



Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival

Director's Manual

2023

February 16-20th
Phoenix, AZ

Table of Contents

Competition Information..... 3 - 6

Dance Competition Rules..... 7 - 11

Choral Competition Rules..... 11 - 12

Code of Conduct..... 13

Dress Code..... 14

CONTACT: Dance Competition

E-mail: competition@yourfdf.org

CONTACT: Choral Competition:

E-mail: choral@yourfdf.org

COMPETITION INFORMATION

Director's Briefing

All Dance and Choral Directors are required to attend the Directors Briefing on Thur., February 16, 2023, which will either be held immediately after Opening Ceremonies (location TBA) or we will host a table on Thursday near the Registration Room where Director's can stop by and chat with the Competition team at their leisure. Info for this briefing will be emailed out via the competition@yourfdf.org email account.

At this time we will collect your performance USBs, costume forms and photos. In addition, we will review any updates and answer any questions.

All directors will be held responsible for the material discussed at this briefing. In order to provide you with best possible FDF event, we will be providing a uniform competition platform for all groups; the addition of on-stage speakers and microphones so that performers can better hear themselves and their dance queues and a number of other technical adjustments that we know will be well received. Please take a minute to learn about these resources as outlined below:

Dance Floor and Audio/Sound Specs

BOTH Division Rooms will have:

- 5 standing microphones (also called boom microphones), that stands in front of instruments (these will be Stage Right)
- Wired area on stage right where bands can play. This area will be on both stages and includes 2 direct boxes, 3 instrument microphones wired on stage, 2 vocals/instrument on boom
- STAIRS - There are stairs that lead up to the stage on either side of the stage toward the middle side of the stage.
- The dance floor in both competition areas will be raised. Groups must enter and exit the stage from back stage left or back stage right or from the front two side stair cases.

Division I Venue:

Stage Size - 44'W x 40'D x 4'H

Microphones – Division I room will have 5 lavalieres each performance day. Advanced Senior will have 8 lavalieres for their Final Suite on Sunday only

- 4 hanging microphones, middle front of stage (they hang from the ceiling and cannot be moved)
- 5 hand held microphones

Division 2 Venue:

Stage Size - 44'W x 32'D x 2'8"H

Microphones – Division II room will have 3 lavalieres each performance day

- 4 hanging microphones, middle front of stage (they hang from the ceiling and cannot be moved)
- 4 hand held microphones

Note: Lavalier (lavalier) is a wireless clip on microphone, that a singer or musician can wear with a battery pack and can move freely around the stage. Please check in with your stage coordinator and they will direct you to the right person. Stage Right is the part of the stage on the dancer's right when the dancer is facing the audience. Stage Left is the left side of the stage when the dancer is facing the audience.

Music

Please note that **cassette tapes and CDs will no longer be accepted**. We prefer you to not use a CD but provide a USB with your music in order on a USB. You should also carry a backup.

- Audio files must be saved in **MP3 FORMAT on a USB**
- You must record each set of dances for the semi-final and final rounds of competition in the correct order on separate USBs; one for semi-final round and one for final round.
- Each Division I and Division II dance director must submit **a total of four (4)** USBs to the Director of Competition at the Dance Directors Briefing on Thursday of FDF WEEKEND; two USBs must be submitted of the semi-final round and two USBs must be submitted of the final round.
- Each Division III and Division IV dance director must submit two (2) USBs to the Director of Competition at the Dance Director's Briefing Thursday of FDF WEEKEND.

Once your USBs have been submitted, they will not be returned during the weekend and alternate USBs will not be accepted for any reason. It is suggested that you bring an additional set of USBs for your own use during the weekend since we will not return your USB's for practice purposes. Record music at the beginning of the USBs and label each as follows:

- Dance Group Name, City
- Dance Director Name
- Number of Songs/Name of Dances on USBs
- Round of Dance (semi-final or final)

Our sound technicians will be instructed to keep the USB running from the moment it starts until the moment the team leaves the dance floor. **They will not start and stop the USB for your team per your special instructions.** Any disputes over timing will be settled by playing and timing the USBs, hence one reason for not returning the USBs until Monday of FDF WEEKEND. The FDF Management Team cannot be held responsible for the quality of your performance if you do not follow these guidelines.

Special Audio, Video & Staging Requests

In order to improve the production flow and to ensure that all groups are given an equal opportunity in the competition, we are **not** accepting any special AV or staging requests including the use of videos, spot lights, Power Points, etc.

Practice Rooms

Practice rooms will be made available based on space availability throughout the weekend. They can only be used on a first come first served basis. As a courtesy to other groups please keep practice time under **one hour**. Specific information about the location of these rooms will be provided at the Director's Briefing on Thursday of FDF WEEKEND.

Team “Checkpoints”

Directors must check their groups in at the time that the **third group before them** is scheduled to perform. Groups must stay at checkpoint until their appointed performance time. **A penalty of 1% will be given to groups that are not prepared to dance when announced at their scheduled time.** Directors must always be aware of the schedule as it may run a bit ahead.

Performance Information

The following forms will need to be submitted via email (unless noted otherwise) by the Dance or Choral Director by the deadline dates noted:

NAME OF FORM	DEADLINE DATE
Group Registration—Group Roster Form-Dance/Choral/Div III	January 9, 2023
A GROUP ROSTER SUBMISSION IS YOUR GROUP REGISTRATION COMMITTING TO ATTEND FDF. ROSTERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.	
Roster signed by your parish priest uploaded to the Competition Portal by	January 17, 2023
Dance or Choral Performance Form	January 17, 2023
Costume Form – NEW for 2023 COSTUME FORM IS REQUIRED to be submitted prior to FDF by the above deadline with photos	January 24, 2023

Performance Information must be finalized and submitted through the online Competition Portal form under the Competition tab on www.yourfdf.org by **January 17, 2023**. Your Group Roster must be printed out, signed by your parish priest. It must be uploaded to your Competition Portal by **January 17, 2023**.

Props Regulations

Props are defined as any non-human objects that are incorporated into performances at FDF for the purpose of aesthetics or preserving a tradition. While the usage of props may greatly enhance a group’s presentation they can also greatly detract from the quality of a performance by distracting from the presentation of dance and song. Before deciding to use props in your performance please consult with other experienced persons to decide if using props will improve the quality of your show.

Some groups that historically perform well at FDF use props and others do not. Using props **does not correlate** with placement or scoring. When considering if and how you will use props this year please keep these guidelines in mind.

1. The following items will be prohibited in performances for any division of FDF competition:

- Hay or straw
- Any particulate matter that may be strewn on the stage (rice or confetti)
- Real food
- Natural trees or plants that have leaves
- Fire, anything that looks like fire, or anything which gives off the appearance of smoke

- Live animals
- Alcoholic beverages
- Large quantities of liquid (water will be provided backstage for performers)

2. Please be advised that no props may be constructed in the Competition rooms backstage.

3. Finally, due to decreased space for storage, FDF will be providing tables and chairs for both Division II and Division I groups. These items will be selected to preserve any aesthetic qualities that would be desirable for a performance. In addition, please be advised that:

- **Division II** groups will be required to use the provided tables and chairs, if tables and chairs will be used during either round. Any other props that Division II groups might use must be portable enough so that they can be carried onto stage easily and removed from the competition room immediately after the conclusion of the performance. There will be no space backstage for Division II prop storage.
- **Division I** groups are strongly encouraged to use the provided tables and chairs to minimize the amount of storage; however, there will be room backstage for prop storage in the Division I room. Should Division I groups choose to use additional props that cannot be carried onto stage and removed immediately from the competition room they must submit a list of their props along with other competition forms for approval.
- **No props can be over 6' feet tall unless pre-approved by the Director of Competition.**

Restrictions on Judges Working with Dance and/or Choral Groups

FDF judges are valuable sources of folk dance/music knowledge that should be available to dancers, singers and directors. Unfortunately, in a competition setting, the appearance of impropriety and bias may be created when a judge works "too closely" with a dance group. In order to remedy this situation and protect the integrity of the FDF competition, the FDF Board of Trustees voted on March 30, 1997, to institute restrictions on judges working with dance/choral groups. Both judges and directors are responsible to ensure that judges do not:

- Participate with a group on four (4) or more occasions after September 30 of each year with material that will be used at this year's FDF in any of the following ways:
 1. review the group's style either in person or via video
 2. review the director's style
 3. review resource material (such as videos) with group or director
 4. teach workshops where group members participated or at group rehearsals
- Note: A workshop in which a judge shows videos, reviews videos the group is using as a resource, reviews the director's or group's style of dances/songs other than the ones that the judge taught during the period of the workshop constitutes only one occasion.
- Share resource material (such as videos) only with the director of a single group; judges must share resource material with any director who inquires.
- As voted on by the FDF Board of Trustees on May 4, 2019, no judge can meet with groups within 45 days of 1st day of FDF"-- for FDF 2023 this date is January 1, 2023.

Special Resource Materials

Directors who wish to have resource materials (videos, written materials, etc.) presented to the judges from which their performances are based, may do so by sending the materials (digital files, documents, CDs, DVD's or USBs) to:

EMAIL MATERIALS TO: Anne Sirota at agsirota@gmail.com

PREFERENCE IS EMAIL BUT IF YOU NEED TO MAIL YOUR RESEARCH SEND IT TO:

Anne Sirota, 19409 PLUMMER STREET, NORTHRIDGE, CA 91324

RESEARCH SUBMITTED ONSITE AT FDF WILL NOT BE REVIEWED. ALL RESEARCH WILL NEED TO BE MAILED OR EMAILED IN PRIOR TO FDF.

These materials will not be returned so please do not send original videos or other materials. Materials must be received or postmarked by **January 17, 2023**. The FDF Management Team cannot guarantee that material received after this date will be presented to the judges.

DANCE COMPETITION RULES

Group Classifications

Division I

Intermediate, Advanced Intermediate, Senior and Advanced Senior competitive categories. All dancers must purchase a Full Participant Package.

Division II

Primary, Advanced Primary, Junior and Advanced Junior competitive categories. The age limit for the Primary classification is ten (10) years of age or fourth (4th) grade. All dancers must purchase a Full Participant Package.

Division III

Non-competitive classification for children whose oldest member(s) is eight (8) years of age and under. Groups will perform **one** eight (8) minute, non-scored, exhibition suite. Division III participants may purchase a standard Div. III Participant Package OR the Div. III Participant Package with Meals.

Division IV

Non-competitive classification is available for any age group. Groups with dancers younger than 21 years of age will be categorized to perform within the performance schedule and perform a 10 minute, non-scored exhibition suite. Groups with the youngest dancer being at least 21 years of age will be in the adult category and perform one 12 minute, non-scored, exhibition suite. All dancers must purchase a Full Participant Package.

Method of Classification

Groups will be classified by average age. The self-classification feature in the registration program is used only as a rough guideline. Every attempt is made to have an even amount of teams in each category.

Group Eligibility

- Participants must be members in good standing of the Greek Orthodox Church.
- Dance group directors and parish priest are to enforce this rule.
- Failure to meet this standard may result in disqualification of the dance group from competition, or forfeiture of awards.

Judging

	<u>% of Total Score</u>
I. Ethnic Quality	35%
II. Preparation	28%
III. Presentation	33%
IV. Costume	4%

- Points will be awarded on a scale of 1 to 10 in each category.

Definitions of Judging Format

I. Ethnic Quality

- Style
- Steps
- Authenticity (reasonable representation of the specified village's dance)
- Correct dance to music
- Singing style (appropriate rendition of a specified village's song)

II. Preparation

- Choice of material
- Quality of Recorded Music
- Orientation/Staging
- Group direction: well rehearsed; disciplined
- Use of improvisation
- Balance (equal or near equal age/ability of the dancers)
- Use of song and music

III. Presentation

- Expression/Kefi/Stage Presence
- Synergy/connection between music, dance and dancers
- Precision (dancing on the beat and the musical phrase)
- Unity/feeling of ensemble/disciplined (dancing together)
- Quality of improvisation
- Recovery from mistakes

- Projection to audience; feeling/look of enjoyment
- Appropriate use of props to enhance performance
- Quality of singing (tone, rhythm, etc.)

IV. Costume

Costume Score

- The costume score is given by the dance judges as an evaluation of the general appearance of the costume and whether the costume is a reasonable and accurate representation of any village or region in Greece. **The costume score is not connected to the costume award in any way.** The costume score does NOT take into consideration whether the costume is “correct” for the region being presented.

Costume Award

The Costume Award is presented by the costume judges to the one team in each classification displaying the most outstanding costume. Consideration shall be given to whether the costumes in whole or in part were professionally made or were made by the dancers (or parents of the dancers’ parish) themselves, thus more fully promoting the perpetuation of Greek culture and heritage. Criteria for the Costume Award MAY include authentic representation of original costume from a specified region/village of Greece, including appropriate colors of region, cut of pattern, proper fabric, appropriate accessories, appropriate embroidery and others.

Competition Format and Scoring

A. Divisions I & II (competitive)

1) Semi-Final Round

- Maximum time per dance group for this set is ten (10) minutes. Advanced Senior dance groups will have thirteen (13) minutes.
- Semi-Final scores shall be weighted 48% of the total cumulative score

2) Final Round

- Maximum time per dance group for this set is twelve (12) minutes. Advanced Senior dance groups will have fifteen (15) minutes.
- Final round scores shall be weighted 52% of the total cumulative score.

B. Divisions III & IV (non-competitive)

1) Division III – Groups in this division are not scored and may only perform one (1) suite at a maximum time of eight (8) minutes.

2) Division IV – Groups in this division are not scored and may only perform one (1) suite at a maximum time of twelve (12) minutes.

Composition of Dance Performances

Each group is free to choreograph its own suite of dances in both rounds. They may repeat dances using the same music and dance types in different rounds, but repeating a substantial

portion (greater than 50%) of a performance in the Semi-Final and Final rounds shall be penalized from 1% to 5% of the total cumulative score. The judges shall determine which groups perform suites that are substantially similar and shall determine the percentage of the penalty.

Exceeding the Time Limits

Any dance group that exceeds the maximum time allotted for each round of competition will be penalized as follows:

- Less than one minute over maximum time allotted: penalty of 5% subtracted from total cumulative score.
- One minute or more over maximum time allotted: penalty of 10% subtracted from total cumulative score.

Dancing With Teams From More Than One Parish

A dancer may compete with teams from more than one parish provided a written consent is furnished by the parish priests (the priests of all parishes in question) to the FDF Board of Trustees no later than 30 days prior to the annual event. Each consent form must list all the dance groups in which the dancer will perform.

Additional Miscellaneous Rules

All stage props, including furniture, plants, rugs, food or any other item must meet safety code, fire code and health code and are subject to approval. It is the Directors responsibility to seek approval and confirm all such requirements are met.

The Convention Center, Hotel, Folk Dance Festival, Stage Vendors and Audio Visual Crew reserve the right to ban or prohibit any such items not meeting safety, code, and/or permit requirements.

CHORAL COMPETITION RULES

Background

The FDF Choral Competition has been an integral part of this annual event for many years. The goal of the choral competition is to enhance the music ministry of the Metropolis through encouraging youth participation; and, to promote the study and performance of the sacred music of the Greek Orthodox Church, and secular music of Hellenic heritage.

Group Eligibility

- Participants must be members in good standing of the Greek Orthodox Church.
- Choral group directors and parish priest will enforce this rule.
- Failure to meet this standard may result in disqualification of the group from competition, or forfeiture of awards.
- Directors must have the blessing of their parish priest to perform any piece of music.

Choral Competition Divisions

There are three (3) Divisions in the FDF Choral Competition which are defined by the criteria below.

Division	Age Requirement	Type
I	Average age > 13 years	Competitive
II	Average ≤ 13 years	Competitive
III	None	Non-competitive

Required Music Standards

- **It is required to provide four (4) copies of each musical piece performed to the judges. If music is not available, please provide a copy of the text.**
- Each group will sing one (1) piece representing the heritage of the Orthodox Church, including pieces from any service (e.g., Divine Liturgy, Orthros, Vespers, etc.)
- Each group will sing one (1) piece representing folk songs of the Greek/Hellenic peoples in the traditional style of the region from which the piece originates.
- The rest of the competition program may be built around discretionary pieces set by the director of each group.
- For singing of religious music no favor will be given based upon language of delivery. Pieces performed in Greek or English will be treated as equal.

Judging Criteria and Scoring System

Category	Description	Percentage of Score
Musicianship	Technical ability in music, including intonation, phrasing, pitch, dynamics, diction, and ensemble singing (how well the group sings together).	60%
Presentation	Includes memorization, stage presence, a cappella singing, accompaniment (and how accompanying musicians are featured).	30%
Interpretation	Liturgical hymns are sung/chanted with an appropriate style; folk songs are sung with an appropriate traditional style.	10%

Time Limits and Exceeding the Time Limit

Each choral group will be allotted a maximum time of twelve (12) minutes for their performance. Timing begins once the group has begun singing their first piece. Unless technical difficulties arise beyond the control of the group, any choral group exceeding the maximum time allotted will be penalized as follows:

Time Over Limit	Penalty
<1 minute	5% of total score
≥1 minute	10% of total score

Singing With Teams From More Than One Parish

A singer may compete with teams from more than one parish, provided that a written consent is furnished by the parish priests (the priests of all parishes concerned) to the FDF Board of Trustees no later than thirty (30) days prior to the annual event. Each consent form must list all the groups in which the singer will perform.

Questions or Comments: If you have any questions regarding Choral Competition please contact : choral@yourfdf.org

CODE OF CONDUCT

Policy Statement

I, as FDF participant, acknowledge and agree to abide by the FDF Code of Conduct and further agree to accept the consequences for any actions that violate the rules of conduct as outlined below:

- Use of illicit narcotics of any kind is strictly prohibited at all times by any participant at the Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages involving participants under the age of 21 at the Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival, in hotel rooms or at any of its related functions, is strictly prohibited.
- Smoking by participants under the age of 18 at any function of the Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival is strictly prohibited. Smoking by adults is permitted only in publicly designated smoking areas.
- Participants under the age of 18 will be subject to a curfew from 2:00 AM until 6:00 AM. No participant, minor or adult, shall loiter in hotel/facility halls or common areas, creating disruptive noise during these hours.
- Visiting any hotel room, for which you are not listed as a registered guest, between the hours of 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM will be strongly discouraged.
- Disrespect of any kind shown to a fellow dancer, singer or any other individual is strictly prohibited.
- Damage to personal or public property of any kind is strictly prohibited and is the sole responsibility and liability of the person or persons involved.
- Any FDF attendee found in possession of a fake, forged or improperly fastened wristband will immediately relinquish possession of said wristband to the FDF Management Team or FDF Board of Trustees and will be subject to disciplinary action.

These rules will be strictly enforced by Hotel, Convention Center and privately hired FDF security.

Violation of any of the above items may result in team probation, disqualification and possible eviction from any of the contracted facilities/venues for the Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival.

Probation

Participants who break the Code of Conduct, whether dancer, singer, parent, chaperone or non-participant spectator, will have their entire group or groups from their parish immediately put on probation. Depending on the severity of the infraction the individual participant(s) involved and/or the entire group risks the possibility of exclusion from receiving any awards. Groups placed on probation will remain on probation for the remainder of the weekend as well as through the duration of the following year's FDF. Any additional rule infractions while on probation will result in disqualification. If a first time offense by a team is disputed, a committee comprised of three members of the FDF Board of Trustees will review the circumstances arising from the rule infraction.

Disqualification

A second offense by anyone directly or indirectly associated with a dance group on probation will result in that group's immediate disqualification. Disqualification means that the dance group will be allowed to finish the competition, but they will not be eligible for any awards. In addition, a copy of the official FDF reprimand will be sent to the community's priest and Parish Council. Further infraction of the rules by individuals associated with a disqualified group(s) during the remainder of the FDF will result in immediate ejection of those individuals from the FDF and eviction from any of the facilities/venues contracted for this event.

Dress Code

We ask that each participant use good judgment to determine what is appropriate dress for a Church sponsored, family event such as FDF. **Dress should be modest – not overly revealing or potentially scandalous in any way.** Please respect yourself and others by dressing in an appropriate manner.

1. Writing and/or depictions on shirts, jackets, hats or any clothing should be free of obscenities or other inappropriate references.
2. No sagging or baggy pants.
3. Dresses and/or tops should not be low cut or too revealing in the front.
4. No “lingerie” type tops; No skintight clothing; No backless tops or dresses.
5. Skirts, dresses or shorts should be of an adequate length to assure modesty while seated and while participating in FDF activities (especially when walking across stage!). No mini-skirts.
6. No slits or see-through garments.

**Girls: If you have a dress/top that is backless, it is permissible if you wear a jacket or sweater over it.

FDF reserves the right to require participants and/or attendees to change their attire if it is deemed to be inappropriate. Failure to comply with such requirements may result in eviction from any particular event or the entire weekend. Participants may also risk probation or disqualification for their groups/communities.