

I.A.G.L.C.W.D.C. COUNTRY WESTERN TEAMS DANCE COMPETITION RULES & SCORING FORMAT

*As adopted by the Dance Competitions Committee in October 2009
at the Semiannual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, 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. Each competitor is subject to the minimum age laws of the governing state. Refer to specific event registration forms for exact age requirements for each event. 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 TEAMS DANCE COMPETITION RULES & SCORING FORMAT shall be the only rules that govern these competitions. Failure to comply with these rules may affect final placement.

CATEGORIES

- **Single Song Dance Routine** – Any routine that is performed as couples dancing together in any joined configuration throughout the routine or that is performed as individuals dancing essentially repetitive patterns in any non-joined configuration. Multi-line configurations, straight line configurations, straight line geometric patterns, circles or arcs are allowed. One unedited song not to exceed 5 minutes in length is permitted with no additional music for entrance or exit from the floor.
- **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. However, movements exhibiting partnership or partnership intent are not allowed.

- **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 incorporates two or three of the Team Competition Dance Categories of Line Dance Routine and/or Couple Dance Routine. Each type incorporated is to comprise no less than one minute of the entire routine. The emphasis in this category is on the combination of these different dance types.
- **Open Dance Routine** – This category is to be considered "Open" for teams desiring to perform routines primarily for entertainment with significant dance content. There are no restrictions on music selection, attire, or dance style other than the use of violent or vulgar movements.

COMPETITION FORMAT

- Each team shall have 4-7 minutes, entrance and exit inclusive, to execute their routine, [with the exception of the Single Song Dance Routine](#).
- Number of Judges: There shall be an odd number of judges with a minimum of five (5) judges per event at the annual championship competitions and a minimum of three (3) judges per event at all other IAGLCWDC sanctioned competitions. Special exceptions may be made by the Director of Dance in case the Competition Director cannot get the required minimum of judges.
- Verbal introductions of teams shall be conducted by the event Master or Mistress of Ceremonies and will be limited to team name and club or city affiliation only.
- There shall be awards given to the top three (3) teams in each category. If there are at least three (3) entries in at least (2) divisions, the judges will select one (1) overall team winner.
- All teams shall be recognized at the awards ceremony; however only the top three teams in each category and the overall team winner shall be announced.
- After the Awards presentation, each Team's own comment and placement sheets will be made available to them.
- There shall be a time and place provided for a post-competition critiquing session between the competitors and the judges.
- It is recommended that teams not perform their competition routine(s) at the event prior to the competition. This will prevent the possibility of pre-judging.
- Neither alteration of house lights nor use of non-dance personnel is allowed.

MUSIC SELECTION and COSTUMING

- For all categories, except the Open Dance Routine [and the Single Song Dance Routine](#), the selected performance music must be country-western in nature. Non country-western music is allowed for entrances, exits, and transitions; [Single Song Dance Routine does not allow additional music for entrance and exits](#).
- For all categories, except the Open Dance Routine [and the Single Song Dance Routine](#), the attire shall be country-western in nature. In the Couple Dance Routine Category and any couples section of the Medley Dance Routine Category, leads must wear a hat (this is optional for follows). Loss of hat may negatively affect final placement. The hat should be retrieved as soon as conveniently possible.

LIMITATIONS

- Athletic and acrobatic movements are allowed with the following restrictions. No aerials or lifts in [Single Song](#), Line, Couples or Medley Dance Routines. No drops, leans, tornillos, pedestals, or drags in [Line Dance Routines](#). These restrictions shall not apply to the Open Dance Routine Category. Such violations may negatively affect the final placement.
- While flirtatious moves are acceptable, overt sexual, vulgar or crude dance presentations are inappropriate. If a move is deemed inappropriate, the violation may negatively affect the final placement.
- Violent moves are inappropriate.
- Props are allowed in the Open Dance Routine Category [the Single Song Dance Routine](#) only.
- Props are defined as all small handheld or worn objects that can be appropriately revealed, utilized, and retained (e.g., tear-away skirt, guns and holsters, hand-held flowers, spurs, parasols, canes, ropes, chairs, suitcases, etc.). In other words, start with an empty floor, leave with an empty floor.

SCORING FORMAT

Judges will grade teams in three categories with a maximum of 30 points for each category. The categories are:

Performance -- 30 points

- Showmanship
- Costuming
- Music Selection
- Audience Enthusiasm

Choreography -- 30 points

- Entrance/Exit
- Transitions
- Fit to Music

Variety of Movements

Execution -- 30 points

- Precision/Synchronization
- Lines/Formations
- Dance Technique
- Difficulty Level

The judges will also place penalty marks on the score sheets for infraction of rules, and the scrutineer will then drop the team one place for each infraction on that judge's sheet only. Then the "Skating System" will be used in determining the final placements (after penalties). The winner of a particular category is the entry who is scored the highest by an absolute majority of judges. Second place is the entry that is scored second highest by an absolute majority of judges. The remaining places are allocated in a similar manner. Overall team winner is selected by a separate ballot whereby judges pick the team that they feel is the overall winner.

JUDGES QUALIFICATIONS

- The IAGLCWDC will maintain and update a list of qualified judges. In order to be added to this list, an application form must be submitted by the potential judge or by the Competition Director on behalf of a potential judge. The application will be reviewed by the IAGLCWDC Dance Competition Committee. The potential Judge and the Competition Director will be notified of acceptance or declination and reasons of declination within 60 days. All judges for an IAGLCWDC sanctioned event must be on this IAGLCWDC approved Judges List. Allow at least 60 days for processing and notification.

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- The Competition Director may select competent judges from the IAGLCWDC list with the following stipulations:
 - No judge may judge any event in which they are not currently approved.
 - 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 Individual 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.



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