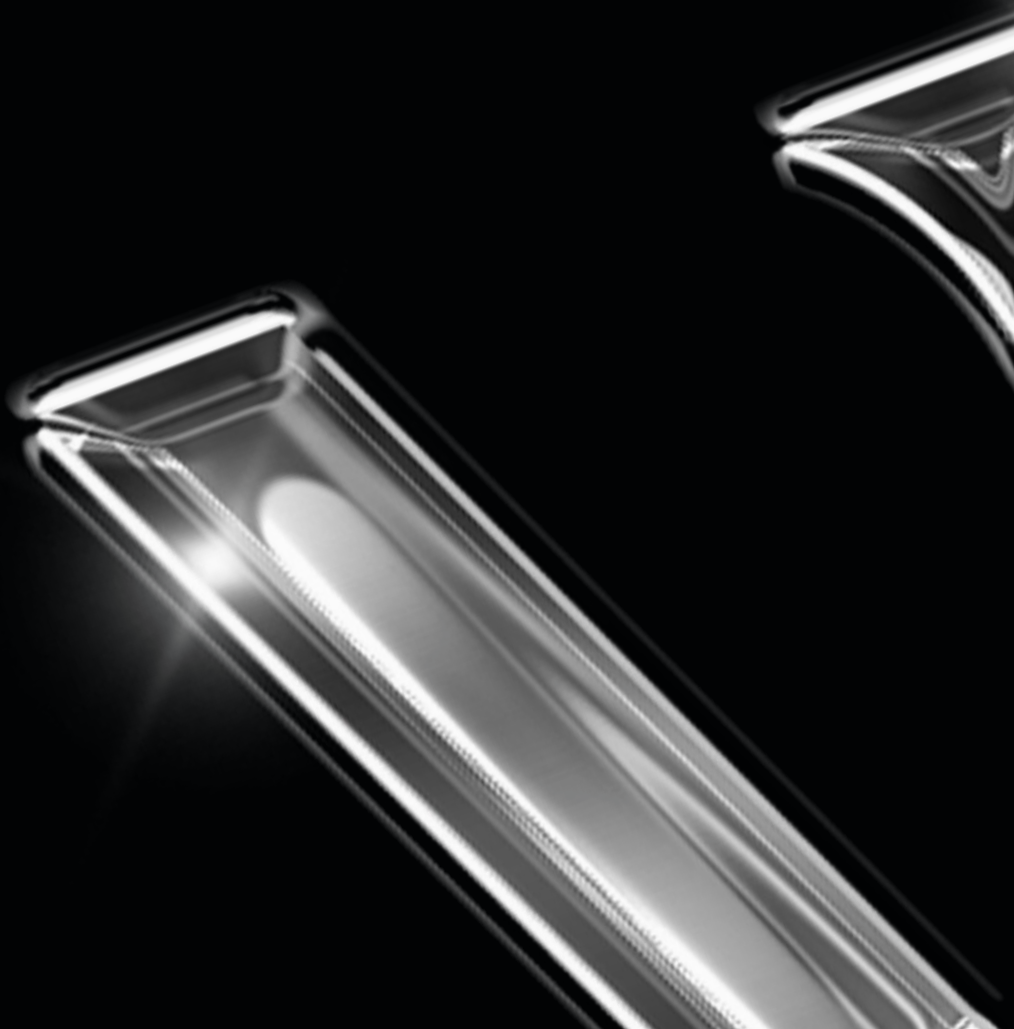


VERTTEX

POLE CHAMPIONSHIPS



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VERTEX

Introduction

Vertex is dedicated to elevating the art of heels-based pole dancing by providing substantial rewards and recognition for competitors. Created by a POC stripper, Vertex is deeply rooted in the authentic experiences and insights of the pole dancing community. We have conducted extensive research to ensure our competition aligns with what YOU, the competitors, truly desire.

Our mission is to showcase the best talent and creativity in heels artistry, celebrating the unique skills and performances of each participant. With a prize pool exceeding £3000, we aim to offer significant financial rewards that reflect the dedication and artistry of our competitors.

Vertex is committed to fostering a diverse, authentic, and inclusive environment. We welcome participants from all backgrounds and have chosen a venue that supports our inclusive values. Our judging panel and staff will reflect this diversity, ensuring a fair and representative evaluation process.

Competition Format

Vertex has 6 style based categories, carefully curated and designed to suit the current pole community's wants. The competition consists of an initial video round which determines our live final competitors. There are 6 style focused categories with 6 finalists in each category, all with the chance to win a substantial cash prize. The live final will be located in the vibrant and fun city of Liverpool.

FLOORWORK

For those who excel in ground-based artistry - this one's for you. Showcase your mastery of the floor with tricks, rolls, flops, poses, and balances. Make full use of the space as you demonstrate fluidity and control in your movements. Perfect for floor specialists, this category celebrates the beauty and skill of ground-level performance.

DYNAMIC

For those who thrive on energy and hardstyle—this is your stage. The Dynamic category is for performers who excel in powerful basework, intricate footwork, and breathtaking tricks. Bring your high-energy moves to the stage and dazzle the audience with your dynamic skills and unstoppable momentum.

ARTISTIC

For the truly expressive performers—this category is your canvas. Embrace your individuality and tell your story through creative pole work. The Artistic category celebrates unique expression and innovative use of the pole, inviting creatives to captivate the audience with their personal narratives and storytelling. Show us your artistic side and let your imagination soar!

FLOW

For those who embody fluidity and technical precision. The Flow category is all about seamless transitions, technicality and coherent movement, creating a hypnotic performance that captivates the audience. Show off your heelwork and deliver a routine where every move flows effortlessly into the next, showcasing your skill and fluidity.

NEW SCHOOL

Unleash your sensuality with tantalising and provocative movement that exudes raw eroticism. Embrace the sultry, teasing, and raunchy elements of Stripper Style to evoke feelings of passion and desire, showcasing your most authentic and sexual self. Nudity is allowed and embraced.

FREESTYLE

For the versatile and spontaneous performers—this is your stage. The Freestyle category celebrates improvisation and range, inviting you to showcase your ability to adapt and flow with the music. Demonstrate your creativity and versatility as you deliver a performance that highlights your unique style and improvisational skills. Embrace the freedom of freestyle, and go with the flow!

Judging Criteria

All categories will be judged on **4 FIXED CRITERIA**, each section out of 10 points.

An additional **2 CATEGORY SPECIFIC ELEMENTS** will apply to each category individually, each worth 10 points.

This will equate to a **maximum total score of 160**.

FIXED CRITERIA (Applicable to all categories)

TECHNICAL EXECUTION (40 TOTAL)

- **Control and Precision:** Movements should be executed with control and precision. This includes smooth transitions, steady balance, and clear, deliberate actions.
- **Footwork and Heel Technique:** Proper technique in managing heels - including pointed toes, ankle engagement, appropriate weight transfers, range of motion and precise, deliberate footwork. Heels should be an extension of the legs.
- **Quality of Movement:** Movements that consider the use of the entire body. Movement should be executed with control and intention.
- **Lines and Form:** Creating clean, well-defined lines and shapes with the body, considering alignment and posture. Attention to detail in movements, such as hand placement, finger positioning, and head movements, should be polished and intentional.

COMPOSITION (40 TOTAL)

- **Dynamic Range:** Varied dynamics in the routine, including changes in speed, intensity, and levels (height eg. low vs standing positions).
- **Coherence:** All elements, including music choice, appearance, movement choices, tricks, transitions, and relevant expression should be cohesive to contribute to a unified performance.
- **Choreography:** Routines that are composed with a variety of elements eg. pathways, levels, and dynamic range, that flow together to create an original and cohesive piece. Effective use of the entire performance area, incorporating movements that travel and change direction.
- **Musicality:** Movements should respond to the music, reflecting its rhythm, lyrics tempo, and or mood.

CONCEPT (30 TOTAL)

- **Originality:** Unique and innovative ideas used alongside authentic movement, this includes interesting pathways and creative use of space.
- **Mood:** The piece should convey the appropriate emotion, mood, and atmosphere it intends to portray.
- **Creativity:** Using imagination or original ideas to create something novel and valuable; something that is 'outside of the box'.

STAGE PRESENCE (30 TOTAL)

- **Emotion and Expression:** Conveying emotion through movement. The performer's facial expressions and body language should reflect the mood of the routine.
- **Connection with the Audience:** Engaging the audience, commanding the attention of the room, and maintaining that attention for the duration of the whole piece.
- **Confidence:** Performing with confidence and commanding the stage. The performer should appear assured and in control.

CATEGORY ELEMENTS (Specific to Each Individual Category)

FLOW SPECIFIC ELEMENTS (20 TOTAL)

- **Visual Effects:** Routines should create illusions that are transfixing, detailed, and serve the intention to place the audience into a mesmeric state.
- **Leg and Footwork:** Use of spirals, waves, and particular relevant heels techniques such as edgework/pointework. Use of complex weight transfers and precise movements.

NEW SCHOOL SPECIFIC ELEMENTS (20 TOTAL)

- **Sex Appeal:** Routines should encompass sensuality and seduction. Performers should demonstrate elements of tease, and routines should be provocative and suggestive in nature.
- **Intimacy:** Performers should evoke a feeling of connection to their audience and towards themselves, demonstrating self-indulgence through breath, touch, and other erotic movement and expression.

ARTISTIC SPECIFIC ELEMENTS (20 TOTAL)

- **Storytelling:** Performances should convey a clear story or message. This can be through music and movement choices, as well as expression, costuming, and theme.
- **Characterisation:** The audience should understand the character you are intending to portray. The performer should be committed to and embody the character to ensure cohesiveness between character and storyline.

DYNAMIC SPECIFIC ELEMENTS (20 TOTAL)

- **Tricks:** Performances should include a variety of well executed, complex and original tricks, considering speed of execution and amplitude both up the pole and in base work elements.
- **Energy:** Performances should be driven with high energy, passion, and footwork. Energy should be consistent throughout.

FLOOR SPECIFIC ELEMENTS (20 TOTAL)

- **Tricks:** Performances should include a variety of well executed, complex and original tricks and trick variations, such stands, flops, rolls, poses and balances.
- **Use of Space:** Performances should use a variety of creative and original transitions to travel around the stage. This means that the performer should have considered the full length and depth of the space.

FREESTYLE SPECIFIC ELEMENTS (20 TOTAL) - APPLICABLE TO LIVE FINAL ONLY.

- **Improvisational Skill:** Performers should be connected to the music and responding as such, with no unintentional pauses or reflection moments - movements reflecting the mood, tempo and style of the music. Performers should be showing a range of movements suited to the mood of the music, whilst maintaining audience engagement and connection. Fixed criteria applies.
- **Versatility and Range:** Performers should be able to adapt to whichever music they are allocated and should be able to demonstrate the versatility to adapt to genres that may be outside of their comfort zone. They should be able to maintain energy, style and performance skills throughout.

SCORING SYSTEM

The below scoring system will be used by judges for both the video round and live final.
Decimal point scores are permitted.



Nothing to score. The element was not included and did not occur.



Negligent
Unsafe Technique.



Unsatisfactory.



Substandard.



Below Average
consistent show of errors and faults.



Average
some faults, but nothing major or dangerous.



Above Average
small faults that occurred here and there.



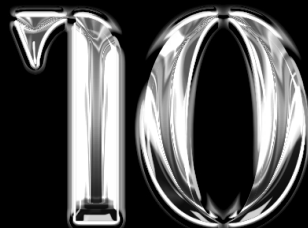
Generally Good.



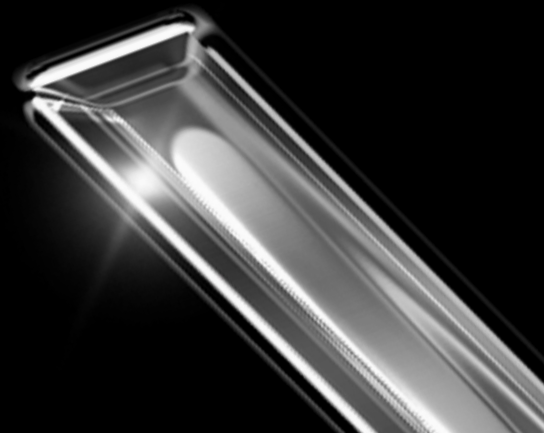
Very Good
little or no faults.



Outstanding.



Exceptional. To be reserved for only the absolute highest of standards and where perfectionism has occurred.



COMPETITION TIMELINE

The competition will run in accordance with the following timeline

ENTRY PERIOD

Entries Open
Monday 20th January

Entries Close
Sunday 13th April

VIDEO JUDGING PERIOD

Judging Period Begins
Tuesday 15th April

Judging Period Ends
Monday 26th May

Moderation Period
Tuesday 27th May -
Tuesday 10th June

FINALIST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Finalists Contacted
Tuesday 10th June
Finalists will have 7 days to accept their place and submit promotional pictures.

Internal Processing
Tuesday 17th June
Friday 20th June

Finalists Announced.
Friday 20th June

LIVE FINALS

Sunday 14th September - Live Final

**Arts Club Liverpool, 90 Seel Street,
Liverpool, L1 4BH**

Diversity and Inclusion

Vertex Pole Championships has zero tolerance for exclusionary or bullying behaviour of any kind. The Staff at Vertex Pole Championship reserve the right to refuse entry to or insist on the ejection of anybody who does not follow our health and safety guidelines, the directions of our staff or anybody who behaves in a way which is deemed discriminatory or unacceptable by way of verbal or physical action. Vertex Pole Championships is committed to delivering a non-discriminatory and inclusive environment. Vertex Pole Championship is an all-inclusive, equal opportunities and friendly event, who are welcoming to people of all backgrounds and orientations. We support inclusivity, and we welcome sex workers and trans-people. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and genders. We welcome people of all shapes, ages, and sizes. We are welcoming to disabled and neurodivergent people. We stand for diversity and will not accept any exclusionary behaviour which makes our staff or participants feel unsafe, or causes significant risk of harm, particularly relating to the nine protected characteristics within the Equality Act 2010, but extending to body-shaming, slut-shaming, sex worker exclusionary or clothing-shaming behaviour or language. Any behaviour, both verbal or physical, of a racist, homophobic, transphobic, whorephobic, disablist or any other discriminatory manner will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Rules & Regulations

Applicable to video and live final unless stated otherwise.

Reasonable Adjustments

If a competitor has a disability or health condition which requires a reasonable adjustment to be made, it will be the responsibility of said competitor to notify organisers upon submission of their video entry. Information provided may be shared with other event staff in order to appropriately support said competitor, if required, but not disclosed elsewhere outside of the Vertex Pole Championships staff base. Any disclosure should include both the condition itself and the nature of adjustment required. Vertex Pole Championships will endeavour to support competitors throughout the process to the extent of our ability. If a condition is disclosed but the nature of your required adjustment is not specified, this will be discounted.

Application & Performance Rules (General)

- Entrants must be 18 years or over.
- Categories are open **only to solo performances**.
- Competitors may apply to more than one category, and are also able to submit more than one entry per category. Separate applications must be made per entry, and the fee is applicable per entry.
- The same judging criteria is applicable for video and round and live final. Slight differentiations will apply to the **Freestyle Category Only**. Please see below for further guidance.
- Judges, competitors and moderators all have access to the same information, and the criteria is complete and final, and will be adhered to by all judges and moderators involved in the event.
- The performance you submit for the video round can be the same or different as what is presented at the live final, this does **NOT** apply to the freestyle category.
- You must be available on the date of the live final - **Sunday 14th September 2025**.
- Bribing or blackmailing judges in any way is strictly prohibited.
- Competitors performances must be respectful to any marginalised and stigmatised communities.
- All entry fees are non refundable and non transferable, this applies under any circumstances - by entering, competitors agree to this.

Video Round

- **Entry is charged at £40 per entry.**
- Videos must be of good quality and hosted on an external video platform such as YouTube/Vimeo. Any submission of a video file will not be considered, they will need to be uploaded to Youtube/Vimeo or another video hosting platform - set to 'Unlisted' or 'Public', and NOT 'Private'.
- Music in the video must be audible, if music is not loud enough this will affect the judging on your video.
- Videos should be no longer than 4 minutes, and are recommended to be no less than 3 minutes. Any footage submitted beyond 4 minutes in length will not be watched or considered.
- Videos must be filmed on one continuous take. No editing eg. zooming, piecing clips together. The piece may be cut at the beginning and end if required.
- Professional performance videos are permitted.
- Music cannot be overlaid (professional performance videos are an exception to this)
- Competitors will not be judged on costume.
- The 6 highest scoring in each category will progress to the live final. These competitors will have 7 days to accept their place. In the event that a place is not accepted, or a competitor withdraws, the space will be offered to the next highest scoring.
- Upon receiving results of the video round, competitors are not permitted to share any information including their feedback, placements or status online, via social media channels, or discussed anywhere else. This remains in effect until results have been posted from the official Vertex Pole Championship social media accounts. This is to ensure all competitors have been notified of their results officially prior to being made public - to avoid disappointment and ensure fairness. Any breaches of this rule may result in losing your place in the final, or impact your ability to future events.
- Videos can be recorded on 1 pole, or 2, utilising spinning/static options - this is up to the competitor. The live final will be on 1 pole.
- This is a heels based competition, heels are to be included.
- **FREESTYLE CATEGORY ONLY** - a video is required to be submitted for the freestyle category. The performance may be in any heels style, and will be judged solely against the fixed criteria. Category specific elements apply only in the live final. All additional rules apply.
- Competitors will be judged solely off the video they submit.
- Judges' decisions are final.
- Each entry fee is payable upon submission of application - this fee covers your entry fee, judging and feedback and if successful - your live final space. Entry will not be counted if payment is not received. Entries can be submitted, and videos can be provided at a later date - as long as it is before the entry deadline **11:59pm Sunday 13th April 2025.**
- All videos will be moderated for any rule breaks, and any breaks found will be notified to the competitor and an opportunity given to resubmit which **MUST BE DONE 7** days before the closing date for video round which is **11:59pm 6th April 2025.** If not resubmitted, the entry will be discarded and no refund will be given.

LIVE FINAL

- Competitors and judges will not be permitted to interact before and during the competition. Any communications in regards to Vertex must go through the competition channels only. Competitors are not permitted to DM/message judges about competition topics. Judges are required to flag competitors of which they are directly connected to - eg, regular students, work colleagues, close friends and/or relatives.
- Competitors and judges agree to not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during the competition. Any competitor found to be under the influence, to any degree will be disqualified. This extends to any competitor obviously hungover.
- By accepting your place in the final, you are consenting to being photographed/filmed and these being used as promotional material for Vertex Pole Championship on social media, websites, emails etc.
- All decisions and results are final.
- Max routine length 5 minutes for every category. Minimum length is 3 minutes.
- Nudity is accepted.
- Judges' decisions are final.
- This is a heels based competition, heels are to be included.
- There is no option of background changes or lighting adjustments for competitor routines. Lighting is arranged in the best format for camera usage (photos/video).
- Stage specifications will be provided to finalists when finalists entry has been accepted - this will be in an information pack provided.
- Please note, for the live final - **THERE WILL BE ONE POLE**. 45mm Chrome competition standard X-Pole on a truss system, which will be rigorously tested prior and during the competition. Competitors can choose between static or spin, and this choice must be provided in advance.
- Pole cleaners will be in attendance throughout the competition. The poles are also able to be gripped and competitors may also do this themselves should they prefer.
- Grip Aids - Grip aids are welcome, competitors may bring their own. **Monkey Snot, ITAC and any other resin based grips are NOT permitted.**
- Competitors must arrive at their allocated time to ensure attendance to the health and safety briefing, failure to attend on time may result in disqualification.
- Competitors must be in good health on the day of, this applies to illness and injury, to ensure safety to the individual competitor and to others.
- Competitors agree to sign the waiver and release forms on registration. Competitors will be provided with identification at this time. Without completed forms, they cannot participate in the competition.
- Competitors will be expected to warm up appropriately before performing, this is the responsibility of the competitor and time and space will be provided for them.
- Competitors will be given an allocated time slot to test the pole and stage, this is NOT a full run through of your routine. A soundcheck of the performers music will also be conducted during this time.
- There must be no physical interaction with judges during the performances, eg. lapdances. Audience interaction is permitted if consent is given.
- No liquid based props will be permitted, eg. water, fake blood, wax. No animals are to be involved in performances. No open flames to be used within performances. No pours are permitted eg. liquid, glitter, wax etc. Please email if you are unsure.

Human props are permitted, but must purchase their own spectator ticket. Human props without a spectator ticket will not be permitted into the venue.

Physical interaction with spectators is permitted but must be evidently consensual at the time of the interaction. The compere of the live final will clarify appropriate communication, eg. spectators will be made aware of signals to inform competitors if they do not want to be touched/interacted with.

We do not accept music with any language utilising racial slurs, any music including racial slurs will need to be edited to remove such language, or alternative music must be found. We do not permit music by the following artists **under any circumstances**:

- *R Kelly*
- *Chris Brown*
- *P Diddy*
- *Lizzo*
- *Drake*
- *Marilyn Manson*
- *Tori Lanez*
- *Azraelia Banks*
- *Pop Smoke*
- *Jeremiah*
- *Gary Glitter*
- *Lostprophets*

There will be no duplicates on musical choices, this operates on a first come first served basis.

There are no free tickets available to competitors, chaperones will be required to purchase their own ticket to the event.

Professional photos and videos will be taken throughout the event, and available for purchase after the event. Further details will be provided.

Freestyle Category Specific Rules (Live Final Only)

Four playlists will be compiled of 50 songs in each playlist, each under a musical genre from below:

- R&B
- Rock
- Pop
- Indie/Alternative

No song will appear more than once across playlists and will comprise a variety of tempos & lengths within one musical genre. No song will exceed 5 minutes, or be less than 3 minutes - as per the guidelines for all other categories.

Competitors will be required to choose their genre upon accepting their place in the live final. The competitors' chosen playlist will be shared with them 24 hours prior to the event, but competitors will not be able to choose their song. Songs will be allocated as described below.

Once the contestant is in their chosen starting position, and has given the signal that they are ready to start, the playlist will be shuffled, and a song will be played at random. Once that song has been used, it will be removed from the playlist. There will be no repeats. No one, including the organisers, judges, hosts or competitors will be aware of each contestant's song before the commencement of their performance.

There will be no alternatives, swaps, changes or restarts, unless in the event of a technical malfunction. Should music encounter a technical issue, the performer will be allowed to perform again and a new song will be allocated for this. All previous scores will be disregarded.

Results, Draws & Ties (Live Final Only)

Due to the nature of this competition, and its cash prizes, the event of a draw or tie cannot be acceptable.

Cash prizes cannot be shared or duplicated.

In the unlikely event that the original scores end with two competitors tied, a tie break event will be used to determine the winner.

The two competitors will perform in a freestyle round, which will be scored and judged according to the FIXED CRITERIA ONLY. The highest scoring person will be the winner.

Tie breaks will apply in the event of a draw in both the Individual Categories and for the Overall Winner. The music will be chosen from the remaining songs featured in the Freestyle playlists. The playlist of this will be determined by drawing a genre at random.

Penalties for Rule Violations (Live Final Only)

Any competitor who does not use heels for the performance will result in a 10 point deduction.

Use of any liquid props will result in a 10 point deduction.

Physical contact with judges will result in a 10 point deduction.

Any evidently non consensual interaction with an audience member who is visibly expressing the no contact signal (which has been clarified and explained prior) will result in disqualification.

If your music is not at the minimum length this will result in a 5 point deduction.

If your music exceeds 5 minutes in length, it will be stopped at the 5 minute mark and will result in a 5 point deduction.

Any instances of attempted bribery will result in disqualification.

Any competitor found under the influence, including being hungover, will result in disqualification.

Any competitor who uses discriminatory language or behaviour towards anyone else in the competition (or against any minority groups) such as bullying, harassment or physical violence will result in disqualification and removal from the event, as well as being permanently banned from future events.

Any aggression or abuse (verbal or physical) towards venue or event staff - including audience members and sponsors, will result in disqualification and result in the competitor being removed from the event, as well as being permanently banned from future events.

Live Final Venue Information

The live final is held in Liverpool city centre, a vibrant multicultural city filled with a variety of restaurants, bars, hotels and arts culture. As well as being affordable, it also holds a significant musical history. The venue is located in the heart of the city at Arts Club, the former home of the Liverpool Royal Institute now serves its purpose as an arts, events and club space. Part Victorian theatre, part Manhattan loft club, East Village's arts club is home to some of the most exciting new music in a city of excessive cultural heritage.

Address

Arts Club Liverpool
90 Seel Street
Liverpool
L1 4BH

Paid parking is available nearby. Plenty of food options are also in close proximity to the venue. The main train station (Liverpool Lime Street) is also a short walking distance.

Prizes and Awards

1st and 2nd place will be awarded per category, based on the highest score.

There will also be 1 overall winner awarded. This is the person with the highest overall score of the day.

The monetary prizes for placements are below

Per category

1st place - **£250**

2nd place - **£100**

Overall winner - **£1000**

Participants of 1st and 2nd place will also receive a trophy and goody bag.

Please see our Rules & Regulations for more information on any draws or ties.

FAQs and Contact Information

Is nudity allowed? - Yes.

Can I compete without heels? - No. This is an exclusively heels based competition, and as such heels are essential.

Is there a backstage area? Are there mirrors available? - There is a large backstage area with plenty of space to relax, get ready and warm up, mirrors will be made available to you or you can bring your own.

Can we enter as a double? - No, there is no doubles category and doubles routines are not permitted. Human props are allowed, but must purchase their own spectator ticket.

Is there food and drink at the venue? - No food, but there are plenty of restaurants and shops nearby. The venue does have a number of bars, where you will be able to purchase drinks throughout the duration of the event.

If I want to resubmit a new video before the deadline, can I? - Yes, you will just need to send over your new video before entries close. If entries have closed you will not be able to resubmit.

I have questions, who do I contact? - You can get in touch with us via Instagram DM [@vertexpolechamps](https://www.instagram.com/vertexpolechamps) or via email at info@vertexpole.com

Who is judging Vertex? - Judges for the live final will be announced before entries close, via Instagram.

What is the nearest public transport station to the venue? - The nearest train stations are Liverpool Lime Street and Liverpool Central. You can also find National Express coaches coming into Liverpool City Centre regularly if you prefer to avoid trains.

What grip can we use? - Whichever you prefer however Itac and Monkey Snot are NOT permitted.

I need to ask for adjustments, how do I do this? - You can make us aware of any circumstances or instances where reasonable adjustments will need to be made upon your entry to the competition. You can also Instagram DM us, or drop us an email - info@vertexpole.com

I am a beginner, can I enter? - You absolutely can, there are no level restrictions at Vertex.

Are refunds available if I do not get into the final? - No, there are no refunded entries.

Contact information

info@vertexpole.com

 [@vertexpolechamps](https://www.instagram.com/vertexpolechamps)

VERTEX

POLE CHAMPIONSHIPS

INFO@VERTEXPOLE.COM