



# RULE BOOK

## 2023 - 2025

PROPRO / PROAM

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](mailto:ncwd.sa@outlook.com)  
Phone: +27 -71-673-0807

## C. NCWD WEBSITE

([www.ncwd.info](http://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 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 2017 to 5 February 2022)

### **C. DANCE TYPES**

1. ProAm
2. ProPro

### **D. GENDER REQUIREMENTS & MIXED-ROLE DIVISIONS**

1. In ProAm and ProPro divisions except Mixed-Role divisions, a dance pair consists of one (1) man and one (1) woman where the man leads and the lady follows, except for momentary role reversals.
2. In Mixed-Role divisions, a dance pair consists of one (1) follower or leader of any gender with their Pro, where the leader leads and the follower follow. Both leader and follower must retain their roles throughout each Dance Category.
3. Points will be tracked by individuals in each role. For example, If Jane competes in both traditional and Mixed-Role divisions, her points will track separately as Jan – Follower and Jan-Leader.

### **E. AGE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Your age for the entire Dance Season for NCWD competition 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.
  - b. Junior Youth – competitors are at least 10 and less than 14 years of age.
  - c. Junior Teen – competitors are at least 14 and less than 18 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. 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. Silver division competitors must be at least 50 years of age or older.
    - iv. Gold division competitors must be at least 60 years of age or older.
    - v. Platinum division competitors must be at least 70
    - vi. Pearl Division competitors must be at least 80

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
Pearl	80+ Years

**F. SKILL LEVEL DIVISIONS ARE OFFERED AS FOLLOWS:**

Specific division names

1. ProAm Newcomer Divisions:
  - a. Newcomer IV
  - b. Newcomer III
  - c. Newcomer II
  - d. Newcomer I
  - e. Novice
  - f. Intermediate
  - g. Advanced
  - h. Allstars
  - i. Showcase
  - j. Spotlight
2. ProPro Dance Divisions:
  - a. ProPro II
  - b. ProPro I
  - c. Showcase
  - d. Spotlight

**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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 Challenge" & "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 are available on [www.ncwd.info](http://www.ncwd.info)
5. NCWD also offering Dual - Membership to contestants who are registered with another organization, who are recognized by NCWD, by a lower registration fee.
6. 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

For crossover entry between Dance Type, see ProAm / ProPro Appendix B

1. Competitors in Newcomer I should not have multiple top 5 placements on a recognized dance sport circuit (e.g. Ballroom, world Swing Dance Council).
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 II or higher.
4. Competitors may enter any division for which they are qualified except for the following:
  - a. ProAm competitors in Newcomer I or above may dance for Overall Championship (see Section III) in only one skill level. While dancing the Overall Championship in that skill level, they may dance in the skill level above. If they dance for Overall in the skill level above, from that event forward they may no longer dance in their original level.
  - b. Partnerships may not enter either ProAm and ProPro within the same Dance Season.
  - c. Once a Couple partnership enters as ProAm or ProPro, they may not return to Couples in the same Dance Season. They may return to Couples in the future Dance Season.
  - d. ProPro competitors may not compete as ProAm competitors.
5. When crossing over from one Dance Type to another or returning after the Eligibility Period, a competitor may move down one skill level.
6. Once a competitor 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. ProAm Showcase and Spotlight competitors may dance Divisions III, II, or I in Couples Classic, or Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced levels of ProAm or Line Dance Classic. ProAm Showcase and Spotlight competitors may not enter the Classic Division IV or Newcomer level of dance or lower.
  - b. 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 division as they advance in age.
  - c. Any competitor returning after the Eligibility Period may dance to one skill level lower than where they previously competed.
  - d. 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).
7. If a competitor earns a qualifying win in a Showcase division, they must then enter their respective Classic division at the Advanced level for ProAm beginning the next Dance Season.
8. Professional Status Specifics:
  - a. Competitors have ProPro I status if they teach Novice and above ProAm or Line Dance competitors, or Division III and above Couples competitors.
  - b. Competitors have ProPro II status if they teach any lower levels of competition. Competitors have ProAm Novice to Advanced status if they teach Wedding Couples, Studio New Students Specials, or Group classes, and/or social dance.
  - c. If a competitor teaches any dance form, they may not enter any Dance Type at the Newcomer or Couples IV level or lower.
  - d. If competitors have ProPro I status, they are eligible to enter Intermediate Line Dance or Couples Division II or above.
  - e. If competitors have ProPro II status, they are eligible to enter Novice Line Dance or Couples Division III or above.
  - f. Those with ProPro status are not eligible to enter any competitive skill level that they teach, except when teaching Couples Division, I or Line Dance Advanced where they may only enter Couples Open Division I or Line Dance Open Advanced.
  - g. If competitors regularly assist a dance instructor, they may enter ProAm as a student but may not enter the Couples IV or Newcomer level of dance or lower.

## I. DIVISION RULES

For an explanation of the movements listed below, see “ProAm /ProPro Appendix A”

### 1. Classic Format

- a. The songs selected by each DJ or Event Director, for each ProAm and ProPro division, are revealed the day of the competition. The songs played for contiguous heats of the same dance and division in ProAm/ProPro must be different and of approximately the same tempo.
- b. The basic timing(s) and rhythm(s), plus the musical tempo ranges for each dance, are listed in Point O. Dance Categories.
- c. All ProAm/ProPro competitors must enter and dance Two Step to be eligible to compete, with the exception of Newcomer, Junior, Showcase and Allstars divisions. Failure to do so will result in disqualification in that division.
- d. Classic Movement Limitations:
  - 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.
  - Jumps and jetés are not allowed.
  - Dance movements that rotate on balance in adagio are permitted to turn only up to 360 degrees.
  - All ProAm/ProPro competitors must enter and dance Two Step to be eligible to compete except: Syllabus, Newcomer, Social, and Juniors divisions. Failure to do so will result in disqualification in that division.
  - All ProAm/ProPro competitors must start with their bodies touching each other. Syllabus and 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. ProAm Social may start in of the closed positions or in two hand open.
  - ProAm/ProPro competitors must follow the Basic Rule which requires them to dance one full, visible basic pattern of the dance per standard phrase of music (32 count for 4/4 time or 24 count 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.
  - A stationary split or rotating pedestal is not allowed.
  - 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.
  - Free spins are permitted only when they are led from a connected position. They must finish through re-connection or as appropriate to end-of-pattern and cannot initiate additional movement concepts without a physical lead (shine).
- e. Additional Movement Limitations for Newcomer division:
  - Newcomer must start in one of the seven (7) closed positions: Basic Closed (Right Inside Partner), Left Inside Partner, Right Parallel, (Outside Partner) Left Parallel (Outside Partner), Promenade, Reverse (Counter) Promenade, or Fan.
  - Newcomer I competitors must use the basic timing defined in the Dance Categories throughout each dance, with the exception of a foot change and patterns described in the UCWDC Syllabus that are not basic timing.
  - Newcomer IV, III, and II Competitors except for a starter step, must use only the patterns from the NCWD Syllabus listed.
  - Hops, leans, lunges, arabesques, penches, piques, attitudes, developes, ronde de jambe en lair and tele rondes are not allowed.

- Adagio movement is not allowed except for kicks, flicks, floor sweeps, or psse when don without losing the basic timing.
- f. Showcase Format
    - a. Showcase divisions dance to music which is pre-selected for each dance on a rotating schedule. The songs, artist names, details for usage dates, downloads as edited for competition are available on request.
    - b. The choreographic interpretation of the music is one of the most important factors being judged. Competitors 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. Movements allowances and limitations for Spotlights, Showcase ProAm and ProPro:
      - A competitor may enter any dance category of their choice.
      - A competitor may begin in any dance position.
      - Aerials are not allowed.
      - 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.
      - 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.

## J. FLOOR CRAFT

1. For all dances, competitors should be courteous at all times on the floor, as well as vigilant so as not to interfere with other competitors.
2. For ProAm and ProPro progressive dances, competitors should generally move in Line-of-Dance (LOD), counter-clockwise around the outside of the dance floor. When a competitor performs a stationary movement in progressive dance, it should be to the outside of the floor, and as long as it does not block the inside lane, the stationary competitor has the right-of way. If another competitor slows or stops, trailing competitors should pass on the inside (toward the center of the dance floor.)
3. For ProAm and ProPro spot dances, competitors should generally remain in place. Once established on a spot, stationary competitors have the right-of-way over any competitor moving toward their space. When spot competitors use traveling movements they need to return to their original spot unless they are moving to an empty space. Stationary competitors have the right-of-way for their spot along with reasonable space in which to perform.
4. For ProAm 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 so as to reasonable 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 the Dance must be maintained.

## K. COSTUMING

1. Competitors in all Divisions must wear
  - a. Traditional looking cowboy hats for all leaders in all levels and divisions.
  - b. Traditional looking cowboy boots with a pull strap, stitching, and at least 1.25" heel from top of heel to floor and at least 7" shaft from top of the heel to top of shaft. Acceptable heel styles include Cowboy, Riding, Walking, Roper Straight, Roper Pitched, Fowler Straight and Fowler Pitched, Fashion heels are not acceptable.
  - c. Newcomer competitors are encouraged but not required to wear boots except at the Country Dance World Championships, where boots are required for all levels.
  - d. Junior competitors may not wear boots or other footwear with more than 1.5" centimeters heel.
  - e. Dance pants (under-shorts) for any dancer whose buttocks may be revealed during a dance performance.
2. When ProAm Newcomer IV, III, and II are danced in a separate session, the Pros must also adhere to Newcomer IV, III, II costume roles, except that Pros are required to wear boots.

3. Sponsored logos on costumes are allowed if they are no larger than 5 inches by 5 inches in dimension per article of clothing. Logo should be tasteful and not detract from the costume.
4. Newcomer IV, III, II 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 costume. This does not include jewelry, which can include bracelets, necklaces, broaches, hatbands, hair-combs, rings, earrings, collar-tips, button snaps, belt buckles, boot bracelets or stirrups. Discretion and tasteful decorum appropriate to the style of Country and the style of the dance performed is favored.
5. 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.
6. Competitors I Spotlight and All-stars who chose to discard parts of costumes during their performance cannot leave discarded articles on the dance floor where they may impede other competitors. All discarded articles must be removed by the competitor at the end of the performance.
7. A prop is any item that is not normally worn as clothing. Props are allowed in Spotlight only. Props must be portable, not living and delivered to and removed from the performance arena only by the competitors. Performers and props must not touch audience members or event staff. A total time of 1 minute for prop setup, entrance, prop removal and exit is allowed.

## 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.

## M. MUSIC

Competition Music preview is not allowed for any ProPro/ProAm except Syllabus 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 Polkas 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 are maximums (which may extend to the end of the phrase):
  - a. ProAm - 1 ½ minutes
  - b. ProPro – 1 ½ minute
  - c. Line dance ProAm – 1 ½ minute
  - d. Spotlight (ProAm & ProPro) – 2 ½ to 4 minutes.
2. Showcase Music: The songs and artist names are posted under "Music" on our web page, [www.ncwd.info](http://www.ncwd.info) at least 2 months before they are first used at NCWD competitions.
3. For Event Music Selections, all Classic music must be as described below in 4,b,c, and d,.
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:
    - i. It is the competitor'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 The Country Dance World Championships. The music must be accompanied by a properly filled out Competitor-Selected Music
  - f. Brief, recorded introductions and curtain calls are permitted. Clocking begins when the performance-sound begins. Clocking ends when the performance-sound ends (not including curtain calls).

## **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 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

- 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. Competitors graduate on the first day of the next Dance Season, except for the following:
  - a. When a competitor dances the first two (2) time in a Dance Season and accumulates a majority of GG's in their dance(s), they must immediately graduate to the next higher level once they are informed by the Vice President of Rules.
  2. 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.
  3. 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 (1) level different in another Dance Type without a dispensation. For crossover between Dance Types, please see Line Appendix B.
    - b. If a competitor 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 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. Competitors may not dance at a higher skill lever at The Country Dance World Championships.
    - c. Number of eligible wins:
      1. ProAm competitors must graduate to the next higher level from the:
        - Newcomer level if they have eligible wins at two (2) or more UCWDC events during the current Eligibility Period.
        - Novice level if they have eligible wins at two (2) or more UCWDC events during the current Eligibility Period.
        - Intermediate level if they have eligible wins at three (3) or more UCWDC events during the current Eligibility Period.
  4. Graduation Earned at The Country Dance World Championships ("Worlds"):
    - a. 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, competitor will graduate only if the majority of judges' marks are grades H and GG. At least 25% of all grades must be GG.
    - b. 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. ProPro/ProAm Dance Categories – The Country Dance World Championship Classic and Showcase Couples 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 NCWD events.
2. These NCWD contest dance categories list the minimum, maximum and preferred musical tempos in beats per minute (BPM) for Classic Couples. 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. To meet the Basic Rule for the ‘phrased’ dances e.g., Waltz, Polka, NightClub, ad 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. The Country Dance World Championships Core Dances:
    - i. **Two-Step:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Newcomer, Platinum: 172-180, 174 preferred. For Division III and Novice: 180-188, 184 preferred. For Division II or Intermediate and above: 188-196, 194 preferred.* Basic Two-Step timing 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 ; QQQQS S). Two-Step is a smooth, progressive dance with weaved patterns and rhythm accents that separate the quicks and slows, emphasizing slows.
    - ii. **Waltz:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Division III, Newcomer, Novice, Platinum: 86-92. For Division II or Intermediate and above: 80-86.* 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. The Country Dance World
  - b. Championships Swing Dances:
    - i. **East Coast Swing:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Newcomer, Platinum: 126-132, 130 preferred. For Division III or Novice: 132-138, 136 preferred. For Division II, Intermediate 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.
    - ii. **West Coast Swing:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Division III, Newcomer, Novice, Platinum: 104- 112, 108 preferred. For Division II, Intermediate 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-Country Dance World Championships Swing Dance:
    - i. **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. The Country Dance World Championships Alternate Dances:
    - i. **Triple Two:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Division III, Newcomer, Novice, Platinum: 86-92. For Division II, Intermediate 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.
    - ii. **Polka:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Division III, Newcomer, Novice, Platinum; 112-116. For Division II or Intermediate and above: 116-120.* 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.
- iii. **NightClub:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Division III, Newcomer, Novice, Platinum; 58-62. For Division II or Intermediate and above: 54-58.* Basic NightClub timing is 1 2&3 4&5 6&7 8& (SQQS 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.
  - iv. **Cha-Cha:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Division III, Newcomer, Novice, Platinum; 104-110. For Division II or Intermediate 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-Country Dance World Championships Alternate Dances:
    - i. **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.
    - ii. **Schottische:** *For all 120-132.* 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.
    - iii. **Rhythm Two (Arizona Two-Step):** *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:
    - i. Spotlight: (2 ½ - 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 competitor'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.

## 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.

### **III. 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 ProAm 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 Male Classic 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. Syllabus divisions and ProAm offers 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. ProAm Overall entries must dance in at least Two-Step, Waltz, one (1) Swing dance, and two (2) Alternate dances.

### **IV. 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.
  - 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.

## **V. 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.