



# COMPETITOR INFORMATION

## NATIONAL FINALS

### JANUARY 14 - 19, 2025

#### EVENT DETAILS

<b>DATES</b>	Tuesday, January 14 - Sunday, January 19, 2025
<b>LOCATION</b>	AB Paterson College 10 A B Paterson Dr, Gold Coast, Arundel QLD 4214
<b>PARKING</b>	Free parking is available in the main school car park off AB Paterson Drive.
<b>FOOD/DRINK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cold drinks and snacks will be available to purchase from the kiosk in the foyer</li><li>• An onsite coffee van will be operating each morning.</li><li>• There are some food options within walking distance (e.g. Subway &amp; Noodlebox) at the service station adjacent to the school entry.</li><li>• Other major services are available a short drive from the venue at shopping centres such as Westfield Helensvale and Harbour Town Shopping Centre.</li></ul>

#### EVENT PROCEDURE

- The venue will open 30 minutes prior to aerial competitor briefings and 1 hour prior to the start of the acrobatics session. You will not be able to access the building before these times.
- All **Aerial Competitors** should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to their Rig Check Briefing allocated time. There is no set briefing time for **Acro/Circus Performers**. You do not need to be at the venue for the show start if you choose, you are welcome to arrive anytime, but it is your responsibility to ensure you arrive in time for your performance.
- Upon arrival at the venue, please check in with BTA staff at the competitor check in desk to collect your competitor pack, including your competitor pass (one pack per competitor).
- You must check in at the start of each session in which you are performing in.
- All apparatuses will be checked in during the Rig Check, if you are using a BYO apparatus, please collect a apparatus tag from the competitor check in desk to label your gear.
- After your Rig Check has finished, you are welcome to leave the venue.
- All competitors will receive an 'All Session' audience ticket as part of your registration fee. You are welcome to watch from the audience during the competition where seats are available (preference will be given to paying ticket holders).
- You must be side stage at least 3 acts prior to your own.
- Your music file has been downloaded from the online system. Please have your music on a USB with you on the day as a backup, should there be any technical issues.

#### AWARDS

- Awards presentations will be held at the end of each session.
- All competitors will be brought back on stage for the awards presentations.
- Please ensure you are back in the competitor dressing room during the judge's break to be ready to go back on stage.

**EVENT TIMING****TUESDAY, JANUARY 14**

<b>SESSION 1</b>		<b>SESSION 2</b>	
Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	7:45am	Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	4:00pm
Competition Start	10:15am	Competition Start	6:15pm
Awards	2:45pm	Awards	9:30pm

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15**

<b>SESSION 3</b>		<b>SESSION 4</b>	
Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	7:45am	Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	3:30pm
Competition Start	10:30am	Competition Start	6:15pm
Awards	2:15pm	Awards	10:15pm

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16**

<b>SESSION 5</b>		<b>SESSION 6</b>	
Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	7:45am	Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	3:15pm
Competition Start	10:30am	Competition Start	5:45pm
Awards	2:00pm	Awards	9:45pm

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 17**

<b>SESSION 7</b>		<b>SESSION 8</b>	
Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	7:45am	Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	2:45pm
Competition Start	10:00am	Competition Start	5:15pm
Awards	1:30pm	Awards	9:15pm

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18**

<b>SESSION 9</b>		<b>SESSION 10</b>	
Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	7:45am		
Competition Start	9:15am	Competition Start	1:15pm
Awards	11:30am	Awards	5:45pm

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19**

<b>SESSION 11</b>		<b>GALA SHOW</b>	
		Rehearsal	12 - 1pm
Competition Start	8:30am	Show Start	2:00pm
Awards	11:00am	Awards	5:30pm

**GALA SHOW**

The National Champion from each section is invited to perform at the Bend The Air Gala Show. This will be held on Sunday, January 19 at 2pm. If you are invited to perform at the gala you must confirm your place with BTA staff within 2 hours of receiving your award. You will be required to attend a rehearsal from 12:00pm - 1:00pm on Sunday, January 19 and then perform your winning act during the show. Gala Ticket are now on sale! Book your tickets online:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/gala-bend-the-air-national-finals-2024-tickets-1118524820849>

**SPECTATOR TICKETS**

Tickets are now on sale for all sessions! All competitors can watch from the audience using their Competitor Pass. This is to only be used by the performing competitor and not shared with anyone else. Spectator tickets can be purchased using the below link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/bend-the-air-national-finals-2024-3915553>

There will also be an online livestream of the event. Details on how to purchase livestream tickets will be released closer to the event. Please note that 'All Session' Tickets & Competitor Passes do not cover entry to the Gala Show.

## RIG CHECK PROCEDURE

Rig checks will follow the same procedure as used in the 2024 regional events. The purpose of our rig checks is to ensure that we have the correct set height/rigging requirements for your apparatus, and to allow you an opportunity to test the rigging set up.

- **There will be no full routine run throughs. In house apparatus' (Silks, Lyra) will be used for rigging checks - BYO Apparatus' will not be rigged (with the exception of specialty open apparatus')**
- Competitors who are using their own apparatus' will have them inspected by the head rigger and then they will be stored for the show.
- Technical staff will check your music file, your start position, costume colour, your start position for music cues and any prop or rigging requirements.
- **Height/Rig Checks:**
  - **SILKS:** Using the **in house silk** you will have approximately 1 minute to test the rig.
  - **LYRA:** Using the **in house lyra** you will check/set your height with the rigger and then have approximately 1 minute to test the rig.
  - **OPEN APPARATUS:** If you are performing on a silk, lyra or hammock - the in house apparatus will be used to check your height with the rigger. You will then have approximately 1 minute to test the rig. Other specialty apparatus' will be rigged for your height check.

**We suggest performing your major skills/drops during your rig check to best utilise your time to check your rigging requirements.**

## RIGGING & STAGING

### STAGE

- The entry/exit for all solo and duo categories will be from stage Right.
- Acrobatics sections will use the full (hard floor) stage - approximately 8.5m deep x 12m wide.
- Aerial Sections: the Alta Rig will be on the stage - the leg span of the rig is 6m x 6m. This area will be covered with the carpeted grey mat flooring, with the round crashmat in the centre (approx 2.5m diameter). All aerial competitors are required to use the safety mat, and it cannot be moved during your performance. Although there are no deductions for going outside of this 6 x 6 m area, the lighting is best set in this space, so we recommend keeping to this area where possible.

### RIGGING

- The Alta Rig will be used for the rigging for all aerial performances.
- The overall height of the Alta Rig is 7m. Once you have taken into account the rigging and hardware plus matting below the actual available space is approximately 6.2m in total from floor to top connection point.
- There will be a dyneema rope system on the rig, which will mean there is little to no bounce in the system.
- A swivel & carabiner will be provided.
- Please see the BTA Riggings standards document attached to your email for further information on rigging.

## PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY



Artistry Photography is our official photographer! All photos will be sent out in a private gallery - use the link below to register to receive your gallery link and view your routine photos.

<https://tinyurl.com/5n87zf4w>



Mat from Lime Light Multimedia is filming all of your routines. Mat produces amazing high-quality videos from multiple camera angles. Videos will be available to purchase online - sale will go live closer to the event date.

<https://limelightvideo.store/pages/competition-video-orders>

## PRIZES

During the awards presentation at the end of each session the following awards will be presented for each category:


- 1st Place - National Champion
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place
- Judge's Choice Award

During the awards presentation at the end of the Gala Show the following awards will be presented:


- Highest Scoring Aerial Act - 12 Years & Under
- Highest Scoring Aerial Act - 13 - 17 Years
- Highest Scoring Aerial Act 18 Years +
- Highest Scoring Acrobatics & Circus Solo or Duo/Trio Act
- Limelight Multimedia's Award
- Artistry Photography's Award
- Studio Spirit Award

## JUDGES

### NATIONAL FINALS JUDGE



**bend the air**  
CIRCUS EVOLVED



**Martine Howard**

Martine began her career as an aerialist after participating in the National Institute of Circus Arts' pilot project in 1999. She moved to Montreal and trained swinging trapeze with Andre Simard of Cirque du Soleil before training swinging trapeze and Cloudswing extensively with world-renowned aerial trainer Victor Fomine.

Martine has performed on various aerial apparatus and skipping ropes with Cirque du Soleil before performing as an aerialist and acrobat with cabarets and renowned circus productions across Europe. Other performance highlights include festivals, corporate work and performing in a big sparkly Hollywood film. Martine currently holds the position of Senior Aerial trainer and Third year Course Coordinator at the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA). During her time at NICA she has trained many students to take up professional circus careers in many national and international companies across the world. She curated Showcase and Fringe performances and assisted in the direction for NICA productions.

Martine continues to be drawn to circus as one of the most innovative and exciting performing art forms and feels passionately about the evolution of circus and the role institutions such as NICA play in evolving the artform.

### NATIONAL FINALS JUDGE



**bend the air**  
CIRCUS EVOLVED



**Meaghan Wegg**

Meaghan is a versatile circus artist and coach with a passion for choreography. She honed her skills in aerial hoop and contortion performance at the select-entry Ecole Nationale de Cirque (ENC) in Montreal, graduating both from their high school program and subsequently their college diploma in 2005. Meaghan then embarked on a successful career as a principal dancer and circus artist, performing worldwide in various productions including Cirque du Soleil's 'Quidam' as an aerial hoop artist and acrobatic dancer.

Transitioning to coaching and choreography, she returned to ENC and obtained a coaching diploma in 2013, specializing in acrobatic research and hand to hand transitions. Meaghan now works as a private coach and choreographer, attracting students globally. She also created and now manages "Aerial Arts" globally, a division of Acrobatic Arts focused on safe teaching of Aerial Hoop and Silks. She founded "The Academy", a leading circus training facility in South-Western Ontario, with locations in London and Clinton. With a wealth of experience, Meaghan has choreographed shows and worked on projects internationally, including Elekron in Macau, and the Ambani wedding in India. Meaghan created the Weggosphere, a visually appealing ground-based apparatus inspired by the aerial hoop. This meticulously crafted design combines functionality and aesthetics seamlessly. Based in London, Ontario Canada, she now enjoys a settled life with her small family and is dedicated to welcoming aspiring performers into the industry, sharing invaluable tips and tools to help make their dreams a reality.