

2023 FOGA Raas Garba COMPETITION RULES at a glance

Competition will be held under three (3) category types; namely

- 1- Raas
- 2- Garba and
- 3- Folk Dance (Gujarati)

Age groups are divided under two (2) category types; namely

- 1- Under 16 Years (Minor Group)
- 2- Above 16 Years (General Group)

+ Minimum number of participants is 8 and maximum number is 16 in all divisions/category.

Time Limit:

Maximum of six (6) minutes per entry will be strictly enforced

Song Selection:

1. Selected song must be Gujarati; lyrics and the rhythm should match with the choreography.
2. Remixed songs of any combinations are not allowed.
3. One or more original Gujarati songs/garba can be used
4. Groups can consist of all male/female, or co-ed teams
5. Super imposed Dandia in Raas music is not allowed
6. Participants can be a part of multiple groups
7. Songs shall be 6 minutes maximum
8. Separate USB for each song shall be submitted to FOGA.

Registration form:

All participating teams must submit duly filled registration form accompanied with the entry fee.

Fees:

Entry Fee:

Entry fee for each group and category: 100 dollars per team
(free entry pass for All participants, Manager and Choreographer)

B. Registration Form for each item shall be accompanied by entry fee (100 \$) by cheque/Cash, payable to **"FOGA Charitable Foundation"** the host. Registration fee can be paid by e transfer fogacanada@gmail.com

MISCELLENIOUS:

Web Site:

FOGACANADA.COM is the web site for the organization and will be kept updated; you are requested to refer to web site and follow the instruction.

Note: This is a working document and may change every year to accommodate changes approved by the Choreographers and the executive committee. The copy of this document is available at **FOGACANADA.COM** the current version.

EVALUATION:

Qualified and distinguished panel of judges will judge each item presented in the competition. Each judge will use following 9 evaluations to judge the item out for a total of 500 points.

Entry / Opening -----	25
Lyrics Selection / Appropriateness -----	50
Steps / Choreography / Rhythms -----	100
Action / Expression -----	50
Coordination / Synchronization -----	50
Costume / Jewelry -----	50
Innovation / Originality -----	50
Exit -----	25
Overall Impression -----	100

(For detail rules and regulations, visit our website **fogacanada.com**)

COMPETITION RULES

CHOREOGRAPHERS & PARTICIPANTS:

Competition will be held under three (3) category types; namely

- 1- Raas
- 2- Garba and
- 3- Folk Dance (Gujarati)

Age groups are divided under two (2) category types; namely

- 1- Under 16 Years (Minor Group)
- 2- Above 16 Years (General Group)

+ Any combination of boys and girls are allowed in all divisions, unless specified.

+ Minimum number of participants is 8 and maximum number is 16 in all divisions.

Participation:

Time Limit:

Maximum of six (6) minutes per entry will be strictly enforced with a penalty point of 10 points for every 10 seconds over 6 minutes for all the dance categories. No introductory message incorporated by the entrants in the USB will be accepted.

Costumes:

+ While wishing to promote and encourage creativity and realizing that esthetic senses is highly individual, the designer should take care that the apparel depicts and resembles the one word in the region from which the dance comes from e.g. Bhil or Adivasi dance should depict those from Gujarat and not Andhra. Dang costume should not be from Madhya Pradesh or Assam etc.

+ Costume change on or off stage during the performance is not allowed.

+ Many tribal costumes are worn high on the legs; i.e. up to the knees; However, Ghaghara and Chaniya length for other communities should be worn six inches below the knee as a norm.

+ A regional winning entry must wear the same costumes without change to compete in North America competition.

+ For some unforeseen circumstances, rules and regulation, FOGA President or Chair can give a waiver.

Song Selection:

+ Selected song must be Gujarati; lyrics and the rhythm should match with the choreography.

+ Mixed (Two different songs) or Remixed songs of any combinations are not allowed.

+ The song must be no more than 6 minutes.

+ Super imposed dandia in Raas music is not allowed.

+ Song must be recorded on USB only; there should not be any other music or songs on the USB. The USB must be sent with the entry forms in duplicate; **and in any case, not later than 15 July 2023.**

+ Solo dancing in folk dance is not permitted.

+ No Bollywood song can be used for Raas Garba competition except it is original Gujarati garba; or previous permission is obtained from FOGA President.

Lighting:

+ Lighting on the stage will be preset to the optimal lighting for viewing and will not be changed in the middle of the program.

+ Special request for lighting can be arranged, if requested by the team and pre-approved by the host in advance of the competition.

STAGE & CURTAIN:

+ One representative of the performing team is allowed to assist the stage management during their performance.

+ Up to 2 minutes of stage preparation is allowed before the competition.

ENTRY & MEMBERSHIP:

+ Sponsoring organization or a participating team must be a current or a life member of FOGA or any gujarati organisation or Gujarati group or Gujarati team to participate in competition. The FOGA President decision to permit in the competition will be final.

+ Accurately and completely filled membership form, Entry form and with appropriate fees must be received by FOGA team, by the due date for a team to be allowed to compete.

+ Organization or choreographer can enter up to 2 4-items in the competition.

+ Competing teams will be allowed to have one representative to supervise sound, tabulation & lights during the performance.

Membership Types:

- * FOGA member
- * Associate member or
- * Gujarati samaj/organisation or group

Fees:

Entry Fee:

Entry fee for any FOGA member samaj team: 100 dollars per team (all participants will be provided free entry pass.)

Entry fee for all other teams: 100 dollars per team (free entry pass for All participants)

Thus, for a valid application, the entry form must be sent by the email address given by the host on or before **15 July 2023**.

B. Entry Form for each item and entry fee by cheque, payable to **"FOGA Charitable Foundation"** the host. Clearly written names of the participants, Group or samaj name, sex with the song description. All contact information e.g. E-mail, Cell and Home phones of Manager and Choreographer.

D. USB or recorded electronic media:

E. One (1) USB non-returnable, with the item song, marked with team name and category.

Cassette tapes are **not accepted**; all songs must be in Gujarati with 6 minutes maximum length. Only one song should be on the USB. (Host is NOT responsible for poor recording;

EMCEES:

+ Emcees will only mention the description, sequence number of the competition item and the divisional category to introduce the item.

+ While promoting the youth, mature and qualified emcees must be selected in the program. Gujarati and English-speaking emcees combination are a good combination to introduce the item to the mixed audience.

EVALUATION:

Qualified and distinguished panel of judges will judge each item presented in the competition. Each judge will use following 9 evaluations to judge the item out for a total of 500 points.

Entry / Opening -----	25
Lyrics Selection / Appropriateness -----	50
Steps / Choreography / Rhythms -----	100
Action / Expression -----	50
Coordination / Synchronization -----	50
Costume / Jewelry -----	50
Innovation / Originality -----	50
Exit -----	25
Overall Impression -----	100

ENTRY/ OPENING:

The entry will be considered approximately up to the first two (2) minutes of the item whether the team entered from the wings or began the item on stage.

Lyrics / Appropriateness:

The lyrics of the song must be in the Gujarati language and be of good recording. The song should NOT be of a disco-dandia/multi-song non-stop/re-mix/fusion type. The content should be appropriate to the item being presented on stage, therefore the lyrics of the song and the rhythm used, should match the item being performed.

Steps / Choreography / Rhythms:

Choreography will be considered the way the steps of the dance are arranged and woven together with the music. While creativity is encouraged, authenticity and tradition should be kept at the core of the choreography keeping the style of movement appropriate to the item being presented.

ACTION / EXPRESSION:

Action is the expression and grace with which the dancers interpret and execute their choreography. It is also the rapport and connection they make with the audience.

Coordination / Synchronization:

Coordination is the synchronization and accuracy that the dancers achieve with each other as a group, as well as with the music. It is also the finesse with which the evolutions/transitions of the formations are executed on stage.

COSTUME / JEWELRY:

Costume is the attire as a whole and should follow some decorum. For dances that are the domain of a particular community, the costume should reflect their traditions in clothing. That should be appropriate in maintaining the tradition look, reflect the item being presented and follow some decorum & etiquette.

Innovation / Originality:

Innovation is considered anything new relative to the past presentations and as usually seen by the panel of judges. However, in the process of being innovative, the essence of the Gujarati tradition from which the item has come should not be lost or forfeited.

EXIT:

The exit is considered the last few minutes of the item whether they exit the stage or ends on the stage.

Overall Impression:

Overall impression is considered the effectiveness with which the various above facets of dance merge in the presentation of the item as a whole.

PRIZES:

First and Second prize winner in each division and each category will be awarded to the team, as tabulated by tabulation team from the score forms used by the panel of judges during the competition.

In the event of tied score, the total of Steps, Coordination, Innovation and Action will be used to break the tie.

Best Costume winner will be announced for each Division.

In the event of the tied score of Best Costume, the total of Innovation and Overall Impression will be used to break the tie.

In the event of the tied score of Best Choreography, the total of Action, Coordination and Innovation will be used to break the tie.

When the number of judges is more than 5 in the competitions, the highest and the lowest total of the judge, from the panel of judges, will be removed by the tabulation, in calculating the result.

SAFETY CODE:

FOGA THE HOST ORGANIZATION AND THE OWNER OF THE PREMISES WHERE THE COMPETITION IS HELD AND OR ANY OTHER FACILITY USED BY THE TEAMS OR HOST DURING WHOLE COMPETITION EVENT, WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY PHYSICAL INJURY INCURRED BY ANY INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATING IN THE COMPETITION.

All stage users MUST comply with fire and safety regulations of the facility.

No Glass bangles or jewelry in dressing rooms and stage.

No colors, objects, paper confetti, grains or particles allowed, which can injure bare feet.

GRIEVANCES & PENALTIES:

Winning or loosing of the award is the part of the competition. But as long as you have put your best efforts in competition, you are always the winner.

All the grievances and resolution must be in writing on the grievance form.

Judges decision is considered as final, however if all the members of the grievance committee finds the abnormality or erratic score in a judge's decision, the judge can explain the matter to the grievance committee or the judge's score can be removed by disqualifying the score of this judge.

In any event of applying the penalty to a team, if the final result is changed, then the new result will be the final result even after the result have been announced.

Judges will be asked to watch for the following competition rules violation and give appropriate penalties during judging the item. So, choreographers should NOT file for any grievance based on following reasons.

- + Song is REMIXED, or Music has superimposed Dandia.
- + Non-circular formation, other than transition in Garba.
- + Used ACROBATIC, GYMNASTIC or CHEER LEADING routine.
- + If PROPS used, used more than 2 or used < than 60% of time.

FOGA is allowed to file and apply following penalties:

- + Stage or backstage was left messy and needed extra cleaning 25 points penalty.
- + Stage preparation, before performing the item, took more than 2 minutes. 25 points penalty
- + Item performed for more than 6 minutes on the stage, the penalty will be 10 points for every 10 seconds over 6 minutes.

Choreographer is allowed to file the following grievance,

Rule:

Executive committee can file and apply the following penalties if,

- + Any team participants found booing to other team 25 points penalty.
 - + Misbehaving or creating hostile scene may bar the team and/or choreographer from participating for one year will be the penalty.
- In the event of any kind of penalties applied to the team, it must be notified and explained to the offending choreographer or a manager of the team.

JUDGES:

Goal:

To provide fair, accurate and non-discriminatory judgment on the dance competition, the qualified and dedicated judges will be selected. Judges will be allowed to have a blank piece of paper for notes keeping. Modified judge's score card will be in place to reflect the even number in all categories for easier and better tabulation.

Judge Qualification:

- + Must be knowledgeable where Gujarati Folk Dance is concerned.
 - + It is desirable to have the judge took part in competition as a participant or a choreographer prior to judging the competition.
 - + Must attend Judge's briefing.
 - + Must have filled out the Judge's Biodata form.
 - + Disqualification to participate as a judge in competition is possible, if found discriminatory actions are found in judging.
 - + If asked to do so, must be prepared to explain their marks to the Grievance committee at the end of competition.
 - + Judge must NOT have conflict of interest with competition.
- i.e. Have immediate relative participating in this year competition.

Number of judges required for competition:

- + There should be 3 judges for up to 15 items.
- + There should be 3 – 5 Judges for up to 24 items.

Training:

- + Judge's knowledge of Gujarati Folk Dances is essential to start.
- + Judge's briefing before the competition is another source to sharpen the skill and stay current with the changes in FOGA standards.
- + Qualified choreographers can also attend the briefings with judging chairman's permission (If they are not participating in current year competition).
- + Additional judges can also attend the briefings with judging chairman's permission.
- + Performance analysis of judging is available from tabulation upon request.

Analysis:

- + Judging analysis will be done by comparing the individual judge score with the average score of all judges in competition, for every item judged, by the tabulation.

TABULATION & INFORMATION STORAGE:

- + Only FOGA approved tabulation program will be used during the competition for a valid result. And FOGA approved representative will be in charge for the scoring tabulation.
- + Create the competition sequence of the items as follows. Garba, Folk Dance and Raas in all Divisions by category age.

SCORE PROCEDURE:

- + Enter the items and judge related required data in the program.
- + All competition items will be given a sequence number per rule.
- + Pre-print the score forms (Only tabulation printed forms will be used).
- + Print the time check form, judge signing form and work paper.
- + Let judges sign in the seating arrangement to confirm the correct letter code assigned to the judge.
- + Let judges sign in the seating arrangement to confirm the correct letter code assigned to the judge.
- + Deliver the score forms to judges before competition start one item at a time.
- + Collect the scored forms from the judges and replace it with next competition item number forms.

- + Enter the data in the program accurately. Confirm the data entry accuracy.
- + All score data will be entered in the score sheet by FOGA representative (authorised person) in the excel file for record.
- + Before starting to enter the next item score, the total points of the entered item must match in all data entry stations.
- + At the end consult the host and grievance committee, if there were any penalties need to be applied for any item.
- + Print the result and stuff the envelopes to announce the winners.
- + Help Emcee to announce the result and the award process.
- + Take back up of the entered data.
- + Analyze the data.
- + Keep the scored forms and grievance forms for further verification.

High / Low:

During tabulation process, the score of all judges are entered into program, but during result calculation the highest and the lowest score of the judges will not be used when there are more than 6 Judges in the competition. This method is preferred and used in Olympic score calculation. This allows any kind of bias or favoritism from the judges be removed to achieve fair judging.

The Host: FOGA

Following is just a suggested organization:

+ Host committee

Communication
 Delegation
 Teamwork
 Public relation
 Crisis control

+ Facility committee:

Security committee. To handle the security of the audience and the teams. Use wireless communication.

Medical committee

To handle the medical emergencies on stage and backstage. Ushering committee
 To provide entry and seating arrangement in the hall

Grievance committee.

To handle the complaints from Choreographers, Managers, Judges and the Audience.

+ Finance committee (Budget):

Ticket sales committee

To design, print and sale tickets.

Fund raising committee

To bring funds by finding sponsors.

Advertisement committee

To bring advertisements for brochure.

Brochure committee

To design, prepare, print and distribute the brochure.

+ Food committee:

To manage all food and soft drinks requirements for teams, Judges and VIP guest and FOGA executives.

+ Program committee:

Emcee

Prepare and introduce the items of the program, and audience control.

Stage and backstage control.

To control the item flow from dressing room to stage.

Music control

To coordinate the music of the item

Lighting control

To control the lighting arrangement on the stage and in the hall including spot light at the podium.

Video and Photography:

Record and publish the program on media and the still pictures of the teams.

Wireless communication.

Provide and use the wireless communication during competition.

+ Judging committee:

Work with and take care of judges.

Provide the supplies, light and water during competition.

+ Tabulation committee:

Work with national tabulation chairman and provide tabulation support with personal computers and volunteers to enter the score data and tabulate the result.

+ Award committee:

Design, select, prepare and distribute the awards.

+ Other duties:

+ Must keep accurate accounting information:

+ Host must provide following to the Participants, Choreographers and the managers of the participating teams, Judges and other complimentary pass
- Free entry to performing hall.

+ Select a Gujarati and English bilingual speaking Emcees, if possible:

+ Emcees should announce all the competitive items with the number of the item and division with the category; the description of the item provided by the choreographer can be used to introduce the item to the audience. Team name, choreographers, managers and participants name or any other details pertaining to the identity of the team is prohibited from announcement.

+ Assign a tabulation committee of about 6 to 8 volunteers, familiar with PC, to work with Tabulation Chairman.

+ Provide Personal computers, printers, papers, time stopwatch and other needed stuff to tabulation.

+ Use the officially printed forms by Tabulation to record the judge's score.

+ Conduct the competition in the sequence assigned by the tabulation only.

+ Following people are eligible to receive complimentary tickets, hotel stay transportation and meals, if they have notified the host, their intention to attend the competition, at least two weeks before the competition.

-2 Tickets to each of the following.

* President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Secretary of FOGA

-2 Tickets to each BOD members member organization (Non-Transferable)

* Judges (2 tickets if accompanied by spouse else 1 ticket).

-1 Ticket to each choreographer per team.

-1 Ticket to each Manager of the team.

-1 entrée pass to each participant of the competition.

Note: **Complimentary service is non-transferable.**

Executive committee has following active sub committees.

1-Rules and Regulation

2-Judges

3-Tabulation

4- Award committee

5- Finance committee

FOGA Executive committee's duties:

Executive committee:

Judging committee:

Select and coordinate the judge selection for the competition

Tabulation and Information storage committee:

- + Select and approve the tabulation program.
- + Coordinate tabulation with host tabulation team.
- + Maintain the database of information (Competition results, Membership data, Judges data, Songs data.)
- + Maintain the Tabulation program.

Finance committee:

- + Maintain and keep the record of expense and revenue

Award committee:

Design, select, prepare and distribute the awards to winner teams

MISCELLANEOUS:

Web Site:

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Note: This is a working document and may change every year to accommodate changes approved by the Choreographers and the executive committee. So, the copy of this document available at **FOGACANADA.COM** is the current version.

Stage Coordinating Committee:

After the Program Chairperson and or Tabulation have received all the entries, a sequence for the program should be made by tabulation. This will be published in the centerfold of the program guide. Their item number will refer to the teams from the program guide. When assigning numbers do not count prayer dances etc. The tabulation and judges will use these numbers as well.

Before program:

Visit program hall and backstage areas. Decide which green rooms will be used, will teams have to share dressing areas? If so, assign room/areas for the group. Usually the senior groups are told to come the backstage areas later so that the earlier groups can finish. Also, assignments can be made by city or area.

Please mark with signs.

Design a flow for the teams; i.e. how to enter the backstage area, dressing area to main stage area, where the line-ups will be, stage to immediate left of stage. This flow should be explained to the choreographers/managers just prior to the program. Please mark these areas with clear signs.

Stage coordinator and runner responsibilities:

Main stage coordinator - will be present at the side of stage at all times
The team manager/choreographer must remain present during the performance to inform the main stage coordinator of opening/closing of curtains and starting of the music.

Communicate with the Emcee of any changes in order of item performance.
Communicate with the judging coordinator and tabulation committee of any changes in order or of skipped items.

Lighting person - Maintain consistent lighting throughout program, unless requested by choreographer/manager in advance. I.e. light to be dimmed for a "diva" dance

Music Control - The USB should be numbered and marked with the team name.

Curtain Pull - The manager and/or the choreographer should be nearby to inform them or the stage coordinator when to open/close the curtains.
2-3 runners to line-up items and inform teams to be ready, also 1 person to exit the team off the stage.

Preferably energized and aggressive volunteers. Need to be able to stand and run for 3 hours.

Stage coordinators will need a broom to sweep the stage in between items if the previous team leaves behind any debris (i.e. hair pins, jewelry, dandia pieces, clothing glitter etc.) After the team is done with their performance they must clear away the stage and return to their seats

General Flow Welcome

Prayer/Welcome dance

Keynote/guest speaker (optional)

Complementary (optional)

Minor

Junior (somewhere halfway: an intermission)

Senior

Adult

Complementary (optional)

Judges introduction

Vote of Thanks, Sponsor Acknowledgment

Results and awards

To maintain program flow

5 items should be lined-up for the program to begin; a choreographer/manager must be present with team

1-On stage to perform

2-Immediate left of stage

3-In the hallway leading to backstage area

4-In the hallway

5-In the hallway

6-Prompted and ready in the green room

Points to consider:

Each item is a maximum of 6 minutes. Also, there will be 1-3 minutes in between each item to allow for announcement of item and to give the judges a breather.

For a 20-item program: you are looking at from 160-200 minutes = 2h 40m to 3h 20m

Only 1-3 minutes between items. move one group out in right direction, incoming group from left direction, Emcee announce the item number and song, music GO

Uniqueness to FOGA programs:

1.This is a **competition** and we need to ensure **fairness** to all the teams.

2.Teams are from in town and out-of-town and therefore this does not allow for a stage rehearsal.

To ensure fairness to all the participants, only the item number, description and category is announced to the audience. This limits the amount of info that the Emcee can announce.

Participating Team Package (Send to Choreographer) A mailing or emailing for prior to the competition: Include a letter of invitation, application forms, with team names, participants time, location maps, contact people

Where to send or deliver the USB and application forms and include deadlines

How to purchase tickets for family and friends

Emcee:

The Emcee can only announce the item number and song. Therefore, they should have some extra material in case of a delay. Must be able to keep audience occupied and entertained during the extra time taken by the team.

Award Presentation:

+ The participants are requested to remain in their seats and to keep aisles clear.

+ Trophy donors are usually the ones to present the trophies

+ Announcement of the results: The sound coordinator should be given the results prior to the announcements. This will allow them to play the song as the winners go on stage to receive their trophy. This adds a nice touch to the program and adds some excitement for the kids and audience.

(They can use the back-up tape for this purpose, also please play the song from the middle, if possible.)

+ The participants are all given their own individual trophies. These can be boxed and handed to the team manager/choreographer for distribution prior to the competition.