

# COVID-19 PREPARATIONS

## NICKEL CITY 2021

We are a not-for-profit operating in New York State. We hope beyond hope that the current restrictions are lifted before next April, but we must prepare as if they will not be. We MUST be clear that whatever the NY Statewide, Western New York Region, and/or Niagara County mandates are in April 2021 will be enforced at Nickel City 2021. If you register for Nickel City 2021, your registration is accepted on agreement to abide by the requirements placed on us by state and local government and the hotel. If you cannot agree to those restrictions, your registration will be refunded and you will not be allowed to participate. It is impossible to know what April will look like, but all guests have the right to understand in advance our safety measures.

- **PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY FOR DANCERS AND SPECTATORS!**

Nickel City will be a pre-registration only event for all dancers and spectators. Registration for dancers and spectators will NOT be accepted at the door; there will be no exceptions. The purpose of this is to allow us the opportunity to plan with the hotel for a set number of people.

- **NO IN-PERSON EXHIBITIONS ON SATURDAY NIGHT AT NICKEL CITY 2021.**

There simply is no way to socially distance a Nickel City exhibition crowd. In addition, the number of spectators we add to Saturday night makes the attendance numbers a concern if there are still restrictions to crowd sizes.

We are discussing ways to have teams submit virtual exhibitions for use during the weekend, but this is an idea that we have not yet planned and will update on in the future should we decide to go this route.

- **CHANGES TO PHYSICAL SPACE**

*No Water Tables:* There is no mechanism to offer a communal water table that does not create a safety concern for spread of germs. As every room has a fridge, we would recommend people bring their own bottled water or a refillable water bottle. The hotel will have a concessions location open for bottled water.

*Less Seating in Halls:* There will be limited spaced out chairs in dance halls. This is for two reasons: (1) we are trying to maximize the amount of dance floor and (2) chairs in clogging halls are typically not socially distanced. We are going to increase chairs in social areas like hallways and outdoor patios.

*Security Personnel:* We will have an increased staff of event security responsible for tracking numbers of dancers in halls and for reminding people to have ribbons and follow protocols.

- **MASKS**

It will depend on NYS mandate on masks at that time. New York State issued its state-wide mask mandate on April 15, 2020. If NYS requires masks for group engagements, we will enforce mask-wearing. ***IF*** that requirement remains in effect in New York State in April 2021, no one will be allowed to participate without a mask. Currently (in August 2020), New York State requires masks at all times unless social distancing 6 feet. Social distancing 6 feet in a clogging hall would allow less than 200 people in our largest dance hall, which is not feasible. Therefore, if masks are required in April 2021 by NY State law, they will be required at the hotel during our event. The fines in New York State for not wearing a mask are substantial for both individuals and businesses.

- **LIMITATIONS TO GROUP SIZE:**

Currently, New York has allowed groups up to 50 people. We expect that those numbers will be increased substantially in advance of Nickel City 2021. The hotel believes that eventually they will be allowed to have a percentage of the ballroom capacity. If NY allows banquets up to 50% of ballroom capacity, Nickel City would be able to operate at our normal attendance numbers. However, if there is a percentage of capacity limitation, we will only be allowed to have that number of dancers in a ballroom at any one time. For example, the Main Ballroom holds 725 people by fire code. If the restriction by New York State is 50% of capacity, we would never be able to have more than 362 people in the Main Ballroom.

- **REFUND POLICY:**

In order to encourage people who have symptoms to stay home, we are revising our refund policy. Prior to April 1, any registration, buffet, t-shirt, and/or syllabus will be refunded in full. After April 1 until the start of the event, we will refund Dancer and Spectator Registration for anyone who has to cancel, but will only refund T-Shirt, Buffet, and Syllabus if we are able to re-sell at the event.

This is a crazy, unpredictable time. We thank you for sticking with us as we navigate through this pandemic. We will do our best to have the most amazing Nickel City ever, but we thought these important issues to address early. Please stay safe and healthy!