

The 2017-2019 UCWDC[®] Rules, Contest Procedures and Scoring Format



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The United Country Western Dance Council®

Dance Rules, Scoring Format and Contest Procedures

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. The United Country Western Dance Council®

1. The UCWDC® is a group of country dance event directors who joined together to form a not-for-profit corporation.
2. The UCWDC® sanctions and advises the promoters and directors of country dance events and related events which include, but are not limited to, Country Dance Competitions and Country Dance Workshops in order to ensure the uniformity of operation and the quality of the experience of the guests attending these events.
3. The UCWDC® creates, revises, and administers the use of this uniform set of dance rules, scoring formats, contest procedures and rating systems governing Country Dance Competitions and Contestants at all of its worldwide events.
4. The UCWDC® surveys, develops, certifies, and rates Country Dance Judges to create a pool from which Dance Event Directors may draw.
5. The UCWDC® sanctions, promotes, produces, and presents a World Championships of Country Dance to annually honor and recognize the achievement of the top Country Western Partner Dancers and Line Dancers in the world.

B. The UCWDC®'s Mission and Vision

1. The mission of the UCWDC is to preserve and promote Country Western Dancing and Line Dancing as fun and healthful pursuits, social activities, art forms and worldwide sports.
2. Our vision: We want to make every person in the World, a Dancer!

C. The UCWDC® Business Office

The UCWDC® Business Office is the official center for submitting to the UCWDC®, information requests by letter, telephone, e-mail, or fax. Requests will be forwarded to the appropriate UCWDC® Directors as needed. Mailing address:

UCWDC® Office:
159 N. 25th St. Camp Hill, PA 17011-3609 – USA
Email: info@ucwdc.org
Phone: +1-717-763-4416
Fax: +1-717-731-6060

D. The UCWDC® Website: www.ucwdc.org

It is full of information about the organization and its dance events. It contains many valuable contact links relating to the information on the World Championship (Worlds), judge certification, dance rules, contest scoring formats, contest procedures, and other related UCWDC® business.

E. Membership for new Event Directors

1. Your event may qualify for membership in the UCWDC®. An official application for sanctioning, a copy of the UCWDC® Bylaws and the procedures for completing the process may be obtained from the UCWDC® Office or Secretary.
2. Upon completion of your paperwork in accordance with the UCWDC® Bylaws, the candidate Event Director must contact the UCWDC® Office or Secretary to secure a spot on the Council's Spring or Fall meeting agenda to present the application in person to the UCWDC® and its member events. It also provides Notice to non-UCWDC® events that International Copyright laws protect the duplication and use of the UCWDC® Logos, Dance Rules, Scoring Formats and Contest Procedures, either in part or in their entirety. If you desire to use them, written permission must be obtained from the UCWDC® and filed at the UCWDC® Business Office at least 60 days in advance, the rules must be duplicated entirely, without alteration, and released to participants. An official UCWDC® Contest Coordinator must be present at the event to monitor rules and scoring.

II. THE DANCE RULES

A. The Dance Season

A year that begins on the day after Worlds ends and continues up to the day the next Worlds ends.

B. Eligibility Period

Each dancer's period of eligibility is the two (2) previous Dance Seasons combined with the current Dance Season.

C. Dance Types

1. Line Dance and ProAm Line Dance
2. ProAm and ProPro
3. Couples
4. Teams

D. Gender Requirements

1. A Couples dance pair must consist of one man and one woman where the man leads and the lady follows, except for momentary role reversals. The division(s) our competitors register for (and gender they appear to be) is the gender they are and must be throughout a Dance Season.
2. ProAm and ProPro are gender-specific divisions.
3. A ProAm or ProPro dance pair must consist of one man and one woman. One must be a student dancing with his or her instructor.
4. A Line Dance contestant may compete in gender-specific divisions and/or Choreography non-gender-specific divisions.
5. A Team may compete with any gender make-up except a Team "Couple" who must look like and portray one man and one woman.

E. Age Requirements

1. Your age for the entire Dance Season for UCWDC® competition is the age you will be on the last day of that Dance Season.
2. Juniors contestants are those who are less than 18 years of age, with these stipulations:
 - a. All Junior Couples must dance in the older partner's age group.
 - b. Junior Primary – dancers are less than 10 years of age.
 - c. Junior Youth – dancers are at least 10 and less than 14 years of age.
 - d. Junior Teen – dancers are at least 14 and less than 18 years of age.
 - e. RisingStars - are at least 14 and less than 21.
3. Adult contestants are those who are at least 18 years old, with these stipulations:
 - a. Open age division contestants must be Adults, except in couples where an Adult may dance with a partner who is 16 years of age or above.
 - b. SuperStars division contestants must be Adults.
 - c. Masters division contestants must be Adults, except in couples where an Adult may dance with a partner who is 16 years of age or above.
 - d. Age-Restricted division contestants may dance in any Age division for which they are eligible, with these stipulations:
 - i. Crystal division contestants must be at least 30.
 - ii. Diamond division contestants must be at least 40.
 - iii. Masters Plus division contestants must be at least 45.
 - iv. SuperStars Plus division contestants must be at least 35.
 - v. Crown division contestants must be at least 40.
 - vi. Crown Plus division contestants must be at least 55.
 - vii. Silver division contestants must be at least 50.
 - viii. Gold division contestants must be at least 60.
 - ix. Platinum division contestants must be at least 70.

F. Divisions are offered as follows:

For specific division names, see Appendix A.

1. Pro Am and Couples Syllabus Divisions:
 - a. Syllabus A
 - b. Syllabus B
 - c. Syllabus C
 - d. Syllabus D
2. ProAm Line Dance Divisions
 - a. Newcomer
 - b. Novice
 - c. Intermediate/Advanced
3. Line Dance Divisions:
 - a. Line Dance Social
 - b. Classic Newcomer
 - c. Classic Novice
 - d. Classic Intermediate
 - e. Classic Advanced
 - f. Showcase

4. ProAm Dance Divisions
 - a. Social
 - b. Newcomer
 - c. Novice
 - d. Intermediate
 - e. Advanced
 - f. Showcase
 - g. Spotlight
5. ProPro Dance Divisions
 - a. ProPro 2
 - b. ProPro 1
 - c. Showcase
 - d. Spotlight
6. Couples Divisions:
 - a. Classic Social
 - b. Classic IV
 - c. Classic III
 - d. Classic II
 - e. Classic II/I
 - f. Classic I
 - g. Showcase
7. Ascension Divisions (contestants must earn ascension from the next lower division level):
 - a. SuperStars (and SuperStars Plus; when SuperStars has more than 5 competing entries)
 - b. RisingStars
 - c. Line Dance Crown (and Line Dance Crown Plus; when Line Dance Crown has more than 5 competing entries)
 - d. Classic Masters (and Classic Masters Plus; when Masters has more than 5 competing entries)
 - e. Showcase Masters (and Showcase Masters Plus; when Showcase Masters has more than 5 competing entries)
 - f. Couples Classic Crown (and Classic Crown Plus; when Classic Crown has more than 5 competing entries)
 - g. Couples Showcase Crown (and Showcase Crown Plus; when Showcase Crown has more than 5 competing entries)
8. Teams (3 or more competing members), Any Age
 - a. Line Dance Classic Country
 - b. Line Dance Open
 - c. Partner Dance Classic Country
 - d. Partner Dance Open
 - e. Combo
 - f. Cabaret
 - g. International
9. Line Dance Choreography, Any Age
 - a. Choreography County New/Nov
 - b. Choreography Non-Country New/Nov
 - c. Choreography Country Int/Adv
 - d. Choreography Non-Country Int/Adv
 - e. Choreography ABC
10. ShowTime (Any number of members), Any Age

G. UCWDC® Associate Membership

1. Country Dance enthusiasts, who need not be contestants, may join the UCWDC® Associate Membership program. New and renewed memberships become “current” the day the payment is received. Your membership expires on the last day of Worlds at the end of your current enrollment period. Membership is available online at www.ucwdc.org, or may be submitted to the UCWDC® Office by email, mail, or fax.
2. A printable copy of the Rules, Contest Procedures and Scoring Formats is available to current members at www.ucwdc.org. Current Associate Membership is required for each contestant to allow the UCWDC® to track their competitive credentials for each Dance Season and Eligibility Period. This tracking is used to determine Worlds eligibility and to graduate contestants from one skill level to the next at the end of Worlds.
3. Current Associate Membership is mandatory for:
 - a. All contestants and Pros before they compete in any UCWDC® Division at any UCWDC® event.
 - b. Each Team must have a distinct and separate membership for each Team “Name”. The group may not use the personal membership of a group member who competes in another division or Dance Type.
 - c. Each and every UCWDC® Contest Coordinator, Judge, Scrutineer, and Scoring Director who works at an event.

H. Division Entry Requirements

For crossover entry between Dance Types, see Appendix E.

1. Dancers in Social, Newcomer, and IV should not have multiple placements on a recognized dance circuit, and for those who do we recommend starting no lower than Novice or Couples Division III. Any person who has individual competition or performance experience in any genre of dance may not enter Social divisions.
2. Contestants may enter any division for which they are qualified except for the following:
 - a. Couples and ProAm contestants may dance for Overall Championship (see Section III) in only one skill level. While dancing Overall Championship in that skill level, they may dance in the skill level above.
 - b. Couples and Line Dance contestants may not enter both Classic and Showcase divisions with the same dance routines.
 - c. Couples partnerships may not enter as a ProAm or ProPro student-teacher partnership at the same UCWDC® event, or vice versa. Once a Couples division partnership enters ProAm or ProPro, then they may not go back to Couples in the same Dance Season, or vice versa.
 - d. ProPro contestants may not compete as ProAm Amateurs.
 - e. Each Team member may only dance once in any specific division at each event.
3. When crossing over from one Dance Type to another or returning after the Eligibility Period, a competitor may move down one skill level.
4. Once a contestant has performed for Overall in a UCWDC® division of their choice, they may not compete later in a lower skill level in that Dance Type, except for the following:
 - a. Showcase and Spotlight contestants may dance either II or I in Couples Classic, or Intermediate or Advanced levels of Pro Am or Line Dance Classic. Thus Showcase and Spotlight contestants may not enter the Classic III or Novice level of dance or lower.
 - b. If the contestant does not compete during the entire current Eligibility Period.
 - c. If a Junior dancer advances into an older age division, he or she may dance one skill level lower, except Junior Primary Advanced and Junior Youth Advanced dancers may dance Novice as they advance in age.
 - d. Any new Couples partnership or returning competitor may dance one skill level lower than the highest level competitor.
 - e. Crown contestants may enter Classic Open I or Advanced and Showcase Open to vie for Masters or SuperStars. When dancing Open I, Open Advanced or Showcase Open, they may not judge that Dance Type.
 - f. SuperStars and Masters may never move down, except when a Master dances with a new partner who is not Masters eligible.
 - g. Dispensation may be granted to move to a lower skill level, pending a review of scores and marks across dances, and multiple events (if applicable). ***Dispensation form is found in Appendix J.***
5. If a contestant earns a qualifying win in a Showcase division, they must then enter their respective Classic division at the Advanced level for Line Dance or ProAm, or Division I for Couples beginning the next Dance Season.
6. Masters, SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown division candidates, who have become Ascension eligible, only achieve their status after they have danced a full program at that level of competition.
7. Professional Status Specifics:
 - a. Contestants have ProPro 1 status if they teach Novice and above competitive ProAm or Line dancers, or Div. III and above Couples dancers. Contestants have ProPro 2 status if they teach any lower levels of competition. Contestants have ProAm Nov to Adv status if they teach Wedding Couples, Studio New Student Specials, or Group classes, and/or social dance. If you teach any dance form, you may not enter any Dance Type at the Newcomer or Couples IV level or lower.
 - b. If contestants have ProPro 1 status, they are eligible to enter Int. Line or Couples II or above. If contestants have ProPro 2 status, they are eligible to enter Nov. Line or Couples III or above. Those with ProPro status are not eligible to enter any competitive skill level that they teach, except when teaching Couples I or Line Advanced where they may only enter Couples Open I or Line Open Adv.
 - c. If contestants regularly assist a dance instructor, they may enter ProAm as a student, but may not enter the IV or Newcomer level of dance or lower.

I. Division Rules

For an explanation of the movements listed below, see Appendix C.

1. The Classic Format
 - a. The songs selected by each DJ or Event Director, for each Couples or ProAm dance and division, are revealed the day of the competition. The songs played for contiguous heats of the same dance and division in Couples and ProAm must be different and of approximately the same tempo. Other musical stipulations are listed in the Music section elsewhere in these rules.
 - b. The basic timing(s) and rhythm(s), plus the musical tempo ranges for each dance, are listed in the Dance Categories section elsewhere in these rules or in each specific Line Dance step description.
 - c. Classic Movement Limitations, unless the move is specifically called for in a Line Dance step description:
 - i. Moves that include lifts (any type), throws, carries, aerials, acrobatics, drops (any type), rides, drags, slashes, pirouettes, fouettés, sitting on the floor, lying on the floor, or bridging on the floor are not allowed.
 - ii. Jumps and jetés are not allowed except for SuperStars, RisingStars, and Line Crown.
 - iii. Pantomiming, singing, speaking, or acting out themes is not allowed except in Teams and ShowDance.
 - iv. Dance movements that rotate on balance in adagio are permitted to turn only up to 360 degrees except Masters, SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown which may rotate more than 360 degrees.
 - d. Classic Couples, ProAm and ProPro:
 - i. All Couples, ProAm and ProPro contestants must enter and dance Two Step to be eligible to compete except: Syllabus,

- Couples IV, ProAm Newcomer, Social, Juniors, Masters, and Crown divisions. Failure to do so will result in disqualification in that division.
- ii. All Couples, ProAm, and ProPro contestants, except Masters and Crown, must start with their bodies touching each other. Syllabus, Couples IV, and ProAm Newcomer must start in one of the seven (7) Closed positions: Basic Closed (Right Inside Partner), Left Inside Partner, Right Parallel, Left Parallel, Promenade, Reverse Promenade, or Fan. Couples Social and ProAm Social may start in one of the closed positions or in two hand open.
 - iii. Couples, ProAm and ProPro contestants must follow the Basic Rule which requires them to dance one full, visible basic pattern of the dance per standard phrase of music (32 counts for 4/4 time or 24 counts for 3/4 time). For phrased dances, the two measures of basic timing must be performed in each phrase of music, but need not be back to back. The basic pattern must be performed within the character of the dance and in a connected position.
 - iv. Additional Movement Limitations for Couples:
 - a) A stationary split or rotating pedestal is not allowed except for Masters and Crown. For Masters and Crown, rotation cannot be seen as counter-balanced.
 - b) Except in Masters and Crown, dance moves that incorporate shine are not allowed except for Chase, Contra-Chase, Circles, Contra- Circles, and Challenge in Cha Cha. Contra-Chase is also allowed in East Coast Swing and West Coast Swing.
 - c) Free spins are permitted only when they are led from connection. They must finish through re-connection or as appropriate to end-of-pattern and cannot initiate additional movement concepts without a physical lead (shine).
 - v. Additional Movement Limitations for Couples IV and ProAm Newcomer divisions:
 - a) Contestants must use the basic timing(s) (see Dance Categories) throughout each dance except for a foot change.
 - b) Hops, leans, lunges, arabesques, penchés, piqués, attitudes, développés, rond de jambe en l'air, and télé rondés are not allowed.
 - c) Adagio movement is not allowed except for kicks, flicks, floor sweeps, or passé when done without losing the basic timing.
 - vi. Syllabus contestants, except for a “starter step”, must use only the patterns from Syllabi approved by the UCWDC® and found on DVIDA for the respective divisions with only the variations listed in Appendix B (and at www.ucwdc.org). For 2017 (including 2018 Worlds), the existing UCWDC Syllabus may also be used.
For patterns listed above, see Appendix B.
- e. Classic Line Dance:
- i. The Title, Step Description (including motion, rhythm, counts, and walls), Choreographer’s (s’) Name(s), and Video for each Classic Line Dance will be released annually on a schedule listed on www.ucwdc.org two months prior to the usage date for each dance, except for ProAm Line Dance where instructors may choose their own dances. Social dances will be posted, but an Event may choose their own local dances and must post those that are different on their website. If there is a small discrepancy between the posted video and Step Sheet for any dance, both will be accepted.
 - ii. Since Choreographers create steps to a specific song, that song must be played for competition.
 - iii. Line Dancers must space or stagger on the floor relative to each other, and begin the dance after the verbal or non-verbal “count-in” in the direction designated by the Choreographer.
 - iv. Line Dance dancers must follow the Basic Rule which requires that:
 - a) Dancers begin with one wall of vanilla, which is a complete rendition of the entire step description without variation. In an ABC dance, each section of the dance, i.e., A, B, or C, must begin with a full vanilla before any variation may be performed.
 - b) Dancers must perform vanilla for two measures of the basic (without variation from the step description) on measures 1 and 2. They may then vary up to 2 measures to allow for musical interpretation followed by 2 measures of vanilla. Variations must follow the flow of the dance.
 - v. Additional Movement Limitations for Line Dancers:
 - a) Spins in adagio, splits, and sits to recover from splits are not allowed except for SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown.
 - b) During intro music prior to count-in, contestants may move their bodies to express the mood and character of the music and dance but must stay in place.
 - c) Use of hands, arms, facial expressions, body styling, skirt work and hat work are allowed without limit throughout the dance.
 - d) In ProAm Line, the Pro must dance Vanilla and the Amateur(s) must follow the Basic Rule.
 - vi. Additional Movement limitations for Newcomer contestants:
Dancers must dance only complete renditions of the entire step description without variation throughout the song.
 - vii. Additional Movement Limitations for Line Dance SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown:
Dances A and B follow the Classic Line Dance format including the Basic Rule.
 - viii. Additional Movement Limitations for Choreography:
When performing Choreography, the Line Dance Classic Newcomer rules apply.
2. The Showcase Format
- a. Showcase divisions dance to music which is pre- selected for each dance on a rotating schedule. The songs, artist names, and details for usage dates are posted under “Competition Music” on our web page, www.ucwdc.org. Downloads of the music, as edited for competition, are available with an electronically signed disclaimer to UCWDC associate members.
 - b. The choreographic interpretation of the music is one of the most important factors being judged. Contestants should select movement that they feel best interprets the musical nuances, tempo, character and mood of the musical selection and the dance’s characterizing rhythm, motion and style.
 - c. Movement allowances and limitations for Spotlights, Showcase Couples, Showcase ProAm and ProPro:
 - i. A Couple may enter any dance category of their choice.
 - ii. A Couple may begin in any dance position.

- iii. Aerials are not allowed except in Showcase Masters.
 - iv. Inverted lifts held on the vertical plane (rather than cartwheels that move through the vertical plane) and throws transporting the partner through the air are not allowed except in Showcase Masters.
 - v. Two-beat rule (except Showcase Masters): A partner may be lifted for up to two beats of music as long as any part of the lifted partner's head, torso, arm, or leg remains at or below the shoulder level of the lifting partner and the lifted partner is not inverted. Medium lifts (with a part of the body at or below waist level) are allowed.
 - vi. There are no movement limitations in Showcase Masters.
 - d. Movement allowances and limitations for Line Dance Showcase and Solo Medleys within SuperStars, RisingStars, and Line Crown:
 - i. A contestant may begin the dance facing any direction of his or her choosing and may begin the dance at any time.
 - ii. In Line Dance Showcase, a contestant must dance repetitive patterns according to the phrasing of the music.
 - iii. Aerials are not allowed in Crown Solo Medley.
 - iv. There are no movement limitations in SuperStars and RisingStars Solo Medley.
3. The Team Format
- a. Teams may enter in separate divisions under the same Team "Name", but may only compete once in any single division at a UCWDC® event. Teams competing in separate divisions must do so with different song selections and different choreography.
 - b. An individual member of any team may dance in any Team division under any Team Name, but may not dance in a division more than once at the same event.
 - c. Teams Movement Limitations:
 - i. In Teams Line Classic Country, Classic Line movement limitations will apply.
 - ii. Teams Partner Classic Country, Classic Masters (flights) movement limitations will apply.
 - iii. In Teams Line Open, Partner Open and Combo, the respective Line and Couples Crown Solo Medley rules apply.
 - iv. There are no performance limitations in Team Cabaret or International.
4. The ShowTime Format
- There are no performance limitations when performing a ShowTime routine (wheel chair dancers may perform).

J. Floor Craft

1. For all dances, contestants should be courteous at all times on the floor, as well as vigilant so as not to interfere with other contestants.
2. For Couples, ProAm, and ProPro progressive dances, contestants should generally move in Line-Of-Dance (LOD), counter-clockwise around the outside of the dance floor. When a dancer performs a stationary movement in a progressive dance, it should be to the outside of the floor, and as long as it does not block the inside lane, the stationary contestant has the right-of-way. If another contestant slows or stops, trailing dancers should pass on the inside (toward the center of the dance floor).
3. For Couples, ProAm, and ProPro spot dances, contestants should generally remain in place. Once established on a spot, stationary dancers have the right-of-way over any dancer moving toward their space. When spot dancers use traveling movements they need to return to their original spot unless they are moving to an empty space. Stationary contestants have the right-of-way for their spot along with reasonable space in which to perform.
4. Based on Judge Methodology, "blocking" of routines should only be done in ProAm Advanced, ProPro, and Couples II or above.
5. For Line Dance categories, once the contestants evenly space or stagger themselves on the floor relative to each other, everyone's "dance space" is revealed. Contestants should perform so as to reasonably maintain their relative position on the floor, i.e., go with the Flow of Dance according to the basic dance description throughout the dance. Even when performing variations, Flow of Dance must be maintained.

K. Costuming

1. Contestants in all Divisions except Team Cabaret, Team International and ShowTime must wear:
 - a. Costumes that are Country-Western and are appropriate to the dance, the arena, and the person wearing them. A visible yoke in the design of the outfit is a guide, but not a guarantee, that the costume looks country or western. Country-Western costumes are not required in Line Dances that are danced to non-country music. The Step Sheets will indicate whether the dance is country or non-country.
 - b. Traditional looking Cowboy boots except:
 - i. Syllabus, Newcomer, Social and Couples IV contestants who are required to wear boots at Worlds, and are encouraged, but not required, to wear boots at other events.
 - ii. Funky/Street and Novelty/Stage contestants who may wear any type of footwear that further embellishes the look of these styles of dance as may Line Dancers competing to non-country music (indicated on the Step Sheets).
 - iii. Team Line contestants may wear lace-up Ropers.
 - c. Traditional looking Cowboy hats for men except:
 - i. Syllabus, Newcomer Social and Couples IV dancers must wear Cowboy hats at Worlds, and are encouraged, but not required, to wear Cowboy hats at other events.
 - ii. Funky/Street and Novelty/Stage contestants may wear any type of hat or headwear that further embellishes the look of these styles of dance as may Line Dancers competing to non-country music (indicated on the Step Sheets).
 - d. Hose (tights) and dance pants (shorts) for women, if either are revealed during the dance performance.
 - e. Masters and Crown are permitted tear-away skirts which, if not used in Solo Medley or ShowDance, cannot remain on the floor when discarded and afterwards must be removed by the competitors.
 - f. Sponsored logos on costumes are allowed if they are no larger than 5 inches by 5 inches in dimension per article of clothing. Logos should be tasteful and not detract from the costume.

- g. Junior contestants may not wear boots or other footwear with more than a 1.5"/3.75 cm heel.
2. Syllabus, Newcomer, Social and Couples IV contestants are not allowed to wear costumes that have sequins, rhinestones, beads or metal embellishments built into the design of the outfit, or metallic threads or dots woven into or pressed into the costume. This does not include jewelry, which can include bracelets, necklaces, broaches, hatbands, hair-combs, rings, earrings, collar-tips, button snaps, belt buckles (but not the belt itself), boot bracelets, or stirrups. Discretion and tasteful decorum appropriate to the style of country and the story of the dance performed is highly encouraged.
3. When ProAm Syllabus, Newcomer, and/or Social are danced in a separate session, the Pros must also adhere to Newcomer costume rules, except that Pros are required to wear hats and boots.
4. Country Club Challenge: No costume requirements except a Country look and a hat for the guys.
5. Team Cabaret and ShowTime contestants have no costuming requirements or limitations, and are highly encouraged to wear whatever clothing fits the style or theme of the performance.
6. Please remember that how a contestant presents him or herself for performance is part of the final placement on every judge's ballot, in every dance, according to the style and story of the dance. It is essential to consider that the entire visual or "look" of the performance is judged- costume as well as steps.
7. Props are anything that is not normally worn as clothing and are only allowed in Team Cabaret, Team Open, Team Combo, Team International, ShowTime, ShowDance, Spotlights and Solo Medleys. Props must be portable, not living, and delivered to and removed from the performance arena only by the contestants. Performers and props must not touch audience or staff. Time for setup will be included in performance time - no extra time will be allowed- and removal of the prop must occur on the walk-off after performers take their bow.

L. Choreography

Like music, under international law, all original choreography is automatically copyrighted when it has been performed and may not be copied, reproduced, or imitated without permission by the owner under penalty of law. Movement Limitations for Choreography: When performing Choreography, contestants must dance only Vanilla – complete renditions of the entire step description without variation throughout the song

1. There are five (5) competitive categories:
 - a. Country Newcomer/Novice
 - b. Country Intermediate/Advanced
 - c. Non-Country Newcomer/Novice
 - d. Non-Country Intermediate/Advanced
 - e. ABC
2. Each Choreography entry is an original dance performed by dancers with the choreographer physically present. Since the contestant selects the music, it is essential that the dance's rhythm, motion and character match that music.
3. The dance should have some element that will make it popular and appear to be easy to teach to social dancers within the level in which it is entered, i.e., Newcomer/Novice or Intermediate/Advanced. The dance should also have some 'appeal' that will give it longevity, impact or influence on the dance community.
4. The dance itself is what is judged, not the performer(s) or their community.
5. With their contestant registration, Choreographers are required to provide a printed step description of the dance detailing the following:
 - a. Dance Title and Choreographer
 - b. The number of walls and number of counts
 - c. The level of the dance
 - d. Song title and artist
 - e. The basic pattern and rhythm
 - f. An ABC dance entry should specify the number of counts per phrase (A, B, C, etc.) and the phrase order from beginning to end.
6. If a contestant wishes their Choreography entry to be considered for use as a UCWDC® dance, a digital video must be included with the step description.

M. Music

Competition Music preview is not allowed for any Couples or ProAm divisions except Syllabus, IV and Newcomer, where songs may rotate but all must be previewed. Warm-ups to music that is not used for competition, or is a set of music that is randomly rotated, are encouraged for divisions not previewed. We request that DJ's make every possible effort to play phrased music for the phrased dances (Polka, Cha-Cha, NightClub, and Waltz). It is highly recommended that Polka be 2/4 time, NightClub be 4/4 time and Waltz be 3/4 time. It is also highly recommended that within a set of selected music for a specific dance, that the intro of each song is the same phrase length, and that the music is played to the end of phrase after the 90-second stipulated song duration. For the non-phrased dances (Triple Two, Two-Step, East Coast Swing, and West Coast Swing), we request that all music to be pulsed appropriately. It is highly recommended that Triple Two has soft upbeats, Two-Step has definitive downbeats that are not double-timed, and both Swings are danced to backbeat swing music.

1. Competition Music length minimums and maximums (which may extend to the end of the phrase):
 - a. Couples (except Syllabus and Social) - 2 minutes
 - b. Classic Masters and Classic Crown - 1½ minutes
 - c. Classic Masters and Classic Crown ShowDance - up to 2½ minutes where at least 2 minutes must be dancing to music.
 - d. ProAm and ProPro (except Syllabus) - 1 ½ minute
 - e. Syllabus - 1 minute

- f. Social - 45 seconds to 2 minutes
 - g. Line Dance except Social - 2 minutes
 - h. Line Dance ProAm - 1½ minutes
 - i. Line Dance Choreography except ABC - 1½ minutes
 - j. Line Dance Choreography ABC - 2 minutes
 - k. Spotlight (ProAm and ProPro) - 2½ to 4 minutes
 - l. Solo Medley, (Masters, SuperStars, RisingStars) - 4 to 7 minutes.
 - m. Crown Solo Medley - 2 ½ to 5 minutes
 - n. Teams - 3 to 5 minutes
 - o. ShowTime – 2 ½ - 15 minutes
2. Showcase Music: The songs and artist names are posted under “Music” on our web page, www.ucwdc.org, at least 2 months before they are first used at UCWDC® competitions. Showcase music lengths will be at least 2 minutes.
 3. For Event Music Selections, all Classic music must be Country or sound Country except Line Dance which will use the song specified on the step sheet.
 4. Contestant-selected music limitations:
 - a. Contestant-selected music must be Country or sound Country for all parts of their performance, except:
 - i. Non-Country Choreography divisions.
 - ii. Team Line and Partner Open, Combo, Cabaret, and International programs which may use any type of music without limits.
 - iii. Line Dance Crown, RisingStars and SuperStars Solo Medleys, all of which may use up to a combined total of 50% non-Country music.
 - iv. Masters and Showcase Crown Solo Medleys where only music used for internal requirements must be Country or sound Country.
 - b. Showcase Masters self-selected music for Waltz and Two Step must be a single song. If the song is edited, it may not contain anything not found on the original CD and may not be longer than the original song.
 - c. When determining the “country-ness” of a song, it is deemed to be Country music if it:
 - i. Made it on to nationally syndicated Country music charts.
 - ii. Had air play on a recognized County Western radio station.
 - iii. Was released for Country radio, TV, video, CD, or DVD.
 - d. Contestant-Selected Music:

It is the contestant’s responsibility to submit music 24 hours prior to the competition at every Regional Event where it is to be used and at least 96 hours prior to the performance at Worlds. The music must be accompanied by a properly filled out Contestant-Selected Music Itinerary (see Appendix H). The music will be audited during competition for all requirements and must be submitted on a USB drive to the auditor designated by each specific event. The procedure for providing the information, how the information is evaluated and how any penalties are assessed if the program does not meet applicable rules are also described in Appendix H.
 - e. Line Dance ProAm entries must be a single song of up to 1 ½ minutes in length.
 - f. Brief, recorded introductions and curtain calls are permitted. Clocking begins when either the performance or the performance-sound begins, whichever comes first. Clocking ends when either the performance or the performance-sound ends, whichever comes last (not including curtain calls).

N. Graduation Criteria

1. Graduation Criteria apply to all Dance Types except Teams and Choreography divisions.
2. Dancers graduate on the first day of the next Dance Season except for the following: when a competitor or couple dances for an overall the first time in a Dance Season and accumulates a majority of Gold Graduates or AA’s with the Graduation Box checked over all the judges in the dances that made up their overall, they must immediately graduate to the next higher level once they are informed by the Vice President of Rules.
3. Eligible wins occur if there are three or more contestants competing for overall, except if the majority of judges’ marks in the dances that count toward overall are grades of C or medals S or less. In the case of less than three contestants competing for overall, a win counts toward graduation if the majority of judges’ marks in dances that count toward overall are grades A and AA or medals GH and GG. At least 25% of those grades/medals must be AA or GG.
4. Graduation earned at UCWDC® Regional Events:
 - a. Graduating in one Dance Type will not cause graduation in other Dance Types unless a competitor is already in separate levels. No competitor may dance more than one level different in another Dance Type without a dispensation. **For crossover between Dance Types, please see Appendix E. Dispensation form is found in Appendix J.**
 - b. When a competitor or couple dances for an overall the first time in a Dance Season and accumulates a majority of grade AA or medal GG with the Graduation Box checked over all the judges in the dances that made up their overall, they must immediately graduate to the next higher level once they are informed by the Vice President of Rules.
 - c. If a contestant qualifies for an overall in a division, at a particular skill level, they may dance one or more dances in the next higher skill level at the same event (and must dance Two Step if it is required). If the contestant dances overall in the next higher skill level, they have self-graduated into the higher skill level and may no longer dance in the lower skill level. Contestants may not dance at a higher skill level at Worlds.
 - d. Number of eligible wins :
 - i. Couples, Line Dance, and ProAm contestants must graduate to the next higher level from the:
 - a) IV or Newcomer level if they have eligible wins at two or more UCWDC® events during the current Eligibility Period.
 - b) III or Novice level if they have eligible wins at two or more UCWDC® events during the current Eligibility Period.
 - c) II or Intermediate level if they have eligible wins at three or more UCWDC® events during the current Eligibility

- Period.
- d) Ascension into the Masters divisions occurs when a partnership is formed by two people who have a combined lifetime total of eight first place overall eligible wins in the Classic Open I and/or Showcase Open divisions at UCWDC® events. At least two of their wins must have been danced with the current partnership.
 - e) Ascension into the Crown divisions occurs when a partnership is formed by two people who have a combined lifetime total of eight first place overall eligible wins in the Classic Crystal I (once the contestants turn 40), Diamond I, Silver I, or Gold I/II (which graduates to Crown Plus) and/or Showcase Diamond divisions at UCWDC® Events. At least two of their wins must have been danced with the current partnership.
- ii. Ascension into SuperStars, RisingStars and Line Dance Crown divisions occurs when a contestant has a combined lifetime total of four first place overall eligible wins in Classic Advanced and Showcase divisions at UCWDC® events. At least one eligible win must come from each of Classic Advanced and Showcase.
 - a) For SuperStars, the wins must come from the Open Advanced and Showcase Open divisions.
 - b) For RisingStars, the wins must come from the Classic Teen Advanced and Showcase Teen divisions. RisingStars contestants may choose at age 18 to:
 - Leave RisingStars and enter Classic Open Advanced or
 - Stay in RisingStars and ascend to SuperStars during the season in which they turn 20 years of age. They may only ascend if they have competed for overall in RisingStars. Once made, that decision is final.
 - c) For Crown, the wins must come from Classic Crystal Advanced (once the contestant turns 40), Diamond Advanced and Silver Advanced, Gold Advanced and Showcase Diamond divisions.
5. Graduation criteria earned from a Continental Championship:
It will be the same as from any UCWDC® Regional Event excluding the World Championships.
 6. Graduation earned at The World Championship of Country Dance (Worlds):
 - a. Except for graduation to Ascension Divisions (Masters, Couples Crown, SuperStars, RisingStars and Line Crown divisions), every contestant or competing couple who wins a first place Overall title at Worlds (with grades of B, G or better in all dances that count toward the overall) must graduate to the next higher level of competition, unless they have fewer than three competing for Overall in their division. In this case, contestant or competing couple will graduate only if the majority of judges' marks in dances that count toward overall are grades A and AA or medals GH and GG. At least 25% of those grades/medals must be AA or GG.
 - b. SuperStars, RisingStars and Line Crown divisions:
 - i. Ascension is accomplished by first place overall eligible wins in both the respective Classic Advanced and Showcase divisions. These wins do not need to be gained at the same Worlds.
 - ii. Eligible wins in either, but not both, of these divisions count as two Regional Event wins towards ascension to the relevant division.
 - iii. Candidates may combine their qualifying wins in either Classic or Showcase at UCWDC® events with their qualifying win at Worlds in the other style.
 - c. Masters and Couples Crown divisions:
Ascension to the Masters and Couples Crown divisions is accomplished by a first place overall eligible win in the respective Classic I or Showcase division at Worlds.
 - d. In addition, all contestants who dance for an overall award at a World Championship Event graduate to the next higher division on a scale which depends on the total number of contestants. They graduate if they have one eligible win at a Regional Event and they won:
 - i. Second place overall at Worlds where there were ten to fourteen overall contestants.
 - ii. Second or third place overall at Worlds where there were fifteen to nineteen overall contestants.
 - iii. Second, third or fourth place overall at Worlds where there were twenty to twenty-four overall contestants.
 - iv. Second, third, fourth or fifth place overall at Worlds where there were twenty-five or more overall contestants.

O. Dance Categories

1. Couples, ProAm and ProPro Dance Categories

The World Championship Classic and Showcase Couples, ProAm and ProPro Dance Categories are Triple Two, Polka, NightClub, Cha Cha, Waltz, Two Step, East Coast Swing, and West Coast Swing, danced in this order at all UCWDC® events except for Masters and Crown Classic, which will dance their chosen dances in two flights in the following order: First flight, slow or andante dances: Waltz, NightClub, Triple Two, and West Coast Swing; Second flight, fast or allegro dances: Two Step, Cha Cha, Polka, and East Coast Swing. The music for all flights will be automated with exactly a 30 second break between dances. A warning tone will sound 5 seconds before the music. Contestants will signify they are not dancing a specific dance by stepping off the floor in which case they're required to stand within 3 feet of the floor and not consume food or beverages and in the true spirit of good sportsmanship must remain on the side of the floor when not dancing until the end of the flight. Flights will be in the same dance session with at least 10 minutes between flights.

These UCWDC® contest dance categories list the minimum, maximum and preferred musical tempos in beats per minute (BPM) for Classic Couples, ProAm and ProPro. These basic timings fulfill the Basic Rule for each dance. To fully define the dances, **refer to Appendix F** (The Judge Certification Curriculum and Standards). Timing notations in the dance categories: Black indicates a weight change; Grey (**or Red**) denotes no weight change. To meet the Basic Rule for the 'phrased' dances e.g., Waltz, Polka, Nightclub and Cha Cha, two measures of basic timing must be performed in each phrase of music (32 counts for 4/4 time or 24 counts for 3/4 time), but need not be back to back.

a. Worlds Core Dances:

- 1) **Two Step** *For Syllabus, IV, New, Plat: 172-180, 174 preferred. For III or Nov: 180-188, 184 preferred. For II or Int and above: 188-196, 194 preferred.* Basic Two Step timings are 1 2 3 **4 5 6** ; 1 2 3 **4 5 6 7 8** ; and 1 2 3 4 5 **6 7 8** (QQS S ; QQS QQS ; and QQQS S). Two Step is a smooth, progressive dance with weaved patterns and rhythm accents that

separate the quicks and slows, emphasizing slows.

- 2) **Waltz** *For Syllabus, IV, III, New, Nov, Plat: 86-92. For II or Int and above: 80-86.* Basic Waltz timing is 1 2 3 4 5 6. Waltz is a progressive dance that uses patterns that move diagonally and are performed with Rise & Fall accentuated with Swing & Sway emphasizing hover.
 - b. Worlds Swing Dances:
 - 1) **East Coast Swing** *For Syllabus, IV, New, Plat: 126-132, 130 preferred. For III or Nov: 132-138, 136 preferred. For II, Int or above: 138-144.* Single, Double and Triple time swing are all permitted and interchangeable. Basic Triple East Coast Swing timings are: 1&2 3&4 5 6 and 1&2 3 4 5&6 7 8. Basic Single East Coast Swing timings are: 1 2 3 4 5 6 (S S QQ) and 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 (S QQ S QQ). Basic Double East Coast Swing timings are: 1 2 3 4 5 6 (S S QQ) and 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 (S QQ S QQ). East Coast Swing is a stationary dance that uses rotary patterns and is performed with semi-cuban, emphasizing downward compression.
 - 2) **West Coast Swing** *For Syllabus, IV, III, New, Nov, Plat: 104-112, 108 BPM preferred. For II, Int or above: 96-104.* Basic West Coast Swing timings are 1 2 3&4 5&6 and 1 2 3&4 5 6 7&8. West Coast Swing is a smooth, stationary dance with slotted patterns and rhythm accents, emphasizing back-beat.
 - c. Non-Worlds Swing Dance:
 - 1) **Pony Swing** *For all 102-116, 106 preferred.* Basic Pony Swing timing is &1 &2 &3 &4 &5 &6 &7 &8. Pony Swing is generally stationary with revolving patterns performed with Lilt, emphasizing downward action on the numbered counts.
 - d. Worlds Alternate Dances:
 - 1) **Triple Two** *For Syllabus, IV, III, New, Nov, Plat: 86-92. For II, Int or above: 80-86.* Basic Triple Two timings are 1 2 3&4 5&6 and 1 2 3&4 5 6 7&8. Triple Two is a smooth, progressive dance with looped and laced patterns performed with curved sway and shaping actions, emphasizing connected feathers.
 - 2) **Polka** *For Syllabus, IV, III, New, Nov, Plat: 112-116. For II or Int and above, 116-120.* Basic Polka timing is 1&2 3&4 5&6 7&8. Polka is a progressive dance with 2-rail (steamlined) patterns performed with Lilt motion, emphasizing downward action on the numbered counts.
 - 3) **NightClub** *For Syllabus, IV, III, New, Nov, Plat: 58-62. For II or Int and above: 54-58.* Basic Nightclub timing is 1 2&3 4&5 6&7 8& (S QQS QQS QQS QQ). Nightclub is a stationary dance with linear and geometric patterns performed with draping sway and counter sway, shaping actions, emphasizing developed slows.
 - 4) **Cha Cha** *For Syllabus, IV, III, New, Nov, Plat: 104-110. For II or Int and above: 110-116.* Basic Cha Cha timing is 1 2 3 4&5 6 7 8&. Cha Cha is a stationary dance with intersecting patterns performed with Cuban motion, emphasizing the first beat of each measure.
 - e. Non-Worlds Alternate Dances:
 - 1) **Shuffle (Ft. Worth Shuffle)** *For all 102-114, 108 preferred.* Shuffle timings are 1 2 3, 4 & 5, 6 &; or 1 2 3, 4 & 5, 6 7, 8 &. Shuffle is a progressive dance with leap-frog or pig-tail patterns, performed with Flat motion shaped in its movement. The dance accents 2 3 (six-count timing), or 2 3 and 6 7 (eight-count timing) with two progressive walks.
 - 2) **Schottische** *For all 120-132, preferred.* Basic Schottische timing is 1 2 3 4[kick] 5 6 7 8[kick]. Schottische is a progressive dance performed with plié on 2 and relevé on 4, with zigzag patterns accented with lifted kicks, scoots, hops, or brushes.
 - 3) **Rhythm Two** *For all 148-160, 154 preferred.* Basic Rhythm Two timing is 1 2 3 4[kick or touch] 5 6[kick or touch] and 1 2 3 4 5 6[kick or touch] 7 8[kick or touch]. Rhythm Two is a spot dance performed with semi-cuban motion and circular patterns.
 - f. Solo Performances:
 - 1) **Solo Medley for Showcase Masters and Couples Crown:** A musically-mixed, multi-dance Showcase category of 4 - 7 minutes for Masters and 2 ½ to 5 minutes for Crown with no BPM limitations. A medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice that must include a combined total of at least 45 seconds each of: a swing dance and three other Worlds dances for Masters, and a swing dance and 2 other Worlds dances for Crown; not to include Two Step and Waltz for either, and which must be recognizable in pattern, rhythm, motion, and character. Recognizable patterns from non-UCWDC® dances (e.g., Quickstep, Tango, Samba, Rumba, Charleston, Clogging, Hip-Hop, et cetera) may only be used as appropriate for musical interpretation.
 - 2) **Spotlight:** (2½ - 4 minutes with no BPM limitations). A musically-mixed, multi-dance category offered for ProAm and ProPro: A dance or medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice which must be recognizable in pattern, rhythm, motion, and character. Recognizable patterns from non-UCWDC® dances (e.g., Quickstep, Tango, Samba, Rumba, Charleston, Clogging, Hip-Hop, etc. may only be used as appropriate for music interpretation. Crown Solo Medley rules apply.
 - 3) **ShowDance for Classic Masters and Classic Crown:** (2 to 2 ½ minutes, of which 2 minutes must be dancing to music). A dance category which must be a single dance, and must be one of the 8 UCWDC® dances defined above in Section O. The song can be one song or a medley of songs and may not contain anything not found on the original CD(s). Other dances are allowed momentarily for musical interpretation. The competitor order must be a scheduled drawing for choice or, if no time is scheduled, then random drawing/generator will be used.
2. Line Dance Categories

The World Championship Classic and Showcase Line Categories for Intermediate and Advanced are Rise & Fall, Pulse, Smooth, Cuban, Funky/Street and Novelty/Stage, which are danced chronologically in this order at all UCWDC® events. For Newcomer and Novice, dances may not be motion specific. If a Funky/Street dance is offered for Open and Junior divisions, a Novelty/Stage dance will be offered for the Age divisions, except Classic Open Advanced, Showcase Open, Classic Teen Advanced and Showcase Teen divisions which will be offered both Funky/Street and Novelty/Stage. Line Dance contestants may enter any of these Dance Categories offered for their division, except for 1) SuperStars and Line Crown which may enter Dance A (slow, andante), Dance B (fast, allegro) where A and B come from different motion categories, or Solo Medley; and 2) Line Dance ProAm which may enter Dance 1, Dance 2, and Dance 3 (these need not be motion specific). The BPM range for each dance category shall be plus or minus five (±5) BPM from the suggested song for each choreographed dance.

 - a. **Rise & Fall:** A dance using Rise & Fall and Swing & Sway motions. For reference: common dances that use these motions

- include Viennese Waltz, Waltz, Foxtrot and Quickstep.
 - b. **Pulse:** A dance using Pulse motion. For reference: common dances that use Pulse include Polka, East Coast Swing, Samba, and Jive.
 - c. **Smooth:** A dance using Flat motion. For reference: common dances that use Flat motion include NightClub, West Coast Swing, Hustle, and Tango.
 - d. **Cuban:** A dance using Cuban motion, with any break step occurring on the 2 or 6. For reference: common dances that use Cuban motion include Cha Cha, Mambo and Rumba.
 - e. **Funky/Street:** A dance demonstrating footwork and bodywork that is consistent with Hip-Hop or Street. For reference: common dances that use Funky/Street include Hip Hop, Poppin', Break Dance and Crumpin'.
 - f. **Novelty/Stage:** (no BPM limitations) A dance demonstrating footwork and bodywork that is consistent with Broadway or Show Performances. For reference: common dances that are Novelty/Stage include lyrical, jazz, modern and ballet.
 - g. **Solo Medley for SuperStars, RisingStars and Line Dance Crown:** A musically-mixed, multi-dance category of 4 - 7 minutes for SuperStars and RisingStars and 2 ½ - 5 minutes for Crown with no BPM limitations. A medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice which must include a combined total of at least 45 seconds each of four of the six Line Dance categories for SuperStars and RisingStars and three of the Line Dance categories for Crown.
3. Choreography (no BPM limitations)
- a. There are five (5) competitive categories:
 - i. Country Newcomer/Novice
 - ii. Country Intermediate/Advanced
 - iii. Non-Country Newcomer/Novice
 - iv. Non-Country Intermediate/Advanced
 - v. ABC
 - b. Each Choreography entry is an original dance performed by dancers with the choreographer physically present. Since the contestant selects the music, it is essential that the dance's rhythm, motion and character match that music.
 - c. The dance should have some element that will make it popular and appear to be easy to teach to social dancers within the level in which it is entered, i.e., Newcomer/Novice or Intermediate/Advanced. The dance should also have some 'appeal' that will give it longevity, impact or influence on the dance community.
 - d. The dance itself is what is judged, not the performer(s) or their performance.
 - e. With their contestant registration, Choreographers are required to provide a printed step description of the dance detailing the following:
 - i. The basic pattern and rhythm
 - ii. The level of the dance
 - iii. The number of counts
 - iv. The number of walls
 - v. An ABC dance entry should specify the number of counts per phrase (A, B, C, etc.) and the phrase order from beginning to end.
 - f. If a contestant wishes their Choreography entry to be considered for use as a UCWDC® dance, a digital video must be included with the step description.
4. ShowTime (3-15 minutes, no BPM limitations)
- An extensively conceived, thematic medley choreographed to music of the contestant's choice and performed by any number of contestants. This category is a long Cabaret which may use any type of music, costuming, props or movement. It is an open category where Line, Solo, and Partner dance may be used in any combination and wheel chair dancers may be members. Setup and tear-down may be no longer than 6 minutes combined.
5. Team Dance Categories
- Team contestants may enter and perform in these divisions: Line, Partner, Combo and Cabaret, which are danced separately at all UCWDC® events and the World Championships.
- a. **Line Dance Open:** (3-5 minutes, no BPM limitations) A dance or medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice. The program must include 100% Line Dancing with recognizable patterns, rhythms, motions and character. Patterns from any dance form may be used as appropriate for musical interpretation, however no couples' lead and follow patterns may be used. Momentary touching is allowed. Movement limitations are the same as Showcase Crown Solo Medley.
 - b. **Line Dance Classic Country:** (3-5 minutes, no BPM limitations) A dance or medley of dances choreographed to 100% Country Music of the contestant's choice. The program must include 100% Line Dancing with recognizable patterns, rhythms, motions and character. Any solo dance patterns may be used as appropriate for musical interpretation; however no couples' lead and follow patterns may be used. Momentary touching is allowed. Line Dance Classic movement limitations apply.
 - c. **Partner Dance Open:** (3-5 minutes, no BPM limitations) A dance or medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice. The program must include 100% Partner Dance with recognizable patterns, rhythms, motions and character. Patterns from any dance form may be used as appropriate for musical interpretation; however no Line or Solo dancing may be used. Couples Crown Showcase Solo Medley movement limitations apply.
 - d. **Partner Dance Classic Country:** (3-5 minutes, no BPM limitations) A dance or medley of dances choreographed to 100% Country music of the contestant's choice. The program must include 100% Partner Dance with recognizable patterns, rhythms, motions and character. Patterns from any dance form may be used as appropriate for musical interpretation; however no Line or Solo dancing may be used. Classic Masters (flights) rules Apply.
 - e. **Combo:** (3-5 minutes, no BPM limitations) A dance or medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice. This is an open category where a minimum of 90 seconds each Partner dance and Line Dance must be clearly shown during the performance. Movement limitations are the same as Showcase Crown Solo Medley.
 - f. **Cabaret:** (3-5 minutes, no BPM limitations) A dance or medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's

choice. This category may use any type of music, costuming, props or movement and is an open category where Line, Solo, and Partner dance may be used in any combination and wheel chair dancers may be members. Setup and tear-down may be no longer than 6 minutes combined.

- g. **International:** (3-5 minutes, no BPM limitations) A dance or medley of dances native to the nation dancing. There are no costume, music or movement limitations.

P. Contestant Conduct and Ethics

1. All decisions of the contest judges, the Contest Coordinator, and Event Director will be final. Contestants are expected to act in a socially acceptable professional manner. Contestants are required to provide on any competition registration form their full name, mailing address, birth-date, phone number (cell preferred), e-mail address and UCWDC® Associate Membership number.
2. Any complaint or challenge to the makeup of a judging panel must be done post-event and will go to the Judge Review Board. Please see Part VII, Section C.
3. Contestants under the legal age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who has written parental permission to act as 'guardian', and who is responsible for the minor's safety and conduct at all times.
4. Before entering a UCWDC® Event, contestants are required to sign an event waiver form that limits the event's liability with regards to injury or other damage, allows data collection and tracking, assigns the distribution rights of audio and video recordings of the attendee(s) to the event, and addresses privacy.
5. Information provided on the competition registration form will be used for tracking of performance results to determine divisional graduation status, divisional age eligibility, World Championship eligibility, and World Points Champions. All contestants plus each Team "Name", or any other individual who expects to dance at Worlds, will be required to join the UCWDC® Associate Membership Program through the UCWDC® Business Office.
6. All attendees are business invitees and expected to act in a friendly, cordial, respectful and professional manner throughout the event.
7. Contestants may receive teaching wages, wages for services, compensation for shows, and prizes as well as having access to an event hospitality room.

Q. Reporting and Staging Procedure

1. For all heated divisions, contestants should report to the Floor Coordinator one-half hour before a division's first contest heat to check-in and preview their music or warm up, unless the size of the contest warrants an earlier reporting time (see event schedule). When reporting, each contestant will make themselves known to the Floor Coordinator by contestant number, confirming that they are dressed, ready, and able to perform in the proper division. During the contest, contestants must remain in the staging area, except for costume changes.
2. Contestant numbers must be centered on their spine, and must be worn in all divisions except self-selected music categories. However, Choreography contestants must wear numbers.
3. Even though UCWDC® contests pre-post the heats of competition for all divisions, the exact heat order is not guaranteed to any contestant. A contestant who fails to report to the Floor Coordinator on time or fails to answer the calls of the Floor Coordinator for a specific heat will be scratched (disqualified) from that dance category.

R. The Judge Meeting

Contest logistics, schedules and the Official Judge Certification Program Rules Review are discussed at the official UCWDC® Judge Meeting held prior to competition at every UCWDC® event.

S. The Contestant Meeting

Contest logistics and schedules are discussed at the official UCWDC® Contestants Meeting held at some UCWDC® events. UCWDC® Rules inquiries are also fielded at this time, where all who are interested receive answers to their questions. Everyone is welcome. If there is no Contestants Meeting, please see the Contest Coordinator for answers.

III. AWARDS & CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. Overall Championships

1. An "Overall Champion" title is awarded only to the first place overall winner in each specific division. When used in a contestant's dance resumé, the full name of the division must precede that title. i.e., "John Doe is the ProAm Male Classic Silver Novice Overall Champion."
2. Conversely, when used, 2nd Place through 5th Place Overall winners' titles must be followed with the full name of the division. i.e., "John Doe is the 3rd Place Overall ProAm Male Classic Silver Novice" winner.
3. Titles are bestowed upon winners by the UCWDC®. Titles which are abused by the recipient to misrepresent the credential or dupe the public in its declaration may be voided and withdrawn.
4. Overall Eligibility:
 - a. Syllabus divisions and ProAm Line Dance offer no Overall Championship.
 - b. Social Divisions may or may not have an overall at each Event Director's discretion. If an overall is offered, competitors qualify by dancing every dance offered.
 - c. Couples and ProAm Overall entries, except Masters, Crown, and Legends, must dance in at least Two Step, Waltz, one Swing dance, and two Alternate dances.
 - d. Newcomer Line Dance Overall Championship entries must compete in all three of the offered dances. A Funky/Street dance may be offered for Open and Junior divisions. If so, a Novelty/Stage dance will be offered for the Age divisions.
 - e. Novice Line Dance Overall Championship entries must compete in all four of the offered dances. A Funky/Street dance may be offered for Open and Junior divisions. If so, a Novelty/Stage dance will be offered for the Age divisions.
 - f. Intermediate, Advanced and Showcase Line Dance Overall Championship entries must compete in all of the offered dances. These include:
 - i. Rise & Fall, Pulse, Smooth, Cuban and Funky/Street for Classic Intermediate Open and Juniors; Classic Advanced Youth; and Showcase Youth Divisions.
 - ii. Rise & Fall, Pulse, Smooth, Cuban and Novelty/Stage for the Age Divisions.
 - iii. Rise & Fall, Pulse, Smooth, Cuban, Funky/Street and Novelty/Stage for Classic Open Advanced, Classic Teen Advanced, Showcase Open and Showcase Teen Divisions.
 - g. Showcase Masters and Couples Showcase Crown must compete in Two Step, Waltz and Solo Medley.
 - h. Classic Masters and Couples Classic Crown must compete in Two Step, Waltz, one Swing dance, two Alternate dances, and a ShowDance.
 - i. SuperStars, RisingStars, and Line Dance Crown must compete in Dance A, Dance B and a Solo Medley.

IV. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Each year the UCWDC® presents the Country Western Dance World Championships, which offer world-class Couples, ProAm, ProPro, Line Dance, ShowTime and performing Team competition.

A. Eligibility

1. Associate Membership: Each individual contestant and Team Name may not begin to accrue qualification for Worlds until their Associate Member dues are current and paid for the dance season.
2. To be eligible to compete at Worlds,
 - a. North American and European dancers, as well as Team Names, must qualify by competing at three (3) or more UCWDC® Events during the preceding Dance Season, except for all juniors and Manitoba and west in Canada who must compete at two (2) or more events, and Newcomer dancers in Europe, Syllabus B, and ProAm Line Dance entries, who only need to compete at one (1) event to qualify.
 - b. Asian dancers must qualify by competing in at least one UCWDC® Event during the preceding Dance Season.
 - c. Dancers from Continents other than North America, Europe and Asia may enter without pre-qualification but must be active, dues paid Associate Members before dancing at Worlds. Teams who have not pre-qualified must submit a video with their entry to ensure they are in the correct division(s).
 - d. Masters and SuperStars must qualify by dancing three full programs except in Asia where they must dance one (1) full program.
3. Worlds qualification in Couples, ProAm/ProPro, Line or Teams does not count for any other competition Type. .
4. Worlds contestants must have competed for the Overall Championship or the single dance Championship (Teams, Spotlight and ProAm Line Dance) at least once in the division in which they intend to compete, except:
 - a. Masters, SuperStars, Line Dance Showcase Open, Line Dance Classic Open Advanced, Couples Open I, and Couples Showcase Open dancers in Europe and North America, who must have competed for the Overall Championship three (3) times (in Classic or Showcase or a combination of the two) over the course of three (3) or more UCWDC® events.
 - b. Choreography, ShowTime and Legends performers who need not qualify.
5. For each Dance Type entered, Worlds contestants must compete in the highest division where they danced for overall during the preceding Dance Season.
6. In a new partnership, at least one partner must have competed at three UCWDC® Events and the new partnership must have competed at least once overall in the division they intend to compete at Worlds.

B. World Championship

1. An "Overall Champion" title at Worlds is awarded only to the first place overall winner in each specific division. When used, the year and the full name of the division must precede that title. i.e., "John Doe is the 1988 UCWDC® ProAm Male Classic Silver Novice World Champion."
2. Conversely, when used in a contestant's dance resumé, 2nd Place through 5th Place Overall winners titles must be followed with the full name of the division. i.e., "John Doe is the 3rd Place ProAm Male Classic Silver Novice" winner at the World Championship of Country Dance.
3. Titles are bestowed upon winners by the UCWDC®. Titles which are abused by the recipient may be withdrawn.

V. CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Each year the UCWDC® may present the Country Western Dance European Championships, which offer world-class Couples, ProAm, ProPro, Line Dance, ShowTime and Team competition. To be eligible to compete at the Country Western Dance European Championships, all Contestants must qualify by competing at three (3) or more UCWDC® Events during the preceding Dance Season, except for Syllabus, Social, Newcomer and ProAm Line Dance entries, who need to compete at one (1) to qualify.

VI. SCORING & JUDGE CERTIFICATION

For Scoring Information, please see Appendix D

For Judge Certification Information, please see Appendix F.

VII. JUDGING

A. Eligibility

To be eligible to adjudicate at any UCWDC® Event, including the World Championship, each judge must be a current UCWDC® Associate Member in good standing.

B. Certification Regulations

1. All judges for UCWDC® contests must be certified at the Fundamental Level or above. Each panel judging Line Dance divisions may have three judges but five are recommended.
2. In Europe, Asia and Canada, each panel of judges at UCWDC® competitions must have three judges but five are recommended.
3. UCWDC® Event Directors must submit to the UCWDC® VP Judge Certification a list of each panel of judges per contest session, with a list of divisions judged during that session.

C. Judge and Contestant Review Board

The UCWDC® Judge Certification Committee has a Board of Inquiry to respond to a written complaint regarding a judge's impartiality and judges' and contestants' conduct and/or ethics. A request for review will be kept confidential but must contain the judge's and/or contestant's name, the complainant's name, and the details. For more information, please contact the VP Judge Certification, Dave Getty, at judgecertification@ucwdc.org

D. Judges' Regulations

1. No contestant, other than a Masters, SuperStars or Crown dancer, or the teaching 'Pro' of a ProAm or ProPro partnership, may judge the same Dance Type in which they are competing.
2. A judge competing in one Dance Type may judge another Dance Type.
3. No active contestant may judge at Worlds except ProPro and Spotlight contestants.
4. A contestant who wishes to judge may not judge his own level without taking four months off from competition.
5. A judge who wishes to compete may not do so without taking four months off from judging his division or any above it.
6. The Am of a ProAm partnership is not allowed to judge UCWDC® Couples, ProAm and ProPro competition.
7. Couples II and I contestants who are certified may judge ProAm but not ProPro.
8. No two persons who are members of a partnership; dancing, teaching or personal, may sit on the same UCWDC® panel except for ProAm.
9. No persons who are members of a partnership- dancing, teaching or personal- may judge their partner, a family member, or their partner's family member, except if the partner or family member is the teaching Pro of a ProAm or ProPro partnership.
10. No II Intermediate or I Advanced level contestant in any Dance Type may receive judging wages, compensation or inducements in that Dance Type. Such contestants may not have access to UCWDC® judges' meetings. Offenders will lose their current competitive status and be suspended from further UCWDC® competition for the current Dance Season.

E. Judges' Code of Ethics

1. During his or her shift on a panel, each Judge must focus all of his or her attention on the contestants, have a positive demeanor and facial appearance and complete his or her ballots only in the last few seconds of each song.
2. When not on shift, Judges are encouraged to socialize equitably with patrons. They may not isolate themselves in the company of any contestant(s) that they might judge during the event. i.e., room with, privately converse with or publicly fraternize with.
3. Private lessons may not be given to contestants until after they have finished competing.
4. A judge may never coerce, intimidate, or in any way perceivably threaten contestants into taking private lessons or coaching from them.
5. Judges may not discuss dance information with any contestant they are judging until after the contest session has been completed.

VIII. INVIGILATION

Invigilation may be used when deemed necessary or useful. The specificity of any duties of an Invigilator should they occur will be described in Appendix I.

IX. UCWDC® CONTEST COORDINATOR

For an explanation of the UCWDC® Contest Coordinator responsibilities and requirements, see Appendix G.