

Competition rules 2026



Competition Rules

I. Organizer

The competition is organized by Czech Pole Championship, s.r.o., Company ID: 08318522, registered at Modrá 1980/8, Prague 5 - Stodůlky, 155 00, Czech Republic.

II. Date and Venue

The competition will take place on October 3, 2026, at Cabaret des Péchés, Palác Jalta, Dominikánské náměstí 656/2, 602 00, Brno, Czech Republic.

III. Eligibility and General Competition Rules

- The competition is open to dancers aged 18 and older on the day of the event.
- Both Czech and international competitors are welcome to participate.
- Competitors may enter as individuals or as groups of up to six members (for the Low Flow Groups category). Any additional performers must be registered as "live props". See the live props regulations for details.
- By submitting the application, the competitor confirms that they have read the Competition Rules and Judging Criteria and acknowledge that violating the rules may result in penalties or disqualification.
- Participation requires submitting an application and paying the entry fee:
 - Semifinal entry fee: CZK 750 (EUR 30) per routine
 - Final entry fee: CZK 1,750 (EUR 75) per routine
 - If a competitor cannot pay via the standard payment gateway, they may request an alternative PayPal payment (subject to additional transaction fees).
 - **Finalists will receive payment details for the final entry fee via email after the semifinal results are announced.**
- All deadlines must be met to remain in the competition.
- The competition will be judged according to the Czech Exotic Open 2026 rules.
- The competition consists of two rounds:
 - Semifinals – video submission round
 - Finals – live event in Brno

IV. Competitor's Rights and Responsibilities

- All competitors must be in good health and must not be pregnant. The organizer assumes no responsibility if a competitor does not comply with this requirement.
- The use of gloves during the performance is only allowed if the competitor provides a medical certificate confirming excessive hand sweating.
- Upon entering the competition stage, the competitor has the right to inspect the cleanliness of the poles and the stage surface (without applying grip aid to the poles) and may request additional cleaning if necessary. If the competitor does not perform this check and begins their routine, later complaints will not be considered.
- Music will start playing immediately after the competitor takes their starting position. If the starting position is on the pole, the competitor may have a coach or assistant signal the start by waving from the edge of the stage, after which they must immediately leave the stage area.
- A competitor may repeat their performance only in the following cases:
 - A technical issue with the music occurs (if the wrong track is played, the competitor must immediately notify the organizers and stop performing—later complaints will not be accepted).
 - Safety hazards arise (e.g. an improperly secured pole, liquid on the stage etc.).
 - The head judge will determine whether a performance may be repeated in these cases.
- If a competitor withdraws from the competition, they must immediately inform the organizer.
- Competitors cannot demand an explanation of their scores from the judges, except in private consultations or official feedback sessions.

V. Rights and Responsibilities of the Organizer

- The organizer reserves the right to modify the competition rules and judging criteria. Any changes will be promptly announced on the competition's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram) and sent to all competitors via email.
- The organizer reserves the right to change the number of finalists.

- The organizer reserves the right to reschedule the competition in the event of force majeure. In such a case, the entry fee is non-refundable. If the entire competition is canceled, the organizer commits to refunding at least 50% of the base entry fee.
- The organizer will provide medical assistance in case of injury.
- The organizer is not responsible for damage to or loss of personal belongings.
- The organizer is not liable for any injuries or harm sustained by competitors.
- The following individuals have the right to stop a competitor's performance in case of a fall: the competitor themselves, their coach, their legal guardian, or the competition's designated medical professional. If a head injury is clearly sustained, the head judge also has the right to stop the performance.
- The organizer is responsible for:
 - Providing and securely installing the competition poles and verifying their stability.
 - Ensuring designated areas for competitors to change and warm up.
 - Allowing competitors to test the poles and stage before the competition begins.
 - Informing the judges of all necessary details regarding the competition.
 - Ensuring that the poles are cleaned before each competitor's performance.

VI. Competition Categories

- **Amateur** – Competitors with basic experience in pole dance. They are not instructors, have not competed in national or international competitions in the Semi-Pro (Professional) or Professional (Elite) categories, and have never placed in the top three in the Amateur category.
- **Semi-Pro** – Pole dance instructors or those who earn any income from pole dance (e.g., paid performances). This category also includes competitors who have placed 1st-3rd in the Amateur category* or have previously competed in the Semi-Pro (Professional) category.
- **Professional** – Competitors who have placed 1st-3rd in the Semi-Pro (Professional) category* or have previously competed in the Professional (Elite) category or at the World Championships (IPSF/POSA).
- **Stars** – Competitors who have placed 1st-3rd at least twice in the Professional (Elite) category* in exotic competitions

- **Low Flow Singles Amateur**
- **Low Flow Singles Semi-Pro**
- **Low Flow Singles Professional**
- **Low Flow Groups** (2-6 competitors) – This category has no skill level divisions. It is the only category without live props. The jury will evaluate the technical execution, synchronization, and consistency of performance across the group.

* Placement in 1st-3rd place is only considered from competitions where at least six competitors participated.

Low Flow Specifications

For Low Flow Singles and Low Flow Groups, performances must focus on floorwork and pole work from the ground. It is forbidden to touch (with any part of the body) a height above hand level while standing (except for minor jumps or brief lifts from the toes). This rule doesn't apply to Groups, where touch is allowed, but aerial tricks are still NOT JUDGED.

DEFINITION	
<p style="text-align: center;">LOW FLOW</p> <p>Focus on floorwork and pole work from the ground Aerial tricks* ARE NOT JUDGED</p> <p>It is forbidden to touch (with any part of the body) a height above hand level while standing **</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">POLE</p> <p>Focus on floorwork and pole skills Aerial trics* are judged</p> <p>In case of absence of aerial tricks, 0 will be awarded for this criterium</p>
<p>*aerial trick is a trick, where starting position is from the pole</p> <p>**this rule doesn't apply to Groups, where touch is allowed, but aerial tricks are still NOT JUDGES</p>	
CATEGORIES	
<p style="text-align: center;">AMATEURS SEMI- PRO PROFESSIONALS GROUPS***</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AMATEURS SEMI- PRO PROFESSIONALS STARS</p>
<p>*** Groups is category for 2-6 people, no live props allowed</p>	

VII. Semifinals – Video Round

- Competitors must submit a YouTube video link along with their application. The video title must include the competitor's name, category, and "Czech Exotic Open 2026".
- The video link must be sent within the deadline to info@czechexotic.cz or included in the application form.

- The latest deadline for submitting the semifinal video is June 22, 2026, at 23:59 (CET).
- The video must be recorded from a front-facing perspective, in landscape mode, with good visibility and lighting, and a minimum resolution of 720p.
- The video must not be edited. An original audio track can be added to improve sound quality, but it must not completely replace or overpower the original recording.
- Competitors must use at least one pole. The number of poles used and their mode (spinning or static) is at the competitor's discretion.
- The video must be between 1 minute 40 seconds and 2 minutes in length.
- In the Low Flow and Low Flow Groups categories, competitors must be in contact with the pole for at least 45 seconds.
- Videos that do not meet the requirements will be automatically disqualified or penalized, depending on the severity of the violation.
- No introduction or verbal presentation of the competitor's name is required. The video is used solely for the purpose of evaluating the competitor's performance.
- The recording must be free of disruptive elements, such as background conversations, the presence of the camera operator, or any other distractions, except for live props.
- Camera movement is allowed, but the competitor's entire body, including limbs, must remain visible in the frame at all times. The use of a fisheye lens is permitted, but it must not distort the image.
- Based on the video submissions, the jury will select 10 finalists per category.
- The organizer reserves the right to select alternate finalists from the next highest-ranking competitors. Alternates will be notified by August 31, 2026, at the latest.

VIII. Final Round

- To participate in the finals, competitors must pay the remaining entry fee of CZK 1,750 (EUR 75) per routine by July 13, 2026, at the latest.
- Finalists do not need to purchase a ticket for the competition day.
- Live props must pay a discounted ticket fee in cash at the venue. One coach (assistant) is also eligible for a discounted ticket.
- The starting order will be determined by a draw.
- Competitors must use both poles during their performance.

- The spinning pole is on the right, and the static pole is on the left, as viewed from the audience and judges.
- If the competitor begins their routine on the pole or off-stage, they may have a coach on stage to signal the sound technician with a wave when they are ready. The coach must then immediately leave the stage (this signals the start of the music).
- A competitor may repeat their performance only in the following cases:
 - A technical issue with the music occurs.
 - Safety hazards arise (e.g., an improperly secured pole, liquid on the stage).
 - The head judge will decide whether a performance can be repeated in these cases.
- The winner of each category is the competitor with the highest score. In the event of a tie, the score for Stage Presence will be the deciding factor.
- The jury will announce the top three competitors in each category—1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place.
- Props are allowed.

IX. Final Music

- Music must be uploaded through a form that each finalist will receive via email immediately after the list of finalists is announced.
- The deadline for submitting the form with the uploaded track is **September 7, 2026**, at 23:59 (CET).
- The uploaded file must be correctly named with the competitor's full name and category. If the file is not properly named, it will not be accepted.
- The music file must be in MP3 format.
- Music length requirements:
 - Amateurs, Low Flow Singles, and Low Flow Groups: **2 minutes 45 seconds – 3 minutes 30 seconds**
 - Semi-Pro, Professionals, and Stars: **3 minutes 15 seconds – 4 minutes 00 seconds**

X. Costume

- Competitors may wear any costume of their choice.
- Intimate areas must remain covered. If exposed, the head judge will determine the penalty based on severity: a deduction of -2 or -5 points or disqualification. Complete or intentional exposure will result in disqualification.
- Female competitors must ensure that their nipples are not visible.
- Footwear is mandatory for all competitors, with a minimum platform height of 4.4 cm.
- Hairstyle and makeup are considered part of the costume.
 - Accessories are allowed but must not interfere with movement or pose a safety risk. Any costume malfunction will be reflected in the "Stage Presence" judging criterion.

Props

- Competitors are allowed to use props in their performances. However, aerial hoop and silks are not considered props but additional apparatuses, meaning they are not permitted. Hanging loops attached to the pole are also prohibited.
- Props must not pose a risk to health or safety. Open flames (e.g., candles), explosives, drugs, intoxicating substances, live animals, or similar are strictly forbidden.
- Each competitor is responsible for providing and transporting their own props to and from the venue.
- Large props (e.g., oversized furniture), props requiring installation, or props that affect the cleanliness or leave residue on the stage must be reported by **September 7, 2026**, using the form that finalists will receive via email after the finalist list is announced.
- The installation and removal of props must not exceed three minutes.
- Live props (persons) are allowed, with a maximum of five per performance.
- Live props must not assist the competitor in getting onto or off the pole (e.g., lifting or lowering them). Acrobatic elements and lifted figures performed by or with the help of a live prop will not count toward the difficulty score of the routine, nor will the dance performance of the live prop itself. The role of a live prop should support the storyline but must not overshadow the competitor.
- Live props must purchase a valid discounted ticket, payable in cash at registration.
- Live props are not allowed in the Low Flow Groups category.

XI. Grip Aids

Applying grip aids to the poles is strictly prohibited. Competitors are allowed to use grip aids on their body, but only water-soluble products are permitted. Wax-based grip aids, such as ITAC, and resin-based products are strictly forbidden. Failure to comply with this rule may result in disqualification.

XII. Judging Panel

- The semifinal judging panel will consist of at least three judges, each evaluating all criteria. The scores for individual criteria will be averaged. Additionally, there will be one head judge, responsible for applying penalties for rule violations (see the Scoring section).
- The final judging panel will consist of at least five judges, each evaluating all criteria. The scores for individual criteria will be averaged. Additionally, there will be one head judge, responsible for applying penalties for rule violations (see the Scoring section).

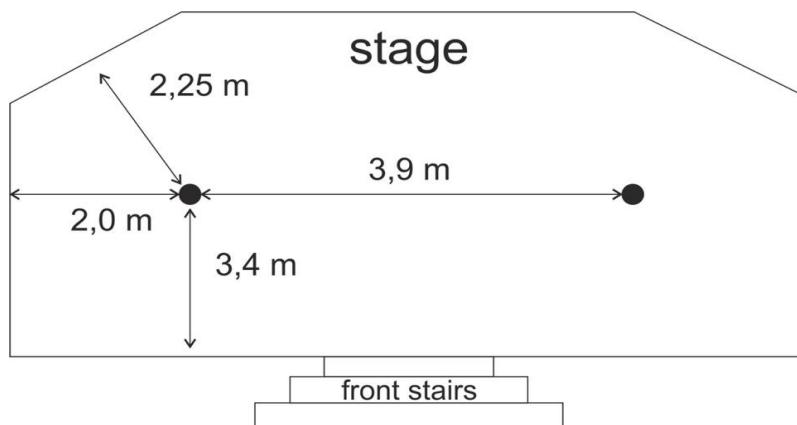
XIII. Photos & Video

- By submitting their application, the competitor grants the organizer permission to use photographs and video recordings for promotional purposes both during and after the competition. The competitor also agrees to the public release of their competition performance video, including their name and category, and consents to the use of video recordings for judge education and training.
- All official visual and audio materials are the property of the competition organizer.
- Personal photography and video recording is allowed only on mobile phones and not on professional cameras or camcorders. The use of flash or any additional lighting is strictly prohibited. Visitors who violate this rule may be removed from the venue.

XIV. Poles & Stage

- The competition poles have a diameter of 45 mm, a height of 4.75 m, and are made of chrome (brand: X-Pole).
- From the audience's perspective, the static pole is on the left, and the spinning pole is on the right.

- The distance between the poles is approximately 4 meters, with around 2 meters of space on either side.
- Stage dimensions:



XV. Disqualification

A competitor may be disqualified in the following cases:

- Providing false or inaccurate information in the application, such as failing to disclose details relevant to category placement, participation or victories in other competitions, or health conditions. Disqualification will be assessed based on the severity of the rule violation.
- Violating competition rules and regulations.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct, including making negative remarks about other competitors or publicly attempting to discredit them.
- Endangering the health or safety of event participants.
- Exposure of intimate areas.
- Failure to appear on stage for the performance.
- Failure to attend the awards ceremony. In exceptional cases, such as documented health issues, an absence may be excused with prior personal notification to the organizer.
- Leaving the performance area before the music ends.
- Directly approaching judges to discuss the competition process or attempting to influence results directly or indirectly before or during the event.

XVI. Important Deadlines

- **June 22, 2026** – Deadline for applications, semifinal entry fee payment, and semifinal video submission
- **July 6, 2026** – Announcement of finalists
- **July 13, 2026** – Deadline for final entry fee payment
- **September 7, 2026** – Deadline for final music submission and prop registration
- **September 14, 2026** – Announcement of finalists in performance order
- **October 3, 2026** – Competition day

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