

Thank you for being a part of SDUSA! All competing dancers must register annually. **Before attending a 2026 competition, a dancer must have a 2026 registration card, which will contain the 2026 sticker (white circle with red lettering).** No 2025 card may be used after December 31, 2025. Everyone is expected to follow the RSOBHD and SDUSA's rules, regulations, guidelines and Code of Ethics. While exceptions are intended to be rare, when making reasonable and fair exceptions, SDUSA will endeavor to err on the dancer's side.

REGISTRATION—GENERAL

- Every competitive Highland Dancer must register under the RSOBHD worldwide registration scheme. SDUSA is the official registration body for U.S. citizens and legal residents. The RSOBHD recognizes full international reciprocity of all registration cards, which means a current SDUSA-registered dancer may compete at any RSOBHD-recognized competition anywhere in the world.
- Dancers are to register in their SDUSA region of residence. Dancers who take instruction from a teacher outside of the U.S. should contact the National Registrar regarding registration.
- Dancers may not register until they are 4 years old. When registering for the first time (or if previously registered before 2016), a dancer must submit a copy of an official governmental document (e.g., birth certificate, passport) evidencing the dancer's birthdate.
- Under the RSOBHD's Rules, in order to receive a registration card, the dancer must be: (1) the student of a teacher currently in membership of the Highland Branch of an RSOBHD-recognized Examining Body (BATD, UKA, or SDTA) ("Examining Body") or (2) a current member of the Highland Branch of one of the RSOBHD-recognized Examining Bodies ("Teacher").

TEACHERS

- A registering dancer's "Teacher" includes any person who is actively instructing the registering dancer regularly (more than 3 times in a 12-month period). The RSOBHD/SDUSA consider "instructing" or "instruction" to include all interactions relating to improving Highland Dance skills, whether it be received via individual/private instruction or as part of a larger group/studio or workshop—regardless of format (e.g. virtually or in-person) ("Instruction" or "Instructing")
- Team Teaching is defined as more than one Teacher providing regular Instruction to a registering dancer. All Teachers providing Instruction to a registering dancer must sign the dancer's card on an annual basis.
- The Regional Registrars cannot release a card to a dancer until the Regional Registrar has received evidence that a registering dancer's Teacher: (1) is a current member in good standing of an Examining Body; (2) is current with SDUSA's SafeSport training requirements; and (3) has signed the annual RSOBHD Code of Ethics form.
- If a dancer's Teacher(s) change(s) during the year, including ADDING or WITHDRAWING from a Teacher's instruction, **it is the responsibility of the dancer to immediately submit a new Registration Form indicating the Change of Teacher and notify the National Registrar in writing.**
- If a registered dancer attends any class, workshop, or seminar from an RSOBHD adjudicator/judge, including any online/remote teaching, the dancer may not compete in front of that adjudicator for 3 months following the last class, workshop or seminar (virtual or in-person). It is the dancer's and dancer's parent(s) responsibility to track this.

REGISTRATION FORMS/PACKET—GENERAL

- **All Teachers must personally review and sign each registration form. Photocopied signatures are not accepted.** By signing, the Teacher certifies that the Teacher has reviewed and approved the dancer's form—including the accuracy of the form, teaching team, and requested advancement.
- Dancers must fully and accurately complete the Registration Form, RSOBHD Code of Ethics, and Assumption of Risk. Parents (if the dancer is under 18) or dancers (18 & over) must sign all required forms before the Registrar can release a dance card. Please complete these forms in a LEGIBLE manner and CONFIRM ALL required information is included.
- RSOBHD/SDUSA permits a dancer to have only one registration card at a time. When sending in annual registration forms or advancing categories, all dancers must include the dancers' current registration card. Prior to mailing a card, the dancer should consider making a photocopy or taking a picture of the card.
- Dancers must enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope (SASE) for the Registrar to return dance cards.

FEES/DEADLINES/TIMING

- For previously registered dancers, a late fee penalty will be collected if registration forms are postmarked after February 15.
- Brand new dancers registering in Primary or Beginner may register at any time without a late penalty.
- Regional Registrars provide new cards within three weeks of receiving the properly completed paperwork. Dancers and Teachers may not request rush registrations – the turnaround time is three weeks.

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Teachers who wish to be recognized as a dancer's Teacher of Record at the USIR must sign the dancers' registration form no later than 30 days before the dancer's regional championship.
- If a dancer is competing outside the region of the dancer's residence (as permitted by SDUSA), a dancer must notify the National Registrar in writing by February 15th of that USIR year. SDUSA's rules regarding eligibility for regional championships/USIR are to be followed.

COMPETITIONS

- If a dancer cannot attend a competition after registering for it, the dancer should notify the organizer as soon as possible.
- When registering for a competition, a dancer must include the dancer's current registration number on any entry forms.
- All dancers **MUST** present their current registration card to the competition organizer before competing. In those rare occasions when no card is produced, the dancer will be permitted to compete; however, the dancer **MUST** provide a current registration card to the organizer within 10 days from the competition date. Prizes **must** be withheld until a card is produced. The current dance card must be produced whether or not a prize was won. The dancer **MUST** pay a fee of \$40.

STAMPING PRE-PREMIER CARDS

- Competition organizers will collect all Pre-Premier cards. If a Beginner dancer places 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in any of the Highland Dances (Highland Fling, Sword Dance, Seann Truibhas, Reel, or Special/Trophy Fling), the competition organizer shall affix the competition stamp and competition date on the dancer's card. For Novice and Intermediate dancers, the organizer shall affix a stamp and competition date on a card if a dancer places 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in **any** dance.
- A registration card will be stamped only once during a competition event even if it is over several days, covering all prizes awarded at that competition.

MISTAKEN STAMPS

- If a competition organizer makes a mistake when stamping a card, the dancer and/or teacher should contact the Regional Registrar explaining the situation and return the dancer's incorrectly stamped card to the Regional Registrar, who will then prepare a replacement card and transfer all correct information over to the replacement card. There is no charge for this replacement.

ADVANCING CATEGORIES

- A Beginner, Novice, or Intermediate dancer may hold their status until the dancer either: (1) receives a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place as outlined in the RSOBHD Constitution in 6 separate competitions or (2) until 12 months following the first stamp in that category (the "twelve-month rule")—whichever is the later—after which the dancer advances to the next competitive category.
- If the competitor uses the 12-month rule in the Beginner, Novice, or Intermediate categories, it is 12 months from the first competition stamp.
- Immediately upon moving up a category, dancers should request a new card from the Regional Registrar—clearly indicating what category the dancer is advancing to on the Registration Form.
- Dancers who move up from one class to another during the year do not have to pay an additional "upgrade" fee if they have submitted their annual registration fee. They will, however, need to send a signed registration form, new photo, old card, and a SASE to obtain the upgraded card.
- All completed dancer registration cards must be returned to the regional Registrar and will not be returned to the dancer.

LOST CARDS—PRE-PREMIER AUTOMATIC ADVANCEMENT

- Dancers must treat their cards with care. **DO NOT LOOSE THEM.**
- If a card is lost, the dancer must report this immediately to the National and Regional Registrar—explaining the situation and requesting approval from the National Registrar for issuing a replacement card. If the National Registrar approves, the dancer must submit a new registration form, photograph, any SDUSA fees, and SASE to the Regional Registrar. A Regional Registrar cannot issue a replacement card without approval from the National Registrar.
- If approved, replacement cards for Primary and Premier dancers can be issued with the original card's expiration date. For a Primary dancer, it is the last day the dancer is under the age of 7. For a Premier dancer, it is December 31st of the current year.
- **AUTOMATIC ADVANCEMENT:** If a Beginner, Novice, or Intermediate dancer loses their card, once approved by the National Registrar, a replacement card can be issued for the dancer's current category, **but ONLY for 12 months from the date the Regional Registrar processed the dancer's original registration for that category.** After 12 months, the dancer automatically advances to the next category. **Please keep dance cards safe so a dancer doesn't have to automatically advance before they may be ready!**