

# USA DANCE, INC.



## DANCESPORT RULEBOOK

Governing USA Dance DanceSport Competitions,  
Athletes and Officials

2019A



# USA DANCE

## DANCESPORT RULEBOOK

### Governing USA Dance Competitions, Officials and Athletes

## 2019

USA Dance: DanceSport Rulebook  
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# USA DANCE: DANCESPORT RULEBOOK

## 1 FOREWORD

### 1.1 SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- 1.1.1 USA Dance is the internationally recognized sport organization that functions as the National Governing Body for DanceSport (also known as ballroom dance) in the United States of America.
- 1.1.2 As such, USA Dance is authorized and obligated to regulate DanceSport Athletes, Officials and DanceSport Competition within the United States.
- 1.1.3 The USA Dance DanceSport Rules govern all registered DanceSport Athletes, Officials and DanceSport Competitive Events in the United States.

### 1.2 PRECEDENCE

- 1.2.1 In the event of conflicts between these Rules and Regulations and the USA Dance Corporate By-laws, the USA Dance Corporate By-laws will take precedence.

## 2 DEFINITIONS

### 2.1 GENERAL

- 2.1.1 The following definitions for terms and organization names are used throughout this document. In cases for which the stated definition of any term deviates from the reader's perception of the normal usage of that term, the definition given here will take precedence:

### 2.2 TERMS

- 2.2.1 **DanceSport** describes any and all forms of dance commonly referred to as Ballroom Dancing in the United States and/or Internationally as DanceSport (e.g.: American Rhythm, American Smooth, International Latin, International Standard, Theatrical Ballroom, West Coast Swing, New Vogue, Rock 'n Roll, Old Time, Sequence and others which may come into vogue.)
- 2.2.2 **Demonstration** refers to the exhibition of any form of dance.
- 2.2.3 **Dance Skills** describes teaching, demonstrating, competing, or judging any form of DanceSport.
- 2.2.4 **Athlete** and **DanceSport Athlete** describe an individual who is registered with a member organization of the WDSF as a competitor and who meets the eligibility criteria for Athletes as described in the **RULES FOR COMPETITORS** (section 4).
- 2.2.5 **Championship Athlete** is an Athlete who is registered as such and has acquired the requisite proficiency to prevent him/her from competing in proficiency levels other than Championship in one or more Dance Styles; or has represented the United States in an international DanceSport competition held under the jurisdiction of the WDSF within the preceding ten (10) years.

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- 2.2.6 **Professional or Professional DanceSport Athlete** describes an individual who has declared him or herself as a professional, or who has competed as a professional at any professional competition (including Pro/Am competitions), and who meets the eligibility criteria for Professional as described in the RULES FOR COMPETITORS (section 4.4).
- 2.2.7 **Teacher** describes an individual who is registered and meets the eligibility criteria for Athletes described in the RULES FOR COMPETITORS (section 4.4). A Teacher can compete in all USA Dance events including Teacher/Student events and athlete/athlete events but excluding Professional or Pro/Am events.
- 2.2.8 **Student Athlete** describes an individual who is registered with a member organization of the WDSF as a competitor and who meets the eligibility criteria for Athletes as described in Section 4.4 of the **RULES FOR COMPETITORS**),
- 2.2.9 **Pro / Am Student Dancer** is an individual dancing with her/his registered Professional partner and who meets the eligibility criteria for an athlete as described in Section 4.4 of the **RULES FOR COMPETITORS**.
- 2.2.10 **Manager** is an individual who is engaged in guiding Athletes/Professionals in DanceSport activities.
- 2.2.11 **Trainer** is an individual who is engaged in the physical or mental training of Athletes/Professionals for DanceSport.
- 2.2.12 **Officials** (including: Adjudicators, Invigilators, Chair of Adjudicators and Scrutineers eligible to serve at USA Dance Sanctioned competitions) must have a "DanceSport Official" membership in USA Dance. Music Directors (DJ), Registrars, Deck Captains and Master of Ceremonies (emcee), eligible to serve at USA Dance Sanctioned competitions must be a minimum of a Social Adult member of USA Dance.
- 2.2.13 **Adjudicators**, who are Professional members of USA Dance are further classified based on the type and level of credentials achieved.
- 2.2.13.1 Credentials are obtained through certification from a USA Dance recognized teaching organization, USA Dance, WDSF or a recognized Member Body of the WDSF.
- 2.2.13.2 Credentials of adjudicators are recognized against the following grading system:

A- Associate Degree in International Style Standard. A+ Member Degree or above in International Style Standard.
B- Associate Degree in International Style Latin-American. B+ Member Degree or above in International Style Latin-American.
C- Associate Degree in American Style Smooth. C+ Member Degree or above in American Style Smooth
D- Associate Degree in American Style Rhythm. D+ Member Degree or above in American Style Rhythm
E- Associate Degree in Theatrical Ballroom. E+ Member Degree or above in Theatrical Ballroom.

**Table 1 Credentials of adjudicators-grading system**

- 2.2.13.3 Adjudicators with specific credentials are further classified as:



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- 2.2.13.3.1 Competition Certified Adjudicator: certified at the "-" level in a given style of dance.
- 2.2.13.3.2 Championship Certified Adjudicator: certified at the "+" level in a given style of dance.
- 2.2.13.3.3 National Certified Adjudicator: certified at the A+, B+, C+ and D+ classifications. WDSF licensed adjudicators are considered National Certified Adjudicators in all dance styles with "+" certification. (i.e. Standard A+, Latin B+, Smooth C+ and Rhythm D+)
- 2.2.13.3.4 National Theatrical Ballroom Adjudicators: certified at the E+ level.
- 2.2.13.3.5 Invigilator: certified at the A+, B+, C+, D+ classifications and certified as an Invigilator by USA Dance.
- 2.2.13.3.6 Athletes with the appropriate adjudication credentials are permitted to judge/scrutineer/invigilate only collegiate competitions while they are active athletes. They are not permitted to judge/scrutineer/invigilate any USA Dance registered events, sanctioned events, NQE's, or the National Championships including any collegiate heats that are run during these events. After submitting a letter of retirement (as an athlete) to the Professional Vice President, he/she may be approved by the Professional Committee to judge/scrutineer/invigilate non-collegiate competitions.
- 2.2.14 **Instructor** describes an individual who provides dance education and is not a Professional as defined in Rule 2.2.3.
- 2.2.15 **Certified Teacher** describes an individual who has been certified by a member organization of the WDSF as a teacher of dance.
- 2.2.16 **Scrutineer** must be certified by the Scrutineering Examining Committee recognized by the USA Dance Professional Dance Council or the WDSF.
- 2.2.17 **Dance Organization** or **Sports Organization** is an organization organized to promote and facilitate dancing as a sport, hobby, recreational activity, etc.
- 2.2.18 **Approved Dance Organization** is comprised of but not limited to Affiliate Organizations and National Sport Organizations.
- 2.2.19 **Division of USA Dance** refers to USA Dance National and USA Dance Chapters
- 2.2.20 **Competition** is an organized gathering of DanceSport Athletes and officials for the purpose of holding competitive events. Competitions are further classified based on the level of sanctioning (section 5.2):
- 2.2.21 **Registered Competition:** is a competition that is generally local in nature and is not sanctioned but is registered with the USA Dance.
- 2.2.22 **Sanctioned Competition:** a competition sanctioned by USA Dance and not a national qualifying competition (NQE).
- 2.2.23 **National Qualifying Event (NQE) Competition:** sanctioned by USA Dance and allows DanceSport and/or Professional Athletes to qualify for the next annual USA Dance National DanceSport Championships.
- 2.2.24 **Championship Competitions:** are held annually in a geographic area which is sanctioned by USA Dance.

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- 2.2.25 **Proficiency Point Eligible Competition:** is a competition whereby the competitors will accumulate proficiency points. These competitions include:
- 2.2.25.1 All USA Dance sanctioned National Qualifying Events
  - 2.2.25.2 USA Dance National Championships.
  - 2.2.25.3 Proficiency points will be used to determine proficiency level eligibility.
- 2.2.26 **Protected Competition:** is an international competition open only to individuals or teams representing their respective nations, for which the USA representatives are selected at the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships or National Championship event, at which Athletes qualify to represent the USA in an international protected competition.
- 2.2.27 **Event** describes all rounds of a specific category of competition, classified by:

	Examples:
Eligibility Class:	Athlete, Mixed Proficiency, Team, etc.
Dance Style:	Latin, Standard, Smooth, Rhythm, Showdance, etc.
Proficiency Level:	Bronze, Silver, Gold, Novice, etc.
Age Category:	Junior, Adult, Senior I, etc.
Gender:	Male, Female or Same Sex

Table 2 Classifications of an event

- 2.2.28 **Open** category is open to entry by any individual (who is registered as an "Athlete" by USA Dance or a member organization of the WDSF) in accordance with these Rules.
- 2.2.29 **Closed** category is defined as a competition category which limits competitors to members of a specified group (e.g.: USA Dance National DanceSport Championships, Members of a Chapter, Seniors, Juniors, etc.)
- 2.2.30 **Couple** is comprised of two DanceSport Athletes, one male (lead) and one female (follow).
- 2.2.31 **Same Sex Couple** is comprised of two DanceSport Athletes, either a male/male or female/female partnership.

## 2.3 ORGANIZATIONS

- 2.3.1 **IOC** the International Olympic Committee.
- 2.3.2 **WDSF** is the World DanceSport Federation, the IOC recognized International Sports Federation for DanceSport.
- 2.3.3 **WDSFPD** is the World DanceSport Federation's Professional Division.
- 2.3.4 **USA Dance** is the USOC recognized National Governing Body for DanceSport in the United States and a member of the WDSF.
- 2.3.5 **USABDA** is the United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association, the former name of USA Dance.

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- 2.3.6 **DanceSport Council (DSC)**, the division of USA Dance, which is responsible for administrative functions, associated with regulating Amateur Dance matters in the United States.
- 2.3.7 **Professional Dance Council (PDC)**, the division of USA Dance, which is responsible for administrative functions, associated with regulating Professional Dance matters in the United States.
- 2.3.8 **USOC** is the United States Olympic Committee.
- 2.3.9 **USADA** is the United States Anti-Doping Agency - The recognized organization that administers dope testing for USA Dance.

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## 3 TECHNICAL RULES OF COMPETITION

### 3.1 COORDINATION AND UNIFORMITY

- 3.1.1 USA Dance recognizes that it is highly desirable to have uniform Technical Rules of Competition governing the sport of DanceSport nation-wide and worldwide.
- 3.1.2 The Technical Rules of Competition stated herein will be made compatible with or identical to the WDSF rules to the greatest extent possible through mutual coordination and agreements.
- 3.1.3 Where differences occur, they will be resolved by the DanceSport and Professional Councils in coordination with the USA Dance Governing Council.
- 3.1.4 The rules contained herein are mandatory for USA Dance sanctioned events. It is recommended that this DanceSport Rulebook be adopted by other competition organizers in order to establish uniformity.

### 3.2 COMPETITIVE EVENTS

#### 3.2.1 JUDGING SYSTEM

- 3.2.1.1 In all competitive events, the WDSF Skating System of Judging will be utilized. A description of the Skating System is included in the appendix.

#### 3.2.2 PROPERTIES

- 3.2.2.1 Except for Cabaret solo competitive events, no properties (props) are allowed at any time for any event.
- 3.2.2.2 A property is defined as any item that is not part of the regular costume worn by the dancers and is not attached to the dancer or their costume for the full duration of time the dancers are competing.
- 3.2.2.3 Any article of clothing will be considered a prop if it is removed at any time from the dancer's body.

#### 3.2.3 LIFTS

- 3.2.3.1 Lifts are not allowed in any competitive event except for Showdance, Cabaret, Theatrical Ballroom and the entrances and/or exits of Adult Formation Teams.
- 3.2.3.2 A lift is defined as any movement during which one of the dancers has both feet off the floor at the same time with the assistance or support of the partner. The Chair of Adjudicators may disqualify couples using lifts in events where lifts are not allowed.

#### 3.2.4 CONDUCT OF COMPETITION

- 3.2.4.1 A reasonable minimum time (15 seconds) will be given between dances when there is not a split heat to allow the competitors to prepare for the next dance.
- 3.2.4.2 For multi-round events, there will be a minimum of 4 minutes per dance required between rounds (i.e. 12 minutes for a three dance event; 16 minutes for a four dance event, etc.).

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- 3.2.4.3 The order of dancing for each round of Cabaret and Formation Team events will be determined by draw, under the supervision of the Chair of Adjudicators, or his/her designated representative.

## 3.3 SOLO COMPETITIVE EVENTS

### 3.3.1 DEFINITION

- 3.3.1.1 Solo Competitive Events are defined as competitive events at which only one couple dances at a time, with a routine choreographed to music, which they supply. Couples are either judged and ranked in comparison with other couples in the same competitive category, or are judged on an individual basis as compared to the ability expected for the proficiency level at which they are competing.

### 3.3.2 SHOWDANCE

- 3.3.2.1 A Championship event patterned after the WDSF SHOWDANCE. Finals are held annually at the USA Dance National Championships. Eligibility to enter does not require qualifying at an NQE competition, however does require submission of an audition video to the Professional Dance Council. Separate events are run for DanceSport Athletes and Professionals in the Adult age category.

- 3.3.2.2 With the audition video, the competitors must provide: a full list of music titles and other data, such as publisher(s), composer(s), arranger(s) needed by the organizer to comply with copyright regulations.

#### 3.3.2.2.1

- 3.3.2.3 Showdance Disciplines include:

Standard Showdance
Latin Showdance
Smooth Showdance
Rhythm Showdance

**Table 3 Showdance disciplines**

- 3.3.2.4 Dances:

- 3.3.2.4.1 In Latin and Standard Showdance competitions the dances must be selected from a minimum of three and a maximum of five regular Standard or Latin dances In Smooth and Rhythm one, up to all of dances of the selected discipline can be performed and must be danced for 75% of the total duration of the performance.
- 3.3.2.4.2 The minimum duration of each of the Latin or Standard choreographic segments included in the Showdance performance will be 20 seconds per continuous segment and no single dance segment (Standard or Latin) shall exceed 90 seconds, excluding the duration of the lifts (any additional Latin or Standard dance added on top of the initial 3 selected dances can be performed any duration).
- 3.3.2.4.3 Elements of other dances and dance forms may be included to enrich and complete the choreography with respect to the character of the style (Latin, Standard, Rhythm or Smooth). The character of the style must be clearly recognizable.
- 3.3.2.4.4 Elements of other dances and dance forms may be included up to a maximum of 40% of the duration of the performance.

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- 3.3.2.4.5 Competitors must provide the organizer with an accurate list of all performed dances (Latin, Standard, Rhythm, Smooth, others) in order of presentation including the duration of each element within their Showdance Choreographies.
- 3.3.2.4.6 Each competitive Choreography should be an original piece of work created for the given couple. Plagiarism (not an admitted cover version) will result in a disqualification of the couple (including subsequently, after the competition).
- 3.3.2.5 Music: Competitor must provide the organizers no later than 7 days before the competition with: a full list of music titles and other data, such as publisher(s), composer(s), arranger(s) needed by the organizer to comply with copyright regulations.
- 3.3.2.6 Competitors must provide the Organizers with:
  - 3.3.2.6.1 Two separate CD recordings of the performance music (each CD containing only a single track of the performance music cut to length and edited for tempi and pitch). Music may be provided in another format if permitted by the organizer.
  - 3.3.2.6.2 The duration of the music must be a minimum of 3 minutes and a maximum of 3:30 minutes, excluding the couple's entrance and exit.
  - 3.3.2.6.3 Music burnt using some ordinary computer software onto a CD must first be tried out using a CD player by the competitor before submitting to the organizer.
- 3.3.2.7 Time Limit The whole performance consists of the entry to the dance floor, the main part and the exit from the dance floor. Any entry or exit performed without music are not judged and must not exceed 15 seconds each.
  - 3.3.2.7.1 The performance can be started at any place on the floor, a clear sign or agreement with the DJ to start the music has to be arranged during the rehearsal.
  - 3.3.2.7.2 The main part of the performance, which is judged, begins with the start of the music and finishes when the music stops. The duration of the total music must be a minimum of 3:00 and the maximum of 3:30 minutes.
- 3.3.2.8 Couples not complying with the time limit requirements may be disqualified by the Chair. Competition format:
  - 3.3.2.8.1 Showdance competition will consist of a maximum of a 1<sup>st</sup> round and a final.
  - 3.3.2.8.2 Competitors must perform the same choreography in the same order and to the same musical arrangement in every round.
- 3.3.2.9 Lifts:
  - 3.3.2.9.1 A lift is any movement during which one member of the couple has both feet off of the floor at the same time with the assistance or support of the other partner.
  - 3.3.2.9.2 There is no restriction to the number of lifts to be performed.
  - 3.3.2.9.3 Lifts can only be performed with the assistance of the dance partner without the use of the props.
- 3.3.2.10 Competition Dress:
  - 3.3.2.10.1 USA DANCE Dress Regulation (3.11.8.) applies.
  - 3.3.2.10.2 Competition dress will suit and complement the theme of the show.
  - 3.3.2.10.3 Makeup and hair styling will suit and complement the theme of the show.
- 3.3.2.11 Lighting: Lighting conditions must be the same for all couples in all rounds.

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- 3.3.2.12 Holds:
  - 3.3.2.12.1 In Showdance Standard the couple may release the normal Standard Hold for a maximum of 50% of the total duration of the performance. Alternative hold is allowed if the Standard character is maintained.
  - 3.3.2.12.2 In Showdance Latin, Smooth or Rhythm there are no restrictions regarding the couple's hold.
- 3.3.2.13 Order of Couples' performances:
  - 3.3.2.13.1 In each round, the order of couples' performances will be decided by the draw of ballots by the Chair of Adjudicators or a person approved by the Chair of Adjudicators. The same order will be used for the rehearsal and the 1st round of competition.
- 3.3.2.14 Rehearsal:
  - 3.3.2.14.1 The Organizers must grant each couple an official rehearsal, at a reasonably convenient time, at which each couple is granted a minimum of 10 minutes of rehearsal time. Every couple will be present a minimum of 15 minutes before they start their rehearsal.
  - 3.3.2.14.2 The athletes and Invigilator must be present for such rehearsals.
  - 3.3.2.14.3 All shows will be videoed during rehearsal and during the show to be used only as information in any decision about violations of these Rules. The Chair must disqualify any couple who fail to appear for any rehearsal.
  - 3.3.2.14.4 During a rehearsal the invigilator will judge the dances based on any rules and regulations set by USA Dance. In case of a violation of one or more of such rules and regulations the invigilator will inform the respective couple, so the couple may make corrective adjustments to their show.
  - 3.3.2.14.5 Except for the above-mentioned changes in a Showdance all dancers must show the same show and choreography throughout the rehearsal and the competition. During the rehearsal and all competition rounds, the same dresses and costumes must be worn and music must be the same.
  - 3.3.2.14.6 If a technical problem with the music occurs during a Showdance, the affected couple must be given the opportunity to demonstrate once more after the last couple in the rehearsal and must be given time to solve the problem with the music. If the problem cannot be solved, they must be disqualified from the competition. If such problems occur for the first time during the first round, the same procedure applies so that the affected couple may repeat their performance after the last couple performs in the first round. The Invigilator must immediately disqualify a couple who experience subsequent technical music problems.
  - 3.3.2.14.7 Lighting
    - 3.3.2.14.7.1 All couples must perform in the same lighting conditions in all rounds. Color lighting may be used together with spotlights. Follow spotlights may be used to illuminate every couple in the same way.
    - 3.3.2.14.7.2 Any direct glare of the competing couple has to be avoided by suitable measures such as positioning the spotlights as high as possible.

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## 3.3.2.14.8 Format

3.3.2.14.8.1 For up to 18 couples a Showdance competition comprises only two (2) rounds including the final. The number of finalists:

7 or fewer couples – final only

8-12 couples – 6 finalists

13-14 couples – 7 finalists

15-16 couples – 8 finalists

17-18 couples – 9 finalists

If 19 or more couples enter the competition, there must be 3 rounds. In this case the number of couples selected for the semi-final round is 12 up to 24 couples and 50% of all couples dancing is the first round if 25 couples or more enter the competition.

3.3.2.14.8.2 Competitors must perform the same choreography in the same order to the same musical arrangement in every round.

3.3.2.14.8.3 There must be no pauses during any rounds

3.3.2.14.8.4 The minimum interval between rounds is 30 minutes.

3.3.2.14.8.5 The minimum interval between rehearsal and first round is 3 hours.

## 3.3.2.15 Announcements:

3.3.2.15.1 The organizer must provide a Master of Ceremonies to make announcements during the competitions.

3.3.2.15.2 All couples must complete a form in which details of their show and the theme of the show are described. When the couple has been announced they must immediately start their performance and enter the floor immediately to begin their show.

3.3.2.15.2.1 For all preliminary rounds the information must be:

The couple's names;

The choreographer;

The name of the show.

3.3.2.15.2.2 All couples are obliged to hand over the technical description of the choreography.

This description must include:

3.3.2.15.2.2.1 The name of the competitors

3.3.2.15.2.2.2 Description ("rulebook") of the musical artwork including the "story" of the show and order of dances and music used including order of lifts and effects.

3.3.2.15.2.2.3 In the final if additional information is made available by the couple, the Master of Ceremony's announcement must end with the name of the show.

3.3.2.15.2.2.4 The name of the choreographer, the name of the choreographer's school and any other information about the choreographer may not be mentioned in the announcements.

## 3.3.2.15.2.3 Props

3.3.2.15.2.3.1 Up to two (2) non-electrical, non-flammable light props can be used which will not litter the floor and can be carried by one person.

## 3.3.2.15.2.4 Dress and Costumes



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- 3.3.2.15.2.4.1 As a minimum requirement the following parts of the dress regulations will apply: Intimacy areas (IA) Body zones, which must be covered by non-transparent materials or transparent materials lined with non-transparent materials. If skin color is used, it must be SwD (Skin with Decoration).
- 3.3.2.15.2.4.2 Good Taste Rule: Any use of material or color or construction of other contrivance that gives the appearance of non-compliance with the dress code, even though there is no breach of the literal wording of the rules, will be a breach of these rules if so determined by the Chair.
- 3.3.2.15.2.4.3 The choice of dress and/or costume for man and lady should suit and complement the theme of the of the show.
- 3.3.2.15.2.4.4 Make-up and hair styling for man and lady can suit and complement the theme of the show.
- 3.3.2.16 Disqualification:
  - 3.3.2.16.1 Any violation of these Rules in a competition by either athlete in a couple may lead to immediate disqualification of that couple.
  - 3.3.2.16.2 In case of a disqualification a detailed report signed by the invigilator and Chair must be sent to the USA Dance VP of DanceSport not later than 1 week following the conclusion of the competition.
- 3.3.2.17 Final Decision:
  - 3.3.2.17.1 In any case in which these Rules are silent, incomplete or uncertain, the Chair's decision will be final.

<NOTE> Please be advised, these regulations follow the WDSF Showdance Regulations as a guide. However, prior to attending any WDSF sanctioned event, please read the WDSF Showdance Regulations available on the WDSF website: [www.worlddancesport.org](http://www.worlddancesport.org). Failure to follow the WDSF Showdance Regulations may result in disqualification at that event.

## 3.3.3 CABARET

- 3.3.3.1 Cabaret finals are held annually at the USA Dance National Championships. Eligibility to enter does not require qualifying at an NQE competition. Eligible age categories are Adult and Senior 1.
- 3.3.3.2 Cabaret events may only be held at the Championship proficiency level.
- 3.3.3.3 Lifts are required.
- 3.3.3.4 Each couple competing in a Cabaret event must dance the same routine in all rounds of that event.
- 3.3.3.5 All Cabaret routines are restricted to a four (4) minute time limit. This includes entrances onto and exits from the floor.
- 3.3.3.6 Props are permitted in Cabaret events provided that they meet the following restrictions. They must be either (1) a part of the competitor's costume or (2) small enough to carry in one hand (e.g., ball, cane, chair, etc.).
- 3.3.3.7 Competitors must carry their own props onto and off of the floor. Props may not be set up on the floor prior to the start of the routine and must be removed from the floor after the completion of the routine.

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3.3.3.8 The order in which each couple performs is based on ballots drawn by the couples prior to each round of the event.

## 3.3.4 SEGUE

3.3.4.1 Each routine consists of the medley of two or more dances.

## 3.3.5 ROUTINES

3.3.5.1 All other solo competitive events.

## 3.3.6 SPECIFICS

3.3.6.1 For a given solo competitive event, the Competition Organizer must specify the following in promotional literature for the competition:

3.3.6.1.1 Permissible dances or categories of dances.

3.3.6.1.2 The maximum duration of music except for Showdance or Cabaret.

3.3.6.1.3 Proficiency level (i.e.: Bronze, Silver, Gold, etc.).

3.3.6.1.4 A syllabus to which the figures danced are restricted if applicable.

3.3.6.1.5 Music supplied by the couple for each routine.

## 3.4 GROUP COMPETITIVE EVENTS

### 3.4.1 DEFINITION:

3.4.1.1 Group Competitive Events are defined as competitive events at which two or more couples dance simultaneously in competition with each other. Each couple is judged and ranked in comparison with the other couples dancing.

3.4.2 USA Dance will allow same sex couple events at all USA Dance competitions.

3.4.2.1 Competition organizers will have the option of including these events.

3.4.2.2 Male/male events will be run separately from female/female events, except if there are fewer than 3 couples in those events, in which case the events may be combined.

3.4.2.3 Same sex events need not be restricted by age categories or proficiency levels.

3.4.2.4 Athletes competing in same sex events, must follow Dress Regulations per rule 3.11.

3.4.3 The following dances must be used for group competitive events for the following proficiency levels, in the order given. Novice, Pre-Championship and Championship proficiency levels have no syllabus restrictions.

<b>INTERNATIONAL STANDARD</b>	Waltz	Tango	Viennese Waltz	Slow Foxtrot	Quickstep
Championship	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pre-Championship	✓	✓		✓	✓
Novice	✓			✓	✓
Syllabus	One or more dances selected from all options				
<b>INTERNATIONAL LATIN</b>	Samba	Cha Cha	Rumba	Paso Doble	Jive
Championship	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pre-Championship	✓	✓	✓		✓
Novice	✓	✓	✓		
Syllabus	One or more dances selected from all options				
<b>AMERICAN SMOOTH</b>	Waltz	Tango	Foxtrot	Viennese Waltz	
Championship	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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Pre-Championship	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Novice	✓	✓	✓		
Syllabus	One or more dances selected from all options				
AMERICAN RHYTHM	Cha Cha	Rumba	Swing	Bolero	Mambo
Championship	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pre-Championship	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Novice	✓	✓	✓		
Syllabus	One or more dances selected from all options				
TEN DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP					
Waltz	Tango	Viennese Waltz	Slow Foxtrot	Quickstep	
Samba	Cha Cha	Rumba	Paso Doble	Jive	
NINE DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP					
Waltz	Tango	Slow Foxtrot	Viennese Waltz	Cha Cha	
Rumba	East Coast Swing	Bolero	Mambo		
THEATRICAL BALLROOM					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>One dance and song will be selected annually, in years that this championship is being held. All Theatrical Ballroom competitors will be required to dance to this music selection.</li></ul>					

**Table 4 Group Competitive Events**

3.4.4 Couples must dance all dances of a group competitive event to place or move to the next round of competition.

## 3.4.5 ROUNDS OF COMPETITION

3.4.5.1 The total number of rounds will be determined by the number of entries. No more than 50% of the remaining competitors will be eliminated in any one round of competition.

3.4.5.2 It is appropriate in rounds prior to the final to divide the round into heats in order to provide comfortable space for the competitors and sufficient evaluation time for the adjudicators.

3.4.5.3 If split heats are used, competitors will be divided into groups of essentially equal size. Whenever possible, participants in the heats will be rotated for each round.

3.4.5.4 After each round preceding the final round, the identifying numbers of the couples that will be called back to the next round will be posted or otherwise made available to the competitors as soon as possible before the next round begins.

3.4.5.5 If possible, the adjudicator panel will be consistent across all heats and rounds and must be consistent for all championship heats and rounds.

## 3.4.6 MUSIC LENGTH

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

3.4.6.2 The minimum and maximum length of each dance will be:

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD	Minimum	Maximum
Waltz	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Tango	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Viennese Waltz	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Slow Foxtrot	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Quickstep	90 Seconds	120 Seconds

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INTERNATIONAL LATIN	Minimum	Maximum
Samba	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Cha Cha	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Rumba	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Paso Doble	2 <sup>nd</sup> Highlight	3 <sup>rd</sup> Highlight
Jive	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
AMERICAN SMOOTH	Minimum	Maximum
Waltz	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Tango	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Foxtrot	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Viennese Waltz	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
AMERICAN RHYTHM	Minimum	Maximum
Cha Cha	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Rumba	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
East Coast Swing	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Bolero	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Mambo	90 Seconds	120 Seconds

**Table 5 Min/Max Times for Lengths of Dances**

- 3.4.6.2.1 For Pro/Am events, the minimum length of music is 60 seconds and the maximum length is 120 seconds.
- 3.4.6.3 The length of each dance will be determined by the Chair of Adjudicators on a dance-by-dance basis, provided that Rules 3.4.5.1 and 3.4.5.2 are followed. Exception, when there are no more than 3 uncontested events on the floor, the duration of the music per dance may be reduced at the Chair of Adjudicators discretion, to no less than 60 seconds per dance.
- 3.4.6.4 If there are more than 3 single dance events on the floor, the duration of the music may be reduced, at the Chair of Adjudicators discretion, to no less than 75 seconds.
- 3.4.7 Theatrical Ballroom
- 3.4.7.1 This is a championship level event. Separate events are run for DanceSport Athletes and Professionals in the Adult age category.
- 3.4.7.2 Eligibility to enter does not require qualifying at an NQE.
- 3.4.7.3 One dance and song will be selected by the Theatrical DanceSport Committee annually in years that this championship is being held. All Theatrical Ballroom competitors will be required to dance to this music selection.
- 3.4.7.4 Lifts are required.
- 3.4.7.5 Each couple competing in a Theatrical Ballroom event must dance the same routine in all rounds of that event.
- 3.4.7.6 50% of the routine must be recognizable as one of the group DanceSport styles.
- 3.4.7.7 There may be no more than one couple per 360 ft<sup>2</sup> of the dance floor.
- 3.4.7.8 Professional events may only be held at the Championship proficiency level.

## **3.5 MUSIC TEMPI**

### **3.5.1 DEFINITION:**

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- 3.5.1.1 The tempi for each dance will be as specified by the WDSF. The following were specified at the time of printing and are included for reference (mpm = measures per minute).

Dances	MPM	Dances	MPM
International Waltz	28-30	American Waltz	28-30
International Tango	31-33	American Tango	30
International Viennese Waltz	58-60	American Foxtrot	30-32
International Slow Foxtrot	28-30	American Viennese Waltz	53-54
International Quickstep	50-52		
International Samba	50-52	American Cha Cha	30
International Cha Cha	30-32	American Rumba	30-34
International Rumba	25-27	American East Coast Swing	34-36
International Paso Doble	60-62	American Bolero	24-26
International Jive	42-44	American Mambo	47-51
		American Peabody	60-62
		American Merengue	29-32
		American Paso Doble	58-60
		American Samba	48
		American West Coast Swing	28-32
		American Polka	60-62
		American Hustle	28-30

Table 6 Music Tempi

## 3.6 FORMATION TEAM COMPETITIONS

### 3.6.1 DEFINITION

- 3.6.1.1 Formation Team Competitions are defined as competitive events at which two or more teams of dancers compete against each other. One team dances at a time, to music provided by the team. Each team is judged and ranked in comparison with the other teams dancing.

### 3.6.2 DANCES

- 3.6.2.1 Competitive Formation Dancing will be in either of the following styles:

- 3.6.2.1.1 Standard/Smooth

- 3.6.2.1.2 Latin/Rhythm

- 3.6.2.2 Routines will be based on the following dances for each style:

- 3.6.2.2.1 **Standard/Smooth:** International Style Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot and Quickstep; and/or the American Style Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot and Viennese Waltz.

- 3.6.2.2.2 **Latin/Rhythm:** International Style Samba, Cha Cha, Rumba, Paso Doble and Jive; and/or the American Style Cha Cha, Samba, Rumba, Mambo, Bolero, East Coast Swing and West Coast Swing.

- 3.6.2.3 No dances other than those listed will be allowed except for Adult teams.

### 3.6.3 ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

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- 3.6.3.1 See the COMPETITIVE CLASSIFICATIONS (section 4.7) of the RULES FOR COMPETITORS (section 4.0) for additional eligibility definitions.
- 3.6.3.2 The composition of each team will be:
- 3.6.3.2.1 **Pre-Teen Teams:** Restricted to Pre-Teens and up to two Juniors (one boy and/or one girl)
- 3.6.3.2.2 **Junior Teams:** Restricted to Juniors, any number of Pre-Teens and up to two Youths (one boy and/or one girl)
- 3.6.3.2.3 **Youth Teams:** Restricted to Youths, any number of Juniors, and Adults under 20 years of age who have not yet graduated from High School
- 3.6.3.2.4 **Adult Teams:** Restricted to Adults and any number of Youths
- 3.6.3.2.5 **Senior Teams:** Restricted to Seniors only
- 3.6.3.3 All competitors will dance with only one team in each style at any given dance competition.
- 3.6.3.4 Coaches may replace team members with reserves for any round in the contest. Substitutions must not occur during the actual time the team is on the floor competing.
- 3.6.3.5 Coaches of formation teams are required to submit a roster with the name and USA Dance membership number of each competitor on their team, including reserves, to the Competition Organizer at least 30 days prior to the competition.
- 3.6.3.6 Coaches of Pre-Teen, Junior and Youth Teams are required to submit legal proof of birth date for each team member only once to each different Competition Organizer.
- 3.6.3.7 The Competition Organizer is expected to maintain a list of all names, USA Dance membership numbers, and certified birth dates provided by the Team Coach for future formation competitive events.
- 3.6.4 **SIZE OF FORMATION TEAMS**
- 3.6.4.1 Teams of six or eight couples may compete in each formation style.
- 3.6.5 **TIME RESTRICTIONS**
- 3.6.5.1 The following time restrictions will be observed:

PRE-TEEN FORMATION TEAMS	
Music for Routine	2 minutes maximum
Entrance and Exit Combined	30 seconds maximum
Total	2 1/2 minutes maximum
JUNIOR FORMATION TEAMS	
Music for Routine	3 minutes maximum
Entrance and Exit Combined	30 seconds maximum
Total	3 1/2 minutes maximum
YOUTH FORMATION TEAMS	
Cumulative Dancing Time	3 minutes minimum
Music for Routine	4 1/2 minutes maximum
Entrance and Exit Combined	1 minute maximum
Total	5 1/2 minutes maximum
ADULT FORMATION TEAMS	

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Cumulative Dancing Time	3 minutes minimum
Music for Routine	4 1/2 minutes maximum
Entrance and Exit Combined	1 1/2 minute maximum
Total	6 minutes maximum

**Table 7 Formation Team Time Restrictions**

- 3.6.5.2 The timing of the formation team routine begins when the first person steps on to the dance floor. The timing ends when the last person on the team steps off the dance floor.
- 3.6.6 **NUMBER OF DANCES**
- 3.6.6.1 Pre-Teen Formation Teams will be limited to one dance from the approved list for each style.
- 3.6.6.2 Junior Formation Teams will be limited to one or two dances from the approved list for each style.
- 3.6.6.3 Youth Formation Teams will be limited to a maximum of five dances from the approved list for each style.
- 3.6.6.4 Adult Formation Teams will be limited to a maximum of five dances from the approved list for each style. Sixteen bars of one additional dance may be performed. This additional dance need not be one on the approved list for each style.
- 3.6.7 **ENTRANCES AND EXITS**
- 3.6.7.1 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.
- 3.6.7.2 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 a 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.
- 3.6.8 **SOLO (OPEN) WORK - STANDARD AND SMOOTH CATEGORIES**
- 3.6.8.1 Pre-Teen Formation Teams will be allowed eight bars of solo work during their routine proper.
- 3.6.8.2 Junior Formation Teams will be allowed twelve bars of solo work during their routine proper.
- 3.6.8.3 Youth and Adult Formation Teams will be allowed twenty-four bars of solo work during their routine proper. Solo work will not exceed eight bars for any one dance.
- 3.6.8.4 Solo (Open) work is defined as when any couple in the formation team has less than two points of contact between the two partners. Even though a couple may not be in a traditional closed hold, they will be considered to be in "closed" position if there are at least two points of contact between the two partners.

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- 3.6.8.5 If a couple is in open position at the end of a bar of music, then that bar is counted as a solo. If a couple is in a closed position at the end of a bar of music, then that bar is not counted as solo.
- 3.6.8.6 Regardless of how many "open bars" of music are danced, every team must have at least 50% of their bars in the routine proper danced in the traditional competitive ballroom hold (which includes the lady's left hand being placed on the man's right shoulder).
- 3.6.8.7 The Coach of the formation team will be prepared to present a breakdown of the phrasing of the music, indicating which measures are open, to the Chair of Adjudicators at the team's rehearsal in the competition facility.
- 3.6.9 **REHEARSAL AT THE COMPETITION FACILITY**
- 3.6.9.1 Before a competition, adequate facilities must be provided for formation team rehearsals.
- 3.6.9.2 Each formation team must be allowed an equal amount of rehearsal time. This time must be a minimum of 10 minutes per team.
- 3.6.9.3 At the commencement of this rehearsal, they must dance their routine with music and perform their entrance and exit one time for the Chair of Adjudicators, or his/her designated representative, who will notify the team Coach of any rule violations.
- 3.6.9.4 The Chair of Adjudicators is allowed to video each team's performance at their official rehearsal in the competition facility, for the purpose of confirming adherence to the rules.
- 3.6.10 **COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS**
- 3.6.10.1 Organizers are not required to hold a formation team competition in any category that has less than three entries.
- 3.6.11 **MUSIC**
- 3.6.11.1 Formation teams are required to provide their music to the Competition Organizer on Compact Disk (CD).
- 3.6.11.2 The music must be submitted to the Competition Organizer at the time of the rehearsal in the Competition Facility. It may be picked up at the conclusion of the team's final performance.
- 3.6.12 **DRESS**
- 3.6.12.1 No change of clothing or costumes is permitted once the competition begins.
- 3.6.12.2 Costumes must adhere to Dress Regulations (3.11) for age category and proficiency level.

## 3.7 TEAM MATCHES

- 3.7.1 **DEFINITION**
- 3.7.1.1 Team Matches are defined as competitive events at which two or more teams, each consisting of at least two couples, dance in competition with each other. Each team is judged and ranked in comparison with the other teams.
- 3.7.2 Each team consists of two or more couples.



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- 3.7.3 The complete team match consists of numerous separate dances, during each of which one or more couples dance at a time against the same number of couples from each of the other teams.
- 3.7.4 Dances will all be from one particular style, or of mixed styles (i.e. Latin, Standard, etc.) The organizer may allow mixed International and American or may restrict the match to one or the other.
- 3.7.5 Every team will have the same number of couples dancing any particular style as all of the other teams.

## 3.8 MIXED PROFICIENCY EVENTS

- 3.8.1 A Mixed Proficiency couple consists of a DanceSport Athlete and a partner. Professionals are not eligible to participate in Mixed Proficiency events. Partner may be male or female, regardless of the sex of the DanceSport Athlete.
- 3.8.2 For Mixed Proficiency events, eligibility is determined by the DanceSport Athlete's age and proficiency level, only the DanceSport Athlete is judged.
- 3.8.3 Male and female Athletes must be judged separately in Mixed Proficiency events.
- 3.8.4 A Mixed Proficiency couple may not compete together as a couple in qualifying events for Nationals, as defined in rule 5.3.4.1 (Table 24).
- 3.8.5 Theatrical Ballroom, Cabaret, and Show Dance events may not be held as Mixed Proficiency events.

## 3.9 TEACHER/STUDENT EVENTS

- 3.9.1 A Teacher/Student event consists of a Student Athlete and a Teacher. The Teacher may be male or female, regardless of the gender of the Student.
- 3.9.2 For Teacher/Student events, eligibility is determined by the Student's age and proficiency level, only the Student Athlete is judged.
- 3.9.3 Male and female Student Athletes must be judged separately in Teacher/Student events.
- 3.9.4 A Teacher/Student couple may not compete together as a couple in qualifying events for Nationals, as defined in rule 5.3.4.1 (Table 24).
- 3.9.5 Any Athlete Athlete complying with the Athlete eligibility criteria under Section 4.3 of this Rulebook may dance either as a teacher OR a Student Athlete in the Teacher/Student category but not both.
- 3.9.6 A Professional may not dance as a Teacher or Student Athlete in the Teacher/Student category.
- 3.9.7 Theatrical Ballroom, Cabaret, and Show Dance events may not be held as Teacher/Student events.

## 3.10 PRO/AM STUDENT EVENTS

- 3.10.1 Any Athlete can participate in the USA Dance sanctioned Pro/Am events as a Pro/Am Student Dancer, when partnered with a USA Dance registered Professional partner.

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- 3.10.2 A Pro/Am Student Dancer is permitted to enter DanceSport "Pro/Am Scholarship" events which offer monetary prizes. Prize money will be awarded to the Pro/Am Student Dancer, not to the Professional, and, if not dictated by the organizer, the Pro/Am Student Dancer may decide how it is to be used.
- 3.10.3 A Pro/Am Student Dancer cannot dance as a Teacher or a Professional in any events.
- 3.10.4 Pro/Am Student Dancers who are found to be in violation of any of the above definitions will not be permitted to continue to compete as a Pro/Am Student Dancer in the USA Dance sanctioned competitions.
- 3.10.5 Theatrical Ballroom, Cabaret, and Show Dance events may not be held as Pro/Am events.

Available USA Dance Events	Competitors' Membership Subclass				
	Professional	Teacher	Athlete	Student Athlete	Pro/Am Student Dancer
Professional Events	X				
Championship, Prechamp, Novice 10D, 9D Syllabus, & Theatrical Ballroom Events		X	X	X	X
Teacher Student Events		X	X*	X	X**
Mixed Proficiency Events		X	X	X	X
Pro/Am Events	X		X	X	X

Table 8 Competitors' Membership Subclass

Note 1: \*Athlete is eligible to dance Teacher/Student Event as a Teacher or Student

Note 2: \*\*Pro/Am Student is ineligible to dance in the Teacher/Student events as a Teacher

## 3.11 SOLO PROFICIENCY EVENTS

- 3.11.1 A Solo Proficiency competitor consists of a DanceSport Athlete in the Pre-Teen I through Senior V age category.
- 3.11.2 Solo Proficiency events are danced without a partner, whereby the athlete is judged on a solo execution of their syllabus material.

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- 3.11.3 For Solo Proficiency events, eligibility is determined by the DanceSport Athlete's proficiency level.
- 3.11.4 Dancers of either gender may dance the choreography of the Lead or Follow.
- 3.11.5 Lead and Follow Athletes must be judged separately in Solo Proficiency events.
- 3.11.6 Solo Proficiency events are restricted to the Bronze, Silver and Gold Syllabus.

## 3.12 DRESS REGULATIONS

### 3.12.1 GENERAL

- 3.12.1.1 Apparel must create the Characteristic shape for each discipline; International Standard, American Smooth, International Latin and American Rhythm (shape area).
- 3.12.1.2 Apparel must cover the intimate parts of the female dancer's body at all times (Intimate Area), i.e. hip & panty line area, buttocks and breast area.
- 3.12.1.3 Apparel and make-up must respect age and proficiency level of dancers.
- 3.12.1.4 The use of religious symbols as decoration or decoration jewelry is not allowed. This rule does not apply to personal jewelry.
- 3.12.1.5 The Chair of Adjudicators has the authority to require any athlete to remove items of decoration jewelry, personal jewelry or decoration applied to a piece of apparel, if such item(s) are deemed dangerous.
- 3.12.1.6 While athletes are not required to wear costumes in any style or proficiency level, they must minimally comply with the syllabus dress code for the style in which they are competing.
- 3.12.1.7 All couples must accept the competitor's number (Number Card) as issued by the organizer and are not allowed to modify the card in any way. Covering the number in a clear plastic sleeve or laminating the number in clear plastic is not considered altering the number.
- 3.12.1.8 Advertising by up to four (4) sponsors is allowed on a couple's competition costumes. Gentleman may advertise up to three (3) sponsors and Ladies may advertise one (1) sponsor. The size of the advertisement may not be more than 6.2 square inches (40 cm<sup>2</sup>) per sponsor. Such advertising may only be displayed and located on the waist, chest or sleeves.

<NOTE> Please be advised, these regulations follow the WDSF Dress Regulations as a guide. However, prior to attending any WDSF sanctioned event, please read the WDSF Dress Regulations available on the WDSF website: [www.WDSF.net](http://www.WDSF.net). Failure to follow the WDSF Dress Regulations may result in disqualification at that event.

### 3.12.2 GOOD TASTE RULE

- 3.12.2.1 Any use of material, construction, decoration or other contrivance including acceptable costume taste, that gives the appearance of non-compliance with these dress regulations, even though there is no breach of the literal wording of these regulations, will be considered a breach of these regulations if so determined by the Chair of Adjudicators, Chair Assistant (CA) or Chair of the DanceSport Council Rules .

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Approval of any deviation from these dress regulations must be obtained in advance from the Chair of the DanceSport Council Rules Committee or Chair of Adjudicators or his/her designated CA (Chairperson's Assistant) for NQE and National Championship competitions.

## 3.12.3 **SANCTIONS**

- 3.12.3.1 If an athlete is not dressed in accordance with these Dress Regulations and receives a warning from the Chair of Adjudicators, the athlete must correct the dress code violation or be subject to disqualification by the Chair of Adjudicators.

<p>&lt;NOTE&gt; See Costume Rules Violations. – Mandatory Deductions 4.11.1.2.5</p>
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- 3.12.3.2 Repeated offenses regarding the dress regulations and/or repeated offenses against the spirit of the dress regulations at any USA Dance or WDSF competition may be interpreted as unsportsmanlike conduct and may result in further disciplinary action by the USA Dance DanceSport Council.

## 3.12.4 **DEFINITIONS OF TERMS/RESTRICTIONS**

### 3.12.4.1 **Shape area (SA):**

- 3.12.4.1.1 Minimum area that must be covered in addition to Intimate Area (IA).

- 3.12.4.1.2 Transparent materials are allowed in Shape Areas (SA).

### 3.12.4.2 **Transparent materials are not allowed:**

- 3.12.4.2.1 Within the panty area, area between the HL (Hip Line) and PL (Panty Line) unless lined with opaque material.

- 3.12.4.2.2 Within the breast area unless lined with opaque material.

### 3.12.4.3 **Intimate Area (IA):**

- 3.12.4.3.1 Female intimate areas include both the breast and panty areas.

- 3.12.4.3.2 Intimate areas must be covered by non-skin colored opaque fabric/material or transparent fabric lined with opaque material – if the fabric is transparent or skin color, then it must be heavily stoned (SwD) if allowed by Proficiency level & age category or heavily decorated (SwD).

- 3.12.4.3.3 Transparent fabrics are allowed in other parts of the dance apparel (SA), outside of intimate areas. Transparent fabrics do not include “fishnet type” material.

### 3.12.4.4 **Panty Area**

- 3.12.4.4.1 Hip Line (HL) – top of panty area

- 3.12.4.4.1.1 May be below the natural waistline, but must be above the buttocks in the back and continue around the body in a horizontal line.

- 3.12.4.4.1.2 Buttock muscles and the separation between the buttocks must never be visible.

- 3.12.4.4.2 Panty Line (PL) – bottom of panty area

- 3.12.4.4.2.1 In Back – whole buttocks must be covered at all times.

- 3.12.4.4.2.2 In Front – follows line between flexed leg and body.

- 3.12.4.4.2.3 Must fully cover the buttocks (tangas/thongs are not allowed).

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- 3.12.4.4.2.4 The complete area between the HL and PL must be covered by Athletes dance pants and skirt.
- 3.12.4.4.2.5 Opaque covering between the Hip Line (HL) and Panty Line (PL) of dance pants on the side of the hips must comply with the illustration below, however must be greater than 2 inches (5 cm) regardless of body/hip size.

The following illustration shows the minimum degree of coverage required by this Rule:



The following illustration is an example of a degree of exposure which is not permitted under this Rule:



## 3.12.4.5 **Breast Area**

- 3.12.4.5.1 If skin color material is used to cover the breast area, it must be heavily stoned/decorated (SwD) so that it is clearly covered.

- 3.12.4.5.2 The distance between bra cups must be less than 2 inches (5 cm).

## 3.12.4.6 **Basic Material**

- 3.12.4.6.1 Material which comprises the dance apparel.

- 3.12.4.7 **Decoration** – (anything fixed on or glued to, the basic material of the apparel, hair or skin)

- 3.12.4.7.1 With light effects (rhinestones, sequins, beads, pearls, metallic thread, etc.).

- 3.12.4.7.2 Without light effects (feathers, flowers, bows, fringe, lace applications, ribbons, etc.).

- 3.12.4.7.3 Tie clips, studs, cufflinks, and buckles without light effects are not considered decorations unless otherwise (NA) not allowed.

## 3.12.4.8 **Two-piece Dress**

- 3.12.4.8.1 Any blouse/top and skirt/trousers/short/bottom combination which are not attached and separate between the upper garment and the lower garment, allowing skin to show when athlete is either still or in motion.

## 3.12.4.9 **Float & Gloves**

- 3.12.4.9.1 Float, any non-structural material that flows behind the athlete while the athlete is in motion (i.e., a long scarf, cords or ribbons hanging from sleeves or body of the dress, sashes, etc.).

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- 3.12.4.9.2 Glove, any material that covers any part of the hand or arm that is not attached to the basic costume. Long sleeves with a single finger loop on each sleeve is allowed; long sleeves that incorporate a glove (with or without fingers) that covers any part of the hand is not allowed.
- 3.12.4.10 **Make-up**
  - 3.12.4.10.1 Includes facial make-up, artificial tan, artificial nails, and artificial eyelashes.
- 3.12.4.11 **Decoration Jewelry**
  - 3.12.4.11.1 Jewelry and/or accessories designed to be a part of specific dance apparel, whether or not attached to said apparel, including chokers, arm/wrist bands and/or earrings that are made of or covered with the same or similar material as the basic apparel material.
- 3.12.4.12 **Personal Jewelry**
  - 3.12.4.12.1 Jewelry that is unattached to the dance apparel and would be worn in the course of everyday life, such as necklaces or earrings, wedding rings, etc.
- 3.12.4.13 **Plain material**
  - 3.12.4.13.1 Means no stripes, ribs, additional seams front or back and no change in fabric weave or type creating a pattern, stripping or ribs.
  - 3.12.4.13.2 Means no light reflecting threads, such as satin/high sheen or metallic threads, woven into the basic material of the costume.
- 3.12.4.14 **NR – (no restrictions)**
- 3.12.4.15 **NA – (not allowed)**
- 3.12.4.16 **OA – (only allowed)**
- 3.12.4.17 **Colors**
  - 3.12.4.17.1 Black **(B)** – (means black or midnight blue).
  - 3.12.4.17.2 Black Only **(Bo)**.
  - 3.12.4.17.3 White **(W)**.
  - 3.12.4.17.4 Skin color **(S)** – (equal to the color of the dancer’s skin during the competition, e.g. with natural or artificial tan).
  - 3.12.4.17.5 Skin color with decoration **(SwD)**.
  - 3.12.4.17.6 Any color **(C)** – any color including mixed colors.
  - 3.12.4.17.7 Any color except skin color **(CnS)**.
  - 3.12.4.17.8 Any one color except skin color **(C1nS)**.
- 3.12.4.18 **Pants/Trousers**
  - 3.12.4.18.1 Are allowed for female athletes in the Adult – Senior age groups, at all proficiency levels, but must follow all the rules of coverage and decoration, as stated for skirts and dresses.
- 3.12.4.19 **Restrictions for All Female Athletes regardless of Proficiency level**
  - 3.12.4.19.1 Tangas/Thongs are **(NA)**.
  - 3.12.4.19.2 Breasts must be covered at all times.
  - 3.12.4.19.3 Panty area must be covered at all times.
  - 3.12.4.19.4 The distance between bra cups must be less than 2 inches (5 cm).
- 3.12.4.20 **Restrictions for All Male Athletes regardless of Proficiency level**

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- 3.12.4.20.1 Man's Top Opening Point (**TOP**) – The point to which a man's shirt can be opened in front, as described in age and proficiency level rules below.
- 3.12.4.20.2 Long Sleeves (**LS**) – Where long sleeves are indicated, the sleeves must be to the wrist.
- 3.12.4.20.3 Rolled up sleeves are not allowed (**NA**).
- 3.12.4.20.4 Sleeveless shirts are not allowed (**NA**).

<NOTE> Materials Required for Syllabus Apparel for Pre-Teen through Youth age categories:

If the dress/costume material is matte or low-sheen, it is allowed.

Materials Not Allowed for Syllabus Apparel for Pre-Teen through Youth age categories:

Any material that has anything added or woven into the material including threads such as metallic, sequins rhinestones, or metallic flecks is not allowed.

Foil, beads, sequins, rhinestones, glitter, metallic thread or anything that may give the appearance of glitter or sheen, or anything that may give the appearance of the above but is not mentioned is not allowed on any syllabus apparel for Pre-Teen through Youth age categories.

Any questionable fabrics/designs must be cleared with the Chair of the DanceSport Rules Committee or on-site Chair of Adjudicators or his/her designated ASSISTANT, prior to the actual start of the competition.

## 3.12.5 PRE-TEEN I & II

### 3.12.5.1 International Standard /American Smooth and International Latin /American Rhythm Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications

<b>MALE ATHLETE</b>	<b>Required:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A plain white (W) long-sleeved shirt, cotton or cotton/polyester blend preferred</li> <li>• Black (Bo) tie/bow tie.</li> <li>• Black (Bo) trousers with a black satin strip down the outside length of the trouser leg and around the waist, is allowed.</li> <li>• Black (Bo) socks.</li> <li>• Black (Bo) shoes (1.5" maximum heel height).</li> <li>• Long hair must be worn in a ponytail.</li> </ul>
	<b>Not Allowed</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal or decorative jewelry of any kind, including studs, cufflinks, necklaces, etc.</li> <li>• Vests.</li> <li>• Shiny or patterned materials, including stripes alternation between sheer and opaque.</li> <li>• Trousers with any strips, other than allowed above.</li> <li>• Tail shirts, tux shirts and shirts with wing collars.</li> <li>• Un-tucked shirt.</li> <li>• Turtle-neck or mock turtle-neck shirt.</li> <li>• Rolled up sleeves.</li> <li>• Cosmetics or make-up of any kind.</li> <li>• Decoration, material or shoes with any light reflective qualities.</li> </ul>

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<b>FEMALE ATHLETE</b>	<b>Required</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A plain one-color (C1nS) one-piece dress or a white blouse, leotard or T-shirt, tucked into a black skirt or (C1nS) leotard with same color skirt that does not have any light effects added, including metallic threads or other reflective threads woven into the material.</li> <li>• Skirt may be plain or pleated; with a minimum of 1 half circle to a maximum of 1½ circles of the same length (see 3.11.5.4).</li> <li>• One plain underskirt of the same length as the overskirt is allowed.</li> <li>• Outer skirt may be made of transparent material the same color as the rest of the dress, provided the underskirt is made of opaque, non-transparent material.</li> <li>• A sewn in waistband, of the same material and color as the skirt, that is no more than 2" wide is allowed.</li> <li>• Skirt hem must not be shorter than 4" above the knee or longer than just under the kneecap.</li> <li>• Acceptable necklines (see 3.11.5.2) are jewel, scoop, boat, gathered, square, V-neck, sweetheart, peter pan, or turtleneck.</li> <li>• Acceptable sleeves (see 3.11.5.3) are sleeveless, short sleeves, ¾ length sleeves, long sleeves, puffed sleeves (short or long), mesh or lace material that is the same color as the top is allowed as sleeves from the shoulder to the wrist only.</li> <li>• Acceptable skirts (see 3.11.5.5) are gored, gathered, waist height v-bodice, pleated, dropped waist, dropped-waist with v-bodice.</li> <li>• Bodice may be made of transparent material, including lace, provided it is lined with opaque, non-transparent material in the same color.</li> <li>• A shoe with a block heel (1½" maximum heel height) without any embellishments or glitter, except on side buckle.</li> <li>• Short socks with a row of lace folded down or flesh-colored tights may be worn (optional).</li> </ul>
	<b>Not Allowed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underskirts which are larger (in any dimension) than the overskirt.</li> <li>• More than 2 layers of skirt as described above.</li> <li>• Skirts or underskirts with ruffles or frills.</li> <li>• Skirts or underskirts hemmed with boning, soft boning, fish line, or anything else that will stiffen the hem.</li> <li>• Skirts with slits.</li> <li>• Two-piece dresses with gaps between the upper garment and the lower garment allowing skin to show when athlete is either still or in motion.</li> <li>• Personal or decorative jewelry of any kind, including earrings, necklaces, bracelets, etc.</li> <li>• Cosmetics or make-up of any kind.</li> <li>• Decoration, material or shoes with any light reflective qualities, other than allowed above.</li> <li>• Hair decorations including any flowers, headbands, including colored or glittered hairspray and any other decorations.</li> <li>• Gloves or floats.</li> <li>• Mesh tights.</li> </ul>

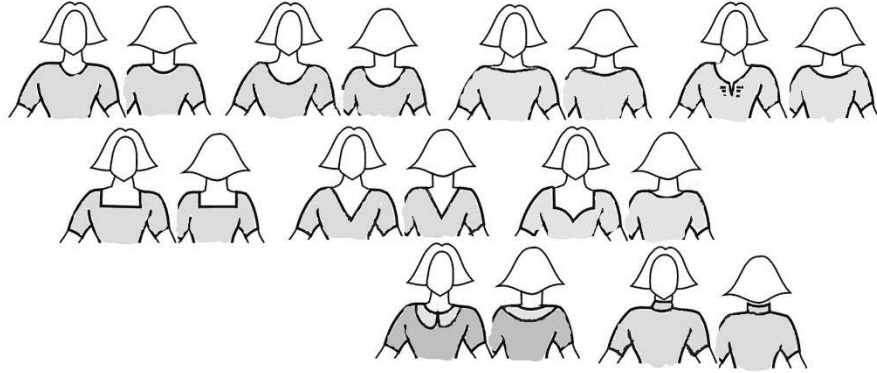
Table 9 Pre-Teen I & II Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications



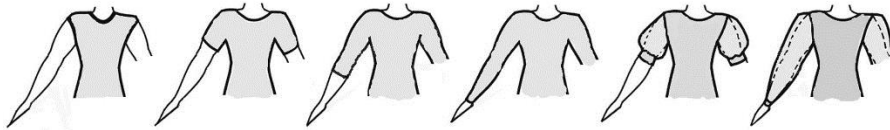
# USA DANCE: DANCESPORT RULEBOOK

## Appendix I Acceptable Necklines/Tops/Skirts/Combinations for Pre-Teen I & II/All Styles and Proficiency Levels

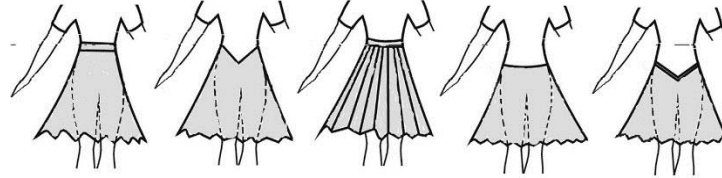
### 3.12.5.2 Necklines— Required cuts, others – NA



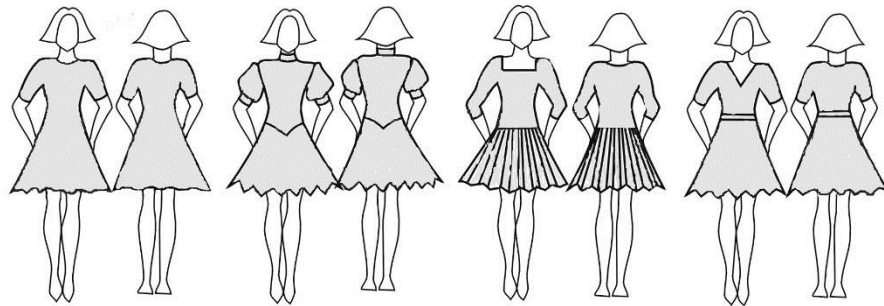
### 3.12.5.3 Sleeves – Required cuts, others – NA; Gloves – NA



### 3.12.5.4 Skirts – Required cuts, others – NA;



### 3.12.5.5 Examples of top and bottom combined:



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## 3.12.5.6 PRE-TEEN I & II SYLLABUS PROFICIENCY LEVELS—DRESS SPECIFICATIONS



1. DANCE DRESS				
Gender	Male		Female	
Style	Standard & Smooth	Latin & Rhythm	Standard & Smooth	Latin & Rhythm
Pre-Teen I & II All Proficiency Levels	(W) LS shirt & (Bo) trousers for Standard, Smooth, Latin & Rhythm (Bo) tie/bow tie required Standard, Smooth, Latin & Rhythm		(W) blouse, leotard or T-shirt with a (Bo) black only skirt or, simple (C1NS) dress & panties or, (C1NS) leotard with same color skirt attached Gloves – (NA)	
				
2. DECORATIONS, LIGHT EFFECTS				
	Any decorations – (NA) Basic materials with light effects – (NA)		Any decorations – (NA) Basic materials with light effects – (NA)	
3. SHOES, SOCKS, TIGHTS				
	Heel: <b>with a</b> max 1.5” (3.8 cm) heel (Bo) Shoes & Socks		Heel: block, <b>with a</b> max 1.5” (3.8cm) heel <b>Shoes with light effects</b> – (NA) (C) short socks are allowed Tights: skin color – (OA), mesh – (NA)	
4. HAIRSTYLE				
	If the hair is long it <b>must</b> be worn in a ponytail		Decoration and colored or glittered hairspray – (NA)	
5. MAKE-UP				
	(NA)			
6. DECORATION & PERSONAL JEWELRY:				
<b>Decoration Jewelry</b> = anything fixed on the basic dress material, hair, & skin: with light effects (rhinestones, sequins, beads, pearls, etc.) <b>and</b> that looks like it is part of the dress (made from the same or similar material.) <b>Personal Jewelry</b> = any jewelry worn on the body - jewelry that is unattached to the dance apparel and would be worn in the course of everyday life, such as necklaces or earrings.				
	Decoration and Personal jewelry – (NA)			

Table 10 Pre-Teen I & II Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications Summary

# USA DANCE: DANCESPORT RULEBOOK

## 3.12.6 JUNIOR I & II

### 3.12.6.1 International Standard/American Smooth/International Latin/American Rhythm Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications

<b>MALE ATHLETE</b>	<b>Required:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A plain white (W) long-sleeved shirt, cotton or cotton/polyester blend preferred for Standard. A plain black (Bo) long-sleeved shirt for Latin/Rhythm/Smooth is allowed.</li> <li>• Black (Bo)/White (W) bow tie or Black (Bo) tie.(optional for Latin/Rhythm)</li> <li>• Black (Bo) vest (optional).</li> <li>• Black (Bo) trousers, black satin strip down the outside length of the trouser leg and around the waist, is allowed.</li> <li>• Black (Bo) socks.</li> <li>• Black (Bo) shoes, patent leather optional.</li> <li>• Long hair must be worn in a ponytail.</li> <li>• (TOP) shirt may be open to breast bone. (optional for Latin/Rhythm)</li> </ul>
<b>FEMALE ATHLETE</b>	<b>Not Allowed</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decorative jewelry of any kind, including studs, cufflinks, necklaces, etc.</li> <li>• Shiny or patterned materials or weave, (stripes alternating between sheer and opaque.)</li> <li>• Tail shirts, tux shirts and shirts with wing collars.</li> <li>• Trousers with any strips, other than allowed above.</li> <li>• Un-tucked shirt.</li> <li>• Turtle-neck or mock turtle-neck shirts (allowed for Latin and Rhythm.)</li> <li>• Rolled up sleeves.</li> <li>• Decoration or material with any light reflective qualities.</li> </ul>
<b>MALE ATHLETE</b>	<b>Required</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A one-piece single or multicolored dress, or a blouse tucked into a skirt (decorations without light reflective qualities are allowed on dress).</li> <li>• Athlete's skirt must cover dance pants and buttocks completely when athlete is standing still.</li> <li>• In Standard the Athlete's dress must have a long skirt which at minimum covers both her knees; if the skirt is split it must not be split higher than the knee.</li> <li>• A shoe with a heel height of 3" maximum without any embellishments or glitter, except the side buckle of the shoes.</li> <li>• Short socks may be worn. (optional)</li> <li>• Any non-reflective hair accessory may be worn. (optional)</li> <li>• Decoration jewelry without light reflective qualities may be worn. (optional)</li> <li>• Personal jewelry of any kind may be worn. (optional)</li> </ul>
<b>FEMALE ATHLETE</b>	<b>Not Allowed</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two piece dresses.</li> <li>• Decoration jewelry with light reflective qualities, including earrings necklaces, bracelets, etc.</li> <li>• Decoration, material, or shoes with any light reflective qualities, other than allowed above.</li> <li>• Hair decoration not specified above, including colored or glittered hairspray and any other light reflective decorations.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gloves or floats.</li><li>• Mesh tights.</li></ul>
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**Table 11 Junior I & II Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications**

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## 3.12.6.2 JUNIOR I & II SYLLABUS PROFICIENCY LEVELS-DRESS SPECIFICATIONS

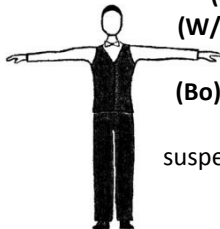
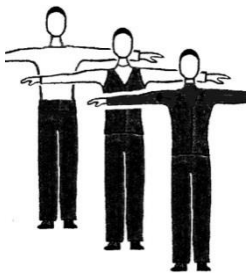
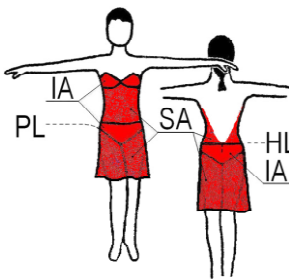
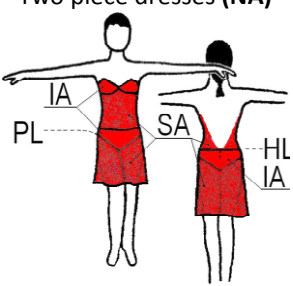
1. DANCE DRESS				
Gender	Male		Female	
Style	Standard & Smooth	Latin & Rhythm	Standard & Smooth	Latin & Rhythm
Junior I & II Syllabus Proficiency Levels	<b>Standard</b> (W)LS shirt (Bo) trousers (W/Bo) bow tie/(Bo) tie required (Bo) vest/cardigan/pullover / suspenders (optional)	(W/Bo) LS shirt (Bo) trousers (W/Bo) tie/bow tie (optional) (Bo) vest/cardigan/pullover/suspenders (optional)	(CnS) Competition dress Two piece dresses (NA)	(CnS) Competition dress Two piece dresses (NA)
	<b>Smooth</b> (W/Bo) shirt (Bo) trousers (W/Bo) tie/bow tie required (Bo) vest/cardigan/pullover / suspenders (optional)			
				
2. DECORATIONS, LIGHT EFFECTS				
	Decoration with light effects – (NA) (Basic materials with light effects – (NA))		Decoration with light effects – (NA) (Decoration without light effects are allowed) Floats – (NA) Basic materials with light effects – (NA)	
3. SHOES, SOCKS, TIGHTS				
	(Bo) Shoes & Socks		Heel: <b>with a max 3"</b> (7.6 cm) heel <b>Shoes with light effects except side buckle – (NA)</b> (C) short socks are allowed Tights: mesh tights – (NA)	
4. HAIRSTYLE				
	If the hair is long it <b>must</b> be worn in a ponytail		Decoration with light effects & colored hairspray – (NA) (Decoration without light effects are allowed)	
5. MAKE-UP				
	(NR)			
6. DECORATION & PERSONAL JEWELRY:				
<b>Decoration Jewelry</b> = anything fixed on the basic dress material, hair, & skin: with light effects (rhinestones, sequins, beads, pearls, etc.) <b>and</b> that looks like it is part of the dress (made from the same or similar material.) <b>Personal Jewelry</b> = any jewelry worn on the body - jewelry that is unattached to the dance apparel and would be worn in the course of everyday life, such as necklaces or earrings, wedding rings, etc.				
	Decoration jewelry with light effects – (NA) (Decoration jewelry without light effects are allowed) Personal jewelry – Allowed			
7. Good Taste Rule				
	The "Good Taste" rule will be enforced for inappropriate costumes or dress.			

Table 12 The "Good Taste" rule will be enforced for inappropriate costumes or dress.

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## 3.12.7 YOUTH

### 3.12.7.1 International Standard/American Smooth/International Latin/American Rhythm Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications

MALE ATHLETE	<b>Required:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A plain white long-sleeved shirt for standard; any color (C1nS) plain long-sleeve shirt for Latin/Smooth/Rhythm.</li> <li>• Tail shirts, tux shirts, shirts with wing collars and/or French cuffs. (optional)</li> <li>• Studs and/or cufflinks. (optional)</li> <li>• Black (Bo) or white (W) bow tie or black (Bo) tie for Standard; tie/bow tie may be one color (C1nS) for Smooth, tie/bow tie (C1nS) optional for Latin &amp; Rhythm.</li> <li>• Black (Bo) vest/cardigan/pullover for Standard (optional); vest/cardigan/pullover may match the shirt color in Smooth/Latin/Rhythm (C1nS) or (Bo). (optional)</li> <li>• Black (Bo) trousers, black satin strip down the outside length of the trouser leg and around the waist, is allowed.</li> <li>• Black (Bo) socks.</li> <li>• Black (Bo) shoes, patent leather optional.</li> <li>• Long hair must be worn in a ponytail.</li> <li>• (TOP) shirt may be open to breast bone. (optional for Latin/Rhythm)</li> </ul>
	<b>Not Allowed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decoration jewelry.</li> <li>• Shiny or patterned materials or weave (stripes alternating between sheer and opaque).</li> <li>• Trousers with any strips, other than allowed above.</li> <li>• Un-tucked shirt.</li> <li>• Rolled up sleeves.</li> <li>• Decoration or materials or shoes with any light reflective qualities.</li> </ul>
FEMALE ATHLETE	<b>Required</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A one-piece single or multicolored dress, or a blouse tucked into skirt, or a blouse/trouser combination.</li> <li>• Athlete's skirt must cover dance pants and buttocks completely when athlete is standing still.</li> <li>• In Standard the Athlete's dress must have a long skirt which at minimum covers both her knees; if the skirt is split it must not be split higher than the knee.</li> <li>• Non-reflective decoration is allowed on the dance apparel, except the side buckle of the shoes.</li> <li>• Any non-reflective hair accessory may be worn. (optional)</li> <li>• Decoration jewelry without light reflective qualities may be worn. (optional)</li> <li>• Personal jewelry of any kind (including rhinestones) may be worn. (optional)</li> </ul>
	<b>Not Allowed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two piece dresses.</li> <li>• Decoration jewelry with light reflective qualities, including earrings necklaces, bracelets, etc.</li> <li>• Decoration, material or shoes with any light reflective qualities other than allowed above.</li> <li>• Colored or glittered hairspray and any other light reflective hair decorations.</li> </ul>

# USA DANCE: DANCESPORT RULEBOOK

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The distance between bra cups must be less than 2 inches (5 cm).</li><li>• Gloves or floats.</li></ul>
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**Table 13 Youth Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications**

# USA DANCE: DANCESPORT RULEBOOK

## 3.12.7.2 YOUTH SYLLABUS PROFICIENCY LEVELS—DRESS SPECIFICATIONS

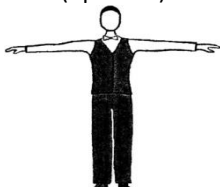
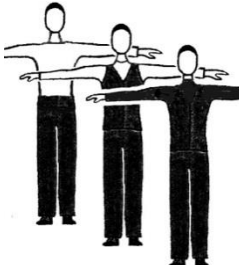
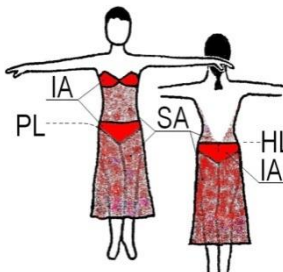
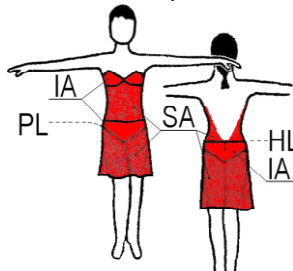
1. DANCE DRESS				
Gender	Male		Female	
Style	Standard & Smooth	Latin & Rhythm	Standard & Smooth	Latin & Rhythm
Youth Syllabus Proficiency Levels	<b>Standard</b> (W)LS shirt (Bo) trousers (W/Bo) bow tie/(Bo) tierequired (Bo) vest/cardigan/pullover / Suspenders (optional) <b>Smooth</b> (C1nS) LS shirt (Bo) trousers (C1nS) Tie/bow tie required (Bo/C1nS same as shirt) vest/cardigan/pullover /suspenders (optional)	(C1nS) LS shirt (Bo) trousers (C1nS) tie/bow tie (optional) (Bo/C1nS same as shirt) vest/cardigan/pullover/suspenders (optional)	(CnS) dress two piece dresses – (NA) no cuts below the waistline	(CnS) dress Top and pants/trunk <b>must not</b> be only bikini
				
2. DECORATIONS, LIGHT EFFECTS				
	Decoration with light effects – (NA) Basic materials with light effects – (NA)		Decoration with light effects – (NA) (Decoration without light effects are allowed) Gloves & Floats – (NA) Basic materials with light effects – (NA)	
3. SHOES, SOCKS, TIGHTS				
	(Bo) Shoes & Socks		(NR) – on height of heel (light reflective embellishments or material, except side buckle is – (NA)	
4. HAIRSTYLE				
	If the hair is long it <b>must</b> be worn in a ponytail		Decoration with light effects and colored hairspray – (NA)(Decoration without light effects are allowed)	
5. MAKE-UP				
	(NR)			
6. DECORATION & PERSONAL JEWELRY:				
Decoration Jewelry = anything fixed on the basic dress material, hair, & skin: with light effects (rhinestones, sequins, beads, pearls, etc.) <b>and</b> that looks like it is part of the dress (made from the same or similar material.) Personal Jewelry = any jewelry worn on the body - jewelry that is unattached to the dance apparel and would be worn in the course of everyday life, such as necklaces or earrings, wedding rings, etc.				
	Decoration jewelry with light effects – (NA)(Decoration jewelry without light effects are allowed) Personal jewelry – <b>Allowed</b>			
7. Good Taste Rule				
The “Good Taste” rule will be enforced for inappropriate costumes or dress.				

Table 14 Youth Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications Summary



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## 3.12.8 JUNIOR/YOUTH/ADULT/SENIOR

### 3.12.8.1 International Standard – Open Proficiency Levels Plus Adult/Senior Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications

MALE ATHLETE	<b>Required:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum allowed attire of the age appropriate Standard syllabus dress code.</li> <li>• Black or midnight blue tails suit (B) with white (W)(LS) shirt and all standard accessories allowed.</li> <li>• Black or midnight blue vest or black or midnight blue suit jacket, with white shirt and (W/B) bow tie or (B) long tie.</li> <li>• Black or midnight blue trousers (B).</li> <li>• Black or midnight blue socks (B).</li> <li>• Black or midnight blue shoes (B).</li> <li>• Long hair must be worn in a ponytail.</li> </ul>
	<b>Not Allowed</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rolled up sleeves.</li> </ul>
FEMALE ATHLETE	<b>Required</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum allowed attire of the age appropriate Standard syllabus dress code.</li> <li>• Competition dress for Open Standard.</li> <li>• Athlete's skirt must cover dance pants and buttocks completely when athlete is standing still.</li> <li>• Athlete's dress must have a long skirt which at minimum covers both her knees; if the skirt is split it must not be split higher than the knee.</li> </ul>
	<b>Not Allowed</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skin colored or flesh-toned dresses.</li> <li>• Two-piece dresses.</li> <li>• Dance pants must cover the buttocks completely; tangas/thongs are not allowed.</li> <li>• Dance pants must be at least 2" from top to bottom at narrowest point in the hip area.</li> <li>• Breast area must be covered with opaque fabric; if such fabric is skin colored, it must be decorated heavily (SwD).</li> <li>• The distance between bra cups must be less than 2 inches (5 cm).</li> </ul>

**Table 15 International Standard—Open Proficiency Levels plus Adult/Senior Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications**

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## 3.12.8.2 American Smooth – Open Proficiency Levels plus Adult/Senior Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications

MALE ATHLETE	<b>Required:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum allowed attire of the age appropriate Smooth syllabus dress code.</li> <li>• Competition apparel for Open Smooth.</li> <li>• (CnS) tie/bow tie required.</li> <li>• Vest, jacket or bolero jacket in (C1nS). (optional)</li> <li>• (CnS) trousers.</li> <li>• Socks.</li> <li>• Shoes.</li> <li>• Long hair must be worn in a ponytail.</li> </ul>
	<b>Not Allowed</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No skin colored or flesh-toned suits, jackets, vests or shirts.</li> <li>• Rolled up sleeves.</li> </ul>
FEMALE ATHLETE	<b>Required</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum allowed attire of the age appropriate Smooth syllabus dress code.</li> <li>• Competition dress for Open Smooth.</li> <li>• Athlete's skirt must cover dance pants and buttocks completely when athlete is standing still.</li> <li>• Athlete's dress must have a long skirt which at minimum covers both her knees.</li> </ul>
	<b>Not Allowed</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skin colored dresses.</li> <li>• Dance pants must cover the buttocks completely; tangas/thongs are not allowed.</li> <li>• Dance pants must be at least 2" from top to bottom at narrowest point in the hip area.</li> <li>• Breast area must be covered with opaque fabric; if such fabric is skin colored, it must be heavily decorated (SwD).</li> <li>• The distance between bra cups must be less than 2 inches (5 cm).</li> <li>• Two-piece dresses may not consist of a bra/bikini top and skirt.</li> </ul>

**Table 16 American Smooth—Open Proficiency Levels plus Adult/Senior Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications**

# USA DANCE: DANCESPORT RULEBOOK

## 3.12.8.3 International Latin/American Rhythm – Open Proficiency Levels plus Adult/Senior Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications

MALE ATHLETE	<b>Required:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum allowed attire of the age appropriate Latin/Rhythm syllabus dress code, however short sleeved shirts are allowed.</li> <li>• (CnS) shirt/top.</li> <li>• (TOP) shirt may be open to midpoint of trouser waistband (shirt must reconnect at the waistband.)</li> <li>• (CnS) trousers.</li> <li>• Vest, jacket or bolero jacket in same color as trousers. (optional)</li> <li>• (CnS) tie.</li> <li>• Socks.</li> <li>• Shoes.</li> <li>• Long hair must be worn in a ponytail.</li> </ul>
	<b>Not Allowed</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skin color or flesh-toned shirt, top, trousers, vest, jacket or bolero jacket.</li> <li>• Rolled up sleeves.</li> </ul>
FEMALE ATHLETE	<b>Required</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum allowed attire of the age appropriate Latin/Rhythm syllabus dress code.</li> <li>• Competition dress for Open Latin/Rhythm.</li> <li>• Athlete's skirt must cover dance pants and buttocks completely when athlete is standing still.</li> </ul>
	<b>Not Allowed</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two piece dresses may not consist of a bra/bikini top and a bottom</li> <li>• Dance pants must cover the buttocks completely; tangas/thongs are not allowed.</li> <li>• Dance pants must be opaque and cover at least 2 inches (5 cm) from top to bottom at the narrowest point in the hip area.</li> <li>• Athlete's skirt must cover dance pants and buttocks completely when athlete is standing still.</li> <li>• Breast area must be covered with opaque fabric; if such fabric is skin colored, fabric must be heavily decorated (SwD).</li> <li>• The distance between bra cups must be less than 2 inches (5 cm).</li> </ul>

**Table 17 International Latin/American Rhythm Open Proficiency Levels plus Adult/Senior Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications**

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## 3.12.8.4 OPEN PROFICIENCY LEVELS plus ADULT & SENIOR SYLLABUS PROFICIENCY LEVELS DRESS SPECIFICATIONS

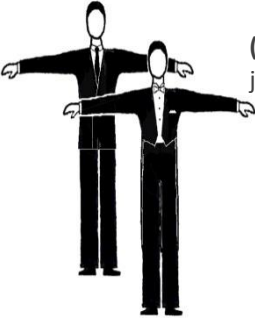
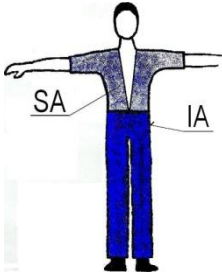
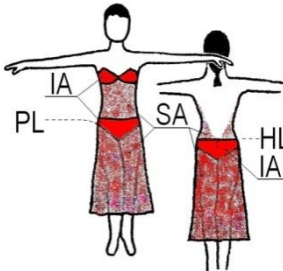
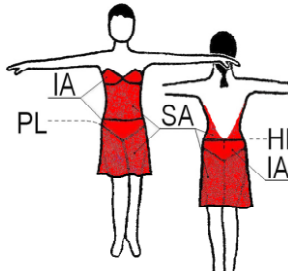
1. DANCE DRESS				
Gender	Male		Female	
Style	Standard & Smooth	Latin & Rhythm	Standard & Smooth	Latin & Rhythm
Junior I thru Senior V Novice thru Champ. & Adult & Senior Syllabus Proficiency Levels	<u>Standard</u> (W) only shirt (W/B) bow tie (B) tie (B) trousers (B) Tails w/all accessories <u>Smooth</u> (CnS) trousers (CnS)LS shirt (CnS) tie (CnS) Tails or short jacket or vest	(CnS) Shirt/Top (CnS) trousers Vest, jacket, or bolero jacket the same color as the trousers are (optional) (CnS) tie/bow tie (optional)	Competition dress (CnS) <u>Standard</u> two piece dresses (NA)	Competition dress (CnS) Top and pants/trunk <b>must not</b> be only bikini
				
2. DECORATIONS, LIGHT EFFECTS				
	(NR)			
3. SHOES, SOCKS, TIGHTS				
	See Description Rules 3.12.8.1			
4. HAIRSTYLE				
	If the hair is long it <b>must</b> be worn in a ponytail			(NR)
5. MAKE-UP				
	(NR)			
6. DECORATION & PERSONAL JEWELRY:				
<b>Decoration Jewelry</b> = anything fixed on the basic dress material, hair, & skin: with light effects (rhinestones, sequins, beads, pearls, etc.) <b>and</b> that looks like it is part of the dress (made from the same or similar material.) <b>Personal Jewelry</b> = any jewelry worn on the body - jewelry that is unattached to the dance apparel and would be worn in the course of everyday life, such as necklaces or earrings, wedding rings, etc.= any jewelry worn on the body (earring, necklace, bracelet, rings etc.) (NR)				
6. GOOD TASTE RULE:				
	The “Good Taste” rule will be enforced for inappropriate costumes or dress.			

Table 18 Open Proficiency Levels plus Adult/Senior Syllabus Proficiency Levels—Dress Specifications Summary

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- 3.12.8.5 In Teacher Student and Mixed Proficiency and Pro/Am events, the judged Athlete must follow dress regulation requirements for the age category and dance style in which they are competing.
- 3.12.8.6 The un-judged partner in Teacher Student and Mixed Proficiency events must follow Youth or lower age syllabus dress requirements per dance style, when competing with Pre-Teen, Junior or Youth partners in syllabus events. In all other events, including all Pro/Am events, they may wear open proficiency level costumes. (If heats are closely spaced, so as to not permit costume changes, the Teacher may be permitted to comply with the “open proficiency” dress code at the discretion and with pre-approval of the on-site Chair of Adjudicators or his/her designated Assistant.)
- 3.12.8.7 In Solo Competitive and Theatrical Ballroom Open Proficiency events, age appropriate level costuming must be used, although costuming may demonstrate or suggest the theme of the choreography/performance.

## 3.13 RESTRICTED SYLLABUS EVENT REQUIREMENTS

- 3.13.1 Competition Organizers may stipulate that certain competitive events are restricted to a specific Proficiency level classification of the approved Syllabus Guide, found on the USA Dance website under DanceSport.
- 3.13.2 Competitors in "Syllabus" proficiency level competitive events or other competitive events, for which the Competition Organizer has stipulated a restricted syllabus, must limit their figures to those of the syllabus and Proficiency level classification, as outlined in the approved Syllabus Guide.

## 3.14 COLLEGIATE EVENTS

- 3.14.1 These rules provide a structure for USA Dance Sanctioned Collegiate Competitions at sanctioned USA Dance competitions. Acknowledging the informal nature of collegiate competitions, organizers of Collegiate Events are encouraged, but not required to comply with sections with 5.2.3-5.10 of this Rulebook with regard to the relevant collegiate events.
- 3.14.2 A Collegiate event may be “open” or “closed.” In a closed collegiate event both dancers must be college students at the time of the event. “College student” is defined as being currently enrolled or having graduated within approximately 6 months prior to an event. For clarity, a student graduating in May/June can continue to compete at the college level through the upcoming January of the following year. Likewise, a student graduating in December is able to compete at the college level through June of the following calendar year. An open collegiate event may include collegiate and non-collegiate dancers of any age category. The dancers may be DanceSport Athlete members or Collegiate members; Professional members are not permitted to compete in Collegiate Events.
- 3.14.3 Collegiate events may be in any recognized dance style.

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- 3.14.4 Collegiate events may include syllabus events and/or may include Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced categories that roughly translate to Bronze, Silver and Gold proficiency level. Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced events need not be invigilated for potential syllabus violations.
- 3.14.5 Collegiate events may include Novice, Pre-Championship, and Championship level events.
- 3.14.6 Collegiate events may include formal team matches as set forth in Section 3.7. Collegiate events may also include “fun” team matches which may be based upon a theme (e.g., pirate costumes) and which may include dances from outside of the dance styles described in Section 3.7 (e.g., salsa, merengue, night club two-step).
- 3.14.7 Collegiate events may include Performance Team events, as outlined in Section 3.13.11.
- 3.14.8 At the Competition Organizer’s discretion, collegiate events may allow participants to enter events on the day of the competition, or as To Be Announced competitors. For example, organizers may permit competitors to register for the competition in advance, but to enter specific events (with the same or different partners) by 9 a.m. on the day of the competition. Similarly, the Competition Organizer may require competitors to enter competitions individually with the partner listed as TBA, and the organizer may then randomly assign leaders and followers as partnerships.
- 3.14.9 At the Competition Organizer’s discretion, collegiate events may allow participants to attend workshops and coaching sessions during the course of the competition that are organized by the Competition Organizer. Provision of such workshops and coaching sessions and interactions with competitors at Collegiate Events will not violate Rule 6.2.2.3-5 or Rule 8.3.6 of these Rules. This exception to Rules 6.2.1.3-5 and 8.3.6 is only available to Sanctioned Collegiate Competitions, not to other competitions that may include collegiate events.
- 3.14.10 Costumes for Collegiate Events
  - 3.14.10.1 Costumes are defined as any outfit that includes stones, feathers, or floats.
  - 3.14.10.2 Unless different costuming requirements are established by the Competition Organizer at the time of registration, costumes are not permitted in beginner and bronze proficiency levels. Costumes are permitted but not required nor encouraged in all other proficiency levels.
  - 3.14.10.3 Costumes must comply with the “good taste” requirement and minimum coverage requirements set forth in Rules 3.11.2 and 3.11.4.
- 3.14.11 Collegiate events may include Performance Team events. As follows:
  - 3.14.11.1 Performance Team Competitions are defined as competitive events at which two or more teams of dancers compete against each other. One team dances at a time, to music provided by the team. Each team is judged and ranked in comparison with the other teams dancing.
  - 3.14.11.2 Performance Teams may compete in any style and costume, subject to the costuming rules set forth in Section 3.13.10.
  - 3.14.11.3 Performance Teams will consist of eight or more dancers of either sex.

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- 3.14.11.4 Performance Team competitors will dance on behalf of only one educational institution at any given dance competition.
- 3.14.11.5 Teams may replace team members with reserves for any round in the contest. Substitutions must not occur during the actual time the team is on the floor competing.
- 3.14.11.6 Performance teams are required to submit a roster with the name and USA Dance membership number of each competitor on their team, including reserves, to the Competition Organizer prior to registration deadline of the competition, unless a shorter period is permitted by the Competition Organizer.
- 3.14.11.7 The Competition Organizer is expected to maintain a list of all names and USA Dance membership numbers provided by the Team for future Performance Team competitive events
- 3.14.12 National Collegiate DanceSport Championships
  - 3.14.12.1 The DanceSport Council may declare one USA Dance National Collegiate DanceSport Championship in the United States during each academic school year.
  - 3.14.12.2 The USA Dance National Collegiate DanceSport Championship, may bestow national collegiate titles on behalf of USA Dance.
  - 3.14.12.3 High placing teams and Athletes at the USA Dance National Collegiate DanceSport Championship may be selected to represent the United States at the International University Sports Federation World University Games.
- 3.14.13 Recognized Collegiate DanceSport Events
  - 3.14.13.1 Competition Organizers may apply to the DanceSport Council to host a USA Dance Recognized Collegiate Event. There are no fees on the part of a Competition Organizer to host a Recognized Collegiate DanceSport Event.
  - 3.14.13.2 Competition Organizers of Recognized Collegiate DanceSport Events are encouraged but not required to comply with Sections 5.4-5.10 of this Rulebook with regard to the relevant collegiate events.
  - 3.14.13.3 Any application to host a Recognized Collegiate Events will provide the following information:
    - 3.14.13.3.1 A description of the location for the event including the dimensions of the dance floor and material forming the surface of the dance floor. Dance floors will be a minimum of 60 feet long by 36 feet wide (ratio=1.67:1, ft<sup>2</sup>=2160). Length to width ratio of the competition dance floor, will not be less than (1.6:1) or greater than (2.0:1). Dance floors for recognized competitions must have some level of “give” to reduce the risk of injury to Athletes.
    - 3.14.13.3.2 A description of changing facilities for Athletes.
    - 3.14.13.3.3 A description of how Athletes will be provided with access to water throughout the competition.
    - 3.14.13.3.4 A description of where spectators and Athletes may watch the events.
    - 3.14.13.3.5 A description of the number of judges anticipated for the event.

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- 3.14.13.3.6 Competition Organizers that are adding a Recognized Collegiate Event to an existing USA Dance Sanctioned or USA Dance Registered Competition do not need to provide the information listed in this Section 3.13.13.3.1-5.
- 3.14.13.4 Organizers of Recognized Collegiate DanceSport Events must:
  - 3.14.13.4.1 Provide proper medical supervision for the Athletes.
  - 3.14.13.4.2 Protect the personal welfare of the participants and spectators by taking proper safety precautions
  - 3.14.13.4.3 Abide by USA Dance's competition insurance requirements
  - 3.14.13.4.4 Provide a free admission, but not free registration as an Athlete, to USA Dance National officers, including all members of the Governing Council, and the local USA Dance chapter president.
  - 3.14.13.4.5 Provide a place to prominently display a USA Dance Banner.
  - 3.14.13.4.6 Provide a full-page ad in the program, if any, for USA Dance.
  - 3.14.13.4.7 Prominently display the USA Dance Logo in all promotional materials, programs, registration materials, advertising, and in the facilities during the competition.
  - 3.14.13.4.8 Include the following on all entry blanks, materials, advertising, and programs: "No responsibility for loss or theft of articles left in changing rooms, ballrooms, hotel rooms, or other event facilities can be accepted by USA Dance. Nor can USA Dance be held liable for injury sustained by persons attending the event; it being hereby stated that persons attending the event do so at their own risk. All persons attending this event, whether as spectators, Athletes, officials, or guests of the organizer, are bound by the rules of USA Dance for those portions of the event sanctioned by the DanceSport Council."
  - 3.14.13.4.9 Publish (as part of advance materials and as part of the event program) a complete list of competitive categories, the dances for each competitive category, dress code requirements, and any special rules or departures from USA Dance's prescribed Rules pertaining to the categories or events 3.13.5.
- 3.14.13.5 The Authority of an organizer to conduct Recognized Collegiate DanceSport Events may be suspended or placed on probation similar to the process described in Rule 5.2.9 et seq.
- 3.14.14 Recognized Regional Collegiate DanceSport Championships
  - 3.14.14.1 Competition Organizers may apply to the DanceSport Council to host a USA Dance Recognized Regional Collegiate DanceSport Championship. There are no fees on the part of a Competition Organizer to host a Recognized Regional Collegiate DanceSport Championship.
  - 3.14.14.2 The table below provides a minimum number of events necessary to qualify as a Recognized Regional Collegiate Championship and Competition Organizers are encouraged to hold more than these listed events. Additional events may include, but are not limited to, additional single dance Newcomer/Bronze Syllabus events, additional multi-dance events (e.g., Bronze Waltz/Quickstep; Bronze Samba/Jive; Silver Foxtrot/Viennese Waltz, Silver Cha Cha/Rumba/Swing), and events for dances such as salsa, merengue, nightclub two-step, and west coast swing.



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<i>Proficiency Level</i>	<i>Smooth</i>	<i>Rhythm</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Latin</i>
<i>Beginner/ Bronze Syllabus</i>	(1) Waltz; (2) Foxtrot	(1) Cha Cha; (2) Rumba	(1) Waltz; (2) Quickstep	(1) Cha Cha; (2) Rumba
<i>Intermediate/ Silver Syllabus</i>	(1) Waltz; (2) Tango; (3) Foxtrot	(1) Cha Cha; (2) Rumba; (3) Swing	(1) Waltz; (2) Foxtrot; (3) Quickstep	(1) Cha Cha; (2) Rumba; (3) Jive
<i>Advanced/Gold Syllabus</i>	(1) Waltz/Tango; (2) Foxtrot/Viennese Waltz	(1) Cha Cha/Rumba; (2) Swing/Bolero	(1) Waltz/Quickstep; (2) Tango/Foxtrot	(1) Cha Cha/Rumba; (2) Samba/Jive
<i>Novice</i>	Waltz & Foxtrot	Cha Cha/Rumba/ Swing	Waltz/Foxtrot/ Quickstep	Samba/Cha Cha/Rumba
<i>Pre- Championship</i>	Waltz/Tango/ Foxtrot	Cha Cha/Rumba/ Swing/Bolero	Waltz/Tango/ Foxtrot/Quickstep	Samba/Cha Cha/Rumba/Jive
<i>Championship</i>	Waltz/Tango/ Foxtrot/Viennese Waltz	Cha Cha/Rumba/ Swing/Bolero/ Mambo	Waltz/Tango/ Viennese Waltz/Foxtrot/ Quickstep	Samba/Cha Cha/Rumba/Paso Doble/Jive
<i>Fun Team Match</i>				
<i>Performance Team</i>				

**Table 19 Dances for Collegiate Competitions**

## 3.14.15 **Team Matches**

3.14.15.1 Closed Team Matches will be open to only college students.

3.14.15.2 Competition Organizers are encouraged to make Team Matches as inclusive as possible. For example, organizers may hold two team matches – one restricted to bronze/newcomer competitors and one open to all competitors. Another example would be to allow each organization to enter as many teams as it can field.

## 3.14.16 College Proficiency Points and Levels

3.14.16.1 USA Dance Recognized Collegiate Events are encouraged to enforce the USA Dance Collegiate Proficiency System to protect newer dancers from unfair competition.

3.14.16.2 Collegiate Proficiency Points will be accrued through participation in Recognized Collegiate Events.

3.14.16.3 Proficiency points are accumulated by individual Athletes, not couples, regardless of the number or length of partnerships.

3.14.16.4 It is the Athlete's responsibility to ensure that he/she is eligible for the proficiency level in which he/she desires to compete.

3.14.16.5 It is the partnership's responsibility to ensure that they are eligible for the proficiency level in which they desire to compete.

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- 3.14.16.6 An individual Athlete may not compete in more than two consecutive proficiency levels in a particular dance style (i.e. Standard, Latin, Smooth and Rhythm) which are held at any given competition.
- 3.14.16.7 Based on performance, an Athlete may become ineligible to compete in proficiency levels Bronze through Pre-Championship; however, an Athlete will never become ineligible to compete at the Championship level.
- 3.14.16.8 An Athlete accrues Collegiate Proficiency Points through top tier placement at Recognized Collegiate Events.
- 3.14.16.9 An Athlete is considered to have achieved a top tier placement in an event at a given proficiency level, dance style, and age category, if the Athlete has placed in the top 12.5%: As examples, an Athlete achieves a top tier placement if the Athlete places:
  - 1st with 8 or more competing couples in that event.
  - In the top 2, with 16 or more competing couples in that event.
  - In the top 3, with 24 or more competing couples in that event.
  - In the top 4, with 32 or more competing couples in that event.
  - In the top 5, with 40 or more competing couples in that event.
  - In the top 6, with 48 or more competing couples in that event.
- 3.14.16.10 An Athlete's Collegiate Proficiency Levels and Collegiate Proficiency Points are established per dance style (Standard, Latin, Smooth, and Rhythm).
- 3.14.16.11 At Recognized Collegiate Events an athlete achieving a top tier placement in a proficiency point eligible event at a given proficiency level and dance style earns one proficiency point in that proficiency level and in all lower proficiency levels in the given dance style. An Athlete achieving top tier placements in multiple Recognized Collegiate Events in a given proficiency level and dance style accrues no more than one proficiency point in that proficiency level and dance style per semester (*i.e.*, August – January; February – June). An Athlete becomes ineligible to compete in a proficiency level and dance style at Recognized Collegiate Events (excluding the National Collegiate DanceSport Championship) if, in the preceding two (2) academic years, the athlete has accrued two or more proficiency points in that proficiency level and dance style, at the Recognized Collegiate Events (including the National Collegiate DanceSport Championship).
- 3.14.16.12 At the National Collegiate DanceSport Championship, an Athlete achieving a top tier placement in a proficiency point eligible event at a given proficiency level and dance style earns two proficiency points in that proficiency level and in all lower proficiency levels in the given dance style. An Athlete becomes ineligible to compete in a proficiency level and dance style at Recognized Collegiate Events (including the National Collegiate DanceSport Championship) if the Athlete has accrued two or more proficiency points in that proficiency level and dance style at the National Collegiate DanceSport Championship and has accrued any proficiency points in that proficiency level and dance style in the preceding two (2) competition years.

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- 3.14.16.13 Where both Athletes in a partnership are of the same Collegiate Proficiency Level, the Partnership may compete in any proficiency classification level higher than the minimum proficiency level for which both members are eligible except that the Partnership may not compete in more than two consecutive proficiency levels, in a particular dance style which are actually held at any given competition.
- 3.14.16.14 Where the Athletes in a partnership are of different Collegiate Proficiency Levels, the Partnership may compete in any proficiency classification that is higher than one level below the Collegiate Proficiency Level of the Athlete with the higher proficiency classification. For example, where a partner with a single proficiency point in gold smooth partners with an Athlete with a proficiency point in pre-championship smooth, the Partnership may compete in the novice, pre-championship and/or championship smooth events, except that the Partnership may not compete in more than two consecutive proficiency levels in a particular dance style which are actually held at any given competition.

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## 4 RULES FOR COMPETITORS

### 4.1 GENERAL

- 4.1.1 The following Rules and Regulations govern all Athletes in DanceSport.

### 4.2 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

- 4.2.1 To enter a USA Dance sanctioned competition, all individuals must be current Athlete members of a member organization of the WDSF. If the individual's respective country does not have an organization holding membership in the WDSF, the individual(s) desiring to participate in a USA Dance sanctioned competition will require the prior written permission of the USA Dance DanceSport Council.
- 4.2.2 US citizens and other residents of the United States or one of its possessions, who are not currently registered with another member organization of the WDSF, as an Athlete and who wish to enter a USA Dance sanctioned competition, must be a current USA Dance Athlete member.
- 4.2.3 All Athletes are subject to Anti-Doping controls as prescribed by WDSF, USOC and USA Dance.

### 4.3 ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 4.3.1 A member Athlete will meet at a minimum, all of the following Eligibility Criteria: (The DanceSport Council [DSC] may consider additional factors on a case-by-case basis. Individuals may appeal such DSC rulings as stated in the COMPETITOR'S RIGHTS {section 4.10} of these rules.)
- 4.3.2 The Athlete must have not had his or her Athlete status revoked or reinstated by the DanceSport Council or any member organization of the WDSF, more than once.
- 4.3.3 The Athlete must not have engaged in any prohibited activity as described in the PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES (section 4.4) in the prior twelve (12) month period.
- 4.3.4 If the Athlete engaged in PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES within the past ten (10) years then:
- 4.3.4.1 The Athlete must submit a completed application in a form prescribed by the DanceSport Council and must provide information relating to the entirety of his or her dancing activities including competitions entered, and the results of those competitions.
- 4.3.4.2 By submission of the application, the Athlete authorizes the DanceSport Council to conduct a verification investigation of applicant's dance activities.
- 4.3.4.3 The DanceSport Council will review the application, along with any other pertinent information it wishes to obtain and make a ruling on the eligibility of the applicant to be registered as an Athlete.
- 4.3.4.4 Material omissions by the applicant are grounds for denial of registration.
- 4.3.5 For the purpose of determining an individual's eligibility to register as an Athlete, no distinction is made between DanceSport and other dance styles wherein individuals normally dance together as a couple, e.g. Country Western, Swing, Hustle, etc.

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- 4.3.6 Any Athlete Couple will be eligible to compete in the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships provided they are USA Dance members and have otherwise qualified to compete (i.e. rule 4.3.6.3). A couple is eligible to represent the United States in WDSF World Championships provided either:
  - 4.3.6.1.1 Both Athletes hold valid U. S. passports or
  - 4.3.6.1.2 One Athlete holds a valid USA passport and the partner has appropriate legal documents allowing s/he to travel out of and back into the United States, or
  - 4.3.6.1.3 Both Athletes comply with any additional eligibility requirements of the WDSF.
  - 4.3.6.1.4 Neither Athlete can have represented another country or competed in another country's National Championship in WDSF World Ranking or Open Competitions within the last eight (8) months, unless a letter of release is received from that country's WDSF member organization to allow the Athlete to compete in the USA.
  - 4.3.6.1.5 Neither Athlete can have represented another country in a WDSF Championship or Cup or any World Championship or Cup or World Championship or Cup in a different DanceSport system within the past twelve (12) months.
- 4.3.6.2 A couple is eligible to represent the United States in the World Games, provided both Athletes hold valid USA passports.
- 4.3.6.3 All USA Dance Member Athlete Couples must satisfy the following qualifying criteria:
  - 4.3.6.3.1 Have competed in a minimum of one USA Dance National Qualifying Event (NQE) competition since the end of the last USA Dance National DanceSport Championships.
  - 4.3.6.3.2 Have competed in the same partnership and in the same event (style/age/proficiency level) in the aforementioned NQE that the Athlete Couple intends to enter in the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships.
  - 4.3.6.3.3 Have placed in the top 75% of USA Dance Athlete Couples in that event at an NQE competition, exception see rules 4.3.6.3.3.1 and 4.3.6.3.4.
    - 4.3.6.3.3.1 Events with only 3 USA Dance Athlete Couples or fewer – all couples qualify.
    - 4.3.6.3.3.2 Total number of USA Dance Athlete Couples measured by the actual number that dance in the event.
    - 4.3.6.3.3.3 Mathematical rounding-up, based at .50 (point-five-zero) and above. For example: In an event with 6 USA Dance Athlete Couples entered, 5 couples will qualify ( $6 \times 75\% = 4.5$ ).
  - 4.3.6.3.4 Couples participating in more than one NQE, will automatically be qualified in any event (same proficiency level, same age category) that they have danced in more than one NQE, regardless of placement.
  - 4.3.6.3.5 The following events are not qualifying events at NQE competitions for the National Championship: Cabaret, Theatrical Ballroom, International 10-Dance, American 9-Dance and Showdance. To qualify to dance Youth or Adult 10-Dance at Nationals, DanceSport Athletes must qualify in Championship in either Standard or Latin and at least Pre-Champ in the other style or Championship in both Standard and Latin. In all other age categories the 10-Dance awards are based on the combined scores of

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Standard and Latin and DanceSport Athletes must qualify and compete in both Championship Standard and Championship Latin. To qualify to dance Adult 9-Dance at Nationals DanceSport Athletes must qualify in Championship in either Smooth or Rhythm and at least Pre-Champ in the other style or Championship in both Smooth and Rhythm. In all other age categories, the 9-Dance awards are based on the combined scores of Smooth and Rhythm and DanceSport Athletes must qualify and compete in both Championship Smooth and Championship Rhythm. Rule 3.3.2 defines qualifications for Showdance event at Nationals. Other events will be identified in each year's registration materials for the USA Dance National Championships, with specific registration requirements for each.

- 4.3.6.3.6 Proficiency level for each Athlete will be calculated after Nationals each year, which will determine the proficiency level for that Athlete until after the next National Championships (Rule 4.7.3.18).
- 4.3.6.3.7 If an Adult/Senior Athlete couple qualifies for Nationals under rule 4.3 and before the next USA Dance National DanceSport Championships, the couple becomes eligible in the next higher age category, they will be considered to be qualified for the next USA Dance National DanceSport Championships in both the age category they actually qualified and the next higher age category for which they are now eligible per rules 4.8.4 and 4.8.6.
- 4.3.6.3.8 If a Preteen/Junior/Youth Athlete Couple qualifies for Nationals under rule 4.3 and before the next USA Dance National DanceSport Championships, the couple becomes eligible in the next higher age category, they will be considered to be qualified for the next USA Dance National DanceSport Championships in the age category for which they are now eligible under rule 4.8.4. If the couple also qualified in a higher age category directly, they will be allowed to dance in both their new age category and the next higher age category at the next USA Dance National DanceSport Championships, provided they meet all other age eligibility qualifications under rule 4.8.4.
- 4.3.7 A Medical waiver of rule 4.3.6 and all sub-sections may be considered under certain circumstances. A request for medical waiver must be made by email to the DanceSport National Registrar at ([registrar@usadance.org](mailto:registrar@usadance.org)), according to the following procedure:
  - 4.3.7.1 The couple asking for medical waiver must be registered at an NQE and be forced to withdraw due to injury or illness.
  - 4.3.7.2 If there is another NQE competition the couple could potentially dance, they will be asked to do so, provided such NQE is at least 2 weeks later than the NQE from which the couple withdraws.
  - 4.3.7.3 If there is no other NQE competition more than 2 weeks later than the one from which they must withdraw, the couple may submit to the DanceSport Council National Registrar ([registrar@usadance.org](mailto:registrar@usadance.org)), proof of medical necessity for their withdrawal. The couple must provide complete medical documentation on a doctor's or hospital's letterhead, including proof of office/hospital visit, ICD-9 codes

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and treatment plans. Any additional medical documentation may be included at the athlete's discretion.

- 4.3.7.4 If there is another NQE within the appropriate time frame, however if attending would prove to be a financial hardship for the athlete couple because of distance and travel expenses, the couple may still apply for a medical waiver. The couple must provide a statement of financial duress, including estimates of the travel expenses which would be incurred by attending the alternative NQE competition.
- 4.3.7.5 All submitted documents will be checked for veracity and accuracy by the National Registrar. The National Registrar will make a decision regarding the medical waiver, and communicate it to the couple within 48 hours of receiving the request and complete documentation. Lack of complete documentation will result in a rejection of the request.
- 4.3.7.6 After receiving the National Registrar's decision, if the couple requests it, a full vote of the DanceSport Council may be taken. Such a vote will take up to 72 hours from the request of the couple to be complete. The DanceSport Council's decision is final.
- 4.3.8 The DanceSport Council is responsible for determining an individual Athlete's status and will revoke or suspend an Athlete's registration if sufficient cause is found to do so.

## 4.4 PROFESSIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 4.4.1 A Professional must meet, at a minimum, all of the following Eligibility Criteria (Professional Council may consider additional factors on a case-by-case basis. Individuals may appeal such rulings as stated in the COMPETITOR'S RIGHTS.):
  - 4.4.1.1 Must have registered him or herself as a Professional with USA Dance.
  - 4.4.1.2 A Professionals' status (either Professional or previous Athlete status) may not have been revoked or reinstated by the DSC, PDC, or any member organization of the WDSF, more than once.

## 4.5 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- 4.5.1 DANCING AS A PROFESSIONAL
  - 4.5.1.1 Except in Teacher/Student Events as the Teacher, a DanceSport Athlete is ineligible to compete in USA Dance DanceSport Athlete events, if found by the DanceSport Council to have violated this provision.
  - 4.5.1.2 The following acts are considered evidence that an individual has become a Professional:
    - 4.5.1.2.1 By publicly declaring himself or herself to be a Professional, either verbally or in writing.
    - 4.5.1.2.2 By competing as a Professional.
  - 4.5.1.3 A Professional may be reinstated to DanceSport Athlete status by complying with the requirements of rule 4.3.4. Such reinstatement will become effective after approval by the DanceSport Council.

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## 4.5.2 DANCING AS AN ATHLETE

- 4.5.2.1 A Professional is ineligible to compete in USA Dance sanctioned events as an Athlete, Teacher, Student Athlete, or Pro/Am Student Dancer.

## 4.6 DOPING

- 4.6.1 All Athletes, Officials, Managers, Trainers and Other Participants:
- 4.6.2 Must comply with the provisions of the current WDSF anti-doping code, The Code. It is the personal responsibility of all participants subject to the provisions of The Code to ensure that s/he does not use or allow the use of any prohibited substance and/or prohibited method.
  - 4.6.2.1 Are subject to Doping Controls (urine analyses, blood tests and other authorized techniques for detecting prohibited substances or methods).
  - 4.6.2.2 Must, before they participate in a USA Dance DanceSport Event, agree to comply with The Code by completing and signing the Form of Consent, which is part of The Code. The organizer of the competition must refuse entrance of any athlete or adjudicator that has not completed and signed the Form of Consent.
  - 4.6.2.3 Athletes are subject to in-competition and out-of-competition Anti-Doping controls as prescribed by The Code.
  - 4.6.2.4 Athletes may not refuse to submit to a doping test administered by the WDSF, USOC, or USA Dance, Inc.
  - 4.6.2.5 At every USA Dance National DanceSport event, a copy of The Code must be available for consultation.
- 4.6.3 Use of substances on the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Prohibited List for medical reasons requires an approved Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) or a Declaration of Use. To gain approval, an athlete must submit the appropriate application form along with substantial medical justification for the use of the prohibited substance at least 30 days in advance of the event.
  - 4.6.3.1 To determine if a TUE is needed, or when to apply for a TUE and how to submit a TUE, go to the National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADO) web site at ([www.USADA.org/ForAthletes](http://www.USADA.org/ForAthletes)).
  - 4.6.3.2 The following athletes must obtain a TUE from WDSF by going to ([www.Worlddancesport.org/athletes/rules](http://www.Worlddancesport.org/athletes/rules)) to obtain the procedure and forms:
    - 4.6.3.2.1 Athletes in the WDSF International Registered Testing Pool (IRTP);
    - 4.6.3.2.2 Athletes participating in an International Event and/or included in the top 250 of the WDSF Ranking List for which a TUE granted pursuant to the WDSF Rules is required;
    - 4.6.3.2.3 Completed forms are to be submitted to the Chair of the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission ([WorldDanceSport.org/contact&more/contactDirectory/commissions](http://WorldDanceSport.org/contact&more/contactDirectory/commissions)).
    - 4.6.3.2.4 Athletes that don't belong to the afore mentioned category must obtain a TUE from their National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO) in rule 4.5.3.1.
  - 4.6.4 Tested DanceSport Athletes will be sent the confidential test results.



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- 4.6.4.1 In the case of a negative result, the Anti-Doping Chairperson will promptly pass on the results via first class US Mail.
- 4.6.4.2 In the case of Adverse Analytical finding or Atypical Findings, the anti-Doping Chairperson will inform the DanceSport Athlete via Registered mail.
- 4.6.4.3 DanceSport Athletes must accept the registered letter notifying them of the results of doping tests.
- 4.6.4.4 All letters will be sent to the address furnished to the Anti-Doping Committee, on the Form of Consent at the time registration. A failure of the DanceSport Athlete to accept delivery of this notice will result in disciplinary action.
- 4.6.5 Refusal to comply with the administration of doping controls will result in the immediate suspension of the Athlete. If the refusal to comply occurs at a competition the Athlete will be disqualified from all events, lose claim to all awards and titles, and must return all awards to the organizer, USA Dance, Inc. Central Office, P.O. Box 152988, Cape Coral, FL 33915.
- 4.6.6 For a doping violation., the Athlete and partner:
  - 4.6.6.1 Will be disqualified from all events at the competition where the test was administered.
  - 4.6.6.2 Lose claim to all awards and titles and must return all awards to USA Dance, Inc. Central Office, P.O. Box 152988, Cape Coral, FL 33915.
- 4.6.7 An Athlete is ineligible to continue to be registered as, or to compete as an Athlete if found by the DanceSport Council to have violated any provision of the Anti-Doping Code.
- 4.6.8 An anti-doping violation, in connection with an IN-COMPETITION test automatically leads to the DISQUALIFICATION of the individual's and partnership's result obtained in that COMPETITION with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, points, and prizes, irrespective of any other sanction that may be applied, subject to the provisions of this article. In the event of a dancer from a formation team being disqualified, this DISQUALIFICATION extends to the entire formation team.
- 4.6.9 The period of INELIGIBILITY imposed for a violation. will be:
  - 4.6.9.1 For a first violation: two (2) calendar years' INELIGIBILITY from the date of the violation.
  - 4.6.9.2 For a second violation: lifetime INELIGIBILITY.
- 4.6.10 When a PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE or its MARKERS or METABOLITES is detected in an ATHLETE'S specimen, the ATHLETE must also establish how the PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE entered his or her system in order to have the period of INELIGIBILITY reduced.

Where an ATHLETE can establish that the USE of such a specified substance was not intended to enhance sport performance, the period of INELIGIBILITY may be replaced with the following:

  - 4.6.10.1 For a first violation: at a minimum, a warning and a reprimand and no period of INELIGIBILITY from future EVENTS, to a maximum of one (1) year's INELIGIBILITY.

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- 4.6.10.2 For a second violation: two (2) years' INELIGIBILITY.
- 4.6.10.3 For a third violation: lifetime INELIGIBILITY.
- 4.6.11 If an ATHLETE establishes in such a case that he or she bears NO SIGNIFICANT FAULT OR NEGLIGENCE, then the period of INELIGIBILITY may be reduced, but the reduced period of INELIGIBILITY may not be less than one-half of the minimum periods of INELIGIBILITY otherwise applicable. If the otherwise applicable period of INELIGIBILITY is a lifetime, the reduced period under this section may be no less than 8 years.

## 4.7 PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

- 4.7.1 Athletes may participate in dance related activities, which are not prohibited or otherwise restricted by the DanceSport Rulebook.

## 4.8 COMPETITIVE CLASSIFICATIONS

- 4.8.1 Competitive events are classified by age, proficiency, style, and gender.
- 4.8.2 **PROFICIENCY CLASSIFICATIONS**
- 4.8.2.1 There are six general competitive classifications for each age group and style that relate to proficiency. There are two independent subsets of proficiency classifications – Syllabus and Open. Only syllabus figures may be danced in the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Syllabus levels (noted below in the highlighted part of the table):

Syllabus			Open		
Bronze	Silver	Gold	Novice	Pre-Championship	Championship
⇒⇒⇒⇒ Increasing Level of Proficiency ⇒⇒⇒⇒					

**Table 20 General Competitive Classifications**

- 4.8.2.2 Proficiency points are awarded to Athletes at Proficiency Point Eligible Competitions in proficiency point eligible events per rule 5.3.4.1. (Note Rule 5.3.3.2, events that do not accrue proficiency points.)
- 4.8.2.3 Proficiency points are only accumulated at NQE and National Championship competitions. Proficiency points are only accumulated in those NQE competition events that qualify for the National Championships (per rule 5.3.4.1) and at the National Championships in those same events.
- 4.8.3 **CLASSIFICATION ELIGIBILITY**
- 4.8.3.1 Athletes may compete in up to two consecutive age categories within each style of dance. Within each age category athletes may compete in up to two consecutive proficiency levels; the proficiency levels may be different for each dance style and age category.
- 4.8.3.2 The eligibility to compete in a proficiency level is determined by the proficiency point total of an Athlete calculated annually immediately following the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships. A partnership is only eligible to compete in a

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level if EACH member is eligible to compete in that proficiency level and if both members are age eligible.

- 4.8.3.3 An Athlete's proficiency points accrue to him/her individually, regardless of the number or length of partnerships.
- 4.8.3.4 It is the Athlete's responsibility to ensure that he/she is eligible for the proficiency level and age category in which he/she desires to compete.
- 4.8.3.5 It is the partnership's responsibility to ensure that they are eligible for the proficiency level and age category in which they desire to compete.
- 4.8.3.6 A Partnership may not compete in any proficiency level below the minimum proficiency level for which each member is eligible.
- 4.8.3.7 A Partnership may compete in any proficiency level higher than the minimum proficiency level for which both members are eligible.
- 4.8.3.8 There are six consecutive proficiency levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold are closed syllabus levels, incorporating only syllabus choreography; Novice, Pre-Championship and Championship are open proficiency levels and have no choreographic restrictions, except lifts are not allowed.

Athlete Proficiency Level	Enterable Events for DanceSport Athletes					
	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Novice	Pre-Champ	Championship
Bronze	X	X	X	X	X	X
Silver		X	X	X	X	X
Gold			X	X	X	X
Novice				X	X	X
Pre-Champ					X	X
Championship						X

Table 21 Enterable Events for DanceSport Athletes

Athlete Lowest Proficiency Level	Maximum Enterable Events for DanceSport Athletes					
	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Novice	Pre-Champ	Championship
Bronze	X	X				
Silver		X	X			
Gold			X	X		
Novice				X	X	
Pre-Champ					X	X
Championship						X

Table 22 Maximum Enterable Events for DanceSport Athletes per Proficiency Level

<NOTE> **(Concerning National Championships)** Since Gold is the highest proficiency level in the Pre-Teen II age category; a Pre-Teen II couple may compete at Nationals in Pre-Teen II Gold and one of the

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following Junior I open proficiency levels - Novice, Pre-Champ, or Championship, provided the Pre-Teen II couple has qualified in that Junior I open proficiency level at a National Qualifying Event (NQE) competition. A couple may only dance in those styles in which they have qualified. A couple cannot dance Silver & Gold in PT2 and then also dance a JR1 open level regardless of their qualified JR1 events. They may only dance PT2 Gold and then a single qualified open event in the appropriate style.

- 4.8.3.9 Proficiency points are accumulated by individual Athletes, not couples.
- 4.8.3.10 Proficiency points are accumulated by Pre-teen 1 and older Athletes.
- 4.8.3.11 Based on performance, an Athlete may become ineligible to compete in proficiency levels Bronze through Pre-Championship; however, an Athlete will never become ineligible to compete at the Championship level.
- 4.8.3.12 An Athlete is considered to have achieved a top tier placement in an event at a given proficiency level, dance style, and age category, if the Athlete has placed in the top 12.5%:  
As examples, an Athlete achieves a top tier placement if the Athlete places:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> with 8 or more competing couples in that event.
  - In the top 2, with 16 or more competing couples in that event.
  - In the top 3, with 24 or more competing couples in that event.
  - In the top 4, with 32 or more competing couples in that event.
  - In the top 5, with 40 or more competing couples in that event.
  - In the top 6, with 48 or more competing couples in that event.
- 4.8.3.13 An Athlete's eligible proficiency levels and proficiency points are established per dance style (Standard, Latin, Smooth, and Rhythm) and eligible age category.
- 4.8.3.13.1 At National Qualifying Events an athlete achieving a top tier placement in a proficiency point eligible event per rule 5.3.4.1 at a given proficiency level, dance style, and age category earns one proficiency point in that proficiency level and in all lower proficiency levels in the given dance style and age category. An Athlete earning top tier placements in multiple NQEs in a single competition year in a given proficiency level, dance style, and age category accrues no more than one proficiency point in that proficiency level, dance style, and age category in that competition year.
- 4.8.3.13.2 At National Championships an Athlete achieving a top tier placement in a proficiency point eligible event per rule 5.3.4.1 at a given proficiency level, dance style, and age category earns two proficiency points in that proficiency level and in all lower proficiency levels in the given dance style and age category.
- 4.8.3.13.3 An Athlete becomes ineligible to compete in a proficiency level, dance style, and age category if, in the preceding three (3) competition years, at the National Championships and NQEs, the athlete has accrued two or more proficiency points in that proficiency level, dance style, and age category.

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- 4.8.3.14 In a given dance style and age category, an Athlete's proficiency level is defined to be the proficiency level one level higher than the highest level at which an Athlete is ineligible.
- 4.8.3.15 In a given dance style and age category, an Athlete is ineligible to compete in proficiency levels below the Athlete's proficiency level in the same style and age group.
- 4.8.3.16 An adult or senior Athlete who is ineligible to compete in a proficiency level and dance style in a particular age category is ineligible to compete at that same proficiency level and dance style in any older age category.
- 4.8.3.17 A junior or youth Athlete who is ineligible to compete in a proficiency level and dance style in a particular age category is ineligible to compete in that same proficiency level and dance style in any younger age category.
- 4.8.3.18 The eligible level(s) of each Athlete will be established at the close of the National Championships in March/April each year and will not change until the end of the National Championships in March/April the next year. The "competition year" will be from the close of the National Championships in March/April one year until the close of the next National Championships in March/April. The Athlete's eligible proficiency level(s) when established after the National Championships for the competition year will remain with the Athlete regardless of their proficiency placement(s) during the competition year.
- 4.8.3.19 If a Single Event National Championship is held at a time other than the annual National Championships in March/April, that Single Event National Championship will be considered as part of the competition year in which it falls chronologically. An Athlete achieving a top tier placement in an event at a given proficiency level, dance style, and age category in a Single Event National Championship earns two proficiency points in that proficiency level and in all lower proficiency levels in the given dance style and age category but the eligible proficiency level(s) of the Athlete will not change until the close of the next annual National Championships in March/April.
- 4.8.3.20 An athlete may petition the DanceSport Council for a waiver concerning their proficiency level due to injury or other medical condition or for situations not covered by these proficiency rules.
- 4.8.3.20.1 This petition will be sent to the DanceSport Eligibility Committee Chair ([ds-eligibility@usadance.org](mailto:ds-eligibility@usadance.org)) for assessment.

## 4.8.4 AGE CLASSIFICATION

- 4.8.4.1 The following definitions are based on internationally accepted age classifications for Athletes adopted by the WDSF.
- 4.8.4.2 The following age classifications are based upon the individual's birthday, which occurs within the calendar year:

<b>Pre-Teen I</b>	9th or less	
<b>Pre-Teen II</b>	10th or 11th	
<b>Junior I</b>	12th or 13th	

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<b>Junior II</b>	14th or 15th	
<b>Youth</b>	16th, 17th or 18th	
<b>Under 21</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Adult</b>	19th or greater	
<b>Senior I</b>	35th or greater	One partner must have reached his or her 35 <sup>th</sup> birthday or more in the calendar year and the other partner must have reached his or her 30 <sup>th</sup> birthday or more in the calendar year.
<b>Senior II</b>	45th or greater	One partner must have reached his or her 45 <sup>th</sup> birthday or more in the calendar year and the other partner must have reached his or her 40 <sup>th</sup> birthday or more in the calendar year.
<b>Senior III</b>	55th or greater	One partner must have reached his or her 55 <sup>th</sup> birthday or more in the calendar year and the other partner must have reached his or her 50 <sup>th</sup> birthday or more in the calendar year.
<b>Senior IV</b>	65 <sup>th</sup> or greater	One partner must have reached his or her 65 <sup>th</sup> birthday or more in the calendar year and the other partner must have reached his or her 60 <sup>th</sup> birthday or more in the calendar year.
<b>Senior V</b>	75 <sup>th</sup> or greater	One partner must have reached his or her 75 <sup>th</sup> birthday or more in the calendar year and the other partner must have reached his or her 70 <sup>th</sup> birthday or more in the calendar year.

**Table 23 Age Classifications**

## 4.8.5 PRE-TEEN, JUNIOR, YOUTH, and ADULT CLASSIFICATION

- 4.8.5.1 One partner of the couple may be no more than two age classifications younger, except in Mixed Proficiency and Teacher Student events, where only the Athlete must meet the age requirements.
- 4.8.5.2 Organizers may optionally combine age groups, for example Pre-Teen I and Pre-Teen II.
- 4.8.5.3 Pre-Teen, Junior and Youth Athletes may compete in the next higher age category actually held at a given competition provided that both Athletes are in the same or separated by only one age classification.
- 4.8.5.4 Pre-Teen I and Pre-Teen II competitive events must be limited to syllabus events only. This age category is prohibited from dancing Novice, Pre-Championship and Championship events. Closed Gold Championship and Master of Syllabus events may be offered.

## 4.8.6 SENIOR CLASSIFICATION:

- 4.8.6.1 Both members of the couple must meet the age requirements, except in Mixed Proficiency events where only the Athlete must meet the age requirements.
- 4.8.6.2 Senior I, II, III, IV and V Athletes may compete in two consecutive age categories and proficiency levels per dance style, for which they are qualified and actually held at a given competition. Dance styles, per rule 2.2.24, are Standard, Latin, Smooth and Rhythm.

## 4.8.7 PRO/AM PROFICIENCY CLASSIFICATIONS

- 4.8.7.1 Available Pro/Am Events

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Available Pro/Am Events	
Ladies/Follows	Open to ladies/follows dancing with a USA Dance registered professional. The Pro/Am Student will be evaluated.
Gents/Leads	Open to Gents/Leads dancing with a USA Dance registered professional. The Pro/Am Student will be evaluated.
Pro/Am Combined	Open to gents/leads and ladies/followers dancing with a USA Dance registered professional. The Pro/Am Student Dancer will be evaluated.
Pro/Am Couple	Open to Pro - Pro/Am Student Dancer couples. The couple will be evaluated.
Pro/Am Master Couple	Open to Pro - Pro/Am Student Dancer couples. A professional must be 50+, and the couple will be evaluated.

**Table 24 Available Pro / Am Events**

## 4.8.7.2 Pro/Am Proficiency Classifications

Pro/Am Student Dancer Competitions (only Pro/Am Student Dancer will be evaluated)	
Newcomer	Student who is in first year of competition in any style/discipline with any partner. Restricted to bronze syllabus.
Pre Bronze	Restricted to bronze syllabus. The Pre/Intermediate and Full indicate level of experience in bronze proficiency.
Intermediate Bronze	
Full Bronze	
Open Bronze	Bronze level dancer, no syllabus restriction.
Advanced Bronze	Advanced bronze level dancer, no syllabus restriction.
Pre Silver	Restricted to silver syllabus and below. The Pre/Intermediate and Full indicate level of experience in silver proficiency.
Intermediate Silver	
Full Silver	
Open Silver	Silver level dancer, no syllabus restriction.
Advanced Silver	Advanced silver level dancer, no syllabus restriction.
Pre Gold	Restricted to gold syllabus and below. The Pre/Intermediate and Full indicate level of experience in gold proficiency.
Intermediate Gold	
Full Gold	
Open Gold	Gold level dancer, no syllabus restriction.
Advanced Gold	Advanced gold level dancer, no syllabus restriction.

**Table 25 Pro/Am Student Dancer Competitions**

### 4.8.7.3 Classification Eligibility

- 4.8.7.3.1 Pro/Am Dancer can participate in a maximum of four consecutive proficiency levels (i.e., Full Bronze, Open Bronze, Advanced Bronze, and Pre Silver).
- 4.8.7.3.2 Organizers are encouraged to offer single, multi-dance, or any dance combinations to enhance dancers' competitions experience.
- 4.8.7.3.3 Organizers are encouraged to offer scholarship events.

### 4.8.7.4 Pro/Am Couple Competitions

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Pro/Am Couple Competitions (dance couple will be evaluated)	
Pro/Am Couple Open Pro/Am Master Couple Open	Open material, multi-dance events only. Open to Pro/Am Student Dancers eligible in A, B, and C, D (i.e., 16+) age levels only.

Table 26 Pro/Am Couple Competitions

## 4.8.7.5 Pro/Am Student Dancer Age Classification

Category	Age	Alternate Combination	Age
Teddy Bear	7 or Younger	Pre-Teen	11 or Younger
Pre-Teen 1	8, 9		
Pre-Teen 2	10,11		
Junior I	12,13	Junior	12-15
Junior 2	14,15		
Youth	16-18	Adult A	16+
Adult A1	16+		
Adult A2	25+		
Adult B1	35+	Adult B	35+
Adult B2	45+		
Adult B3	50+		
Adult C1	55+	Adult C	55+
Adult C2	60+		
Adult C3	65+		
Adult D1	70+	Adult D	70+
Adult D2	75+		
Adult D3	80+		

Table 27 Pro/Am Student Dancer Age Classification

- 4.8.7.5.1 Organizer can use either regular or alternate combination age category
- 4.8.7.5.2 Pro/Am Student Dancers can dance in two consecutive age categories.
- 4.8.7.5.3 Pre-Teen, Junior and Youth Pro/Am Student Dancers may compete in the next higher age category actually held at a given competition.
- 4.8.7.5.4 Adult B, C, and D Pro/Am Student Dancers may compete in their age category or lower.
- 4.8.7.6 **Professional Age Categories**

Category	Age
Pro	open
Pro Master	50+



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Table 28 Professional Age Categories

- 4.8.7.6.1 Pro Master couples may compete in the Pro category

## 4.9 USA DANCE RANKING POINTS

- 4.9.1 Accrual of ranking points
  - 4.9.1.1 Ranking points will accrue for only Championship Level events.
  - 4.9.1.2 Ranking points will accrue for only Standard, Latin, Rhythm and Smooth styles.
  - 4.9.1.3 Ranking points accrue for a couple and the points do not carry over to an individual in the event a partnership dissolves and the athletes form new partnerships.
  - 4.9.1.4 Points will accrue from the day after the National Championships through the following National Championships. Ranking points expire after every National Championship.
  - 4.9.1.5 The results for couples who may be WDSF couples, but not USA Dance couples, will be removed before the calculation of results.
  - 4.9.1.6 A couple's "year-end" total will be the totals from their top four competitions in addition to the National Championships.
- 4.9.2 **Selection Process for the United States representatives to the World Championships**
  - 4.9.2.1 For a given event, if only one couple is selected to attend the world championships, that determination will be based on the placements at the National Championships. For the Under Age 21 category all representatives to the world championships will be selected based on placement at the National Championships.
  - 4.9.2.2 If two couples are selected to attend the World Championships, the first couple selected will be the couple placing highest at the National Championships who is eligible to attend. The second couple selected to attend the world championship will be the eligible couple with the most ranking points. If the same couple would be selected based on both placement at the National Championships and number of ranking points, then the couple will be considered to be selected based on placement at the National Championships. The second couple selected will be the eligible couple with the second most ranking points.
  - 4.9.2.3 If the top eligible couples are tied in ranking points, the couple selected will be the couple with the most points / competition (total points divided by # competitions where points were accumulated). If still tied, the couple receiving the higher placement at nationals will be selected. If still tied, the DanceSport Council will choose the couple to attend
  - 4.9.2.4 If the couple selected based on placement at the National Championships is unable to attend, the replacement couple will be selected based on placement at the National Championships. If the couple selected based on national ranking points is unable to attend. The replacement couple will be selected based on national ranking points.

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## 4.9.3 Championship ranking points schedule

PLACE	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	NQE	Sanctioned Event
1	250	200	100
2	238	190	95
3	225	180	90
4	213	170	85
5	200	160	80
6	188	150	75
7	175	140	70
8	163	130	65
9	150	120	60
10	138	110	55
11	113	90	45
12	88	70	35
13-18	63	50	25
19-24	45	36	18
25+	30	24	12

Table 29 Ranking Point Schedule

### Adjustment to points:

- Fewer than 4 couples participating in the competition -20%
- Fewer than 6 couples participating in the competition -10%
- More than 12 couples participating in the competition +5%
- More than 18 couples participating in the competition +10%

### Ranking Points Definitions/Conditions

National Ranking events will be earned at the following events:

USA Dance National Championships

USA Dance National Qualifying Events

USA Dance Sanctioned events utilizing USA Dance approve software

## 4.10 CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS

- 4.10.1 Every participant and official in DanceSport is responsible for contributing to the integrity of the sport and to help foster a fair and level playing field for Athletes.
- 4.10.2 It is the responsibility of all Athletes and officials of USA Dance to be thoroughly familiar with the USA Dance DanceSport Rules, to comply with them in full, and to exemplify the highest standards of fairness, ethical behavior, and genuine good sportsmanship in their relations with others.
- 4.10.3 Any Athlete, whose acts, statements or conduct are considered detrimental to the welfare of USA Dance, is subject to the loss of the privilege of his or her USA Dance "Competitor" membership as determined by USA Dance in accordance with the USA Dance DanceSport Rules. They may appeal this decision to the USA Dance Executive Committee.

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- 4.10.4 Where instances of extreme rulebook violations occur during a competition, the Chair of Adjudicators and USA Dance Official may determine an appropriate course of action; which could include disqualification of a couple from an event or from the competition.

## 4.11 COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.11.1 Athletes are required to present proof of "Athlete" membership and a photo ID to the registrar, at every USA Dance sanctioned competition, in which they wish to compete.
- 4.11.2 Organizers will not accept a paper application for USA Dance membership.
- 4.11.3 While on the premises of a competition, Athletes must conduct themselves in a civil and sportsmanlike manner. Athletes must not harass or challenge a judge about the markings of that judge before, during, or after the event.
- 4.11.4 Athletes 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 On-Deck-Captain (if any).
- 4.11.5 Athletes are responsible for adherence to the dress code requirements specified by the USA Dance DanceSport Rulebook, rule 3.11.
- 4.11.6 Athletes are responsible for dancing only in those events and age classification categories for which they are eligible, under the USA Dance DanceSport Rules. If an Athlete couple dances below their minimum proficiency level, this constitutes grounds for disciplinary action.
- 4.11.7 Any Athlete who removes, defaces or destroys any of the Master Scrutineering Sheets, will be subject to disciplinary action.
- 4.11.8 When attending competitions, which are not organized by USA Dance, Athletes are required to:
- 4.11.8.1 Maintain his or her Athlete eligibility by following all rules contained in the RULES FOR COMPETITORS section of the USA DANCE DANCESPORT RULEBOOK at all times
- 4.11.8.2 Follow any and all rules specified by the competition organizer, unless doing so would cause him or her to jeopardize their Athlete eligibility by being in violation of any rule contained in the RULES FOR COMPETITORS section of the USA DANCE DANCESPORT RULEBOOK.
- 4.11.8.3 In the event of such a conflict, Athletes must refrain from participating in activities or entering in events as might be permitted under the competition organizer's rules, but which are not permitted in the RULES FOR COMPETITORS section of the USA DANCE DANCESPORT RULEBOOK.
- 4.11.9 Athletes will maintain a record of their participation and placement in all "Proficiency Point Eligible Competitions" in which they compete. This is for the purpose of logging their proficiency points. This record will include:
- 4.11.9.1 Name of Competition.
- 4.11.9.2 Event classification(s) entered.

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- 4.11.9.3 Whether or not a semi-final or quarter-final was danced and total number of couples in the event.
- 4.11.9.4 Final placement in the event.

## 4.12 COMPETITOR'S RIGHTS

- 4.12.1 Athletes are protected from arbitrary discrimination and are entitled to fair hearings as required by the USOC.
- 4.12.2 At Recognized Competitions, no individual, official, or organization will:
  - 4.12.2.1 Discriminate against any Athlete with a valid USA Dance "Athlete" registration on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin {USOC IV.4.B.6} (Except that closed competitions with specified age limits, membership or residency requirements are permitted, as are invitational events.).
  - 4.12.2.2 Deny or threaten to deny any eligible Athlete with a valid USA Dance "Athlete" registration the opportunity to participate in competitive events for which he or she is eligible if he or she has adhered to all requirements of the above section COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES {Based on USOC IX.1}.
- 4.12.3 Athletes are entitled to fair notice and opportunity for a hearing before the DanceSport Council prior to being declared ineligible to compete as an Athlete as provided for in these rules. Rulings made by the DanceSport Council can be appealed to the USA Dance Executive Committee {USOC IV.4.B.6}.
- 4.12.4 Unresolved disputes between any Athlete and the DanceSport Council or USA Dance involving the Athlete's opportunity to participate in competition will be submitted to binding arbitration conducted in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. Expenses will be shared equally among the parties {USOC IV.4.B.3}.

## 4.13 RULE VIOLATIONS.

- 4.13.1 **TYPES OF VIOLATIONS.**
  - 4.13.1.1 The basic types of violations. that can be committed by an Athlete, Official, Trainer, Manager, or Organizer are:
    - 4.13.1.1.1 Competition Violations.
    - 4.13.1.1.2 Prohibited Activity Violations.
    - 4.13.1.1.3 Misrepresentation of Eligibility.
    - 4.13.1.1.4 Conduct and Ethical Violations.
    - 4.13.1.1.5 Official Violations.
    - 4.13.1.1.6 Organizer Violations.
    - 4.13.1.1.7 Anti-Doping Violations.
  - 4.13.1.2 Competition violations. include but are not limited to:
    - 4.13.1.2.1 Dancing in a category for which the Athlete is not eligible.
    - 4.13.1.2.2 Removing, defacing or destroying any Master Scrutineering Sheets or altering in any way, the competition/couple number as issued (folding, cutting, marking on the

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number, etc.). Covering the number in a clear plastic sleeve or laminating the number in clear plastic is not considered altering the number.

- 4.13.1.2.3 Behaving in an unsportsmanlike or uncivil manner during a competition.
- 4.13.1.2.4 Competing or claiming USA Dance Athlete status while his or her USA Dance membership is not current.
- 4.13.1.2.5 Costume Violations.-Mandated Deductions:
  - 4.13.1.2.5.1 When noticed in a primary round (1st, quarter, semi etc.) the Chairperson's Assistant (CA) will inform the Chair of Adjudicators that couple/individual needs to be called to the dais and the CA, representing the Chair of Adjudicators, will inform the couple of the costume violation and required corrections.
  - 4.13.1.2.5.2 If the infraction is not corrected in the next round, that couple will not be moved into the following round, regardless of their placement by the adjudicator panel. For example, if the infraction was noted in the quarter-final and the infraction was not corrected for the semi-final, that couple will not advance into the final, regardless of their placement by the adjudicator panel.
  - 4.13.1.2.5.3 If the infraction was noted in the semi and not corrected in the final, the couple will be reduced to last place in that event by the Chair of Adjudicators, regardless of their placement by the adjudicator panel.
  - 4.13.1.2.5.4 If the infraction was only noted in the final, the couple would be reduced by one (1) place in that event by the Chair of Adjudicators, per their placement by the adjudicator panel, e.g. If the couple was placed 1st by the adjudicator panel, the Chair of Adjudicators would place the couple 2nd and the 2nd place couple would be placed 1st. If the couple placed last, they would remain last. If the costume violation occurs in a final heat of a multi-dance event like 9 or 10-Dance; the penalty would be applied in the heat the costume violation occurred, e.g. Costume violation in Latin heat in a 10-Dance event. The couple will be notified at the end of the event of the costume violation and mandatory deduction.
- 4.13.1.2.6 Syllabus Invigilation Violations - Mandated Deductions (see Syllabus Guide)
  - 4.13.1.2.6.1 When noticed in a primary round (1st, quarter, semi etc.) the Invigilator will inform the Chair of Adjudicators that the couple needs to be called to the dais and the Invigilator will inform the couple of their infraction.
  - 4.13.1.2.6.2 If the infraction is not corrected in the next round, that couple will receive zero recall marks, for that particular dance. Other dance(s) in the event will be marked as recalled by the adjudicators. This means that the couple may still advance into the next round based on the totality of recall marks in all dances, including zero recall marks for the dance with the infraction.
  - 4.13.1.2.6.3 If the couple repeats the infraction in a following round and there is still a round before the final, there will once again be a mandatory zero recall marks for that particular dance, the other dances will be marked as recalled by the adjudicator panel. This means that the couple may still advance into the next round based on the totality of recall marks in all dances, including the zero recall marks for the dance with the infraction.

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- 4.13.1.2.6.4 If the infraction is only noted in the final or the infraction was not corrected in the final, then the couple will be reduced to last place in the dance in which the infraction was noted. For example, if the infraction was noted in Cha Cha but there were no infractions in any of the other dances, the couple would only be reduced to last place in the Cha Cha. The final placements would include the last place for Cha Cha and the actual placement for the other dances. If infractions are noted in all dances, then the couple will be reduced to last place in all dances.
- 4.13.1.3 An Athlete who violates any of the rules in the PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES (section 4.4) will be subject to disciplinary action.
- 4.13.1.4 If a violation is committed by a couple, both members of the couple will be considered individually as regards to determination and penalty.
- 4.13.2 **REPORTING VIOLATIONS**
- 4.13.2.1 In order for a formal investigation into a rule violation to take place, a written and signed statement plus any evidence must be submitted to the DanceSport Council.
- 4.13.2.2 The complainant may request that his or her name be kept confidential only in the case where the evidence does not depend upon the complainant as a witness (Example: Physical evidence of a violation.).
- 4.13.2.3 The DanceSport Council will inform the complainant as to whether there is merit in the evidence sufficient to start an investigation.
- 4.13.2.4 Upon conclusion of the investigation and the DanceSport Council ruling, the complainant will receive notification of the final ruling.
- 4.13.3 **WARNING LETTERS**
- 4.13.3.1 If the DanceSport Council concludes the actions described in a complaint requires a warning, a Warning Letter will be sent to the alleged violator(s). The identity of the complainant and violator(s) will be held strictly confidential since Warning Letters are not disciplinary proceedings. If the DanceSport Council concludes the actions described in a complaint do not constitute a violation of the Rules, complainant will be notified explaining the reasoning for this decision.
- 4.13.3.2 A Warning Letter will contain the text of the relevant Rule(s), and a full explanation of their interpretation in the context of the alleged violations. It will not contain the identity or any information about the complainant.
- 4.13.3.3 The publication of Warning Letters is desirable as a means of continuously educating competitors in the correct interpretation of the Rules. The DanceSport Council may periodically publish a summary of all Warning Letters which have been issued, in a USA Dance publication. No identifying information about either the complainant or the alleged violator may be published.
- 4.13.4 **DUE PROCESS FOR RULE VIOLATIONS.**
- 4.13.4.1 An evaluation of the evidence on its own merit will be made to determine whether it is sufficient to cause an investigation to commence.
- 4.13.4.2 If the evidence be considered prima facie, the accused will be notified of the violation and penalty with the following consequences:

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- 4.13.4.2.1 The penalty will commence thirty (30) days from the date of notification, however, if the violation is a breach of Athlete Status or a positive doping test result the Athlete will be immediately suspended from competing in any USA Dance competitions.
- 4.13.4.2.2 Any appeal of the determination will be made in writing to the DanceSport Council (USA Dance, Inc. Central Office, P.O. Box 152988, Cape Coral, FL 33915) within thirty days following the notification. The appeal may be emailed to the DanceSport Vice President (DanceSport-VP@UsaDance.org).
- 4.13.4.2.3 If the appeal be determined to have merit, the penalty may be temporarily suspended pending the outcome of an investigation.
- 4.13.4.3 If it is determined to commence an investigation, the DanceSport Council will carry-out the following actions:
  - 4.13.4.3.1 An investigative review committee made up of members of the DanceSport Council and/or USA Dance officers will be convened to investigate the facts in the case within 14 days of receiving all relevant materials.
  - 4.13.4.3.2 The accused will be notified of the alleged violation. A copy of the complaint and the nature of the evidence will be provided to the accused upon which the athlete will have thirty (30) days to respond.
  - 4.13.4.3.3 Within 60 days of the commencement, the committee will forward a report on their findings to the DanceSport Council.
  - 4.13.4.3.4 Within 30 days of the receipt of the committee's report, the DanceSport Council will issue its ruling and penalty as appropriate. Copies of the ruling will be sent to the accused, the complainant, committee members and included in the DanceSport Council report to the Governing Council.
- 4.13.5 **PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.**
- 4.13.5.1 USA Dance members who are ruled by the DanceSport Council to have committed a violation., which would breach their "Athlete" status, will be immediately suspended from competing in any USA Dance competitions. Such members will, if they wish to regain their Athlete status, be subject to the requirements and procedures outlined in the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (section 4.3).
- 4.13.5.2 For other violations of the USA Dance DanceSport Rules, excluding those relating to a breach of Athlete status, the DanceSport Council will:
  - 4.13.5.2.1 Impose appropriate penalties at its discretion.
  - 4.13.5.2.2 Suspend an Athlete member's status:
    - 4.13.5.2.2.1 For up to six (6) months for a first infraction;
    - 4.13.5.2.2.2 For up to nine (9) months for a second infraction occurring within two (2) years after a first infraction;
    - 4.13.5.2.2.3 For up to twelve (12) months for a third infraction occurring within five (5) years after a first infraction; or
    - 4.13.5.2.2.4 For up to eighteen (18) months for more than three (3) infractions which occur within any five (5) year period.

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- 4.13.5.3 An individual will automatically regain Athlete status at the end of his or her suspension provided that he or she has not engaged in any PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES (section 4.4) during the suspension period.
- 4.13.5.4 If the DanceSport Council rules to suspend or terminate an individual's registration as an Athlete the DanceSport Council must:
  - 4.13.5.4.1 Notify the individual in writing.
  - 4.13.5.4.2 Notify the USA Dance Executive Committee in writing.
  - 4.13.5.4.3 Notify the USA Dance official responsible for maintaining USA Dance membership registrations in writing. The individual's membership status will then be changed to a USA Dance non-competitor classification.
- 4.13.5.5 The DanceSport Council may, at its discretion, impose additional penalties, including but not limited to loss of USA Dance membership.
- 4.13.6 **APPEALS**
  - 4.13.6.1 Individuals may appeal the rulings of a Chair of Adjudicators, or Organizer to the DanceSport Council by submission of a formal written appeal to either the VP of DanceSport or Chair of the Rules Committee.
  - 4.13.6.2 Individuals may appeal the rulings of the DanceSport Council to the USA Dance Executive Committee by submission of a formal written appeal to the National Secretary.
  - 4.13.6.3 During the appeal process, any ruling made will stand, unless and until overturned or suspended by a higher ruling body.



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## 5 RULES FOR ORGANIZERS

### 5.1 COMPETITION MILEAGE AND DATE REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1.1 No National Qualifying Event, Sanctioned or Registered Competition may be granted USA Dance Approval unless they comply with the following:
  - 5.1.1.1 National Qualifying Events (NQE) or Premier Competition (PC) (a Premier Competition is one which holds one or more WDSF events) must be at least 4 weeks or 500 miles apart.
  - 5.1.1.2 Sanctioned Competitions must be at least three (3) weeks or 300 miles apart from another Sanctioned Competition or an NQE/PE.
  - 5.1.1.3 Registered Competitions must be at least two (2) weeks or 200 miles apart from another Registered Competition, Sanctioned Competition or NQE.
- 5.1.2 The distance calculations for mileage requirements will be determined by the shortest distance in driving miles via automobile between dance event venues (comparing both directions) using <http://maps.google.com>.
- 5.1.3 An existing organizer can request a special waiver to move their date or location slightly in the event that their traditional facility is not available on the traditional dates or other unforeseen circumstances arise.

### 5.2 SANCTIONS

- 5.2.1 Individuals organizing a USA Dance Sanctioned or National Qualifying Event must be a member of USA Dance. Where a Sanctioned event or National Qualifying Event is organized by a chapter, corporation, or similar entity, the individuals responsible for organizing the event on behalf of the organizing entity must be identified on the sanction request form and must be USA Dance members.
- 5.2.2 The DanceSport and/or Professional Dance Councils have the authority and sanctioning jurisdiction over registered (non-sanctioned) competitions, open (sanctioned) competitions, and National Qualifying Events. If the competition is sanctioned as a National Qualifying Event, then Athletes will be eligible to earn Proficiency Points at the competition.
- 5.2.3 Organizers wanting to hold any competition must submit a request in writing on the Sanctioning Request Form provided by the DanceSport and Professional Dance Councils with the lead time as indicated in Table 23. The request must include:
  - 5.2.3.1 The proposed name and title of the competition or event.
  - 5.2.3.2 The proposed location and date(s).
  - 5.2.3.3 A list of the competitive events tentatively scheduled and the number of officials planned.
  - 5.2.3.4 The expected attendance and scope of advertising.
  - 5.2.3.5 Upon request, adequate proof of financial and organization capacity to conduct the competition or event.
  - 5.2.3.6 Upon request, an audited or notarized financial report of similar events, if any, previously conducted by the organizer.

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## 5.2.4 **REGISTERED COMPETITIONS – Non-Sanctioned**

5.2.4.1 Each USA Dance Chapter has organizational jurisdiction over its respective Local Competitions that it may wish to organize provided that:

5.2.4.1.1 Reasonable efforts must be made to minimize date and location conflicts with other competitions in the area.

5.2.4.1.2 This authority has not been suspended or placed on probation.

5.2.4.1.3 All non-sanctioned local competitions must be registered with USA Dance by contacting the DanceSport Council (DS-Competition@USADance.org) in writing, not less than sixty (60) days in advance of any local competition sponsored by a USA Dance Chapter. The chapter will submit a Sanction Request Form with appropriate information and requesting their local competition be listed on the USA Dance website Competition Calendar.

## 5.2.5 **OPEN COMPETITIONS – Sanctioned**

5.2.5.1 The following criteria must be met for all open competitions organized by USA Dance Chapters:

5.2.5.1.1 Reasonable efforts must be made to minimize date and location conflicts with other competitions in the area.

5.2.5.1.2 All provisions of the USA DANCE DANCESPORT RULEBOOK must be observed.

5.2.5.1.3 Unless organized as a closed event and for members of the chapter only, all sanctioned competitions are open to all members.

5.2.5.1.4 "USA Dance" and the Chapter's name must be made part of the competition's title or shown as the sponsor of the event, and shown as such in all advertising and promotional material.

5.2.5.1.5 The event must meet the requirements of a Championship as to the adjudicator and invigilator requirements per rule 5.6.6.

5.2.5.1.6 The adjudicator panel must include at least one (1) Invigilator and be selected from the USA Dance list of approved adjudicators and invigilators (available from [pd-certification@usadance.org](mailto:pd-certification@usadance.org)).

5.2.5.1.7 USA Dance must be notified of the competition date not less than one hundred and fifty (150) days in advance. Sanction Request Form available at the USA Dance website or from the Chair of the Competition Committee (ds-competition@usadance.org).

## 5.2.6 **NATIONAL QUALIFYING EVENTS (NQE) – Sanctioned**

5.2.6.1 The DanceSport Council has sanctioning jurisdiction over National Qualifying Events held.

5.2.6.2 The DanceSport and/or Professional Dance Council determines sanctioning of National Qualifying Events based on the applications received, requested dates, organizers' experience and distance between events.

5.2.6.3 All National Qualifying Events are open to all Athletes.

5.2.6.4 The following criteria must be met for all National Qualifying Events:

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- 5.2.6.4.1 Reasonable efforts must be made to minimize conflicts with other competitions in the area.
- 5.2.6.4.2 All provisions of the USA DANCE DANCESPORT RULEBOOK must be observed.
- 5.2.6.4.3 USA Dance NQE logo must be made part of the competition's title, with the subtitle noting it as a National Qualifying Event and shown as such in all advertising and promotional material.
- 5.2.6.4.4 The event must meet the requirements of a Championship as to the adjudicator and invigilator requirements per rule 5.6.6.
- 5.2.6.4.5 It is recommended that not more than 50% of the adjudicator panel be from any one geographical district and that adjudicators be selected from three or more geographical districts.
- 5.2.6.4.6 The adjudicator panel will be selected from the USA Dance list of approved adjudicators, invigilators, and Chair of Adjudicators by the National Officials Selection Committee. Adjudicator panel must be comprised of at least 50% WDSF licensed adjudicators. The National Officials Selection Committee will determine the number of invigilators needed for any particular National Qualifying Event .
- 5.2.6.4.7 USA Dance must be notified of the requested competition date not less than 12 months in advance, to be considered for sanctioning. The request for sanctioning must be made in writing on the Sanctioning Request Form available on the USA Dance website or from the Chair of the Competition Committee at [competition@usadance.org](mailto:competition@usadance.org).
- 5.2.6.4.8 The Professional Dance Council will appoint a Chair Assistant (CA) to attend National Qualifying Events, as deemed appropriate. The Organizer will pay the cost of the transportation, lodging, and meals for the CA comparable to those provided for the adjudicators.
- 5.2.6.4.9 All National Qualifying Events are required to use USA Dance approved software for registration, scrutineering and reporting of results.
- 5.2.6.4.10 All Athlete registration files, event information, entry forms and categories must remain available for review by the DanceSport and Professional Dance Councils, prior to, during and after the competition.
- 5.2.6.4.11 Organizers may petition the DanceSport and/or Professional Dance Council for an exception to any of the requirements in this section at [competition@usadance.org](mailto:competition@usadance.org). Organizers must provide justification for requesting an exception to any part of section 5.2.5.
- 5.2.6.4.12 Organizers will provide a report on the competition (provided by USA Dance) to the Vice President of the DanceSport Council and the Chair of the Competition Committee within 15 days of the competition.
- 5.2.6.4.13 Organizers wishing to share concerns regarding the ethics or behavior of Adjudicators will provide those on the appropriate form (supplied by USA Dance) and send those to only the Vice President for Professional Dance Council and the Vice President for DanceSport within 15 days of the competition.
- 5.2.7 **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS**

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- 5.2.7.1 The USA Dance Governing Council has sanctioning and organizational jurisdiction over all National DanceSport Championships and over all "Protected Competitions.
- 5.2.7.2 A "Protected Competition is:
- 5.2.7.2.1 Any international Dance Competition or competitive event where the terms of such competition require that entrants therein be teams or individuals representing the respective nations and where the U.S. representatives to the event are selected by the DanceSport Council in accordance with a defined selection or tryout procedure that is open to all and publicly announced in accordance with USOC regulations.
- 5.2.7.3 Any domestic Dance Competition or competitive event organized, conducted, or sanctioned by the Governing Council in its selection procedure and publicly announced in advance as a competition or event directly qualifying the successful Athletes therein to represent the U.S. in an international protected competition.
- 5.2.7.4 The adjudicator panel will be selected from the USA Dance list of approved adjudicators, invigilators and Chair of Adjudicators by the National Officials Selection Committee. The adjudicator panel must be comprised of at least 50% WDSF licensed adjudicators.
- 5.2.8 **SANCTIONING FEES & CONDITIONS**
- 5.2.8.1 Organizers requesting a USA Dance sanction for competition will pay a sanctioning fee as periodically established by the DanceSport Council with the request for the sanction. Non-sanctioned competitions will pay the appropriate fee for listing on the USA Dance Competition Calendar. For Pro/Am events there is a fee of \$3 per entry. This entry fee pertains to single dance and multi-dance events.

Schedule of Sanctioning Fees			
	Chapter Organizer	Outside Organizer	College Organization
USA Dance Listing of a Non-Sanctioned Event	\$50	\$100	\$50
Sanctioned Competition	\$200	\$400	\$200
National Qualifying Event (all events)	\$400	\$800	\$800
National Qualifying Event (limited events i.e. specific proficiency or age divisions)	\$200	\$400	\$400
WDSF	WDSF Fees + 5%	WDSF Fees + 10%	WDSF Fees + 10%
National Championships (single event)	\$250	\$500	\$500
National Championships (all events)	Will compensate host chapter in a fashion mutually agreeable	Contract specific to the circumstances	Contract specific to the circumstances

Table 30 Schedule of Sanctioning Fees

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- 5.2.8.2 The organizer of a sanctioned international competition must reimburse USA Dance for any and all sanctioning fees required to be paid to WDSF and/or USOC for its (or their) sanctions plus any out of pocket expenses incurred by USA Dance relating to obtaining the international sanction.
- 5.2.8.3 Organizers of sanctioned competitions must also provide:
  - 5.2.8.3.1 Free admission to USA Dance National officers to include all members of the Governing Council and the local chapter president.
  - 5.2.8.3.2 Place to prominently display a USA Dance Banner.
  - 5.2.8.3.3 A full-page ad in the program for USA Dance.
  - 5.2.8.3.4 A web link to the USA Dance web-site.
  - 5.2.8.3.5 A booth or vendor space for the local chapter to distribute USA Dance literature.
- 5.2.9 **BLANKET SANCTIONS**
  - 5.2.9.1 Recognizing that the USOC constitution declares that each sport's National Governing Body is responsible for sanctioning Competitions and that other bodies in addition to USA Dance organize Competitions in the USA, the USA Dance Governing Council, in an effort to encourage and support such competitions, may grant blanket sanctions for any number of Non-Championship Competitions held by other qualified bodies.
  - 5.2.9.2 Blanket Sanctions grant approvals to hold any number of Non-Championship Competitions and/or events, provided that:
    - 5.2.9.2.1 The USA Dance DanceSport Rules are observed for all portions of such competitions and/or events, which involve DanceSport Athletes.
    - 5.2.9.2.2 Other conditions, which may be specified by the USA Dance Governing Council, are met.
  - 5.2.9.3 The USA Dance Governing Council will grant Blanket Sanctions only to Qualified Competition Organizers or Qualified Organizations.
- 5.2.10 **SUSPENSION AND PROBATION OF SANCTIONING AUTHORITY**
  - 5.2.10.1 The DanceSport and/or Professional Dance Council may suspend the authority of an organizer to conduct DanceSport competitions or place the organizer on probation if the organizer is found to be in violation of published rules, policies, and/or procedures.
  - 5.2.10.2 The DanceSport and/or Professional Dance Council will notify the organizer of the precise violations and the terms of the probation or suspension by mail or email.
  - 5.2.10.3 If the organizer's sanctioning authority is suspended, the organizer is not permitted to organize DanceSport competitive events until the suspension is officially lifted.
  - 5.2.10.4 If the organizer's sanctioning authority is placed on probation, the organizer may provisionally continue to organize DanceSport competitive events, subject to the terms of the probation.
  - 5.2.10.5 Decisions of the DanceSport and/or Professional Dance Council can be appealed to the USA Dance Executive Committee.

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COMPETITION TYPE	Proficiency Points Awarded	Approving Organization <sup>1</sup>	Number of days advance notice required <sup>1</sup>	Certified Judges Required
<b>Registered Competition</b>	No	Chapter and DanceSport Council <sup>2</sup>	60	No
<b>Sanctioned Competition</b>	No	Chapter and DanceSport Council	150	Yes
<b>National Qualifying Event Championship (NQE)</b>	Yes	DanceSport Council	300	Yes
U.S. Open Championship	No	DanceSport Council & Governing Council	300	Yes
National Championship	Yes	Governing Council	GC's Discretion	Yes
International Protected Competition	No	WDSF Member Federation	N/A	N/A
Competition w/ WDSF Events	No	DanceSport Council & WDSF <sup>3</sup>	DanceSport Council (330) WDSF (180)	Yes

Table 31 Reference Table for USA Dance Competition Sanctioning Requirements within the USA

## 5.3 EVENT REQUIREMENTS FOR SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS

### 5.3.1 Syllabus Proficiency Levels

5.3.1.1 Bronze, Silver & Gold are the minimum syllabus proficiency levels that must be offered at sanctioned competitions.

5.3.1.2 Each event must be offered in a minimum of three age classifications or their combinations as follows: Adult (Adult, Senior I, and/or Senior II combined), Junior/Youth (Junior I, Junior II, and Youth combined), and Pre-Teen (Pre-Teen I and Pre-Teen II combined).

### 5.3.2 Sanctioned Competitions

5.3.2.1 Each syllabus event may consist of one or more dances.

5.3.2.2 For Novice, Pre-championship and Championship the dances will be paired as shown in Table 24. Additional dances may be offered as separate events.

### 5.3.3 National Qualifying Events

5.3.3.1 Each qualifying event for the National Championships must be a single, multi-dance event consisting of two, three, four or five dance events as defined in rule 5.3.4 (Table 24).

5.3.3.2 Additional dances may be offered as separate events, but they will not be used to qualify competitors for the National Championships or accrue proficiency points.

<sup>1</sup> The organization that must be notified of the competition and the number of days of advance notice required.

<sup>2</sup> The DanceSport Council does not need to approve chapter events, but they need to be Registered with the DanceSport Council.

<sup>3</sup> DanceSport Council approval is required before application to WDSF.

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- 5.3.3.3 Qualifying events must be offered in all age categories defined in rule 4.7.4.2 The DanceSport and Professional Dance Councils reserve the right to approve a partial NQE. A full NQE must offer events for all age groups, Pre-teen through Senior V. A partial NQE may offer either Pre-Teen - Adult events or Adult - Senior V events.
- 5.3.3.4 Additional age categories may be offered, but they will not be used to qualify competitors for the National Championships.
- 5.3.3.5 Lead competitors must be provided with a three (3) digit number. Competitors are prohibited from altering the number provided by organizers. Covering the number in a clear plastic sleeve or laminating the number in clear plastic is not considered altering the number.
- 5.3.3.6 All athletes must be provided with medals for first, second & third places and ribbons for fourth, fifth & sixth places and finalist ribbons for additional places in all open proficiency events (Novice, Pre-Champ & Championship).
- 5.3.3.7 All athletes must be provided with ribbons for all places first through sixth place and finalist ribbons for all additional places in all syllabus proficiency events.
- 5.3.4 **National Championships**
- 5.3.4.1 Each event is a single multi-dance event consisting of two, three, four or five dances. The following groups of dances must be used for the classification indicated and will be danced in the order given. Novice, Pre-Championship and Championship Classifications have no syllabus restrictions.

Standard	Required Multi Dance Events
Championship	Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot, Quickstep
Pre-Championship & Gold	Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Quickstep
Novice & Silver	Waltz, Foxtrot, Quickstep
Bronze	Waltz, Quickstep
<b>Latin</b>	<b>Required Multi Dance Events</b>
Championship	Samba, Cha Cha, Rumba, Paso Doble, Jive
Pre-Championship & Gold	Samba, Cha Cha, Rumba, Jive
Novice & Silver	Samba, Cha Cha, Rumba
Bronze	Cha Cha, Rumba
<b>Smooth</b>	<b>Required Multi Dance Events</b>
Championship	Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Viennese Waltz
Pre-Championship & Gold	Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Viennese Waltz
Novice & Silver	Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot
Bronze	Waltz, Foxtrot
<b>Rhythm</b>	<b>Required Multi Dance Events</b>
Championship	Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing, Bolero, Mambo
Pre-Championship & Gold	Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing, Bolero
Novice & Silver	Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing
Bronze	Cha Cha, Rumba

Table 32 National Championship Dance Groups

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## 5.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.4.1 The Competition Organizer and the Officials of a DanceSport Competition sanctioned by USA Dance must:
  - 5.4.1.1 Abide by the rules contained in the USA DANCE DANCESPORT RULEBOOK for all portions of the competition involving categories or events.
  - 5.4.1.2 Be responsible for ensuring that the TECHNICAL RULES OF COMPETITION provided in the USA DANCE DANCESPORT RULEBOOK are followed for all portions of the competition involving Athlete categories or events.
  - 5.4.1.3 Ensure that the competition is conducted by qualified officials.
  - 5.4.1.4 Take appropriate measures to protect the eligibility of Athletes to compete in athletic competitions.
  - 5.4.1.5 Provide proper medical supervision for the Athletes.
  - 5.4.1.6 Protect the personal welfare of the participants and spectators by taking proper safety precautions.
  - 5.4.1.7 Abide by USA Dance's competition insurance requirements.
  - 5.4.1.8 Provide adequate financial and organization capacity to conduct the event.
  - 5.4.1.9 Ensure that due-regard has been given to any rules or requirements set forth by the WDSF which are applicable to the competition.
  - 5.4.1.10 Prominently display the USA Dance Logo in all promotional materials, programs, registration materials, advertising, medals, trophies, and in the facilities during the competition.
- 5.4.2 Any scholarship awarded must have a measurable financial value and must be independent of any future action by the recipients. A cash amount; a free air fare; a free lesson, not involving travel or other expenditures by the recipient(s) to redeem; and a free costume are examples that satisfy these criteria. Discounts on future purchases; buy-one get-one offers; and any other inducement for the recipient to first perform a financial transaction prior to receiving the scholarship value do not meet these criteria.  
Partial scholarships for Dance Camps and other workshops may be provided so long as the financial value of the discount is a minimum of \$100 or 15% of the total registration cost (whichever is greater).
- 5.4.3 Points that arise which are not covered by the USA DANCE DANCESPORT RULEBOOK will be referred to the DanceSport and/or the Professional Dance Council for clarification and/or resolution.

## 5.5 PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 5.5.1 Divisions of USA holding a sanctioned competition or event must include the following on all entry blanks, materials, advertising, and programs:  
"No responsibility for loss or theft of articles left in changing rooms, ballrooms, hotel rooms, or other event facilities can be accepted by USA Dance. Nor can USA Dance be held liable for injury sustained by persons attending the event; it being hereby



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stated that persons attending the event do so at their own risk. All persons attending this event, whether as spectators, Athletes, officials, or guests of the organizer, will be bound by the rules of USA Dance for those portions of the event sanctioned by USA Dance. All Athletes may be subject to drug testing by the WDSF or USA Dance."

- 5.5.2 An organizer of a sanctioned competition will publish (as part of advance materials and as part of the event program) a complete list of competitive categories, the dances for each competitive category, dress code requirements, and any special rules or departures from USA Dance's prescribed Rules pertaining to the categories or events.
- 5.5.3 Said special rules or departures from USA Dance DanceSport Rules will require the advance written approval of the DanceSport and/or Professional Dance Council.
- 5.5.4 Copies of all promotional information relating to the event will be sent to the DanceSport and Professional Dance Councils as soon as same become available. If there are any required changes in the promotional materials in order to conform to USA Dance DanceSport rules or sanction, the organizer agrees to publish said changes in a timely manner at their own expense.
- 5.5.5 The organizer will state in promotional literature whether or not the competition is sanctioned and, if so, whether Athletes will be eligible to earn Proficiency Points at the competition.
- 5.5.5.1 Organizers are required to have the following statements in **BOLD typeface** on all syllabus entry forms:  
**ALL CLOSED SYLLABUS EVENTS WILL BE INVIGILATED USING THE CURRENT USA DANCE SYLLABUS LIST OF ELEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS**  
**PENALTIES MAY BE GIVEN WITHOUT WARNING FOR ANY SYLLABUS INFRACTIONS.**
- 5.5.6 Where an organizer offers prize money and/or scholarships at their event, full details of any and all restrictions pertaining to those prizes and/or scholarships must be spelled out in the primary information packets. Any potential reduction or non-payment in advertised awards due to participation levels not being met, must also be clearly stipulated in the primary advertising.

## 5.6 COMPETITION OFFICIALS

- 5.6.1 A complete list of approved USA Dance Adjudicators and their respective credentials and certification is maintained by the Professional Dance Council in conjunction with the USA Dance Membership Director. Copies of this list are available to competition organizers by emailing from [pd-certification@usadance.org](mailto:pd-certification@usadance.org).
- 5.6.2 An organizer of a sanctioned event which is not a national championship, NQE, protected competition, or international event must furnish to the Professional Dance Council and will make available to inquiring parties the list of qualified adjudicators at least sixty (60) days prior to the event.
- 5.6.3 For national championships, protected competitions, NQE's and international events, the National Officials Selection Committee will submit a proposed list of

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adjudicators for the events to the DanceSport and Professional Dance Council at least one hundred twenty days (120) days prior to the event. This may be appealed to the USA Dance Executive Committee.

- 5.6.4 No Individual, Official, Competition Organizer, or Organization will:
  - 5.6.4.1 Discriminate against any USA Dance Athlete on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin (except that closed competitions with specified age limits, membership or residency requirements are permitted, as are invitational events) {USOC IV.4.B.6}
  - 5.6.4.2 Deny or threaten to deny any eligible USA Dance Athlete with a valid USA Dance membership, the opportunity to participate in competitive events for which the Athlete is eligible and has adhered to all requirements of the COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES in section 4.0 of the RULES FOR COMPETITORS.
- 5.6.5 The adjudicating panel for each category, level, and style will consist of an odd number of qualified adjudicators.
- 5.6.6 The minimum number of adjudicators and their minimum required qualifications are based on the type of competition:

Competition Classification	Syllabus Events	Pre-Champ & Novice Events	Championship Events
Sanctioned Competition	3 Championship Certified (In the style being judged) Invigilator	5 Championship Certified (In the style being judged)	5 Championship Certified (In the style being judged)
Formation Team	N/A	5 Championship Certified (A+, B+ or C+, D+)	5 Championship Certified (In the style being judged)
National Qualifying Event (NQE)	5 Championship Certified (In the style being judged) Invigilators*	5 Championship Certified (In the style being judged)	5 Championship Certified (In the style being judged)
National Championships International Championships National Championships held at an NQE or Sanctioned Competitions	5 Championship Certified (In the style being judged) Invigilators*	7 Championship Certified (In the style being judged)	7 Championship Certified (In the style being judged) (To include a minimum of 3 National Theatrical Ballroom for T.A. Champ Events)

**Table 33 Sanctioned Competitions-Adjudicators and Required Qualifications**  
 \* Number of invigilators determined by National Officials Selection Committee

- 5.6.7 In registered Pro/Am events, 3 USA Dance certified adjudicators is a minimum. This pertains to single dance and multi-dance events. In addition, registered Pro/Am

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events are required to have a certified USA Dance chairperson and invigilator. However, dual tasks of adjudicator/Chair, adjudicator/invigilator, or Chair/invigilator are allowed.

- 5.6.8 In the sanctioned Pro/Am events, three (3) USA Dance certified adjudicators (in the style being judged) is a minimum requirement except for multi-dance events, in which five (5) USA Dance certified adjudicators (in the style being judged) is a minimum requirement.
- 5.6.9 It is further recommended that non-sanctioned events make every effort to comply with these minimum standards.

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Competition Classification	Syllabus Events	Pre-Champ & Novice, Events	Championship Events
Registered Competition Non-titled	Recommendations 3 Competition Certified (Any Style) Invigilator	3 Competition Certified (Any Style)	N/A

**Table 34 Minimum Standards for Non-Sanctioned Competitions**

- 5.6.10 Each sanctioned competition must also have the following officials with the specific credentials listed and names forwarded to the Professional Dance Council at least sixty (60) days prior to the competition: Chair of Adjudicators, Scrutineer, Invigilator(s), Music Director and Emcee.
- 5.6.10.1 Chair of Adjudicators: recognized and/or certified as such by USA Dance or the WDSF or any of their member federations, must also be a certified Scrutineer and computer competent and experienced. The Chair of Adjudicators must not participate on any Adjudicating panel, for any event, while serving as the Chair of Adjudicators.
- 5.6.10.2 Scrutineer: recognized and certified as such by USA Dance or the WDSF or any of their member federations, in addition to being computer competent and experienced.
- 5.6.10.3 Invigilator: recognized and certified as such by USA Dance to invigilate all closed syllabus competitions.

## 5.7 COMPETITOR REGULATIONS

- 5.7.1 Organizers of sanctioned events will require Athletes to provide their:
  - 5.7.1.1 Name.
  - 5.7.1.2 Date of Birth.
  - 5.7.1.3 USA Dance membership number (or their registration number and the name of their member organization of the WDSF).
  - 5.7.1.4 Photo ID.
  - 5.7.1.5 Categories entered.
  - 5.7.1.6 For each category they wish to enter, the lowest competitive classification in which they are able to compete under USA Dance DanceSport rules in that category.
- 5.7.2 The organizer will make every effort to ensure that no Athlete dances below their minimum competitive classification. Organizers who knowingly allow such violations may lose future competition sanctions. The DanceSport and/or the Professional Dance Council reserves the right to amend the results of any category where Athletes are later found to have danced below their minimum proficiency level. This may be appealed to the USA Dance Executive Committee.
- 5.7.3 Organizers must obtain the prior written approval of a parent or legal guardian for any Athlete participating under 18 years of age.
- 5.7.4 Organizers must publish in advertising material that all Athletes must comply with the DRESS REGULATIONS (section 3.11).

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- 5.7.5 Questions concerning competition results must be directed to the competition organizer within 60 days after the completion of the competition.

## 5.8 ADDITIONAL RULES

- 5.8.1 A copy of the USA DANCE DANCESPORT RULEBOOK will be available for public inspection at the competition.
- 5.8.2 The organizer will post a time table of scheduled events prior to the commencement of the event. The time table will be adhered to with delays kept to a minimum. Competitors must be notified, by public announcements, of delays in excess of thirty (30) minutes.
- 5.8.3 Any change to a previously published schedule of heats must not exceed 30 minutes earlier or later, unless all registered Athletes are notified in advance.
- 5.8.4 If the organizer wishes to run a heat earlier than 30 minutes prior to the posted time, they will do so only with not less than fifteen (15) minutes advance notice to each and every Athlete in the heat, plus a public announcement of the change. Public announcement only of the change will NOT be considered adequate notice to the Athletes.
- 5.8.5 The organizer must provide adequate and separate changing facilities for male and female Athletes.
- 5.8.6 The organizer is required to adhere to the categories, dances, etc. specified in the promotional materials unless registered competitors affected by the change are notified in advance.
- 5.8.7 An organizer may have a "Social" or "Newcomer" competitive category, social dance competitions, Jack & Jill competitions or informal Team Matches without the requirement of USA Dance "Athlete" membership. This condition along with any category restrictions will be included in the promotional materials.
- 5.8.8 Competition dance floors for sanctioned competitions must be a minimum of 60 feet long by 36 feet wide (ratio=1.67:1, ft<sup>2</sup>=2160). Length to width ratio of the competition dance floor, must not be less than (1.6:1) or greater than (2.0:1).
- 5.8.9 Organizers may not promote, feature or in any way bring attention to an individual athlete or couple that is competing in their competition. This includes an emcee or other official, highlighting accomplishments or titles of individuals or couples when they are competing. Competing athletes may not be featured in an article in the competition program. Prior to competing, athletes may not do exhibitions, featured dance/performance or teach in workshops during the competition. Organizers may use a listing and/or photos of their prior champions or finalists to promote their competition.
- 5.8.10 Professional events may only be held at the Championship proficiency level.

## 5.9 WARM-UP REQUIREMENTS-Championship

- 5.9.1 The organizer of all sanctioned competitions will comply with at least one of the following Championship warm-up requirements.

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- 5.9.2 For all Championship proficiency level events, competitors will be given non-adjudicated, restricted to entrants only, warm-up time on the actual competition floor of not less than one minute of correct tempo music for the first dance in each round to be adjudicated. The warm-up period will be granted immediately prior to the commencement of each elimination round of the Championship event.
- 5.9.3 The requirement for the warm-up period on the competition dance floor may be waived by the Chair of Adjudicators, if the organizer has provided a separate practice dance floor, which is not less than 30% of the square footage in size of the actual competition floor and of the same type of floor surface as the actual competition floor. If the competition dance floor is a permanent, non-portable floor, the practice floor can be a portable dance floor.

## 5.10 ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

- 5.10.1 At sanctioned events, only the Chair of Adjudicators and the Scrutineer (s) will have access to the judging marks until after the category is completed and the results have been announced. Thereafter, the Master Scrutineer Sheets or copies thereof will be made available for public inspection.
- 5.10.2 The announcement of placement and awarding of prizes will be done as soon after the end of the final round as possible, and within 90 minutes.
- 5.10.3 All Master Scrutineer documents of sanctioned competitions will be maintained by the organizer for a period of ninety (90) days from the end of the competition.

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## 6 RULES FOR COMPETITION OFFICIALS

### 6.1 GENERAL

- 6.1.1 The following is a description of the responsibilities for each official at a Recognized Competition: The governance of these officials is the responsibility of the organizations of which they are members.

### 6.2 ALL OFFICIALS

- 6.2.1 An active athlete may serve as a scrutineer, director of music or emcee only at a competition where they are not competing.
- 6.2.2 No Competition Officials will:
  - 6.2.2.1 Discriminate against any Athlete with a valid USA Dance "Athlete" registration on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin. {USOC IV.4.B.6} (Except that closed competitions with specified age limits, membership or residency requirements are permitted, as are invitational events.)
  - 6.2.2.2 Deny or threaten to deny any eligible Athlete with a valid USA Dance "Athlete" registration the opportunity to participate in competitive events for which he or she is eligible if he or she has adhered to all requirements of the COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES section of the RULES FOR COMPETITOR'S. {Based on USOC IX.1}
  - 6.2.2.3 Give coaching to any competitor during the entire period of time commencing at 12:00am on the day of the first competitive session and concluding with the end of the last session exclusive of Lectures, Seminars, or Workshops scheduled by the organizer and open to all competitors. (This exclusion ends the day after the 2019 National Championships.)
  - 6.2.2.4 Create any appearance of impropriety by engaging in conversations with competitors or their coaches until after the completion of the competition.
  - 6.2.2.5 Discuss the performance of a competitor with any individual except the Chair of Adjudicators until after the completion of the competition.
  - 6.2.2.6 Conduct any conversation with any person in a language other than English when in the competition / DanceSport venue. This includes the ballroom, practice area, changing/rest rooms, officials and volunteers rooms, eating areas, workshop/congress rooms as well as all areas associated with the competition.
  - 6.2.2.7 No official may bring mobile communication or portable digital information devices into the competition area during their working sessions or if they do they must immediately turn them into the Chair of Adjudicators upon their arrival.

### 6.3 CODE OF ETHICS

- 6.3.1 Officials, Managers and Trainers must abide by all Codes of Ethics defined by the WDSF, USOC, and USA Dance (See Section 8).

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## 6.4 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

- 6.4.1 USA Dance members who are ruled by the Professional Dance Council to have committed a violation., which would breach their Official, Manager, or Trainer status, must be immediately suspended from officiating in any events. Such members will, if they wish to regain their Official, Manager, or Trainer status, be subject to eligibility requirements and procedures.
- 6.4.2 Refusal to comply with the administration of doping controls will result in the immediate suspension of the Official, Manager, or Trainer. If the refusal to comply occurs at a competition the Official will be suspended from all events, lose claim to all remuneration and expenses, and must compensate the organizer for any costs incurred on their behalf
- 6.4.3 For other violations. of USA Dance DanceSport Rules excluding those relating to a breach of Official, Manager or Trainer status, the Professional Dance Council will:
  - 6.4.3.1 Impose appropriate penalties at its discretion.
  - 6.4.3.2 Suspend an Official, Manager, or Trainer member's status:
    - 6.4.3.2.1 For up to six (6) months for a first infraction;
    - 6.4.3.2.2 For up to nine (9) months for a second infraction occurring within two (2) years after a first infraction;
    - 6.4.3.2.3 For up to twelve (12) months for a third infraction occurring within five (5) years after a first infraction; or
    - 6.4.3.2.4 For up to eighteen (18) months for more than three (3) infractions which occur within any five (5) year period.
- 6.4.4 An individual will automatically regain Official, Manager or Trainer status at the end of his or her suspension provided that he or she has not engaged in any prohibited activities during the suspension period.
- 6.4.5 If the Professional Dance Council rules to suspend or terminate an individual's registration as an Official, Manager or Trainer the Professional Dance Council must:
  - 6.4.5.1 Notify the individual in writing.
  - 6.4.5.2 Notify the USA Dance Executive Committee in writing.
  - 6.4.5.3 Notify the USA Dance Membership Director responsible for maintaining USA Dance membership registrations in writing. The individual's membership status will then be changed to suspended.
- 6.4.6 The Professional Dance Council may, at its discretion, impose additional penalties, including but not limited to loss of USA Dance membership.

## 6.5 CHAIR OF ADJUDICATORS

- 6.5.1 The Chair of Adjudicators will be responsible for determining the maximum number of Athletes per heat or round which can be accommodated on the floor and by the adjudicating panel without impairing the quality of the dancing or the safety of the Athletes as well as the number of rounds after consultation with the organizer.



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- 6.5.2 The maximum number of couples permitted per heat in championship events will not exceed fourteen (14).
- 6.5.3 The Chair of Adjudicators will ensure that the round is split into heats as required when the number of Athletes competing at one time would cause the quality of the dancing or the safety of the Athletes to be impaired.
- 6.5.4 The Chair of Adjudicators will be responsible to ensure that the music and tempi are in observance of the requirements set forth in the TECHNICAL RULES OF COMPETITION.
- 6.5.5 The Chair of Adjudicators is responsible for the proper implementation of the scoring system to include the following:
  - 6.5.5.1 Instructing adjudicators on the points of evaluation and the scoring system.
  - 6.5.5.2 Correct interpretation of the marks after each heat and verification that they have been correctly transcribed. This rule does not apply when using the USA Dance approved scrutineering system.
  - 6.5.5.3 Referring any score card requiring correction to the adjudicator concerned.
  - 6.5.5.4 Warning couples of rule violations, immediately following the end of the round.
  - 6.5.5.5 Disqualification of a couple with a rule infraction:
    - 6.5.5.5.1 A rule infraction will result in either a warning or a disqualification.
    - 6.5.5.5.2 A second warning for the same type of rule infraction is an automatic disqualification.
  - 6.5.5.6 Verify all Final Summary Marking Sheets.
- 6.5.6 The Chair of Adjudicators will be responsible for excusing any Adjudicator from officiating when the Chair feels that the Adjudicator's sound judgment may be impaired.
- 6.5.7 The Chair of Adjudicators must not participate on any Adjudicating panel, for any event, while serving as the Chair of Adjudicators.
- 6.5.8 The Chair of Adjudicators will have the authority to disqualify any Athlete, or Team deemed to have violated any of the RULES FOR COMPETITORS during the competition.
- 6.5.9 In all matters relating to the conduct of the competition, questions on Adjudicators' marks and/or changes in program scheduling, the Chair's decision will be final.
- 6.5.10 The Chair of Adjudicators will submit a report (provided by the USA Dance) to the Professional Council and the DanceSport Council within 15 days of the end of a competition.
- 6.5.11 Any complaints dealing with Adjudicator ethics or behavior will not be in the general report, but must go in a separate report (provided by the PDC). This report must go only to the Vice President for the Professional Dance and the Vice President for DanceSport. This report is due 15 days after the competition.

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## 6.6 ADJUDICATORS

- 6.6.1 Adjudicators will make independent evaluations and markings without consultation or discussion of Athletes' performance(s) with other judges, spectators, coaches, and other Athletes until after the final round of the category.
- 6.6.2 During the adjudication process, adjudicators of the round may move about to enhance their perspective of the Athletes, but must not stand or be seated together during the actual conduct of the round with the exception of Cabaret, Showdance and Formation Team events.
- 6.6.3 Adjudicators must mark Athletes solely on their performance in the dance event that is being adjudicated at the time. No consideration of titles, reputation, previous performances in other events, preceding rounds, rule infractions, or preceding dances are admissible.
- 6.6.4 Adjudicators must mark a score for each heat of which they are an adjudicator.
- 6.6.5 Adjudicators that are active Athletes may only judge syllabus and open classifications below the Pre-Championship level.
- 6.6.6 Adjudicators must not adjudicate events where a competing Athlete is a member of his/her immediate and extended family, including de facto relationships with any competitor in the competition which makes it inappropriate for him/her to serve as an adjudicator. For greater clarity, the words "immediate and extended family" include anyone to whom that judge is related by blood or marriage, to the degree of first cousin or closer, or adoption order, or with whom the judge lives or cohabits.
- 6.6.7 WDSF certified Adjudicators must comply with the WDSF dress code at all times, for all USA Dance sanctioned competitions.

## 6.7 SCRUTINEER

- 6.7.1 The Scrutineer must be certified by the Scrutineering Examining Committee recognized by the USA Dance Professional Dance Council or the WDSF.
- 6.7.2 The Scrutineer is responsible for tabulating the judges' markings and compiling the competition results. These will then be presented to the Chair of Adjudicators for verification.

## 6.8 INVIGILATOR

- 6.8.1 A qualified invigilator will be any person certified as an Invigilator by USA Dance.
- 6.8.2 The Invigilator will watch all rounds of all events which have a restricted syllabus and will report pattern violations of the syllabus as outlined in the USA Dance Syllabus Guidelines to the Chair of Adjudicators but must not invigilate competitors based on poor execution of steps/patterns. Assessing the execution of steps and patterns is the responsibility of the judges when marking Athletes.
- 6.8.3 The Invigilator may serve as an Adjudicator for open syllabus events, but may not invigilate and adjudicate the same round.

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- 6.8.4 The invigilator must use the Official USA Dance Syllabus Infraction Form for recording each violation.
- 6.8.5 Any competitor who is warned or penalized will be provided with a copy of this infraction form.
- 6.8.6 The invigilator will submit a written or electronic report using the Official USA Dance Syllabus Infraction Report to the Chair of Adjudicators and the Organizer at the conclusion of the event. The Chair of Adjudicators will submit a copy of this record to be included in the Official Observer's report.
- 6.8.7 USA Dance Organizers are required to have the following statements in BOLD typeface on all syllabus entries forms.
  - 6.8.7.1 ALL CLOSED SYLLABUS EVENTS WILL BE INVIGILATED USING THE CURRENT USA DANCE SYLLABUS LIST OF ELEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS.
  - 6.8.7.2 PENALTIES MAY BE GIVEN WITHOUT WARNING FOR ANY SYLLABUS INFRACTIONS.

## 6.9 CHAIR OF ADJUDICATORS ASSISTANT

- 6.9.1 The Chair Assistant (CA) will be a current USA Dance Adjudicator who is certified and bound by the same Code of Ethics as a USA Dance Adjudicator, has passed the Chair's Rulebook portion of the exam, is approved the Professional Dance Council as a Chair Assistant or Chair, and who has the responsibilities described in this section.
- 6.9.2 The Chair Assistant cannot be an individual who is considered a competing athlete or who has a competing athlete as a member of his/her immediate and extended family, including de facto relationships with any competitor which makes it inappropriate for him/her to serve as a Chair Assistant. For greater clarity, the words "immediate and extended family" include anyone to whom that Official is related by blood or marriage, to the degree of first cousin or closer, or adoption order, or with whom the judge lives or cohabits.
- 6.9.3 The CA will introduce himself or herself to the Organizers and Chair of Adjudicators upon arriving at the competition. The CA will stress that their role is one of service to the Chair of Adjudicators and to the Organizer and to be available to administer to the needs of the Athletes. The Chair of Adjudicators is the final authority in all matters at the competition. The DanceSport Council is the final authority before and after the competition.
- 6.9.4 The CA, when presented with evidence of a potential infraction will inform the Chair of Adjudicators for the Chair to determine any prescribed disciplinary actions deemed appropriate.
- 6.9.5 The CA will ensure that all Athletes who are participating in restricted costume events are so notified of these restrictions and given every chance to correct any costume violations. The names of Athletes who decline to follow the rules will be provided to the Chair of Adjudicators for appropriate prescribed disciplinary actions.
- 6.9.6 The CA will have a copy of the current USA DANCE DANCESPORT RULEBOOK and make it available for inspection by any Athlete or event Official.

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- 6.9.7 The Registrar is responsible for establishing the membership status of all participating Athletes. The CA may assist in any disputes. The CA will provide, upon request, instructions on the appeal process to an Athlete if the Athlete disagrees with a ruling by the Chair of Adjudicators.
- 6.9.8 The CA may carry out other duties to assist, as assigned by the Chair of Adjudicators.
- 6.9.9 The CA may also serve as an Invigilator if he/she is a currently approved USA Invigilator and if the Professional Council approves the dual roles at a given competition based on the number of entries. A CA may NOT adjudicate at the same competition in which he/she is performing the role of CA.
- 6.9.10 The CA will complete a competition report on a form provided by the Professional Dance Council and the DanceSport Council within 10 days of the completion of the competition.
- 6.9.11 During a competition the CA will not discuss any observations, complaints, or recommendations with anyone other than the Chair of Adjudicators, the Organizer, or, in the case of complaints, the individual(s) or athlete(s) involved (and/or guardian for minor athletes). Further, the CA will not disseminate or discuss any observations, complaints or recommendations made during a competition with anyone other than the Chair of Adjudicators outside of the Professional Dance Council or the DanceSport Council until the CA is released from confidentiality by the Professional Dance Council.

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## 7 APPENDIX

### 7.1 RULEBOOK GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 7.1.1 The rules contained in this rulebook are based on a series of fundamental guiding principles. Every effort has been made to ensure compliance with these principles in a coherent and uniform manner. Where specific guiding principles govern a section of the rules, these principles are articulated at the beginning of the section. The following are the guiding principles upon which the USA Dance DanceSport rules are based:
- 7.1.1.1 USA Dance is responsible for the proper regulation and policing of the sport of DanceSport in the United States.
- 7.1.1.2 The rules must be compatible with the requirements of the United States Olympic Committee's Constitution, particularly with respect to the responsibilities of National Governing Bodies.
- 7.1.1.3 The Rules & Regulations will be of similar scope and quality as those governing other Olympic sports.
- 7.1.1.4 The rules will ensure fairness and a level playing field for Athletes to the most reasonable extent possible.
- 7.1.1.5 Uniform "Technical Rules of Competition" for all Athletes and competitions in the sport is highly desirable.
- 7.1.1.6 The USA Dance DanceSport rules will provide uniform rules governing all Athletes at all competitions in the United States, regardless of the organizer (e.g.: Athletes from one part of the country will be able to go to any competition in any other part of the country and find the same competitive categories, proficiency requirements, costume restrictions, etc. as exist in their area).
- 7.1.1.7 The rights and responsibilities of Athletes will be articulately enumerated in order to avoid misunderstandings and conflicts.
- 7.1.1.8 The rules will be consistent, clear and articulate so that all individuals and organizations can have a common interpretation of the rules.
- 7.1.1.9 The rules governing Athlete activities and allowable scholarships, reimbursements, etc. will be uniform and without inconsistencies.
- 7.1.1.10 Commonly accepted fundamental principles of American society will also apply to DanceSport in the United States, i.e.:
- 7.1.1.11 Accused individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty and are entitled to due process.
- 7.1.1.12 Individual freedoms and responsibilities are protected to the extent that they do not conflict with the applicable rules.

### 7.2 SKATING SYSTEM OF JUDGING

- 7.2.1 The following is a description of the Skating System of Judging, which is used in DanceSport:
- 7.2.2 **The Marking of Adjudicator's Scores**

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- 7.2.2.1 In all rounds each judge must vote for the number of couples demanded by the Chair of Adjudicators.
- 7.2.2.2 In the Final round each judge must place all the competing couples in order of merit in each of the dances.
- 7.2.2.3 In the Final round the judge must mark his/her first couple 1, his/her second couple 2, his/her third 3, and so on in each of the dances.
- 7.2.2.4 A judge must not tie couples for any place in the Final of any dance.
- 7.2.2.4.1 In the Final round the open system of marking may be used.
- 7.2.2.4.2 When judges are instructed to select six couples for a Final and six couples are clearly chosen only that number will dance. The same procedure would be observed if the Chair's instructions were for any other number.
- 7.2.2.4.3 If it is intended that six couples will dance in a Final and through a tie more couples qualify for consideration the number to dance will be decided by the Chair. The same procedure would be observed if it is intended to have a Final of any other number.
- 7.2.3 **The Allocation of Positions in Each Dance**
- 7.2.3.1 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.
- 7.2.4 **If More than One Couple have a Majority for the Same Position**
- 7.2.4.1 The couple with the largest majority will be allocated the position under review, and the couple with the next largest majority, the following position.
- 7.2.4.1.1 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 will be placed "2nd" and the other couple "3rd."
- 7.2.4.1.2 We now examine the remaining competitors' markings, and the couple with the largest majority of "3rd and higher" places will be allocated the next position, which in this example, is the "4th."
- 7.2.4.1.3 If none of the remaining couples has a majority of "3rd and higher" places, then include the "4th" places (and, if necessary, lower places).
- 7.2.5 **If Two or More Couples have an Equal Majority for the Same Position**
- 7.2.5.1 If such majorities are equal, then the lowest total of marks given by those judges who form the majority, will determine the allocation of the position under review.
- 7.2.5.1.1 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, will be allocated the "2nd" position and the other couple the "3rd."
- 7.2.5.1.2 See Notes under Rule 6.
- 7.2.5.1.3 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.
- 7.2.5.1.4 It will 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

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only their "3rd" places (and, if necessary, lower places) will be referred to, until the "2nd" position has been allocated.

7.2.5.1.5 A definite result will eventually be obtained unless the remaining markings are exactly the same, and if 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.

7.2.5.1.6 See Notes under Rule 6.

## 7.2.6 **If No Couple receives a Majority for the Position Under Review**

7.2.6.1 If no couple receives a majority of "Firsts" then the winner is the couple who has placed "2nd and higher" by a majority of judges.

7.2.6.2 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.)

7.2.6.3 The "2nd" and other positions will be calculated in a similar way.

## 7.2.7 **Compilation of the Final Summary**

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

## 7.2.8 **If there is a Tie for a Place in the Final Summary**

7.2.8.1 If this results in a tie for first place, the winner will be the couple who has actually won the greater number of dances.

7.2.8.2 If there is a tie for the "2nd" place, the "2nd" prize will be awarded to the couple who has obtained "2nd and higher" in the greatest number of dances. If the couples have obtained the same number of "2nd and higher" place marks, then add the "2nd and higher" place marks together and the couple with the lowest total will be awarded second prize.

7.2.8.2.1 If more than two couples tie for second place, the second prize will be awarded to the couple who has obtained the most "2nd and higher" place marks. Still only considering the remaining "tied" couples, the "3rd" prize is awarded to the couple who has won the most "3rd and higher" place marks.

7.2.8.2.2 If there is a tie for any remaining places they will be decided on similar principles.

7.2.8.3 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 will be at the discretion of the organizers of the competition, either a re-dance or the prizes for the places under review will be divided.

7.2.8.3.1 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.

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- 7.2.8.3.2 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.
- 7.2.8.3.3 The "3rd" or any other "tied" places will be decided on similar principles.
- 7.2.8.3.4 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

## 7.3 USOC REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES

- 7.3.1 Excerpts from the United States Olympic Committee Constitution relating to requirements for National Governing Bodies follow:

### ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 4. Olympic and Pan American Sport Organizations (National Governing Bodies)

- (B) No amateur sports organization is eligible to be recognized nor is it eligible to continue to be recognized as a National Governing Body unless it --
  - (1) is incorporated under the laws of any of the several states of the United States or the District of Columbia as a not-for-profit corporation, has as its purpose the advancement of amateur athletic competition, and has the managerial and financial capability to plan and execute its obligations;
  - (2) submits an application for recognition as a National Governing Body...
  - (3) agrees to submit to binding arbitration conducted in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association in any controversy involving its recognition as a National Governing Body as provided for in Article VIII of this Constitution, or involving the opportunity of any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official to participate in amateur athletic competition as provided for in Article IX of this Constitution;
  - (4) demonstrates that it is autonomous in the governance of its sport in that it independently determines and controls all matters central to such governance, does not delegate such determination and control, and is free from outside restraint; and demonstrates that it is a member of no more than one international sports federation which governs a sport included on the program of the Olympic or Pan American Games;
  - (5) demonstrates that its membership is open --
    - (a) to any individual who is an amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official active in the sport for which recognition is sought; or
    - (b) to any amateur sports organization which conducts programs in the sport for which recognition is sought; or
    - (c) both
  - (6) provides an equal opportunity to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in amateur athletic competition without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or



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national origin, and with fair notice and opportunity for a hearing to any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official before declaring such individual ineligible to participate;

(7) is governed by a board of directors or other such governing board whose members are selected without regard to race, color, religion, national origin or sex, except that in sports where there are separate male and female programs, it provides for reasonable representation of both males and females on such board of directors or other such governing board;

(8) demonstrates that its board of directors or other such governing board includes among its voting members individuals who are actively engaged in amateur athletic competition in the sport for which recognition is sought or who have represented the United States in international amateur athletic competition in the sport for which recognition is sought within the preceding ten (10) years, and that the membership and voting power held by such individuals is not less than twenty percent (20%) of such membership and voting power held in that board of directors of other such governing board;

(9) provides for reasonable direct representation on its board of directors or other such governing board for any amateur sports organization which, in the sport for which recognition is sought, conducts, on a level of proficiency appropriate for the selection of amateur athletes to represent the United States in international amateur athletic competition, a national program or regular national amateur athletic competition, and ensures that such representation will reflect the nature, scope, quality, and strength of the programs and competitions of such amateur sports organization in relation to all other such programs and competitions in such sport in the United States;

(10) demonstrates that none of its officers are also officers of any other amateur sports organization which is recognized as a National Governing Body;

(11) provides procedures for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances of its members;

(12) does not have eligibility criteria relating to amateur status which are more restrictive than those of the appropriate international sports federation; and

(13) demonstrates, if it is an amateur sports organization seeking recognition as a National Governing Body, that it is prepared to meet the obligations imposed on a National Governing Body under Article VII, Sections 1 and 2 of this Constitution.

## ARTICLE VII - RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Section 1 For the sport which it governs, a National Governing Body is under a duty to --

(A) develop interest and participation throughout the United States and be responsible to the persons and amateur sports organizations it represents;

(B) minimize (through coordination with other amateur sports organizations) conflicts in the scheduling of all practices and competitions;

(C) keep amateur athletes informed of policy matters and reasonably reflect the views of such athletes in its policy decisions;

(D) promptly review every request submitted by an amateur sports organization or persons for sanction (1) to hold an international amateur athletic competition in the United States, or (2) to sponsor United States amateur athletes to compete in international athletic competition held outside the United States, and determine whether to grant such sanction in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of this Article;

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- (E) allow an amateur athlete to compete in any international amateur athletic competition conducted under its auspices or that of any other amateur sports organization or person, unless it establishes that its denial was based on evidence that the organization or person conducting the competition did not meet the requirements stated in Section 2 of this Article;
- (F) provide equitable support and encouragement for participation by women where separate programs for male and female athletes are conducted on a national basis;
- (G) encourage and support amateur athletic sports programs for handicapped individuals and the participation of handicapped individuals in amateur athletic activity, including, where feasible, the expansion of opportunities for meaningful participation by handicapped individuals in programs of athletic competition for able-bodied individuals;
- (H) provide and coordinate technical information on physical training, equipment design, coaching, and performance analysis; and
- (I) encourage and support research, development, and dissemination of information in the areas of sports medicine and sports safety.

Section 2. (This section contains the procedures by which the National Governing Body grants sanctions (A) for international athletic competitions, and (B) for sponsorship of athletes to compete in international competitions. It is not re-printed here.)

Section 3. For the sport which it governs, a National Governing Body is authorized to --

- (A) represent the United States in the appropriate international sports federations;
- (B) establish national goals and encourage the attainment of these goals;
- (C) serve as the coordinating body for amateur athletic activity in the United States;
- (D) exercise jurisdiction over international amateur athletic activities and sanction international amateur athletic competition held in the United States and sanction the sponsorship of international amateur athletic competition outside the United States.
- (E) conduct amateur athletic competition, including national championships, and international amateur athletic competition in the United States, and establish procedures for the determination of eligibility standards for participation in such competitions, except for the amateur athletic competition specified in Section 4 of this Article;
- (F) recommend to the USOC individuals and teams to represent the United States in the Olympic and Pan American Games; and
- (G) designate individuals and teams to represent the United States in international amateur athletic competition (other than the Olympic and Pan American Games) and certify, in accordance with the applicable international rules, the amateur eligibility of such individuals and teams

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## 7.4 WORLD TEAM SELECTION/SCHOLARSHIPS

### 7.4.1 WDSF World Championships

- 7.4.1.1 USA Dance nominates couples to WDSF World Championships in accordance with the approved annual budget of the Executive Committee (EC), the WDSF's regulations and the following criteria:
  - 7.4.1.1.1 Both members of the partnership are in good standing with USA Dance as a DanceSport Athlete
  - 7.4.1.1.2 Compliance with all eligibility criteria for competing in the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships
  - 7.4.1.1.3 Review of past suspensions, sportsmanlike conduct, filed grievances, compliance with all USA Dance rules, particularly anti-doping and costume regulations.
  - 7.4.1.1.4 Placement in the National DanceSport Championships
  - 7.4.1.1.5 Age division match per the WDSF's published calendar.
  - 7.4.1.1.6 Compliance with WDSF citizenship/eligibility restrictions.
- 7.4.1.2 USA Dance is not obligated to nominate couples to WDSF World Championships. Nominations to a World Team position are finalized by a nomination committee comprised of members of the DanceSport Council, Professional Dance Council and the USA Dance President.
- 7.4.1.3 Any couple nominated to an WDSF World Championship that is unable to attend, for any reason, has an obligation to notify the DanceSport or Professional Dance Vice President immediately upon the determination of their inability to represent the USA.
- 7.4.1.4 Any openings created on a World Team by a couples' withdrawal may or may not be filled by lower ranked couples, at the discretion of the World Team Nomination Committee.
- 7.4.2 WDSF World Cup Championships
  - 7.4.2.1 USA Dance is permitted to nominate one couple to a WDSF World Cup Championship. One Latin Couple and One Standard Couple may receive this nomination with travel stipend support. The athlete understands that they bear any expenses not covered by the travel stipend.
  - 7.4.2.2 All criteria for World Championships selection will be observed. Further, nominations are only available to couples placing in the top three placements in the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships. Consideration will be given to couples in their order of placement.
- 7.4.3 World Games
  - 7.4.3.1 The WDSF in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Host Country, determine which DanceSport events will be represented by which countries. When USA Dance is elected for this honor, USA Dance will be permitted to send one couple per the selected events, subject to the rules of eligibility, i.e. both partners must hold a US Passport. There is no restriction as to Amateur or Professional status. World Games are held every four years and travel stipend

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amounts for nominated couples, will be determined during the year of the World Games.

## 7.4.4 Travel Stipends

- 7.4.4.1 Travel stipends awarded by USA Dance are specific to the event for which they are awarded and are not transferrable. Travel stipends are awarded based on an athlete couple's eligibility to attend the specific event for which they are nominated and their compliance with the remainder of Rule 7.4.4.
- 7.4.4.2 Basic requirements of receiving a travel stipend include items deemed to be good-sportsmanship and in keeping with your role as an ambassador of the USA, such as:
  - 7.4.4.2.1 Compliance with all requests for information and entry forms in a timely manner.
  - 7.4.4.2.2 Participation in all opening and closing ceremonies and meetings required by the organizer.
  - 7.4.4.2.3 Athletes are expected to observe any rounds of competition they are not still participating in. For example, if you are out of the event in the semi-final, you must remain in the venue and watch the final. This is a learning experience and watching the dance quality of the finalist is part of that education.
  - 7.4.4.2.4 Participation in any after-party provided by the organizer. Again, as an ambassador of the USA and your own partnership, you are expected to be gracious toward the organizer and officials and show appreciation for any activity organized in celebration of the event.
  - 7.4.4.2.5 Before an athlete couple may receive a travel stipend the couple must provide evidence of that it has given an uncompensated performance or workshop for a USA Dance chapter. For athlete couples eligible to receive more than one travel stipend, the first must be satisfied through an uncompensated performance or workshop for a USA Dance Chapter, app other travel stipends may be satisfied through a single additional uncompensated performance or workshop for a USA Dance chapter or may be satisfied through ~~There must be at least one~~ a performance or workshop in the local community at an academic school, Boys & Girls club, senior center or similar venue for each travel stipend an athlete couple requests. Non-chapter venues should be cleared through the DSC and should promote USA Dance and dancesport to the local community. Adequate proof of a performance or workshop may include a photo or video of the performance or workshop, or a letter signed by chapter president acknowledging or thanking the couple for the performance or workshop.
- 7.4.4.3 World Team athlete members may request additional travel funds for World Championships in remote areas, Asia, Eastern Europe, etc. or to assist with chaperone costs for Junior-2 athletes. The request will be directed to the DanceSport-VP to be processed by the World Team Nominating Committee and approved by the USA Dance Executive Committee.
- 7.4.4.4 Athlete invitations and nomination letters will outline the specific travel stipend dollar amount granted for a given event. The World Championships and Open

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World Championships, at the publication date of this rulebook, eligible for travel stipend support are as follows:

- 7.4.4.5 (Event / Number of Couples per Event / Travel Stipend per Couple):  
 7.4.4.5.1 When the World Championship is held in the United States the maximum stipend will be \$1,250 or the amount shown on the table, if less.

Junior-2 World Standard	2 Couples	\$2,500
Junior-2 World Latin	2 Couples	\$2,500
Junior-2 World 10-Dance	1 Couple	\$2,500
Youth World Standard	2 Couples	\$2,500
Youth World Latin	2 Couples	\$2,500
Youth World 10-Dance	1 Couple	\$2,500
Adult World Standard	2 Couples	\$2,500
Adult World Latin	2 Couples	\$2,500
Adult World 10-Dance	1 Couple	\$2,500
Under 21 Open World Standard	2 Couples	\$2,500
Under 21 Open World Latin	2 Couples	\$2,500
Under 21 Open World 10-Dance	1 Couple	\$2,500
World Standard Formation Team	(seeking sponsor)	\$0
World Latin Formation Team	(seeking sponsor)	\$0
Senior 1 World Standard	2 Couples	\$2,500
Senior 1 World Latin	2 Couples	\$2,500
Senior 1 Open World 10-Dance	1 Couple	\$1,000
Senior 2-4 Open World Standard	2 Couples	\$1,000
Senior 2-4 Open World Latin	2 Couples	\$1,000
Showdance Standard	2 Couples	\$0-TBD
Showdance Latin	2 Couples	\$0-TBD
World Cup Latin	1 Couple	\$1,000
World Cup Standard	1 Couple	\$1,000
World Cup 10-Dance	1 Couple	\$1,000
World Games Latin	every 4 <sup>th</sup> year	TBD
World Games Standard	every 4 <sup>th</sup> year	TBD

**Table 35 Event / Number of Couples per Event / Travel Stipend per Couple**

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## 8 APPENDIX – USA DANCE ADJUDICATORS’ CODE OF CONDUCT AND STANDARDS OF ETHICS

### 8.1 PREAMBLE

- 8.1.1 This Code of Conduct and Standards of Ethics (“Code”) is intended to provide a framework of standards for conduct and ethics for adjudicators. It has been developed as an Operating Policy of USA Dance for all adjudicators to maintain the integrity, competence and effectiveness of judging panels as a whole.
- 8.1.2 The rules and standards set out in the Code are intended to assist adjudicators to establish appropriate standards of conduct in order that they have the confidence of their peers, the competitors they are judging, and USA Dance competitions utilizing their services.
- 8.1.3 It must be recognized that the Code cannot anticipate all possible situations in which adjudicators may be called upon to exercise their judgment. In all cases, it remains the ultimate responsibility of each individual adjudicator to consider the intent as well as the letter of the standards, which have been set, to conduct himself/herself in an ethical and professional manner, and to ensure all competitors are judged on their merits free from any bias or coercion.
- 8.1.4 Adherence to the standards reflected in the Code is essential to the success of USA Dance. All adjudicators must become familiar with the contents of this Operating Policy. USA Dance expects every adjudicator to take personal responsibility for complying with the Code and acting in a manner consistent with USA Dance values and principles.
- 8.1.5 The Code applies to all adjudicators and Chair of Adjudicators (here in after referred to collectively as “adjudicators”).
- 8.1.6 The Code may be amended from time to time by the USA Dance Governing Council.

### 8.2 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 8.2.1 A Conflict of Interest is any interest, relationship, association or activity that is incompatible with an adjudicator’s obligations to ensure that all competitors are judged on their merits, free from any bias or coercion.
- 8.2.2 Conflicts of Interest arise in particular when the personal interests of an adjudicator influence that adjudicator’s judgment or ability to act in the best interest of the competitors.
- 8.2.3 An adjudicator must adhere to the rules set out in this Code and will retire from the panel where any potential Conflict of Interest arises.

### 8.3 RULES FOR ADJUDICATORS

- 8.3.1 An adjudicator must not judge in any event and must retire from the panel, if s/he knows or believes that his/her physical or mental condition does not allow him/her to perform the job properly without any limitations.

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- 8.3.2 An adjudicator must not judge any event, and must retire from the panel, where any person competing in that competition is a member of his/her immediate and extended family, including de facto relationships, or where s/he has a personal relationship to any competitor in the competition which makes it inappropriate for him/her to serve as an adjudicator. For greater clarity, the words “immediate and extended family” include anyone to whom that judge is related by blood or marriage, to the degree of first cousin or closer, or adoption order, or with whom the judge lives or cohabits.
- 8.3.3 An adjudicator must not accept money, awards, articles or things of substantial material value, or favors or promises of any future consideration, whether as gift or as payment for services, from any competitor or organizer, or from any other third party, who may be or may have been affected directly or indirectly by the adjudicator’s decision.
- 8.3.4 An adjudicator must not make any false representation in respect of his/her accreditation level or experience and in relation to his/her adjudicators’ license.
- 8.3.5 Once an adjudicator is engaged to officiate at a particular event s/he can only act as an adjudicator throughout the event and this Code applies to the event as a whole.
- 8.3.6 An adjudicator or chair of judges must not coach, teach, or give any advice to any participating couple during a competition at which s/he is adjudicating. An adjudicator or chair of judges must not coach, teach or give any advice to any Athlete who is not his/her regular student (and has been a student during the prior three months) at any time during the two-week period prior to the start of that competition, if s/he has accepted an invitation to adjudicate at that competition. (NOTE: Adjudicators may give workshops during the course of a competition which are organized by the competition organizer. – This exclusion ends the day after the 2019 National Championships.)
- 8.3.7 An adjudicator must not threaten to mark a couple in a particular way.
- 8.3.8 An adjudicator must not in any way threaten a couple during the course of a competition s/he is judging and in which the couple is competing.
- 8.3.9 An adjudicator must refrain from publicly taking any partisan position in respect to any couple s/he may judge in any competition.
- 8.3.10 An adjudicator must not seek by any means to improperly influence, or to intimidate, another adjudicator.
- 8.3.11 An adjudicator who is not a member of the judging panel for an event, must not discuss with any adjudicator who is a member of the judging panel for that event the merits of the performance of a competitor in that event or any previous performances or results, before the completion of the event.
- 8.3.12 An adjudicator must not discuss the merits of a competitor’s performance with the competitor before the end of the event in which s/he is judging.
- 8.3.13 An adjudicator must not seek to influence the outcome of a competition other than by marking all couples in the competition on their merits

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- 8.3.14 An adjudicator, when contracted to judge a USA Dance competition, has to judge strictly according to USA Dance rules and policies.
- 8.3.15 An adjudicator must not engage in any conduct that is intended to gain an advantage for any competitor
- 8.3.16 An adjudicator must not falsely claim to officially represent USA Dance in any capacity.
- 8.3.17 If an adjudicator converses with fellow adjudicators, spectators, competitors or coaches during an event, s/he may not discuss the performance of any couple s/he is judging or any of their previous performances or results, until after the end of the event.
- 8.3.18 An adjudicator may not use mobile telephones or portable digital-information devices of any kind on or near to the competition floor during judging. With regard to any questions arising from this policy, the Chair of Adjudicators decision will be final.

## 8.4 GENERAL BEHAVIOR OF ADJUDICATORS

- 8.4.1 Adjudicators must comply with the following rules of conduct, so as to uphold the highest standards of behavior:
  - 8.4.1.1 An adjudicator's behavior both on and off the dance floor must be consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. An adjudicator must not behave in a questionable or unseemly manner in public or at any DanceSport related function or occasion where members of the public (including competitors, spectators and the media) are present in any capacity.
  - 8.4.1.2 An adjudicator must be consistent, objective and neutral in his/her decisions. Biased judging undermines the whole basis of competition.
  - 8.4.1.3 An adjudicator must not publicly question his/her fellow adjudicators' judgment, honesty or good faith.
  - 8.4.1.4 Where an adjudicator is permitted by this **Code** to judge the couples s/he coaches or has coached in the past, the adjudicator must not allow this relationship to influence his/her judgment.
  - 8.4.1.5 An adjudicator must maintain and develop his/her judging skills by keeping himself/herself informed on developments in technique and style, and any changes in USA Dance rules and policies on judging.
  - 8.4.1.6 Where judging responsibilities have been assigned to an adjudicator for a competition, regardless of the status of that competition, the adjudicator must not consume any alcoholic beverage or recreational drugs before and during any period of the competition events, until the end of all events each competition day.
  - 8.4.1.7 An adjudicator must not otherwise act in any way that may bring the image of USA Dance or DanceSport into disrepute. It is a basic requirement that any adjudicator engaged to judge at a competition must:
    - 8.4.1.7.1 Arrive on time at the venue in reasonable physical and mental condition.
    - 8.4.1.7.2 Report his/her presence to the organizer and Chair of Adjudicators.



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- 8.4.1.7.3 Ascertain the timetable of the competitions.
- 8.4.1.7.4 Be available to perform the duties of an adjudicator as scheduled.
- 8.4.1.7.5 Behave in such a way during the competition as to preserve the good reputation of DanceSport and USA Dance. During the course of a competition, the adjudicators on the judging panel must:
  - 8.4.1.7.5.1 Stand apart from one another and at such locations that they do not interfere with the competitors.
  - 8.4.1.7.5.2 Move to whatever position is required to see all of the couples.
  - 8.4.1.7.5.3 Judge independently and not compare notes with the other adjudicators.
  - 8.4.1.7.5.4 Mark and sign their paper score cards in ink, including their adjudicator code letter and initial each and every alteration s/he makes to the score card.
  - 8.4.1.7.5.5 Not make any attempt to become familiar with the names, numbers and nationalities of the participants, by using the official competition program or with any intermediate results or marks of other adjudicators of the competition before the end of the competition.
  - 8.4.1.7.5.6 Follow any instruction given by the Chair.
  - 8.4.1.7.5.7 Concentrate on judging only and not have any communication with the audience, fellow adjudicators or couples and not do anything that might distract him/her, including the use of any electronic device, except for scoring the competition.

## 8.5 COMPLAINTS ABOUT ADJUDICATORS DURING A COMPETITION

- 8.5.1 During a competition the Chair of Adjudicators nominated or confirmed by USA Dance is authorized and obliged to observe the compliance of all adjudicators with the Code, whether they be engaged in the competition or not.
- 8.5.2 Any complaints regarding the breach of Code during the competition must be made to the Chair of Adjudicators. Anyone may make such a complaint to the Chair of Adjudicators when an official representative of USA Dance is unable or unwilling to do so.
- 8.5.3 If the Chair of Adjudicators has reason to believe that there has been a breach of the Code by an adjudicator on the panel of which s/he is Chair of Adjudicators, then s/he is empowered and obliged to notify such adjudicator of the complaint against him/her, hear him/her in reply, and then take appropriate action immediately according to the terms of the Code.
- 8.5.4 The Chair of Adjudicators will have the power to reprimand or replace the adjudicator by an appropriate substitute for the remainder of the competition.
- 8.5.5 The Chair of Adjudicators will document any incident or observation of alleged or suspected misconduct by an adjudicator, and any reprimand or replacement of an adjudicator, in the competition special report concerning to adjudicator behavior filed with the Vice President for Professional Dance and the Vice President for DanceSport. The USA Dance Vice President for Professional Dance or the Vice-President for DanceSport will decide whether there is the need to initiate a further investigation. The Vice President for Professional Dance or the Vice President for

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DanceSport will refer each such case to the USA Dance Executive Committee, with recommendations for consideration.

## 8.6 OTHER COMPLAINTS ABOUT ADJUDICATORS

- 8.6.1 Any other complaints about an alleged breach of the Code must be submitted by a USA Dance Official or another person in writing (by mail or email) to the Vice President for Professional Dance. A complaint about the Vice President for Professional Dance Council will be sent the Vice President for DanceSport and the same process will be followed.
- 8.6.2 A complaint will not be considered unless the following criteria are met:
  - 8.6.2.1 The complaint must be made in writing and signed by the complainant and mailed to the USA Dance Central Office, Attn: Vice President for Professional Dance or emailed to Professional-VP@UsaDance.org within ten (10) days of the date of the alleged breach together with any supporting documentation.
  - 8.6.2.2 The complainant must specify the full name, address and contact details of the complaining person or persons and must agree in writing to give evidence of the complaint to be cross examined on that evidence. If a complaint meets these criteria, the Vice President for Professional Dance will forward the complaint to the USA Dance Executive Committee for further consideration. If these criteria are not met, the Vice President for Professional Dance will write to the complainant immediately advising that s/he has failed to meet these criteria and inviting a revised complaint that meets these criteria.
- 8.6.3 Nothing in this rule shall prevent either the Vice President for Professional Dance or the Vice President for DanceSport from initiating an investigation at any time either believes there has been a breach of this Code or any rule or policy of the USA Dance and referring it to the USA Dance Executive Committee for consideration.
- 8.6.4 The USA Dance Executive Committee will consider any complaint made under this section. Decisions made by the Executive Committee may be appealed within 10 days of notification of EC findings. Suspensions or other rulings issued by the EC will become effective immediately and remain in effect unless overturned upon review by the Governing Council.

## 8.7 DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AGAINST ADJUDICATORS

- 8.7.1 If an adjudicator a) blatantly abuses the Code, or otherwise commits gross misconduct; b) willfully infringes any of these rules; or c) is found to have engaged in any conduct which is contrary to the interests of USA Dance; then the USA Dance Executive Committee will have the power to suspend the adjudicator from judging in USA Dance sanctioned competitions for a period of up to one year.

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