

Tab 1

Carolina Furfare Dance Competition

Rules and How-To

Overview

Carolina Furfare's dance competition is a furry dance competition held as a main event at NCAS's Carolina Furfare, and has become one of the most popular events of the entire convention. Competitors assemble, choreograph, and perform a dance routine for the crowd and then are offered feedback and scored by a panel of judges who have a performance or dance background. The competition is arranged with multiple divisions - a fursuit division, a non-fursuit division, and if there is enough interest, a group division. At the end of the competition, the judges determine a top 3, and those three usually receive a prize. Each division will have their own top 3, turnout permitting, and prize.

Previous Winners

Convention	Winner	2nd Place	3rd Place
BRFF 2020	Jaxx Wusky	Alec	Sparks
BRFF 2021 (virtual)	Rito	GG Blackback	Scarlet Janefox
BRFF 2022	Jax Novawind	Adondis	Lazuli (as Snax)
BRFF 2023 (virtual)	Yuki/Rambunctious	Fusano	Lazuli (as Snax)
CFF 2025	TBD	TBD	TBD

How to Participate

Signups

Signups will begin **Sunday, July 6, 2025** -- and close on **Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 11:59:59pm EST**. At-con signups will be allowed. If you sign up on November 5th or later, you will likely have to redo it at-con.

The signup form is available here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1k7-bLICVyTt-CApHJi1bBtjXitDaFw3e-oeHcaJi3QU/edit?usp=sharing>

Contact information will need to be for one of the following methods:

- Telegram ([Group Chat](#))
- BlueSky
- Email
- Discord (please join the [Group Chat](#) so we can contact you!)

Please consider your form of contact when you sign up - it must be something you use/check frequently. If you do not frequently check it, you may miss audition time and crucial information. Accommodations will not be made if you miss auditions or roll call. We are sorry, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, Snapchat, Tiktok, Signal, FurAffinity, Facebook, and SMS (text message) are not acceptable forms of contact for this event.

Minors under 18 years old - You and your parent or guardian will need to sign the [Parental Consent form](#). This is due at time of audition. If you do not have this by the time of your audition, your signup may be voided. You may fill this out digitally via tablet or phone, or print, sign, and scan it. You may also turn it in at-con to a member of the NCAS Dance Staff listed at the bottom of this sheet. Email the signed form to dancecomp@carolinafurfare.org.

Parental consent forms are due at the time of auditions. If we have not received it by then, your signup may be voided. **Please ensure we can align your permission form to your fursuit/entry name.**

You will receive a communication to your preferred contact method in the weeks leading up to the convention, as well as by email, confirming your entry to the competition and providing a reminder of important times - **give yourself ample time to arrive for all mandatory events and consider elevator traffic and lines!!!**

Music

Competitors are to edit and cut their own music for the competition, and must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Your song must be 2:00 (120 seconds) or shorter. **The competition staff or hosts will not be able to cut your music for you.** If you submit a song longer than this, your song will fade out at 2:00. If applicable, group category performances will be allowed +30 additional seconds for each additional group member, up to 3:30 (210 seconds).
2. Your song must be PG13 or censored so that it is PG13 after editing - no excessively explicit or vulgar music will be allowed in the finals, and failure to properly censor your music will result in your entry being forfeited.

3. Must be of good sound quality (instances of “stylistic suck” in your performance, or intentional low-quality audio as part of the performance, will be taken into consideration)
4. Must be in mp3 format.
5. Not a requirement, but recommended - fade or cut your music at the end in a way that signifies the end of your song so the audience is given a proper cue to applaud you! And if your choreography begins immediately as the mix begins, add an audio cue to the mix so you're prepared.
6. Music is due for pre-con signups on **Tuesday, November 4th at 11:59p EDT**, or for at-con signups **Saturday November 8th at 8p EDT**. For at-con signups, your music ***must be cut and ready for performance.***

If you do not know how to edit or convert your music, contact Mex (@iBolt on Telegram) or another staff member or anyone in the group chat for guidance and software recommendations.

If you choose to submit your song after signing up, please submit it to **dancecomp@carolinafurfare.org**

Categories

This year we are featuring three categories you can sign up for - those categories are:

- Fursuit
- Non-fursuit
- Group

Category breakdown

- Fursuit category requires one's costume to (1) obscure both the face and the hands and (2) be anthropomorphic in nature. This generally would mean a fursuit head and paws. Tails, feet, themed wardrobes, body suits, sleeves, leggings, and other parts of a fursuit that make up the character are encouraged. Human skin can be showing at wearer's discretion.
 - We understand that every performance is different and if an individual does not meet one of these requirements as stylistic or artistic choice during the performance for any period of time (i.e. removing of one's head at the end, removing of paws to safely power move), this will be taken into consideration.
- Non-fursuit category does not require a fursuit or wardrobe, though general non-furry cosplay would be asked to sign up for this category.
- Group category is for performances that require 2 or more individuals to share the stage for the majority of a single performance.
 - If there are less than 3 groups entered, the group will be merged into the relevant fursuit/non-fursuit category.

Auditions

There will be two audition (or prelim) sessions, they will be held in **Catawba 5/Panel Room C** at **7:30-8:30pm EDT Friday and 10:30-11:45am EDT Saturday**. These are closed events - the only people allowed in the room will be folks who intend on auditioning, 1 handler, and parents/guardians. No photo or video is permitted during this event unless explicit permission is given from the performer for feedback/review purposes.

Please perform in auditions in the manner that you intend on in finals (i.e. your fursuit, your cosplay, with any props needed). All members of any group performances must dance as part of the group in auditions.

Judge's rubric

These are the categories you will be judged on, on a scale of 1 to 10 for each category from each judge, with a perfect score of 90.

1. **Complexity** - Simple vs Complex movements and techniques. Great performances don't always need to be complex; however on a competition standpoint, complexity should still help to add to one's score. Movement/technique difficulty? Flow between moves?
- FOR GROUPS: Also consider - are they changing formation?
2. **Execution** - The overall execution of the dance. A performance of high complexity performed sloppily would fare worse in this category than a performance of moderate complexity executed perfectly. Are their foundations/styles defined? Are they confident? Are their moves translating legibly? Are they on balance? Are they using their space effectively? Does each concept end before a new one begins?
- FOR GROUPS: Also consider - are they in sync?
3. **Composition** - "Overall impact" of the dance. This would also be where you judge the performance as a performance; storytelling elements, creativity. How are their transitions between "segments" of the performances? Does it properly flow with the mood of the song and does it crescendo as the music dictates? Does the song fit seamlessly into the dance? Are they using effective lyricism?
- FOR NON-SUIT: Also consider - are they using their face and body language to enhance their performance?
- FOR GROUPS: Also consider - do they break the sync as part of the routine in an effective way? Any effective setpieces that can't be defined as dance?

Pre-con video auditions

New this year to Carolina Furfare will be a means to submit a video audition pre-convention. These will be reviewed and scored by the auditions judges in conjunction with the other performances from auditions and will adhere to the same rules and practices as stated above.

Please ensure, if you choose to submit a video audition, that:

- Your body is fully in-frame and in-focus
- You are wearing your fursuit/cosplay as you intend to wear it in finals (if applicable)
- Your music/mix is accurate to the one you intend to dance to in finals
- The dance portion of your video is done intact/in one take (no cut edits will be allowed, please do not add transitions or effects to your video - it's more likely to count against you)

People who submit a video audition will be permitted to attend the in-person auditions to support their friends and fellow dancers if they wish.

The following means of sending your video audition are accepted:

- Youtube
- Google Drive
- Dropbox

The link with your audition video must be sent to **dancecomp@carolinafurfare.org** by **Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 11:59:59PM EDT.**

If you do not make the finals, it does not mean you are a bad dancer. It's okay to be upset and disappointed in yourself, but understand the bigger picture, keep practicing and learning, and come back that much stronger next time! Many of the fandom's greatest dancers missed alot of finals on their journey to where they are - and progress is never a straight line. It's a superhero's story to make the cut every time - but a *real* hero's story is to miss one, yet come back to try again. Don't stop dancing!

Dance covers/biting notice

This is a choreography-based competition that primarily consists of original pieces. If you are covering or paying homage to an already-existing dance piece, please let us know beforehand. Generally, a full cover of a pre-existing piece will eliminate you from consideration for a top 3 spot, but this will be judged on a case-by-case basis and will take into factor how much of the performance was used versus original. Covers and homages used respectfully and with proper notice to staff are welcome to perform, and may be given an honorable mention if performed well enough.

Anyone who does not disclose that their performance is a cover or an homage to competition staff, and is found after auditions to have covered an existing dance, is assumed to be "biting" (or plagiarising), and might be subject to removal from finals.

If a dance is found to be willfully and intentionally “bit” after the competition has concluded, the dancer may not be permitted to compete in future NCAS dance events, depending on the nature, severity, and the competitor’s knowledge, awareness, understanding, or any lack thereof, of this rule, and may be subject to rescinding of any owed placement prize, if one is awarded.

Competition Finals

The finals will take place in **Hickory 2/Main Events at 1-3pm EDT** on Sunday, November 9th.

The competition will consist of finalists who advanced based on their scores from the auditions process for each category. The same judges’ rubric will be used in finals as in auditions, although the judges may differ. Each competitor who makes finals will be asked how the MC should introduce them, within reason and time allowing (make it brief, please!)

If you make the finals, you will be sent a message via your preferred method of contact informing you. We will also be posting printed copies of the finalists list in the headless lounge, and posting them in the Telegram and Discord groups.

Before the competition, Mex (@ibolt), Crimson (@Crimson_Legacy) or a designated staff member will be contacting you to do one final confirmation of your song file before the finals music folder is sent to AV. Please keep your phone or means of contact handy so that you can quickly respond to this. **Waitlisted dancers will also be contacted.**

The order on the finalists roster is not necessarily the finals performing order - that will be disclosed during roll call. If you wish to be (or not to be) placed at any specific time in the competition (i.e. you don’t want to go first, you don’t want to go immediately before your friend), accommodations can be made but please make them clear before your song is confirmed. We cannot guarantee the order can be reworked if you communicate this after your song is confirmed and sent to AV.

Waitlist Dancers

If you are an understudy (fill-in, “wait list”, standby), you must be present at roll call and prepared to dance on quick notice. If in the event a dancer is not present at 3rd roll call, you will be asked to fill in their slot. We are sorry, but we cannot change this slot.

Rules

General competition etiquette

1. Hydrate and eat a good meal (but don’t overeat) beforehand!

2. Show up **no less than 30 minutes** before the doors open **ready to perform**. At 25 till, we will perform a roll call. If you are not present on first roll call, we will perform another at 15 till. If you are not present on 2nd roll call, your name will be called one final time. If you are not present on the 3rd call of your name, you will be replaced with a waitlist performer.
3. Be mindful of time and the roster order. You are permitted to remain backstage or sit in the crowd and watch, but please keep track of yourself in the finals order - you will be asked to report backstage and suit up at the end of the 3rd performer before you, and backstage staff will stage you in a loading zone where they can help you make any last-minute adjustments you might need. If you intend on entering the stage from a different area, please communicate this to staff **before the competition begins**.
4. Remember to breathe - you're gonna do great!
5. If you wish to start your routine from off-stage, please let a staff member know **before the competition begins** so that we can inform AV when to cue you in.
6. During your performance, please remain on stage. We don't want anyone to get hurt!
7. Dance for the crowd, not facing the judges (if the judge's table is anywhere except front-center stage).
8. No touching the judges or their microphone/table items while performing; judges often have water on the table that could spill/ruin your suit or cause an electrical short.
9. If, by isolated incident (we're all human, mistakes are always possible), you receive the wrong song - **do not dance to it!!!** - it is, in all likelihood, another competitor's song. Make an X with your hands and gesture at your neck a "cutting" motion while facing AV so that the other competitor's song is stopped and we can fix the issue.
10. Please exit the stage when cued to (generally this would be the "thank you" following feedback), and **hydrate!!!** If you need accommodation to remove your fursuit or cosplay after performing, let a staff member know! Staff members will be present to provide water as you exit stage.
11. Judges and hosts are asked not to provide your cumulative score. Judges can share their critique as well as their own individual score of you if they wish, but understand that judging is subjective, and your dance should not be devalued to a number rating.
12. Have fun! If you are not having fun, then you might have some thinking to do about why you're competing - and there is no shame in self-reflection for this purpose!

Housekeeping and conduct

1. Dancers who sign up are signing up to dance at their own risk. The convention, its staff, and the venue will not be liable for any injuries or damage to property sustained while performing.
2. Be a good sport! If you are repeatedly and knowingly disrespectful, demeaning, or uncooperative toward the competition, hosts, judges, or fellow competitors, you will be expelled from the competition, and depending on the severity, forbidden from competing in any further NCAS dance events. Safety and security will also be contacted in these instances.

3. If you knowingly and willingly violate the convention's code of conduct, or continue to do so after being reprimanded, you will not be allowed to perform in CFF's dance competition, and depending on the severity, may be forbidden from competing in any further NCAS dance events. Safety and security will also be contacted in these instances.
4. Please understand that dancer furs generally know each other, and we are doing our best to remain unbiased despite that. If you legitimately feel that you were not judged fairly, or received anything that would indicate such from a judge or staff member, or have another concern with a competitor or staff member, please take screenshots (if applicable) and contact Mex (@iBolt on Telegram) or Crimson (@Crimson_Legacy).
5. If you have safety or reputation concerns regarding the out-of-convention words, actions, or behaviors of an individual involved with, or competing in, the competition, please let us know so we can look into it. This is **not** something we take lightly! Contact Mex (@iBolt on Telegram) or Crimson (@Crimson_Legacy)
6. Keep designated walkways, all doorways, stairways, and staging areas clear of your person and your belongings while not performing.
7. Keep all your belongings backstage. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items.
8. Respect ADA seating if sitting in the crowd.
9. Follow all instructions as guided by staff, hosts, and dance volunteers. It is all for your safety.

Curtain call and placements

At the end of the competition, dancers will be asked to return to the stage for curtain call. Dancers will be called out to return to the stage one by one in the order in which they performed - please go as far to the other end of the stage as possible so as to leave room for all the dancers.

If scores are close between 3rd and 4th for any category, an honorable mention for that category may be announced.

If there are exactly 4 entries for a given category, a top 2 will be announced, and the 3rd prize will be awarded to the 3rd place act privately. If a given category has 3 or less acts, only a winner will be announced, and both 2nd and 3rd places will be awarded their prizes privately. As stated, those that do place 2nd and 3rd will still receive prizes in this scenario, but will be done so privately rather than announcing it, as we understand being announced "as 3rd of 3 dancers" might be embarrassing for the competitor.

Group chats

Additionally, there are Telegram and Discord groups to keep in contact with your fellow competitors! Understand that these groups are PG-13, so anything explicit or vulgar being shared willingly will result in a ban. Please do not share your performances here before the competition, as the judges might be in here. By using the chats, you agree to follow the NCAS

code of conduct as well as all Carolina Furfare rules.

Telegram - <https://t.me/+1JhwqKL2eKExNDcx>

Discord - <https://discord.gg/gmpHS9KM4w>

Contact Us

Mex/iBolt - Competition Coordinatior - @iBolt

Crimson - Assistant Competition Coordinator - @Crimson_Legacy

Email - **dancecomp@carolinafurfare.org**