

COVID-19 Can't Stop Double Dutch... Holiday Classic Goes Virtual!

Annually, the Bouncing Bulldogs from Chapel Hill, North Carolina travel to Harlem, New York to compete at the Apollo Theater for the Double Dutch Holiday Classic. Due to COVID-19, this year's competition was held virtually and presented through the National Double Dutch League's YouTube channel on December 13th. Submissions came from Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Brazil, and many states within the United States. Despite numerous restrictions and safety precautions that had to be met, the Bouncing Bulldogs persevered and safely trained to compete with these other teams from around the world. Jumpers learned to adapt and became stronger by learning how to communicate and work together in new ways while wearing masks and gloves.

In the Novice Fusion category, an exciting event that consists of double dutch, dancing, costumes, and upbeat music, the Bouncing Bulldogs (Taylor Fox, Minali Jensen, Mary Ellis Merrit, Laurel Ann Ruvo, Yara Sinnot, Ellie Zerden) placed first. This is the third time that the Bulldogs have won Novice Fusion in their 15 years of competing at the Apollo Theater!

This competition is also comprised of two speed tests. In the Double Dutch Pairs Speed event, the 8th grade and above jumpers had a clean sweep with the top three places, led by first place winners Zoe Grotegut, Caroline Kahwati, Sabrina Stockmans, and Ella Winslow. The Bulldogs also won Gold for Double Dutch Singles Speed in two age categories. In the 8th grade and above division, Holly Copeland, Lilly James, and Sara Rogerson came out on top, as well as Naomi Hirsch, Lucie Haws, and Cole Drumheller in the 6th grade division.

The Bouncing Bulldogs program is so proud of the commitment and dedication of all the jumpers this year despite these unprecedented times. Thank you to the National Double Dutch League for organizing this virtual competition and continuing to keep kids active during this pandemic. We would also like to thank our community members, family, and friends for your support. If you would like to watch this year's 29th Annual Double Dutch Holiday Classic, it is available on the National Double Dutch League's Youtube Channel by clicking this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJs2J991jynzW8U7O53R1Ww/featured>.

