

Youths may participate on a Junior formation team (one boy and/or one girl).

- iii. Youth Teams: Confined to Youths with the following exception: any number of Juniors may participate on a Youth team.
- iv. Adult Teams: Confined to Adults with the following exception: any number of Youths may participate on an Adult team.
- v. All age categories: All competitors may dance one time only in each style at any competition.
- vi. Coaches may replace team members with reserves for any round in the competition.
- vii. Substitutions may not occur during the actual time the team is on the floor competing.

4. SOLO (OPEN) WORK – STANDARD/SMOOTH CATEGORIES:

Solo (open) work is defined as when any couple in the formation team is not in the traditional competitive ballroom hold (which includes the lady's left hand being placed on the man's right shoulder).

vii. RULES/RESTRICTIONS:

1. RULES FOR COMPETITORS

a. DANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- i. Competitors are restricted to entering only those categories for which they are eligible.
- ii. All competitors are required to present a valid and current AAU registration card to the competition registrar before the gentleman's competition number may be issued to them at the event..
- iii. Competitors must adhere to the dress requirements specified by the Organizer, provided such requirements have been specified in his printed advertisements and/or entry blanks.
- iv. Competitors are required to remain on the floor until the end of the music to avoid the possibility of disqualification.
- v. Theater Arts and Cabaret competitors only are allowed to use props. A prop is defined, as any item that is not part of the regular costume worn by the dancers.
- vi. All competitors are subject to Anti-Doping controls as prescribed by IDSF, USOC and AAU.
- vii. While on the premises of a competition, competitors shall conduct themselves in a civil and sportsmanlike manner. Competitors shall not harass or challenge a judge about the markings of that judge before, during or after the event.

- viii. Competitors are responsible for being in attendance and ready to compete thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled time for the event(s) entered and for checking in with the registrar.
- ix. Competitors are responsible for adherence to the dress code requirement specified by the event organizers.
- x. Competitors are responsible for dancing only in those divisions and classification categories for which they are eligible under the rules found in this rulebook.
- xi. k. Any competitor who removes, defaces, or destroys any of the Master Scrutineering Sheets shall be subject to disciplinary action.

b. CONDUCT:

- i. While on the competition premises, competitors shall conduct themselves at all times in a civil and sportsmanlike manner.
- ii. Competitors must be in attendance at least one-half hour in advance of the advertised time scheduled for the events he is entering. Organizers are not required to delay the program for the benefit of latecomers.
- iii. Competitors shall accept as final the individual markings of the judges, and no appeal against them may be made except when it can be shown that the actual markings have been incorrectly evaluated.
- iv. If officials and competitors mutually consent to discuss markings and results after the conclusion of the event, they should do so in a civil, ethical, and professional manner.
- v. A competitor who removes any of the Master Scrutineer Sheets without the permission of the organizer shall face disciplinary action.
- vi. If a couple fails to appear for an event without notifying the organizer in advance, then the organizer is not obligated to accept entries from that couple for future competitions.

c. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES:

- i. Dancing as a profession. The following acts are considered evidence that an individual has become a professional.
 - 1. By publicly declaring himself or herself to be a professional, whether verbally or in writing.
 - 2. By competing in a professional category.
- ii. Material gain: Amateur competitors are prohibited from generating a net profit from the use of his or her dance skills, with the exception of those competitors who are considered World Class or Certified by other member organizations.

- iii. Commercial agreements: Amateur competitors are only permitted to enter into commercial or business agreements either written or verbal with individuals or organizations wherein his or her dance skills are provided in exchange for money or other valuables.
- iv. Doping violations: Competitors are not permitted to use substances and/or methods classified as doping under the IDSF, USOC and AAU Anti-Doping codes. Competitors may not refuse to submit to a doping test administered by the above-mentioned entities.

2. SYLLABUS:

- a. Couples competing in the “Pre-teen” category must dance restricted syllabi as noted. Couples competing in the “Junior”, “Youth”, and “Adult” categories are not restricted in syllabi unless competing in a “Syllabus” event, or otherwise stipulated by the organizer.
- b. Pre-teen couples competing in this age category may only dance Bronze, Silver and Gold syllabus figures from approved syllabi.

3. SIZE OF FORMATION TEAMS:

Teams of four, five, six, seven and/or eight couples may compete in each formation style. A couple is one boy and one girl.

4. TIME RESTRICTIONS:

- a. Pre-Teen Formation Teams shall be limited to two minutes of music for their routine. Up to an additional thirty seconds will be allowed for their entrance and exit combined. This adds up to two and one-half minute’s total on the floor.
- b. Junior Formation Teams shall be limited to three minutes of music for their routine. UP to an additional thirty seconds will be allowed for their entrance and exit combined. This adds up to three and one-half minutes total on and off the floor.
- c. Youth Formation Teams shall dance for a minimum of three minutes, but shall be limited to a maximum of four and one-half minutes of music for their routine. Up to an additional one minute will be allowed for their entrance and exit combined. This adds up to a maximum of five and one-half minutes total on and off the floor.
- d. Adult Formation Teams shall dance for a minimum of three minutes, but shall be limited to a maximum of four and one-half minutes of music for their routine. Up to an additional one and one-half minutes will be allowed for their entrance and exit combined. This adds up to a maximum of six minutes total on and off the floor.
- e. The timing of formation team routines begins when the first person sets foot onto the dance floor. The timing ends when the last person on the team steps off the dance floor.

5. NUMBER OF DANCES:

- a. Pre-Teen formation teams shall be limited to one or two dances from the approved list for each style.
- b. Junior formation teams shall be limited to one, two or three dances from the approved list for each style.
- c. Youth formation teams must perform a minimum of three dances and up to a maximum of five dances from the approved list for each style.
- d. Adult formation teams must perform a minimum of three dances and up to a maximum of five dances from the approved list for each style. Sixteen (16) bars of one additional dance may be performed. This additional dance needs not be one on the approved list for each style.

6. ENTRANCE AND EXITS:

- a. Pre-teen and Junior formation teams are not allowed to use music for their entrance and exit. The team must remain motionless for a period of at least two seconds before the start of the music and then again at the end of the dance before they start their exit.
- b. Youth and Adult formation teams are allowed to use music for their entrance and exit if desired. When music is used for the entrance and/or exit there must be either a “gong” sound or a complete break in the music for the space of at least two seconds that separates the entrance/exit from the routine music proper. The formation team must remain motionless during this break both before and after the routine proper.

7. LIFTS AND PROPERTIES:

- a. No lifts are allowed at any time in any competitive age category for Pre-Teen, Junior, and Youth formation teams. This includes the team’s entrance and exit.
- b. Lifts are allowed during the entrance and/or exit only for Adult formation teams.
- c. No properties (props) are allowed at any time in any competitive age category for formation teams. This includes the team’s entrance and exit.
- d. A prop is defined as any item that is not part of the regular costume worn by the dancers, and that is not attached to the dancer or their costume for the full duration of time that the dancers are on the floor.
- e. A hat will be considered a prop if it is removed at any time from the dancer’s head, including entrance and exit.

8. SOLO (OPEN) WORK:

- a. In all age categories (Pre-Teen, Junior, Youth and Adult) the formation team may dance up to 50% of their bars of music as solo (open) work. At least 50% of their bars of music must be danced completely in the traditional competitive ballroom hold.
- b. The coach of the formation team should be prepared to present a breakdown of the phrasing of the music, indicating

which measures are open, to the Chairman of Judges at the team's rehearsal in the competition facility.

- c. If a couple is in open position at the end of a bar of music, then that bar is counted as solo. If a couple is in closed position at the end of a bar of music, then that bar is not counted as open.

9. REHEARSAL IN THE COMPETITION FACILITY:

Each formation team will be allowed an equal amount of rehearsal time in the tournament facility. At the commencement of this rehearsal they must dance their routine with music and perform their entrance and exit one time for the Chairman of Judges, or his designated representative.

10. TEAM DISQUALIFICATION

A member of the event organizing committee must be appointed. He or his representative must attend the official rehearsal that is held in the competition facility and warn any team infringing the rules. If the rules are infringed during the contest he will have the right to disqualify formation teams that infringe upon these rules, after consultation with the adjudicators and organizer.

11. JUDGING

a. JUDGING AND MARKING

- i. Formation Events shall be judged by at least three (3) judges who are qualified and certified in the type and style of ballroom dancing concerned.
- ii. Formation Teams shall be judged on:
 - 1. Entry and Exit of teams.
 - 2. Precision and Neatness of Lines and Patterns.
 - 3. Presentation and Character of the Dances(s) performed.
 - 4. Choreography.
- iii. The Skating System of Scrutineering must be used.
- iv. If more than six (6) teams compete, there shall be a Semi-Final round.
- v. Coaches shall not judge formation event in which their own teams participated. This rule covers all persons who are connected with the school (studio) where participating teams are trained.

b. SKATING SYSTEM OF JUDGING

The following is a description of the Skating System of Judging, which shall be used in all competitions:

c. THE MARKING OF ADJUDICATOR'S CARDS

- i. In all rounds each judge must vote for the number of couples demanded by the Chairman of Judges.
- ii. In the Final round the judge shall mark his first couple 1, his second couple 2, his third 3, and so on in each of the dances.
- iii. In the Final round each judge shall place all the competing couples in order of merit in each of the dances.

- iv. A judge must not tie couples for any place in the Final of any dance. Note: In the Final round the open system of marking may be used.

d. THE ALLOCATION OF POSITIONS IN EACH DANCE

The winner of a particular dance is the couple who is placed first by an absolute majority of the judges; second, the couple who is placed second or higher by an absolute majority. The remaining positions are allocated in a similar way.

e. IF MORE THAN ONE COUPLE HAVE A MAJORITY FOR THE SAME POSITION:

The couple with the largest majority shall be allocated the position under review and the couple with the next largest majority, the following position.

Note: If the position under review is the “2nd” and two couples have a majority of “2nd and higher” places, the couple with the larger majority shall be placed “2nd” and the other couple “3rd”. We now examine the remaining competitors’ markings, and the couple with the largest majority of “3rd and higher” places shall be allocated the next position, which in this example, is the “4th”. If none of the remaining couples has a majority of “3rd and higher” places then include the “4th” places (and, if necessary, lower places).

f. If Two or More Couples have an Equal Majority for the Same Position

If such majorities are equal, then the lowest total of marks given by those judges, who form the majority, shall determine the allocation of the position under review.

Note: If the position under review is the “2nd” and two couples have a similar majority of “2nd and higher” places, the couple with the lower total of marks given by those judges who form the majority, shall be allocated the “2nd” position and the other couple the “3rd”. See notes under Rule 6. If the totals of marks are equal, then the next lower place (or places, if necessary), in respect of the particular couples concerned, must be included.

It should be noted that only the couples who have a majority for the position under review (say, for example, the “2nd” position) must be considered at this stage, and only their “3rd” places (and if necessary, lower places) should be referred to, until the “2nd” position has been allocated.

A definite result will eventually be obtained unless the remaining markings are exactly the same, and should the latter be the case, there will, of course, be a tie for “2nd”

position. If two couples were concerned, they would be allocated "2 ½" each.

See notes under Rule 6.

g. IF NO COUPLE RECEIVES A MAJORITY FOR THE POSITION UNDER REVIEW:

If no couple receives a majority of "Firsts" then the winner is the couple who are placed "2nd and higher" by a majority of judges. If no couple receives a majority of "1st" and "2nd" places, then the "3rd" places (and if necessary, lower places) must be included. (Subject to Rules 6 and 7.) The "2nd" and other positions should be calculated in a similar way.

h. COMPILATION OF THE FINAL SUMMARY:

When all the dances have been concluded, the order ascertained for each dance shall be carried to another sheet, showing the position achieved by each couple in each dance. The first in each dance shall be given one mark, the second two, and so on. These place marks received by each couple shall be added up and the couple with the lowest aggregate shall be the winner.

i. IF THERE IS A TIE FOR A PLACE IN THE FINAL SUMMARY:

- i.** If this results in a tie for first place, the winner shall be the couple who has actually won the greater number of dances. If there is a tie for the "2nd" place, the "2nd" prize shall be awarded to the couple who has obtained "2nd or higher" in the greatest number of dances. If the couples have obtained the same number of "2nd or higher" place marks, then add the "2nd and higher" place marks together and the couple with the lowest total should be awarded second prize.

Note: If more than two couples tie for second place, the second prize shall be awarded to the couple who has obtained the most "2nd and higher" place marks. Still only considering the remaining "tie" couples, the "3rd" prize is awarded to the couple who has won the most "3rd and higher" place marks.

- ii.** If after applying Rules 9 and 10 this still results in a tie, then treat the judges' marks of the "tied" couples over all dances, as for an individual dance (Rules 5 to 8). If this still results in a tie, there shall be at the discretion of the organizers of the competition, either a re-dance or the prizes for the places under review shall be divided.

- 1.** If the tie is for first place, a majority of "1st" marks to the credit of either of the "tied" couples (4 dances-5 judges-majority 11) would win. If neither of the "tied" couples obtain a majority of "firsts" see Rule 8.

2. If the tie is for second place, a majority of “2nd and higher” marks to the credit of either of the “tied” couples would be necessary. If neither of the “tied” couples obtain a majority of “2nd and higher” marks see Rule 8.
3. The “3rd” or any other “tied” places should be decided on similar principles.
4. If 3 (or more) couples tie for a place under Rule 10 (say, 2nd place) Rule 11 is applied to all couples concerned in the tie, and the best couple is awarded the “2nd” place. Rule 10 is now applied to the remaining “tied” couples for consideration of the place now under review, which is the “3rd”. However, if they now tie for “3rd” place under Rule 10, then Rule 11 is again applied to these “tied” couples, commencing this time with the “3rd and higher” judge’s marks in the individual dance.

II. **EXCERPTS FROM AAU CODE BOOK***(Cannot be changed by Sport Committee)*

- A. **AAU Membership** –All participants must be a member of the AAU in order to participate in any AAU Sanctioned Event. Event Operators may not collect AAU membership money at any AAU sanctioned event.
- Membership Requirements** -Membership in the AAU is a privilege granted by the AAU. The AAU at its sole discretion reserves the right to accept or reject applicants for membership.

1. **Conditions for Membership.** Membership in any class may be granted only after an application is submitted and approved. By submitting an application, the applicant agrees to comply with all the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, policies, procedures and rules of the AAU.

2. Classes of Membership

Classes of membership in the AAU are as follows:

- a. **District Member** - The organization chartered by the Congress to provide administrative services within a designated geographic area.
- b. **Club Member** - An organization or group that has been approved for membership after meeting the registration requirements of the Code.
- c. **Individual Member** - A person who has been approved for membership after meeting the registration requirements of the Code. Individual membership categories are:

1. Youth Athlete