



Ballet Competition Participation Policy

Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) is the world's largest student ballet scholarship competition that awards over \$250,000 annually in scholarships to dance schools worldwide. The competition is for dancers ages 9-19, as of January 1st of the competition year. The competition is broken down into three divisions: pre-competitive - ages 9-11, junior - ages 12-14, & senior - ages 15-19. Another competition that may be available is Dance Open America (DOA), a virtual ballet competition.

KBT Students interested in participating in YAGP or DOA must read and understand the policies before signing up to participate.

1. Participation in ballet competitions is by invitation only. If you have not been contacted by the Academy Director, Rafaela Risco, but are interested in competing in the current year or in a future year, you must talk to Ms. Rafaela directly before making any plans.
2. Once approved, the parent/student are required to register the dancer at yapg.org or danceopenamerica.org.
3. Dancers will typically take at least 2 pieces, either 1 classical variation and 1 contemporary or 2 classical. Select dancers may also be invited to participate in an ensemble number.
4. Before any coaching or lessons will begin, there will be a parent meeting. This is mandatory - dancers are encouraged to attend with their parent. This meeting will go over all of the expectations including clarification about fees and a plan for the season.
5. Each coach and variations will be assigned/approved by Ms. Rafaela.
6. Fees: The fee to participate will be discussed at the parent meeting. These fees will include, several private coaching sessions to set and rehearse the variations and then semi-private classes to continue rehearsing in preparation. Depending on the number of participants, only a select number of coaches will attend the competition. The travel costs of the director/coach(es) will be determined once everyone is confirmed. If the student/coach feel the need for additional private lessons, they must be approved by Ms. Rafaela.
7. Costumes: The parent is responsible to purchase, make, or rent the appropriate costumes as determined by Ms. Rafaela.
8. If a student is not ready to compete or is not progressing as they should, Ms. Rafaela reserves the right to pull them from the competition at any time. Fees are non-refundable, so students must understand what is expected in order to participate.
9. If a dancer chooses to participate after being pulled or without being invited, they must go as an independent and not list KBT or KBT coaches as part of their registration.