

# The 2010 UCWDC® Rules, Contest Procedures and Scoring Format



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I.</b>	<b>GENERAL UCWDC® INFORMATION</b>	<b>1</b>
A.	The United Country Western Dance Council®	1
B.	Mission and Vision	1
C.	Officers	1
D.	Regional Representatives	1
E.	World Championship Directors	1
F.	Business Office	1
G.	Web Page	1
H.	Notice to non-UCWDC® events:	1
I.	Membership for new Event Directors	2
<b>II.</b>	<b>THE DANCE RULES</b>	<b>2</b>
A.	The Dance Season	2
B.	Eligibility Period	2
C.	Dance Types	2
D.	Gender Requirements	2
E.	Age Requirements	2
F.	Divisions Offered: (also See Chart, Appendix A)	2
G.	UCWDC® Associate Membership	3
H.	Division Entry Requirements	3
I.	Division Rules	4
J.	Floor Craft	6
K.	Costuming	6
L.	Choreography	6
M.	Music	6
N.	Graduation Criteria	7
O.	Dance Categories	8
P.	Contestant Conduct and Ethics	10
Q.	Reporting and Staging Procedure	11
R.	The Judge Meeting	11
S.	The Contestant Meeting	11
<b>III.</b>	<b>AWARDS &amp; OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	<b>11</b>
A.	Awards	11
B.	Overall Championship	11
<b>IV.</b>	<b>WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	<b>12</b>
A.	Eligibility	12
B.	World Championship	12
<b>V.</b>	<b>SCORING: (also See Appendix E)</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>VI.</b>	<b>JUDGE CERTIFICATION: (also See Appendix F)</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>VII.</b>	<b>JUDGING</b>	<b>12</b>
A.	Eligibility	12
B.	Certification Regulations	12
C.	Judge Review Board	12
D.	Judges' Review Board and Regulations	12
E.	Judges' Code of Ethics	13
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>UCWDC® Contest Coordinator Responsibilities and Requirements</b>	<b>13</b>
A.	Contest Coordinator	13
B.	Contest Coordinator Certification	14

**APPENDICES:**

Chart of Divisions Offered	Appendix A
Glossary of Movements	Appendix B
Classic Line Dance Change Schedule	Appendix C
Perpetual Showcase Music Schedule	Appendix D
Summary of Scoring Rules	Appendix E
UCWDC® Judge Certification Curriculum Outline	Appendix F
Comment Markings	Appendix G
Division Names and Crossover Rules	Appendix H

# The United Country Western Dance Council®

## 2010 Dance Rules, Scoring Format and Contest Procedures

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

#### A. The United Country Western Dance Council®:

1. The UCWDC® is a group of Country dance event directors who joined together to form a not-for-profit corporation.
2. The UCWDC® sanctions and advises the promoters and directors of Country Dance Events and related events which include, but are not limited to, Country Dance Competitions and Country Dance Workshops in order to ensure the uniformity of operation and the quality of the experience of the guests attending these events.
3. The UCWDC® creates, revises and administers the use of this uniform set of dance rules, scoring formats, contest procedures and rating systems governing Country Dance Competitions and Competitors at all of its worldwide events.
4. The UCWDC® surveys, develops, certifies and rates Country Dance Judges to create a pool from which Dance Event Directors may draw.
5. The UCWDC® sanctions, promotes, produces and presents a World Championships of Country Dance to honor and recognize the achievement of the top Country Western Dancers and Line Dancers in the world each year.

#### B. The UCWDC®'s Mission and Vision:

1. Our mission is to promote, protect and advance Country Western Dance and Line Dance both as art forms and worldwide Olympic and World Games competitive sports.
2. Our vision is to provide a sound and level platform on which Country Western Dancing can be studied, taught, performed, rated and judged.

#### C. UCWDC® Officers:

1. **President:** Kathi Bittner - Tomball, Texas, [cutarugkb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cutarugkb@sbcglobal.net)
2. **Vice President Judge Certification:** Dave Getty - Ft. Worth, Texas, [CertifiedCountry@msn.com](mailto:CertifiedCountry@msn.com)
3. **Vice President Dance Rules, Contest Procedures and Scoring Format:** Beth Emerson - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, [okcbeth@aol.com](mailto:okcbeth@aol.com)
4. **Secretary:** Mona Brandt Arvidson - Phoenix, Arizona, [mona@ShallWeDancePhoenix.com](mailto:mona@ShallWeDancePhoenix.com)
5. **Treasurer:** Tracy Butler - Fort Worth, TX [dncevent@aol.com](mailto:dncevent@aol.com)
6. **Olympic Organizing Committee Chair:** Jeff Bartholomew - Camp Hill, PA [JLBartholomew@comcast.net](mailto:JLBartholomew@comcast.net)

#### D. UCWDC® Regional Representatives:

1. Pacific USA: John Daugherty – San Diego, California [paradise@jddance.com](mailto:paradise@jddance.com)
2. North Central USA: Randy Jeffries – Brookston, Indiana [dancemaxx@comcast.net](mailto:dancemaxx@comcast.net)
3. South Central USA: Ben DePew, [directors@dallasdancefestival.com](mailto:directors@dallasdancefestival.com)
4. Southeast USA: Bill Robinson – Atlanta, Georgia [peachstatedance@mindspring.com](mailto:peachstatedance@mindspring.com)
5. Northeast USA: Barry Durand – Gaithersburg, Maryland

[durand5678@aol.com](mailto:durand5678@aol.com)

6. Canada: Sherry Tovell – Edmonton, Alberta, Canada [sherry@dwmstudio.com](mailto:sherry@dwmstudio.com)

7. United Kingdom and Ireland: Damian Brady – Newry, County Down, Northern Ireland [Shamrockwdc1@BTinternet.com](mailto:Shamrockwdc1@BTinternet.com)

8. Scandinavia: Kathrine Strand-Hammond – Arnes, Norway [kathrine@westernway.no](mailto:kathrine@westernway.no)

9. Continental Europe: Brigitte Zerah – Vanves, France [docbri@free.fr](mailto:docbri@free.fr)

10. Asia: Hiromi Smith - Japan [hiromi@worldancepromotion.com](mailto:hiromi@worldancepromotion.com)

**E. World Championship Director:** Worlds XVIII<sup>©</sup>, Nashville, TN: Anthony Lee - Wood Ridge, New Jersey, [BigApplLee@aol.com](mailto:BigApplLee@aol.com)

#### F. UCWDC® Business Office:

The UCWDC Business Office is the official center for submitting to the UCWDC®, information requests by letter, telephone, e-mail, or fax. Requests will be forwarded to the appropriate UCWDC® Directors as needed. Mailing address:

**UCWDC® Office**

159 N. 25<sup>th</sup> St.

Camp Hill, PA 17011-3609

Email: [JLBartholomew@comcast.net](mailto:JLBartholomew@comcast.net)

Phone: 1-717-763-4416

Fax: 1-717-731-6060

If Voice Mail answers, please leave a detailed message with your name, phone number (including country and city codes) and the best time to return your call. Please also include your full mailing address with postal code and country.

#### G. The UCWDC® Web Page: [www.UCWDC.org](http://www.UCWDC.org)

is full of information about the organization and its dance events. It contains many valuable contact links relating to the UCWDC® and its member events. It also provides an annual calendar of all of the sanctioned and provisionally sanctioned events, and *the World Championship*, judge certification, dance rules, contest scoring formats, contest procedures, and other related UCWDC® business.

**H. Notice to non-UCWDC® events:** International Copyright laws protect the duplication and use of the UCWDC® Dance Rules, Scoring Format and Contest Procedures, either in part or in their entirety. If you desire to use them, written permission must be obtained from the UCWDC® President and filed at the UCWDC® Business Office at least 60 days in advance and then the rules must be duplicated entirely, without alteration, and released to participants. An official UCWDC® Contest Coordinator must be present at the event to monitor rules and scoring.

#### I. Membership for new Event Directors:

1. Your event may qualify for membership in the UCWDC®.

An official application for sanctioning, a copy of the **UCWDC®** Bylaws and the procedures for completing the process may be obtained from the **UCWDC®** Office or Secretary.

2. Upon completion of your paperwork in accordance with

## II. THE DANCE RULES

**A. The Dance Season:** A year that begins the Day after Worlds ends and continues until the last day of the next World Championship event.

**B. Eligibility Period:** Each dancer's period of eligibility is the two (2) previous Dance Seasons combined with the current Dance Season.

### **C. Dance Types:**

1. Couples
2. ProAm and ProPro
3. Line Dance and ProAm Line Dance
4. Troupes and Teams

### **D. Gender Requirements:**

1. A Couples dance pair must consist of one man and one woman where the man leads and the lady follows except for momentary role reversals.
2. A ProAm or ProPro dance pair must consist of one man and one woman, of which one must be a student dancing with his or her instructor.
3. ProAm and ProPro are gender-specific divisions.
4. A Line Dance contestant may compete in gender-specific divisions and/or the Renegade and Choreography non-gender-specific divisions.
5. A Troupe or Team may compete with any gender make-up except a Team Couple who must look like and portray one man and one woman.

### **E. Age Requirements:**

1. Your age for the entire Dance Season for **UCWDC®** competition is the age you *will be* on the last day of that Dance Season.
2. Juniors contestants are those who are less than 18 years of age.
  - a. Junior Primary-less than 10 years of age.
  - b. Junior Youth-at least 10 and less than 14 years of age.
  - c. Junior Teen-at least 14 and less than 18 years of age.
  - d. All Junior Couples must dance in the older partner's age group.
  - e. RisingStars contestants must be at least 14 and less than 18.
3. Adult contestants are those who are at least 18 years old.
4. Adult Divisions
  - a. Open Age division contestants must be Adults except in couples an Adult may dance with a Junior who is age 16 or above.
  - b. Age-Restricted division contestants may dance in any Age division for which they qualify at the same skill level at any event except Worlds where they

the **UCWDC®** Bylaws, the candidate Event Director must contact the **UCWDC®** Office or Secretary to secure a spot on the Council's Spring or Fall meeting agenda to present the application in person.

may enter only two divisions.

- (1) Crystal division contestants must be at least 30.
- (2) Diamond division contestants must be at least 40.
- (3) Crown division contestants must be at least 40.
- (4) Silver division contestants must be at least 50.
- (5) Gold division contestants must be at least 60.
- (6) Platinum division contestants must be at least 70.

### **F. Divisions Offered: See Chart, Appendix A for Specific divisions.**

1. ProAm Line Dance Divisions
  - a. Newcomer
  - b. Novice
  - c. Intermediate/Advanced Combined
2. ProAm and Line Dance Divisions:
  - a. Classic ProAm Syllabus A
  - b. Classic ProAm Syllabus B
  - c. Classic Newcomer
  - d. Classic Novice
  - e. Classic Intermediate
  - f. Classic Advanced
  - g. Showcase
  - h. Classic Combined (Novice, Intermediate and Advanced skill levels combined- *Excludes Newcomers.*)
  - i. Spotlight
3. Couples Divisions:
  - a. Syllabus A
  - b. Syllabus B
  - c. Classic IV
  - d. Classic III
  - e. Classic II
  - f. Classic II/I Combined
  - g. Classic I
  - h. Showcase
  - i. Classic Combined (III, II and I skill levels combined- *Excludes Newcomers.*)
4. Earned Divisions: Contestants must earn ascension from the next lower division level.
  - a. Classic Masters
  - b. Showcase Masters
  - c. Crown
  - d. SuperStars
  - e. RisingStars
  - f. Legends
5. Troupes and Teams
  - a. Small Troupe (2, 3 or 4 members, Open Age)
  - b. Large Troupe (5,6 or 7 members, Open Age)
  - c. Team (8 or more members)
    - (1) Open Age - all ages
    - (2) Junior - all members must be under 18
    - (3) Diamond - all members must be at least 40

- d. Country Club Challenge Teams (CCC) (8 or more members, Open Age)
- 6. Line Dance Choreography
- 7. Line Dance Renegade
- 8. ShowTime (may consist of any number of members, Open Age)

### **G. UCWDC® Associate Membership:**

1. Country Dance enthusiasts, who need not be competitors, may join the UCWDC® organization through Associate Membership. No matter when you join during the year, your annual membership always ends on January 15<sup>TH</sup>. New and renewed Memberships begin each January 16<sup>TH</sup>. Membership applications are available at [www.UCWDC.org](http://www.UCWDC.org), and may be submitted online, by mail or by fax.

2. A printable copy of the Rules, Contest Procedures and Scoring Format is available for download in electronic form on the UCWDC® website. Maintaining Associate Membership for dance contestants allows the UCWDC® to track each contestant's competitive credentials for the current dance year as well as the two-year Eligibility Period that precedes the current dance year. Such tracking is used to verify qualifications for the World Championship and to graduate contestants from one competition divisional level to the next at the end of the year's World Championship.

3. Associate Membership is mandatory for:

- a. Division V, IV, Syllabus B and Newcomers only if they are planning on competing at Worlds. Dues must be paid before dancing in their last qualifying event.
- b. All other competitors, including Pros, who dance in Couples, Line, ProAm or ProPro at the Division III or Novice level or higher (II or Intermediate level, I or Advanced level, Combined levels, Crown, SuperStars, RisingStars, Masters, or Legends).
- c. Each group "Name" (Small Troupe, Large Troupe, Team, Showtime or Country Club Challenge) must have a distinct and separate membership for each "Name". The group may not use the personal membership of a group member who competes in another division or Dance Type.
- d. Each and every contestant, (except Troupe, Team, Country Club Challenge and ShowTime competitors), who dances at the World Championship of Country Dance.
- e. Each and every UCWDC® Contest Coordinator, Judge, Scrutineer, or Scoring Director who works at an event.

4. All competitors, including the Pros of ProAm partnerships but not Newcomers or Syllabus B dancers, troupe and team names, may not begin to accrue qualification for Worlds until their Associate Member dues are paid for that Dance Season.

### **H. Division Entry Requirements:**

- 1. Contestants may enter any division for which they are qualified except for the following:
  - a. Couples and Line Dance contestants may not enter both Classic and Showcase divisions with the same dance routines.
  - b. Each Troupe or Team member may only dance once in any specific division at each event.
  - c. Couples division partnerships may not also enter a UCWDC® event as a ProAm or ProPro student-teacher partnership or visa versa.

- d. ProPro contestants may not compete as ProAm Amateurs.

2. Once a contestant has performed for Overall in a UCWDC® division of their choice, they may not compete later in a lower ranked skill level division in that Dance Type, except for the following:

- a. Showcase and Spotlight contestants may dance at either the II or I in Couples Classic, or Intermediate or Advanced levels of Pro Am or Line Dance Classic.
- b. Showcase contestants may not enter the Classic III or Novice levels of dance or lower.
- c. If the contestant does not compete during the entire current Eligibility Period.
- d. If a Junior dancer advances into an older age division, they may dance one skill level lower except Junior Primary and Youth Advanced dancers who may dance Novice as they advance in age.
- e. New Partnerships may dance one skill level lower than the highest ranked partner. No competitor may drop more than two skill levels from their original skill level.
- f. Crown competitors may enter Open I or Advanced to vie for Masters or SuperStars, and when dancing Open I or Advanced, may not judge that Dance Type.

3. To be eligible for Syllabus and Starter divisions, competitors may not have competed at the level of Newcomer or above for ProAm and Line, and IV or above for Couples.

### **4. For crossover between Dance Types, please see Appendix H.**

5. If a contestant wins a Showcase division where three or more competed for Overall, they must enter their respective Classic division at the Advanced level for Line Dance or ProAm or Division I for Couples the next Dance Season.

6. Masters, SuperStars, RisingStars, Crown and Legends division candidates only achieve their status after they have danced a full program at that level in a competition.

### **7. Professional Status Specifics:**

- a. If you have not taught private dance lessons during the current Eligibility Period and you earn less than 50% of your annual income by teaching dance (less than 50% of your expenses are covered by dance), you are eligible to dance in Division III level or above in Couples or Novice level or above in Line Dance.
- b. If you teach only non-partnership dance forms (Line Dance, Jazz, Tap, Ballet, etc.) and:
  - (1) you earn more than 50% of your annual income from teaching dance, you are eligible to enter Line Dance at the Division Advanced level, ProAm at the Division Intermediate level, and/or Couples at the Division III level or above.
  - (2) you earn less than 50% of your annual income from teaching dance, you are eligible to enter Line Dance at the Division Intermediate level and ProAm and/or Couples at the Division III level or above.
  - (3) you teach only group classes, and you earn less than 50% of your annual income from teaching dance, you are eligible to enter any Dance Type at the Division III or Novice level or above.
- c. If you teach Couples dance and:

- (1) you earn more than 50% of your annual income from teaching dance, you are eligible to enter Couples at the Division I level or Line Dance at the Advanced level.
  - (2) you earn less than 50% of your annual income from teaching dance, you are eligible to enter Couples at the Division II level or above and Line Dance at the Intermediate level or above.
  - (3) you teach only group classes, and you earn less than 50% of your annual income from teaching dance, you are eligible to enter any Dance Type at the Division III or Novice level or above.
- d. If a contestant earns any compensation for themselves or others by teaching dance, they may not enter the IV or Newcomer levels of dance or lower.
- e. If a contestant earns any compensation for themselves or others by teaching couples dance they may not enter ProAm as a student.
- f. If a contestant regularly assists a professional dance instructor, even if they are not compensated, they may not enter the IV or Newcomer level of dance or lower.

**I. Division Rules: For an explanation of the movements listed below, please see Appendix B**

**1. The Classic Format**

- a. Classic divisions dance to phrased music. The songs selected by each DJ or Event Director, for each dance and division, are revealed the day of the competition. We request that DJ's make every possible effort to play phrased music for the phrased dances (Polka, Cha Cha, NightClub, Waltz) and NightClub is required to be 4/4 time. Competition Music previews are not allowed for any divisions except Syllabus A and B, IV and Newcomer. Warm-ups to music that is not used for competition are encouraged for divisions not previewed. The songs played for various heats of the same dance and division in Classic Couples and ProAm may be different, but are of approximately the same tempo. Randomly repeated songs are allowed.
- b. The basic timing(s) and tempo ranges for each dance are listed in the **Dance Categories** elsewhere in these rules, or in each specific Line Dance step description.
- c. **Classic Movement Limitations**, unless the move is specifically called for in a Line Dance step description:
  - (1) Moves that include lifts (any type), throws, carries, aerials, acrobatics, drops (any type), rides, drags, slashes, pirouettes, fouettés, jetés, sitting, lying or bridging on the floor or spins with adagio are not allowed.
  - (2) Jumps and Jetés are not allowed except for Line Dance Open Advanced, SuperStars, RisingStars, and Line Crown and Legends where they are allowed without rotation.
  - (3) Pantomiming, singing, speaking, lip-synching, or acting out themes is not allowed.
  - (4) Stationary balanced or counter-balanced moves that rotate are not allowed except for Classic Masters, SuperStars, and RisingStars who may perform balanced but not counter-balanced rotation.
  - (5) Upright platform turns or fans on an unbent knee by one dancer or both partners are permitted only if both feet maintain floor contact except for Classic Masters, SuperStars, and RisingStars who may

rotate on balance in adagio.

- (6) Dance movements that rotate because of a leg kick or swing are permitted to turn only up to 360 degrees.

**d. Classic Couples, ProAm and ProPro:**

- (1) All Couples, ProAm and ProPro contestants must enter and dance Two Step to be eligible to compete except: Syllabus A and B divisions, Couples IV, ProAm Newcomer, Juniors, Masters, Crown and Legends divisions.
  - (2) All Couples, ProAms and ProPros, except Masters, Crown and Legends contestants, must start with their bodies touching. Syllabus A and B Divisions, Couples IV and ProAm Newcomer divisions must start in one of the six (6) Closed positions: Basic Closed, Right Parallel, Left Parallel, Promenade, Reverse Promenade or Fan.
  - (3) Couples, ProAm and ProPro dancers must follow the **Basic Rule** which requires them to dance one full, visible basic pattern of the dance per standard phrase of music (32 counts for 4/4 time or 24 counts 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.
  - (4) **Additional Movement Limitations for Couples:**
    - (a) Low leans are not allowed except for Masters, Crown, Legends and Open I.
    - (b) A stationary split or rotating pedestal is not allowed except for Masters, Crown and Legends.
    - (c) Except in Masters, Crown and Legends, dance moves that incorporate shine are not allowed except for Chase, Challenge or Circles in Cha Cha. When performed, shine movement can not be used to satisfy the **Basic Rule**.
    - (d) Free spins are permitted only when they are led from connection.
  - (5) **Additional Movement Limitations for Division IV and ProAm Newcomer:**
    - (a) Contestants must use the basic timing(s) (see **Dance Categories**) throughout each dance except for a foot change.
    - (b) Hops, leans, lunges, arabesques, penchés, piqués, attitudes, développés, rond de jambes, télé rondés, kneeling and leaning on the floor are not allowed.
    - (c) Adagio movement is not allowed except for kicks, flicks, floor sweeps, or passé done allegro.
  - (6) **Additional Movement Limitations for Syllabus A and B Divisions:** except for a Starter step, Contestants must use only the patterns from the UCWDC® Syllabus for the respective divisions without variation (found on [www.UCWDC.org](http://www.UCWDC.org)).
- e. Classic Line Dance:**
- (1) The Titles, Step Descriptions, Choreographer's Names and Videos for the Classic Line Dances per level as well as SuperStars, RisingStars and Crown A and B will each be released annually on a rotating schedule on [www.UCWDC.org](http://www.UCWDC.org) three months prior to the usage date for each dance, except for ProAm Line Dance Instructors who may choose their own dances, and Starters whose dances are chosen by the local Event Director. **For the Line Dance Change Schedule, please see Appendix C.**
  - (2) Line Dancers must start in an evenly spaced line,

facing in the direction designated by the Choreographer and directed by the Floor Coordinator.

- (3) Line Dance dancers must follow the **Basic Rule** which requires that:
  - (a) Dancers begin with a full basic which is a complete rendition of the entire step description without variation.
  - (b) The dancers begin each rendition with two measures of the basic (without variation from the step description). Two measures of music is 8 counts of 4/4 time music or 6 counts of 3/4 time music.
  - (c) Variations must follow the flow of the dance and are limited to two measures of music, or less, per rendition of the dance.
  - (d) Throughout the song, each variation must be followed by two measures of basic.
- (4) In an ABC dance, each section of the dance, e.g., A, B, or C, must begin with a full basic before any variation may be performed.
- (5) **Additional Movement Limitations for Line Dancers** (unless the move is specifically called for by the step description):
  - (a) In ProAm Line, the Pro must dance Vanilla only and the Amateurs must follow the **Basic Rule**.
  - (b) A relatively stationary 'dancing introduction' is permitted within the radius of a single step during the music prior to the count-in. Contestants may move their bodies to express the mood and character of the music and dance.
  - (c) Use of hands, arms, facial expressions, body styling, and if worn, skirt work and hat work, are allowed without limit throughout the dance.
  - (d) Aerials, acrobatics, slashes, piqués, pirouettes, fouettés, lying on the floor and bridges are not allowed.
  - (e) Spins in adagio, splits and sits to recover from splits are not allowed except for SuperStars, RisingStars, Crown and Legends.
- (6) **Additional Movement limitations for Newcomer and Starter Line Dancers** (unless the move is specifically called for by the step description):
  - (a) Starters and Newcomers must dance only complete renditions of the entire step description without variation throughout the song.
  - (b) A relatively stationary 'dancing introduction' is permitted within the radius of a single step during the music prior to the count-in as long as no full turn is performed. Contestants may shift their weight and move their bodies to express the mood and character of the music and dance.
- (7) **Additional Limitations for Line Dance SuperStars, RisingStars, Crown and Legends:**
  - (a) If dances A and B are ABC dances, contest music is pre-selected and not subject to change.
  - (b) Classic dances A and B follow the Classic Line Dance format including the **Basic Rule**.
- (8) Choreography limitations: When performing Choreography, the Line Dance Classic Newcomer rules apply.
- (9) Renegade limitations: When performing in Renegade, the Line Dance Showcase rules apply.

## 2. The Showcase Format

- a. Showcase divisions dance to music which is pre-

selected for each dance on a two-year, rotating schedule. The songs, CD Titles and artist names are posted under "Music" on our web page, [www.UCWDC.org](http://www.UCWDC.org), three months before they are first used at UCWDC® competitions along with instructions on how to edit the music (if needed). This provides each contestant the opportunity to choreograph and rehearse a routine to each piece of music.

- b. The choreographic interpretation of the music is one of the most important factors being judged. Contestants should select movement that they feel best interprets the musical nuances, tempo, character and mood of the musical selection and the dance's characterizing motion and style.

### c. Movement allowances and limitations for Spotlights, Showcase Couples, Showcase Masters, Showcase ProAm, Showcase ProPro, and Couples Crown and Legends Solo Medleys:

- (1) A Couple may enter any dance category of their choice.
- (2) A Couple may begin in any dance position.
- (3) Aerials are not allowed.
- (4) Stationary drops performed in-place that do not rotate or otherwise move on the floor are permitted, except for Showcase ProAm and ProPro which may not perform drops.
- (5) Stationary inverted lifts, throws, acrobatics and drops that are not stationary are not allowed except in Showcase Masters, Crown and Legends Solo Medleys.
- (6) 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 knee level of the lifting partner and the lifted partner is not inverted.
- (7) ProAm Showcase and ProAm Spotlight may not perform low lifts or use the Two-beat rule.
- (8) The only movement limitation in Showcase Masters is that the center of gravity (first Sacral Vertebrae, or S1) of the lifted partner may not pass above the plane that is the top of the supporting partner's head, whether or not the lifted partner is supported.
- (9) Bridges, lying on the floor, and sits, except when partners maintain leadable connection, are permitted only for Spotlights, Showcase Masters and Crown and Legends Solo Medleys.

### d. Movement allowances and limitations for Line Dance Showcase:

- (1) A contestant may begin the dance facing any direction of his or her choosing, and may begin the dance at any time.
- (2) A contestant must dance repetitive patterns according to the phrasing of the music.
- (3) Aerials, acrobatics, sits (except to recover from a split), lying on the floor, and bridges are not allowed except in SuperStars, RisingStars, and Crown and Legends Solo Medleys.
- (4) Pantomime, singing, speaking, lip-synching, and acted themes (theatrics) may be performed in Showcase Line and Solo Medleys.
- (5) Splits and jumps are permitted.

## 3. Troupes and Teams

- a. Troupes or Teams may enter in separate categories under the same Team "Name", but may only compete once in any single dance category at each UCWDC®

Event. Teams competing in separate categories must do so with different song selections and different dance material.

- b. An individual member of any team may dance in any Troupe or Team category under any Team Name, but may not dance in a category more than once at the same event.
- c. All teams in the same Dance Category are entered in the Open Age Group and compete against each other. In addition to this competition, if two or more of those teams are eligible for either the Junior Age Group or the Diamond Age Group, placements will be also awarded in the Age Group(s) as well.
- d. Troupes and Teams Movement Limitations:
  - (1) When performing a Line Dance, the Line Dance Showcase rules apply.
  - (2) When performing a Partner Dance, the Couples Showcase rules apply.
  - (3) There are no performance limitations when performing a Team Cabaret routine.

**4. ShowTime:** There are no performance limitations when performing a ShowTime routine.

#### **J. Floor Craft:**

- 1. For all dances, contestants should be courteous at all times on the floor, as well as be vigilant and not interfere with other contestants.
- 2. For Couples, ProAm and ProPro Progressive dances, contestants should generally move in Line-Of-Dance (LOD), counter-clockwise around the outside of the dance floor. When a dancer employs a stationary movement in a progressive dance, once established, the stationary contestant has the 'right-of-way.' If another contestant slows or stops, trailing dancers should pass on the inside (toward the center of the dance floor) if possible.
- 3. For Couples, ProAm and ProPro Spot dances, contestants should generally remain in place. Once established on a spot, stationary dancers have the 'right-of-way' over any dancer moving toward their space. When spot dancers use traveling movements they need not return to their original spot. Stationary contestants have the 'right-of-way' for their spot along with reasonable space in which to perform.
- 4. For Line Dance categories, once the Floor Coordinator has spaced the contestants out evenly on the floor relative to each other, everyone's 'dance space' is revealed. When the music begins, contestants should perform so as to reasonably maintain their relative position on the floor, i.e., 'Go with the flow' of the basic dance description throughout the dance, even when performing variations, so as not to intrude on the dance space of other competitors.

#### **K. Costuming:**

- 1. Contestants in all Divisions except Country Club Challenge, Team Cabaret and Showtime must wear:
  - a. Costumes that are 'Country Western' and are appropriate to the dance, the arena, and the person wearing them. A visible yoke is a guide, but not a guarantee that the costume looks country.
  - b. Cowboy boots, except:
    - (1) Line Dance, Troupe and Team dancers who may wear lace-up Ropers.
    - (2) Syllabus A and B, Newcomer, and Couples IV dancers, for whom boots are required at Worlds and are encouraged, but not required, at other events.

(3) Funky and Novelty contestants who may wear low-heeled dance shoes or dance sneakers.

- c. Cowboy hats for men, including Country Club Challenge, but not Syllabus A and B, ProAm Newcomer, Couples IV dancers, Line Funky, Novelty and Starter contestants. Starter, Syllabus And B, Newcomer and Division IV male dancers are required to wear hats at Worlds, and are encouraged, but not required, to wear hats at other events.
- d. Hose (tights) and dance pants (knickers) for women, if either are revealed.
- e. Masters are permitted tear-away skirts which, if not used in solo format, cannot remain on the floor when discarded.
- f. One logo on a costume is allowed if it is 25 square inches outside dimension or less and worn as a crest, i.e. that area above the left breast, on the right watch pocket, i.e., that area above the right hip, or the sleeve. Logos should be tasteful and not detract from the costume.

2. Contestants in Divisions Syllabus A and B, IV and Newcomer are not required to wear elaborate costumes and cannot have any sequins, rhinestones or other shiny or sparkly embellishments or materials, or metallic threads woven into the costume.

3. When ProAm Syllabus A, B and Newcomer are a separate Session, the Pros must also adhere to Newcomer costume rules, except that Pros must still wear hats and boots.

4. Country Club Challenge: No costume requirements, except a Country look and a hat for the guys.

5. Team Cabaret and ShowTime: No costume requirements, just clothing that fits your performance!

6. Please remember that costuming is part of your final placement on every judge's ballot, in every heat.

7. Props are anything that is not normally worn as clothing and are only allowed in Team Cabaret, ShowTime and some Self Selected music categories. These are Solo Medleys, Spotlight and Show Dances, where the props must be portable, inanimate, and set up only by the competitors. Time for setup will be included in performance time - no extra time will be 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:**

1. Competition Music length minimums and maximums (which may extend to the end of the phrase):

- a. Couples (except Syllabus) - 2 minutes
- b. Classic Masters - 1½ minutes
- c. Classic Masters ShowDance - 2 to 2½ minutes
- d. ProAm and ProPro except Syllabus - 1½ minutes
- e. Syllabus A and B - 45 seconds
- f. Line Dance except Starter - 2 minutes
- g. Line Dance Starter - 45 seconds to 2 minutes
- h. Line Dance ProAm - 1½ minutes
- i. Spotlight (ProAm and ProPro) - 2½ to 4 minutes
- j. Solo Medley, (Masters, SuperStars, RisingStars) - 4 to 7 minutes.

- k. Crown Solo Medley - 2 ½ to 5 minutes
  - l. Legends Solo Medleys - 2 to 4 minutes
  - m. Troupes, Teams and County Club Challenge - 4 to 7 minutes
  - n. Choreography - 2 minutes maximum except ABC dances which may extend to 2 ½ minutes.
  - o. ShowTime - 3 - 15 minutes
2. Showcase Music: The songs, CD Titles and artist names are posted under "Music" on our web page, [www.UCWDC.org](http://www.UCWDC.org), three months before they are first used at UCWDC® competitions along with instructions on how to edit the music (if needed). Showcase music lengths will be standardized, and will be approximately 2 minutes. **For the Perpetual Music Change Schedule, please see Appendix D.**
3. For Event Music Selections, all Classic music must be Country or sound Country except Line Dance which will use the song specified on the step sheet.
4. Contestant-selected music limitations:
- a. Contestant-selected music must use Country music for all parts of their performance, except:
    - (1) Non-Country Choreography divisions.
    - (2) Team Cabaret programs which may use any type of music without limits.
    - (3) Troupe and Team Programs and Spotlight Performances, which may use up to a combined total 50% non-Country music.
    - (4) Solo Medleys where only music used for internal requirements must be Country or sound Country
  - b. Showcase Masters self-selected music for Waltz and Two Step must be a single song. If the song is edited, it may not contain anything not found on the original CD and may not be longer than the original song.
  - c. When determining the "country-ness" of a song, it is deemed to be Country music if it:
    - (1) Made it on to nationally syndicated Country music charts.
    - (2) Had air play on a recognized County Western radio station.
    - (3) Was released for Country radio, TV, video, CD, or DVD.
    - (4) Was performed by a Country artist or band.
    - (5) Is indigenous to a particular contestant's native country.
  - d. Contestant-selected music will be audited during competition for any internal requirements, must adhere to the music length minimums and maximums, and must be submitted on a CD. No other media is acceptable.
  - e. Line Dance ProAm entries must be a single song of up to 1 ½ minutes in length.
  - f. Brief, recorded introductions and curtain calls are permitted. Clocking begins when either the performance or the performance-sound begins, whichever comes first. Clocking ends when either the performance or the performance-sound ends, whichever comes last (not including curtain calls).
  - g. Performance and timing documentation must be provided to the Contest Coordinator or Timing Auditor prior to performance in the form of a chronological time line down the center of a piece of paper with a sequence dance step outline in the left column matched with the exact music segment cuts in the right column.

- h. For Worlds, the CD and the accompanying documentation must be presented to the Timing Auditor 48 hours in advance of performance.
- i. It is the contestant's responsibility to ensure that their music and choreography meet all time requirements. Failure to meet the performance time documentation and/or timing requirements may result in disqualification as determined by a majority vote of the judging panel.

## **N. Graduation Criteria:**

1. All dancers who graduate do so on the first day of the next Dance Season.
2. Graduation earned at UCWDC® events
  - a. Graduating in one Dance Type will not cause graduation in other Dance Types. **For crossover between Dance Types, please see Appendix H**
  - 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 original skill level. Competitors may not dance up at Worlds.
- c. Couples and ProAm:
  - (1) Couples and ProAm contestants must graduate to the next higher level from the:
    - (a) IV or Newcomer level if they finished first place overall where there were three or more competitors who danced overall at one or more UCWDC® events during the prior two Dance Seasons.
    - (b) III or Novice level if they finished first place overall where there were three or more competitors who danced overall at two or more UCWDC® events during the prior two Dance Seasons.
    - (c) II or Intermediate level if they finished first place overall where there were three or more competitors who danced overall at three or more UCWDC® events during the prior two Dance Seasons.
  - (2) Ascension into the Masters and Couples Crown divisions occurs when a partnership is formed by two people who have a combined lifetime total of eight first place overall wins in the Classic Open I and/or Showcase Open divisions at UCWDC® events where there were three or more competitors who danced overall. At least two of their wins must have been danced with the current partnership.
    - (a) For Masters, the wins must come from the Open I and Showcase divisions.
    - (b) For Crown, the wins must come from the Diamond 1, Silver 1 or Gold Combined divisions.
  - (3) When the same Couples partnership earns a combined lifetime total of eight first place overall championship in Classic Open I division or Showcase Open division at UCWDC® events where there were three or more competitors who dance overall, contestants must graduate to the appropriate Masters division.
- d. Line Dance:
  - (1) Line Dance contestants who finished:
    - (a) First place overall where there were three or more who danced for overall.
    - (b) First or second place overall where there were twenty to twenty-nine who danced for overall.

- (c) First, second or third place overall where there were thirty to thirty-nine who danced for overall.
  - (d) First, second, third or fourth place overall where there were forty to forty-nine who danced for overall.
  - (e) First, second, third, fourth or fifth place overall where there were fifty or more who danced for overall.
- (2) Must graduate to the next higher level from:
- (a) Newcomer division if they placed as above at one or more **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> events.
  - (b) Novice division if they placed as above at two or more **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> events.
  - (c) Intermediate division if they placed as above at three or more **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> events.
- (3) Ascension into SuperStars, RisingStars and Line Dance Crown divisions occurs when a contestant has a combined lifetime total of four first place overall wins in Classic Advanced and Showcase divisions at **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> events where there were three or more competitors who danced overall. At least one win must come from each of Classic Advanced and Showcase.
- (a) For SuperStars, the wins must come from the Open Advanced and Open Showcase divisions.
  - (b) For RisingStars, the wins must come from the Teen Advanced and Showcase divisions. RisingStars contestants ascend to SuperStars on the season after turning 18 years of age.
  - (c) For Crown, the wins must come from the Diamond, Silver or Gold Advanced and Diamond Showcase divisions. Crystal Advanced wins count toward Crown when the contestant turns forty.

### 3. Graduation to Legends:

- a. A Master, SuperStar, or Crown World Champion dancer may choose to enter Legends (self-graduate) if:
  - (1) They have been retired for the current Eligibility Period.
  - (2) They are 40 or over.
  - (3) In couples, their partner has been a **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> competitor.
- b. All Legends competitors lose their previous divisional status and may never return to their previous division.

### 4. Graduation criteria earned from a Continental Championship will be the same as from any **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> event excluding the World Championships.

### 5. Graduation earned at The World Championship of Country Dance (Worlds):

- a. Every contestant or competing couple who has won a first place overall title at Worlds must graduate to the next higher level of competition, except for graduation to SuperStars, RisingStars and Line Crown divisions. Uncontested World Champions who do not feel prepared to graduate may apply to the VP of Dance Rules at [okcbeth@aol.com](mailto:okcbeth@aol.com) for an exception. These will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- b. Ascension to the SuperStars, RisingStars and Line Crown divisions is accomplished by winning first place overall awards in both the respective Classic Advanced and Showcase divisions. These wins need not be accomplished at the same Worlds. A win in either but not both of these divisions counts as two wins towards ascension to the relevant division.
- c. SuperStars, RisingStars and Line Dance Crown

division candidates may combine their two qualifying wins in either Classic or Showcase at **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> events with their qualifying win at Worlds in the other style.

- d. Ascension to the Masters and Couples Crown divisions can be accomplished by winning a first place overall award in the respective Classic Advanced or Showcase division at Worlds.
- e. All contestants who dance for an overall award at a World Championship Event graduate to the next higher division on a scale which depends on the total number of contestants. They graduate if they won:
  - (1) first place overall at Worlds.
  - (2) second place overall at Worlds where there were ten to fourteen overall competitors.
  - (3) second or third place overall at Worlds where there were fifteen to nineteen overall competitors.
  - (4) second, third or fourth place overall at Worlds where there were twenty to twenty-four overall competitors.
  - (5) second, third, fourth or fifth place overall at Worlds where there were twenty-five or more overall competitors.

## O. Dance Categories:

- 1. Couples, ProAm and ProPro Dance Categories:** The World Championship Classic and Showcase Couples, ProAm and ProPro Dance Categories are Triple Two, Polka, NightClub, Cha Cha, Waltz, Two Step, East Coast Swing, and West Coast Swing, which are to be danced in this order at all **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> events except for Masters Classic, which will dance their chosen dances in two flights in the following order: first slow or *andante* dances: Waltz, NightClub, Triple Two, and West Coast Swing; Second fast or *allegro* dances: Two Step, Cha Cha, Polka, and East Coast Swing. There will be a break between flights.

**These UCWDC<sup>®</sup> contest dance categories list the minimum, maximum and preferred musical tempos in beats per minute (BPM) for Classic Couples, ProAm and ProPro, and these basic timings fulfil 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 and 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. Worlds Core Dances:

- (1) **Two Step** For Syllabus, IV, New: 168-180, 174 preferred. For III or Nov: 178-190, 184 preferred. For II or Int and above: 188-200, 194 preferred. Basic Two Step timings 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 ; and QQQS S ). Two Step is a smooth, progressive dance with weaved patterns and rhythm accents that separate the quicks and slows.
- (2) **Waltz** For Syllabus, IV, New: 90-98, 94 preferred. For III or Nov: 84-92 88 preferred. For II or Int and above: 76-88, 82. Basic Waltz timing is 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.

### b. Worlds Swing Dances:

- (1) **East Coast Swing** For Syllabus, IV, New: 124-136, 130 preferred. For III or Nov and above: 130-142, 136 preferred. Basic 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 is performed with downward Lilt, not to be confused with Jive.

- (2) **West Coast Swing** 102-114, 108 BPM preferred. 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.

**c. Non-Worlds Swing Dance:**

- (1) **Pony Swing** 102-116, 106 BPM 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.

**d. Worlds Alternate Dances:**

- (1) **Triple Two** 88-100, 94 preferred. 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 weaved patterns performed with curving, shaping actions.
- (2) **Polka** For Syllabus, IV, New: 104-116, 110 preferred. For III or Nov and above, 110-124, 116 preferred. Basic Polka timing is 1&2 3&4 5&6 7&8. Polka is a progressive dance with 2-rail patterns performed with Lilt motion.
- (3) **Nightclub** For Syllabus, IV, New, Nov: 58-64, 62 preferred. For II or Int and above: 54-58, 56 preferred. 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, shaping actions.
- (4) **Cha Cha** For Syllabus, IV, New, Nov: 96-108, 102 preferred. For II or Int and above: 106-118, 112 preferred. 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 and with the initial step on the down beat of the music.

**e. Non-Worlds Alternate Dances:**

- (1) **Shuffle (Ft. Worth Shuffle)** 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.
- (2) **Schottische** 120-132, preferred. 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.
- (3) **Rhythm Two** 148-160, 154 preferred. Basic Rhythm Two timing is 1 2 3 4 5 6[kick or touch] 7 8[kick or touch] and 1 2 3 4[kick or touch] 5 6 7 8[kick or touch]. Rhythm Two is a spot dance performed with semi-cuban motion and circular patterns.

**f. Solo Performances:**

- (1) **Solo Medley for Showcase Masters and Couples Crown:** A musically-mixed, multi-dance, Showcase category of 4 - 7 minutes for Masters and 2 ½ to 5 minutes for Crown with *no BPM limitations*. A medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice that must include a combined total of at least 45 seconds each of: a swing dance and three other Worlds dances for Masters, and 3 dances for Crown; not to include Two Step and Waltz for either, and which must be recognizable in pattern, accent, motion, and character.

Recognizable patterns from non-UCWDC® dances (e.g., Quickstep, Tango, Samba, Rumba, Charleston, Clogging, Hip-Hop, et cetera) may only be used as appropriate for musical interpretation.

- (2) **Solo Medley for Legends:** (2-4 minutes, no BPM limitations). A musically-mixed, multi-dance, Showcase category. A medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice that must include a combined total of at least 45 seconds of two Worlds dances, not to include Two Step and Waltz, which must be recognizable in pattern, accent, motion, and character. Recognizable patterns from non-UCWDC® dances (e.g., Quickstep, Tango, Samba, Rumba, Charleston, Clogging, Hip-Hop, et cetera) may only be used as appropriate for musical interpretation.
- (3) **Spotlight** (2½ - 4 minutes *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 contestant's choice which must be recognizable in pattern, accent, motion, and character. Recognizable patterns from non-UCWDC® dances (e.g., Quickstep, Tango, Samba, Rumba, Charleston, Clogging, Hip-Hop, et cetera) may only be used as appropriate for musical interpretation.
- (4) **ShowDance:** (2 to 2 ½ minutes, of which 2 minutes must be dancing): A dance category offered for Classic Masters. The dance must be a single dance, and must be one of the 8 UCWDC® dances defined above in Section O. The song can be one song or a medley of songs.

**2. Line Dance Categories:** The World Championship Classic and Showcase Line Categories for Intermediate and Advanced are Rise & Fall, Lilt, Smooth, Cuban, Funky and Novelty, which are danced chronologically in this order at all UCWDC® events. For Newcomer and Novice, dances may not be motion specific. If a Funky dance is offered for Open and Junior divisions, a Novelty dance will be offered for the Age divisions, except Classic Open Advanced, Showcase Open, Teen Advanced and Teen Showcase divisions which will be offered both Funky and Novelty. Line Dance contestants may enter any of these Dance Categories offered for their division, except for 1) SuperStars and Line Crown which may enter Dance A (a slow dance, Rise and Fall or Smooth), Dance B (a fast dance, Lilt or Cuban) or Solo Medley; and 2) Line Dance ProAm which may enter Dance 1, Dance 2, and Dance 3 (these need not be motion specific). **The BPM range for each dance category shall be plus or minus five (±5) BPM from the suggested song for each choreographed dance.**

- a. Rise & Fall:** A dance using Rise & Fall and Swing & Sway motions. For reference: common dances that use these motions include Viennese Waltz, Waltz, Foxtrot and Quickstep.
- b. Lilt:** A dance using Lilt motion. For reference: common dances that use Lilt 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, Two Step, and Tango.
- d. Cuban:** A dance using Cuban or Latin motion, with the initial step on the down beat of the music and any break step occurring on the 2 or 6. For reference: common dances that use Cuban or Latin motion

include Cha Cha, Mambo and Rumba.

- e. **Funky:** A dance demonstrating footwork and bodywork that is consistent with Hip-Hop, Showstoppers, or Cheerleading. For reference: common dances that use Funky include, Hip Hop, Poppin' and Break Dance.
- f. **Novelty** (*no BPM limitations*): A dance that may have a combination of movements and demonstrate a novel, fun and theatrical performance choreographed to a specific song.
- g. **Renegade** (*no BPM limitations*): A spontaneous unrehearsed dance using any of the dances listed above as appropriate to the event-selected music which is comprised of all of the categories listed above except Novelty. This dance category is essentially a Showcase dance. Renegade is the only Line Dance category that is not generally repetitious.
- h. **Choreography** (*no BPM limitations*):
  - (1) There are six (6) competitive categories:
    - (a) Country Newcomer/Novice
    - (b) Country Intermediate/Advanced
    - (c) Non-Country Newcomer/Novice
    - (d) Non-Country Intermediate/Advanced
    - (e) ABC
  - (2) Each Choreography entry is an original dance performed by dancers with the choreographer physically present. Since the contestant selects the music, it is essential that the dance's motion and character match that music.
  - (3) 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.
  - (4) The dance itself is what is judged, not the performer or their performance.
  - (5) With their contestant registration, Choreographers are required to provide a printed step description of the dance detailing the following:
    - (a) the basic pattern
    - (b) the level of the dance
    - (c) the number of counts
    - (d) the number of walls
    - (e) An ABC dance entry should specify the number of counts per phrase.
  - (6) If a contestant wishes their Choreography entry to be considered for use as a UCWDC dance, a digital video must be included with the step description.
- i. **Solo Medley for SuperStars, RisingStars and Line Dance Crown:** A musically-mixed, multi-dance category of 4 - 7 minutes for SuperStars and RisingStars and 2 ½ - 5 minutes for Crown with *no BPM limitations*. A medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice which must include a combined total of at least 45 seconds each of: four of these Line Dance categories for SuperStars and RisingStars and three of these categories for Crown: Rise & Fall, Lilt, Smooth, Cuban and Funky; that are each recognizable in pattern, accent, motion and character. Stage Dancing (jazz, modern, lyrical, ballet) may be used as one of the required categories.
- j. **Solo Medley for Line Dance Legends:** A musically-mixed, multi-dance category of 2 - 4 minutes with *no*

*BPM limitations*. A medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice which must include a combined total of at least 45 seconds each of two of these Line Dance categories: Rise & Fall, Lilt, Smooth, Cuban and Funky; that are each recognizable in pattern, accent, motion and character. Stage Dancing (jazz, modern, lyrical, ballet) may be used as one of the 2 required categories.

**3. Team Dance Categories.** The World Championship Teams Categories may enter and perform Line, Partner, Showcase and Cabaret, which are danced separately at all UCWDC® events. Unless otherwise specified, all Teams must use at least 50% Country music.

- a. **Line** (4 - 7 minutes, no BPM limitations): A dance or medley of dances choreographed to Country music of the contestant's choice. The team must wear Country costumes and the program must include a majority of Line Dance with recognizable patterns, accents, motion and character. Patterns from any dance form may be used as appropriate for musical interpretation, however no couples' lead and follow patterns may be used.
  - b. **Partner** (4 - 7 minutes, no BPM limitations): A dance or medley of dances choreographed to Country music of the contestant's choice. The team must wear Country costumes and the program must include a majority of Couples Dance with recognizable patterns, accents, motion and character. Patterns from any dance form may be used as appropriate for musical interpretation, however no Line or Solo dancing may be used.
  - c. **Showcase** (4 - 7 minutes, no BPM limitations): A dance or medley of dances choreographed to music selected by the UCWDC® Music Committee which is posted under "Music" on [www.UCWDC.org](http://www.UCWDC.org) and is available beginning 15 days after Worlds for the new Dance Season. Musical interpretation is the most important element. The team must wear Country costumes. This is an open category where Couples, Line, and Solo dance may be used in any combination for any duration of the program.
  - d. **Cabaret** (4 - 7 minutes, no BPM limitations): A dance or medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice. This category may use any type of music, costuming, props or movement and is an open category where Line, Solo, and Couples dance may be used in any combination. Setup and tear-down may be no longer than 6 minutes combined.
  - e. **Country Club Challenge Teams (CCC)** (4 - 7 minutes, no BPM limitations): A dance or medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice. This category, which is predominately FUN, club oriented dancing which must use country music, with country costuming (t-shirt and sneakers accepted), and the men must wear Cowboy hats. This is an open category where, Line, Solo, and Couples dance may be used in any combination, but no costume changes are allowed.
- 4. Troupe Dance Categories:** all Troupes must use at least 50% Country music and country costuming except when performing Funky and Novelty dances where those costume allowances apply.
- a. **Small Troupe** (4 - 7 minutes, no BPM limitations): A dance or medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice. It is an open category where Line, Solo, and Couples dance may be used in any

combination.

- b. Large Troupe** (4 - 7 minutes, no BPM limitations): A dance or medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice. It is an open category where Line, Solo, and Couples dance may be used in any combination.

**5. ShowTime** (3 - 15 minutes, no BPM limitations): An extensively conceived, thematic medley choreographed to music of the contestant's choice. This category is a long Cabaret which may use any type of music, costuming, props or movement. It is an open category where Line, Solo, and Couples dance may be used in any combination. Setup and tear-down may be no longer than 6 minutes combined.

#### **P. Contestant Conduct and Ethics:**

1. All decisions of the contest judges, the Contest Coordinator, and Event Director will be final. Competitors are expected to act in a socially acceptable professional manner. Competitors are required to provide on any competition registration form their full name, mailing address, birth-date, phone number, e-mail address and **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> Associate Membership number.
2. Any complaint or challenge to the makeup of a judging panel must be done post-event and will go to the Judge Review Board. Please see Part VII, Section C.
3. 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. Before entering a **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> Event, competitors are 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.
5. Information provided on the competition registration form will be used for tracking of performance results to determine divisional graduation status, divisional age eligibility, World Championship eligibility, and World Points Champions. Contestants competing in Division III or Novice divisions or above, plus each Troupe or Team "Name", or any other individual who expects to dance at Worlds, will be required to join the **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> Associate Membership Program through the **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> Business Office.
6. All attendees are business invitees and expected to remain friendly, cordial, and act in a socially acceptable professional manner throughout the event.

#### **Q. Reporting and Staging Procedure:**

1. For all heated divisions, contestants should report to the Floor Coordinator one-half hour 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. When reporting, each contestant will make themselves known to the Floor Coordinator by contestant 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. Even though **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> contests pre-post the heats of competition for all divisions, the exact heat order is not guaranteed to any contestant. A contestant 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.

**R. The Judge Meeting:** Contest logistics, schedules and the Official Judge Certification Program Rules Review are discussed at the official **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> Judge Meeting held prior to competition at every **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> event.

**S. The Contestant Meeting:** Contest logistics and schedules are discussed at the official **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> Competitors Meeting held prior to competition at every **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> event. **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> Rules inquiries are also fielded at this time, where all who are interested receive answers to their questions. Everyone is welcome.

### **III. AWARDS & OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

#### **A. Awards:**

1. At every **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> Event, the EmCee will announce the first through fifth place winner for each dance in every division and the first through fifth place Overall winner for every Division.
2. For ProAm and ProPro, the EmCee will announce the Medal Award for every dance for every contestant in every division and the first through fifth place Overall winner for every Division.

#### **B. Overall Championship:**

1. An "Overall Champion" title is awarded only to the first place overall winner *in each specific division*. When used in a contestant's dance resumé, the full name of the division must *precede* that title. i.e., "John Doe is the ProAm Male Classic Silver Novice Overall Champion."
2. Conversely, when used, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place through 5<sup>th</sup> Place Overall Champion titles must be *followed* with the full name of the division. i.e., "John Doe is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Overall ProAm Male Classic Silver Novice" winner.
3. Abused titles may be revoked.
4. Overall Eligibility:
  - a. Syllabus Divisions and ProAm Line Dance offer no Overall Championship.
  - b. Couples and ProAm Overall Championship entries, except Masters, Crown, and Legends, must compete in Two Step, Waltz, one Swing dance, and two Alternate dances.
  - c. Newcomer Line Dance Overall Championship entries must compete in all three of the offered dances. A Funky dance may be offered for Open and Junior divisions. If so, a Novelty dance will be offered for the Age divisions.
  - d. Novice Line Dance Overall Championship entries must compete in all four of the offered dances. A Funky dance may be offered for Open and Junior divisions. If so, a Novelty dance will be offered for the Age divisions.
  - e. Intermediate, Advanced and Showcase Line Dance Overall Championship entries must compete in all of the offered dances. These include:
    - (1) Rise & Fall, Lilt, Smooth, Cuban and Funky for all Classic Intermediate; Classic Advanced Primary and Youth; and Showcase Primary and Youth Divisions.
    - (2) Rise & Fall, Lilt, Smooth, Cuban and Novelty for the Age Divisions.

- (3) Rise & Fall, Lilt, Smooth, Cuban, Funky and Novelty Classic Open Advanced, Classic Teen Advanced, Showcase Open and Showcase Teen Divisions.
- f. Showcase Masters, Couples Crown and Couples Legends Overall Championship entries must compete in Two Step, Waltz and Solo Medley.
- g. Classic Masters must compete in Two Step, Waltz, one Swing dance, two Alternate dances, and a ShowDance.
- h. SuperStars, RisingStars Line Dance Crown, and Line Dance Legends Overall Championship entries must compete in Dance A (a soft, slow dance like Waltz, Nightclub, or a slow West Coast Swing), Dance B (a hard, fast dance like East Coast, Polka, or Cha Cha) and a Solo Medley.
- i. Team Overall Championship entries must compete in three of the four offered Team Dance Categories: Line, Partner, Showcase and Cabaret.

#### **IV. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Each year the UCWDC® presents the *Country Western Dance World Championships*, which offer world-class Couples, ProAm, ProPro, Line Dance, ShowTime and performing Troupe and Team competition.**

##### **A. Eligibility:**

1. Associate Membership.
  - a. Except for Syllabus Divisions, IV, Newcomer, ShowTime, Renegade and Choreography, each individual contestant, Troupe and Team may not begin to accrue qualification for Worlds until their Associate Member dues are paid.
  - b. Each Syllabus Division B or Newcomer dancer must be an Associate Member with current dues paid before dancing in their last Worlds qualifying Event.
  - c. ShowTime group names must be Associate Members with current dues paid before dancing at Worlds.
2. To be eligible to compete at Worlds,
  - a. North American and European dancers, as well as Troupe and Team Names, must qualify by competing at three (3) or more UCWDC® Events during the preceding Dance Season, except for Syllabus B and Newcomer dancers in Europe and ProAm Line Dance entries, who only need to compete at one (1) event to qualify. Masters must qualify by dancing at a minimum of five (5) events (three full programs); SuperStars by dancing three (3) full programs.
  - b. Asian and Australian dancers must qualify by competing at one or more UCWDC® Event(s) during the preceding Dance Season.
  - c. Dancers from Continents other than North America, Europe, Asia and Australia may enter without pre-qualification but must be active Associate Members with dues paid before dancing at Worlds.
3. Worlds qualification in one Type of competition (i.e., Couples; ProAm and ProPro; Line; or Troupes and Teams) does not count for qualification in any other Type of competition.
4. Worlds contestants must have competed for the Overall Championship or the single dance Championship (Troupes, Teams, Spotlight and ProAm Line Dance) at least once in the division in which they intend to compete, except:
  - a. Masters, SuperStars, Line Dance Open Showcase,

Line Dance Classic Open Advanced, Couples Open I, and Couples Open Showcase dancers, who must have competed for the Overall Championship three (3) times (in Classic or Showcase or a combination of the two) over the course of three (3) or more UCWDC® events.

- b. Country Club Challenge, ShowTime and Legends performers, who need not qualify.

5. For each Dance Type entered, Worlds contestants must compete in the highest division where they danced for overall during the preceding Dance Season.

6. In a new partnership, at least one partner must have competed at three UCWDC® Events and the new partnership must have competed at least once overall in the division they wish to enter at Worlds.

##### **B. World Championship:**

1. An "Overall Champion" title at Worlds 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 ProAm Male Classic Silver Novice World Champion."
2. Conversely, when used in a contestant's dance resumé, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place through 5<sup>th</sup> Place Overall Champion titles must be *followed* with the full name of the division. i.e., "John Doe is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place ProAm Male Classic Silver Novice" winner at the World Championship of Country Dance.
3. Titles are bestowed upon winners by the UCWDC®. Titles which are abused by the recipient may be withdrawn.

#### **V. CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP: Each year the UCWDC® presents the *Country Western Dance European Championships*, which offer world-class Couples, ProAm, ProPro, Line Dance, ShowTime and performing Troupe and Team competition.**

##### **VI. SCORING *For Scoring Rules, please see Appendix E.***

##### **VII. JUDGE CERTIFICATION *For Judge Certification Information, please see Appendix F.***

##### **VIII. JUDGING**

##### **A. Eligibility:**

1. To be eligible to adjudicate at any UCWDC® Event, including the World Championship, each judge must be a current UCWDC® Associate Member in good standing.

##### **B. Certification Regulations:**

1. All judges for UCWDC® contests must be Certified. For each panel of judges, one (1) in five (5) or two (2) in seven (7) may be listed as In-Progress. Each panel judging Line Dance divisions may have three (3) judges but 5 are recommended.
2. In Europe and Canada, each panel of judges at UCWDC® competitions must have three (3) judges but 5 are recommended.
3. UCWDC® Event Directors must submit to the UCWDC® VP Judge Certification a list identifying each panel of judges per contest session, with a list of divisions judged during that session.

### **C. Judge Review Board:** The UCWDC® Judge

Certification Committee has a Board of Inquiry to respond to a written complaint regarding a judge's impartiality, conduct, and/or ethics. A request for review will be kept confidential, but must contain the judge's name, the contestant's and complainant's name, and the details. For more information, please contact VP Judge Certification, Dave Getty, at [CertifiedCountry@msn.com](mailto:CertifiedCountry@msn.com).

### **D. Judges' Regulations:**

1. No contestant, other than a Masters, SuperStars, Crown, or Legends dancer, or the teaching 'Pro' of a Pro-Am or Pro-Pro partnership may judge the same Dance Type in which they are competing.
2. A judge competing in one Type of dance may Judge another Type of dance.
3. No active competitor may judge at Worlds except ProPro and Spotlight competitors.
4. A contestant who wishes to judge may not judge his own level without taking four months off from competition.
5. A judge who wishes to compete may not do so without taking four months off from judging his division or any above it.
6. The Am of a Pro-Am partnership is not allowed to judge UCWDC® Couples, ProAm and ProPro competition.
7. Couples II and I contestants who are certified may judge ProAm but not ProPro.
8. No two persons who are members of a partnership; dancing, teaching or personal, may sit on the same UCWDC® panel except for ProAm.
9. No persons who are members of a partnership; dancing, teaching or personal, may judge their partner, a family member, or their partner's family member, except if the partner or family member is the teaching Pro of a ProAm or ProPro partnership.
10. No II Intermediate or I Advanced level contestant in any Dance Type may receive judging wages, compensation or inducements in that Dance Type. Such contestants may not have access to UCWDC® judges' meetings. Offenders will lose their current competitive status, and be suspended from further UCWDC® competition for the current Dance Season.
11. Contestants may receive teaching wages, wages for services, compensation for shows, and prizes as well as having access to an event hospitality room.

### **E. Judges' Code of Ethics:**

1. During their shift on a panel, each Judge must focus all of their attention on the contestants, have a positive demeanor and facial appearance and complete their 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 contestant(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 contestants until after they are finished competing.
4. A judge may never coerce, intimidate, or in any way perceivably threaten contestants into taking private lessons or coaching from them.
5. Judges may not discuss dance information with any contestant they are judging until after the contest session has

been completed.

6. A judge may review, advise, coach, and offer praise or helpful hints once a contest has concluded. However, specific information regarding his or her scoring, or a fellow judges' scoring, to include Medal, Grade and Rank marks, shall be considered privileged and may not be divulged anytime during or after a UCWDC® dance contest.

## **IX. UCWDC® Contest Coordinator Responsibilities and Requirements**

**A. Contest Coordinator:** Every UCWDC® event must provide for an official UCWDC® Certified - Contest Coordinator who will serve to coordinate and manage all UCWDC® contest divisions in accordance with the UCWDC® *Dance Rules, Contest Procedures and Scoring Format* as well as the UCWDC® *Judge Certification Curriculum*. The Contest Coordinator while being employed by the event actually executes his or her duties on behalf of the governing body of the UCWDC®, working not only for the Event Director, but also for all UCWDC® contestants and patrons, guarding the intent and integrity of these rules.

1. An event Contest Coordinator shall be fully responsible for delivering all contest logistics as determined by the Event Director.
2. During an event, the Contest Coordinator must be present and accessible at all times during the competition and may not perform other duties that take him/her away from the competition floor, nor act as the event's sole Scrutineer or Scoring Coordinator unless he or she has arranged that all Contest Coordinator duties are delegated adequately and professionally during his or her absence. Returning from such absence, this delegated work should be fully audited.
3. The Contest Coordinator will supervise the work of any and all floor coordinators, responsible for the taking of attendance and staging of contestants; any and all ballot coordinators, responsible for the collection and organization of contest ballots for the scoring room; any and all scrutineers, responsible for interpreting and transcribing judge's marks into placements, and/or medals grades; and any and all scoring room personnel, responsible for heat sheet preparation and posting, ballots preparation, computer data entry, scoring audits, reports and awards lists; plus emcees and deejays when working during a contest session.
4. The primary responsibility for judge panel selection and event scheduling falls on the Event Director. At the Event Director's option, the Contest Coordinator may be consulted for suggestions on the creation of judge panels and schedules. However, in no case may the Contest Coordinator 'overrule' the Event Director. If the resulting contest integrity is compromised, the Contest Coordinator is required to notify the UCWDC® Council regarding the Event Director's decisions during that Event's next Sanctioning review.
5. The Contest Coordinator, using the Event Director's event schedule, will determine, and direct the Scoring Coordinator, as to how heats are to be made for each contest session, including which divisions will be commingled as necessary for expedience.
6. The Contest Coordinator shall direct the Scoring Coordinator to ensure that all heats are randomly generated, then randomly scrambled within each heat to avoid contestants dancing in the same order in each dance. The Contest Coordinator is then responsible for protecting those

heats from re-arrangement to ensure fairness.

**7.** The Contest Coordinator will advise all judges in sessions as to the specifics of the contest logistics and will supervise all judges as they perform their adjudication duties. He or she will administer all contest problems as they arise in session, including any rules interpretations deemed necessary by contest discrepancies and/or ambiguities, or curriculum positives and/or negatives that surface during the session.

**8.** At no time during the event, prior to a Judge's shift will a Contest Coordinator influence a judge, or allow anyone else to coach, instruct or influence any judge regarding their subjective opinions about a dance or division.

**9.** The Contest Coordinator will advise judges that penalties are no longer applied separately on the ballot and carefully remind them to combine their performance assessment for each contestant entry with their consideration of any and all rules or curriculum infractions observed for that contestant before making their final Medal or Grade and Rank mark on their ballots.

**10.** The Contest Coordinator will advise judges that the 'penalty' box is now a notes and comments box for these purposes:

- a. To assist the judge in making ballot notations to remind themselves of each contestant entry's rules violations.
- b. To provide feedback to the contestants through their scoring reports regarding penalty issues the judge noted when making their final individual placement assessment.

**11.** When required, the Contest Coordinator will conference with the judges and/or contestants during a contest session to answer their direct questions or notify them of a rules or curriculum interpretation or infraction deemed necessary for education purposes either after the heat or the contest session as the case may be.

**12.** The Contest Coordinator will audit the work of any and all scoring personnel who score any dance or division. As a last resort, upon failure of the scoring apparatus, he or she will construct and supervise a method for determining the contest results per the **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> Scoring Format and deliver those results in a timely manner. Therefore, the Contest Coordinator must fully and accurately comprehend and be able to personally execute and instruct in all rules of the Scoring Format.

**13.** Before leaving the event, the Contest Coordinator will remind each Scoring Coordinator and Event Director about the deadlines for submitting any and all reports and files due

from the event and its Scoring Coordinator to the **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> Webmaster, **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> Points Committee Chair, **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> VP *Dance Rules & Contest Procedures* and the **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> VP *Judge Certification*.

**14.** The Contest Coordinator will also fill out and return any reports and/or worksheets required of him or her by the Judge Certification or Rules and Contest Procedures Committees regarding judge performance and effectiveness. The report should note all contest issues and rules interpretations arrived at, any conduct or procedure issues by judges, the make-up of judge panels, scoring and/or awards discrepancies and any other pertinent information to the **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> VP *Judge Certification*, and the **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> VP *Dance Rules & Contest Procedures* respectively.

**15.** The Contest Coordinator is responsible for personally auditing the contest results, or supervising the delegation of such audits, and must be prepared to adequately and professionally explain any scoring analysis packages that are dispensed after awards, as well as investigate and solve any results discrepancies.

**16.** The Contest Coordinator will be the invigilator (monitor the patterns) for Syllabus A and B Divisions.

## **B. Contest Coordinator Certification:**

**1.** Because a Contest Coordinator must not only know the letter of a particular rule, but also know the intent behind the creation of that rule, each Contest Coordinator must come from the governing body of the **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup>, and must be an active member annually directing a **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> event.

**2.** Contest Coordinators must be members of the Rules' Committee, where rules issues are discussed, deliberated upon, and either discarded, tabled, or accepted. In this way, each Contest Coordinator comes to know the intent as well as the letter of a rule, and can discuss with patrons and judges not only the present state of the rule, but also the history behind its inception.

**3.** Contest Coordinators must attend Contest Coordinators' Committee meetings at least once annually.

**4.** At any **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> event, if an on-site interpretation becomes necessary due to an inconsistency or ambiguity in these rules, a Contest Coordinator is required to notify the **UCWDC**<sup>®</sup> VP of *Rules Contest Procedures and Scoring Format* of such spontaneous, decisive actions at his or her earliest availability. Such coordination of Contest Coordinators is required to maintain consistency in contest administration, thus avoiding possible contradictions in rules interpretation.