Fifty First Annual

British National Dance Championships

19th to 22nd November 2026

Presented by Blackpool Tourism Limited

On behalf of Blackpool Council

Syllabus for Couples, Formation and Solo –

Championships/ Competitions

Festival Organiser: Natalie Hayes
Winter Gardens
Church Street
Blackpool
FY1 1HU
www.blackpooldancefestival.com

CHAMPIONSHIPS & COMPETITIONS

Thursday 19th November

A – NORTH OF ENGLAND AMATEUR BALLROOM CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateur couples who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are 16 years of age or over, who must qualify by birth or residence (12 months immediately prior to the championship) for the area covered by the Championship which comprises the Counties of; Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham, Cleveland, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Cheshire, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Humberside, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Staffordshire, Shropshire, West Midlands and Isle of Man. Please indicate town on entry.
Judging will be based on all round efficiency in the WALTZ, FOXTROT, VIENNESE WALTZ, TANGO and QUICKSTEP (Competitors will be required to dance the Viennese Waltz in the semi-final and final only)
1st Grand Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months, cash prizes to the value of £765.00

A1 – BRITISH NATIONAL SENIOR (OVER 35'S) BALLROOM CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateur couples who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are both over 35 years of age. Judging will be based on all round efficiency in the WALTZ, FOXTROT, VIENNESE WALTZ, TANGO and QUICKSTEP (Competitors will be required to dance the Viennese Waltz in the semi-final and final only)
1st Grand Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months, cash prizes to the value of £765.00
Exemptions – granted to couples who reached the semi-final in the 2025 British National Senior Over 35's Ballroom Championship and will be exempt from the 1st round of 2026 Championship.

A2 – BRITISH NATIONAL AMATEUR UNDER 21 YEARS LATIN CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateur couples who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules on Thursday, 19th November. Judging will be based on all round efficiency in CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA, PASO DOBLE and JIVE. (Competitors will be required to dance Jive in the semi-final and final only)
1st Grand Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months, cash prizes to the value of £725.00

A3 – BRITISH NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL LATIN SHOWDANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

please see the Blackpool Dance Festival website for Showdance rules.
1st Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months, cash prizes will be awarded to all finalists.

A4 – BRITISH NATIONAL OVER 50'S LATIN CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateur couples who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are both over 50 years of age. Judging will be based on all round efficiency in the CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA, PASO DOBLE and JIVE. (Competitors will be required to dance Jive in the semi-final and final only
1st Grand Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months, cash prizes to the value of £765.00

A5 – BRITISH NATIONAL LATIN FORMATION DANCING CHAMPIONSHIP (6 to 8 Couple)(Closed)

Open to teams of amateurs, entered and trained by a professional teacher who is a member of a recognised Association. The number of couples comprising the team must be 6 to 8. The dances must be selected from and confined to the accepted latin dances. Please refer to the Blackpool Dance Festival Formation rules.
1st Grand Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months, cash prizes will be awarded to the winning teacher and teams in the final.

A6 – BRITISH NATIONAL SENIOR (OVER 35'S) LATIN FORMATION DANCING CHAMPIONSHIP (6 to 8 Couple) (Closed)

Open to teams of amateurs, and all dancers are over 35 years of age, entered and trained by a professional teacher who is a member of a recognised Association. The number of couples comprising the team must be 6 to 8. The dances must be selected from and confined to the accepted latin dances. Please refer to the Blackpool Dance Festival Formation rules.

1st Grand Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months, cash prizes will be awarded to the winning teacher and teams in the final.

Friday, 20th November 2026

B – BRITISH NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL LATIN CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all professional couples who are professionals under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are 16 years of age and over. Judging will be based on all round efficiency in the CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA, PASO DOBLE and JIVE. All entrants will be required to dance all five dances, and each dance will be adjudicated separately. Cash prizes to the value of £3,600.00 will be awarded to the finalists in each dance, the couple showing the best all-round standard in the five dances will be declared the British National Professional Latin Champions and will hold the **Grand Challenge Trophy** for a period of twelve months.

B1 – BRITISH NATIONAL AMATEUR BALLROOM CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateur couples who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are 16 years of age or over. Judging will be based on all round efficiency in the WALTZ, FOXTROT, VIENNESE WALTZ, TANGO and QUICKSTEP (Competitors will be required to dance the Viennese Waltz in the semi-final and final only)

1st Grand Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months, cash prizes to the value of £850.00

Exemptions – granted to couples who reached the semi-final of the 2025 British National Amateur Ballroom Championship and will be exempt from the 1st round of 2026 Championship.

B2 – BRITISH NATIONAL SENIOR (OVER 35'S) LATIN CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateur couples who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are both over 35 years of age. Judging will be based on all round efficiency in CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA, PASO DOBLE and JIVE. (Competitors will be required to dance Jive in the semi-final and final only)

1st Grand Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months, cash prizes to the value of £765.00

B3 – BRITISH NATIONAL OVER 50'S BALLROOM CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateur couples who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are both over 50 years of age. Judging will be based on all round efficiency in the WALTZ, FOXTROT, TANGO and QUICKSTEP.

1st Grand Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months, cash prizes to the value of £850.00

Exemptions – granted to couples who reached the semi-final of the 2025 British National Over 50's Ballroom Championship and will be exempt from the 1st round of 2026 Championship.

B4 – BRITISH NATIONAL LATIN FORMATION DANCING CHAMPIONSHIP (4 couple) (Closed)

Open to teams of amateurs, entered and trained by a professional teacher who is a member of a recognised Association. The number of couples comprising the team must be 4. The dances must be selected from and confined to the accepted latin dances. Please refer to the Blackpool Dance Festival Formation rules.

1st Grand Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months, cash prizes will be awarded to the winning teacher and teams in the final.

B5 – BRITISH NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL BALLROOM SHOWDANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed) please see the Blackpool Dance Festival website for Showdance rules.

1st Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months, cash prizes will be awarded to all finalists.

Saturday, 21st November 2026

C – BRITISH NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL BALLROOM CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all professional couples who are professionals under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are 16 years of age and over. Judging will be based on all round efficiency in the WALTZ, FOXTROT, VIENNESE WALTZ, TANGO and QUICKSTEP. All entrants will be required to dance all five dances, and each dance will be adjudicated separately. Cash prizes to the value of £3,600.00 will be awarded to the finalists in each dance, the couple showing the best all-round standard in the five dances will be declared the British National Professional Ballroom Champions and will hold the **Grand Challenge Trophy** for a period of twelve months.

C1 – BRITISH NATIONAL AMATEUR LATIN CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateur couples who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are 16 years of age or over. Judging will be based on all round efficiency in the CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA, PASO DOBLE and JIVE. (Competitors will be required to dance the Jive in the semi-final and final only)
1st Grand Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months, cash prizes to the value of £850.00
Exemptions – granted to couples who reached the semi-final of the 2025 British National Amateur Latin Championship and will be exempt from the 1st round of 2026 Championship.

C2 – BRITISH NATIONAL UNDER 21 YEARS BALLROOM CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateur couples who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules on Saturday 21st November. Judging will be based on all round efficiency in CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA, PASO DOBLE and JIVE. (Competitors will be required to dance Jive in the semi-final and final only)
1st Grand Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months, cash prizes to the value of £725.00

C3 – BRITISH NATIONAL JUNIOR LATIN CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules. Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA, PASO DOBLE and JIVE. (Competitors will be required to dance Jive in the semi-final and final only)
1st Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months. Trophies to be presented to all the finalists.

C4 – BRITISH NATIONAL JUNIOR BALL ROOM CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules. Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the WALTZ, FOXTROT, VIENNESE WALTZ, TANGO and QUICKSTEP (Competitors will be required to dance Viennese Waltz in the semi-final and final only)
1st Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months. Trophies to be presented to all the finalists.

C5 – BRITISH NATIONAL JUVENILE LATIN CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules.
Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA and JIVE.
1st Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months. Trophies to be presented to all the finalists.

C6 – BRITISH JUVENILE BALLROOM CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules.
Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the WALTZ, FOXTROT, TANGO and QUICKSTEP
1st Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months. Trophies to be presented to all the finalists.

C7 – BRITISH NATIONAL JUNIOR ALL GIRL BALLROOM CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules.
Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the WALTZ, FOXTROT, TANGO and QUICKSTEP .
1st Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months. Trophies to be presented to all the finalists.

C8 – BRITISH NATIONAL JUVENILE ALL GIRL BALLROOM CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules.
Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the WALTZ, FOXTROT, TANGO and QUICKSTEP
1st Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months. Trophies to be presented to all the finalists.

C9 – BRITISH NATIONAL JUNIOR ALL GIRL LATIN CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules.
Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA and JIVE.
1st Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months. Trophies to be presented to all the finalists.

C10 – BRITISH NATIONAL JUVENILE ALL GIRL LATIN CHAMPIONSHIP (Closed)

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules.
Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA and JIVE.
1st Challenge Trophy, winners to hold for a period of twelve months. Trophies to be presented to all the finalists.

Sunday, 22nd November 2026

Full list of Championships and competitions are listed on the entry website

SUS39 – BRITISH NATIONAL (Closed) UNDER 10 SOLO BALLROOM CHAMPIONSHIP

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are under 10 years of age.
Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the WALTZ, FOXTROT, VIENNESE WALTZ, TANGO and QUICKSTEP **Championship trophies** to be presented to all the finalists.

SUS40 - BRITISH NATIONAL (Closed) UNDER 10 SOLO LATIN CHAMPIONSHIP

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are under 10 years of age.
Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA, PASO DOBLE and JIVE.
Championship trophies to be presented to all the finalists.

SUS55 – BRITISH NATIONAL (Closed) UNDER 12 SOLO BALLROOM CHAMPIONSHIP

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are under 12 years of age.
Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the WALTZ, FOXTROT, VIENNESE WALTZ, TANGO and QUICKSTEP **Championship trophies** to be presented to all the finalists.

SUS56 - BRITISH NATIONAL (Closed) UNDER 12 SOLO LATIN CHAMPIONSHIP

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are under 12 years of age.
Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA, PASO DOBLE and JIVE.
Championship trophies to be presented to all the finalists.

SUS71 – BRITISH NATIONAL (Closed) UNDER 14 SOLO BALLROOM CHAMPIONSHIP

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are over 12 and under 14 years of age. Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the WALTZ, FOXTROT, VIENNESE WALTZ, TANGO and QUICKSTEP **Championship trophies** to be presented to all the finalists.

SUS72 - BRITISH NATIONAL (Closed) UNDER 14 SOLO LATIN CHAMPIONSHIP

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are over 12 and under 14 years of age. Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA, PASO DOBLE and JIVE. **Championship trophies** to be presented to all the finalists.

SUS87 – BRITISH NATIONAL (Closed) UNDER 16 SOLO BALLROOM CHAMPIONSHIP

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are over 12 and under 16 years of age. Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the WALTZ, FOXTROT, VIENNESE WALTZ, TANGO and QUICKSTEP **Championship trophies** to be presented to all the finalists.

SUS88 - BRITISH NATIONAL (Closed) UNDER 16 SOLO LATIN CHAMPIONSHIP

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are over 12 and under 16 years of age. Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA, PASO DOBLE and JIVE. **Championship trophies** to be presented to all the finalists.

SUSS119 – BRITISH NATIONAL (Closed) ADULT SOLO BALLROOM CHAMPIONSHIP

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are over 16 years of age. Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the WALTZ, FOXTROT, VIENNESE WALTZ, TANGO and QUICKSTEP **Championship trophies** to be presented to all the finalists.

SUSS120 - BRITISH NATIONAL (Closed) ADULT SOLO LATIN CHAMPIONSHIP

Open to all amateurs who are amateurs under the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and are over 16 years of age. Judging will be based on all-round efficiency in the CHA CHA CHA, SAMBA, RUMBA, PASO DOBLE and JIVE. **Championship trophies** to be presented to all the finalists.

RULES

Championships and competitions will be run under the Blackpool Dance Festivals rules, these can be found on the festival page on the following website; blackpooldancefestival.com

All competitors wishing to enter the British National Championships / competitions must hold a valid competitor licence as stated within the Blackpool Dance Festival rules. To qualify into the Closed championships, one dancer must qualify by birth or residence (12 months immediately prior to the final) for the area covered by the championship.

Anyone competing or spectating (any event) do so at their own risk. The venue will not accept responsibility for any existing health issues/allergies, injury or situation.

The aggregate votes of the Adjudicators in the early rounds and the individual placings of each Adjudicator in the final rounds will be available on the official Blackpool Dance Festival website the day after completion of the Festival.

The decision of the Organiser is to be taken as final.

FILMING/ LIVE STREAMING & PHOTOGRAPHY

The Blackpool Dance Festival appoints authorised partners to provide the Festival's Official Event Coverage, including photography, filming and live streaming.
Competitors and spectators may take photographs and record short video clips for their own personal, private and non-commercial use, provided this does not interfere with the competition or the Festival's Official Event Coverage.
Live streaming, commercial recording, the recording or distribution of substantial or continuous coverage, or any activity which conflicts with the Festival's Official Event Coverage is prohibited without the prior written consent of the Organiser.
By entering or attending the Festival, all competitors and spectators agree to comply with the Festival Rules, Terms and Conditions, including the Festival's Filming, Photography and Official Event Coverage Policy.

ENTRY

CLOSING DATE – FRIDAY,16th OCTOBER

Please refer to the Blackpool Dance Festival Rules for all information concerning entry requirements.
There will be an entry fee for all championships and competitions entered, either per couple or solo dancer.
A general admission ticket is required per competitor to access the ballroom.
All competitors will defray their own travelling expenses.
All entries are to be completed online via the following website: blackpooldancefestival.com/register – a confirmation order will be emailed to you on completion, please check this and inform the Dance Festival office within 5 days of any incorrect details.

If any competitor withdraws from any championship or competition immediate notification in writing should be made.
The Blackpool Dance Festival reserve the right to limit the number of entries accepted in any of the Championships/ competitions.
Late entries may be accepted, should the timetable allow, however an additional late fee of £25.00 will be charged.

ENTRY FEE / ADMISSION TICKETS & RESERVED SEATING IN ADVANCE

(Including VAT at 20%) These prices are subject to any variation in rate of Value Added Tax.

Juvenile/ Junior Entry Fee (per couple, per championship) - £22.00
Amateur including Formation Entry Fee (per couple/team, per championship) - £26.00
Professional Entry Fee (per couple, per championship) - £30.00
Solo 1 dance Entry Fee (per competition) - £6.25
Solo 2 Dance Entry Fee (per competition) - £12.00
Solo Championship/ Multi Dance Entry Fee (per championship/ multi dance) - £22.00

Competitor Daily Admission Ticket - £40.00
Competitor 3 Day Season Ticket - £96.00 (Saving 20%)
Competitor 4 Day Season Ticket - £112.00 (Saving 30%)

Daily Admission with seat per day - £60.00
Season 3 Day Admission with seat (Thursday to Saturday) - £144.00 (Saving 20%)
Season 4 Day Admission with seat (Thursday to Sunday)- £168.00 (Saving 30%)

All seats are reserved from the start of the competitions each day for patrons who have purchased seat tickets.

All bookings are subject to a £2.50 Administration charge and a Restoration Levy of £3.00 via the Dance Festival entry and ticket system.

A 10% increase and restoration levy will be applied to tickets purchased on the day via the Box office.

Please refer to the Blackpool Dance Festival rules and Winter Gardens Terms and Conditions