



RULE BOOK

2023 - 2025

LINE DANCE

NATIONAL COUNTRY WESTERN DANCERS
RULES, CONTEST PROCEDURES

SOUTH AFRICA

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. NCWD'S MISSION & VISION

1. OUR MISSION

NCWD is committed to encouraging all dancers to strive for excellence and promote Country Western Couple Dancing & Line Dancing as fun and healthful pursuits and social activities and to enjoy the journey along the way. We believe each dancer has the ability to increase her/his physical, emotional and intellectual well-being through dance.

NCWD is dedicated to all studio families to ensure you are kept well-informed of the progress of each dancer. We believe in open communication and encouragement across cultures and that dance is essential to a healthy society, demonstrating the infinite possibilities for human expression and potential.

By providing national leadership and services, NCWD enhances the infrastructure for dance creation and distribution, education and dissemination of information.

2. OUR VISSION

NCWD will lead the professional dance industry by providing value to a strong, diverse membership base and encouraging the membership to be responsive to current economic, demographic and participation realities.

- NCWD will be accessible to all dance groups through a Dual Membership and will embrace strategic partnership on a local, national and international level to increase visibility, relevance and impact.
- NCWD will create value for members through strong core services of convening, advocacy and research that have a national focus and frequently evaluated.
- NCWD will offer tangible benefits to the membership based on timely needs.
- NCWD will be known as the national voice for professional Country Western Couple Dancing & Line Dancing in South Africa within and across the industry, the media and among international dance service organizations.

B. NCWD BUSINESS OFFICE

The NCWD Business Office is the official center for submitting to the NCWD, information requests by letter, telephone, e-mail. Requests will be forwarded to the appropriate NCWD Directors as needed.

Mailing Address: National Country Western Dancers
640 Rutgers Street
Moreleta Park
Pretoria
Email: ncwd.sa@outlook.com
Phone: +27 -71-673-0807

C. NCWD WEBSITE

(www.ncwd.info) It is full of information about the organization and its dance events. It contains many valuable contact links.

II. DANCE RULES

A. DANCE SEASON

1. A year that begins on January 16th and continues up to January 15th of the following year.

B. ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

1. Each competitor's period of eligibility is the two (2) previous Dance Seasons combined with the current Dance Season. (For example, on 3 October 2022, the eligibility period would be from 15 January 2020 to 3 October 2022. On 5 February 2022, the eligibility period would be from 15 January 2020 to 5 February 2022)

C. DANCE TYPES

1. Line Dance

D. GENDER REQUIREMENTS

1. The division(s) the competitors register for is the gender they are and must be throughout a Dance Season.
2. A Line Dance competitor may compete in gender-specific divisions and/or Choreography non-gender specific divisions

E. AGE REQUIREMENTS

1. Your age for the entire Dance Season for NCWD competitions and any UCWDC regional event - (South African Classic) is the age you will be on the last day of that Dance season.
2. Juniors' competitors are those who are less than 18 years of age, with these stipulations:
 - a. Junior Primary – competitors are less than 10 years of age.
 - i. Starter Primary 0-4
 - ii. Starter Primary 5-6
 - iii. Starter Primary 7-10
 - b. Starter Junior 11-17
 - c. Junior Youth – competitors are at least 10 and less than 14 years of age.
 - d. Junior Teen – competitors are at least 14 and less than 18 years of age.
 - e. RisingStars – are at least 14 and less than 21 years of age.
3. Adult competitors are those who are at least 18 years old, with these stipulations:
 - a. Open age division competitors must be Adults.
 - b. Superstars' division competitors must be Adults.
 - c. Age-Restricted division competitors may dance in any Age division for which they are eligible, with these stipulations:
 - i. Crystal division competitors must be at least 30 years of age or older.
 - ii. Diamond division competitors must be at least 40 years of age or older.
 - iii. SuperStars Plus division competitors must be at least 30 years of age or older
 - iv. Crown division competitors must be at least 40 years of age or older.
 - v. Crown Plus division competitors must be at least 55 years of age or older.
 - vi. Silver division competitors must be at least 50 years of age or older.
 - vii. Gold division competitors must be at least 60 years of age or older.
 - viii. Platinum division competitors must be at least 70 years of age or older

CATEGORIES	
Junior Primary	0 – 9 Years
Junior Youth	10 – 13 Years
Junior Teen	14 – 17 Years
Open	18 – 29 Years
Crystal	30 – 39 Years
Diamond	40 – 49 Years
Silver	50 – 59 Years
Gold	60 – 69 Years
Platinum	70+ Years

F. SKILL LEVEL DIVISIONS ARE OFFERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. ProAm Line Dance Divisions:
 - a. Newcomer
 - b. Novice
 - c. Intermediate / Advanced
2. Line Dance Divisions:
 - a. Grand Slam (S.A Only)
 - b. Honky Tonk
 - c. Starter
 - d. Classic Newcomer
 - e. Classic Novice
 - f. Classic Intermediate
 - g. Classic Advanced
 - h. Showcase
3. Ascension Divisions (competitors must earn ascension from the next lower division level):
 - a. SuperStars and SuperStars Plus
 - b. RisingStars
 - c. Crown and Crown Plus
4. Line Dance Choreography (Any Age)
 - a. Choreography Country Newcomer/Novice
 - b. Choreography Non-Country Newcomer/Novice
 - c. Choreography Country Intermediate/Advance
 - d. Choreography Non-Country Intermediate/Advance
 - e. Choreography ABC

G. NCWD ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP & UCWDC MEMBERSHIP

1. NCWD welcomes all fellow South Africans, dancers, dance teachers, club heads and associate bodies to feel free to register for membership with NCWD.
2. All Country Dance enthusiasts, who don't need to be contestants, may join the NCWD Associate Membership. New and renewed memberships become "current" the day the payment is received. Annual membership expires on the 31st of December of each year.

3. Active membership is required, to track their competitive credentials for each Dance Season and eligibility period. This tracking is used to determine “NCWD Classic Series Championships” & “Worlds Championship” eligibility and to graduate contestants from one division to the next division.
4. Membership is compulsory for all Clubs or Dance Studios before their dancers may compete in any NCWD Classic Series Event. Registered Clubs or Dance Studios will also benefit from all workshops, etc. Online memberships registration is available on www.ncwd.info
5. UCWDC Associate Membership is also mandatory for:
 - a. All competitors before they register for any UCWDC Division at UCWDC Sanction event, e.g., “South African Classic”. This allows the UCWDC to track their competitive credentials for each Dance Season and Eligibility Period. This tracking is used to determine The Country Dance World Championships eligibility, Points Champions, and to graduate competitors from one skill level to the next at the end of the Country Dance World Championships.
 - b. Competitors can also only select the membership option: “Local Event Membership” if the competitor don’t foresee to participate in the future in The Country Dance World Championships

H. DIVISION ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. Competitors in Newcomer should not have multiple placements on a recognized dance circuit, and for those who do we recommend starting no lower than Novice. When crossing over from one Dance Type to another or returning after the Eligibility Period, a competitor may move down one skill level. Competitors in Newcomer must not have multiple top 5 placements on any recognized dance sport circuit (e.g. Ballroom, World Swing Dance Council (WSDC), UCWDC, etc.)
2. Competitors with multiple top 5 placements on any recognized dance circuit must enter no lower than the Novice division.
3. Competitors with competition or performance experience in any genre of dance – including partner and solo dance genres – must enter at Newcomer or higher. Competitors may enter any division for which they are qualified, except for the following:
 - a. Line competitors may dance for Overall Championship in only one skill level. While dancing Overall Championship in that skill level, they may also dance at the skill level above.
4. When crossing over from one Dance Type to another or returning after the Eligibility Period, a competitor may move down one skill level.
5. Once a competitor has performed for Overall in a NCWD division of their choice, they may not compete later in a lower skill level in that Dance Type, except for the following:
 - a. Showcase competitors may dance either Intermediate or Advanced levels of Line Dance Classic. Thus, showcase competitors may not enter the Novice level of dance or lower.
 - b. If the competitor does not compete during the entire current Eligibility Period
 - c. If a junior competitor advances into an older age division, he or she may dance one skill level lower, except Junior Primary Advanced and Junior Youth Advanced competitors may dance Novice as they advance in age.
 - d. Crown competitors may enter Open Advanced and Showcase Open to vie for SuperStars. When dancing Open Advanced, or Showcase Open, they may not judge that Dance Type.
 - e. SuperStars may never move down.
 - f. 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).
6. If a competitor earns a qualifying win in a Showcase division, they must then enter their respective Classic division at the Advanced level beginning the next Dance Season.
7. 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.
8. A Competitor may only entre Crown or Crown Plys: or SuperStars or SuperStars Plus; at any single event.
9. Professional Status Specifics:
 - a. If a competitor teaches any dance form, they may not enter Newcomer level or lower.
 - b. Competitors are not eligible to enter any competitive skill level that they teach, except when teaching Advanced Level where they may only enter Line Dance Open Advanced.
 - c. If competitors regularly assist a dance instructor, they may not enter Newcomer level or lower.

I. DIVISION RULES

For an explanation of the movements listed below, see “Line Appendix A”

1. Classic Format

- a. 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, two months prior to the usage date for each dance, except for ProAm Line Dance where instructors may choose their own dances. Grand Slam dances will be posted, but as Event may choose their own Grand Slam dance and must post those that are different on their website.
 - i. If there is a discrepancy between the posted video and Step description for any dance, please default to video.
- b. Because Choreographers create steps to a specific song, that song must be played for competition.
- c. Line Dance competitors 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.
- d. Line Dance competitors must follow the Basic Rule which requires that:
 - i. Competitors 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.
 - ii. Competitors 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 two (2) measures to allow for musical interpretation followed by two (2) measures of vanilla. Variations must follow the flow of the dance.
- e. Classic Movement Limitations (unless the move is specifically called for in a Line Dance step description):
 - i. Moves that include acrobatics, pirouettes, fouettés, sitting on the floor, lying on the floor, bridging on the floor, spins in adagio, splits, and sits to recover from splits are not allowed except for SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown.
 - ii. Moves that include acrobatics are not allowed except for SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown Solo Medleys.
 - iii. Jumps and jetés are not allowed, except for SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown.
 - iv. Dance movements that rotate on balance in adagio are permitted to turn only up to 360 degrees, except SuperStars, RisingStars and Crown which may rotate more than 360 degrees.
 - v. During intro music prior to count-in, competitors may move their bodies to express the mood and character of the music and dance but must stay in place.
 - vi. Use of hands, arms, facial expressions, body styling, skirt work, and hat work are allowed without limit throughout the dance.
 - vii. Starter, Newcomer and Choreography competitors must dance only complete renditions of the entire step description without variation throughout the song.
 - viii. SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown Dances ‘A’ and ‘B’ follow the Classic Line Dance format including the Basic Rule.
- f. ProAm Line Dance:
 - i. Instructors may choose their own dances.
 - ii. Since Choreographers create steps to a specific song, that song must be played for competition.
 - iii. In ProAm Line, the Pro must dance Vanilla throughout, and the Amateurs(s) must follow the Basic Rule,

2. Showcase Format

- a. In Showcase, competitors dance to music which is pre-selected for each dance on a rotating schedule, are available on request.

- b. The choreographic interpretation of the music is being judged. Competitors should select a 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. Movements allowances and limitations for Line Dance Showcase and Solo Medleys within SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown:
 - i. A competitor 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 competitor 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.

J. FLOOR CRAFT

1. For all dances, competitors should be courteous on the floor, as well as vigilant so as not to interfere with other competitors.
2. For Line Dance categories, once the competitors evenly space or stagger themselves on the floor relative to each other, everyone's "dance space" is revealed. Competitors should perform 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. If you are in the back line or if you are in the front line, you may not move to the other line.

K. COSTUMING AND PROPS

(NCWD does not condone obscene, indecent or profane costumes or props)

1. Competitors in all Divisions except Newcomer must wear:
 - a. Traditional looking cowboy hats for males in Line Dances to country music.
 - b. Traditional looking cowboy boots with a pull strap, stitching, and at least one inch (2.54cm) heel from top of heel to floor. There is no tolerance on heel height. The boots must have a shaft of at least (17.78cm) from the top of the heel to the top of the shaft. Acceptable heel styles include Cowboy, Riding, Walking, Roper Straight, Roper Pitched, Fowler Straight and Fowler Pitched. Fashionable heels are not acceptable.
 - i. Newcomer competitors are encouraged but not required to wear boots except at the Country Dance World Championships, where boots are required for all levels.
 - iii. Junior competitors may not wear boots or another footwear with more than a (3.75 cm) heel.
 - c. Country costumes are not required in Line Dances that are danced to non-country music. The Step Descriptions will indicate whether the dance is country or non-country.
 - d. If footwear other than boots are worn, no part of the underside of the bare foot may touch the floor when standing still (to include the bottom of the foot: toes, ball, heel, sole, etc.).
 - e. Newcomer competitors are encouraged but not required to wear boots and traditional looking cowboy hats (for Males) in all Country Dances, except at the Country Dance world Championships, where boots and traditional looking cowboy hats (for Males) are required for all levels.
 - f. Starter competitors are not allowed to wear costumes that have sequins, rhinestones, beads or metal embellishments, or metallic threads or dots woven into or pressed into the costumes. 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 style of the dance performed is favored.
 - g. Honky Tonk competitors may wear club attire.
 - h. Dance pants, (under-shorts) for any dancer whose buttocks may be revealed during a dance performance.
2. Sponsored logos on costumes are allowed if they are no larger than (12.7cm) in dimension per article of clothing. Logos should be tasteful and not detract from the costume.

3. The entire visual look of the performance is judged, including costuming as well as steps. Therefore, how a competitor presents oneself 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.
4. Props

L. CHOREOGRAPHY

1. In this division, the dance itself is judged, not the dancer(s) or their community.
2. Each Choreography entry is an original dance performed by competitors with the choreographer physically present. Since the competitor selects the music, it is essential that the dance's rhythm, motion and character match the music.
3. 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.
4. Movement Limitations for Choreography:
 - a. When performing Choreography, competitors must dance only Vanilla – complete renditions of the entire step description without variation throughout the song.
5. 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
6. The dance should have some elements 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 “appeal” that will give it longevity, impact, or influence on the dance community.
7. With their competitor 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 the end.
 - g. If a competitor wishes their Choreography entry to be considered for use as a UCWDC dance, a digital video must be included with the Step description.

M. COMPETITION MUSIC

1. These Line Dance competition music length minimums are maximums (which may extend to the end of the phrase):
 - a. Grand Slam – Length of selection dance,
 - b. Line Dance Primary Starter – 1 ½ minutes
 - c. Line Dance – 2 minutes
 - d. Line Dance ProAm – 1 ½ minutes
 - e. Line Dance Choreography (except ABC) – 1 ½ minutes
 - f. Line Dance Choreography ABC – 2 minutes
 - g. Solo Medley (SuperStars & RisingStars) – 4 to 5 minutes
 - h. Solo Medley (Crown) – 2 ½ to 5 minutes
 - i. Line Dance Honky Tonk – 1 ½ minutes
2. Showcase Music: The songs and artist names are posted under “Music” on our web page, www.ncwd.info at least 2 months before they are first used at NCWD competitions.
3. For Event Music Selections Line Dance will use the song specified on the Step Description.
4. Competitor-selected music limitations:
 - a. Competitor-selected music must be as described below for all parts of their performance except:
 - i. Non-Country Choreography Divisions
 - ii. SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown Solo Medleys, all of which must have a combined total of 50% country music as described below for their internal requirements.

- b. For the purposes of selecting competition music for our organization, music and artists that are identified by the following categories or descriptions are considered acceptable for country dance competition music within the NCWD:
 - i. Country
 - ii. Contemporary Country
 - iii. Country Pop & Country Rock
 - iv. Americana/Alternative Country
 - v. Classic Country/Hillbilly
 - vi. Neo-traditionalist
 - vii. Western Swing
 - viii. Honky Tonk/Hardcore Country
 - ix. Bluegrass
 - x. Bakersfield
 - xi. Nashville/Countrypolitan
 - xii. Progressive Country & Outlaw Country
 - xiii. Urban Country
- c. Two competition dances, Cha-Cha and West Coast Swing, have roots outside the country music genre. Therefore, Tejano music is acceptable for Cha-Cha and Blues music is acceptable for West Coast Swing. These music types are allowed only for these dances.
- d. Country music artists and songs appropriate for NCWD competition may be identified by their presence on these platforms or by membership in these organizations:
 - i. Billboard or similar country music charts
 - ii. AM/FM/Satellite radio airplay on country stations
 - iii. iTunes, Spotify, internet-based music services in the country genre
 - iv. Record labels within the country genre
 - v. Halls of Fame – national, state and regional
 - vi. Nashville songwriters performing their own material
 - vii. Nominations for country categories at Grammy's and other music industry awards
 - viii. Included on soundtracks for country-themed movies
 - ix. Performs/ed at the Grand Old Opry
- e. Competitor-Selected music is allowed for ProAm and ProPro Spotlight competitions. If a competitor enters two divisions that include a self-selected music dance category, they must have different competitor-selected music for each division.
 - i. A copy of the self-selected music must be accompanied by a properly filled out Competitor-Selected Music Itinerary
 - ii. It is the competitors' responsibility to submit music and itinerary prior to the competition at every Regional Event where it is to be used and 96 hours prior to the start of the Country Dance World Championships.
 - iii. The music will be audited to ensure it meets all requirements.
- f. Beyond the duration of the self-selected music, competitors are allowed one minute in total for prop setup, entrance, prop removal and exit. No music may be included during setup/entrance (before the beginning of the selected music). A reprise is allowed afterwards.
- g. NCWD does not condone obscene, indecent, or profane content within competitor – selected music dance categories. While the NCWD is a family-oriented organization, we cannot censor artistic license. Therefore, when competitor-selected music divisions are occurring before 9pm, patrons should be informed that there may be adult-themes portrayed during these competitions.
- h. Line Dance ProAm entries must be a single song of up to 1 ½ minutes in length.

N. GRADUATION / PROMOTIONAL POINT SYSTEM – NCWD CLASSIC SERIES

Points are awarded to finalists only within final dance off and not Semi-Finals. Where sections are combined due to few entries in specific level, actual place may be awarded points and not a result for each age group that was combined.

Number of eligible wins:

Line Dance, and ProAm competitors must graduate to the next higher level from the:

Newcomer level if they have eligible wins at two (2) or more NCWD events during the current Eligibility Period.

Novice level if they have eligible wins at two (2) or more NCWD events during the current Eligibility Period.

Intermediate level if they have eligible wins at three (3) or more NCWD events during the current Eligibility Period.

Eligible wins occur if there are three (3) or more competitors competing for overall, except if the majority of judges' marks grades of S or less. In the case of less than three competitors competing for overall, a win counts toward graduation if the majority of judges' marks GH and GG. At least 25% of all grades must be GG.

If the contestant feel that they are not ready to move at the end of dance season, they may ask for dispensation to remain on current level for an additional year. Any points obtained over and above the points required for promotion, will be forfeited in the next grade.

All promotions / graduation work on a point system as follows:

COMPETITORS	1st PLACE	2ND PLACE	3RD PLACE	4TH PLACE	5TH PLACE
1	0.5 point				
2	0.5 point	0.15 point			
3+	1 point	0.25 point	0.15 point		
10+	1 point	0.5 point	0.25 point		
15+	1 point	0.5 point	0.25 point		
20+	1 point	0.5 point	0.25 point	0.25 point	
25+	1 point	0.5 point	0.25 point	0.25 point	0.25 point

➤ Required points level for promotion to the next level are:

Line Dance Division

- Pre-Newcomer: 2 points to obtain before advancing to Newcomer level.
- Newcomer: 2 points to obtain before advancing to Novice Level
- Novice: 4 points to obtain before advancing to Intermediate Level
- Intermediate: 6 points to obtain before advancing to Advance Level
- Advance: On these level contestants must earn ascension from the organization to move up.

O. GRADUATION CRITERIA – UCWDC REGIONAL & WORLDS EVENT

1. Graduation Criteria applies to all Dance Types (except Choreography and Teams Divisions)
2. Competitors graduate on the first day of the next Dance Season, except for the following:
 - a. In a Dance Season, when a competitor competes for the first time in the UCWDC, or returns to competing in the UCWDC after more than the Eligibility Period, or competes for the first time in a new Dance Type (i.e., ProAm, Couples, Line Dance):
 - ii. And accumulates more than 50% of GG in their dances in any single division in their skill level (need not be the same division at each event), in their first 2 competitions or their first competition and their first overall.
 - iii. Then, they must immediately graduate to the next higher level.
3. Eligible wins occur if there are three (3) or more competitors competing overall, except if 51% of the majority of judges marks grades of S or less. In the case of less than three competitors competing overall, a win counts toward graduation if the majority of judges' marks GH and GG. At least 25% of all grades must be GG.
4. Graduation Earned at UCWDC Regional Events:
 - a. A competitor may dance only one level up or down across different dance types.

- b. There may be no more than one level difference for a single competitor across all dance types. Therefore, if a graduation results in a difference greater than one level, the competitor must graduate in the other types as well, unless they obtain Dispensation.
- c. If a competitor qualifies for an Overall title 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.).
- d. From that event forward, if the competitor 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.
- e. Note that competitors may not dance at a higher skill level at The Country Dance World Championships.
- f. Number of eligible wins:

Line Dance and ProAm, competitors must graduate to the next higher level in these cases:

- From the Newcomer level if they have eligible wins at two or more events during the current eligibility Period.
- From Novice level if they have eligible wins at two events or more events during the Eligibility Period.
- From the Intermediate level if they have eligible wins at 3 or more events during the current Eligibility Period.

Ascension into SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown divisions occur when a competitor has a combined lifetime total of four first place overall eligible wins (at 4 or more separate events) in Classic Advanced and Showcase divisions at UCWDC events. At least one win must have three or more competing for overall.

- For SuperStars, the wins must come from the Open Advanced and Showcase Open divisions.
- For SuperStars Plus, the wins must come from the Open or Crystal Advanced and Showcase Open or Crystal divisions. If wins come from Crystal, competitor must enter SuperStars Plus (not SuperStars)
- For RisingStars the wins must come from the Classic Youth Advanced (once the competitor turns 14), Teen Advanced, Showcase Youth (once the competitor turns 14) and Showcase Teen Divisions.

At age 18, RisingStars competitors may choose to:

- Leave Rising Stars and enter Classic Open Advanced; or,
- Stay in RisingStars and ascend to SuperStars during season I which they turn 20 years of age. They may ascend only if they have competed for Overall in Rising stars. Once made, the decision to ascend is final
- For Crown, the wins come from Classic Crystal Advanced, Diamond Advanced, Silver Advanced, and Showcase Diamond divisions.
- For Crown Plus, the wins must have come from Classic Crystal Advanced, Diamond Advanced, Silver Advanced or Gold Advanced and Showcase Crystal, Diamond or Silver Divisions.

5. Graduation Earned from a Continental Championship.

- a. At a Continental Championship, the same graduation requirements apply as at any UCWDC Regional Event.

6. Graduation Earned at The Country Dance World Championships (Worlds’):

- a. Except for graduation to Ascension Divisions (SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown divisions), every competitor who wins a first-place Overall title at The Country Dance World Championships with grades of G or better must graduate to the next higher level of competition, unless they have fewer than three (3) competing for Overall in their division. In this case, competitors will graduate only if the majority of judges’ marks are grades H and GG. At least 25% of all grades must be GG.
- b. SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown divisions:

- 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 Country Dance World Championships.
 - Eligible wins in either, but not both, of these divisions count as two (2) Regional Event wins towards ascension to the relevant division.
 - Candidates may combine their qualifying wins in either Classic or Showcase at UCWDC events with their qualifying wins at the Country Dance World Championships in the other style.
- c. In addition, all competitors who dance for an overall award at The Country Dance World Championships graduate to the next higher division on a scale which depends on the total number of competitors. They graduate if they have one (1) eligible win at a regional Event and they won:
- Second (2nd) place overall at The Country Dance World Championships where there were ten (10) to fourteen (14) overall competitors.
 - Second (2nd) or Third (3rd) place over all at The Country Dance World Championships where there were fifteen (15) to nineteen (19) overall competitors.
 - Second (2nd), Third (3rd), or Forth (4th) place overall at The Country Dance World Championships where there were twenty (20) to Twenty-four (24) overall competitors.
 - Second (2nd), Third (3rd), Forth (4th), or Fifth (5th) place overall at The Country Dance World Championships where there were twenty-five (25) or more overall competitors.

P. DANCE CATEGORIES

1. Line Dance Categories - Line Categories are Rise & Fall, Smooth, Cuban, Funky/Street, and Novelty/Stage, danced in this order at all events except for SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown, which will dance preselected Dance 'A' and Dance 'B', and their Solo Medley, in this order. (The BPM range for each dance category shall be plus or minus (± 5) BPM from the suggested song for each choreographed dance.)
 - a. **Rise & Fall:** A dance using Rise & Fall, and Swing and 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, & 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 Crump in'.
 - 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 (SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown):** A musically mixed, multi-dance category of 4-5 minutes for SuperStars and Rising Stars, and 2 ½ - 5 minutes for Crown with no BPM limitations. A medley of daces choreographed to music of the competitor's choice which must include a combined total of at least 45 seconds each of four (4) of the six (6) Line Dance categories for SuperStars and RisingStars and three (3) of the Line Dance categories for Crown.
2. These dance categories list the minimum, maximum and preferred musical tempos in beats per minute (BPM). These basic timings fulfill the Basic Rule for each dance. Timing notations in the dance categories: Black indicates a weight change; Grey (or Red) denotes no weight change.
 - a. The Country Dance World Championships Dances:
 - **Waltz:** 80-92 bpm. Basic Waltz timing 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. Waltz tempos in self-selected music division must be 120 BPM or less.
 - **East Coast Swing:** 126-144bpm. Basic Triple East Coast Swing timings are: 1&2 3&4 5 6 and 1&2 3 4 5&6 7 8. East Coast Swing is a stationary dance that uses rotary patterns and is performed with semi-Cuban, emphasizing downward compression.

- **West Coast Swing:** 96-112bpm. 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.
 - **Polka:** 112-120bpm. Basic Polka timing is 1&2 3&4 5&6 7&8. Polka is a progressive dance with 2-rail (streamlined) patterns performed with Lilt motion, emphasizing downward action on the numbered counts.
 - **NightClub:** 54-62bpm. 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.
 - **Cha-Cha:** 104-116bpm. 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.
- b. **Non-Country Dance Worlds Championships Alternate Dances:**
- **Jive:** 168-184 bpm. Basic Jive timings 12 3a4 5a6 (SS QaQ QaQ) or 12 3a4 5a6 78 (SS QaQ QaQ SS). Compact pulse danced above the center line, using feet and ankles to create bounce.
 - **Samba:** 96-104bpm. Basic Samba Timing is 1a2 (QaQ) or 12& (SQQ) depending on pattern. Pulse dance with abdominal contraction and “high hip” extension caused through ankle articulation.
 - **International Rumba:** 100-108bpm. Basic International Rumba is 1 234 1 (S QQ S). Latin motion dance with fast spins, extended poses, pronounced hip action.
 - **Quickstep:** 200-208bpm. Basic Quickstep timing is 12 34 56 (S QQ S). Lively, flowing, fast dance with Rise & Fall.
 - **Viennese Waltz:** 174-180bpm. Basic Viennese Waltz timing is 123 456 (QQQ QQQ). Progressive fast rotating dance with swing/sway.
 - **Tango:** 120-140bpm. Basic Tango timing is 12 34 56 (SSQQ) or 12 3 4 56 (SQQS). Smooth dance with staccato action. Strong, dynamic actions & stillness.
 - **Paso Doble:** 120-124bpm. Basic Paso Doble timing is 12345678 (QQQQQQQQ). Spanish dance with Flamenco flavor where the male portrays matador and female portrays the cape of a bull fighter.
3. Choreography (No BPM limitations)
- a. There are five (5) competitive categories:
- Newcomer/Novice Country
 - Intermediate/Advanced Country
 - Newcomer/Novice Non-Country
 - Intermediate/Advanced Non-Country
 - ABC
- b. Each Choreography entry is an original dance performed by competitors with the choreographer physically present. Since the competitors 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 dancer(s) or their performance.
- e. With their competitor registration, Choreographers are required to provide a printed step description of the dance detailing the following:
- The basic pattern and rhythm
 - The level of the dance
 - The number of counts
 - The number of walls
 - An ‘ABC’ dance entry should specify the number of counts per phrase (A, B, C, etc.) and the phrase order from beginning to end.

Q. COMPETITOR CONDUCT AND ETHICS

1. All decisions of the contest judges, the Contest Coordinator, and Event Director will be final. Competitors are expected to act and comply with the standards and rules. Competitors are required to provide on any competition registration form their full name, mailing address, birthdate, phone number (cell preferred), e-mail address and NCWD Associate Membership number.

2. All Associate Members and participants acting on behalf of the NCWD are expected to comply with all applicable laws at all times. The NCWD reserves the right to exclude any competitor from an event for acting in violation of applicable law, or contrary to the NCWD's mission, Associate Membership Code of Conduct as determined in the NCWD's sole discretion.
3. Before entering a NCWD Event, competitors may be 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. Competitors 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. Information provided on the competition registration form will be used for tracking of performance results to determine divisional graduation status, divisional age eligibility, County Dance World Championships eligibility, and The NCWD Classic Championship Points Championships.
5. All attendees are expected to act in a friendly, cordial, respectful, and professional manner throughout the event.

R. REPORTING AND STAGING PROCEDURE

1. For all heated divisions, competitors should report to the Floor Coordinator thirty (30) minutes 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 competitor will make themselves known to the Floor Coordinator by competitor number, confirming that they are dressed, ready, and able to perform in the proper division. During the contest, competitors must remain in the staging area, except for costume changes.
2. Competitor numbers must be touching the spine and must be worn in all divisions except self-selected music categories. However, Choreography competitors must wear numbers.
3. Even though NCWD contests post the heats of competition for all divisions, the exact heat order is not guaranteed to any competitor. A competitor 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.

S. AWARDS & CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. An "Overall Champion" title is awarded only to the first-place overall winner in each specific division. When used in a competitor's dance resumé, the full name of the division must precede that title. i.e., "John Doe is the Line Dance Male 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 Line Dance Male Silver Novice" winner.
3. Titles are bestowed upon winners by the NCWD. 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. ProAm Line Dance offers NO Overall Championship.
 - b. Honky Tonk Line Dance Overall Championship entries must compete in both (2) of the offered dances.
 - c. Starter Line Dance Overall Championships entries must compete in both (2) of the offered dances.
 - d. Newcomer Line Dance Overall Championship entries must compete in all three (3) 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 (4) 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:
 - Rise & Fall, Pulse, Smooth, Cuban, and Funky/Street for Classic Intermediate Open and Juniors; Classic Advanced Youth.
 - Rise & Fall, Pulse, Smooth, Cuban, and Novelty/Stage for the Age Divisions.

- Rise & Fall, Pulse, Smooth, Cuban, Funky/Street, and Novelty/Stage for Classic Open Advanced, Classic Teen Advanced Showcase Open, Showcase Youth Divisions, and Showcase Teen Divisions.
- g. SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown must compete in Dance A, Dance B, and a Solo Medley.

T. COUNTRY DANCE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (WORLDS)

Each year the UCWDC presents the Country Dance World Championships, which offers world-class Couples, ProAm, ProPro, Line Dance, ShowTime, and Team competitions.

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. Associate Membership: Each individual competitor may not begin to accrue qualifications for Worlds until their Associate Membership dues are current and paid for the Dance Season.
2. To be eligible to compete at The Country Dance World Championships:
 - a. Competitors who are permanent residents of North America and Europe must qualify by competing at three (3) or more UCWDC Events during the preceding Dance Season, except for all juniors and Manitoba and western Canada who must compete at two (2) or more events, and Starter competitors, who must compete at one or more events.
 - b. Competitors who are permanent residents of Asia and Africa must qualify by competing in at least one (1) UCWDC Event during the preceding Dance Season.
 - c. Competitors who are permanent residents of continents other than North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa may enter without pre-qualification but must be active, dues paid Associate Members before dancing at The Country Dance World Championships.
 - d. SuperStars, Line Dance Showcase Open, and Line Dance Classic Open Advanced must qualify by dancing three (3) full programs except in Asia and Africa where they must dance one (1) full program.
3. The Country Dance World Championships qualification in Line Dance does not count for any other Dance Type.
4. The Country Dance World Championships competitors must have competed for the Overall Championship or the single dance Championship (ProAm Line Dance) at least once in the division in which they intend to compete, except:
 - a. SuperStars, Line Dance Showcase Open, Line Dance Classic Open Advanced competitors 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 (2)) over the course of three (3) or more UCWDC events.
 - b. Choreography need not qualify.
5. For each Dance Type entered, The Country Dance World Championships competitors must compete in the highest division where they danced for overall during the preceding Dance Season.

B. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

1. An "Overall Champion" title at The Country Dance World Championships 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 Line Dance Male Silver Novice World Champion."
2. Conversely, when used in a competitor'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 Line Dance Male Silver Novice" winner at the Country Dance World Championship.
3. Titles are bestowed upon winners by the UCWDC. Titles which are abused by the recipient may be withdrawn.

U. 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 competitors, 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 competitor(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 competitors until after they have finished competing.
4. A judge may never coerce, intimidate, or in any way perceivably threaten competitors into taking private lessons or coaching from them.
5. Judges may not discuss dance information with any competitor they are judging until after the contest session has been completed.