



OFFICIAL RULES

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HOOP DANCE CONTEST

Heard Museum
Phoenix, Arizona

The Annual World Championship Hoop Dance Contest is recognized as the premier competition for the art of Hoop Dance throughout North America. Rules have been developed with the input of North America's leading experts on Hoop Dance to ensure a fair and competitive event.

I. ORDER OF COMPETITION

- On-site contestant registration and check-in will take place in the Encanto Room, located in the Dorrance Education Building of the Heard Museum on Saturday, February 11, 2016 from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Registration closes at the beginning of Round I for each Division.
- There will be a meeting of contestants, judges, and staff from 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 11, 2016. Rules will be reviewed and questions clarified regarding the Contest. **YOU ARE STRONGLY URGED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING!**
- Any grievances must be addressed at this meeting. After this, any complaints must be registered with a \$100.00 fee in order to be considered. Contestants may not discuss any situation dealing with another contestant or a particular rule during the event. Any contestant who disregards this rule will be immediately disqualified from competition.
- Grand Entry for the event is promptly at 9:30 a.m. Competition begins immediately following Grand Entry. Elimination Rounds will begin for Youth, Teen, Adult, and Senior Division contestants on Saturday, February 11, 2016. **All contestants will be called in random order regardless of registration order.**

II. COMPETITION PROCESS

Round 1 – 300 possible points

Tiny Tot Division - All contestants dance, awards given at end of round (0-5 years)

Youth Division – The top **six** contestants advance to Round 2 (6-12 years)

Teen Division – The top **six** contestants advance to Round 2 (13-17 years)

Adult Division – The top **ten** contestants advance to Round 2 (18-39 years)

Senior Division – The top **six** contestants advance to Round 2 (40 years and above)

Round 2 – 300 possible points

Youth Division –The top **three** contestants advance to Final Round on Sunday, February 12, 2016.

Teen Division - The top **three** contestants advance to Final Round on Sunday, February 12, 2016.

Adult Division - The top **six** contestants advance to Final Round on Sunday, February 12, 2016.

Senior Division -The top **three** contestants advance to Final Round on Sunday, February 12, 2016.

ALL FINALISTS BEGIN WITH A CLEAN SCORE CARD. Points will not be carried over from Round 1. Each contestant will have a new opportunity to score up to 300 points.

Final Round – Championship Round – 300 possible points

AGAIN, ALL FINALISTS BEGIN WITH A CLEAN SCORE CARD. Any score earned in previous rounds will be eliminated. Congratulations! All finalists in the Youth, Teen, Senior and Adult Divisions will have placed in the 26th Annual Championship Hoop Dance Contest by this time. Ranking will be determined during this final round of competition.

Songs for contestants will rotate between the Northern and Southern drums for the first two rounds. You may select either the Northern or Southern drum in the final round or contestants can elect to provide their own singer.

Points and Score Sheets

The Score Sheets for each round represent the total tallies of the judges' scores for each division and are considered public information. Each contestant may view his or her score after each round. Contestants are **not** allowed to view individual judges score sheets.

III. JUDGING CRITERIA

Within each category, ranking will be based on a ten point scoring system. **One** is the lowest score given and **Ten** is the highest possible score that can be awarded by a judge in a particular category. **Following are the five categories from which contestants will be evaluated.**

1. Precision 2. Timing/Rhythm 3. Showmanship 4. Creativeness 5. Speed

1. Precision:

- a) Each dancer must pass through each hoop they bring into the area at least one time.
- b) Hoops should not unintentionally fall to the ground.
- c) Once a design is complete, it should not fall apart.
- d) Contestants must catch hoops when they are thrown in the air or spun.

2. Timing/Rhythm:

- a) This is a Hoop **"Dancing"** Contest. Feet should continuously keep time to the drum.
- b) Contestant's movement is essential.
- c) Bells, tinklers or deer hooves help the judges assess your rhythm and, therefore, are required.

3. Showmanship:
 - a) Presentation should be directed to audience.
 - b) Degree of difficulty will be taken into account.
 - c) If routine is finished and music continues, dancers should dance to the end of song.

4. *Creativeness/Originality*:
 - a) Points will accumulate with more designs.
 - b) Points accumulate with designs originated by a dancer and not previously presented.

5. *Speed*:
 - a) This category is related directly to rapid drum and dance coordination. Contestants should not exceed the time limits for their routine. The following time limits have been set for each category:
 - YOUTH** – first two rounds – 5 minute limit----Final Round – 7 minute limit
 - TEEN** – first two rounds – 5 minute limit ----Final Round – 7 minute limit
 - ADULT**- first two rounds – 7 minute limit ---- Final Round – 7 minute limit
 - SENIOR** – first two rounds – 7 minute limit ----Final Round – 7 minute limit

NOTE: Dancers will be penalized for going over the time limit. A large time clock will be visible in the arena.

The judges' decision will be final! Good sportsmanship is expected and appreciated.

IV. CONTESTANTS

All contestants must provide proof of enrollment with a recognized Native community. If a certified enrollment number or reserve card is not available, a letter confirming your affiliation with a tribal community will be accepted. This letter must be on tribal letterhead and signed by an acknowledged community leader. This is required for all contestants, whether or not you have participated in previous Hoop Dance Contests.

V. GENERAL RULES

- All dancers **must** participate in Grand Entry on Saturday and Sunday. Failure to participate will result in a 5-point deduction from your Final Round score.

- Contestants will NOT be allowed to preset hoop formations or designs before routine begins – this means you cannot preset hoop formations or designs of any kind before you begin your routine. You must have all the hoops you will be using in the arena when you start your routine.

- No taped or mechanical props will be allowed – this means you will not be able to tape your hoops together in any way, shape, or form. You will not be allowed to use streamers, balls, clamps, etc. You will be required to dance using ONLY the hoops you bring into your immediate dance area.
- No eagle whistles – this means you will not be allowed to “blow a whistle” before, during or after your routine. The use of the eagle whistle is considered very sacred to many Native communities and it is the opinion of the judges that the Hoop Dance Contest is not an appropriate place to “blow a whistle.”
- No religious prayer – this means you cannot include prayer before, during, or after your dance routine. It is the opinion of the judges that any prayer, ceremony or ritual may not be performed during your routine.
- During the contest a contestants’ number will be called three times. If you are not in the arena after the third call you will be disqualified. There will be NO exceptions.
- No drugs or alcohol – this means any contestant using drugs or alcohol to “enhance” their performance will be immediately removed from the competition and from the grounds of the Heard Museum

Any violation of the above rules will disqualify you from the entire Hoop Dance Contest.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

All contestants will be required to sign a photo release form provided in the registration packet. Entry into the contest indicates your permission to allow the Heard Museum to take still photographs, video footage, and/or audio recordings of your performance. This is for exclusive use by the Heard Museum for education and promotional purposes.

Entry into the contest indicates your permission to allow the local media (television, newspapers) to take still photographs, video footage, and/or audio recordings of your performances for publicity purposes.

Entry into the contest indicates your permission to allow private individuals to take still photographs of your performance for their personal use only.

Proof of Tribal enrollment is required to compete in this event.