



# bend the air

CIRCUS EVOLVED

**THE ULTIMATE  
AERIAL  
ACROBATICS  
& CIRCUS  
COMPETITION**



# BEND THE AIR

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*Bend The Air* (BTA) is the next evolution of the modern circus industry - presenting an annual, multi-level aerial, acrobatics and circus competition. BTA was developed to provide an opportunity for emerging artists to showcase their talent and to highlight their individuality, artistic expression and entertainment value.

Founded on the Sunshine Coast in 2020, *Bend The Air* endeavours to create a nationwide competition that invites the circus community to come together to share their diverse backgrounds and skillsets and thrive in an environment of like-minded artists. BTA attracts performers of all skill levels from amateur to pre-professionals. We pride ourselves on creating an uplifting and supportive atmosphere at our competitions that keeps competitors coming back from year to year.

*Bend The Air* provides categories on skill level and/or age group. Full information, routine criteria and entry processes for each of our sections can be found in the competition kits that are available for download on our website.



## FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

### Darren Smith

Darren is the man behind the concept of *Bend The Air*. Darren's career highlights include performing in Cirque du Soleil's blockbuster 'KA' at the MGM Grand Casino in Las Vegas, dancing in the musical 'Cats' in nine different countries and working on the original production of 'Miss Saigon' in Holland. With an extensive background in dance, sports acrobatics and circus, Darren was inspired to develop a stage for budding performers to showcase their talents and progress in their circus careers. Along with the rest of the *Bend The Air* team, they share a wealth of knowledge that has led to the development of what we call 'the ultimate aerial, acrobatics & circus competition'.



## BEND THE AIR NATIONAL EVENT



Bend The Air hosts regional events across the country which culminate in the National Final, held on the Sunshine Coast. Performers who place top 3 in their category or receive a Wild Card award qualify to compete for the title of National Champion at the finals event.

# COMPETITION CATEGORIES

## Lyra

### Juniors - 7 - 9 Years

Juniors

### Minis - 12 Years & Under

Intermediate  
Advanced  
MiniStars

### Teen - 13 - 17 Years

Intermediate  
Advanced  
All Stars

### Adult - 18 Years +

Amateur  
Advanced  
Elite

## Silks

### Juniors - 7 - 9 Years

Juniors

### Minis - 12 Years & Under

Intermediate  
Advanced  
MiniStars

### Teen - 13 - 17 Years

Intermediate  
Advanced  
All Stars

### Adult - 18 Years +

Amateur  
Advanced  
Elite

## Open Apparatus

These sections allow performers to explore new and exciting aerial apparatus including; cube, rope, hammock, moons and more!

### Minis - 12 Years & Under

Open Apparatus Solo  
Open Apparatus Duo

### Teen - 13 - 17 Years

Open Apparatus Solo  
Open Apparatus Duo  
Open Performance Solo

### Adult - 18 Years +

Open Apparatus Solo  
Open Apparatus Duo  
Open Performance Solo

### Masters - 30 Years +

Open Apparatus Solo

## Acrobatics & Circus

This includes all floor based routines and apparatus including acrodance, contortion, juggling, cyr wheel, just to name a few!

### Solo

8 Years & Under  
10 Years & Under  
12 Years & Under  
15 Years & Under  
16 Years & Over

### Duo / Trio

8 Years & Under  
10 Years & Under  
12 Years & Under  
15 Years & Under  
16 Years & Over

### Group

8 Years & Under  
10 Years & Under  
12 Years & Under  
15 Years & Under  
16 Years & Over

For more information on section requirements,  
view our competition kits via our website.



# 2025 COMPETITION DATES

## SUNSHINE COAST, QLD

**April 9 - 12 | Flinders Performance Centre, Buderim**

Entries Close: March 9

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## MELBOURNE, VIC

**July 11 - 13 | National Institute of Circus Arts, Prahan**

Entries Close: June 1

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## PERTH, WA

**July 17 - 19 | All Saints' College, Bull Creek**

Entries Close: June 8

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## ADELAIDE, SA

**August 2 - 3 | The Parks Theatre, Angle Park**

Entries Close: June 22

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## BRISBANE, QLD

**September 24 - 28 | The Draney Theatre, Ashgrove**

Entries Close: August 17

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## NEWCASTLE, NSW

**October 9 - 12 | The Factory Theatre, Adamstown**

Entries Close: August 31

# National Finals

**January 13 - 18, 2026 | Sunshine Coast, QLD**

Place 1st, 2nd or 3rd or receive a 'Wild Card' award at any regional event to qualify for the National Final!

# ENTRY PROCESS

The entry process for Bend The Air depends on which section you are entering. Entry for acrobatics & circus routines is a direct entry process and can be completed by filling out the entry form, paying the registration and routine fee and uploading your music file online. Our Aerial categories undergo a two-phase entry process which involves a video audition. This process is to ensure safety and correct categorisation of routines.

## Aerial Routine Entry Process



### Step 1: Video Audition

- Film your routine in studio, or submit a previous performance piece.
- Pay the competitor registration fee & submit your form & video online
- Receive results via email within 7 days. If successful, complete step 2.

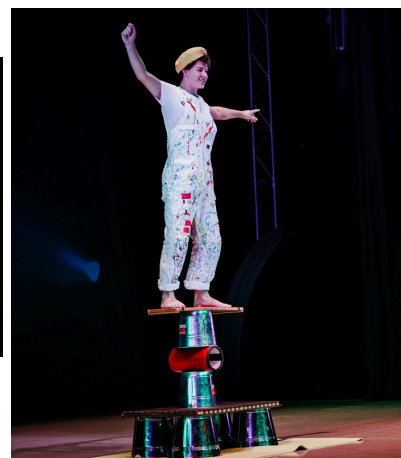


### Step 2: Enter Routine

- Complete the online form, which gives us specific info about your routine including apparatus use.
- Pay routine entry fees
- Upload music file

## 2025 Regional Competition Fees

CATEGORY	FEE	INCLUSIONS
<b>Competitor Registration</b> (Paid once per regional event)	\$45.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video audition review for aerial</li> <li>• Access to competition entries if successful</li> <li>• <b>Competitor Pass</b> (audience entry for all sessions)</li> <li>• Digital Program</li> <li>• Rigging &amp; Tech check for aerial</li> <li>• Qualified rigger for aerial</li> <li>• Expert interstage judges</li> <li>• Judge audio critique &amp; score</li> <li>• Professional stag lighting &amp; sound</li> <li>• Trophies &amp; Prizes</li> </ul>
<b>Aerial Solo Entry</b>	\$89.00	
<b>Aerial Duo Entry</b>	\$99.00	
<b>Acro &amp; Circus Solo Entry</b>	\$50.00	
<b>Acro &amp; Circus Duo/Trio Entry</b>	\$60.00	
<b>Acro &amp; Circus Group Entry</b>	\$75.00	



# RIGGING & SAFETY

At Bend The Air, safety is paramount in everything we do. From meticulous gear inspections to comprehensive safety protocols, we strive to uphold the highest of safety standards. We prioritize the well-being of our competitors and staff to ensure a secure and supportive environment for all.



## PROFESSIONAL RIGGER

A qualified rigger is present throughout all aerial sessions to oversee every aspect of the rigging process, ensuring adherence to industry standards and safety protocols, providing confidence to all participants.



## CUSTOM SAFETY MAT

Our custom-designed, round safety mat and carpeted 6x6m acromat flooring are used for all aerial sections. These mats have been specifically designed to cushion landings and minimise the risk of injury during aerial performances.



## CERTIFIED EQUIPMENT

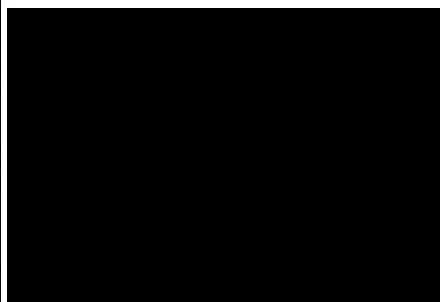
All equipment used at Bend The Air competitions must be certified for aerial use. All in house apparatus are purchased from reputable suppliers with certification documentation. All BYO gear must come with certification and will undergo an inspection prior to being rigged for the competition.



## EXPERIENCED TEAM

With years of combined experience in aerial, acrobatic, dance, and circus performance, our team brings a deep understanding of event management, safety coordination, rigging, and more to ensure the utmost quality and safety standards at every Bend The Air competition.

To learn more about the safety and rigging standards at Bend The Air, download the PDF here.





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