

2010 UCWDC® Rules Updates and Clarifications

Hello Dancers! We continue working on improving our sport and bringing new people into our Country Western dance family. Here I've described some rule changes and clarifications for 2010. Details for these as well as the complete UCWDC(r) Rules, Contest Procedures and Scoring Format are available at www.UCWDC.org.

Beth Emerson, Vice President of Rules

- Music: we want our identity to remain Country for couples dance divisions. Thus Classic, Showcase and self-selected music will be limited to music that is country, or sounds country, for all dances.
- Cha Cha window will be split: 96 – 108 for Syllabus Divisions, IV, III, Newcomer and Novice. 106 – 118 for II, I, Intermediate and Advanced
- Uncontested World Champions who do not feel prepared to graduate may apply for an exception to the Graduation Rules. These will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- Approved dispensations and exceptions will be published.
- Coaches will be allowed to “count in” primary and youth couples.
- Due to lack of participation, Crystal Couples divisions will no longer be offered.
- We are working toward automating both Worlds Eligibility and Graduation. Please be reminded that if you (or your Pro) are not Current UCWDC(r) Associate Members, your events will not count towards Worlds Eligibility.
- To support the Judge Certification standards, all Judges must be Certified and we will allow 3 Judges in those places where ‘majority certified’ is specified-(Canada, Europe, Asia).
- Syllabus A and B: The Syllabus Division names will change from ‘starter’ and ‘VI, V’ to ‘Syllabus Intro A’ and ‘Syllabus Intro B’. Also the Syllabi were reviewed and updated so some parts will change. The changes as well as allowances will be published. For instance, a lock step in cha cha (Syllabus B) and French cross in Two Step are allowed. Please realize these allowances will not change the patterns, but will allow variations in how the patterns are taught. After this update, Syllabus Intro A and B will remain unchanged for three years.
- Music length for Syllabi Divisions will be 45 seconds.
- Crossover rules: The Crossover Rules and chart have been reviewed and have been clarified as follows: The graduation between Dance Types will remain separate with the following limitations: No Adult Advanced Competitor may start lower than Novice or Division III. Crossover from Line: Advanced will include Crown and RisingStars. Crossover from Couples I will include Crown. A Crown Couple must not dance lower than Advanced ProAm or Intermediate Line. When crossing from ProAm to Couples: if either Am is Advanced, they must start in Couples III, and if both are ProAm Advanced they must start in Couples II. Please refer to Appendix H.
- For Competitors who dance both Classic and Showcase divisions, these may be combined for Worlds Eligibility. That is, one event may be Classic and two Showcase or vice versa. This is a clarification, not a change.
- Worlds eligibility for Choreography: to clarify, three events must be danced in Line Dance, but these need not be in Choreography Divisions nor does the specific dance need to be competed before Worlds (this includes Newcomer Choreography).

Masters, Crown, Legends, ascension divisions and self selected music divisions

- Crown:
 - 1) Couples and Line Crown Solo medleys are 2:30 – 5 minutes with internal requirements of 3 dances or motions of 45 seconds each, In Couples Crown, the three dances may not include Two Step or Waltz
 - 2) In Couples Crown, if there are more than 5 Crown Couples at any event, a second division will be added and the ages will be split into the following: 40-54 and 55+
- Legends eligibility will change from being retired 5 years to being retired for the current Eligibility Period.
- Classic Masters ShowDance music length language will be clarified as follows: 2:30 minutes from the time the competitors walk on the floor to their bow where at least 2 minutes must be dancing to music
- During a flight, Classic Masters declare they are not dancing a dance by leaving the floor. They must not leave the floor during a flight if they are doing a specific dance. Both Flights in Classic Masters must be in the same session.
- Self Selected Music: Previously, for self selected music, west coast and waltz were allowed to be non-country music. Later all but west coast were limited to country music. This created the issue for self-selected music divisions where west coast had a huge advantage due to the amount of music available. Thus in 2010, all music used to meet internal requirements must be country music, or music that sounds country, for all dances. If the music is not needed for internal requirements, these limits do not apply.
- Props will be allowed for Self Selected music categories as follows: Solo Medleys, Spotlights and ShowDances (not Masters Showcase Two Step and Waltz). No setup time will be allowed (time for setup will be included in performance time) and props must be portable, inanimate, and set up by only the competitor(s).
- When a Master gets a new partner, they must start in Masters if the new partner was a Master or an Open I World Champion
- When there are not enough competitors in ascension divisions, requests are made for dispensation. A box will be added to those ballots for judges to indicate if the win meets the expectations for the Couples I and Line Advanced divisions. This would not indicate that the competitor is Masters/Crown/SuperStars caliber, but that they meet expectations for a win.
- Low lifts will be allowed in Couples Showcase I