

UCWDC[®] Rules Changes, Updates and Clarifications for 2009

- Two new UCWDC[®] entry level divisions, e.g., Divisions VI and V for Couples and Starter A and B for ProAm and Line Dance, and accompanying Syllabi were created to attract new dancers to the sport of Country Dancing. These are limited divisions in that only those patterns in the UCWDC[®] Syllabus will be allowed. Each syllabus level will have approximately five (5) patterns in each of our eight (8) Worlds dances. This way, truly 'new' dancers will be enabled to join our sport. Starter A and Division VI will have the patterns for each dance from their syllabus. Starter B and Division V dancers will be able to use all the lower level syllabus patterns, plus all the additional patterns from their own higher level syllabus. These new divisions will be separated into Junior and Adult divisions only (no other age divisions) and placed by dance. No overalls will be offered. Starter B and Division V will be Worlds divisions. Starter A and Division VI will not be offered at Worlds.
- With the new divisions, the ProAm Levels names from lowest to highest are: Starter A, Starter B, Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced. The Line Dance Level names are: Starter A, Starter B, Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced. The Couples Levels names are: VI, V, IV, III, II, I.
- Divisions VI, V and Starter will have the same rules (including costume rules) as Division IV and Newcomer. The Contest Coordinator will serve as the invigilator, monitor the patterns and warn the Couple, Line Dancer, or Pro when a first (1st) violation arises. A second (2nd) violation for same person or couple will result in graduation. Otherwise Starter Divisions as well as VI and V will not need Graduation. We will not award Points Championships certificates to Starters and Div V, VI, but we will still track them online. Couples V and VI eligibility will be restricted to couples who have either not competed before at all, or when one is a true beginner and the other partner has competed at the IV level or lower. To be eligible for Starter Line Dance and ProAm, the competitor may not have competed Newcomer or above.
- Graduation has been separated across Dance Types. See Appendix H in the rules for details about crossover between Dance Types.
- Showcase music use dates will be modified. Currently the last use date is November. In 2009, the last Showcase music use date will be no later than September 1st, and earlier Showcase music release dates will be adjusted to earlier dates accordingly.
- Showcase music will become available for download on our website contingent upon acceptance of a legal End User Licensing Agreement in which the downloader attests that he/she *already owns a legally obtained copy of the trac(s) prior to downloading*. We also hope to add a way to legally purchase Classic music online.
- Some time ago the UCWDC[®] reserved the right to combine or cancel divisions with fewer than three (3) entries in two (2) consecutive World Championships. Thus we have eliminated the Couples Showcase II and Couples Showcase Diamond II divisions.
- We have deleted the rule that forced Line Dancers to ascend to SuperStars with twelve (12) wins.
- Division III and Novice will have warm-ups, not music previews, and different songs for each heat. Divisions below III in Couples and Novice in ProAm will still have previews.
- Troupe Program music will require 50% Country content (it is 100% Country now) and the costume rules will relax so that if Funky or Novelty choreography is performed, the costume allowances for those portions of the routine will apply.
- In the statement concerning competitors who judge: 'or the division that graduates to his division.' Has been deleted. This means Masters and SuperStars are now permitted to judge Division I and Advanced.

- Classic Waltz music will be required to be Country or sound Country (West Coast still will not be.) This means self selected Waltz music will need to be Country as well as Classic Waltz music, plus all *self selected music* will be required to be Country or sound Country except West Coast Swing, including the music used for Solo Medleys.
- We will 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.
- We are clarifying language allowing couples and line dancers to dance up a level as long as they do not dance overall at the higher level. A *reminder* was added that Two Step is required for Couples and ProAm when dancing up.
- Language was added limiting competitors to dancing two divisions at Worlds.
- Line Dancers, ProAm Competitors and Couples IV & V will be required to wear hats and boots for Worlds. Hats and boots will still be encouraged, but not required, at local UCWDC® Events.
- Costume language now says the yoke is a guideline, and emphasizes that each costume must look country and be appropriate to the dance and person. This will be addressed in 2009 CEU's.
- If Newcomer and Starter ProAm is held as a separate session, the Pros must adhere to Newcomer costume rules except Pros must still wear hats & boots.
- Juniors are allowed to dance down one level when they move up in age. In addition, we will now allow Advanced Juniors who cross an age hurdle to dance down to Novice (except when a Teen crosses over to Adult.)
- Jazz, modern and lyrical will be deleted from the Funky language and added to Novelty. The rules will now state: SuperStars, RisingStars and Crown Competitors may use stage dancing (jazz, modern, lyrical, ballet) as one of their 4 required motions in their Solo Medleys.
- Couples and ProAm Music Tempo targets have been separated in some dances by level. See the **Dance Categories** section of the rules for details.
- Advance notice: Crown Solos will change in 2010 (*not 2009.*) The Solo Medley will become 2-4 minutes with internal requirements of at least two (2) dances for Couples or two (2) motions for Line Dancers.
- "**Legends**" division has been added for Couples and Line Dance. To be eligible, one Competitor must have been a Master or SuperStar (in couples the 2nd partner need only have been a UCWDC® competitor.) Each competitor must have been retired from the competition floor at least five (5) dance seasons and must be forty (40) years of age or over. The Crown rules will apply: Classic Two Step and Waltz and a 2-4 minute Solo Medley with a two dance requirement for Couples. For Line Dance there will just be a solo with internal requirements of at least 2 dances. Line Dance **Legends** will **not** be gender specific. All retired Crown World Champions may go to Legends if they so choose, just as retired Masters may. If they elect to do so, they lose their Crown or Masters status and may never return to their former division.