

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why are admission charges so high?**

We are extremely lucky to have some fantastic venues available to us for competitions. A typical theatre costs up to \$12 000 per day to hire.

### **Why do parents have to pay?**

Parents are audience members too, and while it may seem unfair to have to pay every time you attend a competition, unfortunately this is an expense that is associated with our wonderful sport.

### **Why can't theatres be opened earlier?**

The auditoriums are opened only 45 minutes prior to the start of a competition mainly to save on the cost of venue hire. Charges apply from the time of public admittance, so this is done to keep costs at a minimum.

### **Why does the theatre have to be cleared between sessions?**

The venues must be cleared between each session so that they may be cleaned prior to the following session. This also ensures that all audience members pay for all sessions they intend to watch.

### **Why do I have to purchase an admittance ticket prior to taking costumes to dressing rooms (some theatres only)?**

Tickets need to be purchased prior to admittance to the dressing room to avoid back flow of people. At some venues, with smaller foyer areas/dressing rooms, it is important to minimise congestion between these two points. This system also ensures that people don't "sneak in" to the theatre without purchasing a ticket.

### **Will programs be available online prior to the competition?**

Each competition has its own process for uploading programs or otherwise. You will find most team competitions upload their programs prior to the competition however it is not mandatory to do so and some still do not. Calisthenics Victoria uploads the State Championships programs to our website at least one week prior to the competition.

### **Why aren't fathers allowed in dressing rooms?**

Calisthenics Victoria Policy permits fathers in dressing areas as dressers, at all Tinies and Sub Junior Competitions, unless the Club has allocated dressers, and provided that the organisers are advised on arrival. Other Clubs sharing the dressing room should also be agreeable prior to the competition. All competitors (girls and boys) should wear body suits

to avoid any problems. Fathers are not allowed in the dressing rooms for any other age group. While we understand that fathers share an equal interest in supporting their children and contribute greatly to our sport, this rule has been made to protect our members, the majority of whom are female, from any incidence of unwanted attention.

#### **Why can't I go into dressing room when I want?**

Some clubs make their own ruling on this. Other times the competitions convenors, theatre management or local government authorities make the ruling, because crowding backstage can become an issue of health and safety, as well as for the smooth running of the competition.

#### **Why are dressing rooms changed when the same club attends two consecutive sessions?**

Dressing room space is allocated according to the number of team members. Bigger groups are allocated bigger spaces, which is why often clubs are not just assigned one dressing room for the entirety of the competition.

#### **Why must I switch off my mobile phone in the theatre?**

It is common courtesy to switch your mobile phone off in all theatres, just like you would at the movies. Not only is it disruptive to other audience members, but also to the performers on stage. Mobile phones can also interfere with the sound system at some venues.

#### **Why can't we eat or drink in the theatres?**

Eating and drinking in theatres is something which is governed by the venue convenors. Generally you are not allowed to eat or drink in theatres because they serve as a disruption to other audience members, especially if the food creates a smell or packaging creates noise. Cleaning of the theatre in between sessions would also take much longer if food or drinks were allowed.

#### **Why can't I take action photos/videos of my own child on stage?**

Photos and videos are not permitted to be taken during performances or presentations to protect the privacy of all of our competitors. Calisthenics Victoria has a duty of care to all our participants to protect their right to privacy. Aside from that, videos and photography can be disruptive to other audience members, as well as the competitors on stage.

#### **Why must performers have their legs and feet covered in the theatre?**

Clothing and footwear must be worn in all theatres to prevent staining on the upholstery from fake tan, and other forms of makeup. These requirements are also for health and safety reasons.

**Why can't the teams go on stage at the beginning of the session (instead of the end), so we can go home ASAP?**

Teams appear on stage at the end of the competition at Calisthenics Victoria State Championships because prior to this, teams are busy preparing for the competition to commence. The final presentations are also a good chance for the adjudicator to address the performers personally, and give them some encouraging comments after she has viewed their performances. It is a nice way for teams celebrate the day's achievements together, because representing your team on stage is an honour and an achievement in itself. This tradition should be supported by all clubs in the name of good sportsmanship.

**Why can't competitions be scheduled for the same dates and times each year?**

Section sizes change annually, clubs move up or down divisions, team numbers change (one year a club might only have one team, and the next year two or four teams!) and competition schedules are created with all this in mind. Because scheduling is tight, they have to change to suit current circumstances and to maximise time allocated at each venue – we simply cannot afford to waste precious time.

**Why do my children's competition dates clash sometimes?**

Currently there are 102 clubs in Victoria, each with up to 6 age groups, who compete in up to 5 competitions. This equates to approximately 3000 individual teams that need to be scheduled into competitions within a limited timeframe. There is simply not enough time in the year to ensure that each competition is not run concurrently with another.