



bend the air

National Finals

COMPETITION INFORMATION

2026



BEND THE AIR

National Finals

Welcome to the Bend The Air National Finals! The ultimate celebration of excellence in aerial, acrobatics, and circus performance. After an incredible year of thrilling regional competitions across Australia, the nation's top aerialists, acrobats, and circus performers are set to light up the stage on the Sunshine Coast. This event marks the culmination of months of dedication, hard work, and fierce competition, where only the best have risen to the top.

Over the course of the 7 day event, we will witness breathtaking routines that push the boundaries of what's possible. From gravity-defying aerial acts to powerful acrobatic displays and mesmerizing circus performances, each competitor will bring their unique artistry and passion to the stage. Get ready for an electrifying showcase of unparalleled talent, boundless creativity, and unstoppable determination, as these elite performers give it their all in pursuit of the title of National Champion. This is more than just a competition—it's the grand finale of a year-long journey, and you won't want to miss a single moment!

EVENT DETAILS



Monday, January 11 -
Sunday, January 17 2027



Matthew Flinders Anglican College
Stringybark Road, Buderim 4556



REGISTRATION & ENTRY

How to enter your routine:

Complete the online entry form & pay your registration & entry fee to secure your place in the National Final before the closing date.

Note: Late fees will apply after these dates or your entry may not be accepted.

ENTRY CLOSING DATE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

MUSIC UPLOAD DEADLINE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Follow these steps to complete your finals entry:

1. Login to Dance Comp Genie
2. Click "Add New Registration"
3. Select "National Finals" event - enter password **BTANF26**
4. Complete entry form
5. Continue to checkout to pay your registration + entry fee
6. Click "Upload Music" on the registration on the dashboard and attach your music file. - If your music isn't ready yet you have until November 29 to complete this step.



ENTRY FEES

Below is the fees for entering the Bend The Air National Finals for the 2026 competition season. Competitor Registration is paid once per competitor. Entry fees are paid per routine.

COMPETITOR REGISTRATION FEE	
Competitor Registration (Paid once per competitor)	\$95.00
ENTRY FEE - PER ROUTINE	
Aerial Solo Routine Entry	\$149.00
Aerial Duo Routine Entry	\$179.00
Acrobatics & Circus Solo Routine Entry	\$79.00
Acrobatics & Circus Duo/Trio Routine Entry	\$99.00
Acrobatics & Circus Group Routine Entry	\$119.00

What's included in your fees?

- Competitor Pass - audience entry to all sessions (excluding gala)
- Competitor Pack - exclusive competitor gift, discounts & offers
- National Finalist Medal
- Expert judging panel
- Audio critique & score
- Professional rigger for all aerial categories
- High quality stage lighting & sound
- Digital program
- Trophies & Prizes



SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

The following information will show you which DAY each section will be performing. Further detail on session times and running order will be confirmed closer to the event.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

SILKS SOLO - JUNIORS - Aerial Minis (7 - 9 Yrs)
SILKS SOLO - INTERMEDIATE - Aerial Minis (12 Yrs & U)

SILKS SOLO - INTERMEDIATE - Aerial Teen (15 - 17 Yrs)
OPEN APPARATUS PERFORMANCE SOLO - (17 Yrs & U)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

LYRA SOLO - JUNIORS - Aerial Minis (7 - 9 Yrs)
LYRA SOLO - INTERMEDIATE - Aerial Minis (12 Yrs & U)

LYRA SOLO - INTERMEDIATE - Aerial Teen (15 - 17 Yrs)
OPEN APPARATUS DUO - Aerial Teen (13 - 17 Yrs)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

SILK SOLO - TWEENS - Aerial Teen (13 - 14 Yrs)
OPEN APPARATUS SOLO - Aerial Minis (12 Yrs & U)

LYRA SOLO - AMATEUR - Aerial Adult (18 Yrs +)
OPEN APPARATUS SOLO - Aerial Teen (13 - 17 Yrs)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

LYRA SOLO - TWEENS - Aerial Teen (13 - 14 Yrs)
OPEN APPARATUS DUO - Aerial Minis (12 Yrs & U)

SILK SOLO - AMATEUR - Aerial Adult (18 Yrs+)
OPEN APPARATUS SOLO - MASTERS - Aerial Adult (30 Yrs +)
OPEN APPARATUS PERFORMANCE SOLO - (18 Yrs +)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

SILKS SOLO - ADVANCED - Aerial Minis (12 Yrs & U)
SILKS SOLO - MINISTARS - Aerial Minis (12 Yrs & U)
SILKS SOLO - ADVANCED - Aerial Teens (13 - 17 Yrs)

SILKS SOLO - ALL STARS - Aerial Teens (13 - 17 Yrs)
SILKS SOLO - ADVANCED - Aerial Adults (18 Yrs+)
SILKS SOLO - ELITE - Aerial Adults (18 Yrs+)
OPEN APPARATUS SOLO - Aerial Adult (18 Yrs+)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

LYRA SOLO - ADVANCED - Aerial Minis (12 Yrs & U)
LYRA SOLO - MINISTARS - Aerial Minis (12 Yrs & U)
LYRA SOLO - ADVANCED - Aerial Teens (13 - 17 Yrs)

LYRA SOLO - ALL STARS - Aerial Teens (13 - 17 Yrs)
LYRA SOLO - ADVANCED - Aerial Adults (18 Yrs+)
LYRA SOLO - ELITE - Aerial Adults (18 Yrs+)
OPEN APPARATUS DUO - Aerial Adult (18 Yrs+)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

ACROBATICS & CIRCUS SOLO - All Ages
ACROBATICS & CIRCUS DUO/TRIO - All Ages

ACROBATICS & CIRCUS GROUP - All Ages

The Gala Show - Sunday, January 17

The National Champion from each section is invited to perform at The Gala Show. Experience the pinnacle of talent as the best aerialists, acrobats, and circus performers from around the country take the stage in one epic show! Performers will also be required to attend a rehearsal at approximately 12:00pm prior to the show. Times will be confirmed closer to the event.



Sunday, January 17



Matthew Flinders, Buderim



3:00pm (TBC)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR THE NATIONAL FINALS?

To qualify for the National Finals you must compete in one of the Bend The Air regional competitions throughout the year and place 1st, 2nd or 3rd in your section or receive a 'wild card' entry.

CAN I QUALIFY FOR MORE THAN 1 SECTION?

Yes, you can qualify for up to **one** routine per category (i.e. Silks, Lyra, Open Apparatus Solo, Open Apparatus Performance Solo, Open Apparatus Duo, Acrobatics & Circus Solo, Acrobatics & Circus Duo/Trio.). Studios entering Acrobatic & Circus Groups can qualify more than one group per age category (e.g. you can qualify 2 x 12 & under Acrobatic & Circus groups).

If you happen to qualify for multiple skill levels for the same apparatus throughout the year (e.g. Intermediate Lyra and Advanced Lyra) you can only compete in the highest qualified level at the National Final. If you happen to qualify for multiple age categories (e.g. Open Apparatus 18 + and Open Apparatus Masters, you can only complete in one section.

CAN I COMPETE/QUALIFY AT MORE THAN ONE REGIONAL EVENT?

Yes, you can compete at more than one regional event throughout the year for an opportunity to qualify for the National Final. You can only enter 1 routine per section at the Finals even if you have qualified more than once. If you have already qualified for a section and you place again at another regional event, the qualifying position will be offered to the next highest score in the section via Wild Card selection.

CAN I ENTER MORE SECTIONS THAN I QUALIFIED FOR?

No, you can only enter 1 routine per section that you have qualified for.

DO I HAVE TO SUBMIT AN AUDITION VIDEO FOR THE NATIONAL FINALS?

No, as you have already been assessed by the review panel and deemed safe for performing at competition level, you do not need to resubmit an audition video. It is your responsibility to ensure that your routine adheres to the category requirements and restrictions to avoid deductions or disqualification.

DO I HAVE TO PERFORM THE SAME ROUTINE FOR THE NATIONAL FINALS?

Your routine does not need to be the same as the routine (or music) that you performed at the regional event (however, it can be the same if you choose). If making changes to your routine, please make sure that you still adhere to the routine requirements and restrictions for your section to avoid deductions. If you have qualified for an open apparatus division, your apparatus must be the same as the one you used at the regional event.

IS THE ROUTINE CRITERIA THE SAME FOR THE NATIONAL FINALS?

Yes, the routine criteria set in the competition kits for the regional events will remain the same for the National Finals. Be sure you consider the routine requirements and restrictions to avoid deductions.

WHAT IF MY AGE CHANGES BEFORE THE NATIONAL FINALS?

All ages are taken from January 1, 2026. You will still compete in the age category you qualified for, even if your age changes before the finals.

WHAT HEIGHT WILL THE AERIAL RIG BE?

Rigging will be using the Alta Rig at the National Finals. This has a set height of 7m which allows for approximately 6.5m of aerial working space, once you take into consideration the mat and rigging hardware.

WHAT SIZE WILL THE STAGE BE?

For Aerial sections the stage will be the 6 x 6m grey mat flooring underneath the footprint of the Alta Rig. Acrobatics & Circus sections will have the use of the full stage area (approximately 12m x 11m).

WILL THERE BE A WARM UP RIG?

There will not be a warm up rig available on site at the theatre venue. There may be some local studios who are running open training sessions inviting BTA competitors.

DO I NEED TO PROVIDE MY OWN APPARATUS?

As per the regional events, you will have the option to BYO apparatus or use the in-house apparatus'. We have available - SILKS (White, Red), LYRA (75cm Hollow, 85cm Hollow, 90cm Hollow, 90cm Solid), HAMMOCK (3m Navy).

HOW MANY DAYS AM I REQUIRED TO BE AT THE EVENT?

The draft schedule shows you which day each section will be on. You are only required to be onsite the days you are performing. There will be a rig check prior to the session start for all aerial sections (same process as regional events). All National Champions are invited to perform at the Gala event which is on Sunday, accepting your performance in this show is optional.

WILL THERE BE WORKSHOPS AND OTHER EVENTS AS PART OF THE FINALS?

We're currently working on a range of additional opportunities and activities for competitors to enjoy as part of the National Finals experience. More information will be released once details are confirmed, so keep an eye out for updates closer to the event.

DO I NEED TO BUY A TICKET?

Spectator tickets will go on sale closer to the event. All competitors will receive a competitor pass to allow you to watch from the audience (where seats are available) for the entire competition (excluding the Gala event). There will also be a live stream with tickets available to purchase.

WILL MY ROUTINE BE FILMED & PHOTOGRAPHED?

Limelight Multimedia will be filming all routines to produce high quality, professional videos from multiple camera angles. Artistry Photography will be taking photographs of all routines. Both your photos & videos will be available to purchase. More details on pricing and how to purchase will be sent closer to the event.

WILL THERE BE FINALS MERCHANDISE?

We will have exclusive finals merchandise available for purchase for pre-order and limited stock available to purchase at the event. More information on the design and how to pre-order will be released soon.



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