



Together We Rise, Together We Shine

ASPIRANT AMATEUR POLE COMPETITION

2024 OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

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CRITERIA

Aspirant is a performance competition open to:

- Any level, any US location.
- Ages 18 and older to compete. A government-issued ID is required with entry to show proof of age. Ages 18 and up are welcome to watch the competition.
- Pro level must qualify with a video submission.

Entrants must be fair, truthful, and objective in assessing their eligibility to compete as an amateur. Competitors may be disqualified and/or stripped of title if:

- Found to be untruthful regarding their prior movement-based competition experience.
- Any information disclosed with an entry is found to be false or inaccurate.

Aspirant reserves the right to separate, combine, or categorize competitors as needed.

Aspirant reserves the right to deem a competitor overqualified to compete or unsafe to compete.

All competitors, judges and volunteers are required to sign a liability release form prior to being allowed to participate in any Aspirant event.

ENTRY

Entrants must certify that they have read and understand all Aspirant terms, conditions, rules, and regulations prior to entry.

Competitors can register for as many categories as they would like but all must be the same level.

All Competitors are responsible for reading and ensuring they understand all Aspirant

competition terms, conditions, rules, regulations, and deadlines.

Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferrable. There are no transfers or credits for this competition.

All genders are competing together.

Ages 18-49 will be competing together within their respective levels and categories. Masters division (50+) will be competing together

Aspirant reserve the right to permit late registration, to extend any and all deadlines including the registration deadline, and to prohibit anyone from entering.

CATEGORIES

Story/Theme Based

Competitors will be judged on their ability to tell a story/showcase their theme. Primary focus is not the difficulty of trick/movement but the ability to convey the storyline clearly.

Levels within this category (4):

- Newbie
- Level 1 (Beginner)
- Level 2 (Intermediate)
- Level 3 (Advanced)

Overall

Competitors will be judged on ability to convey their theme/ story, difficulty of routine and technique. This category would be considered the best all around option.

Levels within this category (5):

- Newbie
- Level 1 (Beginner)

- Level 2 (Intermediate)
- Level 3 (Advanced)
- Professional

Heels

Competitors will be judged on ability to convey their theme/ story, difficulty of routine and technique. Heels must be worn. Only inversions where 1 hand is still touching the floor.

No inversions from a standing position. No aerial inversions.

Levels within this category (2):

- Newbie & Level 1 (Beginner) combined (Routine between 2:00-2:45 minutes)
- Level 2 (Intermediate) & Level 3 (Advanced) combined (Routine between 3:30-4:00 minutes)

Low Flow

Low Flow can be with heels or without. Only inversions where 1 hand is still touching the floor. Levels within this category (2):

- Newbie & Level 1 (Beginner) combined (Routine between 2:00-2:45 minutes)
- Level 2 (Intermediate) & Level 3 (Advanced) combined (Routine between 3:30-4:00 minutes)

Doubles/Group

This category is open to doubles and groups of no more than 6 people. There is not a level associated with this category and all groups will compete against one another. Routine between 3:30-4:00 minutes.

LEVELS

As the competitor, you will be able to choose the level you are competing in so please make sure you understand what each level contains and what is required before registering.

Our overall goal is to make sure that all competitors are at similar skillsets and ar

Newbie-

Beginner level pole skills and brand new to performing and competing.

- Floor based movements allowed. Low level spins such as: firemans, front knee hooks spins, must have 2 hands on the pole.
- No inversions or climbs. Hips must stay below the head when touching the pole.
- No free-standing handstands.
- No experience as an instructor of any dance, acro, gymnastic, movement based art.
- Could not have competed in or performed previously in any movement based art.
- Can use 1 pole, is not required to use both poles.
- Routine between 2:00-2:45 minutes.

Level 1 - Beginner

Beginner level pole skills; could have performed and or competed in level 1 categories previously.

- Floor based movements.
- Can climb the pole.
- Excluded Moves- Shoulder mounts are not allowed.
- No inversions from standing position to the pole.
- No aerial inversion including spinning inversions.
- No freestanding handstands.
- Must use both Spin and Static poles.
- Routine between 2:00-2:45 minutes.

Level 2 - Intermediate

Grounded Inversions allowed. 3 points of contact for all pole moves when inverted. Descending inversions allowed. Must use both poles.

Routine between 2:45-3:30 minutes

Examples of moves that are allowed:

- Butterfly Press w
- ith knee on pole
- Cross ankle releases/ Waterfall
- Holly drop and other intermediate drops
- Intermediate 2 points of contact horizontal moves such as: Marley, No handed jade, No handed genie.

Examples of moves that are not allowed:

- Handsprings/ ayeshas/extended Butterflies (any kind)
- No aerial inversions.
- Forearm/football grip/inverted flag grip
- Bird of paradise (upright and inverted)
- Eagle (upright and or inverted)
- Janeiro

Note If you are an instructor teaching inverts, then you must be in Level 3 or higher. "Teaching" includes teaching at a studio or via online/social media platforms.

Level 3 - Advanced

If previously competed at advanced or comparable level and did not win you can compete in this level.

If previously competed at advanced or comparable level and won, must submit to Professional level.

- Aerial inversions allowed. 2 points of contact when inverted.
- Must use both poles.

- No jumps from pole to pole. Complete release of the pole not allowed: fonjis
- Advanced drops allowed.
- Routines between 3:30-4:00 minutes

Professional

This is for the evening performance on Sunday September 8th 6:00PM-8:00PM. Competitors should have previous competition experience and or performing to be at this level. All competitors are required to include a video submission of no longer than 3 minutes with their registration. No pole to pole jumps allowed. Must use both poles. No restrictions with pole tricks. Routines between 3:45-4:15 minutes.

AGE

All performers must be 18 years of age or older. There will be no age-based segregation with the exception of those 40 years old and older who will be placed in the “Masters” category. However, for those 40 years and older, competing in the “Masters” category is not required; you may opt to compete in the under-40 category.

PERFORMANCE RULES

The competitors must be the only persons within the performance, backstage, and green room areas before and during the event.

Aspirant has a zero tolerance policy regarding:

- Racism
- Homophobia
- Any themes that might incite hatred towards or vilify any minority or marginalized

population

If your theme or any part of your competition piece has any possibility of containing sensitive subject matter, overtly sexually explicit content, or subject matter requiring a trigger warning, you must notify and discuss with the competition officials.

Entering or leaving the stage any way other than the intended stairways or wings, is not permitted at any time, including during your performance. For example, performers may not exit by jumping off the front of the stage.

Pole to pole jumps are not allowed.

Performers may not touch, hang, or use the ceiling or trusses in any manner during their performance. Doing so will result in disqualification.

In the event of equipment malfunction or failure, the competitor must stop their performance and notify an official or representative. If the malfunction or failure is confirmed and deemed to be grounds for a re-do, the competitor may choose to start from the beginning and have all previous scores disregarded, or continue from where she/he/they left off combining scores from the first and second segments. If there are no grounds for a re-do, the competitor may continue from where she/he/they left off but there will be an automatic -10 point deduction.

In the event of an injury, the competitor may choose to stop their performance for medical care. If the injury is confirmed and deemed to be compelling enough for a re-do, the competitor may choose to start from the beginning and have all previous scores disregarded, or continue from where she/he/they left off combining scores from the first and second segments. If there are no grounds for a re-do, the competitor may continue from where she/he/they left off but there will be an automatic -10 point deduction. In all cases, the competitor must be medically released to continue.

Any unsportsmanlike conduct may result in disqualification and/or loss of title and/or banning from future Aspirant events.

In addition to the abovementioned violations and penalties, there are the following

violation and penalties:

- Wardrobe: up to -5 points depending on severity and intent
- Slip/Safety deduction: 2 points each
- Fall: -5 points

STAGING/ POLE

The standard competition set up is two 45mm, 13.2' chrome X-Poles, about 8.5' apart. Diagram of stage will be given before the deadline. Poles are set as the stage right pole on spin and the stage left pole on static.

MUSIC

All competitors are responsible for the quality and submission of their music. Edited tracks are the competitor's responsibility and must be within the rules stated by Aspirant. Competitors should submit their tracks exactly as they want played at the event and in either m4a, mp3, or wav format by the deadline.

Music deadlines are listed in the competitor packets for each event. A fee will be assessed for any music that is not submitted on or before the deadline. Competitors will be fined \$5 a day until music is submitted. Failure to remit payment will result in disqualification. Music that is more than seven (7) days late will result in disqualification.

All music submissions must be clearly marked with the competitor's name and song title.

Music mixes or mashups are permitted. No profanity will be permitted; radio edits only. The maximum length for music is Listed in the level guide. Any music file submitted with a time stamp that is more than their level guideline will not be accepted.

PROPS

A “prop” is defined as anything that is not attached to the body of the competitor.

All props require pre approval. To receive approval, the competitor must submit a photo and brief description of the prop by the posted deadlines to info@aspirantcompetition.com. It is the responsibility of the competitor to follow up on the prop approval.

A competitor using props without approval is subject to disqualification or point deduction.

It is the competitor's responsibility to bring the prop to the stage and remove it. The prop should be able to be set up and removed in less than 30 seconds.

Folding chairs are considered props and will need to be listed/ approved. If being used in the Low Flow categories only you may use your chair as a prop so long as you do not stand on it. Sitting, kneeling and squatting on the chair is allowed.

Props that are potentially hazardous, cannot be completely removed or leaves residuals, and/or require extensive clean up are not permitted. Props are not permitted to leave the stage during the performance nor can you have living props. Late fines for prop approval is \$5 per day.

Please note that the following props are not permitted:

- Props weighing over 25 pounds
- Items larger than 5 feet in height, 5 feet in width, and 3 feet in depth
- Objects that require an electrical outlet
- Devices that clamp onto the pole and are designed to support body weight, including handloops, FabPole, or PoleSilks-type equipment
- Adult toys
- Open flames
- Fireworks
- Edible items
- Glass objects
- Helium-filled balloons
- Loose glitter, powders, or similar materials

- Animals, including pets
- Genuine weapons
- Equipment like vaporizers, fog machines, or any items that emit smoke or particles
- Liquids, gels, or any form of water

Additionally, any fake firearms must have a visible orange or red tip, as per U.S. federal law. This marker is crucial to distinguish the prop as non-lethal for both the audience and law enforcement

GRIP AIDS

Certain grip aids are permitted but may only be applied to the body. No residue can be left on poles after cleaning. i-Tac and similar products are not permitted. Aspirant officials reserve the right to inspect any and all grip products. The use of gloves is permitted but must be pre-approved by sending a photo to info@aspirantcompetition.com. Only non-tack gloves will be approved.

ATTIRE

Competitors must follow the following guidelines in regards to attire:

- Competitors may wear boots/shoes or perform in bare feet. Boots/Shoes cannot have zippers, sharp edges, studs, etc. on the top of foot or ankle.
- Removal of clothing down to g-string and pasties is permissible. If clothing is removed completely from the dancer's body, it is considered a prop and the rules regarding props will apply.

Violation of any dress code can lead to disqualification or point deduction.

DAY OF EVENT

Failure to comply with the following guidelines may result in disqualification of the competitor and being banned from future competitions.

Competitors must conduct themselves professionally and with good sportsmanship at all times.

Competitors are required to arrive at the venue at least 2 hours prior to the start of the event and check in with the designated Aspirant representative.

Competitors are required to attend mandatory orientation.

Competitors are required to check in with the stage manager no later than 30 minutes before her/his/their scheduled performance time.

Competitors must be in good health in order to compete.

Competitors are responsible for allowing enough time for a proper warm up before performing.

Aspirant reserves the right to prevent or stop a competitor from competing for safety reasons.

Competitors must be appropriately dressed when outside the competition area(s).

JUDGING

Aspirant is committed to recruiting a well-rounded judging panel but as with any artistic competition, judging is subjective. Concerns about anything related to the judges or judging should be communicated directly to Aspirant organizers.

Please refer to the Judging Protocol and Sample Score Sheet for more details on how the judging works, what elements are being evaluated and how.

PLACEMENTS

The winner will hold their title for one year or until the conclusion of the subsequent Aspirant competition. Title holders are expected to represent Aspirant according to our

values and principles and failure to do so could result in loss of title and legal action.

PHOTOS/VIDEOS

All competition photos and videos are the property of Aspirant and competitors will not be compensated for photos and videos under any circumstances.

Competitors are required to sign a media release to grant Aspirant permission to take photos and videos, and to grant Aspirant the rights to use all competition photos and videos for promotional purposes.

Competitors may not be featured in any news media or similar in regards to the competition without Aspirant's consent.

Audience members may use mobile devices to take photos and videos for personal use, however, audience members must be seated and must keep devices at shoulder height so as not to obstruct the view of others. All other camera types are prohibited.

Taking photos and/or videos is prohibited in the changing areas (green room).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Aspirant reserves the right to:

- Make changes to the terms, conditions, guidelines, and rules of the competition at any time. If unexpected and immediate changes to any aspect of the competition is necessary for safety reasons, including event cancellation, Aspirant will do it's best to inform competitors in a timely manner.
- Disqualify or bar any competitor who violates the terms, conditions, guidelines, or rules of the competition.
- License or subcontract all or any part of their operations without the consent of competitors.
- Establish guidelines in due course for any matters not already defined in any Aspirant publication, or to modify in due course any matters deeming immediate

action. If any guideline or modification is deemed unenforceable, the enforceability and legality of all other guidelines shall remain unaffected.

Aspirant is not liable for any injury, loss, or damage incurred by any competitor before, during, or after the competition or as a result of any activities related to the competition.

Competitors are responsible for any and all expenses incurred for participation in any Aspirant event.

In the event of breach of contract by a competitor, sponsor, vendor, judge, or venue, Aspirant is not liable for any losses or expenses.

In the event of a breach of contract by Aspirant, damages are limited to the amount of the entry fee paid by the competitor. Aspirant is not liable for any other losses or expenses.

Aspirant's first priority is ensuring our health and safety practices meet or exceed industry standards. Aspirant is committed to ensuring that all equipment used is in proper working order, installed according to manufacturer's guidelines, and regularly maintained. However, Aspirant is limited by the integrity put forth by the manufacturers and therefore, Aspirant is not responsible for any damages or injuries to competitors or third parties and/or their property due to equipment failure.

Aspirant's headquarters are located in Denver County, Colorado, and any disputes or claims shall be made under Colorado law and under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Colorado courts.

Regardless of any failure on Aspirant's or an appointed third party's part to enforce any guideline does not deem that or any other guideline to be waived or inactive presently or in the future.