

- i. Examples of "Couples Dances" include, but are not limited to, Swing, Shag, Hustle, Salsa, and Waltz.
- ii. Examples of dances recognized as "Non-Couples Dances" include but are not limited to, Jazz Dancing, Line Dancing, Hip-Hop, and Break Dancing.
- b. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, break-always, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are all allowed.
- c. A Competitor can be a member of only one Formation Team.
- d. 4. All team members can no exceed the event age limit of 20 years of age.
- e. A team member is allowed to enter a Couples Division and/or the Cabaret Division.
- f. Routines must be a minimum of three-minutes and a maximum of four minutes in length.
- g. Formation Teams select their own music.
- h. Costumes are required.

#### **15. YOUNG ADULT DIVISION**

This division is for Competitors age 14 through 20-years of age.

- a. The rules governing this division are the same rules that govern the Showcase Division with the following exceptions:
  - i. Lifts & aerials that have 1 partner's torso rise above the other partner's shoulders are not allowed.
  - ii. All other partner weight support moves are optional.
- b. Age requirements:
  - i. If partners have competed previously but one partner is older than 17-years of age, that couple may petition the Organizer for an exception to the age restrictions rule. The intent of this rule is to allow youngsters who have formed a partnership and advanced their dancing together to continue to compete together in the Young Adult Division.
  - ii. If one partner has reached the age of 14, and the other partner is under the age of 14, this couple must compete in the Young Adult Division.
- c. Routines, choice of music, and costumes must be in good taste and appropriate for this age group.
- d. Routines will be a minimum of two-minutes and a maximum of three minutes in length.
- e. Competitors select their own music.
- f. Tasteful, age appropriate Costumes are required.

#### **16. YOUTH DIVISION**

This division is designed to feature young dancers age 6 through 13-years of age.

- a. The rules governing this division are the same as the rules that govern the Showcase Division with the following exceptions:

- i. Lifts & aerials that have 1 partner's torso rise above the other partner's shoulders are not allowed.
- ii. All other partner weight support moves are optional.
- b. Competitors must have reached the age of 6-years old in order to compete. If one partner is 14years of age or older, and the other partner is under the age of 14, this couple must compete in the Young Adult Division.
- c. Routines, choice of music, and costumes must be in good taste and appropriate for this age group.
- d. Routines must be a minimum of two-minutes and a maximum of three minutes in length.
- e. Competitors select their own music.
- f. Tasteful, age appropriate Costumes are required.

### **17. JUNIOR STRICTLY SWING DIVISION**

This division is designed to highlight social Swing dancing skills with an emphasis on lead/follow technique.

- a. This division is for Competitors age 6 through 20-years of age.
- b. Recognizable Swing content, as described in the Statement of Swing, must be present throughout the performance.
- c. Semi-Finals will be danced in a group format. Finals may be danced in a Group and/or Spotlight format.
- d. This is a "lead/follow" dance.
- e. "In the air" partner weight support moves, such as Lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are not allowed.
- f. "On the ground" support moves (such as drops, slides, and splits) are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
- g. Short break-aways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed.
- h. Music will be randomly selected by the Event Organizer. It will not be previewed in advance by the Competitors.
- i. Costumes are not allowed, but dramatic, tasteful dance clothing is encouraged.

### **18. CABARET**

Any style of dance, other than swing, is allowed in this event. Dancers will be evaluated in their overall music interpretation and execution within their selected dance style. Contestants will be allotted a maximum time limit of 4 minutes from the time the music begins to the time the music completely ends.

## **Dancesport/Ballroom**

- II. **SPORT POLICIES**
  - a. **ENTRY FORMS:**

Entry forms may be found on the AAU Dance website, [www.aausports.org](http://www.aausports.org), which includes space for the name and address of each partner and their current AAU registration numbers. For athletes under the age of 18, the consent signature of a parent or guardian must also be obtained.

**b. AGE REQUIREMENTS**

**i. RULES FOR AMATEUR COMPETITORS**

**1. Age Category Classifications:**

The following definitions determine competitive age categories:

- a. Pre-Teen:** competitors who are 12 years old and younger. Pre-teen competitors may dance up one age classification to the Junior category. A Pre-teen competitor may not dance up to the Youth category unless they request permission in writing and receive approval. Under no circumstance will a Pre-teen competitor be allowed to compete in the Adult age category.
- b. Junior:** competitors who are 13, 14, or 15 years old. Junior competitors may dance up one age classification to the Youth category. A Junior competitor may not apply for permission to dance up to the Adult category until they are 15 years old.
- c. Youth:** competitors who are 16, 17, or 18 years old. Nineteen-year-olds may also dance as youths until they have graduated from High School. Youth competitors may concurrently dance up one age classification into the Adult category.
- d. Amateur or Adult:** competitors who are 19 years of age or older. Adult B classifications are for those adults who are 35 years of age or older. Senior classifications are for those adults who are 50 years of age or older.
- e.** A couple's age classification eligibility is defined as the age of the older partner on the day of the competition for the Pre-teen, Junior, Youth and Adult classifications.

**ii. AGE DIVISION**

20 and under = youth

21 and up = adult

**h. ROSTERS**

- i.** Coaches of formations teams are required to submit a roster with the name and social security number of each competitor on their team, including reserves, at least 30 days prior to the competition.

**i. RULES FOR ORGANIZERS**

- 1. Organizers are not required to hold a formation team competition in any category that has less than three entries.
- 2. Before a competition adequate facilities must be provided for formation rehearsals.
  - a. Each formation team must be permitted an equal time span in which to rehearse in the facility.
  - b. This time span should be a minimum of ten minutes per team.

3. Formation coaches are required to submit a roster, which includes birth dates to the competition organizer at least 30 days prior to the competition.
4. A member of the event organizing committee must be appointed. He, or his designated representative, must attend rehearsals and warn any team infringing the rules. Once warned, a team may be disqualified if they continue to infringe upon the rules. Disqualification would be by the chairman, after consultation with the adjudicators and organizer.
5. The chairman is allowed to videotape each team's performance at their official rehearsal in the facility, for the purpose of confirming adherence to the rules.
6. The order of dancing for each round will be determined by draw, under the supervision of the chairman of judges, or his designated representative.
7. Each round of each competition must be conducted without any interruption.
8. In each round of competition, no more than 50% of the teams should be eliminated for the subsequent round. No more than eight teams should participate in the final round. If the Chairman calls for the appropriate number of callbacks and the marks do not allow for the correct number of teams to be advanced, then the Chairman has the authority to place less than 50% of the teams in the subsequent round. This can be considered especially if an additional round would be required in order to comply with the desired 50%.
9. In the preliminary rounds judges must call back the required number of formation teams. This will be done by secret ballot, with the complete judging results being released after the competition has concluded.
10. Secret ballots must be used by the adjudicators for the finals of Pre-Teen and Junior formation competitions. For the finals of Youth and Adult formation competitions the adjudicators may use the open marking system. Again, the complete judging results must be released after the competition has concluded.
11. During the duration of each performance the formation team's entry number/letter, as listed in the program, must be clearly shown near the dance floor for the benefit of the judges.
12. The adjudicators should be positioned at an appropriate distance from each other, and in the front for formation competitions. They may be positioned at either a close or far proximity to the dance floor, or a combination of both. At least some adjudicators should be positioned in an elevated place if at all possible.
13. The coach (es) of each formation team may stand adjacent to or on, the floor when their team is competing. The organizer has the right to direct the coach (es) as to where they may be allowed to stand when their team is dancing.

### iii. **REGISTRATION**

1. 1. General guidelines for Registration:
  - a. Registration will be accepted through the AAU website, [www.aausports.org](http://www.aausports.org) or on Official Registration Forms.

- b. Registration with the AAU runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>, regardless of when the registration is received throughout the year.
- c. All registrants must register with the AAU for the following year or will not be allowed to participate at any AAU event until they are correctly registered.
- d. All registrants will receive a numbered registration card indicating the valid registration period. It is the responsibility of all registrants to show competition organizers their valid registration cards when so requested. Additionally, all registrants can print a copy of the AAU Dancesport Rulebook off of the AAU Dance web site at [www.aadance.org](http://www.aadance.org). Awareness of the contents of the Rulebook is the responsibility of each registrant. Please read and study them carefully.
- e. All registered competitors must present their current competitor's registration card before receiving their competition number from the organizer.

### **III. SPORT OPERATIONS**

#### **a. RULES**

None are available at this time.

#### **b. EVENT OPERATING RULES:**

##### **i. OFFICIALS**

##### **DANCE SPORT/BALLROOM**

##### **1. SELECTION OF OFFICIALS:**

- a. Required number of judges and scrutineers:
  - i. At all AAU sanctioned events, at least one qualified Chairman of Judges must officiate.
  - ii. In all Amateur Championship Events, a minimum of seven (7) judges shall officiate.
  - iii. At all AAU sanctioned events, at least one qualified Scrutineer must officiate.
- b. Judges Qualifications:
  - i. Organizers must select Judges who are qualified and certified in the categories they are to judge, i.e. International Style, American Style, Theatre Arts/Cabaret/Exhibition Styles, Swing, etc.
- c. Chairman of Judges Qualifications:
  - i. The Chairman of Judges for AAU sanctioned events must be a resident of the U.S.A. and must hold a full qualification in all categories included in the event.
- d. Announcement of Adjudicators and Officials:
- e. The organizer shall, in all advertising, announce the proposed list of Judges and officials who will officiate and the competitions in which they will officiate.

##### **2. RULES FOR JUDGES:**

##### **a. JUDGES RESTRICTIONS:**