

## The Ohio Star Ball - A Festival of DanceSport

**Hello All! We hope everyone is healthy and safe. We will be running the 45<sup>th</sup> Ohio Star Ball with all the new rules and guidelines set forth. There could be adjustment and/or changes along the way and we will keep you inform throughout these changing times. Our goal is to hold the competition in the safest way possible and get you all back on the dance floor doing what we all love to do ... DANCE!!**

The Ohio Star Ball began as a one day showcase 44 years ago, under the direction of Sam Sodano. With equal amounts of creativity, courage and perseverance, Sam has developed this Championship into the largest Pro/Am competition, not only in North America, but in the world today. When you arrive in Columbus, look up and down the main street. Flags posted by the Columbus Convention Bureau announce this Championship as a major city convention.

From its inception, the philosophy of the Ohio Star Ball has not changed. Competition is limited to one age, three consecutive levels in American style and two consecutive levels in International style, the venue is comfortable, the atmosphere familiar and friendly, and the event offers something for everyone, from the earliest beginner to the most advanced dancer of any age or level. The Ohio Star Ball of today is now a 6-day event with 70 Judges, 3 Chairmen, 3 Emcee's, 7 Scrutineers, 2 Deejays, 9 Deck Captains! With a minimum of 24 competitors in some single age categories with first rounds and quarter finals, the OSB Team runs this event like a well-oiled machine with an on-time schedule you can set your watch by. Scholarship divisions are the best attended in the nation, with prize money provided in all Pro/Am, Amateur and Junior Divisions by both visible and anonymous patrons. And if you're dancing for points or national ranking, the Ohio Star Ball is not only the grand finale of the World DanceSport Series, but is also a member of Dancers Cup Tour, Global Spectrum and the United States Series event.

Move out of the Regency Ballroom and visit the Battelle Hall to watch the Amateur and Junior competitors dancing by day, and the Open Professional Competitors dancing on Friday and Saturday night.

Need some new shoes, dance wear or other paraphernalia? Go to Level 2 and shop 'til you drop! With over 40 vendors present, you had better bring an empty suitcase with you!

And while you're in your room, tune in to Channel 12 and watch "Championship Ballroom Dancing"! With show dating all the way back to 1984, you'll get to watch many of today' Judges and Officials in their competitive days. Its non-stop dancing 24/7!

Also the World Pro/Am Dancesport Series is pleased to announce a new category to be added to the Dancesport Series Lineup. In conjunction with the Fordney Foundation and beginning this year at the 2023 Ohio Star Ball, there will now be a Junior and Youth Dancesport series. As with the World Pro Am Dancesport Series, the Grand Finale will be held in Ohio 2023, with an overall Junior prize purse from the Fordney Foundation TBD. The World Pro Am Dancesport Series is excited to launch this new venture with the Fordney Foundation. For details about the new Junior and Youth Dancesport series, please go to [www.fordneyfoundation.org](http://www.fordneyfoundation.org) and click on "Youthseries" at the top of the menu.

And finally, we have the grand finale of the Best of the Best Challenge. The qualified Pro/Am winners from many events throughout the year will battle it out for Top Honors!

The Ohio Star Ball invites dancers, judges, teachers and friends to join us for our 45<sup>th</sup> year of dance action!!