

I.A.G.L.C.W.D.C.

COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE COMPETITION

RULES & SCORING FORMAT

As adopted by the Dance Competitions Committee in July 2018

at the Annual Convention in Louisville, KY, USA

PREAMBLE

The International Association of Gay/Lesbian Country Western Dance Clubs (IAGLCWDC) recognizes the importance of country western music and dance to the life of the gay/lesbian community. We are committed to supporting these activities and have taken great pride in providing the community with events that have earned respect and national recognition. We acknowledge the constraints that we experience as a volunteer organization. We are, nonetheless, committed to continuing a proud tradition of high quality activities that reflect positively on our association and the community. There shall be one IAGLCWDC sanctioned championship competition per year to be held at the annual convention of that year consisting of all three events (couples dance, line dance, and teams). Any IAGLCWDC club may run their own competition using IAGLCWDC rules and regulations and sanctioned judges. This competition may consist of all three events or may consist of only one or two of the events. These are to be held as regular competitions following IAGLCWDC rules and are not to be run as preliminaries to the championship competitions at the annual conventions.

ELIGIBILITY

IAGLCWDC dance competitions are open to all. Same sex as well as opposite sex couples are welcomed to compete in this competition. Each contestant is subject to the minimum age laws of the governing state. Refer to specific event registration forms for exact age requirements for each event. Teams competition entry forms must be submitted to the Competition Director no less than 30 days prior to this event. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Competition Director. Entry fees shall be determined by the host organization and will be specified on competition entry forms.

The rules as specified in I.A.G.L.C.W.D.C. COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE COMPETITION RULES & SCORING FORMAT shall be the only rules that govern these competitions. Failure to comply with these rules may affect final placement.

DANCE CATEGORIES

JUST DANCE CATEGORY (Couples & Line)

This is a single dance category where competitors are invited to find a partner and enter on-line or on-site. There are no costume requirements, no presumed levels of proficiency and no pre-choreographed routines. Just dance the dance. Three couple dances will be offered...Two-Step, Waltz, and West Coast Swing and two line dances will be offered (line dances offered are announced a few weeks before the competitions). An individual may dance with a different partner in each couple dance. If there are more than nine (9) couples/line dancers in a single dance, then grading rounds will take place to separate them into two or more levels of proficiency. (See Competition Format for explanation of grading rounds.)

PAT & CHRIS CATEGORY

This is a single dance category where competitors are invited onto the floor as leaders and followers, and the MC or Competition Director matches them up with a partner through a "roll of the dice".

TEAMS CATEGORY

A team consists of 5 or more people dancing together in a single routine. All teams shall compete against one another as one category. Each team shall have up to 7 minutes, entrance and exit inclusive, to execute their routine. Listed below are different possible styles of routines that may be danced in the teams category. (It is recommended that teams not perform their competition routine at the convention prior to the competition to prevent the possibility of any pre-judging.)

- **Line Dance Routine** – Any routine that is performed as individuals dancing essentially repetitive patterns in any non-joined configuration. Multiline configurations, straight line configurations, straight line geometric patterns, circles or arcs are allowed. Hands or bodies may touch momentarily.
- **Couple Dance Routine** – Any routine that is performed as couples dancing together in any joined configuration throughout the routine except for: entrance, exit, transition, separation where partner changes are made, or a movement is executed where the perception of partnership is maintained.
- **Medley Dance Routine** – Any routine that is a mixture of line dancing and couple dancing.
- **Open Dance Routine** – This category is to be considered "Open" for teams desiring to perform routines primarily for entertainment with significant dance content including other styles of dance. There are no restrictions on music selection, attire, or dance style other than the use of violent or vulgar movements.

COUPLE DANCES

Two-Step (176-198 BPM)

Any six or eight-count combination of basic Two Step patterns (quick, quick, slow, slow, or quick, quick, slow, quick, quick, slow or the west coast versions of slow, slow, quick, quick, or slow, quick, quick, slow, quick, quick) may be used that has a generally forward progression using basic smooth motion.

Waltz (84-100 BPM)

Any basic waltz pattern may be used that has a generally forward progression and accents counts 1 and 4 using basic rise and fall motion.

West Coast Swing (100-115 BPM)

Any six (6) or eight (8) count combination of basic swing patterns (1, 2, 3&4, 5&6 or 1, 2, 3&4, 5, 6, 7&8) may be used that have a generally stationary, predominantly slotted step pattern using basic smooth semi-latin motion. "Coaster" or "anchor" steps may be used.

COMPETITION FORMAT

- Number of Judges: There shall be an odd number of judges with a minimum of three (3) judges for the couples and line dance events and five (5) for the teams event at the annual championship competitions. Special exceptions may be made by the Competition Director if they cannot get the required minimum of judges.
- Heats will be evenly divided depending on floor size to allow a maximum of twelve (12) couples/line dancers at a time. A heat must have at least three (3) couples/line dancers to be run.
- Selected music will be played for up to two (2) minutes to give the judges sufficient time to make their decisions.
- Entrances are not allowed for Just Dance and Pat & Chris categories. (Must start in closed hold)
- There shall be awards given to the top three (3) winners in each dance and the top three teams.
- The type and composition of Awards is as follows: Ribbons will be presented to the top three winners of each dance. In addition, for those making the advanced level of the Just Dance categories, half of the proceeds from the entry fees will be allocated amongst the top three places (1st place – 50%, 2nd place – 30%, 3rd place – 20%). Trophies and judges' critique sheets will be presented to the top three teams with each member receiving a ribbon.
- If there are more than nine (9) couples/line dancers in a dance in the Just Dance Categories, a grading round shall be held. A grading round is where the judges are asked to sort the dancers into two or more levels of proficiency, (i.e. Novice, Intermediate, Advanced). The competition director will decide how many levels will be offered based on number of participants. The couples/line dancers will then compete a second time against the other couples/line dancers

assigned to their level. An individual competing with more than one partner can find themselves assigned to more than one level.

- Props are not allowed with the exception of the teams category. A prop is defined as anything used that is non-clothing, or clothing worn with the intent to use as a prop (i.e. handkerchiefs used during the dance, skirts torn away or reversed, spurs, sheriff's badges, parasols, canes, ropes, chairs, suitcases, etc.)

JUDGING CRITERIA

FLOOR ETIQUETTE

- Progressive dances, such as 2-Step and Waltz should move counter-clockwise around the periphery of the dance "arena," adhering to rules of etiquette regarding the "fast lane - slow lane" and "spotlight" areas of the floor.
- Any traveling movement in generally stationary dances, such as west coast swing and line dances must be directed so as not to interfere with the dance "space" of other competitors, as determined by their starting positions within the dance arena.
- Athletic movements, such as lifts and aerials are not allowed with the exception of the teams competition. Drops and leans where most of the follower's weight is supported by the leader are acceptable in the couple dances. Flips and splits are acceptable in the line dances. Poor execution and interference with another competitor's dance space may negatively affect final placement.
- While flirtatious moves are acceptable, overt sexual, vulgar or crude dance presentations are inappropriate. If a move is deemed inappropriate by a majority of judges, the violation may negatively affect the final placement.

COMPETITION MUSIC

The music used for the Just Dance Couples and Pat & Chris Categories shall be selected by the Music Director and the Competition Director on site. Couples will have no prior knowledge of the songs they will be dancing to, but the music tempo range listed in the rules will be adhered to. The music used for the Just Dance Line Dances will be announced a few weeks before the competition.

SCORING FORMAT

In the grading rounds, each judge will call back the couples they want to see in the final rounds. Number of call backs will be determined by the Competition Director.

The judges will confer with each other in deciding on the top three winners of each dance.

The "Skating System" will be used by the judges in the Teams Dance Competition.

- Each judge must place all teams. A judge must not tie any teams.

- The winner is the team who is placed first by an absolute majority of judges. Second place is the team who is placed second by an absolute majority of judges. The remaining places are allocated in a similar manner.

In addition, judges will critique teams in three categories.

- Performance – Includes Showmanship, Costuming, Music Selection, and Audience Enthusiasm.
- Choreography – Includes Entrance/Exit, Transitions, Fit to Music, and Variety of Movements.
- Execution – Includes Precision/Synchronization, Lines/Formations, Dance Technique, Difficulty Level

JUDGES QUALIFICATIONS

The Competition Director may select qualified judges from the roster of instructors of the convention with the following stipulations:

- No judge may provide private coaching to any competitors during the Event, until the Dance Competitions are concluded.
- No judge may compete in any single event where he/she is judging. (i.e. A judge may compete in Line, and judge Couples.)
- Judges who are a part of a team that is competing (dancer, choreographer, administrator) are not allowed to judge the teams dance competition.