



Novice Festival Info, Rules and T&C's

What is the Novice Festival?

The Novice Festival is the UK's biggest competition for beginner level aerialists.

Split into 2 levels:

Novice: First time competitors

Beginners: Those who have competed before but must still be competing at a beginner level.

You will be able to compete on all apparatus.

Categories will be split into age groups.

Entry:

Entries are open to everyone in the UK, and spaces will be given on a first come first served basis.

Entry fee is £25 and non-refundable. Entry forms to be completed via the website, or via BACS or Paypal

Stripe card payments: www.southcoastaerialtournament.co.uk

BACS: 608371/83422695 Sarah-Jane Moon

Paypal: info@southcoastaerialtournament.co.uk

Your entry is not secured until both entry form and payment has been received.

You may enter on more than one piece of equipment (Please submit an Entry form and fee for each piece of equipment), however do note these may be in the same category competing against yourself and change over time will be minimal.

Categories:

- Novice is for a first time competitor. You must not have competed on any apparatus before. If you have competed on hoop before you cannot enter novice on silks, you will enter beginner.
- You may enter beginner even if you have competed before, but only at a beginner level on the same equipment. If you have competed at intermediate before, you must be a beginner in a different apparatus that you have entered. For example, if you have competed at intermediate level for hoop, you must be a true beginner at silks.
- All routines, novice and beginner, must all be only of beginner level and comply with the moves set out in the levels section.
- All age limits are as of date of final. All U16 entries must have parental consent.
- Spaces are offered on a 1st come first served basis. **Entries will close at midnight on Sunday 21st September 2025.**

- Equipment will be split into their own categories where possible if there is a minimum of 3 competitors.
- If there is an overwhelming/underwhelming number of entries for one category, we may split/combine categories where necessary.
- There will be no doubles category for this competition.
- Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place per category only. We will also award overall novice & overall beginner.

LEVELS:

- There are restrictions of what moves are allowed in novice & beginner categories. **For allowed/disallowed moves, please see Levels info sheet.**
- Only first-time competitors may enter novice regardless of equipment.
- You may enter beginner even if you have competed before, but only at a beginner level on the same equipment. If you have competed at intermediate before, you must be a beginner in a different apparatus that you have entered. For example, if you have competed at intermediate level for hoop, you must be a true beginner at silks.
- Please only enter if you are a true beginner in your chosen apparatus. The spirit of the Novice Festival is for beginners to shine!
- If you perform moves out of your level marks will be deducted, 5 marks per move.

Equipment

- We will provide the following equipment on the day to be used by all competitors in these categories, you will not be permitted to bring your own in these categories: 80/85/90/95cm hoop, youth medium stretch firetoys youth range silks, adult prodigy low stretch silks and an 8m aerial sling. If you are entering the open category, please see below:
- Open category: Any equipment used for open category must be able to rig to a single point. You will accept all responsibility for it. South Coast Aerial Tournament accepts no responsibility for equipment failure and requests you have any equipment safety checked before use.
- We will contact you ahead of the final to confirm your equipment.
- There are no set heights, all equipment will be on a pulley system and you will be asked to check the height before you start your routine. Our rig is approx. 6m high
- A Crash mat is compulsory for all U16 competitors and will be supplied for any adult competitor also wanting one. No marks will be lost for using crash mats.
- All equipment will be on a single point and use a swivel.
- Aerial silks: 6metres high (approx)
- A large floor space all around the rigging point to allow for floor work. The area immediately in front of the crash mat will be matted with thin acro mats. (this cannot be changed as it covers the support wires for the rig).

MUSIC:

- No offensive language, do not go over the time limit. Marks will be deducted for breaking the time limit (5 marks per 5 seconds). A 5 second buffer will be allowed on the track length.
- Maximum Routine Length for novice is 2.5mins & Beginners is 3mins.
- Music for the finalists need to be sent to info@southcoastaerialtournament.co.uk by Sunday 28th September. Failure to send these in on time will mean you will be removed from the running order.
- Music files need to be named accordingly: competitor name/age group/category. EG "JoebloggsU10Novicesilks"
- Music must be sent to the organizers via email in MP3 format. No Spotify/YouTube links etc. Please also bring a backup on the day in case of tech difficulties.

Costume:

No shoes of any kind on the equipment, Gaiters however can be worn. Please keep it clean, you will be marked down for any costume malfunction. Any indecent exposure will result in you being disqualified. At the Final, the music will cut off and your performance will finish. You will be judged on costume as part of the marking criteria.

Judging Criteria:

Competitors will be marked on the following:

- **Costume, marked out of 5:** Does it fit the theme? Does it add to the performance? No malfunctions/fiddling with during the performance
- **Floorwork, marked out of 5:** Fits the theme if appropriate? In time with music? Flows nicely? Shows acrobatic or dance technique?
- **Equipment transitioning, marked out of 10:** Floor to apparatus, is it incorporated into the routine? Mounts and dismounts on the equipment Transitions between tricks clean
- **Tricks, marked out of 10:** Are they executed safely & well? Are limbs engaged in transitions? Are tricks appropriate to routine? Are there tricks that need more work? Doubles: are they performing tricks together and apart, used a range of mirrored, stacked, base and flying?
- **Performance/musicality, marked out of 20:** Was it enjoyable? Participants engage with audience? Routine went well with music highs and lows? Any hesitations or unchoreographed pauses? Did they forget the routine? Did the energy match the music used? Doubles do they interact with each other?

Maximum marks available: 50

Other info and T&Cs:

- South Coast Aerial Tournament reserves the right to use any photos or videos taken at the final for marketing purposes.
- Entrants may not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- By entering and competing you agree and confirm that you are of a fit state to participate.
- Entrants must be fit and able to take part and responsible for their own warm up.
- First aiders will be present on site as per our risk assessment. A copy of which is available upon request.
- The organizers reserve the right to disqualify anyone acting unprofessionally.
- Spectators are not allowed in the performance area under any circumstances
- Props are permitted but please notify us so we can accommodate stage set up and removal. They must be easy and quick to take on to and remove from the stage, no mess.
- Crash mats will be compulsory for all U16 Competitors and available for all performers. No marks will be lost for using crash mats. We encourage all competitors to use crash mats and will except no responsibility for those who choose not to. All competitors compete at their own risk. Please only perform moves your competent in and your instructor has approved.
- All competitors will be provided with feedback.
- Entrants will only be given one opportunity to compete, even if a mistake is made. If you decide to stop your performance, you will be marked up to where you finished.
- No refunds will be given once entered if you decide to pull out for any reason.
- In the event of a tie with 2 or more competitors getting the same number of total points a winner will be declared based on who has the highest score on the Overall Performance section on the judging sheet, if still tied the person with the highest marks in the Tricks section will be the winner.
- We will do everything in our power to have the competition on the date advertised, however should there be a similar situation to 2020 and 2021, and a situation arises out of our control we reserve the right to move the competition to later in the year.

By entering, you agree you have read and understood the terms and conditions, rules and entry criteria.

I hereby, for myself, my heirs and my executors, waive and release any and all rights and claims I may have for damages against South Coast Aerial Tournament and/or their sponsors, agents or representatives for any injuries which may be suffered by attending, participating in or travelling to or from said competition by submission of the entry form.

By entering I agree to all the rules as detailed.

If you have any queries, please message the competition Facebook page or email info@southcoastaerialtournament.co.uk and we will get back to you within 10 working days.