



DAKOTA AERIAL CHAMPIONSHIP OFFICIAL COMPETITOR PACKET

CURRENT VERSION: 1.1

Edits:

Updated information on ways to compete, specifically around virtual entries and criteria

Updated information on event ticket pricing

LAST UPDATED: 7.26.23

This packet outlines all of the information you will need to know to compete in the Dakota Aerial Competition hosted by South Dakota Aerial & Arts. Have questions about the packet or the event? Email sdaerialarts@gmail.com. Please include "DAC" in the email headline so we route your questions appropriately.

OVERVIEW:

GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION - PAGE 2

- Dates
- Location
- Registration
- Participation Fee
- Event Tickets - [UPDATED](#)

RULES AND GUIDELINES - PAGE 3-7

- Waivers
- Code of Conduct
- Photography/Videography
- [Ways to Compete - NEW](#)
- [Virtual Rules and Guidelines for Submission - NEW](#)
- Divisions
- Apparatuses
- Levels & Types
- Music
- Wardrobe & Props
- Grip Aids
- Judging
- Division Rules

EVENT FLOW & INFORMATION - PAGE 8-9

- Before the Event
- Day of Event

LEVEL CRITERIA AND RULES PER APPARATUS - PAGE 10-11

HAMMOCK - DIVISION RULES - PAGE 12

SILKS - DIVISION RULES - PAGE 13

SILKS - DIVISION RULES - PAGE 14

GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION:

Dates:

Competition: September 15-17, 2023

In-Person and Virtual Registration Opens: May 1, 2023

- Registration Link: <https://www.sdaerialarts.com/dakota-aerial-championship>

Registration Deadline (Music Included): September 3, 2023

Virtual Submission Deadline: September 12, 2023

Location:

South Dakota Aerial & Arts

1200 E 3rd Street, Suite 113 - Enter on the South-facing side of the building

Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Registration:

Registration is available online at <https://www.sdaerialarts.com/dakota-aerial-championship>. You must pay a registration fee for each apparatus you wish to compete in. Registration must be completed before submitting any virtual entries.

Participation Fee:

Each competitive or showcase performance is subject to a \$75 participation fee. Please register for each different performance separately. No refunds will be issued after sign-up. You may not transfer your registration to a different event. You may not transfer your registration to another category.

Event Tickets:

All spectators to the event are required to purchase a ticket to attend. Tickets are good for the full length of the event. All coaches will receive free tickets to attend the event. Make sure your coach is listed on your registration for this purpose. Early bird event tickets will be able to be purchased online during the registration window for \$10.00. Standard tickets can be purchased the day-of the event for \$15.00. Tickets will get you into the event for the full weekend.

No food will be sold. There are many local restaurants within a short driving distance.

RULES AND GUIDELINES:

1. Waivers:

All competitors, workshop participants, coaches and assistants are required to read and sign a waiver provided by South Dakota Aerial & Arts. All minors will be required to have their parent/legal guardian fill out and confirm their waiver. The waiver can be found here:

<https://www.sdaerialarts.com/liability-waiver>.

2. Code of Conduct:

1. **Drugs and Alcohol:** Competitors and workshop participants are not allowed to consume any alcohol, illegal drugs or medical drugs that impair function to perform. If an individual is displaying indications of alcohol or drug consumption, you will be asked to leave the event.
2. **Treatment of Others:** No bullying, harassment or other threatening of competitors, competition attendees, coaches, judges, staff, workshop participants or others related to this event will be tolerated. This includes in-person and online behaviors, including emails, text messages, phone calls, in-person comments, social media posts or messaging etc.
3. **Safety:** All rules must be followed below throughout the course of the event
 1. All competitors and workshop participants are required to sign a waiver.
 2. All participants are required to use a crash pad/mat. The stage area can be prepared so participants are on hardwood floor or ½ inch foam. Please specify your preference for the performance
 3. No participants or coaches should touch rigging throughout the course of the event.
 4. No additional people are permitted on stage with competitors from the time the music starts until it ends, except for approved human props.
 5. No additional people are permitted on stage with competitors during performance.
4. **Level:** Competitors are expected to be honest in representing their competitive level and abilities. We reserve the right to switch competitor categories depending on their presented skills based on the performance requirements.
5. **Photography/Videos:** No flash photography is permitted during the event.

3. Photography/Videography:

- Professional photographers will be available for hire at the event and video will be posted via YouTube after the event.
 - Timeline for receiving photos from the competition will be provided at the time of booking.
- Photos and videos are permitted by the crowd at the event as long as they do not impede judging, the performer or staff.

4. Ways to Compete

Individuals are able to compete in the DAC in-person or virtually. Virtual submission open on July 25, 2023 and are open through September 12, 2023. In-person and virtual competitors will compete in the same divisions and categories and will be judged alongside one another. Awards will not be separated based on how a competitor chose to compete in the DAC.

All virtual competitors agree to submit a one-take video of their performance they chose to submit to the competition. The DAC staff will be reviewing all videos to make sure that they were taken within the designated submission period, and were recorded specifically for the DAC.

In-person competitors will receive a goody bag and a 25% discount on all of the workshops held at the Dakota Aerial Championship. They also have a chance to win a "Rainbow Raccoon" award. These awards are not based on points, and can be won by a competitor in any division, apparatus or level. Award categories will be disclosed prior to the event.

5. Virtual Rules and Guidelines for Submission:

- All virtual submission should be recorded in one take. Our goal is to make the competition as fair as possible for all competitors. If we find that this video does not follow the rules below, this is grounds for disqualification.
- Virtual submissions can be submitted by individuals in any country.
- You must announce your routine on camera before the competitor performs. The competitor or spectator must introduce the performer using the following script: **"Presenting [Performer Name] on [Apparatus Name] Performing to the song [Song Name] on [Date]"**. This will allow us to identify the performer and confirm this entry was created specifically for the Dakota Aerial Championship. This must be done on camera, not as a voiceover. This ensures the video was created specifically for use in the DAC.
- Videos can be submitted via the Virtual Submission Form (<https://www.sdaerialarts.com/dakota-aerial-championship/virtual-entry>). The video should be uploaded to a public-facing video platform like Vimeo or YouTube, and the link should be recorded in the Virtual Submission Form.
- Once a virtual submission is submitted, you will not be able to resubmit your entry for that apparatus. If there are any issues with viewing the video, a member of the DAC team will reach out via email. Deductions may be recorded if the above rules for submission are not followed.
- As long as the routine follows the division and apparatus rules listed below, the apparatus set-up and height does not need to match the specific criteria of the in-person competitors. If you have a concern about your aerial set-up, please contact the DAC team at sdaerialarts@gmail.com.
- Awards will be mailed to the competitors post-competition. Feedback will be provided via email from sdaerialarts@gmail.com.

6. Divisions:

- Pre-Juniors (10 and under)
- Juniors (11-17)
- Adults (18+)

These divisions may be combined at the discretion of the Dakota Aerial Championship staff. Standard equipment will be provided for all divisions. All competitors are welcome to bring and perform on their own equipment as long as it is approved and deemed safe by the Dakota Aerial Championship staff

7. Apparatus:

- Silks
- Hammock
- Lyra
- Specialty
 - All doubles routines will be judged in the specialty division

8. Levels & Types

- Novice
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- All Star

Please choose the level that most closely matches your abilities, skills and aerial experience. Consult your coach if you are uncertain which level is best for you. All routines for each individual apparatus are solo routine.

All doubles routine will compete under the specialty category. If there are at least three competitors on a given apparatus in the specialty category, we will create a separate judging category for those individuals.

9. Music:

- Your full act (excluding get on and off the apparatus) must be executed in the time allotted. This includes any performance before or after your music plays. You are not required to use the full time allotted for your routine. All requirements must be executed within the time allotted.
- If your music exceeds the maximum length allotted for your division, your music will not be accepted or reserved.
- All music must be a clean/radio version. No profanity, derogatory language, explicit or suggestive content will be accepted, as this is a family-friendly event.
- All music must be submitted as an Mp3 or M4A format.
- **Maximum Time Allowance:**
 - **Novice:** 3:00
 - **Intermediate:** 3:30
 - **Advanced:** 4:00
 - **All Star:** 4:30
- Use the following naming convention when submitting your music:
 - Performer Name_Song Name_Apparatus_Division
- Email verification will be sent when your music has been received, confirmed that it works properly and is accepted.

10. Wardrobe & Props:

All wardrobe and props must be family-friendly. All costumes must be age appropriate. No stripping or removal of clothing with any sexual implied intent is permitted. Removal of clothing may be permitted if it is not sexual in nature or if it is supportive of the character/storyline in a family-friendly way.

- Appropriate undergarments are required. Tights and aerial socks are permitted.
- Hair can be worn down during performances, but deductions will be incurred if it gets stuck or disrupts a performance
- No zippers, necklaces, anklets or bracelets are permitted.

11. Grip Aids:

Approved grip aids are permitted for use during workshops and the competition. Below are some approved grip aids. Please request permission to sdaerialarts@gmail.com if you have other grip aids you would like approved prior to the competition.

- Natural Rosin Powder
- Firm Grip Spray/Powder
- Grip-IT Hand Spray
- Tuf-Skin Grip Spray
- Better Grip
- Mueller Grip Spray

12. Judging:

12.A: PROCESS

- There will be a minimum of three judges for each competitive performance. All competition and showcase pieces will receive feedback for their performance. All competition routines will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined below. Judges may evaluate performances both in-person and virtually.
- Judging is final. No discussion of judges' decisions will be permitted.

12.B: FEEDBACK

- Performance scores will be provided during the award ceremony. Formal feedback will be provided no later than 2-weeks (14 days) after the date of performance. Feedback will be provided in PDF format and the name of the judge that provided each piece of feedback will not be specified.
- Scores and results will be posted online after the event, but feedback will only be sent to individual performers
- The Dakota Aerial Championship team and judges will not respond to any specific questions, feedback or criticism received in any form.

12.C: JUDGING CRITERIA AND POINTS (50 POINT MAX PER JUDGE)

- **1). Difficulty (15 Points)**
 - Difficulty of Individual Moves (5)
 - Difficulty of Combinations (5)
 - Difficulty and Uniqueness of Transitions (5)
- **2). Technical (15 Points)**
 - Intentional and Clean Lines (5)
 - Controlled Toes (Pointed or Flexed) (5)
 - Control of Apparatus (5)
- **3). Composition & Artistry (20 Points)**
 - Floorwork flow (if applicable) and flow of transitions (5)
 - Routine musicality (5)
 - Stage presence (5)
 - Variety of movements and balance of performance (5)
- **Deductions (1 Point Per)**
 - Not meeting the criteria for a specific division
 - Inappropriate or unsafe use of rigging or touching rigging throughout the performance
 - Exceeding maximum performance time
 - Slips, locks or falls (depending on severity - judges may stop performance)
 - Non-approved props
 - Performing a restricted move

• **Ground For Disqualification**

- Plagiarism of choreography
- Use of explicit or inappropriate music
- Disrespectful language or actions towards or about judges, competitors, coaches, staff or, volunteers or schools
- Use of equipment in a virtual performance that is markedly different from the standards set out by this packet
- Intentional stripping

Please be mindful when putting your routines together and if you are uncertain about any of the deductions and disqualifications listed, please meet with your coach to discuss. If they continue to be uncertain, please reach out to sdaerialarts@gmail.com.

12.D: SCORE CALCULATIONS:

- Sum of all Judges Scores Divided by Total Number of Judges
- Final Score cannot surpass 50 points

13. *Division Rules:*

- Divisions will be combined if there is only one performer in your division. If you have any concerns about combining divisions, please reach out to sdaerialarts@gmail.com
- Instructors may not compete in any Novice division, even if the apparatus is new to you.
- If you compete in a level that is lower than your apparent ability or the skills you display, judges may move you to another division or may incur deductions accordingly.
- If you are impacted by injuries, illness, pregnancy, or other life events that reduce your skill level, you may be granted entry in a less advanced division. This request should be made in writing via email to sdaerialarts@gmail.com

EVENT FLOW AND INFORMATION:

Before the Event:

- All information is required to be sent according to specified deadlines
- The Dakota Aerial Championship staff will review all music files upon submission and confirm that it meets the division criteria and that the file plays properly.
- The competition performance schedule will be shared at least 1-week prior to the event.

Day of Event - Check-in:

- Please arrive early for stage testing based on the provided schedule. Stage testing will be available multiple times each performance day. If your stage testing is missed, no additional time will be permitted.
- Sign the performance waiver online prior to stage testing. This can be done at the venue or prior to entering the venue.
- If you are the guardian of a minor, you are responsible to check them in and sign all their waivers. A legal guardian is required to sign all forms for competitors under 18 years old.

Day of Event - Stage Testing:

- Stage testing will be a maximum of 2-minutes per performance. Please plan in advance. You will be asked to leave the apparatus once your stage testing time is completed.
- Your stage testing should include setting your height (if applicable) and familiarizing yourself with the feel of the apparatus and stage. You will not have enough time to go through your full routine.

Day of Event - Competition:

- Arrive at least one-hour prior to your scheduled performance time. Schedules may be running early if participants do not show to the event.
- If you miss your performance time, no additional time will be given
- Prior to performing, please check that the stage manager set your apparatus as discussed during stage testing. If it is not set properly, please let the stage manager know before starting your performance.
- If the wrong music plays during your routine or if there is a disruption in your performance due to a technical difficulty - you will be given the opportunity to stop the performance and re-do your routine or you can let the stage manager know of the mishap prior to performing.

Day of Event - Awards:

- Awards will be presented at the end of each performance day for in-person performances.
- All virtual awards will be presented during the Saturday evening awards ceremony.
- Awards will be streamed live on the South Dakota Aerial & Arts Facebook page ([HERE](#))
- For in-person performers: If you place and cannot stay for the awards ceremony - you must arrange someone who is staying to pick up your awards for you. If you do not arrange someone to pick up your award, the Dakota Aerial Championship staff can ship them at an additional cost.
- All virtual awards will be shipped within two-weeks of the live awards.

LEVEL CRITERIA AND RULES PER APPARATUS:

Hammock

- A hammock is provided by the competition.
- Outside hammocks are permitted if approved by the competition staff and rigging team.
- Hammocks are approximately 8-10 feet and are tied on a single rescue 8 into a sling.
- Hammock competitors may specify the height from the stage of the lowest point of the hammock either at stage testing or before the event via email
- If the height is not specified via email or at stage testing it will automatically set to approximately 60 inches from the ground
- Use of motors is not permitted

Silks

- Silks are provided by the competition
- Silks will be approximately 24 feet tall with a two foot foot tail. If you require a different tail length or height, please specify at stage testing. Note: silks cannot go above 24 feet based on the performance venue.
- Low-to-medium stretch Nylon tricot fabric, approx 108 inches wide
- Silks are tied to a stainless-steel rescue 8 and hung from a swingle swivel, attached to a single rig point
- Use of motors is not permitted. Use of pulleys to modify rig point height during performance are not permitted.

Lyra

- Lyras are provided by the competition
- A tabless 36" single point, wrapped lyra made out of 1" stainless steel will be provided on a 6-or-8 foot spanset
 - All other lyra sizes must be provided and approved by the competition rigging team.
 - No other lyras will be provided by the competition.
- Provide apparatus height via email prior to the event or at stage testing.
- If height is not specified, the apparatus will be set to 60 inches from the ground
- Use of motors is not permitted. Use of pulleys to modify rig point height during performance are not permitted.

Specialty

Specialty apparatuses include any apparatus that is not listed in the above categories and all doubles performances.

- Competitors must bring their own unique apparatus to use for specialty performances. If a doubles performance is selected for a specialty routine, the standard equipment list above can be used for the performance.
- Each apparatus is subject to safety and integrity testing by the Dakota Aerial Competition team.
- No refunds will be given due to faulty or un-riggable apparatuses
- Specialty performer **MUST** attend stage testing
- If a specialty division contains a minimum of 3 performers on the same apparatus, that apparatus will be listed as its own separate division

Hammock - Division Rules

Category	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	All Star
Performer Description	A Novice Hammock performer is considered beginner level in both skill and performing. Instructors may not perform at this level. Use of the full hammock length is not required. Performers should establish a character or storyline.	An Intermediate Hammock performer is one who is comfortable with a basic level of inversions and inverted moves. They do not need to show that they have any experience as a performer. Intermediate performers are expected to show level appropriate strength, flexibility, and dynamic movement and flow. Intermediate performers are expected to establish a clear character or storyline.	An Advanced Hammock performer is someone who has a firm grasp on a large piece of the aerial hammock skill vocabulary. These people may be teachers and may have experience as a performer. Advanced performers are expected to demonstrate dynamic movement, flow, strength, and flexibility appropriate for this level. Advanced performers are expected to present a well developed, clear character or storyline.	An All Star Hammock performer is someone who has a firm grasp on the breadth of the aerial hammock skill vocabulary. These people typically have experience as a performer and exhibit a professional level of showmanship. All Star performers are expected to demonstrate dynamic movement, flow, strength, and flexibility appropriate for this level. All Star performers are expected to present a well-developed, clear character or storyline.
Required Skills	-Floorwork must not surpass more than 30% of the routine -Performers may come down within their routine - Demonstrate proficiency in the bottom of the hammock	-Floorwork must not surpass more than 25% of the routine -Performers may come down within their routine -Demonstrate at least one drop -Demonstrate at least one aerial invert - Demonstrate proficiency in bottom of hammock and standing in hammock	-Floorwork must not surpass more than 20% of routine -Performers may come down within their routine -Demonstrate at least one drop -Demonstrate at least one aerial, straight leg invert - Demonstrate proficiency in bottom of hammock, standing in hammock and aerial in hammock - Spinning is required	-Floorwork must not surpass more than 15% of routine -Performers may come down within their routine -Demonstrate at least two drops - Multiple drops in a sequence permitted - Open drops permitted - Demonstrate a minimum of one straight arm, straight leg invert - Spinning is required
Music Length	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30
Notes	-No drops of any kind -No aerial inverts - No neck or ankle hangs	-No ankle hangs -No open wrap drops -No kamikaze drops	-No open wrap drops -No kamikaze drops	- No kamikaze drops

Silks - Division Rules

Category	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	All Star
Performer Description	A Novice Silks performer is considered at a beginner level in silks and performing. Instructors may not perform in the novice level. Use of the full lengths of silks is not required. Novice performers are expected to show level appropriate strength, flexibility, and dynamic movement and flow. Novice performers are encouraged to establish a character or storyline.	An Intermediate Silks performer is one who is comfortable with a basic level of inverted moves. They do not need to show they have performing experience. Intermediate performers are expected to show level appropriate strength, flexibility, and dynamic movement and flow. Intermediate performers are expected to establish a clear character or storyline.	An Advanced Silks performer is someone may be a teacher and may have experience as a performer. Advanced performers are expected to demonstrate dynamic movement, flow, strength, and flexibility appropriate for this level. Advanced performers are expected to present a well developed, clear character or storyline	An All Star Silks performer is someone who has experience as a performer and exhibit a professional level of showmanship. All Star performers are expected to demonstrate dynamic movement, flow, strength, and flexibility appropriate for this level. All Star performers are expected to present a well-developed character or storyline.
Required Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance must include at least one level-appropriate climb - Performance must include a footlock or a footlock variation - Demonstrate proficiency in the lower half of the height of the silks - Single, non-inverted drops are permitted, but not required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A drop is not required, but you are permitted up to 2 drops - Only single drops, wrapped double drops and slack drops permitted. - Demonstrate at least 1 aerial invert - Demonstrate more than 1 type of climb - Demonstrate at least 1 footlock skill - Demonstrate at least 1 non-footlock skill - Proficiency in the lower $\frac{2}{3}$ of the silks - May use the full length for the routine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -At least one drop required - Demonstrate a minimum of 1 straight leg aerial invert -Demonstrate at least 1 non-basic/inverted climb -Demonstrate proficiency in full length of silk -Demonstrate at least 1 non-footlock skill -Spinning is required at some point throughout the routine -Demonstrate balance or strength and flexibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -At least 2 drops required - Demonstrate a minimum of 1 straight arm, straight leg invert - Demonstrate at least 1 non-basic climb -Demonstrate proficiency in full length of silk -Demonstrate at least 1 non-footlock skill -Spinning is required -Demonstrate balance or strength and flexibility -Demonstrate a professional level of showmanship
Music Length	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Routine may not contain more than one drop -No aerial inverts permitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No open wrap drops -No single point neck hangs -No drops to wrist-locks permitted -No ankle drops -No Kamikaze drops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No open wrap drops -No single point neck hangs -No Kamikaze drops 	

Lyra - Division Rules

Category	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	All Star
Performer Description	A Novice Lyra performer is considered a beginner level lyra performer. Instructors may not perform at the novice level. Use of all parts and surfaces of the lyra is not required. Novice performers are expected to show level-appropriate strength, flexibility, dynamic movements and flow based on their level.	An Intermediate Lyra performer is comfortable with basic inversions, drops and skills. They do not need to have previous performance experience. Intermediate performers are expected to show level-appropriate strength, flexibility, dynamic movement and flow.	An Advanced Lyra performer has a firm grasp on many lyra skills and techniques. They may be instructors or have some experience performing. Advanced performers are expected to demonstrate dynamic movement, flow, strength, and flexibility appropriate for this level. Performers are expected to have a well-developed character.	An All Star Lyra performer has a firm grasp on the breadth of lyra skills and techniques. They may be instructors, seasoned performers and exhibit a professional level of showmanship. There are no move restrictions for this level. All star performers are expected to demonstrate dynamic movement, flow, strength, and flexibility appropriate to this level. All Star performers are expected to have a well-developed character.
Required Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must use bottom bar and show use on middle and side bars of the hoop - May come down and re-enter the apparatus as appropriate - Floorwork is recommended, but not required. - Floorwork must not exceed 25% of the routine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Proficiency in and under lyra - Demonstration of one drop is acceptable, but not required - Demonstrate at least one type of invert - Expected to demonstrate at least one move with only 2 points of contact - A spin is required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Proficiency on top, in and under lyra -Demonstrate a minimum of one drop -Demonstrate at least two types of inverts -Demonstrate at least one straight leg invert - Expected to demonstrate at least one move with only 2 points of contact - A spin is required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Demonstrate proficiency, control and balance in, under and on top of lyra -Demonstrate a minimum of one straight arm, straight leg invert -Demonstrate a minimum of 2 types of inverts -Demonstrate a minimum of two drops - A spin is required
Music Length	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No drops - No use of middle-to-upper spanset - No inverts on the top of the apparatus - No standing on top bar - No ankle, heel, foot, toe or heel hangs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No ankle, heel, foot, toe or heel hangs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No single point neck hangs 	

Thank you for reviewing the Dakota Aerial Championship Competitor Packet. Have any remaining questions? Email sdaerialarts@gmail.com.