

BIA 25.26 COMPETITION PROGRAM HANDBOOK



Ballet Idaho Academy's Competition Program is comprised of Academy students chosen to represent BIA in an outstanding manner. These competing dancers are selected based on level and age and meet our technical, physical, and emotional strength standards. Participants will work one-on-one and in group settings with experienced coaches to further develop their technique, artistry, and performance confidence under high-pressure circumstances all before competing at renowned ballet competitions.

About YAGP:

Youth America Grand Prix is a prestigious competition for ballet students. With a mission to support and develop world-class dancers, YAGP provides scholarship auditions, performance and education opportunities, and serves as a global network of dance connecting students, teachers, schools, dance companies, dancers, and audiences. Each year, YAGP hosts workshops, master classes, and competitions across the U.S. and internationally. Top scoring dancers are invited to compete at finals where they receive in-depth mentoring and greater scholarship, professional, and performance opportunities. Over the last 25 years, YAGP has reached over 200,000 talented young dancers and more than \$5,000,000 has been awarded at YAGP in scholarships to dance schools. Students compete within three age divisions based on their age as of January 1, 2026.

Senior Age Division: 15-20 years old

Junior Age Division: 12-14 years old

Pre-Competitive Age Division: 9-11 years old

Benefits:

The benefits of participating in BIA's Competition Program extend far beyond the actual competition. Students will accelerate their technical and artistic progress through:

- Learning variations, ensemble choreography, and dancer-specific material
- Intensive long-term one-on-one and group coaching
- Working on technically challenging steps and layering artistry on top of it
- Building stamina and endurance
- Taking and maintaining corrections
- Learning stylistic nuance and musicality
- Working towards an end-goal
- Learning to perform under pressure

Participation:

Ballet Idaho Academy selects students based on their readiness and potential to compete successfully. Students must be self-motivated, hardworking, focused, and dedicated. Availability in scheduling and participation in the program is on a first come, first served basis. Yearly participation is not guaranteed if previously enrolled.

Location and Dates:

- **BIA will be represented at one Regional Semi-Finals location in January, February, or March 2026.**
- **A mandatory student and parent orientation will be held on August 8 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm.**
- **Our mandatory preparation period is August 4 - 15, 2025.** All participants must set their choreography during this intensive. If payment is received and coaches are available, you may schedule private lessons August 4 - 9.
- Based on performance at Regional Semi-Finals, students *may* be invited by YAGP to the Finals competition. If invited to Finals, competitors must perform **a classical and contemporary solo.**
- Finals are in Houston, TX May 10 - 18, 2026.

Types of Pieces:

Classical Solo

- BIA will approve an appropriate variation for each student, taking into account the student's technical and artistic strengths as well as their age. List of acceptable variations by age group is found at www.yagp.org.
- The student and coach will have an initial five hours of time where the variation will be set in a manner that is firmly in the grasp of the student's mind and body. Then, each student will have weekly coaching sessions in a group setting. In January, students will have two hours of private coaching to finalize performance details.
- Each student will be assigned coaches throughout the setting and cleaning process, as well, as the weekly sessions.

Contemporary Solo

- Students may express interest in a particular choreographer and BIA will approve a final decision.
- Matches will be based on choreographer's availability.
- The student and choreographer will have five hours assigned to them in order to create the piece. After that point in time, there will be weekly run-throughs in a group setting. In January, students will have two hours of private coaching to finalize performance details.
- Students may use existing choreography for their contemporary solo as long as they receive permission from the choreographer and the choreography falls within the time limits set by YAGP (2 minutes 30 seconds for a Solo).

Ensembles

- BIA reserves the right to assemble and cast an ensemble to present at YAGP Regional Semi-Finals. If you are interested in competing in a duet, trio, or small ensemble piece. Please, notify Jessica Sulikowski.

Please note that BIA allows a maximum of two dances per student this season. This can be two classical solos, one classical and one contemporary solo, or one classical solo and one ensemble. This decision is based on the health of our dancers and preventing fatigue, burn-out, injury, and illness. First and second year competitors may be limited to one solo per season at the discretion of the Academy Director.

Music:

YAGP requires that students select their music for their classical entries from their Music Library found on their website unless the music is not available in their library. Contemporary music may be chosen by the choreographer and/or student and submitted along with their classical entries once choices are final. Music must be finalized and submitted to Jessica no later than 3 weeks prior to the Regional Semi-Finals Competition start date. All solos must be under 2 minutes 30 seconds.

POLICIES

Participant Expectations:

Participants must come to rehearsals prepared and ready. It is necessary for students to review choreography, changes, and corrections *before* attending coaching sessions.

Registration:

BIA will register Competition Program participants for Youth America Grand Prix. However, dancers are allowed to use their material at other competitions upon approval. Dancers can register for more than one YAGP Semi-Finals location.

Communication:

All general and scheduling Competition Program related communication should be sent via email to BIA's Competition Program Coordinator, Jessica Sulikowski at jsulikowski@balletidaho.org. Communication between students and coaches should be handled in the preferred format of the coach; by either email, BAND, or text.

Attendance:

Students must arrive on time and with appropriate footwear/attire and be ready to work. If a student is unable to make a rehearsal for any reason, either the parent or student must make contact preferably 24 hours or more in advance by email to jsulikowski@balletidaho.org and sogburn@balletidaho.org. Students must warm-up before all rehearsals, competitions, and events. Please, be aware there will be Friday and Saturday coaching sessions.

Students must attend all scheduled Academy classes, warm-up classes, and rehearsals unless excused in order to participate in the Competition Program. Excellent attendance is a must. Excessive absences may result in termination from the program. Please, notify Jessica Sulikowski if there are any injuries. Injuries must be cleared by a doctor before returning to rehearsals.

Holidays and *The Nutcracker* rehearsals:

Rehearsals will follow the BIA schedule of holidays and inclement weather. If BIA is closed or there is cancellation due to *The Nutcracker* rehearsals, we will reschedule missed sessions. During *The Nutcracker* rehearsal season, weekly modifications will be made to the coaching schedule.

Representing BIA:

As Ballet Idaho Academy representatives, students must adhere to the BIA Student Handbook. Students and parents are expected to act with respect, awareness, and professionalism at all events and follow all competition rules and regulations.

Please, note that you do not need to participate in BIA's Competition Program to compete as an Independent Student without school affiliation to BIA.

EXPENSES AND FEES

Regional Semi-Final Registration Expenses:

(To be paid to BIA in addition to the fees below. BIA will register each participant.)

YAGP Regional Semi-Final Fees due by **August 15, 2025:**

Once a year, non-refundable registration fee, PER LOCATION: **\$125**

Plus individual entry fees per one location:

Classical or Contemporary Solo: **\$125** per solo

Duet/Trio: **\$80** per dancer

Small Ensemble (4 dancers): **\$65** per dancer, per entry

Large Ensembles (5+ members): **\$55** per dancer, per entry

Registration will be completed by the Academy Director by August 29, 2025. Additional fees will occur if registering after this deadline.

YAGP Final Expenses:

Finals are held in Houston on May 10 - 18, 2026. If a student is invited by YAGP to attend the Finals, there will be additional expenses in coaching, travel and accommodation as well as a flat fee payable to YAGP of:

\$380 per Junior or Senior attending as a soloist

\$335 per Pre-Competitive attending as a soloist

\$65 additional per Duet/Trio Ensemble member

\$230 per dancer, Ensemble

Plus, additional fees (per dancer, per additional ensemble entry)

BIA Administrative Fees:

Package A; one solo: \$265

Package B; two solos: \$375

Package C: one solo + one ensemble: \$350

These packages include scheduling and use of studios for rehearsals, registration, music upload, and administrative support throughout the preparation period. A BIA coach will accompany students to one designated Regional Semi-Finals location TBD.

Coaching Fees:

The initial setting hourly rate for solos by BIA approved coaches: **\$65**.

Ensemble hourly per dancer: **\$35**.

Students are required five hours minimum per dance. This includes consultation for choosing a variation, choreographer learning the variation and setting choreography, choreographing appropriate changes, music downloads, costume consultation, and preparing corrections.

The weekly coaching rate per solo is **\$60/hour** broken down into 30 or 45 minute increments.

Ensemble is **\$20/week** for 30 minutes a week

One solo: **\$30/week** for 30 minutes

Two solos: **\$45/week** for 45 minutes

One solo and one ensemble: **\$50/week** for 60 minutes

January 2026 privates: **\$120** for two hours. Each solo requires a minimum of two hours. The ensemble will also have group sessions.

Coaches and students may request additional rehearsal time as needed.

YAGP Regional Semi-Finals	One Solo	Two Solos	One Solo + One Ensemble
Once-a-Year YAGP Registration	\$125	\$125	\$125
Regional Semi-Finals Registration for 1 location (additional fees for multiple locations)	\$125*	\$250*	\$180 - 205*
BIA Admin	\$265	\$375	\$350
Solo: 5 hours of setting or choreography \$65/hour Ensemble: 6 hours of setting choreography \$35/hour	\$325	\$650	\$535
Solo: 18 weeks of group coaching \$60/hour Ensemble: 18 weeks \$40/hour	\$540 (average 30 mins/week)	\$810 (average 45 mins/week)	\$900 (average 60 mins/week)
Solo: 2 hours of private cleaning \$60/hour Ensemble: 4 hours of private cleaning \$60/hour	\$120	\$240	\$240
total	\$1,500.00	\$2,450.00	\$2,330.00+

*Additional fees if registering after September 1, 2025.

Costumes:

Costumes must be appropriate for the entry being performed and must be approved by BIA. Costumes may be rented or purchased. Rentals for classical pieces from BIA are typically **\$75** per costume, but are very limited in selection. Purchasing classical costumes can cost anywhere from **\$200 to \$1,000** or more. Costumes for contemporary pieces are purchased by the participant and generally are far less expensive. There are many websites where you can resell your costumes or buy gently used costumes. Rehearsing in costume is strongly advised starting in January.

Travel, Accommodations, and other Expenses:

Please be aware of additional costs related to competing.

Refunds:

Payments to BIA are non-refundable barring extenuating circumstances, such as injury, illness or inability to participate in the Regional Semi-Finals that is outside of the student or family's control and a refund of **unused portions may be issued at the discretion of BIA**. Documentation of the injury or illness is required for a partial refund to be processed. Please refer to the YAGP website to ensure you understand their refund policies as they are different from those of BIA.

YAGP Registration:

Students planning to participate in the Competition Program 2025 - 2026 must submit all necessary forms to jsulikowski@balletidaho.org and sogburn@balletidaho.org by **July 18, 2025**. BIA will register all participants by the early bird deadline. Coaches will provide correct names of pieces and choreographers as well as composers and lengths of pieces. YAGP Coordinator Jessica Sulikowski will register all dancers for YAGP to ensure the process has been correctly completed. Students must register themselves for all other competitions.

Contact:

Please, notify Jessica with your preferred email address ASAP. It is the student and parents' responsibility to respond to emails in a timely manner.

BIA COMPETITION PROGRAM & YAGP 2025 - 2026 Payment Form

Please check the appropriate box below the amount due to BIA for your student's participation in the Regional Semi-Finals.

Initial Setting and Admin fees due **July 18, 2025**:

check package that applies

- ☐ Package A; one solo: \$590
- ☐ Package B; two solos: \$1,025
- ☐ Package C; one solo and one ensemble: \$885

YAGP Registration Fees due **August 15, 2025**:

2025 registration fee to YAGP:

- ☐ Non-refundable registration fee: \$125 (To be paid in addition to the fees below)

Solo Fees due **August 15, 2025**:

Additional fees for more than one location.

- ☐ Package A; one solo classical or contemporary: \$125
- ☐ Package B; two solos classical or contemporary: \$250
- ☐ Package C; one solo and one ensemble: \$180-\$205 depending on number in group

Weekly lessons & January privates total, **minimum of 50% by September 19, 2025** and total due **November 1, 2025**:

check package that applies

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Package A; one solo: | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 payment: \$660 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 payments of \$330 |
| Package B; two solos: | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 payment: \$1,050 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 payments of \$525 |
| Package C; one solo + one ensemble: | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 payment: \$1,140 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 payments of \$570 |

Total balance must be paid in full by **November 1, 2025**

Total due BIA: _____

These packages include registration, choreography, scheduling, two in-studio performances in front of a BIA panel (dates TBD), administrative support, and one coach at designated Regional Semi-Finals location.

Please note that these fees are for participation in Regional Semi-Finals only. If invited to Finals, new fees may be charged to cover the additional rehearsal and administrative support period.

Regular tuition payments must be current in order to continue participating in YAGP rehearsals.

- Please return this COMPLETED form to Sada and Jessica by **July 18, 2025**
- Payments made to Ballet Idaho Academy
- Please refer to YAGP website for payment and return policies www.yagp.org
- I have read and agree to BIA 25.26 Competition Program Handbook
- I have read and agree to YAGP's Rules and Regulations www.yagp.org

Student Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Email _____ Parent Phone Number _____

If you have any questions or concerns about the information contained in this packet, please feel free to contact Jessica Sulikowski at jsulikowski@balletidaho.org. Please, confirm with Jessica if you will be participating in the program or not as soon as possible.