



**bend the air**

CIRCUS EVOLVED

**THE ULTIMATE AERIAL,  
ACROBATICS & CIRCUS  
COMPETITION**

**2026**

**ACROBATICS &  
CIRCUS  
COMPETITION  
INFORMATION**



## 2026 COMPETITION KEY DATES

EVENT	VENUE	EVENT DATE	ENTRIES CLOSE
Sunshine Coast, <b>QLD</b>	Matthew Flinders, Buderim	<b>April 9 - 12</b>	March 8
Sydney, <b>NSW</b>	The Governors Centre, Moore Park	<b>TBC</b>	
Melbourne, <b>VIC</b>	NICA, Prahran	<b>July 2 - 5</b>	May 31
Perth, <b>WA</b>	All Saints' College Bull Creek	<b>July 8 - 11</b>	June 7
Adelaide, <b>SA</b>	The Parks Theatre, Angle Park	<b>TBC</b>	
Brisbane, <b>QLD</b>	The Draney Theatre, Ashgrove	<b>September 22-26</b>	August 16
Newcastle, <b>NSW</b>	The Factory, Adamstown	<b>October 8-11</b>	August 30
<b>NATIONAL FINALS</b> SUNSHINE COAST, QLD	Matthew Flinders, Buderim	<b>January 11 - 17 2027</b>	

## AGE CATEGORIES

ACROBATICS & CIRCUS		
<b>SOLO</b>	<b>DUO/TRIO</b>	<b>GROUPS</b>
8 Years & Under 10 Years & Under 12 Years & Under 15 Years & Under 16 Years & Over	8 Years & Under 10 Years & Under 12 Years & Under 15 Years & Under 16 Years & Over	8 Years & Under 10 Years & Under 12 Years & Under 15 Years & Under 16 Years & Over
OPEN SOLO		
<b>OPEN AGE</b>		
This section allows performers to submit a <b>second</b> acrobatics or circus routine. Competitors must have entered the age Acrobatics & Circus sections before entering a second routine into this category.		

Ages are taken from competitors' age as at January 01, 2026. Minimum age for acrobatics competitors is 4 years old. Age for duos, trios and groups is taken from the oldest competitor. Acro Groups - minimum of 4 performers.

## ENTRY FEES

CATEGORY	FEE	INCLUSIONS
<b>Competitor Registration</b> <i>(Paid once per competitor, per regional event)</i>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Competitor Pass</b> - (audience entry for all sessions at your regional event.)</li><li>● Digital Program</li><li>● Expert judges</li><li>● Judges audio critique &amp; score</li><li>● Professional stage lighting &amp; sound</li><li>● Trophies &amp; Prizes</li></ul>
<b>Acro &amp; Circus Solo Entry</b> <i>(Paid once per routine entry)</i>	<b>\$55.00</b>	
<b>Acro &amp; Circus Duo/Trio</b> <i>(Paid once per routine entry)</i>	<b>\$75.00</b>	
<b>Acro &amp; Circus Group Entry</b> <i>(Paid once per routine entry)</i>	<b>\$85.00</b>	

## ENTRY GUIDELINES

- Performers may enter up to one solo per category, per competition. Routines are to be performed once per competition. If a routine is repeated in the same competition, an automatic disqualification will apply to the second performance.
- Performers are permitted to compete in multiple regional events throughout the year if they wish. If they place at multiple events, a 'Wild Card' may be awarded to the next highest point scorer, to allow the top three highest scoring acts to qualify for the National Finals (this may be done either at the event, or in the 'Wild Card' round, presented online at the conclusion of regional events for the year).
- All entries fees are non refundable and non transferable. If you are no longer able to attend an event, it is a courtesy to inform event organisers by emailing [contact@bendtheair.com.au](mailto:contact@bendtheair.com.au)

## ENTRY PROCESS

There is no audition process for acrobatics & circus sections. All Bend The Air entries are submitted via the online portal. Use the following link and set up your account to commence the entry process. For a step by step on how to use the entry system, please see our website. <https://bendtheair.dancecompgenie.com/>

Your entry is not complete until you have submitted the following:

1. Entry Form
2. Paid Entry Fees (Registration Fee + Routine Fees)
3. Uploaded music file.

A **\$30 late submission fee** will apply if any of the above are not submitted by the due date for your entry. Entries past the closing date may be accepted (up to the discretion of event organisers) and will incur a **\$30 late submission fee**.

## PRIZES & NATIONAL FINALS

At our regional events, places are awarded for **1st, 2nd and 3rd place** in each section - all of which will also receive a 'Gold Pass' to qualify for the National Finals in January. Other awards include;

- **Wild Card:** Competitors who the judge would like to see at the National Finals, but may have not placed.

- **Emerging Talent:** Competitors who the judge would like to acknowledge for outstanding performance and potential (Emerging Talent award does not qualify for the National Finals)

## MUSIC

- Music is to be submitted online with your entry form by the routine entry due date.
- **Music files are to be renamed prior to submitting with the competitor name & category.** (e.g. "JANE SMITH - ACRO SOLO (10 Years & Under)")
- Music file is to be provided as an MP3 or WAV file only. Spotify, Youtube and Itunes links or screen recordings cannot not be accepted.
- Songs are to be acquired legally and not converted from YouTube videos etc. It is your responsibility to ensure music adheres to copyright laws.
- Songs are not to include any explicit language or profanity.
- All music must be cut to the length of your routine – our event staff are not able to fade the music at a requested time.
- Please have a **backup copy of your music on a USB** with you on the day, should there be any technical issues.

### LATE MUSIC SUBMISSION & CHANGES:

- Submission of your music after the deadline will incur a \$50 Music Change Fee.
- NO music changes will be accepted within 7 days of the competition.

## ROUTINE LENGTHS

Age Group	Minimum	Maximum
8 Years & Under 10 Years & Under	2 minutes	3 minutes
12 Years & Under 15 Years & Under	2 minutes	4 minutes
16 years & over	2 minutes	5 minutes

## COSTUMES & PROPS

- All costumes worn by competitors must be appropriate in regard to suitability for performance and meeting expected performance standards (e.g. no loose or ill-fitting and no nudity).
- Glitter, confetti, pyrotechnics, fire, explosives or any props that will require cleaning after a performance are **NOT** permitted.
- The performance area is restricted to the stage space (i.e. no running into the audience).
- Stage space is a standard stage floor - no acro mats are provided.
- A maximum of 30 seconds will be allocated per performer to set up any pre-approved props.

## JUDGING CRITERIA & SCORING

*Bend The Air's* judging system provides a score out of **100** for each competitor. This is based on the below general judging criteria categories and will be applied at the judges discretion where applicable to the routine or apparatus presented.

JUDGING CRITERIA		
<p><b>DIFFICULTY</b> Difficulty level of individual skills performed, appropriate to age, skill level and apparatus.</p>	<p><b>EXECUTION</b> Completion of skills with technical quality, including correct alignment and aesthetic technique.</p>	<p><b>STAGE PRESENCE</b> Using eye contact, facial expressions and body language to create entertainment value and audience engagement.</p>
<p><b>STRENGTH &amp; FLEXIBILITY</b> Demonstration of strength and flexibility through movements whilst maintaining active control.</p>	<p><b>CONTROL OF APPARATUS</b> Demonstration of knowledge and control of the apparatus, where one is used.</p>	<p><b>MUSICALITY</b> Timing and use of music in conjunction with choreography to deliver a dynamic routine.</p>
<p><b>ENDURANCE</b> Ability to complete routine maintaining stamina and safety.</p>	<p><b>COSTUME &amp; PROPS</b> Use of appropriate costumes and props to enhance the performance.</p>	<p><b>CHOREOGRAPHY &amp; STAGE USE</b> Creativity of choreography and the ability to integrate a series of skills into sequences. Well thought out use of stage space.</p>
<p>Please see other possible deductions in the following section.</p>		

## DEDUCTIONS

The following deductions may be taken from your score in line with the other guidelines set out within this competition kit. Other deductions that can be taken from your score include:

COSTUME, PROPS & MUSIC	
Use of <b>inappropriate costume</b> including intention partial or full nudity	<b>5 Points</b>
<b>Explicit language</b> in music	<b>2 Points</b>
<b>Routine length:</b> If routine is more than 10 seconds longer than the stated maximum routine length for your category.	<b>5 Points</b>
<b>Leaving the allocated performance space</b> (i.e. running into the audience etc.)	<b>5 Points</b>
<b>Use of restricted props</b> or those that require a clean up process	<b>5 Points</b>
<b>Prop set up/pack up time</b> longer than the allotted 30 seconds	<b>5 Points</b>

## CONTACT DETAILS

Should you have any questions or queries the event organisers can be contacted via the below:

**EMAIL:** [contact@bendtheair.com.au](mailto:contact@bendtheair.com.au)

**PHONE:** (07) 5493 4765

**WEBSITE:** [www.bendtheair.com.au/](http://www.bendtheair.com.au/)

**FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/bendtheair](https://www.facebook.com/bendtheair)

**Join the Competitor Facebook Group to stay up to date:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bendtheair>