PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

1. Purpose of these Rules

1.1 These Rules establish the standards applying to all competitors participating in **Australasia Dance Championships.**

1.2 The purpose of these Rules is to:

a. provides a fair and consistent competition environment;
b. ensure competitors understand the requirements of each section;
c. provide judges with clear and consistent competition standards;
d. promote good sportsmanship and respectful behaviour;
e. support safe and age-appropriate performances; and
f. provide a transparent framework for penalties, disqualification and competition decisions.

1.3 Competitors, coaches, instructors and team representatives are responsible for familiarising themselves with these Rules before competing.

1.4 Entry into the competition constitutes acceptance of these Rules.

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2. Definitions

For the purposes of these Rules:

2.1 Competitor A person participating in the competition, either individually or as part of a Duo, Trio or Team.

2.2 Solo An entry consisting of one Competitor.

2.3 Duo An entry consisting of two Competitors.

2.4 Trio An entry consisting of three Competitors.

2.5 Team An entry consisting of **four** or more Competitors.

2.6 Standard Line Dance; A dance performed using a repeating sequence of steps in which the dancers follow the required footwork, timing and directional pattern of the choreography.

2.7 Freestyle Line Dance; A line dance performance allowing greater creative freedom in choreography, formations, direction, interaction and musical interpretation, subject to the requirements of the relevant section.

2.8 Set Dance; A specific dance selected for a competition section and made available to Competitors before the event. Where an official step sheet is provided, that step sheet establishes the required choreography.

2.9 Set Song; A specified Piece of Music selected for a section to which Competitors create or perform choreography in accordance with the section requirements.

2.10 Own Choice; A single song that may be shortened or extended to comply with competition requirements but is not created by combining multiple separate songs where the competitors will use their own choreography that is not an advertised class dance.

2.11 Styling; The use of body, arm, head, hand, costume and presentation movements to enhance a performance without materially changing prescribed choreography.

2.12 Variation; A permitted variation or interpretation of choreography within a section that expressly allows variations.

2.13 Costume; Clothing, footwear, hats and wearable accessories used as part of a competition performance.

2.14 Prop; An object used during a performance that is not ordinarily worn as clothing, footwear, headwear or a normal costume accessory.

GENERAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES

3. Entries and Competition Sections

3.1 Competitors are responsible for entering the correct:

- age division;
- ability division;
- dance category; and
- competition section.

3.2 The Event Director may establish a minimum number of entries required for a section to proceed. Unless otherwise published, the recommended minimum is **three entries**.

3.3 Where insufficient entries are received, the Event Director may:

a. combine compatible sections;
b. offer Competitors an alternative appropriate section;
c. conduct the section as an exhibition; or
d. cancel the section.

3.4 The Event Director may limit entries in a section where reasonably necessary because of scheduling, venue capacity or safety.

3.5 A Competitor may only compete once in the same section.

3.6 A Competitor must satisfy all eligibility requirements applying to the section entered.

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4. Age Divisions

4.1 Competition age divisions will be published before entries open.

4.2 Unless otherwise stated, a competitor's age is determined as at the **date of the competition**.

4.3 The Event Director may request reasonable evidence of age where required to determine eligibility.

4.4 Providing false information to enter an age division for which a competitor is ineligible may result in disqualification.

4.5 OPEN age means OPEN age there is no age limit on these categories and anyone can dance in this section. Please note that OPEN age sections are normally danced with advanced style competitors and the degree of difficulty in these sections are normally higher than other divisions.

5. Ability Divisions
The competition may provide different ability divisions.

These may include:

- **Starter;** A Starter dancer is someone who is entering a dance competition for the first time and has never competed in any form of dance competition or has never won a medal in any dance competition. Must have little or no previous competitive dance experience. Open to dancers who are new to the competition environment. Dancers who have previously won a medal are not eligible.

  Purpose: To give dancers a welcoming introduction to competition.

- **Newcomer**; A Newcomer dancer is someone who has competed in dance competitions but is still developing their competitive skills and experience. Has previous competition experience. Has not yet achieved a medal-winning result in the relevant dance discipline or category that has contained more than 5 competitors. May have participated in recreational or social dance events. Must not have competed at a higher level beyond the Newcomer division. If you compete in the starter division you can not also enter as Newcomer

  Purpose: For dancers who have moved beyond their very first competition but are still building confidence and consistency.

- **Novice;** A Novice dancer is someone who has gained competition experience and demonstrated a developing level of technical ability. If you have competed for more than 2 straight years you are not eligible to compete in this section. Competitor may have won medals in Starter or Newcomer divisions. Is ready to compete at a more experienced level. Has not progressed to Intermediate or Advanced competition level.

  Purpose: For dancers who have developed their skills and are ready for a greater competitive challenge

5.1 Eligibility criteria for each ability division will be published with the competition schedule.

5.2 Competitors must enter the division corresponding to their applicable competition experience and eligibility.

5.3 Where progression requirements apply, Competitors who have achieved the published advancement criteria must compete at the next appropriate level.

5.4 The Event Director may review a Competitor's eligibility where there is reasonable concern that an incorrect division has been entered.

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6. Music Submission

6.1 Where Competitors provide their own music, it must be submitted using the method advised by the Event Director.

6.2 Music must be supplied by the published deadline.

6.3 Competitors are responsible for ensuring:
a. the correct file is submitted;

b. the file is playable;
c. the correct version of the music has been supplied;
d. the music complies with the relevant time limit; and
e. the music satisfies the requirements of the section.

6.4 Competitors should retain a backup version of their competition music.

6.5 Where a technical problem is identified before competition, the Event Director may request replacement music.

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7. Music Content

7.1 Music must be appropriate for the competition and its audience. Music containing excessively explicit, discriminatory, threatening or grossly offensive material is not permitted.

7.2 Competition-specific music time limits will be published for each relevant section.

- **Solos** **2 Minutes and 30 Seconds**
- **Set Song** **2 Minutes and 30 Seconds**
- **Set dance** **2 minutes and 30 Seconds**
- **Own Choice** **3 minutes**

7.3 All competition music must be submitted by the 28th February 2027.

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8. Competition Floor

8.1 Competitors must report to the marshalling or competition area when requested.

8.2 Competitors must be ready to perform when called. The MC will call 3 times and then the competitor will be disqualified.

8.3 Competitors must perform in the order established by the Official Program unless the Head Judge has approved to move.

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9. Judging Period

9.1 Unless otherwise stated for a particular section, judging begins when the competition music commences. If you choose to do an intro you will be judged from when you start to dance. Intro's are permitted in all sections.

9.2 Judging continues until:
a. the music finishes;
b. the performance formally ends; or
c. the Competitor leaves the Competition Floor,

9.3 Where an introduction forms part of the submitted music, the introduction will form part of the judged performance.

10. Personal Dance Space

10.1 Competitors must maintain reasonable awareness of their own dance space and the space of other Competitors**.** Competitors must not deliberately interfere with, obstruct or distract another Competitor especially when more than one competitor is on the floor at the same time

10.2 Accidental contact will be assessed having regard to the circumstances and will not automatically result in a penalty. Where another Competitor causes significant interference through no fault of the affected Competitor, the Head Judge may recommend that the affected Competitor be permitted to perform again.

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11. Appropriate Choreography

11.1 Choreography must be suitable for the age category and nature of the competition. Crude, sexually explicit, discriminatory or seriously inappropriate gestures or choreography are not permitted.

11.2 Athletic Movements are prohibited unless expressly permitted in the applicable section.
This includes: flips, somersaults, unsupported aerial manoeuvres, headstands, splits and movements that create an unreasonable safety risk.

11.3 Ordinary dance movements involving brief jumping, hopping or elevation are not automatically considered Athletic Movements.

11.4 Knee drops are permitted and you can drop to one knee or both however you must not touch the floor to get up. If you touch the floor and take weight you will be penalised with 2 points per judge or in a ballot section you may be removed from the section.

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12. General Costume Requirements

12.1 Costumes should complement the music, choreography and dance style. Costumes must provide appropriate coverage throughout the performance. Competitors are responsible for ensuring their costumes are secure. Footwear must be suitable for dancing and must not create an unreasonable safety risk.

12.2 Hats are optional unless expressly required for a section.

12.3 A hat, skirt or other wearable costume component remains part of the costume when incorporated into choreography and is not automatically considered a Prop.

12.4 At no time should any midriff be exposed and no see-through clothing should be worn.

12.5 Skirt length should be age appropriate and modesty skirts are encouraged but not a must.

12.6 Boots must be worn in all country songs unless performing a street style dance.

12.7 There will be a 2 point penalty per judge for non-compliance or knocked out of the section for not following the rule in Ballot judged sections.

13. Costume Malfunctions

13.1 Where part of a costume accidentally falls onto the Competition Floor, the Competitor should retrieve it as soon as it is safe and reasonably practical. A Competitor must not intentionally leave a costume component on the floor where doing so creates a safety risk.

Judges may apply the applicable costume penalty where a costume item remains on the floor or substantially interferes with the performance.

13.4 A genuine costume malfunction that could not reasonably have been anticipated may be referred to the Head Judge.

13.5 Hat drops must be picked up and a 1 point penalty will apply per judge for every 4 counts the hat is on the floor.

Solo's: Standard Sections
Competitors in the Solo Sections are required to perform the Set Dances for their category as identified by the particular event. The competitors should complete the dance as written on the official step sheets which will be issued to all upon entry.

Styling is encouraged to be added to performance according to the music, and the style of dance e.g., hats or skirts may be utilised to add to the presentation of the performance.

Music for Competitors in the Solo sections will be provided by the Event Directors.

In standard sections there is to be no freestyle at all and competitors must travel in the same direction at all times.

Freestyle Sections
Competitors may (amongst other things):

i. Dance facing each other, or in opposite directions – contra and/or mirror image;

ii. Split or separate provided they follow an organised and/or choreographed flow of movement;

iii. Complete the same dance movements, though not necessarily at the same time (in a wave or cannon motion);

iv. Acrobatic moves are permitted and performed at your own risk however flips or any move where there is no body part on the floor are not permitted. Splits and knee drops etc are permitted in this section.

Set Dance Sections
Competitors are required to perform the Set Dance as provided by the Event Director. The Competitors should perform the dance as written on the official step sheets which are provided on the competition website.

Styling is encouraged to be added to the performance according to the music and the style of dance. For example; hats or skirts may be utilised to add to the performance. Set Dance sections may be danced in

heats depending on the amount of entries as 6 people make a final any more heats will be completed to get down to a final.

Competitors listed in each heat will compete on the floor at the same time (subject to change as required). There is to be no freestyle in any set dance sections. Competitors should be dancing in the same direction at all times.

Set Song Sections
Competitors are required to perform a Choreographed dance of their own Choreography to the Set Song as provided by the Event Director. Set Song sections may be danced in heats, as listed in the Official Program. Competitors listed in each heat will compete on the floor at the same time (subject to change as required). These sections are also to be danced in the same section and no freestyle is allowed unless specifically mentioned in the section title.

Mixed Age Sections
The following rules apply in addition to the Standard Section and General Rules.

There must be a minimum of 10 years age difference between at least two (2) Competitors. Penalty – disqualification.

ANZAC This section will require 1 NZ competitor and 1 Competitor from another country to dance together. This will be drawn on Friday night, and you will be notified who your dance partner will be. This is designed to make new friends and dance with someone you do not know. The competitors will be drawn at random and if there are not enough competitors from one country you will be matched with another competitor from another club. The dance is a set dance and you will be encouraged to work with your partner to style the dance.

NZ PROUD This section is for you to use a dance choreographed by a New Zealand Choreographer. The Dance must be published on Copperknob or any advertised dance sheet website. You can style the dance any way you like, and **Freestyle is permitted** in this section. The song doesn't need to be a New Zealand artist but must be cut at 3 minutes.