



AAU

DanceSport / Ballroom

Handbook

2008-2009

The rules enumerated herein governing the conduct of either American Style or International style AAU sanctioned competitions and championships shall apply to competitors, judges, officials and organizers who participate in AAU sanctioned events. Points that arise which are not covered in these rules shall be referred to the event organizers, whose decision shall be final.

DEFINITIONS

Classification of dancers:

1. Amateur Classifications
 - b. AMATEUR: an amateur is one for who dancing is strictly an avocation, a recreational activity, or a competitive sport, and who participates in dancing without seeking or receiving financial gain.
 - i. Pre-Teen, Junior, Youth and Adult Amateur dancers must be registered with the AAU.

Definition of a "Couple":

1. A couple is defined as a male and a female.
 1. AAU sanctioned amateur competitions and championships: Open to dancers ages six to twenty-two who are registered with the AAU, or in the case of overseas visitors, those couples who are registered with the recognized amateur organization or other recognized organization of their country.
 2. Pre-teen, Junior, Youth and Adult Amateur competitions: Open to dancers ages six to twenty-two who are registered with the AAU, or in the case of overseas visitors, those couples who are registered with the recognized amateur organization or other recognized organization of their country.
 3. Formation competitions and championships: Open to dancers ages six to twenty-two who are registered with the AAU, or in the case of overseas visitors, those couples who are registered with the recognized amateur organization or other recognized organization of their country. See also Rules of Formation Team Competitions.
 4. Team matches: Open to dancers ages six to twenty-two who are registered with the AAU, or in the case of overseas visitors, those couples who are registered with the recognized amateur organization or other recognized organization of their country. See also Rules for Team Matches.

Selection of Officials:

1. Required number of judges and scrutineers:
 - a. At all AAU sanctioned events, at least one qualified Chairman of Judges must officiate.
 - b. In all Amateur Championship Events, a minimum of seven (7) judges shall officiate.
 - c. At all AAU sanctioned events, at least one qualified Scrutineer must officiate.
2. Judges Qualifications:
 - a. Organizers must select Judges who are qualified and certified in the categories they are to judge, i.e. International Style, American Style, Theatre Arts/Cabaret/Exhibition Styles, Swing, etc.
3. Chairman of Judges Qualifications:
 - a. The Chairman of Judges for AAU sanctioned events must be a resident of the U.S.A. and must hold a full qualification in all categories included in the event.
4. Announcement of Adjudicators and Officials:
 - a. The organizer shall, in all advertising, announce the proposed list of Judges and officials who will officiate and the competitions in which they will officiate.

Preliminary Requirements:

1. Specification of Events:
 - a. In the promotional materials, the organizer must include a full list of categories and divisions offered dances, dress requirements, and any additional rules he may wish to stipulate. The organizer may introduce further subdivisions in the various categories listed in the materials, but he must clearly define these and enumerate them in his advance publicity.
 - b. The organizer has the responsibility to inform all competitors of the rules under which their competitions will be conducted. Syllabus and/or Costuming requirements must be spelled out correctly and completely on the appropriate entry forms.
 - c. Information as to how infractions of syllabus and/or costuming requirements will be penalized must be included in writing in the organizer's promotional material and/or entry forms.
2. Entry Forms:
 - a. Entry forms may be found on the AAU Dance website, www.aausports.org, which include space for the name and address of each partner and their current AAU registration numbers. For athletes under the age of 18, the consent signature of a parent or guardian must also be obtained.

Conduct of Competition:

1. The organizer is responsible for the observance of the following:
 - a. The organizer shall draw up a timetable and make it available to all competitors prior to the competition. The organizer is responsible for adhering to this timetable so that the individual events do not start more than thirty (30) minutes earlier or run more than thirty (30) minutes later than the scheduled time. The first event of the day shall not start ahead of the scheduled time. Organizers must appoint all adjudicating panels before the event commences, and these panels should be strictly adhered to except in cases of emergency.
 - b. The organizer shall arrange for suitable and separate changing room facilities for male and female competitors.
 - c. The organizer is required to adhere to all categories, dances and levels specified in his promotional material. The organizer is also responsible for enforcement of all AAU rules regarding Syllabus and/or Dress, particularly for the Pre-teen, Junior, and Youth categories as well as applying penalty marks for infractions.
 - d. No participating dancers will be permitted to compete unless registered with the AAU.
 - e. At least two (2) couples must participate in any featured event for it to be accepted as a bona-fide competition. For Championship competitions, at least three (3) couples must participate.
 - f. In events where only one couple is entered the following are offered as suggestions:
 - i. When the event is a one-dance event and the category is at medallist level, the judges may adjudicate the couple against an accepted standard and the couple's placement is determined by majority opinion of the judges.
 - ii. When the event is a multiple dance event, each dance may be treated as in (i) above with the overall placement determined by the overall judges' marks. Alternatively, the organizer may choose to allow the couple to dance without evaluation and automatically award the couple first place.
 - g. During the same competition session in all "championship amateur" competitions an intermission of not less than twenty (20) minutes, and not more than sixty (60) minutes must be granted to couples in between rounds. It is recommended that for other multi-dance amateur competitions that an intermission of five (5) minutes per dance (up to twenty minutes total) be granted.
 - h. The order to be danced in all Theater Arts/Cabaret divisions shall be determined by draw. Couples must dance the same program for all rounds of the competition.
 - i. The Skating System of score evaluation shall be used, with the exception of Formation Teams and Team Matches, which may be judged on a cumulative point system.

- j. Each Judge shall mark and sign a score card for each heat adjudicated. The organizer shall appoint a steward who shall be responsible for collecting judges' score cards and delivering them to the scrutineer.
- k. For Open Amateur events the length of music must be as follows:
 - i. Other than for the International Style Viennese Waltz and Paso Doble the music shall be played for a minimum of one minute and thirty seconds to a maximum of two minutes (1:30-2:00).
 - ii. In the International Style Viennese Waltz the music shall be played for a minimum of one minute and fifteen seconds to a maximum of one minute and thirty seconds (1:15-1:30).
 - iii. In the International Style Paso Doble the complete song must be played in the final round (2:05).
- l. Only the Chairman of Judges and Scrutineer shall have access to the marks until the end of the competition.
- m. Master scrutineer sheets, or copies, shall be publicly posted in a conveniently accessible area, for public inspection, only after they have been certified correct by the Scrutineer and Chairman of Judges, and immediately after the results have been announced and the prizes awarded.
- n. Before the marks are posted the Master Scrutineer Sheets should be signed by the Scrutineer and Chairman of Judges, but not necessarily by the organizer.
- o. No smoking will be allowed in the ballroom or any designated competitor assembly area at any time.
- p. AAU recognizes that competition/championship organizers own the television and/or video rights to their events.
- q. Floors for competition must be a minimum of 60 feet long and a minimum of 36 feet wide, or 2,160 square feet. Floors for championship events must be a minimum of 66 feet long and a minimum of 42 feet wide.
- r. Organizers must pay all officials for services rendered, at that event, before the end of the last session of the last day.
- s. Unless prior agreement is made with the organizer and/or Chairman of Judges, all officials and adjudicators must be available until the conclusion of the competition as stated in the program of events.
- t. To ensure that the competitors of an AAU event receive an "appropriate" presentation of awards, it is recommended that awards be presented after each level of competition, however, all awards must be presented no later than the conclusion of each session.
- u. In all competition rounds, excluding cabaret, formation teams and team match, all couples in each heat, including the final, must dance against each other concurrently.
- v. An on-deck area for competitors is required for championships and strongly recommended for competitions. It is also recommended that an on-deck captain be provided during sessions with a large number of entries and/or heats.
- w. Once a final round commences, if it becomes necessary for a couple to withdraw from the competition (due to injury or illness) then that couple will be awarded last place for any dances in which they did not dance.
- x. If a couple withdraws from a competition after any round and before the commencement of the next round, then the chairman may at his discretion replace this couple with the next eligible couple.
- y. Organizers who anticipate that their events will be video taped with the intent of distribution to television must clearly outline in the publicity whether the event has been contracted to appear on television or if the filming is being done "with the intent" of being aired on television.
- z. In the "Theatrical" dance category lifts are allowed for no more than 50% of the number of measures of music. There is no restriction for the "Cabaret" category.
- aa. In a "Ten-Dance" competition each dance shall be a separate competition. The skating system of scrutineering shall be applied to all ten dances together to determine the winner. The number of call-backs from the Semi-final (and Quarter-final if necessary) shall be used to determine placements for couples not making the finals

- bb. Confirmation that all amateur dancers competing at their event are currently registered with the AAU.
- cc. Competitors and officials are not permitted to give media interviews at any time during a competitive round in which they are taking part. Any such interviews may be done between rounds and may not be broadcast to those present in the ballroom.
- dd. Organizers are responsible for ensuring that all competitors must comply with the guidelines given in the Dress and/or Grooming section.
- ee. The announcement of placement and awarding of prizes should be done as soon after the end of the final round as possible, and within 90 minutes.

Rules for Judges:

1. Judges Restrictions:
 - a. The adjudicating panel for each category, level and style shall consist of an odd number of qualified judges who are certified as a judge.
 - b. A judge must excuse himself from an adjudicating panel on any occasion when he has a member of his immediate family, or any member of the same household dancing in a particular heat of competition. "Immediate family" is defined as first cousin or above, their spouses, domestic partners and household members.
 - c. Judges must be Qualified and Certified in the type and style of the competition they are engaged to adjudicate.
 - d. Officials, including Judges, Scrutineers, Registrars, Masters of Ceremonies, Music Directors and Organizers, are not allowed to give coaching lessons, on or off the premises, during the entire period of time commencing at noon on the day of the first competitive session and concluding with the end of the last session. This does not apply to Lectures or Seminars scheduled by the organizer and open to any interested parties.
 - e. If officials and competitors mutually consent to discuss markings and results after the conclusion of the event, they should do so in a civil, ethical, and professional manner.
2. Judges Conduct:
 - a. Judges shall stand or be seated apart from one another and at such locations that they do not interfere with the competitors.
 - b. Judges are reminded that if they converse with any spectators, contestants, or coaches, they may not discuss any competitors' performance until after the close of the entire event.
 - c. Judges are not to compare notes and must judge independently.
 - d. Judges may move about freely in order to see all couples.
 - e. Judges are required to remain on the floor until the end of the music.
 - f. Judges shall mark and sign their score cards in ink, including the code letter, and shall initial each and every alteration.
 - g. While on the competition premises, judges shall conduct themselves with the utmost of professional decorum, including refraining from consuming alcohol during a judging session.
3. Chairman of Judges:
 - a. The Chairman of Judges shall be responsible for the following:
 - i. Determining the number of couples to be recalled.
 1. The Chairman must ask for at least 50 % of the number of couples to be recalled in each round. However, if the number of couples that are actually recalled by the adjudicators would require an additional round, then the Chairman is allowed to recall less the 50% of the couples. If the chairman asks for a 50 % recall for a second round and the actual number is more than 50%, the chairman may still call for a 50% recall of his original desired number of couples in the third round, etc.
 2. The maximum number of couples that will be allowed in any final round will be eight.
 3. For any championship competition, if there are eight or more couples pre-registered to compete then a semi-final round must be scheduled. Likewise, if there are fifteen or more couples pre-registered then a quarterfinal must be scheduled.

4. The chairman should consult with the competition organizer whenever there is a question in regards to the number of couples to be recalled.
 5. The chairman should determine when a semi-final should be split into two heats, taking into account the size of the floor, the number of couples in the semi-final, and the style being danced. This should be done in consultation with the competition organizer. When the semi-final is split all couple must dance concurrently for a minimum of 30 seconds prior to any heat being split.
 6. When the judges are instructed to select a given number of couples to dance in a final, only that number shall dance, except in the event of a tie.
 7. In all matters relating to the conduct of the competition, questions on judges' markings, and changes in program scheduling, the Chairman's decision shall be final.
- b. No more than eight (8) couples shall dance in any Final round.
 - c. Observance of the established timetable for the competition, or alteration to the established timetable if required.
 - d. Instructing judges on points of evaluation and scoring system.
 - e. Correct interpretation of marks by inspecting marks after each heat, and verifying that they have been correctly transcribed.
 - f. Referring any score card requiring correction to the adjudicator concerned.
 - g. In all matters related to the conduct of the competition, questions on judges marking, changes in program scheduling; the Chairman's decision is final.
 - h. Excusing a judge from officiating when he feels that his sound judgment might be impaired.
 - i. The signing of all Final Summary Marking Sheets.
4. The IDSF Skating System will be utilized in all competitive events. A description of the Skating System is included at the end of the rulebook.
 5. No individual, official, judge or organization shall discriminate against any competitor on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin; neither deny or threaten to deny any eligible competitor the opportunity to participate in competitive events for which he or she is eligible if he or she has adhered to all requirements.

Rules for Competitors

1. Dance Requirements:
 - a. Competitors are restricted to entering only those categories for which they are eligible.
 - b. All competitors are required to present a valid and current AAU registration card to the competition registrar before the gentleman's competition number may be issued to them at the event..
 - c. Competitors must adhere to the dress requirements specified by the Organizer, provided such requirements have been specified in his printed advertisements and/or entry blanks.
 - d. Competitors are required to remain on the floor until the end of the music to avoid the possibility of disqualification.
 - e. Theater Arts and Cabaret competitors only are allowed to use props. A prop is defined, as any item that is not part of the regular costume worn by the dancers.
 - f. All competitors are subject to Anti-Doping controls as prescribed by IDSF, USOC and AAU.
 - g. While on the premises of a competition, competitors shall conduct themselves in a civil and sportsmanlike manner. Competitors shall not harass or challenge a judge about the markings of that judge before, during or after the event.
 - h. Competitors are responsible for being in attendance and ready to compete thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled time for the event(s) entered and for checking in with the registrar.
 - i. Competitors are responsible for adherence to the dress code requirement specified by the event organizers.
 - j. Competitors are responsible for dancing only in those divisions and classification categories for which they are eligible under the rules found in this rulebook.

- k. Any competitor who removes, defaces, or destroys any of the Master Scrutineering Sheets shall be subject to disciplinary action.
2. Conduct:
 - a. While on the competition premises, competitors shall conduct themselves at all times in a civil and sportsmanlike manner.
 - b. Competitors must be in attendance at least one-half hour in advance of the advertised time scheduled for the events he is entering. Organizers are not required to delay the program for the benefit of latecomers.
 - c. Competitors shall accept as final the individual markings of the judges, and no appeal against them may be made except when it can be shown that the actual markings have been incorrectly evaluated.
 - d. If officials and competitors mutually consent to discuss markings and results after the conclusion of the event, they should do so in a civil, ethical, and professional manner.
 - e. A competitor who removes any of the Master Scrutineer Sheets without the permission of the organizer shall face disciplinary action.
 - f. If a couple fails to appear for an event without notifying the organizer in advance, then the organizer is not obligated to accept entries from that couple for future competitions.
 3. Prohibited Activities:
 - b. Dancing as a profession. The following acts are considered evidence that an individual has become a professional.
 - i. By publicly declaring himself or herself to be a professional, whether verbally or in writing.
 - ii. By competing in a professional category.
 - c. Material gain: Amateur competitors are prohibited from generating a net profit from the use of his or her dance skills, with the exception of those competitors who are considered World Class or Certified by other member organizations.
 - d. Commercial agreements: Amateur competitors are only permitted to enter into commercial or business agreements either written or verbal with individuals or organizations wherein his or her dance skills are provided in exchange for money or other valuables.
 - e. Doping violations: Competitors are not permitted to use substances and/or methods classified as doping under the IDSF, USOC and AAU Anti-Doping codes. Competitors may not refuse to submit to a doping test administered by the above-mentioned entities.

Registration

1. General guidelines for Registration:
 - a. Registration will be accepted through the AAU website, www.aausports.org or on Official Registration Forms.
 - b. Registration with the AAU runs from September 1st through August 31st, regardless of when the registration is received throughout the year.
 - c. All registrants must register with the AAU for the following year or will not be allowed to participate at any AAU event until they are correctly registered.
 - d. All registrants will receive a numbered registration card indicating the valid registration period. It is the responsibility of all registrants to show competition organizers their valid registration cards when so requested. Additionally, all registrants can print a copy of the AAU Dancesport Rulebook off of the AAU Dance web site at www.aaudance.org. Awareness of the contents of the Rulebook is the responsibility of each registrant. Please read and study them carefully.
 - e. All registered competitors must present their current competitor's registration card before receiving their competition number from the organizer.

Dances and Tempi

1. Approved Dances:

- a. The following dances are approved for Competitions and Championships with the exception of Cabaret, all couple must dance all dances:
 - i. International Style Standard Ballroom: Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Slow Foxtrot and Quickstep. It is required that the above five dances be used (in the order listed) in all amateur “championship” competitions. When organizers choose to offer additional competitions that my not include all five dances it is recommended that they still offer the dances in the order listed, minus those dances not being offered.
 - ii. International Style Latin: cha-cha, Samba, Rumba, Paso Doble and Jive. It is required that the above five dances be used (in the order listed) in all amateur “championship” competitions. When organizers choose to offer additional competitions that my not include all five dances it is recommended that they still offer the dances in the order listed, minus those dances not being offered.
 - iii. American Style Smooth: Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot and Viennese Waltz. It is required that the above five dances be used (in the order listed) in all amateur “championship” competitions. When organizers choose to offer additional competitions that my not include all four dances it is recommended that they still offer the dances in the order listed, minus those dances not being offered.
 - iv. American Style Rhythm: Cha-Cha, Rumba, Swing, Bolero and Mambo. It is required that the above five dances be used (in the order listed) in all amateur “championship” competitions. When organizers choose to offer additional competitions that my not include all five dances it is recommended that they still offer the dances in the order listed, minus those dances not being offered.
 - v. Additional American Style dances: Other American Style dances may be offered as either one-dance of multi-dance events by competition organizers. These dances could include but are not limited to: Peabody, Merengue, Salsa, Polka, West Coast Swing, Lindy, Hustle, etc.
 - vi. Theater Arts/Cabaret Dances: Theater Arts events are those in which all couples dance at the same time to a pre-selected piece of music. Cabaret dances are those in which couples select their own music and appear one at a time. All Cabaret routines are limited to four (4) minutes long. This includes entrances onto and exits from the floor.
 - vii. Lifts: Lifts are allowed in the Theater Arts/Cabaret dance categories only. A lift is any movement during which one of the dancers has both feet off the floor at the same time with the assistance or support of their partner for longer than two beats of music. Couples who perform lifts in categories where lifts are not allowed may be disqualified after one warning, or may be dropped to last place in the final, at the discretion of the Chairman of Judges.

2. Approved Tempi:

- a. The following tempi for International and American Style dances are approved, given in Measures per Minute – MPM.
- b. Music directors must have the equipment necessary to adjust the tempo/pitch while the music is playing, at the direction of the Chairman of Judges.
- c.

International Style	Dance	Measures per Minute
Standard	Waltz	28
	Tango	32
	Viennese Waltz	56-58
	Foxtrot	28
	Quickstep	50-52
Latin	Cha-cha	31
	Samba	50
	Rumba	26
	Paso Doble	60-62
	Jive	44

America Style	Dance	Measures per Minute
Smooth	Waltz	28-30
	Tango	30
	Foxtrot	30
	Viennese Waltz	54
Rhythm	Cha-Cha	30
	Rumba	32
	Swing	36
	Bolero	24
	Mambo	47
	Hustle	28-30
	West Coast Swing	28-32
	Lindy Merengue	29-32

3. Music Length

- a. The amount of music played for each dance in each should be monitored and made equal for each heat in a round.

International Style	Dance	Minimum/Maximum
Standard	Waltz	90 secs / 120 secs
	Tango	90 secs / 120 secs
	Viennese Waltz	60 secs / 90 secs
	Slow Foxtrot	90 secs / 120 secs
	Quickstep	90 secs / 120 secs
Latin	Cha-Cha	90 secs / 120 secs
	Samba	90 secs / 120 secs
	Rumba	90 secs / 120 secs
	Paso Doble	90 secs / 120 secs
	Jive	60 secs / 90 secs

America Style	Dance	Minimum / Maximum
Smooth	Waltz	90 secs / 120 secs
	Tango	90 secs / 120 secs
	Foxtrot	90 secs / 120 secs
	Viennese Waltz	90 secs / 120 secs
Rhythm	Cha-Cha	90 secs / 120 secs
	Rumba	90 secs / 120 secs
	East Coast Swing	90 secs / 120 secs
	Bolero	90 secs / 120 secs
	Mambo	90 secs / 120 secs

Rules for Amateur Competitors

1. Age Category Classifications:

- a. The following definitions determine competitive age categories:
 - i. Pre-Teen: competitors who are 12 years old and younger. Pre-teen competitors may dance up one age classification to the Junior category. A Pre-teen competitor may not dance up to the Youth category unless they request permission in writing and receive approval. Under no circumstance will a Pre-teen competitor be allowed to compete in the Adult age category.
 - ii. Junior: competitors who are 13, 14, or 15 years old. Junior competitors may dance up one age classification to the Youth category. A Junior competitor may not apply for permission to dance up to the Adult category until they are 15 years old.

- iii. Youth: competitors who are 16, 17, or 18 years old. Nineteen-year-olds may also dance as youths until they have graduated from High School. Youth competitors may concurrently dance up one age classification into the Adult category.
- iv. Amateur or Adult: competitors who are 19 years of age or older. Adult B classifications are for those adults who are 35 years of age or older. Senior classifications are for those adults who are 50 years of age or older.
- v. A couple's age classification eligibility is defined as the age of the older partner on the day of the competition for the Pre-teen, Junior, Youth and Adult classifications.

Proficiency Classifications

1. Syllabus: Restricted to "medallist" level figures (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Novice Bronze, Novice Silver, Novice Gold, etc.). Organizers may restrict the level, but must use all approved syllabi for the dance or level in question.
2. Novice: Open Syllabus. It is recommended that "Novice" competitions generally be restricted to two or three (2 or 3) of the allowed dances for each style. Suggested dances are as follows:
 - a. International Standard: Waltz, Slow Foxtrot and Quickstep.
 - b. International Latin: Cha-Cha, Samba and Rumba.
 - c. American Smooth: Waltz, Tango and Foxtrot.
 - d. American Rhythm: Cha-Cha, Rumba and East Coast Swing.
3. Pre-Championship: Open syllabus. It is recommended that "Pre-Championship" competitions generally be restricted to three or four (3 or 4) of the allowed dances for each style. Suggested dances are as follows:
 - a. International Standard: Waltz, Tango, Slow Foxtrot and Quickstep.
 - b. International Latin: Cha-Cha, Samba, Rumba and Paso Doble or Jive.
 - c. American Smooth: Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot and Viennese Waltz.
 - d. American Rhythm: Cha-Cha, Rumba, East Coast Swing and Bolero.
4. Open Amateur: Open syllabus. All of the dances in each style must be danced in this category in all rounds, and in the prescribed order.
5. Competitors whose choreography is determined by the Invigilator (or Chairman of Judges) not to be within the prescribed or approved syllabus and ability level classification shall be given a verbal warning if the violation occurs in a round prior to the final round or reduced to last place in that dance in a final. Continued violations may be cause for disqualification from the competition by the Chairman of Judges.

Eligibility Definitions

1. A competitor is eligible to dance in the "Syllabus", "Novice", and/or "Pre-Championship" proficiency classifications until they accumulate three (3) proficiency points. There is no limit to the number of proficiency points that may be accumulated in the "Open Amateur" level.
2. A competitor receives one point when they either a) place first in their current classification when a semi-final round was danced, or b) dance in the final of a higher proficiency event where a semi-final round was danced.
3. In the "Syllabus" categories proficiency points should be accumulated independently for each dance.
4. The eligibility to compete in a classification is applied to individual amateur competitors and no the couple as an entity.
5. An amateur couple is only eligible to compete in a classification if both members of the couple are eligible.
6. An amateur competitor's eligibility is based on his/her accomplishments regardless of the number or length of partnerships they have had.
7. It is the responsibility of all amateur competitors to insure that they are eligible for the category in which they desire to dance.
8. An amateur competitor may enter at most two consecutive proficiency classifications in any particular style and age group at a particular competition.

9. An amateur competitor's ineligibility begins at the conclusion of the competition in which his/her third point was acquired. In this case the word "competition" refers to the entire event (generally a "weekend").

Dress and/or Costuming

Pre-Teen:

- a. Pre-Teen boys: Dress shirt and pants, optional tie and or cummerbund or vest or black sweater.
- b. Pre-teen girls: Party dress with no sequins, rhinestones, feathers, glitter, fringe or similar decorations.

Junior, Youth and Adult:

- b. Syllabus:
 - i. Gentlemen: Standard and Smooth Divisions: Dress pants, plain shirt and tie, and optional cummerbund or vest or black sweater or tuxedo. No tail suits. Latin and Rhythm Divisions: Dress pant, plain or ruffled shirt, optional tie and or vest.
 - ii. Ladies: Standard and Smooth Divisions: Cocktail dress without excessive adornment. No ball gowns. Latin and Rhythm Divisions: Leotards and wrap skirts or party/cocktail dresses without excessive adornment.
- c. Open Amateur:
 - i. Gentlemen: Standard and Smooth Divisions: Tail suits. Latin and Rhythm Divisions: Latin costumes.
 - ii. Ladies: Standard and Smooth Divisions: Ball gowns. Latin and Rhythm Divisions: Latin costumes.
- d. For "Syllabus" competitions, competitors must wear "Syllabus" dress.
- e. For "Novice" competitions, competitors may wear either "Syllabus" or "Open Amateur" dress. The organizer may stipulate one or the other for this category.
- f. For "Pre-Championship" and "Open Amateur" competitions, competitors should wear "Championship" costumes.
- g. Competition organizers may establish alternative dress and/or costume guidelines if they desire for Juniors, Youth, or Adults.

Syllabus:

1. Couples competing in the "Pre-teen" category must dance restricted syllabi as noted. Couples competing in the "Junior", "Youth", and "Adult" categories are not restricted in syllabi unless competing in a "Syllabus" event, or otherwise stipulated by the organizer.
2. Pre-teen couples competing in this age category may only dance Bronze, Silver and Gold syllabus figures from approved syllabi.

Formation Team Competitions

Definition of competitive styles:

1. Standard/Smooth
2. Latin American/Rhythm

Dances allowed in each style:

1. Standard/Smooth Style routines may be based on the International Style Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot, and Quickstep; and/or American Style Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot and Viennese Waltz. No dances other than the ones listed will be allowed except for Adult Teams.
2. Latin American/Rhythm Style routines may be based on the International Style Cha-Cha, Samba, Rumba, Paso Doble, and Jive; and/or the American Style Cha-Cha, Samba, Rumba, Mambo, Bolero, Swing, and West Coast Swing. No dances other than the ones listed will be allowed except for Adult Teams.

Eligibility and Participation Requirements:

1. In formation competitions the make-up of each formation team will be allowed as follows:

- a. Pre-Teen teams: Confined to Pre-Teens with the following exception: up to two Juniors may participate on a Pre-Teen formation team (one boy and/or one girl).
 - b. Junior Teams: Confined to Juniors with the following exceptions: (a) any number of Pre-Teens may participate on a Junior team, and (b) up to two Youths may participate on a Junior formation team (one boy and/or one girl).
 - c. Youth Teams: Confined to Youths with the following exception: any number of Juniors may participate on a Youth team.
 - d. Adult Teams: Confined to Adults with the following exception: any number of Youths may participate on an Adult team.
 - e. All age categories: All competitors may dance one time only in each style at any competition.
 - f. Coaches may replace team members with reserves for any round in the competition. Substitutions may not occur during the actual time the team is on the floor competing.
2. Coaches of formations teams are required to submit a roster with the name and social security number of each competitor on their team, including reserves, at least 30 days prior to the competition.

Size of Formation Teams:

Teams of four, five, six, seven and/or eight couples may compete in each formation style. A couple is one boy and one girl.

Time Restrictions:

1. Pre-Teen Formation Teams shall be limited to two minutes of music for their routine. Up to an additional thirty seconds will be allowed for their entrance and exit combined. This adds up to two and one-half minute's total on the floor.
2. Junior Formation Teams shall be limited to three minutes of music for their routine. UP to an additional thirty seconds will be allowed for their entrance and exit combined. This adds up to three and one-half minutes total on and off the floor.
3. Youth Formation Teams shall dance for a minimum of three minutes, but shall be limited to a maximum of four and one-half minutes of music for their routine. Up to an additional one minute will be allowed for their entrance and exit combined. This adds up to a maximum of five and one-half minutes total on and off the floor.
4. Adult Formation Teams shall dance for a minimum of three minutes, but shall be limited to a maximum of four and one-half minutes of music for their routine. Up to an additional one and one-half minutes will be allowed for their entrance and exit combined. This adds up to a maximum of six minutes total on and off the floor.
5. The timing of formation team routines begins when the first person sets foot onto the dance floor. The timing ends when the last person on the team steps off the dance floor.

Number of Dances:

1. Pre-Teen formation teams shall be limited to one or two dances from the approved list for each style.
2. Junior formation teams shall be limited to one, two or three dances from the approved list for each style.
3. Youth formation teams must perform a minimum of three dances and up to a maximum of five dances from the approved list for each style.
4. Adult formation teams must perform a minimum of three dances and up to a maximum of five dances from the approved list for each style. Sixteen (16) bars of one additional dance may be performed. This additional dance needs not be one on the approved list for each style.

Entrances and Exits:

1. Pre-teen and Junior formation teams are not allowed to use music for their entrance and exit. The team must remain motionless for a period of at least two seconds before the start of the music and then again at the end of the dance before they start their exit.
2. Youth and Adult formation teams are allowed to use music for their entrance and exit if desired. When music is used for the entrance and/or exit there must be either a "gong" sound or a complete break in

the music for the space of at least two seconds that separates the entrance/exit from the routine music proper. The formation team must remain motionless during this break both before and after the routine proper.

Lifts and Properties:

1. No lifts are allowed at any time in any competitive age category for Pre-Teen, Junior, and Youth formation teams. This includes the team's entrance and exit.
2. Lifts are allowed during the entrance and/or exit only for Adult formation teams.
3. No properties (props) are allowed at any time in any competitive age category for formation teams. This includes the team's entrance and exit.
4. A prop is defined as any item that is not part of the regular costume worn by the dancers, and that is not attached to the dancer or their costume for the full duration of time that the dancers are on the floor.
5. A hat will be considered a prop if it is removed at any time from the dancer's head, including entrance and exit.

Solo (Open) Work – Standard/Smooth Categories:

1. Solo (open) work is defined as when any couple in the formation team is not in the traditional competitive ballroom hold (which includes the lady's left hand being placed on the man's right shoulder).
2. In all age categories (Pre-Teen, Junior, Youth and Adult) the formation team may dance up to 50% of their bars of music as solo (open) work. At least 50% of their bars of music must be danced completely in the traditional competitive ballroom hold.
3. The coach of the formation team should be prepared to present a breakdown of the phrasing of the music, indicating which measures are open, to the Chairman of Judges at the team's rehearsal in the competition facility.
4. If a couple is in open position at the end of a bar of music, then that bar is counted as solo. If a couple is in closed position at the end of a bar of music, then that bar is not counted as open.

Rehearsal in the Competition Facility:

1. Each formation team will be allowed an equal amount of rehearsal time in the tournament facility. At the commencement of this rehearsal they must dance their routine with music and perform their entrance and exit one time for the Chairman of Judges, or his designated representative.

Dress for Formation Teams:

1. Pre-Teen formation teams shall be allowed to wear the following for both competitive categories:
 - a. Boys: dark trouser, plain, undecorated shirts, optional tie, cummerbund and/or vest. No sequins, rhinestones, fringe or other similar decorations are allowed.
 - b. Girls: a party dress or a simple costume provided it does not have any sequins, rhinestones, feathers, fringe or other similar decorations.
2. Junior formation teams shall be allowed to wear the dress approved for Pre-Teen formation teams in addition to the following for both competitive categories:
 - a. Boys may wear a simple costume, provided it does not have any sequins, rhinestones, fringe or other similar decorations. No jackets (including tail suits) will be allowed.
 - b. Girls may wear a party dress or a simple costume provided it does not have any sequins, rhinestones, feathers, fringe or other similar decorations.
3. Youth formation teams shall be allowed to wear the dress approved for Junior formation teams in addition to the following:
 - a. Boys may wear jackets in either division, including tail suits for the Standard/Smooth category. Costumes are allowed, including decorations. If tail suits are worn they must be black in color.
 - b. Girls may wear costumes in either division, including decorations.
4. Adult formation teams shall be allowed to wear the dress approved for Youth formation teams.
5. The organizer of a formation competition may establish additional dress guidelines if so desired.
6. No change of clothing/costume is permitted once the competition begins.

Team Disqualification

1. A member of the event organizing committee must be appointed. He or his representative must attend the official rehearsal that is held in the competition facility and warn any team infringing the rules. If the rules are infringed during the contest he will have the right to disqualify formation teams that infringe upon these rules, after consultation with the adjudicators and organizer.

Rules for Organizers

1. Organizers are not required to hold a formation team competition in any category that has less than three entries.
2. Before a competition adequate facilities must be provided for formation rehearsals.
 - a. Each formation team must be permitted an equal time span in which to rehearse in the facility.
 - b. This time span should be a minimum of ten minutes per team.
3. Formation coaches are required to submit a roster, which includes birth dates to the competition organizer at least 30 days prior to the competition.
4. A member of the event organizing committee must be appointed. He, or his designated representative, must attend rehearsals and warn any team infringing the rules. Once warned, a team may be disqualified if they continue to infringe upon the rules. Disqualification would be by the chairman, after consultation with the adjudicators and organizer.
5. The chairman is allowed to videotape each team's performance at their official rehearsal in the facility, for the purpose of confirming adherence to the rules.
6. The order of dancing for each round will be determined by draw, under the supervision of the chairman of judges, or his designated representative.
7. Each round of each competition must be conducted without any interruption.
8. In each round of competition, no more than 50% of the teams should be eliminated for the subsequent round. No more than eight teams should participate in the final round. If the Chairman calls for the appropriate number of callbacks and the marks do not allow for the correct number of teams to be advanced, then the Chairman has the authority to place less than 50% of the teams in the subsequent round. This can be considered especially if an additional round would be required in order to comply with the desired 50%.
9. In the preliminary rounds judges must call back the required number of formation teams. This will be done by secret ballot, with the complete judging results being released after the competition has concluded.
10. Secret ballots must be used by the adjudicators for the finals of Pre-Teen and Junior formation competitions. For the finals of Youth and Adult formation competitions the adjudicators may use the open marking system. Again, the complete judging results must be released after the competition has concluded.
11. During the duration of each performance the formation team's entry number/letter, as listed in the program, must be clearly shown near the dance floor for the benefit of the judges.
12. The adjudicators should be positioned at an appropriate distance from each other, and in the front for formation competitions. They may be positioned at either a close or far proximity to the dance floor, or a combination of both. At least some adjudicators should be positioned in an elevated place if at all possible.
13. The coach (es) of each formation team may stand adjacent to or on, the floor when their team is competing. The organizer has the right to direct the coach (es) as to where they may be allowed to stand when their team is dancing.

Judging and Marking

1. Formation Events shall be judged by at least three (3) judges who are qualified and certified in the type and style of ballroom dancing concerned.
2. Formation Teams shall be judged on:
 - a. Entry and Exit of teams.

- b. Precision and Neatness of Lines and Patterns.
- c. Presentation and Character of the Dances(s) performed.
- d. Choreography.
3. The Skating System of Scrutineering must be used.
4. If more than six (6) teams compete, there shall be a Semi-Final round.
5. Coaches shall not judge formation event in which their own teams participated. This rule covers all persons who are connected with the school (studio) where participating teams are trained.

Skating System of Judging

The following is a description of the Skating System of Judging, which shall be used in all competitions:

The Marking of Adjudicator's Cards

1. In all rounds each judge must vote for the number of couples demanded by the Chairman of Judges.
2. In the Final round the judge shall mark his first couple 1, his second couple 2, his third 3, and so on in each of the dances.
3. In the Final round each judge shall place all the competing couples in order of merit in each of the dances.
4. A judge must not tie couples for any place in the Final of any dance. Note: In the Final round the open system of marking may be used.

The Allocation of Positions in Each Dance

5. The winner of a particular dance is the couple who is placed first by an absolute majority of the judges; second, the couple who is placed second or higher by an absolute majority. The remaining positions are allocated in a similar way.

If More than One Couple have a Majority for the Same Position

6. The couple with the largest majority shall be allocated the position under review and the couple with the next largest majority, the following position.

Note: If the position under review is the "2nd" and two couples have a majority of "2nd and higher" places, the couple with the larger majority shall be placed "2nd" and the other couple "3rd". We now examine the remaining competitors' markings, and the couple with the largest majority of "3rd and higher" places shall be allocated the next position, which in this example, is the "4th". If none of the remaining couples has a majority of "3rd and higher" places then include the "4th" places (and, if necessary, lower places).

If Two or More Couples have an Equal Majority for the Same Position

6. If such majorities are equal, then the lowest total of marks given by those judges, who form the majority, shall determine the allocation of the position under review.

Note: If the position under review is the "2nd" and two couples have a similar majority of "2nd and higher" places, the couple with the lower total of marks given by those judges who form the majority, shall be allocated the "2nd" position and the other couple the "3rd". See notes under Rule 6. If the totals of marks are equal, then the next lower place (or places, if necessary), in respect of the particular couples concerned, must be included.

It should be noted that only the couples who have a majority for the position under review (say, for example, the "2nd" position) must be considered at this stage, and only their "3rd" places (and if necessary, lower places) should be referred to, until the "2nd" position has been allocated.

A definite result will eventually be obtained unless the remaining markings are exactly the same, and should the latter be the case, there will, of course, be a tie for "2nd" position. If two couples were concerned, they would be allocated "2 1/2" each.

See notes under Rule 6.

If No Couple receives a Majority for the Position Under Review

8. If no couple receives a majority of “Firsts” then the winner is the couple who are placed “2nd and higher” by a majority of judges. If no couple receives a majority of “1st” and “2nd” places, then the “3rd” places (and if necessary, lower places) must be included. (Subject to Rules 6 and 7.) The “2nd” and other positions should be calculated in a similar way.

Compilation of the Final Summary

9. When all the dances have been concluded, the order ascertained for each dance shall be carried to another sheet, showing the position achieved by each couple in each dance. The first in each dance shall be given one mark, the second two, and so on. These place marks received by each couple shall be added up and the couple with the lowest aggregate shall be the winner.

If there is a Tie for a Place in the Final Summary

10. If this results in a tie for first place, the winner shall be the couple who has actually won the greater number of dances. If there is a tie for the “2nd” place, the “2nd” prize shall be awarded to the couple who has obtained “2nd or higher” in the greatest number of dances. If the couples have obtained the same number of “2nd or higher” place marks, then add the “2nd and higher” place marks together and the couple with the lowest total should be awarded second prize.

Note: If more than two couples tie for second place, the second prize shall be awarded to the couple who has obtained the most “2nd and higher” place marks. Still only considering the remaining “tie” couples, the “3rd” prize is awarded to the couple who has won the most “3rd and higher” place marks.

11. If after applying Rules 9 and 10 this still results in a tie, then treat the judges’ marks of the “tied” couples over all dances, as for an individual dance (Rules 5 to 8). If this still results in a tie, there shall be at the discretion of the organizers of the competition, either a re-dance or the prizes for the places under review shall be divided.
 - (a) If the tie is for first place, a majority of “1st” marks to the credit of either of the “tied” couples (4 dances-5 judges-majority 11) would win. If neither of the “tied” couples obtain a majority of “firsts” see Rule 8.
 - (b) If the tie is for second place, a majority of “2nd and higher” marks to the credit of either of the “tied” couples would be necessary. If neither of the “tied” couples obtain a majority of “2nd and higher” marks see Rule 8.
 - (c) The “3rd” or any other “tied” places should be decided on similar principles.
 - (d) If 3 (or more) couples tie for a place under Rule 10 (say, 2nd place) Rule 11 is applied to all couples concerned in the tie, and the best couple is awarded the “2nd” place. Rule 10 is now applied to the remaining “tied” couples for consideration of the place now under review, which is the “3rd”. However, if they now tie for “3rd” place under Rule 10, then Rule 11 is again applied to these “tied” couples, commencing this time with the “3rd and higher” judge’s marks in the individual dances.