



Competitor Packet 2025

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Welcome

Welcome to the annual Aerial Star Competition! Within this packet you will find vital information to assist you in your journey while creating and submitting your piece to our competition. This packet will cover everything from the general rules, to music lengths, costume requirements, specific apparatus and category rules, all down to when and where to submit your final video. If at any point you have a question on something that you cannot find within this packet, be sure to reach out to us at info@aerialstar.org with any further inquiries.

Remember: *"The sky is not the limit, it's home."*

Connect With Us

 Aerial Star Organization

 Aerial Star Competitors

 info@aerialstar.org

 @aerialstarorg

● #aerialstarorg

● #shootingtoasc

● #aerialstar2025



We love connecting with our competitors, judges, sponsors, and their friends and family. To follow along and get information on upcoming events, registration for competitions, and information on how to view competitions make sure you're following us on social media. To be featured in your journey to competition be sure to use the special hashtags unique to our events. **#aerialstarorg**, **#aerialstarcomp**, and **#aerialstar2025** have been

created solely for our events to help us find and share all of our Stars' hard work!

Important Dates

Below are listed several dates to keep in mind when registering and submitting, if at any point changes occur all competitors will be notified and changes will be posted on the website and across social media.

Registration Opens: February 17, 2025

Registration Closes: June 20, 2025

Video Submissions Due: June 27, 2025

Judging: June 30 - July 13, 2025

Live Stream Event: July 18-19, 2025**

**Three days allotted for the livestream event, livestream may only occur on two of those days depending on the number of competitors.

Registration Changes

Changes in your registered category, level, and division will be accepted up to the close of registration and can be done through your member login on the site or by emailing info@aerialstar.org if you encounter site issues. Once registration has closed, no changes may be made to any entry via the member login or by email. ***If for some reason you are unable to compete, no refunds may be issued at any time, and competition registrations may never be transferred.***

If you wish at any point to purchase a registration for someone else as a gift you can do so by contacting us at info@aerialstar.org to arrange for that to be given to the appropriate person, you will need to know the email associated with their account.

Registration Pricing

Prices for each category and level are as follows, please note when changing levels you will only be able to change to a level of lower or equal value. Should you need to change from a category such as Showcase to Silks - Level 1 then you will need to contact us at info@aerialstar.org to do so. All prices listed below are in USD.

- ★ Showcase: \$30
- ★ Showcase Star: \$45
- ★ Lyra, Trapeze, Hammock, Silks, Specialty Levels 1 - 4: \$60
- ★ Lyra, Trapeze, Hammock, Silks, Specialty Level 5: \$75
- ★ Groups: \$100
- ★ Edited Video: \$60

Judging & Feedback

All judging will be completed prior to the final livestream and announcement of all winners. Judging for each category and level will be completed by three separate judges, and scores and feedback will be provided after the final competition stream. Feedback will be available to competitors in their profile panel one week after the conclusion of the final live stream.

Judges are able to compete but will not be permitted to judge for their category, level, and division. In the event a judge was willing to judge a certain category and level and now has entered it, an alternate judge will be chosen from the panel to take over judging that section. For example a judge may compete Hammock - Level 5, but will then only be able to judge Levels 1-4.

Additionally judges are not permitted to judge anyone competing from their own studios as well as the categories and levels those individuals are competing in. For example a competitor from Muse Pole Fitness may enter in Senior Division - Level 3 - Lyra, judges from that studio would not be

eligible to judge any of the Senior Division - Level 3 - Lyra Competitors. This is done with all judges and their students or those who train at their studios or virtually with them across divisions, categories, and levels.

Event Changes

If changes are made to event air dates, submission processes, judging processes, or any other policies, rules, or guidelines, all competitors will be notified via their registered email as early as possible to prevent any confusion or issues. If at any point you have questions about any announced changes, you may also contact info@aerialstar.org

General Rules & Guidelines

General

- ★ At no point will registrations be refunded or transferred to another competitor.
- ★ All performances must be of a new original video filmed after registration to the competition. **Previous performance videos, or videos from other competitions will be disqualified.**
 - *If a competitor submits a previously used performance video and is disqualified they will be barred from competing for 1 year - meaning they will be unable to compete in the next year's competition.*
 - *Competitors are permitted to enter a previously performed routine, however we cannot accept videos from other competitions, or videos **unless they do not contain logos/openings/closing credits from those competitions.** For Example: A competitor competes a routine at Aerialympics, they cannot use their official Aerialympics video with the overlay or logos for our competition due to licensing/copyright issues. If it has no logos or overlays however it may be used.*
 - *Videos must be filmed within the last 12 months from the close of registration date, regardless of when you register for the competition.*
- ★ Changes may be made to registration up to the close of registration. After that point, no changes will be permitted via the user panel on the website or email request.
- ★ Instructors may not compete in the Level 1 - Beginner or Level 2 - Novice categories for any apparatus they instruct on or have instructed on in the past.
- ★ Instructors teaching inversions/aerial inversions may not compete below Level 3 - Intermediate on any apparatus they instruct in inversion training on.
- ★ If you placed 1st in your level and division in the previous year, you are expected to move into the next level in that division ***if there were 8 or more competitors*** in your division if competing it again in the following year.

- For example: You place 1st in Level 3 - Hammock - Senior Division, and you had 8 competitors in your division, the following year if competing in Hammock - Senior Division you would need to compete at Level 4.
- *If there were less than 8 competitors in your division you will not be required to move up to the next level.*
- Exceptions to this rule may be made on a case by case basis as determined by the Aerial Star Organization staff due to prolonged illness or injury as well as physical limitations.
- ★ All competitors are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner, especially when openly affiliating with the Aerial Star Organization.
 - This pertains to both social media and any in-person events that may occur in the future. We reserve the right to prohibit those who choose not to conduct themselves in a respectful manner from further entry into future competitions whether virtual or in-person.
- ★ Apparatuses may be mounted from the floor or a crash mat only, competitors may not mount an apparatus from other items such as yoga blocks, wooden pedestals, step stools, etc.

Props

- ★ Due to the online nature of this competition, prop approval is not necessary prior to entry submission.
- ★ You are not limited in how messy your prop is; however, keep in mind when using a prop the judges will be looking for the way it overall ties into your piece.
- ★ Human props may be utilized; however, no more than 3 human props may be utilized for an individual performance piece. For a doubles piece, only 2 human props may be utilized.
- ★ Human props may not touch the apparatus at any point throughout the performance, doing so will result in a deduction.
- ★ Props must still be appropriate for the overall theme of the piece submitted. Note for the Mini or Junior divisions - your props should be family friendly and appropriate for all audiences in this division.

Divisions

- ★ The following divisions may be utilized for each competition:
 - **Mini: Ages 0 - 9**
 - **Junior: Ages 10 - 17**
 - **Adult: Ages 18 - 44**
 - **Senior: 45+**
 - **Para-Athlete:** any athlete with a temporary (longer than 3 months) or permanent physical or mental disability may participate in this category. For more information see the **Para-Athlete Division Information** in the Divisions, Categories, & Levels section of this packet.
- ★ Any Mini or Junior competitor that feels they can match the skill levels required of the Adult Division may compete in that division; however, at no point may an Adult competitor compete in the Junior division
- ★ Divisions will be split further by ages when a division has more than 12 competitors as outlined in the **Division Splitting** section within this packet..

Levels

- ★ The following levels are set for each division and category. Some categories may not include lower levels due to the nature of that category's apparatus or skill requirements:
 - **Level 1 - Beginner**
 - **Level 2 - Novice**
 - **Level 3 - Intermediate**
 - **Level 4 - Advanced**
 - **Level 5 - Professional**
- ★ If the judges feel your skill level exceeds the level you have submitted your entry for, your submission may be moved into the next level and you will be notified.

Categories

★ The following categories will be utilized at each competition. As stated above, some categories may not have certain lower levels due to the special nature of those categories and skills required:

- **Showcase** - Not leveled.
- **Showcase Star** - Not leveled.
- **Silks**
- **Silks Doubles** - Levels 3-5
- **Hammock**
- **Hammock Doubles** - Levels 3-5
- **Lyra**
- **Lyra Doubles** - Levels 3-5
- **Trapeze**
- **Trapeze Doubles** - Levels 3-5
- **Specialty**
 - This category, as well as the specialty doubles category, is open for any aerial apparatuses not listed above including but not limited to:
 - Aerial Pole
 - Chandelier
 - Cord Lisse
 - Cube
 - Sphere
 - Spiral
 - Straps
 - Etc.
 - If at any point you question whether or not your apparatus is eligible to compete, you can contact us at info@aerialstar.org with photos and we can let you know if it meets requirements to be judged on.
 - ***Lollipop Pole will not be permitted in this category in this competition moving forward.***
- **Specialty Doubles** - Levels 3-5
- **Groups** - Not leveled.

- **Edited Video** - Not leveled.

Attire

- ★ All costumes must be appropriate for the competitor's age and level.
- ★ Bottoms must provide modest coverage and cover a minimum of the area a swimsuit would cover.
- ★ Tops for Mini and Juniors division must fully cover the chest.
- ★ Tops for Adult and Senior division may be as minimal as pasties; however, if at any point a wardrobe malfunction occurs or is noted in the video, then the competitor will receive a deduction and possibly face disqualification.
 - Warnings will be placed before any performances we feel are above a PG-13 level in the Adult and Senior division so that anyone watching with younger individuals will be aware during the stream what may be coming.
- ★ Heels may be worn for any category. Since all videos will be filmed in most competitors' training spaces, we just ask you to be mindful of your studio's policies regarding heels on fabrics/equipment.

Music

- ★ Music must be clear and easy to hear without any excess background noise on your final entry submission.
- ★ Music in the Mini and Junior divisions must be family friendly and may not contain profanity or inappropriate subjects for that age division.
- ★ Music may be overlaid on videos. **(This is highly suggested.)** Be careful when overlaying music to ensure that it coincides significantly with moves in performance, and it is matched up well on the overlay so as not to detract from your musicality and overall performance.
- ★ Any editing beyond overlaying your music track will result in your submission being moved into the edited video category.
- ★ There is no minimum music time limit for any levels; however, the following maximum time limits are not to be exceeded for each level:
 - **Showcase:** 4:00 minutes
 - **Showcase Star:** 4:00 minutes
 - **Level 1 - Beginner:** 3:00 minutes

- **Level 2 - Novice:** 3:15 minutes
- **Level 3 - Intermediate:** 3:30 minutes
- **Level 4 - Advanced:** 4:00 minutes
- **Level 5 - Professional:** 4:30 minutes
- **Groups:** 4:00 minutes
- **Edited Video:** 4:00 minutes
- ★ All aspects of your performance must fit within the allotted music time limits. Your final video may have an additional **15 seconds** to account for entry pose/bow/exit.
- ★ Performances that exceed their given music limit will be subject to a deduction on final judging of **1 point per judge per 15 seconds over.**
- ★ All aspects of the performance for Edited Videos must be within the 4:00 minute time limit.
- ★ **Certain songs are prohibited for use due to the nature of their lyrics, their general overuse in competitions previously, or misuse in certain age divisions, and those songs can be found on the [Prohibited Music List](#).** *(This list may be updated at any time by the Aerial Star Competition Staff, the majority of songs on this list will be songs that have been used by 3 or more competitors within a single competition.)*
- ★ **Reminder: The song does not have to originally fit into the fully allotted time limit for your level. Longer songs may be cut and re-mixed, or even simply faded out to fit the time requirement.**

Floorwork

- ★ Floorwork has the ability to enhance a performance, but is not required when performing in any category.
- ★ Floorwork is defined as any movement completed while no portion of the performer's body comes in contact with, or has continual contact with, their apparatus.
- ★ If you choose to incorporate floorwork into your piece, no more than 20% of your performance may consist of floorwork elements.
- ★ Any point at which you have contact with the apparatus even if it is with one limb counts towards your total performance time on the apparatus.

Rigging & Safety

- ★ Despite this competition being virtual, safe rigging practices are very important to our organization and judges as well. Because of this, the following guidelines are in place pertaining to rigging and safety:
 - Minis and Juniors are not required to have a mat, but it is **strongly recommended**. (*We understand this is up to the studio and legal guardian's discretion.*)
 - Any submission that displays unsafe, compromised, or dangerous rigging will be subject to at minimum a safety deduction of **5 points per judge** and **possible disqualification**.
 - Examples include:
 - Rigging from trees.
 - Visibly damaged equipment/spansets/ropes.
 - Improperly secured pulley systems.
 - Outdoor rigs not rated for a suitable load for the presented apparatus.
- ★ While in your own training/home spaces, we recognize it is your choice on how you rig your equipment. However, the Aerial Star Organization does not want to display or condone unsafe rigging practices, so we have adopted the above mentioned rules regarding rigging and safety.
- ★ Lyra's should be between 32" - 38" depending on the competitors height for the Lyra Category, smaller lyras or Cyr wheels rigged as lyras would fall into the Specialty Category.
- ★ Lyra's should be rigged from either a single point or double point with spansets or lyra rope. Rigging from silk or any other type of fabric will result in your entry being moved into the Specialty Category.
- ★ If your submission is disqualified due to any of the rules mentioned above, you will be notified of your disqualification. If it is still prior to the close of video submissions, you will be given the opportunity to correct these issues and re-submit your video.
- ★ If however it is outside the window of video submissions the disqualification will stand and no refund will be issued.

Judging

Judging is final. At no point will discussion, comment, or dispute of the judges' decisions be tolerated whether on social media or within the competitors' group. Doing so may prevent the person involved from being permitted to enter in future competitions.

All judges' scores will be reviewed before being finalized and every judge recruited agrees in advance to be impartial and watch each performance only once and as if they've never seen the performer before. Judges are also not permitted to score competitors from their home training spaces, or that they have taught, and are additionally not permitted to score the categories and levels those competitors are in to keep any unintentional bias from occurring. For example: Jordan Mazur is an owner and instructor at Muse Pole Fitness - not only is she not permitted to judge students of Muse, but she also will not be permitted to judge other competitors in the same categories and levels they are in.

While we understand the judges comments may not always align with your view of your performance, your instructors, or even fellow competitors at your studios, we would encourage you not to take them to mean you have failed in any way. But rather that there are some areas that may not always be strong points and that these are ways you may improve upon those areas and progress your skill and overall performance. Progress is not always linear, and we definitely encourage you to strive for progress in your aerial journeys over absolute perfection.

Feedback

- ★ Feedback will be provided after the competition stream and will be available in your profile page. In most instances this will be viewable the week after the stream concludes, if it will take longer it will be announced.
- ★ What this means is that once your video is submitted it will then be judged, those scores will be used to determine the winners and standings for each category, and then your results and feedback will be posted to your profile one week after the conclusion of the livestream event.

General Category Criteria

Judging considers the following criteria for the categories of Silks, Hammock, Lyra, Trapeze, and Specialty:

★ Degree of Difficulty - 25 Points

- Difficulty of individual moves. (5)
- Difficulty of move combinations. (5)
- Difficulty of mounts and dismounts of the apparatus. (5)
- Difficulty of transitions between moves and combinations. (10)

★ Control & Technique - 35 Points

- Control of apparatus. (Including mounting/dismounting) (10)
- Appropriate use of areas of the apparatus. (Level specific.) (5)
- Cleanliness of lines, toes, and micro-bends. (5)
- Cleanliness and intention of movement/poses. (5)
- Appropriate balance of flexibility & strength. (10)

★ Showmanship - 20 Points

- Stage presence throughout. (5)
- Flow & Musicality. (Flow incorporates not only the cleanliness of transitions between moves, but also on and off the apparatus, within combinations, and through floorwork.) (10)
- Effectiveness of the interpretation of the music. (5)

★ Structure - 20 Points

- Balance of flexibility, strength, spins, and tricks. (5)
- Variety of tricks, transitions, mounts, and dismounts. (Level specific.) (5)
- Meeting flexibility, strength, and power move requirements. (Level Specific) (5)
- Overall cohesion of the piece between artistic and trick aspects. (5)

★ Deductions

- Unsafe rigging/apparatus use.
- Unsafe or unsecure moves, falls, or drops.
- Use of prohibited moves or drops.
- Touching beams/rigging, carabiners, swivels, pulley system, etc. above apparatus.
- Other: (As determined by the judges.)

Doubles Category Criteria

The doubles category has unique requirements for judging due to the special nature of having two performers on an apparatus. While some criteria below may be listed the same as it is for individuals, the judging for it will take into account the moves of both competitors to determine the score for that area.

Doubles partners should not only perform equally during the piece, but should also be individuals who are currently on the same level training wise. They should be able to equally execute the strength and flexibility moves for the level they have entered, and one partner in the group should not be a competitor of an obviously higher level than the other.

We do recognize however that doubles is a beast all its own so we understand if a competitor may compete at a higher level individually than in the doubles category and deductions will not be given based on that information. All doubles partners will be judged on their overall performance.

Judging considers the following criteria for the doubles categories of Silks, Hammock, Lyra, Trapeze, and Specialty:

★ Degree of Difficulty - 25 Points

- Difficulty of individual moves. (5)
- Difficulty of moves and combinations executed together. (5)
- Difficulty of mounts and dismounts of the apparatus. (5)
- Difficulty of transitions between moves and combinations. (10)

★ Control & Technique - 35 Points

- Control of apparatus. (Including mounting/dismounting) (5)
- Control of the apparatus during combined movements. (5)
- Appropriate use of areas of the apparatus. (Level specific.) (5)
- Cleanliness of lines, toes, and micro-bends. (5)
- Cleanliness and intention of movement/poses. (5)
- Appropriate balance of flexibility & strength. (10)

★ Showmanship - 20 Points

- Stage presence throughout. (5)

- Flow & Musicality. (Flow incorporates not only the cleanliness of transitions between moves, but also on and off the apparatus, within combinations, and through floorwork. Doubles flow also takes into account the cleanliness of the aforementioned items while executing movement together or in synchronization.) (10)
- Effectiveness of the interpretation of the music. (5)

★ **Structure - 20 Points**

- Balance of flexibility, strength, spins, and tricks between performers. (5)
- Variety of tricks, transitions, mounts, and dismounts individually and while performing combined moves. (Level specific.) (5)
- Meeting flexibility, strength, and power move requirements. (Level Specific) (5)
- Overall cohesion of the piece between artistic and trick aspects. (5)

★ **Deductions**

- Not meeting the requirement of level entered.
- Unsafe rigging/apparatus use.
- Unsafe or unsecure moves, falls, or drops.
- Use of prohibited moves or drops.
- Touching beams/rig above apparatus.
- Other: (As determined by the judges.)

Edited Video & Groups Category Criteria

Edited Videos and Group pieces have a special scoring sheet that takes into account the unique nature of a piece that is either cut together from multiple clips or involves multiple performers to tell a story. Edited Videos and Groups may utilize one or multiple apparatuses to perform on, and will be scored on an artistic based scoring system versus the standard competition scoring system. With over 50% of the scorecard going to your Showmanship score versus other categories that allot under 20% of the scorecard of these elements.

Edited videos are encouraged to be more cohesive artistically, therefore a higher number of points are allotted for artistic aspects versus skill, strength, or technique. Edited Videos also allow for a wider range of apparatuses, human props, scenes, and settings, as well as creative concepts to be utilized due to the special nature of being able to cut together multiple scenes and clips to create a cohesive artistic performance.

Groups are judged off of the same artistic system allowing for more cohesive artistry to occur within group pieces, and allowing for aerialists of different levels to be involved in the group pieces as well. This allows for a more collaborative effort, with the same artistic scoring as Edited Videos allowing for the focus to be on working together to tell a story, versus trying to work together to make the hardest tricks or combos.

***Note:** Edited videos also allow for multiple shots to be cut together to tell a story. Group performances while they may utilize one or more apparatuses will still need to be shot in one take and cannot include multiple cut together clips.*

The true goal of an edited video or group piece is to give us a story or concept and display it clearly and creatively. Sometimes these are some of the most fun and engaging types of performances to create, so we wanted to really incorporate these categories to let everyone's creativity flow especially if they connect more with a creative artistic piece than with a regular category competition piece. These categories are not leveled due to the unique and different way they are presented, however entries will be split among our standard age divisions.

Judging considers the following criteria for the edited videos and groups categories, regardless of which apparatus is utilized or even how many apparatuses are utilized throughout a piece:

★ **Degree of Difficulty - 10 Points**

- Difficulty of moves/poses within the piece. (5)
- Difficulty of moves and combinations executed together. (5)

★ **Control & Technique - 20 Points**

- Control of apparatus. (5)
- Appropriate use of areas of the apparatus. (5)
- Cleanliness of lines, toes, and micro-bends. (5)
- Cleanliness and intention of movement/poses. (5)

★ **Showmanship - 55 Points**

- Stage presence throughout. (10)
- Flow & Musicality. (Flow incorporates not only the cleanliness of transitions between moves, but also on and off the apparatus, within combinations, and through floorwork.) (10)
- Effective use of and interpretation of the music. (I.E. not using erotic sounding music with a sad and melancholy movement.) (10)
- Effectiveness of combination of apparatus use and non-apparatus combinations/movement, including but not limited to floorwork, acrobatic elements, doubles work, etc. (Within Edited video this may include use of additional clips or scenes cut in within the performance clips.) (15)
- Clarity of concept. (Overall theme or story tied in well and apparent throughout.) (10)

★ **Structure - 15 Points**

- Variety of movement, flow, and pace throughout. (5)
- Overall cohesion of the piece between artistic and performance aspects. (10)

★ **Deductions**

- Unsafe rigging/apparatus use.
- Unsafe or unsecure moves, falls, or drops.
- Use of prohibited moves or drops.
- Other: (As determined by the judges.)

Para-Athlete Criteria

Judging within this category will be based on the basic criteria given for whichever level, category, and division has been entered as defined above. However within this category judges will be advised of limitations the athlete may have in advance of judging them.

Judges for this category will go through additional training and instruction prior to being eligible to judge for this category to ensure that they understand the way criteria expectations may be altered for various types of both physically visible and invisible disabilities. This is being done so that all divisions can be judges off of the same criteria and through the same points system to keep everything easy and clear to understand for both competitors and judges while also keeping in mind the abilities of our athletes in all divisions.

To participate within this division you do need to not only submit but be approved by the Aerial Star Organization review staff. The information needed for approval is detailed below in the Para-Athlete Stars section, at no point is the information, records, or other images/contents of your submission shared with any of the staff or judges unless absolutely necessary for clarification purposes in scoring.

Overall Scores

Each competitor may achieve an overall score of 100 points per judge for a total of 300 points overall. The three highest scoring competitors in each division, category, and level of that category will be awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place respectively.

Each doubles pair may receive an overall score of 100 points per judge for a total of 300 points overall. Just as with individuals scoring the three highest scoring doubles pairs in each division, category, and level of that category will be awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

Each edited video will be judged on a special judging system. This system has been designed especially for this category due to its more creativity driven nature and when applied gives performers the opportunity to earn 100 points per judge for

a total of 300 points overall. Just as with individual or doubles scoring the three highest scoring competitors in this category will be awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

As noted some of the judging criteria are level specific and you can find specifics for those areas in the category requirements within this packet. These break down at what level a certain number of moves is required to obtain a maximum score in a judging criteria. For example in advanced lyra at least 2-4 strength and flexibility moves are required, so a competitor who displays only 1 strength move and 5 flexibility moves would not meet the full requirements and would not earn the full 5 points for that requirement.

Category requirements have been made as clear as possible in an effort to not only guide competitors in what level they best fit at the time of entering to compete, but also to prevent any concerns of discrepancies when judging.

Awards

All competitors that place will be mailed either a medal or trophy depending on their category and level. The following categories and levels will receive **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place medals** for all divisions:

★ Silks

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4

★ Hammock

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4

★ Lyra

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3

- Level 4
- ★ **Trapeze**
 - Level 1
 - Level 2
 - Level 3
 - Level 4
- ★ **Specialty** (Levels 1 & 2 omitted from this category.)
 - Level 3
 - Level 4
- ★ **All Categories Doubles** (Level 1 & 2 omitted from this category.)
 - Level 3
 - Level 4
- ★ **Groups** (All participants in the piece will receive a medal.)

The Professional levels in all divisions in each category as well as the Edited Video winners **will receive a trophy that is dependent upon whether they placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd**, these levels are the following:

- ★ **Silks & Silks Doubles**
 - Level 5
- ★ **Hammock & Hammock Doubles**
 - Level 5
- ★ **Lyra & Lyra Doubles**
 - Level 5
- ★ **Trapeze & Trapeze Doubles**
 - Level 5
- ★ **Specialty & Specialty Doubles**
 - Level 5
- ★ **Edited Video**

In all doubles categories awarded a medal, two medals will be sent to the address of the competitor that initially registered the duo for competition, if you need them mailed separately you will need to contact info@aerialstar.org before the close of registration to specify this. In all doubles professional categories the trophy for the doubles pair will be mailed to the address of the competitor that initially registered the duo for competition as well.

If at any point you need to update your address you can do so by editing your profile on **aerialstar.org** - this will update the address in the system tied to that registration and it is this address that we will use for mailing all medals and trophies.

Winners in each division, category, and level will also permanently be highlighted on our site and will remain the title holders for that division, category, and level for that year.

International Awards Shipping

International competitors will receive the same awards as listed above, however in the event that a medal or trophy is lost in transit and cannot be retrieved the competitor will then need to pay follow-up shipping costs for the medal/trophy to be sent again.

We unfortunately cannot guarantee that a medal or trophy will arrive once it has left the United States regardless of which shipping carriers we use, because once it has gone international it is handed off to that country's chosen mail service and is out of our control. We do track every package, nothing is sent without a tracking number, and when packages are not delivered we do initiate a claim with USPS/FedEx/UPS/etc. in an effort to get those packages located and to the competitor, but it does not always work out and some packages are unable to be located, in these instances we would have to send a replacement.

Currently (from 2023) our US postal services are not shipping to Russia at this time due to the sustained aggression with Ukraine so if you place and live within Russia we will hold your medal/trophy and check monthly until we are able to ship within the country again.

In the past 2 years we have had issues with shipping to the Phillipines/Thailand, we are exploring options to better these shipping regions this year - so these packages may arrive slower.

Division, Category & Level Requirements

The following information will break down the different divisions, categories, and levels within them. As well as all of the requirements and restrictions for performers to score well in those categories. This information has been made as detailed as possible to provide very little in the way of confusion when crafting your performance. If at any point after reading all of the information you have questions please contact us at info@aerialstar.org with any further questions.

Divisions

The divisions for competition are divided into five different sections as outlined below, but Mini and Junior may be combined at the discretion of the Aerial Star Competition staff. However if more than five competitors in a given division, category, and level are registered they will remain in separate divisions.

Divisions are determined by the age of the competitor at the time of registration, if you are going to age up prior to competition and wish to be moved to the higher division please email info@aerialstar.org and your registration will be moved.

★ Mini Stars

- Ages 0 - 9
- *This division may be combined with the Juniors division if not enough competitors have registered.*

★ Junior Stars

- Ages 10 - 17

★ Adult Stars

- Ages 18 - 44

★ Senior Stars

- Ages 45+
- *Competitors in this division may choose to compete in the Adult Division, if you wish to compete in that division rather than Senior Stars please email info@aerialstar.org*

★ Para-Athlete Stars

- *All ages.*

- *This division is to allow competitors who may be at a disadvantage due to any physical or mental ailments to compete on a more even playing field than if they were to be forced into a regular competition division.*
- *Competitors do not have to compete in this division even if they have any of the listed requirements you can choose to compete in your regular age division.*
- *This division is for competitors with a temporary (3 months or more) or permanent physical or mental disability, including but not limited to the following examples:*
 - *Competitors with amputations or other permanent limb ailments.*
 - *Competitors with permanent illness' such as Scoliosis, Down Syndrome, severe types of Autism, etc.*
 - *Competitors who are currently pregnant, or up to 3 months postpartum.*
- *Competitors can only be manually moved into this category upon review by the Aerial Star Owner, when submitting to be moved no other staff will see or review your information, and all information will remain confidential.*
- *To submit to be moved to this division please email info@aerialstar.org with the following:*
 - *Email title: Para-Athlete Division*
 - *Documentation of permanent or temporary disability, this can be a medical document, documentation of pregnancy or recent long term injury, if your disability is in the nature of an amputee/limb issue a photo can just be submitted.*
- *All submissions to this division should register prior to emailing this information. Your registration will sort you by age division and then once we receive this information from you we will sort you into the Para-Athletes Division.*

If at any point a Mini or Junior competitor feels they are at the level to compete in the Adult category they are welcome to do so. You will need to email info@aerialstar.org after registering to have your registration moved.

Categories & Levels

The following is the breakdown by category and level of what skills, types of moves, etc. are required to obtain the highest scores within that category and level.

These have been laid out as clearly as possible to assist competitors in crafting their pieces to the best of their ability.

For all categories outside of Specialty, a winch/moving pulley system is NOT permitted to be used while a performer is on an apparatus. Apparatus must be used on a fixed point or fixed point with a swivel. If you submit to a category outside of Specialty and a winch/moving pulley system is utilized to enhance the performance your submission will be moved to the Specialty category.

Showcase

This category is a non-leveled showcase category for anyone who wishes to perform, but does not wish to receive feedback or judging. This is ideal for performers who love to perform just for the sake of performing, performers who just dislike competitions in general, or who just want to kind of dip their toes into putting themselves and their work forward. We understand how nerve wracking it can be to put yourself out there, especially if you're new to performing or to an apparatus in general. We also understand some people dislike competition or their artistic work being judged in general, but still want to have an outlet to perform. Performers of all ages and levels will be featured in this category with no judge feedback given, please keep this in mind when crafting your piece.

Showcase Star

This category is also a non-leveled category, but it includes judges' feedback on the performance. Performers who submit to the Showcase Star category will have their pieces shown within the showcase category at the event, however your piece will also be judged using our general judging criteria and our judges will provide you feedback on your piece as well as their opinion on what level you would have fit into for your chosen apparatus. This is a great option for those who may be new to competing, or who just want to see how they feel about getting judged and receiving feedback.

Lyra

★ Level 1 - Beginner

- No inversions required, inversions from floor permitted.
- May not mount to the top of the hoop.
- May not utilize the spanset.
- No drops permitted.
- No ankle hangs or neck hangs permitted.
- Must demonstrate proper technique in mounting and executing beginner moves within the hoop.
- Spin not required.



★ Level 2 - Novice

- No inversions required, inversions from floor permitted.
- May utilize the spanset as a grip point, may not enter the spanset.
- May go to the top of the hoop - however not level required.
- May not perform release moves on the top of the hoop. (Ex. Figure 4 layback.)
- No drops permitted.
- Must demonstrate proper technique in mounting and executing moves both in the hoop and under it.
- Spin not required.

★ Level 3 - Intermediate

- Minimum 1 inversion required. Aerial inversions to spanset not permitted.
- May perform basic hip drops from top bar, and assisted single knee drops on bottom bar - no other drops permitted. Drops not required for level. (Assisted meaning a limb is providing closure of knee hang when dropping).
- May utilize the top of the hoop and spanset, may enter the spanset.
- May perform release moves on top of the hoop.
- Must display at least 1 flexibility move.
- Must display at least 1 power or strength move.
- Must demonstrate proper technique in mounting and executing moves under, in, and on top of the hoop.
- Spin utilization during performance required.

★ **Level 4 - Advanced**

- Minimum 2 inversions required.
- Minimum 1 drop required.
- May utilize the full hoop and spanset.
- May perform release moves on the top of the hoop.
- Must display at least 2-3 flexibility moves.
- Must display 2-3 power or strength moves.
- Must demonstrate proper technique in mounting and executing moves under, in, and on top of the hoop.
- Spin utilization during performance required.

★ **Level 5 - Professional**

- Minimum 2 inversions required, must invert to the top of the hoop at least once.
- Minimum 2 drops required.
- Must utilize full hoop and spanset.
- May perform release moves on top of the hoop.
- May perform release drops from hoop to floor.
- Must display 2-4 flexibility moves.
- Must display 2-4 power or strength moves.
- Must demonstrate proper technique in mounting and executing moves under, in, and on top of the hoop.
- High level of showmanship expected.
- Spin utilization during performance required.

Silks

No Kamikaze drops or drops mimicking the wraps of Kamikaze drops are permitted in this category at any level.

★ Level 1 - Beginner

- Must display foot lock skill.
- Inversions from the floor permitted, but not required.
- Aerial inversions not permitted. (Inversions with assistance from wrap are not considered an aerial inversion.)
- No drops permitted.
- No ankle hangs permitted.
- No neck belay/neck hangs permitted.
- Expected to perform bulk of routine in lower silk range. (Floor to approx. 10' if available.)
- Spin not required.



★ Level 2 - Novice

- Foot lock skill required.
- At least 1 type of climb required.
- Minimum 1 inverted move required, may descend into the inversion from above.
- Aerial inversions permitted, but not required. (Inversions with assistance from wrap are not considered an aerial inversion.)
- Double ankle hangs permitted (when both ankles are fully wrapped together) - without a drop into them.
- Slack drops and bomb drops are permitted.
- No rotational drops permitted.
- No double/stacked drops permitted.
- No open drops permitted.
- No dead man drops permitted.
- No neck belay/neck hangs permitted.
- Expected to perform bulk of routine in lower silk range. (Floor to approx. 10' if available.)

- Spin not required.

★ **Level 3 - Intermediate**

- 1 aerial inversion required. (With no assistance from wrap.)
- 1 drop required.
- Single rotation drops permitted. (No more than 450 degree rotation.)
- No open drops permitted.
- No double drops/stacked drops permitted.
- All ankle hang types permitted.
- 2 different types of climbs required.
- Expected to perform bulk of routine in mid and lower silk range. (Floor to approx. 15' if available.)
- Spin utilization during performance required.

★ **Level 4 - Advanced**

- 2 aerial inversions required. (With no assistance from wrap.)
- 2 drops required.
- Double drops permitted, but not required.
- No open drops permitted.
- No full release moves permitted.
- Must display at least 1-3 flexibility moves.
- Must display at least 1-3 power or strength moves.
- Must display a variety of climbs throughout. (2-3 suggested.)
- Expected to use full silk. (Floor to approx. 20-25' if available.)
- Spin utilization during performance required.

★ **Level 5 - Professional**

- 2-3 aerial inversions required. (With no assistance from wrap. Straight leg inversion required, straight arm inversion expected - if inverting from standing in loop, must show clear aerial hold before inversion to be an aerial invert.)
- 2 drops required. (Different drop families are required.)
- Open drops permitted, but not required.
- Full release permitted, but not required.
- Must display at least 2-4 flexibility moves.
- Must display 2-4 power or strength moves.
- Must display a variety of climbs throughout. (2-3 suggested.)
- Expected to use full silk. (Floor to approx. 20-25' if available.)
- High level of showmanship expected.
- Spin utilization during performance required.

Competitors will not receive a deduction if their silks are shorter than the approximate lengths specified for each level, we understand that when working with some set-ups especially at home you may have less height. When working with lower heights please be mindful of your rigging situation as touching the figure 8/carabiners will result in a rigging deduction.

Hammock

★ Level 1 - Beginner

- Inversions not required, inversions from seated/the floor permitted.
- May not stand in the hammock.
- No aerial inversions permitted.
- No drops permitted.
- No ankle hangs permitted.
- Must utilize a minimum of the lower portion of the hammock. (Standing height and below.)
- Spin not required.



★ Level 2 - Novice

- Inversion from the floor required.
- May stand in the hammock, not required.
- Aerial inversions not permitted.
- Assisted inversion from standing permitted, however not required. (Assisted inversions require fabric support on the back while inverting.)
- No rotational drops permitted.
- Slack drops and bomb drops permitted.
- Double ankle hangs permitted.
- Must utilize a minimum of the lower portion of the hammock. (Standing height and below.)
- Spin not required.

★ Level 3 - Intermediate

- Inversion from the floor required.
- Aerial inversions permitted, but not required.
- Standing in the hammock or at a similar height is required.
- Proficiency above standing not expected or required.
- A minimum of 2 different mounts required.
- Single rotation drops permitted.
- Slack drops and bomb drops permitted.
- Ankle hangs permitted.
- Spin utilization during performance required.

★ Level 4 - Advanced

- Minimum 2 different mounts required.

- Minimum 1 aerial inversion required. (If inverting from standing in a loop, must show a clear aerial hold before inversion to be an aerial invert.)
- Must display 1-3 different kinds of flexibility moves.
- Must display 1-3 power or strength moves.
- Minimum 2 drops required.
- Double rotation drops are permitted, but not required.
- Double rotation drops/stacked permitted, but not required.
- Ankle hangs permitted.
- Use of at least approx. 8 feet of the hammock required. (More than competitor's height, aerial inversion, or 1-2 climbs).
- Spin utilization during performance required.

★ **Level 5 - Professional**

- Minimum 2 different mounts required.
- Minimum 1-2 aerial inversions required. (Straight leg inversion required, straight arm inversion expected - if inverting from standing in loop, must show clear aerial hold before inversion to be an aerial invert.)
- Must display a minimum 2-4 different kinds of flexibility moves.
- Must display a minimum 2-4 power or strength moves.
- Minimum 2 drops required.
- Different drop families required, multiple rotations permitted.
- Ankle hangs permitted.
- Use of at least approx. 8 feet of the hammock required. (More than competitor's height, aerial inversion, or 1-2 climbs).
- High level of showmanship expected.
- Spin utilization during performance required.

Competitors will not receive a deduction if their hammocks are shorter than the approximate lengths specified for each level, we understand that when working with some set-ups especially at home you may have less height. When working with lower heights please be mindful of your rigging situation as touching the rescue 8/hammock rings/carabiners will result in a rigging deduction.

Trapeze

Trapeze for this category must be a single apparatus on a fixed point or swivel, swinging/flying trapeze is permitted in the Specialty category.

★ Level 1 - Beginner

- No aerial or standing on trapeze inversions permitted.
- Inversions from floor or seated permitted, but not required.
- Standing permitted, but not required.
- No drops permitted.
- No ankle hangs permitted.
- Expected to perform the bulk of routine under and on the bottom bar.



★ Level 2 - Novice

- Inversion from the floor required.
- Inversions from seated permitted, but not required.
- Aerial inversions not permitted.
- No drops permitted.
- No ankle hangs permitted.
- Standing permitted, but not required. (If inverting from standing on trapeze, MUST have rope support on the back that is weight bearing during inversion.)
- Expected to perform the bulk of routine under and on bar.

★ Level 3 - Intermediate

- Inversion from the floor required.
- Aerial inversion permitted, but not required.
- Single rotation drops permitted, but not required. (No more than 450 degree rotation.)
- Ankle hangs permitted.
- Standing transitions expected.

- Expected to perform a balanced use of the trapeze: under and on bar, standing and rope use.
- Spin utilization during performance required..

★ **Level 4 - Advanced**

- Minimum 2 different mounts required.
- Minimum 2 inversions required - 1 must be in the ropes. (Straight leg inversion expected. If inverting from standing on bar, must show clear aerial hold before inversion to be an aerial invert.)
- Minimum 1 drop required.
- Must display at least 2-3 flexibility moves.
- Must display a minimum of 2-3 power or strength moves.
- Expected to perform a balanced use of the trapeze: under and on bar, standing and rope use.
- Spin utilization during performance required.

★ **Level 5 - Professional**

- Minimum 2 different types of mounts required.
- Minimum 2 inversions required, 1 must be in the ropes. (Straight leg inversion expected. If inverting from standing on bar, must show clear aerial hold before inversion to be an aerial invert.)
- Minimum 2 drops/unrolls required.
- Must display minimum 2-4 different kinds of flexibility moves.
- Must display minimum 2-4 power or strength moves.
- Expected to perform a balanced use of the trapeze: under and on bar, standing, and rope only use.
- High level of showmanship expected.
- Spin utilization during performance required.

Specialty

Due to the special nature of this category and the different moves able to be obtained on a different number of apparatus the guidelines for each level have been made broader to encompass more types of movement, judges will be advised to consider the unique aspects and abilities of each apparatus while taking in the ability for a performer to be able to fulfill all movement qualities required. **Levels 1 & 2 are omitted from this category.**

Note: A winch may be utilized for performances in this category, when utilizing a winch, or other lifting system judging will consider how well it was utilized to enhance the performance overall and not as a tool to make tricks easier.

The following apparatus' are examples of what may be utilized in this category, if you use an apparatus that is not listed below and question whether or not it meets the requirements to be used in competition please email info@aerialstar.org with a photo and description of the apparatus in question: Straps, Rope (Corde Lisse), Chains, Aerial Pole, Cube, Aerial Frame, Ladder, Lyra Ladder, Crescent, Anchor, Chandelier, Etc.

★ Level 1 - Beginner

- **This level is omitted from this category.**

★ Level 2 - Novice

- **This level is omitted from this category.**

★ Level 3 - Intermediate

- Inversion from the floor required.
- Aerial inversion permitted, but not required.
- Drops/unrolling permitted, but not required. (Single rotation drops permitted, no more than 450 degree rotation.)
- No open drops. No kamikaze drops. No double drops/stacked drops.
- No full release moves.
- Standing transitions expected where applicable.
- Expected to perform a balanced use of apparatus, with bulk of routine in the lower $\frac{2}{3}$ where applicable.
- Spin utilization required where applicable.

★ Level 4 - Advanced

- Minimum 2 different types of mounts required.

- Minimum 2 inversions required, aerial inversions permitted. (Straight leg inversion expected. If inverting from standing on apparatus, must show clear aerial hold before inversion to be an aerial invert.)
- Minimum 1 drop/unroll required. Double drops/rolls allowed but not required. Stacked drops allowed.
- No open drops.
- No kamikaze drops.
- No full release moves to the floor.
- Must display at least 2 flexibility moves.
- Must display at least 2 power or strength moves.
- Expected to perform a balanced use of the entirety of apparatus. (This means utilizing the area under apparatus, in apparatus, and on-top of apparatus when applicable. This will be different for each type of apparatus.)
- Spin utilization required where applicable.
-

★ **Level 5 - Professional**

- Minimum 2 different types of mounts required.
- Minimum 2 inversions required, 1 must be an aerial inversion where applicable. (Straight leg inversion expected. If inverting from standing on apparatus, must show clear aerial hold before inversion to be an aerial invert.)
- Minimum 2 drops/unrolls required. Double drops/rolls allowed but not required. Stacked drops allowed.
- No kamikaze drops.
- No full release moves to the floor.
- Must display 2-4 different kinds of flexibility moves.
- Must display 2-4 different power or strength moves.
- Expected to perform a balanced use of the entirety of apparatus. (This means utilizing the area under apparatus, in apparatus, and on-top of apparatus when applicable. This will be different for each type of apparatus.)
- High level of showmanship expected.
- Spin utilization required where applicable.

Doubles

Doubles performers are expected to meet all of the requirements for their level as listed above in individual categories. In addition there should be an equal mix of each partner completing these moves. For example; two competitors on lyra in the intermediate category should both be able to display an inversion from the floor and an equal mix of flexibility and power move between them. (For example: If 2 power moves are required of that level each performer must display at least 1 power move for it to be considered balanced.) No one performer should be at a significantly more advanced level than another, this will be noted in the performance and affect judges scoring. **Levels 1 & 2 are omitted from this category.**

★ **Level 1 - Beginner**

- **This level is omitted from this category.**

★ **Level 2 - Novice**

- **This level is omitted from this category.**

★ **Level 3 - Intermediate**

- Expected to meet the requirements listed above for the chosen apparatus, and display an equal balance of skill between both performers individually as well as in combined movements.

★ **Level 4 - Advanced**

- Expected to meet the requirements listed above for the chosen apparatus, and display an equal balance of skill, flexibility, and power movement between both performers individually as well as in combined movements.

★ **Level 5 - Professional**

- Expected to meet the requirements listed above for the chosen apparatus, and display an equal balance of skill, flexibility, and power movement between both performers individually as well as in combined movements.
- High level of showmanship expected from both performers.

Groups

This category is unique from the others due to the fact it is not leveled. Divisions will be utilized as long as three competitors of that division's age range have entered, otherwise divisions will be grouped together at Aerial Star staff's discretion. Regardless of category, or level on your given apparatus, groups will all be judged uniquely and together based more on the overall clarity of your concept or chosen theme rather than your competitors skill levels. So when creating your group pieces remember that it is not about the tricks in this category, but more the cleanliness, creativeness, and ability to portray a story, emotion, or theme well as a group regardless of competitors skill levels. Groups will be judged based on the following criteria.

- Must have a minimum of 70% of the performance involving the chosen apparatus, this means that during the performance the apparatus must be utilized at least 70% of the time by someone. It does not always have to be the same performer(s) throughout utilizing the apparatus, any mix of performers utilizing it will count towards that total.
- Must display appropriate use of any given apparatus used within the piece; if more than one apparatus is used then both should be used appropriately. Including the following:
 - Mounting and dismounting the apparatus in an approved/safe manner.
 - Appropriate and safe rigging used on all apparatus(es).
 - Appropriate use of the various areas of the apparatus - under, in, and on top of when applicable.
 - Well executed moves, transitions, mounts, and dismounts - while the difficulty of moves is less relevant in this category it is expected that movement, mounts, dismounts, etc. be executed cleanly.
- Must use at least one aerial apparatus within the performance, other props may also be utilized.
- May use more than one aerial apparatus within the performance - this is not required, but it is permitted.
 - If more than one apparatus is used throughout the performance then use on either one counts towards the 70% total of apparatus time.
- Must follow all costume guidelines as outlined in the attire section of this packet, and at all times may not display nipples or genitals.
- Must execute all moves and transitions safely, including on and off the apparatus. Any falls, slips, trips, etc. will be noted and affect final scores.

Edited Video

This category is unique from the others due to the fact it is not leveled. Divisions will be utilized as long as three competitors of that division's age range have entered, otherwise divisions will be grouped together at Aerial Star staff's discretion. Regardless of category, or level on your given apparatus, edited videos will all be judged uniquely and together as mentioned above. So when creating your video for this, go all out, put on the greatest show, and have as much fun as you possibly can all while showing off your talent and skill and sharing your story with us. Edited videos will be judged based on the following criteria - while skill on your apparatus should fit within your skill level, more points are awarded for showmanship in this category.

- Must have a minimum of 70% of the performance involving the chosen apparatus.
- Must display appropriate use of any given apparatus used within the piece; if more than one apparatus is used then both should be used appropriately. Including the following:
 - Mounting and dismounting the apparatus in an approved/safe manner.
 - Appropriate and safe rigging used on all apparatus(es).
 - Appropriate use of the various areas of the apparatus - under, in, and on top of when applicable.
 - Well executed moves, transitions, mounts, and dismounts.
- Must use at least one aerial apparatus within the performance, this use does not have to be done consecutively and may be done across several scenes that are cut together.
- May use more than one aerial apparatus within the performance - this is not required, but it is permitted.
 - If more than one apparatus is used throughout the performance then use on either one counts towards the 70% total of apparatus time.
- Must follow all costume guidelines as outlined in the attire section of this packet, and at all times may not display nipples or genitals.
- Must execute all scenes safely, including on and off the apparatus. Any falls, slips, trips, etc. will be noted and affect final scores.
- Doubles, and groups may submit to this category however one trophy will be awarded per duo or group.

Requirements Note

When a level requires a minimum of mounts, inversions, flexibility, power, etc. moves that is just the minimum needed to meet the level criteria. Packing in excessive extra drops, power moves, etc. will not enhance your score if they do not fully enhance the performance and make sense with your movement, musicality, showmanship, and combinations.

The minimums are in place to provide a guideline to create a balanced performance for each competitor at their given levels and show the judges that the competitors have skills that fit those levels. They are not a challenge to see how many of each type of movement or drop you can jam into a routine. We are looking for clean, well balanced, and well built performances; not every trick, drop, roll, etc. in the book. Please keep this in mind when building your routine and overall competition performance, packing in as many punches as possible will not enhance your score if they don't truly enhance the performance.

Division Splitting

Division splitting will occur when there are 12 or more individuals within a division, in these instances the divisions will be split into two sets of 6 competitors. The competitors will then be grouped as being in Section A or Section B of the division. If enough competitors register that a division is split and has 12 competitors in each section then it may be further split into 4 sections.

When a division is split it is done prior to videos being received and judged, division participants' names are entered into a list randomizer and then split based on how they come out in the listing. For example if 12 competitors are registered for the Adult - Lyra - Level 3 Division their names will be placed into a random list generator and when the list is generated the first 6 competitors will be Section A while the last 6 Competitors will be Section B. This is done so that competitors are competing in groups that are assembled with complete impartiality, regardless of studio, time doing aerial, strengths, skills, scoring, etc. the same as they would be for a live competition.

Category & Level Moving

Level moving will no longer occur starting in 2024, if a competitor enters a level below where they display skills for and then uses moves prohibited in that level then they will receive deductions as outlined below in the Deductions section of this packet. Very detailed information on what is permitted at each level are available within this packet and each competitor or coach is expected to utilize that to categorize their level appropriately.

Competitors can be moved from their category to another for various reasons including but not limited to:

- Using a pulley system or a winch to lift or lower the competitor while on the apparatus.
- Using a differently shaped lyra in the lyra category.
- Combining one or more apparatuses, such as rigging a lyra with silks rather than a spanset or lyra rope.
- Using their human prop on the apparatus rather than just as prop - this may result in being moved to the doubles category.

Deductions

The following is the list of major deductions that can be given by our judges during the judging process. All point totals are how many points will be lost **per judge** so if a deduction will lose you 2 pts. then that will be a total of 6 pts. across your entire score. While it is possible to receive deductions and still do well or place, deductions can have a very negative impact on your overall scores and placements. So please be aware of all deductions whether they are filming, conduct, costume or performance related when creating and submitting your piece to us.

- **Costume Malfunction (2 points per judge)** - any costume malfunction or reveal that exposes competitors nipples or genitalia will result in a costume deduction, if the slip is extreme it may result in disqualification.
- **Music Exceeds Allotted Time (2 point per judge)** - any music that exceeds the allowed time in a level or category will be docked 2 points per judge.
- **Music from the banned list. (2 point per judge)** - any music used that is on the currently banned list will be docked 2 points per judge.
- **Video Filmed Vertically (2 points per judge)** - any video that is filmed vertically will accrue a 2 point deduction per judge for that entry. Judges have difficulty fully seeing movement on videos filmed vertically and at times competitors limbs can end up out of frame, making it more difficult on our judges for scoring and feedback.
- **Unsafe, Compromised, or Dangerous Rigging (5 points per judge up to disqualification)** - Any submission that displays unsafe, compromised, or dangerous rigging will be subject to at minimum a safety deduction of 5 points per judge and possible disqualification.
 - Examples include:
 - Rigging from trees.
 - Visibly damaged equipment/spansets/ropes.
 - Improperly secured pulley systems.
 - Outdoor rigs not rated for a suitable load for the presented apparatus.
- **Use of a pulley/winch to raise or lower competitors. (4 points per judge)**
 - if a performer uses a winch system to raise or lower themselves in any

regular category they will lose 4 points per judge. This is only permitted in the Specialty category.

- **Performing a move or drop not permitted within your level. (4 points per move/drop per judge up to disqualification.)** - if a performer utilizes a move not permitted in their level they will no longer be moved up, and will instead be deducted 4 points per judge for a total of 12 points per move. *This deduction will be given per move, so if a competitor performs multiple moves or drops above their chosen level then they will receive this deduction for each move. If a competitor performs the Kamikaze Drop that is prohibited as listed in this packet they will be disqualified.*

Video Submissions

All video submissions are due by **June 27, 2025 @Midnight CST** - submissions will close at this time and competitors who fail to submit their videos in time will be disqualified from the competition and will not be eligible for a refund. Videos must be submitted through your profile on the Aerial Star Organization website.

To [submit your video](#) you can follow the previous link, or visit aerialstar.org and log into your account. Once you have logged in visit your profile, after ensuring your profile information is current and correct scroll down to the **Current Registrations** section. Here you will see a button to edit your registration, and a button to submit your entry. Choose **Submit Entry** and it will open the page for you to upload your video.

When uploading your video please ensure that it is titled in the following way - **Name OR Stage Name - Category - Level** - and example is shown below:

★ Crystal Jones - Lyra - Level 3

It is recommended you upload your video prior to the submission deadline to ensure that it is received in time and that no issues may occur. If at any point you do experience an issue with your upload please contact us at info@aerialstar.org if you need to re-submit your video you simply submit it again through the link in your profile. The latest submission is what will be used.

Videos should meet the following criteria, if they do not you may be asked to re-film your submission, or face a deduction:

- ★ Videos must be filmed in landscape format. A 16:9 ratio is ideal with a 30fps rate or higher, most iPhones have this capability as well as the ability to film in 4K.
 - Videos filmed in a vertical format will face a **2 point deduction per judge** with no exceptions.

- ★ It is preferred that all videos be 720p or 1080p, lower quality videos have the potential to be blurry and may not be as clear for our judges to be able to adequately see and discern all movement and lines clearly.
- ★ Videos must be filmed in a well lit area so that all movement is easy to see. (Darker areas may be utilized in the edited video category as long as they add to the performance and do not detract from judges ability to see movement on the apparatus.)
- ★ The performer must have all of the body in the video at all times during the performance, this does not include during the entrance/bow and exit.
- ★ Videos must fall within the given time limits listed above, with the additional allowance of 15 seconds for entry/bow/exit.
 - Performances that go over their allotted time limits will face a **1 point deduction per judge** for every additional 15 seconds.
- ★ Videos must be a single shot, but can be filmed with the help of someone following you as you perform, a drone, or even a gimbal filming system. Any videos in the regular categories found to have multiple cut together scenes will be moved to the Edited Video category.
- ★ Videos must have clear and easy to hear sound, **overlaying your music track is highly recommended** and will not be counted as an edited video.
- ★ Videos that do not meet the above criteria will be subject to needing re-filmed or disqualification if it is too close to the final submission deadline.

Code of Conduct

All competitors are required to conduct themselves in a polite and professional manner during participation in any Aerial Star Organization event or competition. This encompasses the time period from registration through the livestream and after. This includes when interacting with other competitors, judges, and Aerial star Organization staff - as well as when mentioning or discussing the aforementioned.

As stated above in the general guidelines at no point should scores be discussed in any open forum, and the judges decisions are not up for debate. Questions regarding any scoring should be sent to info@aerialstar.org - discussion or questions on scores found to occur outside of emailing us will result in a code of conduct violation. Competitors found to engage in these discussions may face removal of their titles if currently holding any, or being barred from performing in future events or competitions.

At no point should any one competitor or group of competitors be found to be discussing in a disdainful manner another competitor, Aerial Star Organization staff, or judges as well. If found doing so you will be held in violation of our code of conduct and be barred from performing in future events or competitions.

If you are mentioning or affiliating yourself with our competition and conduct yourself in a manner unbecoming on social media, at a live event, or on any public platform you may face disqualification from your current competition up to being barred from further competing or participating in any events or competitions. Additionally title holders may be stripped of their titles if found to be in violation of this code of conduct.

We strive for every performer to have a fun, fair, and enriching experience throughout their preparation for and participation in our competition, so those who choose to negatively affect that experience for others will be held accountable.

Frequently Asked Questions

These are common questions that we felt would be asked by competitors or that we were advised would become common questions by some of our judging panel. As more questions come up during competitions they will be added to this packet.

★ Why a virtual competition and not live?

- A live competition or even better an in-person competition would have been wonderful to have, however live competitions rely so heavily on every participant's studio or performance space having high speed internet, great sound systems, perfect lighting, rental availability, etc. Which not everyone has. So rather than try to run a livestream event where some people might not feel their performance was seen as beautifully as it should have been, we wanted to go with the virtual competition. This way more competitors from all over the world have the opportunity to participate as well, because we won't be working around a ton of time zones, internet issues, sound issues, etc. This also gives competitors and showcase performers the ability to truly put their best foot forward by recording your best run through where you're most comfortable and showcase it to the world.

★ Will there ever be an in-person competition?

- Potentially. Aside from saying it may be a possibility in the future we don't really have a solid answer to this question. Have we looked into it, yes. Do we intend to continue to look into it further, also yes. There are a lot of different factors with an in-person competition that make it a larger effort and a lot more costly to organize and execute than a virtual competition, so for now we are sticking to what we know we can execute well and do continually.

★ Can I ask a specific question about a move for a certain level?

- Questions about specifics moves, transitions, and leveling for them can be directed to info@aerialstar.org these questions will be

answered by one of our judge wranglers who does not handle final judging in an effort to keep all final scores fair and impartial.

★ What if I entered and I don't want to compete anymore?

- Competitors can withdraw from the competition at any time, however you will forfeit your entry fee. As stated above all entries are non-refundable and non-transferrable. If you have a situation that you feel warrants extra consideration then you can email info@aerialstar.org with that information and at that point the Aerial Star Organization staff will determine whether or not the situation warrants a refund.

★ What if I'm the only competitor in my level and category?

- This does happen sometimes and in some instances you will remain the only competitor in your category and level, because we prefer not to create a mix of competitors at too wide a skill range.
- Levels will be combined if necessary during judging using the following system:
 - Level 1 & 2 competitors may be combined in the same division and category.
 - Level 2 & 3 competitors may be combined in the same division and category.
 - Level 3 & 4 competitors may be combined in the same division and category.
 - Level 5 competitors will never be combined with other levels as the requirements for this level are much higher than the others.

★ Can my video be of a previously performed routine?

- Yes, you can record a routine you have competed before in another competition, performance, or showcase. We just cannot use videos from those events due to copyright/licensing issues, so to submit those you would simply need to re-film the routine.

Definitions

These are general definitions for certain terms used throughout this packet to assist competitors in better understanding what is meant by certain descriptive terms in leveling and apparatus requirements.

Aerial Inversion - an inversion in which the competitor lifts themselves and fully holds their weight in their arms prior to initiating and completing the lift of their hips above the head.

Assisted Inversion - any movement in which the competitor lifts their hoops above their heads with assistance from a limb on the apparatus, or a wrap with the apparatus spanset/fabric/cord.

Dismount - any way in which a competitor dismounts the apparatus or moves down between levels on the apparatus. A dismount can occur from the apparatus to the floor or from a higher level of the apparatus to a lower level.

Drop - any movement from one level of the apparatus to another in which a competitor is unable to control their force or momentum.

Flexibility Move - a move on the apparatus that exhibits a range of flexibility of the competitors, including but not limited to, back flexibility, legs/splits flexibility, shoulder flexibility, straddle flexibility, neck flexibility, etc.

Full Release Move - any move where all grips are released from the apparatus that results in the competitor fully exiting the apparatus with momentum. Ex. penny drop on lyra.

Inversion - any movement in which the competitor lifts their hips above their head to mount the apparatus, while on the apparatus, or within the spanset of an apparatus.

Mount - any way in which a competitor mounts the apparatus or inverts upward between levels on the apparatus. A mount can originate from the floor, or from one level of the apparatus to another.

Power Move - a move that involves intentional dynamic movement or continuous momentum, that may involve, but does not always require a basis in strength.

Strength Move - a move that highly exhibits a facet of the competitors muscular ability (i.e. grip, isometric holds, lifting or pressing of the body, etc.). May also showcase flexibility, but must be active and not passive.

Competitor Packet Updates

Some changes have been made to the Competitor's Packet from previous years these changes will most commonly be denoted by being in italicized or in red versus black. Please read through this packet completely to note these changes and ensure you are clearly understanding what Division and Level criteria your performance meets.

Updated: *December 16, 2021* - deductions clarified, additional general guidelines added, move clarifications made.

February 9, 2022 - division changes added, Senior Division changed to Adult, and Senior Division for 45+ added, Para-Athlete Division and information added.

March 10, 2022 - definitions added, and information added to Para-Athlete judging criteria.

December 16, 2022 - silks/hammock level requirements clarified further, safety deductions added to, deduction criteria explained further, lyra spanset allowances defined for each category. Video submissions requirements explained further in both General and Video Submissions sections. Move up requirements altered for winners from previous years.

September 21, 2023 - silks/hammock level requirements updated, disqualifications section added, deductions section added, groups division added, edited video requirements updated, doubles requirements updated.

December 27, 2024 - mount and dismount definitions added, videos from other competitions clarified and allowances adjusted, removal of lollipop lyra/lyra pole being permitted in Aerial Star Competition.