

**Hellenic Dance Festival
Weekend
Event Manual**



**January 11-15, 2024
Orlando, Florida**

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GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Greetings in the Lord!

On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan ALEXIOS of Atlanta, the HDF Committee and our Festival Implementation Team, we are pleased to share the 2024 Weekend Event Manual.

For the past several months, the HDF Committee, along with many of our faithful, have been working diligently to prepare and update this Manual. While there are some minor changes to the program, please read carefully the entire document to best prepare your dance ministry.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our committee at info@hellenicdancefestival.com, who will respond within 48 hours. We are truly looking forward to coming together and celebrating our “Faith, Culture and Tradition” at the 23rd Annual Hellenic Dance Festival in Orlando, Florida, this January.

Praying that our merciful Lord continues to bless you and your families, I remain,

With love in Christ,

Father Sampson Kasapakis
Chair, Hellenic Dance Festival



HDF Mission Statement

To bring together Orthodox families through dance, music, and fellowship to perpetuate our Hellenic Orthodox tradition.

To develop an awareness and appreciation for our Hellenic and Orthodox culture and tradition through dance and music.

To inspire youth and young adults in the Metropolis of Atlanta and our Holy Archdiocese to gain a foundation of the Orthodox Church and our Hellenic culture.

Hellenic Dance Festival General Rules and Regulations

Group & Competition Deadlines

Items for Submission/Completion	Due Date
Intent to Participate with \$359 team registration fee (via HDF website)	October 31, 2023
Eligibility waivers from parishes outside of the Metropolis of Atlanta (via email to info@hellenicdancefestival.com)	October 31, 2023
Dance Group Roster with Parish Priest Authorization (via HDF Portal)	November 22, 2023
Performance Information (via HDF Portal)	December 15, 2023
Additional AV Requests (via HDF portal)	December 15, 2023
Costume Information (via HDF Portal)	December 15, 2023
Additional Resource Materials (via HDF Portal)	December 15, 2023
MP3 files for recorded music performances submitted to Competition Chair (via Dropbox)	January 6, 2024

Dancer and Participant Requirements

a) All dancers, directors, instructors, judges, musicians, parents, and chaperones MUST purchase a full event package. Guests are also encouraged to purchase a full participant package. It is up to the discretion of the individual to purchase meal or non-meal packages.

b) There is no limit to the number of entries a parish may submit as long as they meet the qualifications covered in the HDF By-Laws.

c) The parish priest for each participating community acknowledges the eligibility of all participants from his parish once they are entered in the HDF portal. Directors and/or program administrators are responsible for coordinating this acknowledgement, and eligibility is determined using the criteria established by the individual parish, not by the Hellenic Dance Festival.

d) A dancer may participate with his/her parish in only one entry at each division that he/she qualifies for, under the discretion of the instructor. **If a dancer wishes to dance in more than one entry, his or her director may request a waiver to allow an individual to dance in more than one entry in his or her parish.** All such requests require a written request from the director and approval from the FIT and Competition Chairs (via competition@hellenicedancefestival.com).

e) If a parish does not have a dance troupe, a dancer may participate in a neighboring parish with approval from both priests. A waiver must be submitted to the FIT and Competition Chairs (via info@hellenicedancefestival.com) by December 15, 2023.

f) All participants must be members in good standing of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and their local parish. Dance troupes outside of the Metropolis of Atlanta must request and receive written permission from the FIT and Competition Chairs (via info@hellenicedancefestival.com) in order to participate in the HDF Weekend.

Divine Services and Spiritual Workshops

a) Spiritual workshops will be offered throughout the weekend. The purpose of the workshops is to share the beauty and richness of the Orthodox faith.

b) Orthros and Divine Liturgy will be held on Sunday morning.

c) All groups are expected to attend Divine Liturgy and a Spiritual Workshop.

Registration and Wristband Policy

- a) All participants, directors/instructors, clergy, judges, musicians, chaperones, and spectators must register for a full event package. A full package with or without meals will meet this requirement. Registration can be completed through HDF's online registration process.
- b) Registrants must wear the HDF wristbands at all times during the HDF Weekend. Damaged or lost wristbands will be replaced at the full registration cost. Broken wristbands must be replaced and can be obtained at the registration desk.
- c) Misplaced or lost wristbands must be replaced. Participants will be charged the full registration price for a replacement band.
- d) As part of the registration process, all participants must acknowledge and electronically sign the Metropolis Waiver and Code of Conduct. All participants are also expected to adhere to the Dress Code. Teens under 18 years of age, not traveling with their parents, may also need a Bed Consent Form.

Chaperones/Family Travel

- a) For parishes choosing to chaperone participants, HDF suggests utilizing at least one adult chaperone per six (6) participants between the ages of 13 to 18.
- b) In the interest of both the dancers and parishes, HDF suggests chaperones be over the age of 21.
- c) HDF requires that all participants 12 and under be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian.

Video Recording

- a) Recording will be allowed during the performances.
- b) Following the HDF Weekend, all groups will have online access to digitally download performance videos and group photos free of charge.

Dance Competition Information

Group Divisions and Categories

The Hellenic Dance Festival will follow the classifications below for all dance groups:

- a) Division I
 - i. Primary
 - ii. Advanced Primary
 - iii. Junior
 - iv. Advanced Junior

- b) Division II
 - i. Intermediate
 - ii. Advanced Intermediate
 - iii. Senior
 - iv. Advanced Senior

- c) Division III
 - i. Non-competitive/exhibition division for teams whose average age is less than 12 years old.

- d) Division IV
 - i. Non-competitive/exhibition division for teams whose average age is above 12 years old.

Groups wishing to participate as exhibition teams in Division III and Division IV as described above are welcomed. Exhibition teams will not be considered for awards but will receive feedback from the judging panel. These teams should contact the Competition Chair (competition@hellenicdancefestival.com) before submitting an intent form, as the team fee will be waived for exhibition entries.

Groups will be classified by average age and age range. The average age is calculated using the dancers' ages on the first day of HDF (January 11, 2024). These classifications will be assigned by the Festival Implementation Team, with every attempt to have a balanced number of teams across all categories.

Time Limits

There will be two rounds of dance competition within each division:

- a) Division I (Primary, Advanced Primary, Junior, and Advanced Junior)
 - i. Semi-Final: 8 minutes
 - ii. Final: 10 minutes
- b) Division II (Intermediate, Advanced Intermediate)
 - i. Semi-Final: 10 minutes
 - ii. Final: 12 minutes
- c) Division II (Senior, Advanced Senior)
 - i. Semi-Final: 12 minutes
 - ii. Final: 14 minutes
- d) Division III
 - i. One Performance: max 10 minutes
- e) Division IV
 - i. One Performance: max 12 minutes

Performance Reminders

- a) If a team exceeds the performance time limit there will be a 3% deduction from the cumulative score.
- b) Repeating greater than 50% of a performance in the Semi-Final and Final rounds will be penalized 5% of the total cumulative score.
- c) Each dance should be a minimum of one minute in length. Dances can be done as a medley, but the names of all dances must be listed separately in the 'Performance Info' of the HDF Portal. If the dance does not meet the one minute minimum length, the dance will not be scored and will not be counted in the total score.
- d) Groups using live music will be allotted 10 minutes to prepare their stage and sound check. Groups using recorded music will have 5 minutes to prepare their stage.
- e) No director may be on or behind the stage directing while his or her group is performing unless the director is performing with the group.
- f) Groups are required to check-in and be lined up in their competition room at least 3 groups ahead of them on the competition schedule. If a group is not in place and checked in with a member of the HDF Competition Team, a penalty will be assessed.

Recorded Music Requirements

- a) Groups using recorded music will submit their music via Dropbox shared directly with the Competition Chair (competition@hellenicdancefestival.com) by January 5, 2024.
- b) All songs should be in mp3 format.
- c) If a group is using recording music for both rounds, each round should be submitted as its own Dropbox folder.
- d) The Dropbox folder should be titled using exactly the following format: Dance Group Name, City, Category, Round (semi-final or final).**
- e) Each music file within the folder should be named to correspond exactly to the dance or song name in the HDF Portal. The songs must be IN ORDER OF THE PERFORMANCE.
- f) The Hellenic Dance Festival cannot be held responsible for the quality of your performance if you do not follow these important guidelines.

Audio/Visual Specifications

The following will be provided for each division:

- a) Division I: Each group will have access to ten (11) microphones total: (3) vocal, (4) instrumental and four (4) wireless microphones.
- b) Division II: Each group will have access to eleven (11) microphones: (3) vocal, (4) instrumental and (4) wireless microphones.
- c) If a group needs additional microphones or AV equipment for any reason, a fee may be assessed due to the rising cost of rental equipment. An email requesting for any additional AV must be sent to: info@hellenicdancefestival.com and must be received by December 15, 2023. You will be invoiced for the cost, with payment due before the start of the HDF Weekend.

Staging/Performance Information

- a) The stage dimensions for Division I and Division II will be a minimum 40' wide by 40' deep. Dancers may dance on and off from either side.
- b) The entire performance must be done within the performance area on stage.
- c) Performers may exit and re-enter the staging area during the performance. Any costume changes must be done in the wings.

d) Any performance props may be kept in the wings only during your performance. An unlocked storage room will be provided by HDF to store any props during the weekend. The Festival Implementation Team is not responsible for any lost or damaged props.

e) The Festival Implementation Team will provide standard props at each performance stage to include two rectangular tables and eight chairs. Groups may use these props if desired at no additional charge. These props are the property of HDF and cannot be removed from the competition room for any reason.

f) Festival rules prohibit the use of fireworks, fire, or hazardous materials, and the use of any fasteners to the stage floor and risers. No food or liquids on stage. Use of any of the above items will call for automatic disqualification.

Directors' Meeting

a) Our Directors' Meeting will be conducted on site following Opening Ceremonies on January 11, 2024. Please refer to the official HDF 2024 schedule for the exact location and time.

b) All directors will be responsible for conveying the material covered at the Directors' Meeting to their group, as well as all the information in the HDF 2024 Weekend Event Manual. Any questions about rule changes or the manual should be addressed by contacting the HDF Committee at info@hellenicdancefestival.com.

Practice Rooms

a) Groups wishing to practice before competition can do so by signing up for a practice time outside the individual practice rooms. Practice sessions will be conducted on a first come, first served basis.

b) Each practice session is 30 minutes in length. Groups may sign up for additional practices as long as the sessions are not back-to-back in the same room.

c) No group is allowed to practice during Opening Ceremonies, worship services, or on any performance stage. Failure to adhere to these rules will result in disqualification for an award.

Judging Information

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used when a judge critiques each group:

- a) Ethnic Quality
 - i. Style
 - ii. Steps
 - iii. Authenticity (reasonable representation of the specified village's dance)
 - iv. Correct dance to music
 - v. Singing style (appropriate rendition of a specified village's song)

- b) Presentation
 - i. Expression/Kefi/Stage Presence
 - ii. Synergy (connection between music, dance, and dancers)
 - iii. Precision (dancing on the beat and the musical phrase)
 - iv. Unity/feeling of ensemble/disciplined (dancing together)
 - v. Quality of improvisation
 - vi. Recovery from mistakes
 - vii. Projection to the audience; feeling/look of enjoyment
 - viii. Appropriate use of props, if used, to enhance the performance
 - ix. Quality of singing (tone, rhythm, etc.)

Scoring of the performances will take place electronically. Once scores have been locked, a dance team's scores cannot be changed.

The Judging Coordinator is responsible for accurately documenting award winners.

Dance Awards

Platinum (Top Score)

Gold

Silver

Bronze

Costume Award

Costume judges will submit both scores and comments for each performance.

One costume award will be presented by the costume judges to the team in each category for the most outstanding costume. Costume scores are kept separate from dancing scores.

Criteria for scoring:

1. How well do the costumes align with the region/village/timeframe of the material being performed?
2. Presentation: How well-fitting are the costumes? How neatly are dancers dressed? Are the costumes of good quality fabric and detail?

***Borrowed costumes will not be considered for the category.*

St. Tabitha Special Achievement Costume Award - NEW FOR 2024

Up to two Special Achievement Costumes Awards will be given for each Division.

These will be awarded for:

1. Outstanding community-made reproductions or costume pieces.

and/or

2. Incorporation of antique/authentic costumes or costume pieces.

***Borrowed costumes or pieces can be considered for this award if special effort was made by the director to seek out specific authentic pieces to enhance the overall performance through costume. Borrowed reproductions will not be considered.*

Folk Expression Award

One award will be given in each category to the team that demonstrates the most effective use of choral accompaniment, traditional “ethimo” presentation, profound dialect pronunciation, exemplary execution of a particular dance, etc., to enhance its performance. An individual, ensemble, or group can do this during a performance.

Choral Award

One award will be given in each category by the dance judges to the team that demonstrates the most appropriate rendition of a specified village’s song, including tone, rhythm, and dialect.

Philotimo Award

This award is presented by the HDF Executive Committee and Festival Implementation Team to the parish that best displays the principles of our Orthodox Faith.

Director's Award

This award is presented by the HDF Executive Committee and Festival Implementation Team in coordination with the HDF Judging Panel to the director(s) who embody true leadership with their respective dance troupe. Their hard work and dedication as presented by actions, research, preparation, etc. will be taken into account in an effort to properly recognize those who dedicate so much to their dance programs.

Participant Expectations

Rules and Code of Conduct

- a) All Hellenic Folk Dance participants are expected to act as Orthodox Christians following the HDF By-Laws and the Metropolis of Atlanta Code of Conduct. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action of the dancer and the group represented.
- b) Consumption of alcoholic beverages by attendees/participants less than 21 years of age in any sponsored function, and hotel guest rooms, is strictly prohibited. No alcohol is permitted in the HDF practice or performance rooms.
- c) Smoking by participants less than 18 years of age at the Hellenic Dance Festival or related functions is strictly prohibited. Smoking by adults is prohibited in the competition and practice rooms.
- d) Illegal drug use is prohibited at all times by any attendee/participant at the Hellenic Dance Festival.
- e) Participants under 18 must be in their sleeping rooms from 2:00 AM to 6:00 AM.
- f) Participants should not loiter in the halls, disrupting or disturbing other guests.
- g) Damage to personal or public property of any kind is strictly prohibited and payment for any damage is the responsibility and liability of the person or persons involved.
- h) Chaperones are not permitted to consume alcohol or illegal drugs as they are responsible for the safety of minors.
- i) Disrespect of any kind to another HDF registered participant will not be tolerated.
- j) Violation of any of the above items shall result in team disqualification, as well as possible removal from the hotel and future Metropolis sponsored events.

Disqualification

- a) An offense by anyone directly or indirectly associated with a dance group will result in the group's immediate disqualification. Disqualification means that the dance group is allowed to finish the competition, but it will not be eligible for any awards. In addition, a copy of the infraction will be sent to the community's priest and Parish Council.
- b) Further infraction of the rules by individuals associated with a disqualified group(s) during the remainder of the HDF Weekend will result in immediate dismissal of those

individuals from the HDF event, hotel, or any off-site venue with which HDF has contracted. If there is a third offense by a dancer or director, he or she will not be allowed to dance with or direct their group, or any other group, for the remainder of the HDF weekend and the following year.

c) Anyone under the legal age found with alcohol and/or illegal drugs will be immediately disqualified. They will be asked to leave HDF immediately, and return transportation is at his or her own expense.

d) Any participant or contracted individual found under the influence of controlled substances and/or alcohol will be banned from the event and asked to leave the premises immediately. Further action will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

e) Any disputes regarding disqualification should be brought to the immediate attention of the HDF Chairman and the Metropolis of Atlanta.

Director's Checklist

- 1) Submit Intent to Participate Form with \$359.00 team registration fee by October 31, 2023.
- 2) Make hotel reservations with Caribe Royale Orlando by December 1, 2023. The earlier the better. Please take care not to book more rooms than you will need as a courtesy to all participants. **All rooms that are not needed must be released back to the hotel by December 1, 2023.**
- 3) Submit Team Roster to the HDF Portal by November 22, 2023.
- 4) Dance participants register individually online by December 15, 2023.
- 5) Dance Performance details submitted to the HDF Portal by December 15, 2023.
- 6) Requests for additional AV submitted via email to competition@hellenicdancefestival.com by December 15, 2023.
- 7) Dance/Costume/Research Information submitted to HDF Portal by December 15, 2023.
- 8) MP3 music files (for groups using recorded music) shared via Dropbox to Competition Chair by January 5, 2024.
- 9) Frequently check the HDF official website at www.hellenicdancefestival.com and social media (Facebook, Instagram, HDF Mobile App) for HDF 2024 updates.

Frequently Asked Questions

(Q) Where do I send my dance group's Intent to Participate Form?

(a) Please follow the link on the HDF website to register the group online.

(Q) Is HDF continuing the iPhone/Android app for communication and updates?

(a) Yes. Please stay tuned for frequent updates via email, website, and social media for download information.

(Q) Who do I contact if I have any questions regarding the HDF Weekend?

(a) Contact info@hellenicdancefestival.com for any HDF 2024 communication.

(Q) How much is the participant registration for HDF 2024?

(a) The HDF registration fee is \$359 with meals and \$279 without meals. Please see the HDF website for more information on each package.

(Q) If I need information or have questions about my suite, music or steps, what resources are available to me as a director?

(a) You may contact us at info@hellenicdancefestival.com and we will set you up with individuals who can help you find the right material.

(Q) To whom do I send my costume research, information and pictures prior to HDF to be eligible for the costume award?

(a) Submit your costume research to the HDF Portal. Contact the Competition Chair at competition@hellenicdancefestival.com with questions.

(Q) Will there be à la carte tickets available?

(a) Yes! À la carte tickets will be available on site during the event at the Registration Desk for competition access, glendia, and the Awards Ceremony. No presales. Cash or check only. Check back here and on the HDF website later in the fall for pricing.

HDF 2024 Organizing Committee

HDF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

His Eminence Metropolitan +Alexios
His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela
Fr. Sampson Kasapakis, HDF Chair
Vassio Giannakopoulos, Finance Chair
Monica Gjerde, Metropolis Youth Director
Eleni Hopes, Historian
Stavros "Stephen" Karagiorgis, FIT Chair
Stacie Peroulas, FIT Competition Chair

HDF FESTIVAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Festival Implementation Team Co-Chair

Stavros "Stephen" Karagiorgis
info@hellenicdancefestival.com
336-409-1456

Finance

Vassio Giannakopoulos
vassio@comcast.net
404-433-6483

Competition

Stacie Zambas Peroulas
competition@hellenicdancefestival.com
704-277-2706

Registration

Despina Georgiafandis
registration@hellenicdancefestival.com
404-660-4147

Judging

Jordan Elrod
jordanelrod@yahoo.com
561-306-2042

Stacy Kroustalis
sferedinos@gmail.com
704-202-2049

Events

Bess Stathakis

bessmclure@comcast.net

678-689-5922

Ryan Marinos

kaloagori@gmail.com

404-272-0395

Logistics

George Saad

gsaad13@gmail.com

321-987-4927

Public Relations and Communication

Maria Panayotou

maria.panayotou@gmail.com

518-496-1327

Administration

Susan Marinos

susanmarinos@aol.com

404-210-3756

Audio/Visual

Dimitri Papadimitriou

djpgreek@yahoo.com

404-918-1538

Workshops

Father Kyriakos Hambos

frkyriakos@htgoorlando.org

813-843-8471

Hospitality

Presbytera Mallory Kasapakis

mallory.kasapakis@gmail.com

561-222-7091

Host Community Liaison

Effie Hill

effiechristine@yahoo.com