

# Aerial Elite Circus Competition



2025

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## Welcome

Welcome to the Aerial Elite Virtual Circus Arts Competition! We look forward to your participation in our competition, and the next step in your aerial journey! This handbook may be updated at any time and will provide all the information necessary to register and compete in this competition. Any updates made in 2025 will be noted at the bottom of this document. Please direct any further questions to [info@aerialelitecomp.com](mailto:info@aerialelitecomp.com).

## Mission

Our mission is to bring the worldwide aerial community together for a constructive, supportive, and engaging event.

## Values

Our values include,

- Providing constructive feedback to help performers progress with their skills and performance abilities.
- Creating an inclusive environment by providing a variety of divisions for all ages groups and skill levels.
- Providing top notch judges from around the world with a variety of different backgrounds and specialties.
- Promoting accessibility to aerialists worldwide with a virtual platform without the addition of travel expenses and additional fees.
- Providing a positive environment for all people involved.
- Creating a sense of community for aerialists worldwide

# Rules, Guidelines, and Important Information

## General

1. We reserve the right to update this handbook at any time for any reason. All revisions will be posted and listed in the table of contents with detailed changes listed and the date the changes were made.
2. When asked for shipping address & e-mail please provide accurate information. Without the proper information we cannot guarantee the services we provide. If you provide an email address when asked for shipping address, you will not receive awards earned

## Code of Conduct

1. Bullying, harassment, and other threatening behavior will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, behavior to competition officials, judges, competitors, coaches, and any others in association with this event.
2. All language and interactions must be appropriate for a family-friendly environment and representative of our values. This includes, but is not limited to, music, costumes, props, and all dialogue with competition officials and any others in association with this event.
3. Competitors in violation of this Code of Conduct are subject to deductions or disqualification. This may also result in banning future events. Aerial Elite reserves the right to deny entry to any competitor in violation of the Rules and Code of Conduct listed in this handbook.

## Privacy Policy

Information necessary and relating to this event is subject to publication on our social media including, but not limited to, photos, videos, names, studios, placings, etc. Use of a stage name can be substituted to help reserve the privacy of any competitors, if desired. Please make sure to declare your stage name on your registration and video submission.

## Waivers

All competitors will be required to read a waiver, release of liability, and media release, and acknowledge and agree to these terms upon registration. All necessary documents are listed on our website for review. Minors will be required to have a parent or guardian complete their registration form. All documentation must be submitted prior to video submission. Any competitor who fails to submit proper documentation will be disqualified and will not receive a refund.

## Restrictions and Requirements

- No music with extreme offensive language will be permitted. If you have any questions about your music, please send us an email ahead of time for music approval. If music approval is not received, it will be the judges' discretion whether to add a deduction or to disqualify.
- No rigging from trees. No exceptions.
- Wardrobe must be "family-friendly". If you have any questions about your costume, please send us an email ahead of time for costume approval. If costume approval is not received, it will be the judges' discretion whether to add a deduction or to disqualify anything deemed inappropriate.
- All competitors require the use of safety mats. \*Exception for pole competitors and ground acts\*
  - All minor aerial competitors (17 years old and below) must use a crash mat with a 4in minimum thickness.
  - All novice & intermediate aerial competitors must use a crash mat with a 4in minimum thickness.
  - Advanced and Elite adults (18 years old +) may use a 2in panel mat.
- Major wardrobe malfunctions will not be accepted. Minor malfunctions may result in either a deduction or disqualification at the judges' discretion.
- Spotters are allowed, but not required. Spotters must remain silent and may not give the competitor any form of instruction. Assistance from a spotter will result in disqualification.

## Important Dates

Early Bird Registration – Dec 6th - Jan 30, 2025

Registration – Feb 1st – April 19th, 2025

Late Registration April 20 - 30, 2025

Video submission – May 1 -10, 2025

Results Posted – June 1, 2025

Awards Mailed – July 1, 2025

Judges Feedback – July 1, 2025

## Registration

### How to register

1. Read competitor packet & all necessary documents
2. Review event details & important dates
3. Purchase registration
4. Complete registration form that will be emailed after payment is received. \*This is not an automated process, so please allow up to 72 hours for registration form to be sent after purchase\*

### Refund Policy

Refunds will not be given to any competitor for any reason & you may not transfer your registration fee to another competitor.

## Pricing

- Early Bird Registration
  - Individual Acts - \$75
  - Duo Acts - \$100
  - Group Acts (3+) - \$125
- Regular Registration
  - Individual Acts - \$100
  - Duo Acts - \$125
  - Group Acts (3+) - \$150
- Late Registration
  - Individual Acts - \$125
  - Duo Acts - \$150
  - Group Acts (3+) - \$175
- Late Video Submission
  - \$20 Late fee
  - Anything after 48 hours of submission deadline will not be accepted. If the late fee invoice remains unpaid for more than 48 hours, the registration will become void.

## Registration Changes

You may change your registered division, level, or apparatus free of charge until the end of regular registration. To request a change, send an email to [info@aerialelitecomp.com](mailto:info@aerialelitecomp.com). Changes made after the closure of regular registration will incur a \$10 non-refundable change fee. Changes do not include transferring your registration to another competitor.

# Divisions

## Age Groups

- Mini's (4 - 7)
- Youth I (8 - 10)
- Youth II (11-13)
- Teen (14-17)
- Adult 1 (18-29)
- Adult 2 (30-39)
- Masters I (40-59)
- Masters II (60+)

## Levels

- Novice
  - o No drops required
  - o 2:00-3:30 Minute routine allowance
  - o Character work and storytelling suggested, but not required
- Intermediate
  - o 1 drop minimum (solo acts only)
  - o 1 inversion minimum
  - o 2:30-4:00 minute routine allowance
  - o Exploring character work and storytelling
- Advanced
  - o 2 drops minimum (solo acts only)
  - o 1 straight leg inversion, bent arms allowed
  - o 3:00-4:30 minute routine allowance
  - o Maintains understandable character work and storytelling throughout entire routine
- Elite
  - o 2 drops minimum (solo acts only)
  - o For professional & rising professional acts (kids) only. Judges will hold these competitors to the highest of performing standards.
  - o Routine presents a clearly defined character and storyline.
  - o 1 straight arm, straight leg inversion required



- o 3:00-4:30 minute routine allowance

- Showcase

- o Not for Competition
- o Must follow all safety rules
- o 5 Minute routine allowance

^ Drops on trapeze and lyra include any single body rotation or change from one level to another lower level through the using momentum.

^ Floorwork is not required and must not exceed 20% of routine length.

^ Instructors are not allowed to compete in the novice category for any apparatus.

^ Groups and apparatus' can be combined or split based on number of entries.

## Solos, Duos, Groups

- All solo acts include competitors performing alone throughout the entire routine.
- Duo acts include performance with 2 performers in the routine.
- Group acts include 3 or more performers.
- Duo & group acts do not require drops.

## Showcase

Our showcase category is a great opportunity for aerialists that are not interested or comfortable yet in competing but would still like to receive feedback from our judges. Showcase entries are an opportunity to get feedback on new routines, determine what category fits your routine best, or just to receive feedback from someone other than your regular coaches!

## Categories

The following categories will be represented within our competition:

1. Silks
2. Lyra
  - a. Single and Double Point routines will be scored together
3. Hammock

a. Single and double point routines will be scored together

4. Trapeze

a. Fixed or on a swivel. Single and double point routines will be scored together. Swinging and low-to-ground dance trapeze must enter in the specialty category.

5. Pole

6. Specialty

a. Specialty acts include any apparatus without its own designated category. This category includes, but is not limited to, aerial straps, cube, chains, rope, etc.

7. Ground Acts

a. Flow Arts (Contortion, Partner Acro, Fans, Juggling, Poi, Diabolo, etc)

## Filming

- Videos must not be edited other than overlaying audio.
- Videos may be filmed in either landscape or portrait mode.
- Make sure the performer is fully within the frame throughout the entire performance.
- Avoid moving the camera while filming unless necessary to keep performers in frame.

## Attire

### Wardrobe

Tight fitting costumes are encouraged, but not required. Please ensure that your costuming does not interfere with your performance, or you may be subject to a deduction under “Inappropriate Clothing/Major Wardrobe Malfunction” in deductions category. Wardrobe malfunctions may result in either a deduction or disqualification. Only in extreme situations, such as when safety is compromised or when private body

parts are exposed, will competitors be subject to disqualification. This deduction/disqualification is up to the judges' discretion.

## Hair

Hairstyles must not hinder performance, skills, or safety. It is recommended, but not required, to have hair pulled back. If hair affects performance negatively in any way, competitors may receive a deduction under "Inappropriate Clothing/Major Wardrobe Malfunction" in deductions category. This deduction is up to the judges' discretion with safety in mind.

## Judging

Judging is final and is not up for discussion, including all social media and online forums. Any person in violation of this rule will be banned from future competitions, with no exceptions. All judging will be fair and impartial and will be reviewed by competition officials before being finalized.

## Requirements

Judges are required to have proficient knowledge of the categories they are judging, as well as a sufficient background in performing and/or competition. Judges may compete but may not judge any division that they are competing in or that includes competitors that they currently teach, both in-person and virtual. Our judges can be viewed on our website at [info@aerialelitecomp.com](mailto:info@aerialelitecomp.com).

## Process

Judging will be completed by a panel with a minimum of three judges. Judges will review and score performances remotely to allow international judge participation, providing competitors with a fair competition and a variety of feedback. Judges will only watch each routine once when judging and completing scoresheets.

## Feedback

Judge feedback will consist of point values as well as narrative from each judge. Feedback will be sent out by the designated date on our Event Dates section of the website and handbook. Feedback will be sent to the email used to register. You must provide a valid SHIPPING ADDRESS on your registration form. If not valid shipping address is listed, you will not be able to receive your award.

## Awards

Awards are sent via USPS to the address provided on your registration form. You must provide a valid SHIPPING ADDRESS on your registration form. If no valid shipping address is listed, you will not be able to receive your award. Awards are NOT sent with tracked shipping. You may add tracked shipping as an option for \$5 (U.S.) and \$8 (international) when purchasing your registration, but this will NOT be refunded if you do not receive an award. If you would like to purchase tracked shipping AFTER the awards have been announced, the price will be \$10 (all medals – U.S. & international). Please send us an email requesting tracked shipping and we will send you an invoice. Any tracked shipping invoices that remain unpaid for more than 72 hours will be cancelled and the award will be sent without tracked shipping.

## Criteria (Aerials, Pole & Specialty)

Judges will abide by the following criteria:

- Difficulty – 35/160
- Technical – 40/160
- Artistry – 35/160
- Execution – 20/160
- Requirements – 30/160
- Deductions – Up to 45 pts

## Criteria (Ground Acts)

Judges will abide by the following criteria:

- Difficulty – 30/105
- Technical – 20/105
- Artistry – 30/105

- Execution – 15/105
- Requirements – 10/105
- Deductions – Up to 30 pts

## Deductions & Disqualifications

- No rigging from trees. This will result in disqualification.
- Incorrect mats will result in a 15 point deduction.
- No touching the rigging at any point during the routine. This will result in disqualification.
- Any unsafe moves will result in disqualification. This includes, but is not limited to, incorrect drop setup, drops well beyond the performer's skill level, moves that result in falls, etc.
- Inappropriate clothing will result in either a 15 point deduction or disqualification at the judges' discretion.
- Music that is not within the time allotment will receive a 15 point deduction.
- Violation of our Code of Conduct will result in disqualification.
- Disrespectful language towards competition officials, coaches, other competitors, or any other person involved in the event will result in disqualification.

Interested in becoming a judge? Send us an email ([info@aerialelitecomp.com](mailto:info@aerialelitecomp.com)) with a resume!

## Video Submission

- All videos must be submitted via WeTransfer.com to  
  
Info@AerialEliteComp.com
- Videos must be Titled as follows: Name-AgeGroup-Level-Apparatus-  
  
Solo/Duo/Group
- Do not submit more than one video for any entry.

## Scoresheet (Aerials, Pole, & Specialty)

<u>Difficulty</u>	Score	Judges Comments:
Individual Moves	/10	
Combinations	/10	
Transitions	/10	
Mounts/Dismounts	/5	
<u>Technical</u>		
Control of Apparatus	/10	
Control of Body	/10	
Lines and Toes (Pointed or Flexed)	/10	
Use of Strength, Balance, and Flexibility	/10	

<b><u>Artistry</u></b>		
Stage Presence	/10	
Musicality	/10	
Viewer Engagement	/5	
Costuming	/5	
<b><u>Execution</u></b>		
Completion of Skills (were there any visible errors?)	/5	
Timing/Flow (were parts rushed?)	/10	
Safety of Skills (Completed Fully & Properly)	/10	
<b><u>Requirements</u></b>		
Drop(s)	/10	
Inversion(s)	/10	
Routine Length	/10	
<b><u>Deductions</u></b>		
Incorrect Mat	-15	

Inappropriate Clothing/Major Wardrobe Malfunction	-15	
Inappropriate/Offensive Music	-15	
<b><u>Total Score</u></b>	/160	

## Scoresheet(GroundActs)

<b><u>Difficulty</u></b>	Score	Judges Comments:
Individual Moves	/10	
Combinations	/10	
Transitions	/10	
<b><u>Technical</u></b>		
Control of Prop/Body	/20	
<b><u>Artistry</u></b>		
Stage Presence	/10	
Musicality	/10	
Viewer Engagement	/5	
Costuming	/5	



<b><u>Execution</u></b>		
Completion of Skills (were there any visible errors?)	/5	
Timing/Flow (were parts rushed?)	/10	
<b><u>Requirements</u></b>		
Routine Length	/10	
<b><u>Deductions</u></b>		
Inappropriate Clothing/Major Wardrobe Malfunction	-15	
Inappropriate/Offensive Music	-15	
<b><u>Total Score</u></b>	/105	