

Thank you for being a part of SDUSA! **All** competing dancers must register annually. The Regional Registrars will validate all SDUSA cards with an annual sticker on the front (2025=white circle with purple lettering). **Before attending a 2025 competition, a dancer must have a current 2025 registration card.** No card may be used after December 31st without a current annual sticker. Everyone is expected to follow the RSOBHD & SDUSA's rules, regulations, and guidelines. 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 encouraged 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.
- When registering for the first time (or if registered before 2016), a dancer must submit an official document (e.g., birth certificate, passport) documenting the dancer's birthdate.
- Dancers may not register until they are four years old.
- Under the RSOBHD Constitution, registered dancers: (1) participating in unregistered competitions that include pre-premier events and/or (2) providing incorrect information on an application form, shall incur a six-month penalty. During this period, dancers are not eligible to enter RSOBHD-registered competitions.

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, & requested advancement.
- Dancers must fully and accurately complete the Registration Form, RSOBHD Code of Ethics, Assumption of Risk & the SDUSA Website Photo Release. Parents (if the dancer is under 18) or dancers (over 18) must sign all required forms before the Registrar will release a dance card. Please complete these forms in a LEGIBLE manner & 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. The Regional Registrar shall keep all old/completed cards with the dancers' paperwork. If the dancer wishes to keep their past card as a memento, the dancer should make a photocopy.
- 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 four weeks of receiving the properly completed paperwork. Dancers and teachers may not request rush registrations – the turnaround time is four weeks.

TEACHERS

- A teacher is defined as a qualified person actively teaching a dancer regularly (more than 3 times in a 12-month period) virtually or face-to-face/in person. The RSOBHD/SDUSA consider training to include all instruction relating to improving Highland Dance skills, whether it be received via individual/private instruction or as part of a larger group/studio.
- 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 one of the examining bodies recognized by the RSOBHD (BATD, UKA, or SDTA); (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 at all during the year, including ADDING a new instructor because the dancer received training from an instructor more than three times or WITHDRAWING from a teacher's instruction, it is the responsibility of the dancer to immediately notify the National Registrar in writing. The National Registrar will contact the Regional Registrar and SDUSA Secretary. All new forms must be submitted to the Regional Registrar right after the change in status.
- If a dancer goes to any class, workshop, or seminar from an RSOBHD adjudicator, 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 responsibility to track this.

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.

COMPETITIONS

- If a dancer cannot attend a competition after registering for it, the dancer should notify the organizer as soon as possible.
- Dancers shall dress appropriately and modestly when in public at competitions.
- When registering for a competition, a dancer must include the dancer's current registration number on any entry forms.
- The organizer is responsible for checking each dance card and ensuring it is a current and valid dance card.
- 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 \$25.
- A competition organizer must complete the SDUSA Dancing Without a Card form and send it to the National Registrar as per the form. The National Registrar will maintain these forms.
- The competition organizer must return the dance card and any prizes to the dancer within 10 days of receipt of the card unless other arrangements have been made. Any expense incurred is the responsibility of the dancer.

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.
- If a competitor receives their first competition stamp in a particular Pre-Premier category, organizers should mark the card with the competition date (in the space provided along the side of the six boxes).
- A registration card will be stamped only once during a competition, 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 & 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 twelve-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—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!**

If you have questions, please contact the National Registrar.