

COMPETITOR INFORMATION

NATIONAL FINALS
JANUARY 13 - 18, 2026

EVENT DETAILS

DATES	Tuesday, January 13 - Sunday, January 18, 2026
LOCATION	Flinders Performance Centre (Located in Matthew Flinders Anglican College) 1/46 Stringybark Road, Buderim, QLD
PARKING	Free parking is available in the main carpark of the college (accessed off Stringybark Road) for direct access to the theatre. Additional parking is available in the primary car park. See the college map for further details.
FOOD/DRINK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The onsite cafe will be open during the day for coffee, cold drinks and food. The Bar will be open in the evenings. Other major services such as supermarkets & takeaway options are available a short drive from the venue in Sippy Downs.

EVENT PROCEDURE

- The venue will open 30 minutes prior to aerial competitor briefings and 1 hour prior to the start of the acrobatics session. You will not be able to access the building before these times.
- All **Aerial Competitors** should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to their Rig Check Briefing allocated time. There is no set briefing time for **Acro/Circus Performers** - You do not need to be at the venue for the show start if you choose, you are welcome to arrive anytime, but it is your responsibility to ensure you arrive in time for your performance.
- Upon arrival at the venue, please check in with BTA staff at the competitor check in desk to collect your competitor pack, including your competitor pass (one pack per competitor).
- You must then also check in at the start of each session in which you are performing in to have your name ticked off.
- All apparatuses will be checked in during the Rig Check, if you are using a BYO apparatus, please collect a apparatus tag from the competitor check in desk to label your gear.
- After your Rig Check has finished, you are welcome to leave the venue.
- All competitors will receive an 'All Session' audience ticket as part of your registration fee. You are welcome to watch from the audience during the competition where seats are available (preference will be given to paying ticket holders). (Note: competitor passes do not cover The Gala Show - tickets are required to be purchased)
- You must be side stage at least 3 acts prior to your own.
- Your music file has been downloaded from the online system. Please have your music on a USB with you on the day as a backup, should there be any technical issues.

AWARDS

- Awards presentations will be held at the end of each session.
- All competitors will be brought back on stage for the awards presentations.
- Please ensure you are back in the competitor dressing room during the judge's break to be ready to go back on stage.

EVENT TIMING**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13**

SESSION 1		SESSION 2	
Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	7:45am	Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	3:30pm
Competition Start	10:15am	Competition Start	6:00pm
Awards	2:15pm	Awards	9:30pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

SESSION 3		SESSION 4	
Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	7:45am	Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	4:15pm
Competition Start	10:45am	Competition Start	6:45pm
Awards	3:00pm	Awards	10:15pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

SESSION 5		SESSION 6	
Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	7:45am	Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	2:45pm
Competition Start	10:30am	Competition Start	5:30pm
Awards	1:30pm	Awards	9:45pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

SESSION 7		SESSION 8	
Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	7:45am	Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	3:00pm
Competition Start	10:15am	Competition Start	5:30pm
Awards	1:45pm	Awards	9:30pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

SESSION 9		SESSION 10	
Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	7:45am		
Competition Start	10:30am	Competition Start	5:30pm
Awards	3:30pm	Awards	8:15pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

SESSION 11		GALA SHOW	
		Rehearsal (All Performers)	11:00am - 12:15pm
Competition Start	8:30am	Show Start	1:30pm
Awards	10:00am	Awards	5:30pm

GALA SHOW

The National Champion from each section is invited to perform at the Bend The Air Gala Show. This will be held on Sunday, January 18 at 1:30pm. If you are invited to perform at the gala you must confirm your place with BTA staff within 2 hours of receiving your award. You will be required to attend a rehearsal from 11:00am - 12:15pm on Sunday, January 18 and then perform your winning act during the show. Gala Tickets are now on sale! Book your tickets online:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/gala-bend-the-air-national-finals-2025-tickets-1978200999441>

SPECTATOR TICKETS

Tickets are now on sale for all sessions! All competitors can watch from the audience using their Competitor Pass. This is to only be used by the performing competitor and not shared with anyone else. Spectator tickets can be purchased using the below link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/bend-the-air-national-finals-2025-4801250>

There will also be an online livestream of the event. Details on how to purchase livestream tickets will be released closer to the event. Please note that 'All Session' Tickets & Competitor Passes do not cover entry to the Gala Show.

RIG CHECK PROCEDURE

Rig checks will follow the same procedure as used in the 2025 regional events. The purpose of our rig checks is to ensure that we have the correct set height/rigging requirements for your apparatus, and to allow you an opportunity to test the rigging set up.

- **There will be no full routine run throughs. In house apparatus' (Silks, Lyra) will be used for rigging checks - BYO Apparatus' will not be rigged (with the exception of specialty open apparatus')**
- Competitors who are using their own apparatus' will have them inspected by the head rigger and then they will be stored for the show.
- Technical staff will check your music file, your start position, costume colour, your start position for music cues and any prop or rigging requirements.
- **Height/Rig Checks:**
 - **SILKS:** Using the **in house silk** you will have approximately 1 minute to test the rig.
 - **LYRA:** Using the **in house lyra** you will check/set your height with the rigger and then have approximately 1 minute to test the rig.
 - **OPEN APPARATUS:** If you are performing on a silk, lyra or hammock - the in house apparatus will be used to check your height with the rigger. You will then have approximately 1 minute to test the rig. Other specialty apparatus' will be rigged for your height check.

We suggest performing your major skills/drops during your rig check to best utilise your time to check your rigging requirements.

RIGGING & STAGING

STAGE

- The entry/exit for all solo and duo categories will be from stage Left.
- Acrobatics sections will use the full (hard floor) stage - approximately 12m wide x 11m deep.
- Aerial Sections: the Alta Rig will be on the stage - the leg span of the rig is 6m x 6m. This area will be covered with the carpeted grey mat flooring, with the round crashmat in the centre (approx 2.5m diameter). All aerial competitors are required to use the safety mat, and it cannot be moved during your performance. Although there are no deductions for going outside of this 6 x 6 m area, the lighting is best set in this space, so we recommend keeping to this area where possible.

RIGGING

- The Alta Rig will be used for the rigging for all aerial performances.
- The overall height of the Alta Rig is 7m. Once you have taken into account the rigging and hardware plus matting below the actual available space is approximately 6.2m in total from floor to top connection point.
- There will be a dyneema rope system on the rig, which will mean there is little to no bounce in the system.
- A swivel & carabiner will be provided.
- Please see the BTA Riggings standards document attached to your email for further information on rigging.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY



Artistry Photography is our official photographer! All photos will be sent out in a private gallery - use the link below to register to receive your gallery link and view your routine photos.

<https://tinyurl.com/42x3khxm>



Mat from LimeLight Multimedia is filming all of your routines. Mat produces amazing high-quality videos from multiple camera angles. Videos will be available to purchase online - sale will go live closer to the event date.

<https://tinyurl.com/2arutbka>

AWARDS

During the awards presentation at the end of each session the following awards will be presented for each category:

- 1st Place - National Champion
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place
- Judge's Choice Award

During the awards presentation at the end of the Gala Show the following awards will be presented:

- Highest Scoring Aerial Act - MINIS - 12 Years & Under
- Highest Scoring Aerial Act - TEEN - 13 - 17 Years
- Highest Scoring Aerial Act - ADULT - 18 Years +
- Highest Scoring Acrobatics & Circus Solo or Duo/Trio Act (ALL AGES)
- Artistry Photography's Award
- Studio Spirit Award

JUDGES

NATIONAL FINALS JUDGE



bend the air
CIRCUS EVOLVED



Matthew James Brown

Mathew James Brown is an artist from Melbourne, Australia. His career spans more than 20 years within the entertainment industry. Performing for such respected companies as: Cirque Eloize, Circa Contemporary Circus, Circus Oz, Cavalia and Franco Dragone Entertainment Group - where for 3 years, Mat performed an Aerial Straps/House Troupe roll in Macau, China - for 'The House Of Dancing Water' currently among the largest aquatic shows in the world.

With a background in competitive gymnastics, music and a bachelor of circus arts from the National Institute Of Circus Arts, Mat has spent the better part of a two decades developing his solo and group ensemble work. This includes but not limited to basing, middling, flying, trampoline, hand to hand, pitching, toss, passing club juggle, hoop diving, skipping, teeterboard, russian swing, ground acrobatics, chinese pole, electric and acoustic guitars, flying trapeze plus continually developing his own movement qualities and refining his chosen solo disciplines of 7 ball juggle, hand balancing, chinese pole and aerial straps.

Mat has built a strong reputation within the entertainment industry and continues to be recognised as a skilled and respected performer. However, he measures success not by personal milestones, but by the opportunity to collaborate with world-class athletes and performers at the highest level.

NATIONAL FINALS JUDGE



bend the air
CIRCUS EVOLVED



Meaghan Wegg

Meaghan is a versatile circus artist and coach with a passion for choreography. She honed her skills in aerial hoop and contortion performance at the select-entry Ecole Nationale de Cirque (ENC) in Montreal, graduating both from their high school program and subsequently their college diploma in 2005. Meaghan then embarked on a successful career as a principal dancer and circus artist, performing worldwide in various productions including Cirque du Soleil's 'Quidam' as an aerial hoop artist and acrobatic dancer.

Transitioning to coaching and choreography, she returned to ENC and obtained a coaching diploma in 2013, specializing in acrobatic research and hand to hand transitions. Meaghan now works as a private coach and choreographer, attracting students globally. She also created and now manages "Aerial Arts" globally, a division of Acrobatic Arts focused on safe teaching of Aerial Hoop and Silks. She founded "The Academy", a leading circus training facility in South-Western Ontario, with locations in London and Clinton. With a wealth of experience, Meaghan has choreographed shows and worked on projects internationally, including Elekron in Macau, and the Ambani wedding in India. Meaghan created the Weggsphere, a visually appealing ground-based apparatus inspired by the aerial hoop. This meticulously crafted design combines functionality and aesthetics seamlessly. Based in London, Ontario Canada, she now enjoys a settled life with her small family and is dedicated to welcoming aspiring performers into the industry, sharing invaluable tips and tools to help make their dreams a reality.

OPEN TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

There are a number of studios on the Sunshine Coast with Open Training sessions available during the National Finals Event.

AERIAL ENERGY	
LOCATION	4/19 Allen St, Moffat Beach 4551
DATES & TIMES	Monday – Thursday, Jan 5 – 22 4:35pm - 5:35pm
SESSION COST	\$15
HOW TO BOOK	Spaces are limited - pre-booking is essential. https://aerialenergy.punchpass.com/calendar?date=2026-01-20
EQUIPMENT	If you wish to use your own equipment for the session, you must email admin@aerialenergy.com.au with certification prior to the session.

PHYSIPOLE STUDIOS	
LOCATION	PHYSIPOLE SUNSHINE COAST - 4/71 Wises Road, Maroochydore PHYSIPOLE NOOSA - 2/10 Venture Drive, Noosaville
DATES & TIMES	Check Groovio app for session times and availability.
SESSION COST	\$20 per hour. Email sunshinecoast@physipolestudios.com.au for discounted package pricing.
HOW TO BOOK	Via our Groovio app and connect to the studio location. Through the “Book Now” button
EQUIPMENT	In house gear available for use.