



UPGRADE CHAMPIONSHIPS
EXPERIENCE GUIDE 2026



WELCOME TO THE UPGRADE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Congratulations on qualifying for the
2026 Upgrade Championships!

Every crew, choreographer and soloist competing at Championships has earned their place through one of our official qualifying events, and we can't wait to welcome you for an unforgettable weekend on the Gold Coast.

The Upgrade Championships are more than a competition. They're a celebration of creativity, community and culture, bringing together dancers from across Australia and New Zealand to connect, perform, learn and be inspired.

Whether you're stepping onto the Upgrade stage for the very first time or returning after an incredible qualifier season, our goal is simple: to

create an experience that is exciting, professional, supportive and unlike anything else.

Over three action-packed days you'll experience:

- Championship competition
- International guest judges
- Live audio feedback
- Upgrade Dance Camp
- Featured IDCO Production
- 2v2 Battle Event
- After Party
- Three unforgettable days surrounded by the dance community.

We can't wait to celebrate everything you've worked so hard for.

Train. Grow. Connect. Compete.
Inspire. Be Inspired. UPGRADE.



CHAMPIONSHIPS AT A GLANCE

LOCATION

Sea World Resort – Gold Coast
Sea World Drive, Main Beach QLD 4217

All Upgrade events will be held within the Sea World Resort Conference Centre.

Upgrade competitors have access to exclusive discounted accommodation rates at the resort (see the Accommodation section for details).

While staying at Sea World Resort is encouraged to maximise the Championships experience, it is not compulsory. Competitors are welcome to stay elsewhere; however, transport to and from the venue will be their own responsibility.

EVENT DATES

Friday 9 October 2026
Check-In, Tech Runs & Competitor Welcome

Saturday 10 October 2026
Upgrade Championships

Sunday 11 October 2026
Upgrade Dance Camp
Featured IDCO Production
Upgrade Battle Event & After Party

WEEKEND TIMELINE

DAY	TIME	EVENT
FRIDAY ARRIVE & GET READY	3:30pm – 6:00pm	Check-In & Crew Tech Runs (Session 1)
	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Competitor Welcome & Championships Briefing (all competitors, leaders and families welcome)
	7:00pm – 9:30pm	Check-In & Crew Tech Runs (Session 2)
SATURDAY CHAMPIONSHIP GAME DAY	9:00am – 10:00am	Check-In & Crew Tech Runs (Session 3*) – reserved for Sunshine Coast/Brisbane crews travelling on the day; interstate/international competitors expected Friday
	10:00am	Junior Championship Call Time
	10:30am	Spectator Doors Open
	11:00am	Junior Championships – Mini Crew, Mini Solo, Junior Crew, Junior Solo, Young Guns Crew, Young Guns Solo
	3:00pm	Junior Awards Ceremony
	-	Intermission
	3:00pm	Senior Championship Call Time
	4:00pm	Senior Championships – Varsity Crew, Varsity Solo, Adult Crew, JV Mega Crew, Pro Solo, Mega Crew
	9:00pm	Senior Awards Ceremony
SUNDAY KEEP THE WEEKEND GOING	10:00am – 3:00pm	Upgrade Dance Camp – three 90-minute workshops with international guest choreographers
	5:00pm (doors 4:45pm)	Featured Production – THE IDCO SHOW (Identity Dance Company)
	7:30pm (check-in 6:30pm, doors 7:00pm)	Upgrade Battle Event & After Party – battle ends ~10:30pm, after party until midnight

Note: Saturday's schedule is an estimate and may be adjusted once registrations close.

CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE REGISTERING FOR THE 2026 UPGRADE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

CREW DIVISIONS

Division	Age	Dancers
Mini	10 Years & Under	5–14
Junior	12 Years & Under	5–14
Young Guns	15 Years & Under	5–14
Varsity	18 Years & Under	5–14
Adult	18 Years+	5–14
JV Mega	18 Years & Under	15–40
Mega Crew	Open Age	15–40

SOLO DIVISIONS

Division	Age / Eligibility
Mini	10 Years & Under
Junior	12 Years & Under
Young Guns	15 Years & Under
Varsity	18 Years & Under
Pro Solo	Professional dancers, choreographers and teachers

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Scenario	Ruling	Result
A dancer who is 12 on 1 Jan 2026 but turns 13 during the year	May compete in Junior or Varsity	Allowed
An 18-year-old turning 19 during the competition year	May compete in Varsity or Adult	Allowed
A 10-year-old	May choose to compete in a Varsity crew	Allowed
A 14-year-old	Cannot compete in a Junior crew	Not allowed
A 15-year-old	May compete in an Adult crew	Allowed
A 20-year-old	Cannot compete in a Varsity crew	Not allowed
Competition ages are based on 1 January 2026. Competitors may dance up an age division but cannot dance down.		

CHAMPIONSHIP REGISTRATIONS

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Milestone
20 July 2026	Intent to Register Due
24 July 2026	Championship Registrations Open
1 August 2026	Dance Camp, Battle Event & Spectator Tickets On Sale
14 September 2026	Championship Registrations Close (all registrations and fees must be completed by this date)

INTENT TO REGISTER

To help us prepare for the Championships, all qualifying studios are asked to submit an **Intent to Register by 20 July 2026.**

Please email:

- Crew names
- Solo names
- Divisions entering
- Estimated competitor numbers

Competitor numbers can be approximate at this stage. Final numbers will be confirmed when completing your official registration.

This estimate is required by our venue, so we greatly appreciate your support in meeting this deadline.

Email: upgradedanceexperience@gmail.com



CHAMPIONSHIP REGISTRATIONS

REGISTRATION FEES

Division Type	Fee Condition	Fee
Crew	Per dancer	\$85
Crew	Per dancer competing in an additional crew	\$45
Solo	Per dancer registered in a crew	\$80
Solo	Per dancer not registered in a crew	\$110
Pro Solo	Per dancer registered in a crew	\$40
Pro Solo	Per dancer not registered in a crew	\$60
Solo and Pro Solo registrations are in addition to crew registrations. Fees are non-refundable after the registration closing date, unless the event is cancelled by the organisers.		

HOW TO REGISTER

Official Championship registrations open on 24 July 2026.

Visit: www.theuphub.com.au/upgrade

Follow the Championships Registration prompts to:

- Register your crews
- Register your soloists
- Pay registration fees
- Purchase competitor and spectator tickets
- Register for additional Championship experience events.

Please Note

Championship registration forms are different to the qualifier registration forms.

Please wait until **24 July 2026** before registering to ensure you are using the correct Championships forms and pricing.

WAIVERS

All competitors are required to complete an Upgrade waiver before participating in any Championships event.

Competitors under 18 years of age must have their waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian. Waivers may be:

- Completed prior to the event and emailed to Upgrade.
- or
- Completed during Championships Check-In.

Where possible, crews are asked to email all waiver forms together rather than sending individual emails.



JUDGING

At Upgrade, we believe there is **no single formula for great choreography**.

Our judging system has been designed to celebrate originality, encourage creative freedom and reward

authentic performance. Rather than searching for one "correct" way to create or perform, our judges are encouraged to experience each performance as a whole before assessing it across five key criteria.

We want choreographers to feel confident taking creative risks, thinking outside the box and presenting work that is true to their own style and artistic vision.

Every competitor will receive professional audio feedback from our international judging panel to help educate, inspire and support continued growth beyond the competition.

SCORING SYSTEM

Performances are assessed across **five judging criteria**, with each category scored out of **20 points**.

Scores are awarded using the Upgrade Levels System:

Bronze – 1–5 points

Silver – 6–10 points

Gold – 11–15 points

Platinum – 16–20 points

Half points may be awarded where appropriate.

Maximum Total Score by one judge: 100 Points

Total combined championships score: /200 points

JUDGING CRITERIA

Criteria	Description
Choreography	Originality, creativity and composition of the routine including choreography content, concepts, musicality, transitions, pathways and overall difficulty
Set Design	The overall visual presentation of the performance, including formations, spacing, stage use, levelling, flow, costume choices and overall visual impact
Foundation	Understanding and execution of the chosen dance style or styles, including movement quality, authenticity, body language, groove and expression
Skill & Execution	Overall technical ability, control, strength, timing, synchronisation, stability and execution of choreography throughout the performance
Performance & Overall Impact	Stage presence, confidence, consistency, audience connection, entertainment value and the lasting impression created by the performance

DEDUCTIONS

To maintain a safe and family-friendly event, judges may apply deductions where appropriate for:

- Explicit or inappropriate music
- Inappropriate choreography or movement
- Inappropriate costume or attire
- Performances that exceed or fall short of the listed time limits beyond the 15-second grace period

All deductions remain at the discretion of the judging panel.



JUDGING

PERFORMANCE TIME LIMITS

Division	Time Limit
Solo Divisions	1 minute 30 seconds – 2 minutes 30 seconds
Mini, Junior & Young Guns Crews	1 minute 30 seconds – 2 minutes 30 seconds
Varsity & Adult Crews	2 minutes – 3 minutes
JV Mega & Mega Crew Divisions	3 minutes – 5 minutes
Music should be appropriate for a family-friendly audience. The use of explicit language may result in score deductions.	

GRACE PERIOD

Competitors are permitted a 15-second grace period either side of the listed time limits before any time deductions apply.

MUSIC SUBMISSION

All music must be submitted no later than: Saturday 3 October 2026

To Submit: Visit www.theuphub.com.au/upgrade — select Submit Music from the home page and follow the prompts.

Music received after the deadline may not be accepted.

ORDER OF COMPETITION

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Mini Crew
- Mini Solo
- Junior Crew
- Junior Solo
- Young Guns Crew
- Young Guns Solo

Junior Awards Ceremony

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Varsity Crew
- Varsity Solo
- Adult Crew
- JV Mega Crew
- Pro Solo
- Mega Crew

Senior Awards Ceremony

The final Championships schedule and performance order will be released to all registered competitors once registrations have closed. Performance order within each division will be random and included in your Game Day Guide.





PRIZES & AWARDS

TOP 3 PLACINGS

The top three place getters in each division will receive:

- Medallions
- Cash prizes
- Special awards and prizes from our international judges (selected divisions)
- Professionally edited performance footage

EVERY COMPETITOR RECEIVES

- Professional RAW footage of their performance
- Personalised audio feedback from our international judging panel

Our goal is for every competitor to leave Championships with valuable feedback and lasting memories, regardless of where they place.



YOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS JOURNEY

THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVE AT SEA WORLD RESORT, YOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS EXPERIENCE BEGINS.

FROM CHECK-IN TO STEPPING ONTO THE STAGE, EVERY PART OF THE WEEKEND HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO HELP YOU FEEL PREPARED, CONNECTED AND READY TO PERFORM AT YOUR BEST.

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE GAME DAY.

YOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS JOURNEY



CHECK-IN & TECH RUNS

To help the weekend run smoothly, all crews are required to check in before attending their allocated Tech Run.

Crew Competitors

Crews should arrive at least 20 minutes prior to their scheduled Tech Run to allow enough time to complete Check-In before heading onto the stage.

At Check-In, our team will:

- Verify your registration
- Collect any outstanding waivers (if required)
- Issue competitor wristbands
- Answer any last-minute event questions

Once Check-In is complete, crews can head straight to their allocated Tech Run.

Solo Competitors

Solo competitors are not required to complete a Tech Run.

Soloists may check in at any time during the available Check-In sessions, however we recommend checking in as early as possible to avoid queues on Competition Day. Your check-in will also include a MUSIC CHECK, as you do not receive a tech run, we want to ensure we have your correct mix and give you peace of mind for game day.

COMPETITOR WELCOME & CHAMPIONSHIPS BRIEFING

Friday 9 October 2026, 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Kick off Championships weekend with the official Upgrade Competitor Welcome.

All competitors, choreographers, crew leaders and families are invited to join us as we officially welcome everyone to the 2026 Upgrade Championships.

During the briefing we'll cover everything you need to know before Competition Day, including important event procedures, reminders and key information to help the weekend run smoothly.

More than anything, it's a special opportunity to bring the entire Upgrade community together before an unforgettable weekend begins.

Everyone is welcome.



YOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS JOURNEY

CHECK-IN & TECH RUN SESSIONS

Session	Date	Time
Session 1	Friday 9 October	3:30pm – 6:00pm
Session 2	Friday 9 October	7:00pm – 9:30pm
Session 3	Saturday 10 October	9:00am – 10:00am

Saturday morning Check-In and Tech Runs are reserved for Sunshine Coast and Brisbane crews travelling to the Gold Coast on Competition Day. Interstate and international competitors are expected to attend Friday where possible.

TECH RUNS

Each crew will receive a short on-stage Tech Run to become familiar with the performance space, check music levels and ask any final technical questions before Competition Day. Once Championship registrations open, a Tech Run booking link will be emailed to all registered crews. Bookings will operate on a first come, first served basis.

Crew Size	Tech Run Allocation
Small Crews	5 minutes
JV Mega & Mega Crews	8 minutes

Important: Please arrive on time for your allocated Tech Run (allow 15 mins prior for check in). Late arrivals may forfeit their allocated Tech Run to ensure the event remains on schedule.

THE EXPERIENCE CONTINUES

THE UPGRADE CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE ABOUT MORE THAN WHAT HAPPENS ON STAGE.

FROM WORLD-CLASS TRAINING TO INCREDIBLE PERFORMANCES, BATTLES AND CELEBRATIONS, WE'VE CREATED A WEEKEND THAT BRINGS OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY TOGETHER.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE THE MOST OF EVERYTHING CHAMPIONSHIPS HAS TO OFFER!



THE EXPERIENCE CONTINUES



UPGRADE DANCE CAMP

Sunday 11 October 2026 — Sea World Resort Conference Centre

Continue your Championships weekend with three inspiring workshops led by our international guest choreographers.

Whether you're looking to challenge yourself, learn from world-class artists or simply train alongside dancers from across Australia and New Zealand, the Upgrade Dance Camp is the perfect way to finish an unforgettable weekend.

SCHEDULE

Time	Activity
9:30am	Registration
9:45am	Warm Up
10:00am – 11:30am	Workshop One
11:30am – 11:45am	Break
11:45am – 1:15pm	Workshop Two
1:15pm – 1:30pm	Break
1:30pm – 3:00pm	Workshop Three

TICKETS

Ticket Type	Price
Championship Competitors (wristband required)	\$120
Public	\$160
Tickets available via The UP Hub — On Sale: 1 August 2026 — www.theuphub.com.au/upgrade	
Keep an eye on our socials — our international guest choreographer lineup will be announced soon!	

THE EXPERIENCE CONTINUES



FEATURED PRODUCTION - IDCO SHOW



Identity Dance Company — Sunday 11 October 2026

Doors Open: 4:45pm | Show Starts: 5:00pm | Approximate duration: 1 hour

As part of Championships weekend, we're proud to present a special featured show by Identity Dance Company (IDCO).

Come together with the Upgrade community and experience an incredible production from the one and only... our 2024 Upgrade champions!

TICKETS

Ticket Type	Price
Championship Competitors (wristband required)	\$35
Public	\$45

Tickets will be available via TryBooking. The booking link will be released on our website and social media.

THE EXPERIENCE CONTINUES

UPGRADE BATTLE EVENT & AFTER PARTY



2v2 All Styles Battle — Sunday 11 October 2026 — Sea World Resort Conference Centre

The Championships weekend isn't over just yet...

Finish the weekend with one final night of battles, music, community and celebration as dancers throw down in the Upgrade 2v2 All Styles Battle before partying into the night.

Whether you're battling or simply cheering from the crowd, this is one event you won't want to miss.

SCHEDULE

Time	Event
6:30pm	Battle Check-In
7:00pm	Doors Open
7:30pm	Battle Begins
Battle Finals conclude approximately 10:30pm. The After Party continues until Midnight.	

BATTLE REGISTRATION

Registrant Type	Price
Upgrade Championship Competitors	\$25
Public	\$35
Registrations open 1 August 2026 via www.theuphub.com.au/upgrade	
Huge cash prizes & more to be won!	

PLAN YOUR WEEKEND

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS EXPERIENCE.

Spectator Tickets

Whether you're supporting your studio, cheering on family and friends or simply wanting to experience the incredible atmosphere that makes Upgrade different, we'd love to have you there.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP EXPERIENCES PASS (BEST VALUE)

Ticket Type	Price
Adult	\$65
Child (6–12 years)	\$45
Children 5 & Under	FREE

DANCE CAMP SPECTATOR

Ticket Type	Price
Adult	\$15
Child	\$5

CHAMPIONSHIPS ONLY

Ticket Type	Price
Adult	\$45
Child (6–12 years)	\$25
Children 5 & Under	FREE

BATTLE EVENT & AFTER PARTY

Ticket Type	Price
Adult	\$25
Child (6–12 years)	\$15

Championship competitors do not require a spectator ticket for the Championship Competition.

Upgrade competitors and registered battle competitors do not require a spectator ticket for this event.



ACCOMMODATION



SEA WORLD RESORT, SEA WORLD DRIVE, MAIN BEACH, GOLD COAST

Upgrade attendees have access to exclusive discounted accommodation rates at Sea World Resort for Championships weekend.

While staying at the resort is encouraged to maximise your Championships experience, it is not compulsory. Competitors are welcome to stay elsewhere but will need to arrange their own transport to and from the venue.

UPGRADE EXCLUSIVE ROOM RATES

Upgrade rooms include either Two Double Beds or Two Queen Beds.

Rooms are limited and available on a first come, first served basis, so we recommend booking early. Once sold out, there are other nearby accommodation options; competitors will just need to arrange transport to and from the event venue.



ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

Option	Price
Rollaway Bed (Queen Rooms only)	\$60 per night
Cot Hire	\$25 per night
Room upgrades including Queen Rooms, Suites and Premium View Rooms are available directly through the resort (subject to availability).	

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

Upgrade accommodation rates may be extended before or after Championships (subject to availability and any applicable peak period surcharges). Please contact Sea World Resort directly to discuss extending your booking.

BOOK YOUR ACCOMODATION

Accommodation bookings are managed directly through Sea World Resort:

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/107594?groupID=4988907>

ACCOMMODATION



DISCOUNTED THEME PARK ENTRY

Make the most of your trip to the Gold Coast! Exclusive discounted theme park tickets are available to Upgrade Championship competitors and their families.

Pass	Details	Price
Sea World	Unlimited entry for the duration of your stay	\$35
3 Park Pass	Unlimited entry to Sea World, Movie World & Wet'n'Wild for the duration of your stay	\$75

Theme park tickets are purchased directly from the Sea World Resort Reception. The resort will have a list of all registered Upgrade competitors. Family and friends may also purchase discounted tickets under a registered competitor's booking.



CODE OF CONDUCT



Upgrade is proud to provide a safe, inclusive, family-friendly and supportive environment for everyone attending our events.

We ask all competitors, choreographers, crew leaders, studio directors, families and spectators to represent themselves, their studio and the Upgrade community with respect, integrity and good sportsmanship at all times.

Behaviour including (but not limited to) the following may result in removal from the venue or disqualification from the event:

- Bullying
- Violence
- Harassment
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Inappropriate behaviour
- Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol

We also ask that all participants respect the decisions of the event organisers and judging panel throughout Championships weekend.

Together, let's create an unforgettable experience that reflects everything the Upgrade community stands for.

WHAT'S NEXT?

YOU'RE OFFICIALLY ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE 2026 UPGRADE CHAMPIONSHIPS!

Now it's time to lock everything in and get ready for an unforgettable weekend on the Gold Coast.

BEFORE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Submit your Intent to Register by 20 July 2026
- Register your crews and soloists when registrations open on 24 July 2026
- Book your accommodation
- Purchase competitor and spectator tickets
- Book your Crew Tech Run
- Submit all waiver forms
- Submit your music by 3 October 2026
- Keep an eye on our socials for exciting announcements, event updates and our international guest lineup

AFTER REGISTRATIONS CLOSE

All registered competitors will receive their Championships Game Day Guide, which will include everything you need for the event, including:

- Final event schedule
- Performance order
- Tech Run allocations
- Check-In procedures
- Wristband collection
- Backstage information
- Venue reminders
- Final event updates

WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU

Whether this is your first Upgrade event or you're returning for another season, we're incredibly grateful to have you as part of our community.

Thank you for trusting and supporting us.

Every crew, every soloist, every leader and every family helps create the atmosphere that makes Upgrade what it is.

We can't wait to celebrate an unforgettable Championships weekend with you.

See you at Sea World!

Train. Grow. Connect. Compete. Inspire. Be Inspired. UPGRADE.

CONTACT

UPGRADE Dance Experience

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Website: www.theuphub.com.au

Instagram: @upgradedanceexperience

Facebook: Upgrade DC

