



FESTIVAL HABIBI: COMPETITION RULES



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FESTIVAL HABIBI 2026: COMPETITION RULES

BASIC INFORMATION

Welcome to the Rules & Regulations for the **Habibi Festival 2026 Competition**. This document sets out the conditions for participation in the competition and contains all important information regarding registration, competition organization, competition categories, judging, and the course of the festival.

The purpose of these rules is to ensure fair, transparent, and consistent conditions for all competitors. We kindly ask all participants, their accompanying persons, and dance group leaders to read these rules carefully before submitting their registration.

By submitting your registration, you confirm that you have read and understood these rules and agree to their terms.

The Organizer reserves the right to decide on any situations not expressly covered by these rules and, where justified, to supplement or amend the rules. Any changes will be published through the festival's official communication channels.

1. Organizer

- **Organizer:** Anna Cimbotová (Anniya)
- **Company ID (IČ):** 08974713
- **E-mail:** festival@festivalhabibi.cz soutez@festivalhabibi.cz
- **Phone:** +420 723 749 709 (Kamila Cimbotová – participant communication)
- **Website:** festivalhabibi.cz
- **Facebook:** facebook.com/festivalhabibi
- **Instagram:** instagram.com/festivalhabibi
- **YouTube:** youtube.com/@festivalhabibi

2. Date and Venue

Dates:

Friday 30.10. 2026: Children Competition (age categories: Mini, Children, Juni, Teen)

Saturday 31.10. 2026: Workshops and Show

Sunday 1.11. 2026: Adults Competition (age categories: Teen+, Adults, Women, Ladies, Golden)

Venue:

Středisko volného času Rýmařov, Okružní 10, 795 01 Rýmařov

Parking and Transportation:

Parking is available directly in front of the venue or approximately 500 metres away at Náměstí Míru. The bus station is located directly in front of the venue, while the train station is approximately a 15 minute walk away. A Lidl supermarket with a parking lot is also located in the immediate vicinity of the venue. Paid parking is also available at Míru Square, approximately a 6-minute walk from the venue.

Competition Facilities

- Hot and cold beverages, as well as hot and cold snacks, will be available at the venue. Details regarding refreshments will be sent by e-mail prior to the festival. It will also be possible to pre-order hot meals (lunches and, if applicable, dinners).
- Competitors will have access to changing rooms and sanitary facilities.
- The traditional **Costume Bazaar** and other accompanying activities will take place during the competition.
- Competitors will perform on a traditional theatre stage, with access from the backstage area, which is accessible via a few steps.
- **Dance floor: black ballet flooring, 8 × 7 m.**



3. Competition Tickets

- Tickets for the competition can be purchased **online in advance from 1 September to 23 October 2026** or **in person at the competition venue**. The admission price is the same both during the advance sale and at the venue.

Category	Price
Children up to 6 years old (included)	free
Children 7-12 years (included)	140 Kč
General Ticket	220 Kč

- If tickets are purchased through the online pre- sale, visitors can collect their tickets upon arrival at the registration / ticket desk by providing the name used for the order. They will receive the corresponding number of wristbands, which will speed up the check-in process when entering the competition.
- Tickets can be purchased at the venue **in cash (Czech crowns only)** or **by card**.
- Entry to the competition is permitted only with a valid ticket and an identification wristband worn on the wrist. This rule also applies to short-term access to the competition area (e.g. visiting a competitor in the changing rooms or attending only a single competition performance is not permitted).
- Competitors have admission to the competition included in their starting fee and do not need to purchase a separate ticket.

4. Important dates

Unless otherwise stated, all stated dates and deadlines are valid until **11:59 p.m. (23:59)** on the **respective calendar day**.

1.9. 2026	Registration Start for the Competition, Show and Workshops Start of Online Ticket Pre-Sale for the Competition and Habibi Show Registration Start for Habibi All Stars project
13.9. 2026	The End of Registration for Habibi All Stars project
14.9. 2026	Start of Distribution of Music and Videos for paid registrations in the Group Solo and Improvisation categories
1.10. 2026	Distribution of the Habibi All Stars Project Instructional Videos
4.10. 2026	The End of Registrations for the Competition and Habibi Show Attendance Deadline (Deadline for Final Withdrawal Changes)
14.10. 2026	Final Competition Schedule Release
18.10. 2026	Deadline for Confirming Show Participation
23.10. 2026	End of Online Ticket Pre-Sales for the Competition
27.10. 2026	The End of Registrations for the Workshops
28.10. 2026	The End of Online Ticket Pre-Sale for Habibi Show
30.10. 2026	Children Competition (Mini, Children, Juni, Teen)
31.10. 2026	Workshops and Habibi Show
1.11. 2026	Adults Competition (Teen+, Adults, Men&Women, Ladies, Golden, Platinum)



REGISTRATION FOR THE COMPETITION

1. Registration process

- Competition registrations must be submitted exclusively via the electronic registration form available on the festival website in the **Registration** section.
- Upon receiving the registration, the Organizer will send the registrant a confirmation that the registration has been processed, usually within **3 business days**, to the e-mail address provided in the registration form.
- The registrant is responsible for the accuracy, completeness, and truthfulness of all information provided in the registration form. The Organizer reserves the right to request that the registrant provide additional or clarifying information. If the registration is not completed within the specified deadline, it may be excluded from the competition.
- The registrant is the individual or legal entity submitting the registration. Each submitted registration is assessed separately, regardless of whether the same competitor is registered through another individual or organization.
- **Registrations may be submitted from 1 September 2026 until 4 October 2026, or until the registration capacity is reached (Stop Status).** More information about the **Stop Status** can be found below.

2. Communication with registrant

- All official communication between the Organizer and registrants will be conducted via the e-mail address provided in the registration form.
- This e-mail address will be used primarily for sending registration confirmations, invoices, music files, instructional videos, the competition schedule, organizational instructions, and other important information related to the competition.
- The registrant is required to provide a valid e-mail address and regularly check their inbox, including the **Spam, Junk, and Promotions** folders. The Organizer is not responsible for information that is not delivered due to an incorrectly provided e-mail address or failure to check the e-mail inbox.

3. Registration Validity

- A registration becomes binding upon its proper submission. The Organizer reserves the right to reject or remove any registration that does not meet the competition requirements or is not paid within the specified deadline.

4. Stop Status

- The Organizer reserves the right to close registration at any time once the capacity of the competition day or individual categories has been reached. This status is referred to as **Stop Status**. In such a case, registration may be closed without prior notice, and no further registrations will be accepted.
- The Organizer will generally also announce **Stop Status** through the festival's official communication channels.

5. Starting Fee

- The starting fee is determined according to the current price list applicable to the respective festival year. The amount of the starting fee varies depending on the selected competition category and type of participation.
- Once the registration has been processed, the registrant will receive an invoice with payment details at the e-mail address provided in the registration form. The entry fee is due by the payment deadline stated on the invoice.



- If the entry fee is not paid by the stated due date, the Organizer reserves the right to remove the registration from the competition without further notice.
- Any bank fees associated with the payment of the entry fee shall be paid by the payer.
- **Current Starting Fee Price List for 2026:**

Starting Fee for Categories: Mini, Children, Juni, Teen		Starting Fee for Categories: Teen+, Adults, Women, Ladies, Golden		Starting Fee for the PROFESSIONALS Categories: Teen+, Adults, Women, Ladies, Golden	
Solo	300 CZK/person	Solo	430 CZK/person	Solo	650 CZK/person
Duos/Trios	250 CZK/person	Duos/Trios	320 CZK/person	Duos/Trios	390 CZK/person
Groups	230CZK/person	Groups	300 CZK/person	Groups	350 CZK/person

Starting Fee for Categories: Feedback Only	
Solo	130 CZK/choreography
Duos/Trios	180 CZK/choreography
Groups	70 CZK/person

6. Payment

- After the registration has been processed, the registrant will receive an invoice with payment details at the e-mail address provided in the registration form. The entry fee is due by the payment deadline stated on the invoice.
- The entry fee may only be paid by bank transfer to the account specified on the invoice. When making the payment, the registrant must enter the correct variable symbol stated on the invoice so that the payment can be properly identified.
- Each invoice issued must be paid in a separate transaction. Do not combine payments for multiple invoices into a single transaction, as this is necessary to ensure that individual payments can be properly identified and matched to the corresponding invoices. Incorrect identification or failure to match a payment may result in the invoice being considered unpaid.
- A registration for which the entry fee has not been paid by the specified deadline may be removed from the competition by the Organizer without further notice.
- The Organizer is not responsible for payments credited after the due date due to the registrant initiating the bank transfer late or due to a delay in processing the transaction by the bank.
- Any bank fees associated with the payment of the entry fee shall be borne by the payer.

7. Attendance Deadline (4.10. 2026)

- The Attendance Deadline is the final date for making changes to submitted registrations or cancelling them.
- Changes to a registration include, in particular, changing the competitor, the number of competitors in a duo, trio, or group, the competition or style category, the choreography title, music, the method of entering the stage (on stage/off stage), or any other information provided in the registration.
- All changes, including transfers between categories, may only be made until the Registration Deadline.
- After the Attendance Deadline has passed, registrations may no longer be cancelled or modified in any way.
- In the event that **Stop Status** is declared, the Attendance Deadline remains unchanged.

8. Music

- Music for all categories with an own choreography must be uploaded exclusively to a shared Google Drive folder created by the Organizer for each registrant. The link to the folder will be sent via e-mail address provided in the registration form after the registration has been processed.
- Music sent by e-mail or by any other way will not be accepted by the Organizer.



- Music must be uploaded no later than the deadline specified in the Important Dates overview. The Organizer reserves the right not to include in the competition any choreography for which the music has not been uploaded by the specified deadline or does not meet the required criteria.
- Music files must be in **.mp3** format and named exactly according to the Organizer's instructions. Incorrectly named files or files in a different format may result in them being assigned incorrectly. The Organizer is not responsible for any complications arising from incorrectly naming or uploading music files.

Music File Naming

- The music file must be named in the following format:
Competition Day Number_Category_Style_Age Category_Performance Level_Competitor's Name_Choreography Title_Stage Entry
- **Example:**
2_Solo Own Choreography_FusionShow_Children_MP_Jiřina Novotná_Butterfly Dance_ON
- The meaning of the individual abbreviations and the designation of the competition days are specified in the music upload instructions, which the Organizer will send together with the link to the shared folder.

Overview of Abbreviations for Music File Naming

1 = Children Competition on Friday 30.10. 2026

2 = Adults Competition on Sunday 1.11. 2026

B = Beginners

I = Intermediate

A = Advanced

PP = Professionals

9. Cancellation and Refund Policy

- Registrations may be cancelled no later than the Attendance Deadline. If a registration is cancelled by this deadline, the starting fee paid will be refunded in full.
- After the Attendance Deadline has passed, a registration may no longer be cancelled with a right to a refund of the entry fee. A competitor's absence on the competition for any reason (including illness, injury, or other personal or organizational reasons) does not entitle them to a refund of the starting fee paid. The Organizer reserves the right to assess exceptional circumstances on an individual basis.

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

1. Competition Check-In

- Check-in is carried out by **one designated representative** of each dance school, group, or independently registered competitor. During check-in, the representative must provide the name of the dance school, group, or competitor for whom they are checking in, based on which they will be given a registration bag.
- The registration bag contains, in particular, identification wristbands for competitors and group leaders (in accordance with the competition rules), the final competition schedule, and small gifts for competitors and the group instructor.
- The person collecting the registration bag is required to check the accuracy and completeness of its contents during check-in, particularly the number of identification wristbands provided. Later claims regarding the number of wristbands issued or the contents of the registration bag will not be accepted.
- During check-in, the representative will also be informed of the designation of their assigned changing room.



2. Identification Wristbands

- Each competitor will receive **one identification wristband** during check-in, which entitles them to enter the competition area on the respective competition day.
- For every **10 competitors or part thereof** registered by one dance school or organization on a given competition day, **one identification wristband is provided for an instructor or group leader**.
- Identification wristbands for competitors, instructors, and spectators are color-coded. Each competition day also has its own wristband color. An identification wristband is valid only on the day for which it was issued and is non-transferable.
- Parents and other accompanying persons of competitors are not considered instructors or group leaders and are therefore not entitled to a free identification wristband. They may enter the competition area only upon purchasing a valid ticket.
- Each person may receive only one identification wristband per competition day, regardless of the number of registrations submitted or the method of registration.

3. Changing Rooms

- Changing rooms are assigned by the Organizer based on the number of competitors, the size of individual groups, and the capacity of the available spaces, in order to ensure the most efficient use of the changing rooms and sufficient space for all participants.
- Information about the assigned changing room will be provided during check-in.
- Assigned changing rooms and their equipment cannot be changed or contested. The Organizer carefully plans the allocation of changing rooms with regard to the capacity of each room and the needs of all competitors, including the number of chairs, tables, and clothes racks.
- All competitors and their accompanying persons are kindly asked to be considerate, keep the changing rooms tidy, and respect the assigned spaces throughout the competition.

4. Photography and Video Recording

- During the competition, competitors, spectators, and accompanying persons are permitted to take photographs and make video recordings.
- The entire event will also be photographed and recorded by a professional photographer and videographer appointed by the Organizer. The photographs and video recordings will be made available for purchase. The Organizer may also publish selected photographs and short excerpts from the event for the purpose of promoting the festival.
- Information regarding the option to order photographs and video recordings, including ordering dates and procedures, will be published sufficiently in advance through the festival's official communication channels.



GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

1. Opening of Competition Categories

The Organizer reserves the right to amend or supplement these rules if required by the organization of the competition or other serious circumstances.

Individual competition categories, style categories, age categories, and performance levels are generally opened when a minimum of 4 competitors have registered. If fewer competitors register, the Organizer reserves the right not to open the category, to merge it with another category, or to adjust its classification in order to maintain the highest possible standard and fairness of the competition.

In exceptional cases, the Organizer reserves the right to open a category with fewer registered competitors, or even for a single competitor. This provision may apply in particular to the Mini and Golden age categories or to the Group Solo, Choreo It!, and Unique competition categories.

In all cases not expressly covered by these rules, the Organizer shall make the decision. The Organizer's decision is final.

2. Competition Schedule

The Organizer shall not be held responsible for changes to the programme or the cancellation of any part of the competition caused by circumstances beyond the Organizer's control (e.g. technical failure, power outage, adverse weather conditions, intervention by public authorities, or other extraordinary events).

The Organizer prepares the competition schedule with the utmost care. However, for organizational, technical, or other unforeseen reasons, changes to the schedule or the order of individual categories may occur during the competition. Such changes to the schedule or order cannot be contested by competitors.

Competitors are required to continuously follow the current developments at the competition and comply with the instructions of the Organizers. The Organizer shall not be held responsible for any changes or delays to the programme, and such changes or delays shall not entitle competitors to a refund of the entry fee or admission fee, or to any other financial or non-financial compensation.

3. Safety and Damages

All competition participants are required to follow the instructions of the Organizers and authorized personnel throughout the event.

Each competitor is responsible for the safe use of their props and costumes. The Organizer reserves the right to prohibit the use of any prop or costume that could endanger the safety of competitors or spectators or cause damage to the competition venue.

Competitors are responsible for any damage they cause through their actions to the property of the Organizer or the operator of the venue.

Competitors are required to follow the progress of the competition and report to the designated staging area on time in accordance with the Organizer's instructions. The Organizer shall not be held responsible for a missed performance due to the competitor's absence from the staging area.



AGE CATEGORIES

SOLOS

MINI: up to 7 years old included

CHILDREN: 8–12 years old

JUNI: 13–15 years old

TEEN: 16–18 years old

TEEN+: 19–25 years old

ADULTS: 26–32 years old

WOMEN: 33–40 years old

LADIES: 41–50 years old

GOLDEN: 51–60 years old

PLATINUM: 61 years old and older

DUOS, TRIOS AND GROUPS

MINI: up to 7,9 years old included

CHILDREN: 8–12,9 years old

JUNI: 13–15,9 years old

TEEN: 16–18,9 years old

TEEN+: 19–25,9 years old

ADULTS: 26–32,9 years old

WOMEN: 33–40,9 years old

LADIES: 41–50,9 years old

GOLDEN: 51–60,9 years old

PLATINUM: 61 years old and older

The age of competitors is determined as of the date of the competition.

For Duo, Trio, and Group categories, the age category is determined based on the average age of all competitors, with each competitor's age calculated as of the date of the competition.

Age Restrictions for the Children's Competition

The Children's Competition is open only to competitors who are under 21 years of age as of the date of the competition (i.e. no older than 20).

This rule applies to all competition categories, including duos, trios, and groups. Even if the average age of a duo, trio, or group falls within one of the children's age categories, a choreography featuring a competitor over the age of 20 may not be entered in the Children's Competition.

If a duo, trio, or group wishes to compete with a participant over the age of 20, they must enter the Adults' Competition.

Competitors may register for an older age category. Registration for a younger age category than the one corresponding to the competitor's age is not permitted.



PERFORMANCE LEVELS

The selection of the performance level is the responsibility of the competitor or their instructor. Competitors should be entered into the category that best corresponds to their dance experience, technical level, and competition experience.

B - Beginner

This category is intended for competitors with little or no previous experience in oriental dance. Competitors are becoming familiar with basic technique, rhythm, and movement and are gaining their first experience with solo or group performances.

I - Intermediate

This category is intended for competitors who have already mastered the fundamentals of oriental dance, have performance experience, and are able to handle more demanding choreography and use of space. They continue to develop their technique, musicality, and expression.

A - Advanced

This category is intended for experienced competitors with a good technical level, confidence in performance, and the ability to interpret music. A high standard of technical execution, musicality, expression, and overall stage presence is expected.

PP - Professional

This category is intended for professional dancers, instructors, and highly experienced competitors who regularly perform, teach, or achieve high results in national or international competitions. A high technical level, advanced musical interpretation, distinctive artistic expression, and professional stage presentation are expected.

If a competitor performs in group categories at a different performance level than in solo categories, they may be classified differently in each of these categories. The same rule applies to duos and trios.

If dancers competing in a duo or trio are assigned to different performance levels, they will compete together in the performance level corresponding to the more experienced competitor.

The competitor or their instructor is responsible for selecting the appropriate performance level. The Organizer does not reassign competitors between performance levels.

If a competitor enters a higher performance level than their actual level, they will not receive a point penalty for this decision. The risk of receiving a lower score is borne by the competitor.

If, on the other hand, a competitor enters a lower performance level than their actual level, each judge may, at their own professional discretion, impose a point penalty for inappropriate classification. A competitor correctly classified in their performance level automatically receives 10 points from each judge. In the event of an obviously inappropriate classification, the judge may deduct some or all of these 10 points depending on the severity of the situation.

Details of the scoring system and the application of point penalties are provided in the Competition Judging section.



STYLE CATEGORIES

1. Classical Oriental Dance (Classical)

Definition: The Classical Oriental Dance category is intended for choreographies based on the Raqs Sharqi (Oriental) style. This category includes both classical Oriental choreographies and modern Oriental, tarab, and mejance, provided they retain the character and technique of the Raqs Sharqi style. Both instrumental and vocal music are permitted, and the musical accompaniment should correspond to the character of the chosen style. The choreography should be based primarily on Oriental dance technique, musicality, interpretation of the music, and the dancer's natural expression.

Although Baladi and Shaabi originate from Egyptian dance culture, for the purposes of the competition they are classified as a separate Baladi & Shaabi style category. Likewise, choreographies based predominantly on folkloric styles, tribal dance, or a strong fusion or show concept do not fall within this category. Drum solo is also not included in this category.

Props: Props are permitted provided that they are consistent with the character of the chosen dance style and form a natural part of it. Their use should correspond to the traditions, technique, and character of the respective style. Props involving live fire are prohibited for safety reasons.

2. Fusion/Show

Definition: The Fusion/Show category is intended for choreographies based on Oriental dance that combine it with other dance styles or incorporate prominent show or theatrical elements. This category includes choreographies based on the fusion of Oriental dance with other dance techniques (e.g. contemporary, jazz, flamenco, Latin, street dance, etc.), as well as choreographies with a narrative concept or significant use of props, provided that Oriental dance remains their fundamental dance element.

Both instrumental and vocal music are permitted, and the musical accompaniment should correspond to the character of the choreography. The choreography should be based primarily on Oriental dance technique, musicality, interpretation of the music, and creative treatment of the chosen theme or fusion. Elements of other dance styles may form a significant part of the choreography but should not completely overshadow Oriental dance. This category also includes choreographies using unconventional musical arrangements, a strong theatrical concept, or props that are an integral part of the choreography.

Choreographies based predominantly on Raqs Sharqi (Oriental), Baladi, Shaabi, folkloric styles, Tribal, Bollywood, or standalone Drum Solo do not fall within this category.

Props: All types of props are permitted and may form a significant part of the choreography, provided that they are used purposefully and support its overall character. Props involving live fire are prohibited for safety reasons.

3. Folklore

Definition: The Folklore category is intended for choreographies based on traditional folkloric styles from the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. This category includes choreographies based on authentic folkloric dances and their contemporary stage adaptations, provided that they retain the character, technique, and characteristic elements of the respective style.

Both instrumental and vocal music are permitted, and the musical accompaniment should correspond to the character of the chosen folkloric style. The choreography should be based primarily on the technique, musicality, and interpretation of the music, while respecting the traditional character of the respective dance.

Choreographies based predominantly on Raqs Sharqi (Oriental), Baladi, Shaabi, Tribal, or a strong Fusion/Show concept do not fall within this category. Standalone Drum Solo is also not included in this category.



Props: Props are permitted provided that they are consistent with the character of the chosen dance style and form a natural part of it. Their use should correspond to the traditions, technique, and character of the respective style. Props involving live fire are prohibited for safety reasons.

4. Baladi & Shaabi

Definition: The Baladi & Shaabi category is intended for choreographies based on the Egyptian Baladi and Shaabi styles. This category includes both traditional and contemporary forms of these styles, provided that they retain their characteristic movement vocabulary, technique, and overall character. Both instrumental and vocal music are permitted, and the musical accompaniment should correspond to the character of the chosen style. The choreography should be based primarily on technique, musicality, interpretation of the music, and an authentic performance style.

This category also includes choreographies in the Mahraganat (Mahragan) style, provided that they retain the characteristic elements of Shaabi. Choreographies based predominantly on folkloric styles, Tribal, or a strong Fusion/Show concept do not fall within this category.

Props: Props are permitted provided that they are consistent with the character of the chosen dance style and form a natural part of it. Their use should correspond to the traditions, technique, and character of the respective style. Props involving live fire are prohibited for safety reasons.

5. Drum Solo

Definition: The Drum Solo category is intended for choreographies based on the interpretation of a rhythmic composition in which percussion instruments play the dominant role. The choreography should be based primarily on Oriental dance technique, musicality, and precise interpretation of rhythms and their accents.

The musical accompaniment should be appropriate to the Drum Solo category. Additional melodic or vocal sections are permitted, provided that they do not disrupt the predominantly rhythmic character of the composition.

Minor elements of other dance styles may be incorporated only as supplementary elements of the choreography; they must not become its predominant character or alter its stylistic classification.

This category includes choreographies created to both traditional and modern instrumental Drum Solo compositions. Choreographies based predominantly on Raqs Sharqi (Oriental), Baladi, Shaabi, Folklore, Tribal, or a strong Fusion/Show concept do not fall within this category.

Props: Props are permitted only if they are consistent with the character of the Drum Solo category and do not take a dominant role in the choreography. Props involving live fire are prohibited for safety reasons.

6. Bollywood & Indian Dance

Definition: The Bollywood & Indian Dance category is intended for choreographies inspired by Indian dance culture. This category includes choreographies based on Bollywood dance, classical Indian dance styles, Indian folk dances, and their contemporary forms, provided that they retain the characteristic movement vocabulary, technique, and character of the chosen style.

Both instrumental and vocal music are permitted, and the musical accompaniment should correspond to the character of the choreography. The choreography should be based primarily on technique, musicality, interpretation of the music, and an overall expression appropriate to the chosen style.

Minor elements of other dance styles may be incorporated only as supplementary elements of the choreography; they must not become its predominant character or alter its stylistic classification.

This category includes choreographies inspired by Bollywood films, classical Indian dance styles, and traditional Indian folk dances. Choreographies based predominantly on Raqs Sharqi (Oriental), Baladi, Shaabi, Middle Eastern folklore, Tribal, or standalone Drum Solo do not fall within this category.



Props: Props are permitted provided that they are consistent with the character of the choreography and support its overall concept. Props involving live fire are prohibited for safety reasons.

7. Tribal

Definition: The Tribal category is intended for choreographies based on Tribal styles of Oriental dance. This category includes both traditional Tribal styles and their contemporary forms and fusion styles, provided that they retain the characteristic technique, aesthetics, and movement vocabulary of Tribal dance.

Both instrumental and vocal music are permitted, and the musical accompaniment should correspond to the character of the chosen style. The choreography should be based primarily on Tribal dance technique, musicality, interpretation of the music, and its characteristic movement vocabulary. Minor elements of other dance styles may be incorporated into the choreography, but they must not completely overshadow its Tribal character.

This category includes choreographies from all Tribal styles, including their contemporary forms and fusion variations. Choreographies based predominantly on Raqs Sharqi (Oriental), Baladi, Shaabi, Folklore, or standalone Drum Solo do not fall within this category.

Props: Props are permitted provided that they are consistent with the character of the choreography and are commonly used as part of the chosen Tribal style. Props involving live fire are prohibited for safety reasons.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

1. Groups Solo

The length: +/- 1:00

Definition: Group Solo category is a solo competition category based on a standardized choreography prepared by the festival Organizer. All competitors within the same age and style category perform the same choreography to the same music. A separate choreography is created for each age category, adapted to the age of the competitors.

Style categories: The Group Solo category is available in three style categories: **Classical Oriental Dance, Fusion/Show, and Drum Solo**. All styles are performed without the use of props.

Instructional video: The instructional video, together with the music, will be sent to competitors by the Organizer on the pre-announced date after the registration has been properly submitted and the entry fee has been paid. The choreography is provided in the form of an instructional video with guidance, which competitors use to learn the choreography and subsequently practice it independently. Group leaders, instructors, or other competitors may assist with the practice.

Competition Procedure: During the competition, competitors will generally be divided into groups of 2–5 dancers, who will perform the choreography together twice consecutively (with a short break between the two performances, during which the dancers remain on stage).

During the performance, competitors are permitted to move forwards and backwards. Sideways movement is permitted only to the extent that it does not result in crossing into the space of other competitors.

Performance at the Habibi Show: Competitors may, upon expressing their interest in advance, have the opportunity to perform this choreography at the Habibi Show together with Anniya, festival guests, or the respective judge with whom they will perform the choreography.

Use of the Choreography after the Festival: All choreographies created for the Group Solo category are created by Anniya. Competitors may continue to use the choreography after the competition; however, they are required to credit the choreographer by name whenever the choreography is performed publicly.



2. Improvisation

The length: +/- 1:30

Definition: The Improvisation category focuses on the dancer's ability to improvise to music and respond spontaneously to its rhythm, dynamics, and character. The aim of this category is not a pre-rehearsed choreography, but a natural interpretation of the music through improvisation. This is a solo category.

Style category: Competitors perform in the Classical Oriental Dance style without the use of props.

Music: The music will be sent to competitors by the Organizer on a pre-announced date in its original, unedited form (except for the Professional performance level). The music will be sent to all competitors who have submitted their registration properly and paid the starting fee.

Competitors may familiarize themselves with the music in advance, listen to it repeatedly, and prepare by practicing improvisation. Creating or rehearsing a fixed choreography is not permitted.

If a competitor is a member of a dance group, the group leader or instructor may not create a choreography in advance to the music provided. They may only provide general advice and recommendations aimed at developing the competitor's improvisational skills.

Competition Procedure: At the competition, the music previously sent to the competitors will be played in a shortened and edited version, which the competitors will hear for the first time during the competition. The music may be edited at multiple points, and the editing will not consist solely of shortening the overall length of the track. Competitors will be divided into groups of 2–5 dancers and will improvise together.

For the Professional performance level, the music will not be sent in advance. Competitors will improvise to music they will hear for the first time during the competition.

3. Choreo It!

Length of the choreography: +/- 1:15 – 1:30

Definition: The Choreo It! category focuses on creating an original choreography to music provided by the festival Organizer. All competitors within the same age category receive the same music and independently create their own choreography. The choreography must be the competitor's own original work and may not be created by another person or substantially based on an existing choreography. This is a solo category.

Style Categories: The Choreo It! category is available in the following style categories: **Classical Oriental Dance, Fusion/Show, and Drum Solo**. The choreography must correspond to the character of the selected style category as defined in the competition rules.

Music: After the properly submitted registration has been processed, the Organizer will send competitors an edited music track approximately 1:15–1:30 minutes in length. The music will be sent to the e-mail address provided in the registration form. Payment of the entry fee is not required before the music is sent.

Competitors may not receive assistance from another person in creating the choreography. A group leader or instructor may provide feedback, methodological guidance, and assistance during rehearsals; however, the choreography itself must be created exclusively by the competitor. If the choreography substantially resembles or is based on an existing choreography, this may be reflected in the competitor's score.

Competition Procedure: The Choreo It! category will be opened regardless of the number of registered competitors. The competitor must inform the Organizer of their method of entering the stage (on stage / off stage) no later than the end of the registration check-in period.

In the Fusion/Show style category, the competitor must also provide the choreography title by the same deadline. For the Classical Oriental Dance and Drum Solo style categories, providing a choreography title is optional.



4. Own Choreography Solo

Délka choreografie: 1:30 – 3:00

Definice: Sólo vlastní choreografie je soutěžní kategorie, ve které soutěžící vystupuje samostatně s předem připravenou choreografií na vlastní hudbu. Choreografie může být vytvořena samotnou soutěžící, jejím lektorem nebo jinou osobou.

Stylové kategorie: Do kategorie Sólo vlastní choreografie se lze přihlásit ve všech vypsanych stylových kategoriích (Klasický orientální tanec, Fusion/Show, Folklor, Baladi & Shaabi, Drum Solo, Bollywood & Indian Dance a Tribal). Choreografie musí odpovídat charakteru zvolené stylové kategorie dle definic uvedených v pravidlech soutěže.

Hudba: Soutěžící používá vlastní hudební doprovod, který je povinna dodat organizátorovi v souladu s pokyny uvedenými v organizačních informacích soutěže.

Choreography Length: 1:30–3:00

Definition: The Solo – Own Choreography category is a competition category in which the competitor performs individually with a pre-prepared choreography to their own music. The choreography may be created by the competitor, their instructor, or another person.

Style Categories: The Solo Own Choreography category is open in all available style categories (Classical Oriental Dance, Fusion/Show, Folklore, Baladi & Shaabi, Drum Solo, Bollywood & Indian Dance, and Tribal). The choreography must correspond to the character of the selected style category as defined in the competition rules.

Music: The competitor uses their own musical accompaniment, which must be provided to the Organizer in accordance with the instructions set out in the Competition Organizational Information.

5. Queen / King of Habibi

Definition: Queen / King Habibi is a special competition category for competitors who wish to test their skills across all solo disciplines. A separate registration must be submitted for this category. Without a properly submitted registration, the competitor will not be included in the Queen / King Habibi category ranking. Registration for this category is free of charge.

Participation Requirements: To be included in the Queen / King of Habibi ranking, the competitor must be registered in all four mandatory solo competition categories: **Group Solo, Improvisation, Choreo It!, and Own Choreography Solo.**

Evaluating: Competitors do not perform again in the Queen / King of Habibi category. The overall ranking is determined by the summary of the scores obtained in all four mandatory competition categories. If a competitor participates in any of these categories more than once (in multiple style categories), only their highest score will be counted.

Announcement: The Queen / King of Habibi title is announced separately for each age category. Only the winner of the Queen / King of Habibi title is announced.

6. Duos/Trios

Choreography Length: 1:30 – 2:00

Number of Dancers: 2 or 3

Definition: The Duo/Trio category is a competition category in which two or three competitors perform together with a pre-prepared choreography to their own music. The choreography may be created by one of the competitors, their instructor, or another person.

Style Categories: The Duo/Trio category is open in all available style categories (Classical Oriental Dance, Fusion/Show, Folklore, Baladi & Shaabi, Drum Solo, Bollywood & Indian Dance, and Tribal). The choreography must correspond to the character of the selected style category as defined in the competition rules.

Music: Competitors use their own musical accompaniment, which they must provide to the Organizer in accordance with the instructions set out in the Competition Organizational Information.



7. Unique

Choreography Length: 1:30 – 3:00

Number of Dancers: 1, 2, or 3

Definition: The Unique category is a special competition category intended for competitors with a physical or intellectual disability. Solo, duo, and trio performances are eligible, provided that at least one of the competitors has a physical or intellectual disability. The disability must be disclosed to the Organizer through the registration form. This information will be shared confidentially only with the judging panel and will not be disclosed to the audience during the competition.

Style Categories: The Unique category is open in all available style categories (Classical Oriental Dance, Fusion/Show, Folklore, Baladi & Shaabi, Drum Solo, Bollywood & Indian Dance, and Tribal). The choreography must correspond to the character of the selected style category as defined in the competition rules.

Music: Competitors use their own musical accompaniment, which they must provide to the Organizer in accordance with the instructions set out in the Competition Organizational Information.

Competition Procedure: The Unique category will be opened regardless of the number of registered competitors. If all competitors in a choreography are 18 years old or younger, or if the average age of the choreography does not exceed 18.9 years, the choreography will be included in the Children's Competition programme.

If at least one of the competitors is over 18 years old, or if the average age of the choreography is 19.0 years or higher, the choreography will be included in the Adults' Competition programme, unless otherwise determined by the Organizer.

8. Family

Choreography Length: 1:30 – 4:00

Number of Dancers: 2 or more. If there is a larger number of registrations, the Organizer may divide the category into Duos/Trios and Groups, or divide it according to the average age of the competitors.

Definition: The Family category is a special competition category intended for choreographies featuring relatives. All competitors in a given choreography must be related to one another (e.g. siblings, parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, cousins, spouses, etc.). The family relationship must be stated in the registration form and will be announced to the judges and audience during the competition. Competitors perform their own choreography to their own music.

Programme Placement: If all competitors in a choreography are 18 years old or younger, the choreography will be included in the Family category of the Children's Competition programme. If at least one of the competitors is over 18 years old, the choreography will be included in the Family+ category of the Adults' Competition programme, unless otherwise determined by the Organizer.

Starting Fee: The starting fee is determined according to the age of the individual competitors. Each competitor pays the starting fee corresponding to their respective age category.



9. Groups

Choreography Length: 1:30 – 4:00

Number of Dancers: 4 or more

Definition: The Group category is a competition category in which four or more competitors perform together with a pre-prepared choreography to their own music. The choreography may be created by one of the competitors, their instructor, or another person.

Style Categories: The Group category is open in all available style categories (Classical Oriental Dance, Fusion/Show, Folklore, Baladi & Shaabi, Drum Solo, Bollywood & Indian Dance, and Tribal). The choreography must correspond to the character of the selected style category as defined in the competition rules.

Music: Competitors use their own musical accompaniment, which they must provide to the Organizer in accordance with the instructions set out in the Competition Organizational Information.

10. Feedback Only

Choreography Length: No time limit.

Number of Dancers: 1 or more

Definition: Feedback Only is a non-competitive category intended for solos, duos, trios, and groups that do not wish to compete for placement but would like to receive detailed professional feedback from the judging panel. Competitors perform their own choreography to their own music.

Style Categories: The category is open to all style categories and is not further divided by style or age.

Category Procedure: No ranking is announced and no awards are given for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in the Feedback Only category. Competitors will receive a small participation reward and, subsequently, individual feedback from the judging panel on the day of the category. The category will be opened regardless of the number of registered competitors.

If all competitors in a choreography are 18 years old or younger, or if the average age of the choreography does not exceed 18.9 years, the choreography will be included in the Children's Competition programme. If at least one of the competitors is over 18 years old, or if the average age of the choreography is 19.0 years or higher, the choreography will be included in the Adults' Competition programme.

Starting Fee: A separate starting fee applies to the Feedback Only category, as specified in the current competition price list.



EVALUATION RULES

1. Scoring System

- All competition performances are evaluated by a professional judging panel. Each judge evaluates the individual criteria separately and may award 0–10 points for each criterion.
- The points awarded by the individual judges are then added together to determine the competitor's final score.
- Each competition category has a main judging criterion, which is marked with an asterisk (*) in the overview of judging criteria.
- In the event of a tie in the total number of points for a medal position, the number of points awarded for the main judging criterium determines the result. In such a case, the competitor with the higher score in the main judging criterium is awarded +1 point. If the competitors are still tied in this criterion, they will be announced as sharing the same placement.
- In the Queen of Habibi category, the final ranking is determined by the total number of points earned in the Group Solo, Improvisation, Choreo It!, and Own Choreography Solo categories. If a competitor participates in any of these categories more than once, only their highest score is counted.

2. Judging Criteria Common to All Competition Categories

Style Authenticity (0–10 bodû)

- The judge evaluates whether the choreography corresponds to the style category in which it was entered. In particular, they assess the suitability of the chosen music, costume, props, technique, movement vocabulary, and overall character of the choreography in relation to the selected dance style.
- The Stylistic Authenticity criterium is assessed in all competition categories. In the Group Solo and Improvisation categories, the suitability of the costume to the respective dance style is assessed.

Performance Level Classification (0–10 bodû)

- The judge evaluates whether the competitor's performance level corresponds to the selected performance category.
- If a competitor enters a higher performance category than their actual level, they will not receive a point penalty for this decision. The risk of receiving a lower score is borne by the competitor.
- If, on the other hand, a competitor enters a lower performance category than their actual level, each judge may, at their professional discretion, impose a point penalty for inappropriate classification. A competitor correctly classified in their performance category automatically receives 10 points from each judge. In the event of an obviously inappropriate classification, the judge may deduct some or all of these 10 points depending on the severity of the situation.



3. Judging Criteria by Competition Category

Group Solo

- Individuality in Performing the Learned Choreography*
- Musicality and Connection to the Music
- Expression, Emotion, and Personal Charisma
- Technique
- Stylistic Authenticity
- Performance Level Classification

Choreo It!

- Choreography Creativity*
- Use of Space
- Interpretation of the Music
- Expression, Emotion, and Personal Charisma
- Technique
- Stylistic Authenticity
- Performance Level Classification

Own Choreography Solo, Unique:

Folklore, Baladi & Shaabi

- Authenticity*
- Musicality and Connection to the Music
- Expression, Emotion, and Personal Charisma
- Choreography
- Technique
- Stylistic Authenticity
- Performance Level Classification

Duos, Trios, Groups, Family, Unique:

Classical oriental dance, Drum Solo

- Interpretation of the Music*
- Synchronization
- Group Expression
- Choreography
- Technique
- Stylistic Authenticity
- Performance Level Classification

Improvisation

- Improvisation Ability*
- Musicality and Connection to the Music
- Expression, Emotion, and Personal Charisma
- Technique
- Stylistic Authenticity
- Performance Level Classification

Own Choreography Solo, Unique Solo:

Classical oriental dance, Drum Solo

- Interpretation of the Music*
- Musicality and Connection to the Music
- Expression, Emotion, and Personal Charisma
- Choreography
- Technique
- Stylistic Authenticity
- Performance Level Classification

Own Choreography Solo, Unique:

Fusion/Show, Bollywood & Indian Dance, Tribal

- Artistic impression*
- Musicality and Connection to the Music
- Expression, Emotion, and Personal Charisma
- Choreography
- Technique
- Stylistic Authenticity
- Performance Level Classification

Duos, Trios, Groups, Family, Unique:

Folklore, Baladi & Shaabi

- Authenticity *
- Synchronization
- Group Expression
- Choreography
- Technique
- Stylistic Authenticity
- Performance Level Classification



**Duos, Trios, Groups, Family, Unique: Fusion/Show,
Bollywood & Indian Dance, Tribal**

- Artistic impression *
- Synchronization
- Group Expression
- Choreography
- Technique
- Stylistic Authenticity
- Performance Level Classification

4. Competition Results

- The results will be announced directly at the competition. Only the top three places in each category will be announced.
- After the award ceremony has concluded, the scoring results will be displayed at the competition venue.
- After the competition, the top three places in each category will be published on the festival's official website.
- No later than one month after the competition, detailed results, including the competitors' scores, will be sent to the e-mail address provided in the registration form.
- In order to protect the independence and anonymity of the judging process, the individual scores awarded by each judge will not be published or distributed.
- If a competitor wishes to know their score from a specific judge, they may contact the judge directly after the competition or use the method designated in advance for requesting individual feedback from judges. Whether and to what extent the judge provides their individual scoring is entirely at the judge's discretion.

HABIBI ALL STARS

- **Habibi All Stars** is a special Festival Habibi project designed to recognize the most successful solo competitors of the competition. It is not a competition category, but a prestigious opportunity to perform at the following year's festival alongside other Habibi All Stars at the **Habibi Show**.
- The opportunity to participate in the project is awarded to every solo competitor who achieves **1st place in any of the solo competition categories**. Participation in the project is voluntary.
- After the competition, the winners will be invited to participate via a special registration form intended exclusively for Habibi All Stars participants. Registrations submitted by persons who have not earned the right to participate in the project will not be accepted.
- Project participants will learn a **shared choreography** using an instructional video provided by the Organizer. A joint rehearsal of the choreography will take place prior to the Habibi Show.
- The Habibi All Stars choreography may be created in **any dance style**, at the Organizer's discretion.
- In connection with the Habibi Show, project participants will be presented as **Habibi All Stars** and will be included in the festival's promotional activities as winners of the previous year's competition.
- Participants may subsequently perform the choreography at other events, provided that the **choreographer, Anniya, is credited**.



GDPR AND PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING

- By submitting a registration, the registrant acknowledges that the Organizer processes participants' personal data to the extent necessary for the organization, administration, and evaluation of the competition.
- Personal data is processed primarily for the purposes of registering competitors, communicating with participants, recording payments, organizing the competition, announcing results, and fulfilling the Organizer's legal obligations.
- During the festival, photographs, video recordings, and other audiovisual materials are taken. These materials may be used for documentation, promotional, and marketing purposes of Festival Habibi, in particular on the festival's website, social media, and in other promotional materials of the Organizer.
- By submitting a registration, participants confirm that they have been informed about the taking of photographic and audiovisual recordings and consent to such recordings. Other visitors consent to the taking of photographic and audiovisual recordings by purchasing a ticket and entering the venue.

FINAL PROVISIONS

- These rules are binding upon all competition participants, their legal guardians, instructors, and any other persons submitting a registration for the competition.
- By submitting a registration, the registrant confirms that they have read these rules, understand their contents, and agree to them.
- The Organizer reserves the right to address individually any situations not expressly covered by these rules. In all disputed or unclear cases, the Organizer's decision shall be final.
- The Organizer further reserves the right to amend or supplement these rules if required by organizational, technical, or other serious circumstances.
- These rules shall enter into force on the date of their publication.