



UCWDC Judge Certification Newsletter January 2024

Welcome to a new exciting dance season! The UCWDC® is dedicated to providing a world-class competition circuit and the judge certification committee has decided to produce a regular judge newsletter in an effort to increase communication and provide all judges with continued educational materials.

- A new **updated judge pool** has been posted - please check as there are many that have not renewed their associate memberships - you will be placed in pending status until this has been paid - please email us when this has been done so we can update the judge pool.
- As we are in a new 3 year rules cycle, an **open book rules test** will be sent out to all judges which must be returned by March 1st, 2024, If you do not complete this by the start of the new dance season, you will be placed in an inactive status until completed.
- If you have **not completed your 2023 CEU course**, you must take this privately before March 1st, 2024 and you will be placed in an inactive status until completed. There is a fine for not having completed the course before the end of Worlds 2024.
- **2024 CEU courses will be offered online** - there will be two offered, one for line dance and one for new methodology for our new divisions. These classes are mandatory and must be completed by June 2024.
- At the fall council meeting, it was approved for the use of **Invigilation starting for our next dance season in 2024**. This was tested at worlds successfully and will be only for rules issues. The comment codes will be removed from the judges ballots and only the invigilator will use those in the case of egregious and obvious rules violations. This must also be approved by the contest coordinator. This frees the judges up to concentrate on judging the "big picture". More information will follow and If you have any questions, please feel free to contact VP Judge certification or VP Rules.
- We are actively seeking those that may be **interested in becoming invigilators**, you must be an active journeyman or master level judge and you can apply and get more details by contacting judgecertification@ucwdc.org.
- Starting in 2024, **all fundamental judges** will be again required to complete the Intermediate/Advanced curriculum course (formally fundamental B) in order to remain an active judge. You also have the opportunity to upgrade your status to journeyman as many of you have and then that course will no longer be required each year. These courses will be offered at events and online.

- **“Vetted” Judges for Line Dance.** All line or dual judges that would like to be listed as ‘vetted’ judges will need to submit a video of them dancing all line dances to the line committee chair. A procedure for doing this will be sent out if you are interested. Event directors will be able to chose ‘vetted’ judges for their line panels. This is in an effort to ensure fairness when judging line competition as the judges need to know the dances they are judging. If you are a journeyman or above level judge, this video submission will also count towards your worlds contract requirement, should you be offered one.
- The **judge regulations and judge code of conduct** have been updated and will be posted to the judge certification page - please check them!
- We now have a **formalised process for new contest coordinators and new educator/examiners**, forms and explanations will be added to the judge certification page, in the meantime you may contact us for more information. There is also a new Masters level exam and details will be posted on the judge certification page.

It is important that we are transparent about our efforts to provide an excellent competition experience for all of our members and as always, if you have any feedback for us, please feel free to contact judgcertification@ucwdc.org. We thank you for your hard work and wish you a fun and successful dance season!



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