancers that qualified in that category. The team that competes at the *Showdown of Champions* may add or change 50% of its original

qualifying dancers. In fairness to all qualifying teams, CCA intends to make sure that the team that qualifies is also the team which competes at the *Showdown of Champions*. If you have questions about how to determine if your team is in compliance, please contact a CCA Board Member.

7. One (1) point will be deducted from the Overall Average Score for a category rule infraction (i.e. body contact in line routines, exceeding time limit, less than minimum number of dancers).
8. Rule infractions will be determined by the Clogging Champions of America board at the Showdown of Champions.
9. At regional competitions, teams must compete in the appropriate age group determined by the dancer's average age. Teams will not be allowed to dance up or down in age groups.

Contemporary and Traditional Amateur Team Qualifications:

The Amateur qualifying procedure is divided into four 4 Team Divisions – Elementary, Junior, Senior, and Adult, each consisting of different age groups. Teams must dance in their respective age group at each regional competition.

Team Divisions – Amateur

Junior:

Elementary

6 & Under

7-9

Junior

10-12

Senior:

Senior

13-15

16-19

20-29

Adult

30 & Over

Once a team has placed in the top 5 in a particular category and Team Division (Elementary, Junior, Senior, or Adult) of a regional competition, they are officially qualified for the *Showdown of Champions* for that category. The top 5 scoring teams in each category and Team Division at **each** regional competition will receive “Star Points”. The “Star Points” system for Amateur Teams is awarded to Age division winners as follows:

- 1st Place 5 *****
- 2nd Place 4 ****
- 3rd Place 3 ***
- 4th Place 2 **
- 5th Place 1 *

If a team qualifies in a category in only one Division (Junior or Senior) of Amateur throughout the regional qualifying season, they **must** compete in that Division at the *Showdown of Champions*. **Examples:** A team only qualifies in a category in the Senior Division during the regional qualifying season. On the date of the *Showdown of Champions*, the team **must** compete in the Senior Division regardless of their average age. If a team qualifies in a category in the Junior Division throughout the regional qualifying season, their age must not exceed an average age of 13.5 on the date of Showdown.

If a team qualifies in a category in both the Junior and Senior Divisions of Amateur, they have the option to select one division to compete in at the *Showdown of Champions*, but not both. The “Star Points” that are accumulated in each division will be totalled and the two criteria listed below apply:

1. The team must comply with the 50% Rule.
2. If the team chooses to dance in the Amateur Junior Division, the team average age must **not** exceed 13.5.

If the two teams within a studio earned “Star Points” at the same regional competition for that category, only the team with the highest number of earned “Star Points” can be used. **Example;** one of the combined teams earned 3 “Star Points” in a category at a competition and the other team earned 5 “Star Points” in the same category at the same competition. Only 5 “Star Points” can be used, **not** a combined total of 8. In addition, the two criteria listed below will apply:

1. The combined team must comply with the 50% Rule which means that, at the *Showdown of Champions*, the combined team must consist of dancers of which 50% qualified in that category at one of the regional competitions.
2. If the combined team has qualified in both the Junior and Senior Divisions of Amateur and the combined team chooses to dance in the Amateur Junior Division, the team average age must **not** exceed 13.5. This means that on the date of the *Showdown of Champions*, the team’s average age must be 13.5 or below.

A specific team/team name (i.e. Lil’ Taps In Motion) may remain in Amateur indefinitely as long as the individual dancers are rotated off after their three year Amateur period has expired. If a team moves from Amateur status to Challenge status within the same qualifying year, that team’s Star Points will transfer from Amateur to Challenge. The team must still comply with the 50% Rule.

Contemporary and Traditional Challenge Team Qualifications:

The Challenge qualifying procedure is divided into 4 Team Divisions – Elementary, Junior, Senior, and Adult, each consisting of different age groups. Teams must dance in their respective age group at each regional competition.

Team Age Divisions – Challenge

Junior:

Elementary

6 & Under

7-9

Junior

10-12

13-15

Senior:

Senior

16-19

20-29

Adult

30 & Over

Once a team has placed in the top 5 in a particular category and Team Division (Elementary, Junior, Senior, or Adult) of a regional competition, they are officially qualified for the *Showdown of Champions* for that category. In addition, top 5 scoring teams in each category and Team Division at **each** regional competition will receive “Star Points”. The “Star Points” system for Challenge Teams is awarded to age division winners as follows:

- 1st Place 5 *****
- 2nd Place 4 ****
- 3rd Place 3 ***
- 4th Place 2 **
- 5th Place 1 *

See below for more information on “Star Points”.

If a team qualifies in a category in only one Division (Junior or Senior) of Challenge throughout the regional qualifying season, they **must** compete in that Division at the *Showdown of Champions*. **Examples:** A team only qualifies in a category in the Senior Division during the regional qualifying season. On the date of the *Showdown of Champions*, the team **must** compete in the Senior Division regardless of their average age. If a team qualifies in a category in the Junior Division throughout the regional qualifying season, their age must not exceed an average age of 16.5 on the date of Showdown.

If a team qualifies in a category in both the Junior and Senior Divisions of Challenge, they have the option to select one division to compete in at the *Showdown of Champions*, but not both. The “Star Points” that are accumulated in each division will be totalled and the two criteria listed below will apply:

1. The team must comply with the 50% Rule.
2. If the team chooses to dance in the Challenge Junior Division, the team average age must **not** exceed 16.5. This means that on the date of the *Showdown of Champions*, the team’s average age must be 16.5 or below.

If the two teams within a studio earned “Star Points” at the same regional competition for that category, only the team with the highest number of earned “Star Points” can be used. **Example;** one of the combined teams earned 3 “Star Points” in a category at a competition and the other team earned 5 “Star Points” in the same category at the same competition. Only 5 “Star Points” can be used, **not** a combined total of 8. In addition, the two criteria listed below will apply:

1. The combined team must comply with the 50% Rule
2. If the combined team has qualified in both the Junior and Senior Divisions of Challenge and the combined team chooses to dance in the Challenge Junior Division, the team average age must **not** exceed 16.5 as of the date of the Showdown of Champions

Age Division Category Awards: Contemporary and Traditional:

At the Showdown of Champions, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place age division winners will be awarded in all team qualifying categories (contemporary and traditional) for the following age divisions:

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 6 & Under | 16-19 |
| 7-9 | 20-29 |
| 10-12 | 30 and Over |
| 13-15 | |

Team Grand Champion Category Awards: Contemporary and Traditional:

At the Showdown of Champions the following Grand Champion Awards will be given in both Amateur Team Divisions (Junior and Senior) and Challenge Team Divisions (Junior and Senior). Awards are based on the highest score in each of these groups:

Contemporary:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Champion Artistic Expression | <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Champion Moving Line |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Champion Exhibition Large Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Champion Precision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Champion Exhibition Small Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Champion Standing Line |

Traditional:

- Grand Champion Traditional Large Standing Line
- Grand Champion Traditional Small Standing Line
- Grand Champion Traditional Moving Line
- Grand Champion Traditional Freestyle Team: Highest Scoring Team from the following Categories- Hoedown, Country Hoedown, Running Set Hoedown, Southern Appalachian

☒Grand Champion Traditional Precision Team: Highest Scoring Team from the following Categories- 4, 6, or 8 Couple Precision, Running Set Precision, Smooth Mountain Square Dance, Traditional Precision

Team National Title Awards:

At the Showdown of Champions the following National Title Awards will be given:

Contemporary Teams:

☒National Champion Amateur Junior Contemporary Team - Awarded from Dance-Off of Grand Champion Amateur Junior Teams (12 and Under)

☒National Champion Amateur Senior Contemporary Team - Awarded from Dance-Off of Grand Champion Amateur Senior Teams (13 and Up)

☒National Champion Challenge Junior Contemporary Team - Awarded from Dance-Off of Grand Champion Challenge Junior Teams (15 and Under)

☒National Champion Challenge Senior Contemporary Team - Awarded from Dance-Off of Grand Champion Challenge Senior Teams (16 and Up)

Traditional Teams:

☒National Champion Amateur Junior Traditional Team - Awarded from Dance-Off of Grand Champion Amateur Junior Teams (12 and Under)

☒National Champion Amateur Senior Traditional Team - Awarded from Dance-Off of Grand Champion Amateur Senior Teams (13 and Up)

☒National Champion Challenge Junior Traditional Team - Awarded from Dance-Off of Grand Champion Challenge Junior Teams (15 and Under)

☒National Champion Challenge Senior Traditional Team - Awarded from Dance-Off of Grand Champion Challenge Senior Teams (16 and Up)

“Star Points”:

A special incentive has been designed for those teams, who travel and compete at other regional qualifying competitions throughout the year, which have already qualified for the *Showdown of Champions*. This “Star Points” system is designed to select the order of dance per category at the *Showdown of Champions*.

The “Star Points” will be accumulated throughout the entire CCA qualifying season. At the completion of the season, the “Star Points” achieving teams will be ranked in order of the number of “Star Points” that each received. The team receiving the most “Star Points” in each team category will be placed last in the order of dance at the *Showdown of Champions*. The 2nd highest “Star Points” achieving team will be placed second to last in the order of dance, and so forth. If two or more teams have the same amount of “Star Points,” a random drawing will determine their placement of dance.

The “Star Points” system for Amateur and Challenge teams is awarded to Team Age Division (Elementary, Junior, Senior, and Adult) winners as follows:

- 1st Place 5 *****
- 2nd Place 4 *****
- 3rd Place 3 ***
- 4th Place 2 **
- 5th Place 1 *

“Star Points Champion – Team of the Year”:

As part of the *Showdown of Champions*, CCA will announce a “Star Points Champion –Team of the Year” in all divisions for both Amateur and Challenge. The Star Points Champion – Team of the Year” will be awarded to the teams with the highest number of “Star Points,” accumulated across all team categories in the divisions listed below. “Star Points” are earned throughout the year at all CCA regional qualifying competitions. The division for each team is determined by the average age of dancers.

Each year at the *Showdown of Champions*, there will be a “Star Points Champion – Team of the Year” awarded to each of the following Team Divisions:

- Amateur / Challenge: Elementary, Junior, Senior, and Adult

Should there be a tie in the number of “Star Points” earned within a division, both teams will share the title of “Star Points Champion – Team of the Year.”

Showdown of Champions Grand Champion Dance-Off Line Up Determination:

The scorekeeper will determine the dance-off line up based upon the number of routines per studio and score. The scorekeeper will follow this procedure:

1. Determine if any team will not be dancing their routine.
2. The qualification of several dances by a team/studio is reviewed. The purpose is to minimize/eliminate back-to-back dances by dancers.
3. A team/studio that would have potential “double dancers” and has qualified more than one routine is given preference. These routines are spaced out as evenly as possible. The team/studio with the most qualified routines involving potential “double dancers”, when 3 or more routines qualify are placed first, middle, and last. The team/studio with the most qualified routines involving potential “double dancers”, when 2 routines qualify, one routine will dance last and the other routine will be spaced as evenly as possible. The team/studio will pick the order they dance their routines if they have multiple routines in the dance off.
4. If there are no teams/studios qualifying more than one routine involving “double dancers”, then the dance off will be determined by the routines’ qualifying scores. Routines will be placed first to last with the lowest qualifying score dancing first and the highest qualifying score dancing last.

SOLO DIVISIONS & QUALIFICATIONS FOR “SHOWDOWN OF CHAMPIONS”

Solo Divisions:

There will be five (5) Divisions of competition for solo dancers:

Amateur Freestyle: Dancers may compete as amateur for three (3) calendar years. Amateur dancers may compete in the Challenge division but once a soloist dances in Challenge Freestyle, they are no longer eligible for Amateur Freestyle. If an Amateur Freestyle Soloist wins National Champion at the Showdown of Champions, they must move to the Challenge Soloist Division for that respective category.

Challenge Freestyle: This solo division is open to any dancer, regardless of past winnings.

Amateur Traditional: Dancers may compete as amateur for three (3) calendar years. Amateur dancers may compete in the Challenge division but once a soloist dances in Challenge Traditional, they are no longer eligible for Amateur Traditional. If an Amateur Traditional Soloist wins National Champion at the Showdown of Champions, they must move to the Challenge Soloist Division for that respective category.

Challenge Traditional: This solo division is open to any dancer, regardless of past winnings.

A Capella: This solo division is open to any dancer, regardless of past winnings.

Solo Age Divisions:

Amateur Freestyle & Traditional:

6 & under, 7-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16 & Over

Challenge Freestyle & Traditional:

6 & under, 7-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16-19, 20-29, 30 & Over

a Capella:

11 & under, 12-14, 15-18, 19 & OVER

General Solo Qualification Rules & Guidelines (Amateur & Challenge):

1. A Solo dancer competing at the *Showdown of Champions* will compete in the age division appropriate to their current age at the time of the *Showdown*. If a solo dancer has an age change between the time they qualify and the *Showdown of Champions*, they will compete in the age division appropriate to their current age at the time of the *Showdown*.
2. A Solo dancer only needs to qualify once per Division during the CCA Season (January to December) to advance to the *Showdown of Champions*. First, second, or third place winners per age division category at each regional competition qualifies for the Solo competition at the *Showdown of Champions*.

3. Once a Solo dancer has qualified for the *Showdown of Champions*, they are not prohibited from competing at other regional qualifying competitions.

4. If you qualify in Amateur Freestyle, you will dance in Amateur Freestyle at the *Showdown of Champions*.

A Solo dancer is allowed to qualify in both Amateur Freestyle and Challenge Freestyle during a competition season, and thus, compete in both Divisions at the *Showdown of Champions*.

5. Clogging Champions of America, with the assistance of the regional competition coordinators, will monitor dancers to prevent dancers competing in the wrong division.

6. If a Solo dancer is found inappropriately competing in Amateur at any regional competition(s), either a representative of CCA or the regional competition coordinator(s) will address the violation and that dancer will **NOT** advance to the *Showdown of Champions*. The regional competition coordinator(s) have discretion regarding the awarding of placements for the dancers found in violation.

Solo Awards and Titles for the Showdown of Champions:

Amateur and Challenge Freestyle & Amateur and Challenge Traditional Age Division Winners: Age division winners will be determined by competing the qualifying Solo dancers from each of the regional competitions. The three (3) highest scoring Solo dancers per age division at the *Showdown of Champions* will be announced and then will move on to compete for the Overall National Champion Titles.

A Capella Solo Age Division Winners: Age division winners will be determined by competing the qualifying Solo dancers from each of the regional competitions. The three (3) highest scoring Solo dancers per age division at the *Showdown of Champions* will be announced and then will move on to compete for the Overall Grand Champion Titles.

Amateur and Challenge Freestyle, Amateur and Challenge Traditional and a Capella National Champion Winners: Males and Females will compete against each other for the amateur and challenge freestyle, amateur and challenge traditional and a Capella National Champion Titles.

CHOREOGRAPHED SOLOS:

Amateur Choreographed Solos: Dancers may compete as amateur for three (3) calendar years. Amateur dancers may compete in the Challenge division but will no longer be allowed to dance as an Amateur Choreographed Soloist. If an Amateur Choreographed Soloist wins National Champion at the Showdown of Champions, they must move to the Challenge Soloist Division for that respective category.

Challenge Choreographed Solos: This solo division is open to any dancer, regardless of past winnings.

Choreographed Solo Age Divisions

7 & under, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17, 18-25, 26 & over

1. A Choreographed Solo dancer competing at the Showdown of Champions will compete in the age division appropriate to their current age at the time of the Showdown. If a solo dancer has an age change between the time they qualify and the Showdown of Champions, they will compete in the age division appropriate to their current age at the time of the Showdown.
2. A Solo dancer only needs to qualify once per Division during the CCA Season to advance to the Showdown of Champions. First, second, or third place winners per age division category at each regional competition qualifies for the Solo competition at the Showdown of Champions.
3. Once a Choreographed Solo dancer has qualified for the Showdown of Champions, they are not prohibited from competing at other regional qualifying competitions.
4. Overall Choreographed Solo will be determined by high score.

General Duo/Duet Rules and Guidelines:

1. A Duo/Duet couple competing at the *Showdown of Champions* will compete in the age division appropriate to their current average age at the time of the *Showdown*. Ages of the two dancers will be averaged to determine the appropriate age division the couple should compete in at the *Showdown*.
2. A Duo/Duet couple only needs to qualify once per CCA Season to advance to the *Showdown of Champions*. First, second, or third place winners per age division category at each regional competition qualifies for the Duo/Duet competition at the *Showdown of Champions*.
3. Once a Duo/Duet couple has qualified, that couple is NOT prohibited from competing at other regional qualifying competitions.
4. *Showdown of Champions* qualifiers are subject to the Duo/Duet Category Competition Rules and Guidelines.

Traditional, Contemporary, Show, Traditional Short and Short Duet Dance-Off Process at the Showdown of Champions:

1. In Traditional Duo/Duet, couples will compete against each other for the Grand Champion Traditional Duo/Duet Title.
2. In Contemporary Duo/Duet, couples will compete against each other for the Grand Champion Contemporary Duo/Duet Title.
3. In Show Duo/Duet, couples will compete against each other for the Grand Champion Show Duo/Duet Title.
4. In Traditional Short Duo/Duet, couples will compete against each other for the National Champion Traditional Short Duet/Duet Title.
5. In Short Duo/Duet, couples will compete against each other for the National Champion Short/Duet Title.
6. Each Grand Champion (Contemporary, Show and Traditional Grand Champion) will then dance off for the Overall Duo/Duet National Champion Title.

Short Duos:

1. Each couple will compete against each other in their respective age division, determined by age average, calculated on the day of the *Showdown of Champions*.
2. First place couples will then compete against each other for the National Champion Short Duo/Duet Title.

Traditional Short Duos:

1. Each couple will compete against each other in their respective age division, determined by age average, calculated on the day of the *Showdown of Champions*.
2. First place couples will then compete against each other for the National Champion Traditional Short Duo/Duet Title.

Traditional, Contemporary, Show, Traditional Short and Short Duo/Duet Age Divisions:

8 & under, 9-11, 12-14, 15-18, 19-25, 26 & over

Regional Competition Errors and Additional Awards:

Should there occur the announcement of erroneous or additional awards in age division placement for any category at any regional qualifying competition, CCA will only honor the actual top three scoring age division winners for all sanctioned categories for the *Showdown of Champions*. **Example 1;** a first place age division winner for a sanctioned category is announced and awarded incorrectly at a regional qualifying event. The event director chooses to award both the correct and incorrect winners out of respect for the error. Ultimately, CCA will only honor the actual top three scoring winners of that age division. **Example 2;** an event director chooses to award an age division of a sanctioned category with more than the top three scoring winners; such as fourth place, fifth place, and so forth. Ultimately, CCA will only honor the top three scoring winners of that age division.

SPECIAL “SHOWDOWN OF CHAMPIONS” AWARDS:

The CCA “All-Pro Team and All-Pro Director

The Clogging Champions of America “All-Pro” team will consist of 16 dancers, any number of males and females, as determined by the All-Pro Selection Committee. The “All-Pro” team will recognize the best all-around cloggers, both individual and team dancers based on the following criteria:

- Clogging Skills
- Sportsmanship
- Attitude
- Outstanding effort
- Portrays effort and dedication
- Any additional criteria set forth by the Board of Clogging Champions of America.

Members receiving this honorable and prestigious award may be chosen for 3 years. After being a member of the All-Pro Team for 3 years, dancers are no longer eligible to be a member of the All-Pro team, and become a CCA Legend.