

APPROVED
By Order No. VĮ-6-(1.1.)
of the Director of Šiauliai Cultural
Center of 20 January 2026

**REGULATIONS
OF THE 19TH INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL–COMPETITION
“AUŠRINĖ ŽVAIGŽDĖ”**

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. The International Dance Festival–Competition “Aušrinė žvaigždė” (hereinafter – the Festival) is focused on the promotion of dance art, its dissemination, and international cultural exchange. During the Festival, a creative, active personality open to aesthetic and cultural experience and meaningfully fulfilling their creative potential is nurtured. Opportunities are provided to acquire the general experience and knowledge of dance expression necessary for every person. The Festival provides an opportunity to get acquainted with new dance groups, to share the joys, success, experience, and professionalism that dance brings.
2. The organizer of the Festival – Šiauliai Cultural Center (hereinafter – the Center) Choreography Studio “Aušrelė”.

**CHAPTER II
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

3. The goal of the Festival is – while ensuring the continuity of traditions, to create conditions for young talents to realize creative ideas through the language of dance, thereby presenting the national identity of their country and region, and to strengthen cultural exchange cooperation between Lithuanian and foreign dance groups.
4. The objectives of the Festival are:
 - 4.1. to foster the traditions of professional dance events;
 - 4.2. to educate children and youth through art;
 - 4.3. to develop and cultivate stage and public culture;
 - 4.4. to encourage and develop the individuality of each child, providing an opportunity to show themselves and their abilities;
 - 4.5. to develop choreographic, musical, and aesthetic knowledge;
 - 4.6. to promote a positive attitude towards performing arts;
 - 4.7. to strengthen cultural exchange cooperation between dance groups;
 - 4.8. to gather the best Lithuanian and foreign dance groups;
 - 4.9. to encourage society to participate in the dissemination of art and culture.

**CHAPTER III
TIME AND PLACE**

5. The Festival will take place on 14–17 May 2026 at the Šiauliai Cultural Center, in public spaces of Šiauliai city, and in Šiauliai County.
6. The competitive parts of the Festival will take place:
 - 6.1. on 14 May – review and evaluation of performances submitted by participants of the “Recording” competition, announcement of winners online;
 - 6.2. on 15 May – competitive part of folk dance, awarding of winners at the Šiauliai Cultural Center (Aušros Ave. 31, Šiauliai);
 - 6.3. on 16 May – competitive part of contemporary dance, awarding of winners at the Šiauliai Cultural Center (Aušros Ave. 31, Šiauliai);
 - 6.4. on 16 May – Competitive festival segment for all dance categories for participants aged 25 and older, winners’ awards at Šiauliai Cultural Center (Aušros Ave. 31, Šiauliai).
 - 6.5. on 17 May – competitive part of classical dance, awarding of winners at the Šiauliai Cultural Center (Aušros Ave. 31, Šiauliai).

CHAPTER IV PARTICIPANTS

7. The Festival is open to dance groups (7–30 dancers), small groups (3–6 dancers), trios, duets, and soloists, divided into the following age groups:
 - 7.1. group aged 4–6;
 - 7.2. group aged 7–9;
 - 7.3. group aged 10–12;
 - 7.4. group aged 13–16;
 - 7.5. group aged 17–25;
 - 7.6. group aged 25 and older;
 - 7.7. “MIX” group (various ages).
8. A choreographic composition may include dancers from other age groups, but no more than 20% of all dancers in the composition. In the “MIX” group, two or more age groups may perform together. The same dance may not be performed in the competition for two consecutive years.

CHAPTER V PROGRAMME

9. Dance categories performed by participating groups, small groups, duets, and soloists:
 - 9.1. classical dance (classical and neoclassical);
 - 9.2. folk dance (stage folk, folkloric, stylized folk);
 - 9.3. contemporary dance (children’s, modern (“contemporary”), free (“free dance”)).Contemporary dance groups participating in the competition may delegate only one solo, duet, or trio performance in each separate age and genre category.
10. Performance:
 - 10.1. one dance in the chosen category (participation in several categories is allowed);
 - 10.2. duration of dances – no longer than 4 minutes. Audio recordings must be sent together with the application.
11. On the day of the competition, the audio recording must be submitted on a USB drive no later than 1 hour before the start of the competitive performance.
12. Performance formats:
 - 12.1. “live” – dance groups perform one dance in the chosen dance category at the Šiauliai Cultural Center before the jury and the audience;
 - 12.2. “recording” – dance groups (from another country who cannot participate “live”) must send a video recording of one dance in the chosen category. The dance recording will be shown on screen before the jury and the audience present at the Šiauliai Cultural Center. The recording must not be edited, must be filmed from one point, no longer than 4 minutes, in good technical quality – Mp4 format (full HD 1920x1080). The recording must be sent by 10 May 2026. Video recordings for the competition must be sent using the websites: <https://www.myairbridge.com/en/#/> or <https://wettransfer.com/>.
13. No lighting effects are used in the competitive part.
14. The order of performances is determined by the Organizer according to the order of application submission.

CHAPTER VI EVALUATION AND AWARDS

15. Performances in the competitive part of the Festival will be evaluated by an international jury. The names of the jury members will be announced 10 days before the event on the Šiauliai Cultural Center’s website.
16. The repertoire, performance, and appearance of the group must correspond to the performers’ age and meet stage aesthetic requirements.
17. Performance evaluation criteria:
 - 17.1. performance technique;
 - 17.2. stage culture;

- 17.3. dancers' artistry;
- 17.4. dance composition, work of the choreographer;
- 17.5. correspondence of the chosen repertoire to participants' age, choice of music;
- 17.6. each performance criterion is evaluated on a 3-point scale: 0 (poor), 1 (satisfactory), 2 (good), 3 (very good). The maximum possible total score is 15 points. The final score is determined by dividing the total sum of points awarded by the jury by the number of jury members.
18. Determining the winner of the Festival's competition:
 - 18.1. first place – 12–15 points;
 - 18.2. second place – 10–11 points;
 - 18.3. third place – 8–9 points;
 - 18.4. fourth place – 1–7 points.
19. The jury awards four prize places in each dance category and age group.
20. The jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.
21. The Festival laureates will be awarded diplomas, special prizes, gifts from sponsors, and awards from the "Aušrelė" Choreography Studio.
22. Prizes and awards intended for "Recording" participants will be sent to the addresses indicated by the leaders after the Festival.
23. The Organizer reserves the right to change the course of the Festival's competition.

CHAPTER VII PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS

24. A participation fee of EUR 10 per person applies to competition participants.
25. Participants of the competitive part of the Festival cover their own travel and catering expenses. For assistance in ordering services, the Organizer may be contacted.
26. The competition regulations, participant's application form, and consent for photography/filming (Annex 1), and the list of participants form (Annex 2) are available on the Šiauliai Cultural Center's website www.siauliukc.lt.
27. Information about the Festival's course, rehearsal, and performance times will be sent to the indicated email address after receiving the completed participant's form. The participant's form is completed by, and communication with the Organizer is maintained by, the competition participant's leader, who is also responsible for the submitted information.
28. Festival participants' applications and consents for photography/filming (Annex 1), and lists of participants (Annex 2) must be submitted by 30 April 2026 to the email address zita.mundiniene@siauliukc.lt.
29. The Festival organizers have full rights to recordings of performances, TV broadcasts, photographs, and publication of images for Festival purposes without payment to the participants.
30. By submitting all required Festival documents, the participants' representative agrees to the photography and filming of the group members during the Festival, confirms that they have obtained consent from the parents of underage members, and ensures that the Organizer may process the personal data of group members (name, surname, date of birth, place of residence, country) for Festival organization purposes. The representative confirms they are aware of the data subject rights established in the Law on Legal Protection of Personal Data of the Republic of Lithuania.
31. The organizers guarantee that photographs and video footage of Festival participants will be used only for the promotion of the Festival and the activities of the Šiauliai Cultural Center for non-commercial purposes. The material may be used on websites, social networks, in the press, on television, in promotional materials, printed publications, etc.
32. The participant or, in the case of underage participants, the group leader or responsible person ensures the discipline of participants and is responsible for any health issues of participants during the Festival–Competition.

CHAPTER VIII INFORMATION

33. Detailed information by phone: +370 678 36 701, email: zita.mundiniene@siauliukc.lt, website: www.siauliukc.lt.
34. Festival organizing team:
 - 34.1. Zita Mundinienė – author of the Festival idea, coordinator and implementer of the Festival, cultural activities manager of the Šiauliai Cultural Center Choreography Studio “Aušrelė”;
 - 34.2. Mindaugas Kosaitis – coordinator and implementer of the artistic part of the Festival, artistic director of the Šiauliai Cultural Center Choreography Studio “Aušrelė”;
 - 34.3. Vita Adomėnaitė-Butnorienė – implementer of Festival activities, artistic director of the Šiauliai Cultural Center Choreography Studio “Aušrelė”.