



THE OFFICIAL *AUSTRALIAN LINE DANCER* COMPETITION RULES, GUIDELINES & GLOSSARY

The following Rules and Guidelines and must be read in conjunction with each other. They contain 'words with special meaning' as identified in '**bold print**' and are defined for the purpose of this document in the Glossary.

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1. Glossary:

Standard Line Dance: A Line Dance performed with all **Competitors** moving in lines on the same foot, at the same time, in the same direction - identically - in which a step pattern is repeated at least once to any **Track** or **Piece of Music**. Tags and bridges do not form a part of the repeating step pattern.

Freestyle Line Dance: A Line Dance performed to any **Track** or **Piece of Music** where Competitors do not have to perform a **Standard Line Dance**.

Competitor(s): One (1) or more performers per entry per section.

Solo: A **Competitor** with one (1) performer

Duo: **Competitors** with two (2) performers

Trio: **Competitors** with three (3) performers

Small Team: **Competitors** consisting of a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of nine (9) performers.

Large Team: **Competitors** consisting of a minimum of ten (10) and an unlimited maximum number of performers

Freestyle Team: **Competitors** consisting of a minimum of four (4) and unlimited maximum number of performers

Coach: Instructor of a competition team without an advertised class.

Instructor: must conduct at least one (1) advertised class per week.

Student: must attend on average one (1) advertised line dance class per week.

Novice means:

- i. A competitor who has never entered a competition;
- ii. Or never having received a medal in a competition;
- iii. Or only having received a medal in a section of 3 competitors or less.

Prop: An item that is not worn as clothing, footwear or headwear.

Track: One (1) or more songs that are cut, extended or spliced together for a performance to fit within time limitations.

Piece of Music: One (1) song that is cut or extended for a performance to fit within time limitations. Unlike a **Track**, the **Piece of Music** cannot be enhanced by splicing two or more tracks together.

Variation: A competitors own choreographed interpretation of the **Piece of Music** or **Track** and **Set Dance** for the performance in question and within the Rules. Applies only in a solo section.

Vanilla: The **Set Dance** that has been choreographed and selected for the performance in question. Applies only in a solo section.

Set Dance: A **Standard Line dance** choreographed by someone and which has a written dance sheet and which is selected and provided to **Competitors** by the **Event Director**. Applies only in a solo section.

Event Director: The person who has organized and who is responsible for the competition in question.

Athletic Movements:

Any movement that involves taking the complete weight of any Competitors body off both legs at the same time for more than two (2) counts of the music and also includes but is not limited to;

- Placing body weight on any other part of the body for any number of beats (hands / arms / head / torso / etc)
- Splits, flips or rolls (somersaults)

Country Music: A **Piece of Music** or **Track** that is produced by a recognised country artist or band and/or is/or has been in the country music charts.

Choreography: A competitors own choreographed interpretation of the **Piece of Music** or **Track** that is a **Line Dance** / **Standard Line Dance** or **Freestyle Line dance** as appropriate.

Club: A team of **Competitors** whom represent a **Coach** and/or a class instructor(s).

Official Program: The document produced by the **Event Director** outlining the following minimum details for the event in question;

- Name of **Event Director**(s), Organisers and Adjudicators.
- Name and date of event.
- Contact details for the event.
- Timeline and Order of events.
- Venue name and address.

Start Position: The beginning position on the floor for **Solo Competitors**, as directed by the Head Judge.

Styling: A **Competitors** own choreographed interpretation of the **Piece of Music** or **Track** for the performance in question and that does not alter the **Set Dance**. This means that choreographed movements of the entire body may be used to add to the performance, so long as the **Set Dance** is still adhered to.

Waltz: Music can be in 3/2, 3/4, 3/8, 6/8, 9/8 12/8 time signatures. Dance steps must be in 3/4 timing and the rise and fall of a waltz should create a smooth wave motion.

Costume: May include:

Males: A shirt, vest, trousers or jeans.

Females: A dress, shirt, top, leotard, trousers, skirt, jeans, cat suit (jumpsuit). Dance tights must be worn with skirts/dresses.

Both Genders: Country boots, Country Hat, Cap, street shoes.

*Costumes should be appropriate to the music and the dance.

2. Guidelines:

2.1. Summary

- 2.1.1. The following guidelines provide all Competitors:
- Instructions for Music Submission
 - General information to assist **Competitors** with the interpretation of the Rules
 - General information to add to the **Competitors** performance in accordance with the Rules.

2.2. Music Submission

- 2.2.1. All music must be submitted to the **Event Director** as per the following;
- i. Sent via email, CD or USB. No mini disks.
 - ii. Each **Track** and/or **Pieces of Music** is to be saved as follows in the order noted:
 - The Section Code (E.G: *2B*)
 - The **Club** Name (E.G: *AAA Line Dancing*)
 - The first names of the **Competitor(s)** or the Team name as per the **Competitors** Section entry form. (E.G: *Joe & Jane* or *Team Joe*)
 - Working example: *2B AAALD Team Joe*
 - iii. It is the **Competitors** responsibility to ensure that all **Pieces of Music** and/or **Tracks** are provided correctly.
 - iv. It is preferred that all music is submitted one week prior to the event.

2.3. General Information

- 2.3.1. For all sections, a minimum of three (3) **Competitors** is required. **Competitors** who enter sections that do not meet this requirement will be contacted by the **Event Director** or other nominated event staff to discuss options as soon as possible after closing date.
- 2.3.2. The maximum number of **Competitors** (per section) may be limited at the discretion of the **Event Director**.
- 2.3.3. **Competitors** must dance in a formation of choice for the performance and must maintain this formation, without change, for the duration of the performance.
- 2.3.4. Introductions are permissible (including freestyle type choreography) where introductory music allows.
- 2.3.5. Judging begins from the beginning of the **Piece of Music** or **Track** and continues until the **Piece of Music** or **Track** ceases, or the **Competitors** step off the dance floor – whichever comes first.
- 2.3.6. **Choreography** should be appropriate to a family audience and must not breach Rule 3.1.9. When creating and choreographing a performance, consideration should be given to:
- i. The entire body, not just foot, arm or head placement.
 - ii. The tempo of the **Piece of Music** or **Track**
 - iii. The entertainment value of the performance
 - iv. The style of dancing being performed.

2.4. Costumes

- 2.4.1. All **Competitors** must remain in competition costume for presentations to be eligible to accept awards.
- 2.4.2. Hats are not compulsory for either male or female **Competitors** for any performance although it is suggested cowboy hats are worn when performing to **Country Music**.
- 2.4.3. Modesty skirts to be worn at the competitor's discretion. It is strongly suggested that modesty skirts are worn with long waltz skirts.

2.4.4. Hats and skirts used during a performance are not considered props.

2.5. Solo's: Freestyle and Standard Sections

2.5.1. **Competitors** in the **Solo Sections** are required to perform the **Set Dances** for their category as identified by the particular event. The **competitors** should complete the dance as written on the official step sheets which will be issued to all upon entry.

2.5.2. **Styling** is encouraged to be added to performance according to the music, and the style of dance E.G. hats or skirts may be utilized to add to the presentation of the performance.

2.5.3. Music for **Competitors** in the **Solo** sections will be provided by the **Event Director** or other nominated staff.

2.5.4. Hand/arm positions may differ between male and female **Competitors** where differing costumes allow skirt and hats to be used to add to the presentation of a performance. Otherwise hand and arm positions should be identical.

2.6. Waltz Sections

2.6.1. It is recommended and strongly encouraged that the technique of **Waltz** is adhered to with all competition routines regardless of music timing. Steps should be in groups of three with syncopations allowed.

2.7. Freestyle Duos, Freestyle Trios and Freestyle Team Sections

2.7.1. **Competitors** may (amongst other things):

- i. Dance facing each other, or in opposite directions – Contra and/or mirror image;
- ii. Split or separate provided they follow an organised and/or choreographed flow of movement;
- iii. Complete the same dance movements, though not necessarily at the same time (in a wave or cannon motion);

2.8. Qualifying Duo Sections

2.8.1. This section is open for **Competitors** who wish to qualify for a Qualifying Duo Finals section – which are held at the nominated event noted in the Section entries.

2.8.2. If **Competitors** place First (1st) Second (2nd) or Third (3rd), they are then eligible to enter in the Qualifying Duo Final at the nominated event.

3. Rules:

3.1. General Rules

- 3.1.1. **Competitors** may compete only once in any Section they enter.
Penalty – Disqualification
- 3.1.2. **Competitors** may be removed or substituted from team entries on day of competition. One performer per section/entry may be substituted where no rules are broken.
Penalty - Disqualification
- 3.1.3. Each **Club** cannot use the same **Piece of Music** or **Track** more than twice for the duration of the competition.
Penalty – Disqualification.
- 3.1.4. Age is determined as of the date of the competition. Proof of age is to be provided at the request of the event directors.
Penalty - Disqualification
- 3.1.5. **Competitors** must dance in the order published in the **Official Program**. **Competitors** must be ready to compete when called as per the published program. **Competitors** are provided with no more than two calls per performance.
Penalty – Disqualification
- 3.1.6. **Competitors** must remain on the floor for the duration of the performance, however dancing onto the floor during the introduction and off the floor as the **Piece of Music** or **Track** fades out is allowed.
Penalty – Disqualification
- 3.1.7. No **Athletic** movements are allowed.
Penalty – Disqualification
- 3.1.8. No **Props** allowed.
Penalty – Disqualification
- 3.1.9. No crude, inappropriate or overly suggestive body movements allowed in the **Choreography** of all performances.
Penalty – Disqualification

3.2. Music

- 3.2.1. Standard Sections track time limit is 4 minutes maximum.
Penalty - 5 points per Judge for every 15 seconds, or part thereof, over the time limit.
- 3.2.2. For Freestyle Sections music time limit is 6 minutes maximum.
Penalty - 5 points per Judge for every 15 seconds, or part thereof, over the time limit.
- 3.2.3. Music for the Standard Sections must be no more than one **Piece of Music**.
Penalty – disqualification
- 3.2.4. Music for the Freestyle Sections must be no more than one **Track**.
Penalty – disqualification
- 3.2.5. Music selected for any **Waltz section** will include simple and compound 3/2, 3/4, 3/8, 6/8, 9/8 12/8 time signatures. Dance steps must be in 3/4 timing with syncopations allowed.
Penalty – Disqualification
- 3.2.6. No crude, inappropriate or offensive music is to be used.
Penalty – Disqualification

3.3. Costumes

- 3.3.1. No strapless items of clothing are allowed. Outfits must not have a bare midriff (this includes when part of the costumes ride ups and exposes a bare midriff).
Penalty – Disqualification
- 3.3.2. Should any of the **Competitors** costume be dropped or fall to the floor it should be picked up immediately.
Penalty – 1 point per judge for every 4 counts until the piece(s) of the costume is retrieved
- 3.3.3. A **Competitors** costume must not be placed on the floor.
Penalty – 1 point per judge for every 4 counts until the piece(s) of the costume is retrieved
- 3.3.4. **Competitors** must wear Country Style Boots when dancing to **Country Music**, other footwear may be worn where appropriate to the music and the choreography.
Penalty - 2 points per Judge for each infringement
- 3.4. Standard Solo Sections**
*The following rules apply in addition to the **General Rules**.
- 3.4.1. **Solo Competitors** must perform the **Set Dance** applicable.
Penalty - Disqualification
- 3.5. Standard Duo, Standard Trio, Standard Small Team and Standard Large Team Sections**
*The following rules apply in addition to the **General Rules**.
- 3.5.1. **Duo / Trio / Small Team and Large Team Competitors** must perform a **Standard Line Dance** only.
Penalty – Disqualification
- 3.6. Freestyle Solo Sections**
*The following rules apply in addition to the **General Rules**.
- 3.6.1. **Competitors** must complete two (2) **Vanilla** walls of the **Set Dance** followed by repetition of one (1) **Variation** wall, one (1) **Vanilla** wall until the completion of the dance. The **Vanilla** walls must be danced as per the dance sheet. The flow and direction of **Variation** walls must remain the same as the **Set Dance**.
Penalty – Points lost for non-compliance with this rule
- 3.6.2. **Variation** walls begin only after the first two (2) **Vanilla** walls are completed. If the chosen dance has a restart/tag on the first **Vanilla** wall, another entire **Vanilla** wall is to be completed prior to the first **Variation** wall. If a restart/tag occurs during the second **Vanilla** wall, **Competitors** must then begin the first **Variation** wall once the restart/tag is completed. If a tag occurs immediately after the first two (2) **Vanilla** walls have been completed, **Competitors** must begin their first **Variation** wall at the completion of that tag.
Penalty – Points lost for non-compliance with this rule
- 3.6.3. Introductions to the **Set Dance** are allowed as long as no other **Competitors** space is intruded upon. The dancer must also return to their **Start Position** on the dance floor prior to the dance commencing.
Penalty – Points lost for non-compliance with this rule
- 3.6.4. Solo **Competitors** must be aware of their personal dance space and not intentionally or carelessly intrude on another dancer's area.
Penalty – Points lost for non-compliance with this rule
- 3.7. Freestyle Duos, Freestyle Trios and Freestyle Team Sections**
*The following rules apply in addition to the **General Rules** excluding Rule 1.3.4
- 3.7.1. A **Freestyle Team** must consist of a minimum of four (4) individual **Competitors**.
Penalty – Disqualification
- 3.7.2. **Competitors** must not touch other performers for more than 8 counts at a time.
Penalty – Disqualification
- 3.8. Mixed Age Sections**
*The following rules apply in addition to the **Standard Section** and **General Rules**.

- 3.8.1. There must be a minimum of fifteen (15) years age difference between at least two (2) **Competitors**.
Penalty – disqualification.
- 3.8.2. **Competitors** entered as a **duo** within a mixed age section are only eligible to compete if they are not otherwise performing together in a **standard** or **freestyle duo** section throughout the duration of the competition.
Penalty – disqualification.

3.9. Instructor/Student Sections

*The following rules apply in addition to the **Standard Section** and **General Rules**.

- 3.9.1. The **Student** must attend the classes of the **Instructor** with whom they are competing with.
Penalty – disqualification.
- 3.9.2. **Competitors** entered as a **duo** within an Instructor\Student section are only eligible to compete if they are not otherwise performing together in a **standard** or **freestyle duo** section throughout the duration of the competition.
Penalty – disqualification.

3.10. Relatives Duo

*The following rules apply in addition to the **Standard Section** and **General Rules**.

- 3.10.1. Both **Competitors** must be related by birth or marriage.
Penalty - Disqualification.

3.11. Qualifying Duo

*The following rules apply in addition to the **Standard Section** and **General Rules**.

- 3.11.1. The dance performed must be a new dance and cannot be danced in any other section for the duration of the event.
Penalty - Disqualification.

3.12. Showcase / Invitational Sections

- 3.12.1. Each **Club** may enter the freestyle section once only in a **solo, duo, trio, or group** capacity unless otherwise specified.
Penalty – Disqualification

** The general rules do not apply to this section excluding Section 2 of the Rules - Music

**Where unforeseen circumstances arise, the Event Director has the authority to alter or remove any rule in order to accommodate any request that is fair and/or reasonable.*