

UCWDC® Rules,  
Contest Procedures  
and Scoring Format  
**2020 - 2022**



# COUPLES

UNITED COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE COUNCIL®

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# United Country Western Dance Council

Rules, Scoring Format and Contest Procedures

## **I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **A. United Country Western Dance Council**

1. The UCWDC is a group of country dance event directors who joined together to form a not-for-profit corporation.
2. The UCWDC sanctions and advises the promoters and director of country dance events and related events which include, but are not limited to, Country Dance Competitions and Country Dance Workshops in order to ensure the uniformity of operation and the quality of the experience of the guest attending these events.
3. The UCWDC creates, revises, and administers the use of this uniform set of dance rules, scoring formats, contest procedures and rating systems governing Country Dance Competitions and Competitors at all of its worldwide events.
4. The UCWDC surveys, develops, certifies, and rates Country Dance judges to create a pool from which Dance Event Directors may draw.
5. The UCWDC sanctions, promotes, produces, and presents The Country Dance World Championships® to annually honor and recognize the achievement of the top Country Western Partner Dancers and Line Dancers in the world.

### **B. UCWDC's Mission and Vision**

1. The mission of the UCWDC is to preserve the promote Country Western Dancing and Line Dancing as fun and healthful pursuits, social activities, art forms and worldwide sports.
2. Our vision: We want to make every person in the World, a Dancer!

### **C. UCWDC Business Office**

The UCWDC Business Office is the official center for submitting to the UCWDC, information requests by letter, telephone, e-mail, or fax. Requests will be forwarded to the appropriate UCWDC Directors as needed.

**Mailing Address:** UCWDC Office  
15925<sup>th</sup> ST.  
Camp Hill, PA. 17011-3609 USA  
Email: [info@ucwdc.org](mailto:info@ucwdc.org)  
Phone: +1-717-763-4416 Fax: +1-717-731-6060

### **D. UCWDC Website: [www.UCWDC.org](http://www.UCWDC.org)**

1. It is full of information about the organization and its dance events. It contains many valuable contact links relating to the information on the Country Dance World Championships (Worlds), judge certification, dance rules, contest scoring formats, contest procedures, and other related UCWDC business.

### **E. Application for Sanctioning or Licensing**

1. Sanction and Licensed Affiliate Application may be obtained from the UCWDC Website or Secretary.

## II. DANCE RULES

### A. Dance Season

1. A year that begins on January 16<sup>th</sup> and continues up to January 15<sup>th</sup> of the following year.

### B. Eligibility Period

1. Each competitor's period of eligibility is the two (2) previous Dance Seasons combined with the current Dance Season. (For example, on 3 October 2019, the eligibility period would be from 15 January 2017 to 3 October 2019. On 5 February 2019, the eligibility period would be from 15 January 2017 to 5 February 2019)

### C. Dance Types

1. Couples

### D. Gender Requirements

1. A. Couples dance pair must consist of one (1) man and one (1) woman where the man is the lead and the lady are the follow, except for momentary role reversals.

### E. Age Requirements

1. Your age for the entire Dance Season for UCWDC competition is the age you will be on the last day of that Dance season.
2. Juniors competitors are those who are less than 18 years of age, with these stipulations:
  - a. All Junior Couples must dance in the older partner's age group.
  - b. Junior Primary – competitors are less than 10 years of age.
  - c. Junior Youth – competitors are at least 10 and less than 14 years of age.
  - d. Junior Teen – competitors are at least 14 and less than 18 years of age.
3. Adult competitors are those who are at least 18 years old, with these stipulations:
  - a. Open age division competitors must be Adults, except in couples where an Adult may dance with a partner who is 16 years of age or above.
  - b. Masters division competitors must be Adults, except in couples where an Adult may dance with a partner who is 16 years of age or above.
  - c. Age-Restricted division competitors may dance in any Age division for which they are eligible, with these stipulations:
    - i. Crystal division competitors must be at least 30.
    - ii. Diamond division competitors must be at least 40.
    - iii. Masters Plus division competitors must be at least 45
    - iv. Crown division competitors must be at least 40.
    - v. Crown Plus division competitors must be at least 55.
    - vi. Silver division competitors must be at least 50.
    - vii. Gold division competitors must be at least 60.
    - viii. Platinum division competitors must be at least 70.

### F. Divisions are offered as follows:

For specific division names, see: [www.UCWDC.org/rules](http://www.UCWDC.org/rules)

1. Couples Syllabus Divisions:
  - a. Syllabus A
  - b. Syllabus B
  - c. Syllabus C
  - d. Syllabus D

2. Couples Divisions:
  - a. Classic Social
  - b. Classic IV
  - c. Classic III
  - d. Classic II
  - e. Classic II/I
  - f. Classic I
  - g. Showcase
3. Ascension Divisions (competitors must earn ascension from the next lower division level):
  - a. Classic Masters (and Classic Masters Plus; when Masters has more than 5 competing entries and 2 of those are Masters Plus)
  - b. Showcase Masters (and Showcase Masters Plus; when Showcase Masters has more than 5 competing entries and 2 of those are Showcase Masters Plus)
  - c. Couples Classic Crown (and Classic Crown Plus; when Classic Crown has more than 5 competing entries and 2 of those are Classic Crown Plus)
  - d. Couples Showcase Crown (and Showcase Crown Plus; when Showcase Crown has more than 5 competing entries and 2 of those are Showcase Crown Plus)

## G. UCWDC Associate Membership

1. Country Dance enthusiasts, who may or may not be competitors, may join the UCWDC Associate Membership program. New and renewed memberships become “current” the day the payment is received. Your membership expires on the last day of the Dance Season, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Membership is available online at [www.ucwdc.org](http://www.ucwdc.org).
2. A printable copy of the Rules, Contest Procedures and Scoring Formats is available at [www.ucwdc.org](http://www.ucwdc.org).
3. Current Associate Membership is mandatory for:
  - a. All competitors before they register for any UCWDC Division at any UCWDC event. This allows the UCWDC to track their competitive credentials for each Dance Season and Eligibility Period. This tracking is used to determine The Country Dance World Championships eligibility, Points Champions, and to graduate competitors from one skill level to the next at the end of The Country Dance World Championships.
  - b. Each and every UCWDC Contest Coordinator, Judge, Scrutineer, and Scoring Director who works at an event.

## H. Division Entry Requirements

For crossover entry between Dance Types, [www.UCWDC.org/rules](http://www.UCWDC.org/rules)

1. Competitors in Social and Division IV should not have multiple placements on a recognized dance circuit, and for those who do we recommend starting no lower than Couples Division III. Any competitor who has individual competition or performance experience in any genre of dance may not enter Social divisions.
2. Competitors may enter any division for which they are qualified except for the following:
  - a. Couples competitors may dance for Overall Championship (see Section III) in only one skill level. While dancing Overall Championship in that skill level, they may dance in the skill level above.
  - b. Couples competitors may not enter both Classic and Showcase divisions with the same dance routines.
  - c. Couples partnerships may not enter as a ProAm or ProPro student-teacher partnership at the same UCWDC event, or vice versa. Once a Couples division partnership enters ProAm or ProPro, then they may not go back to Couples in that same Dance Season, or vice versa.
3. When crossing over from one Dance Type to another or returning after the Eligibility Period, a competitor may move down one skill level.

4. Once a competitor has performed for Overall in a UCWDC division of their choice, they may not compete later in a lower skill level in that Dance Type, except for the following:
  - a. Showcase and Spotlight competitors may dance either II or I in Couples Classic. Thus, Showcase and Spotlight competitors may not enter the Classic III level of dance or lower.
  - b. If the competitors do not compete during the entire current Eligibility Period
  - c. If Junior competitors advance into an older age division, he or she may dance one skill level lower, except Junior Primary Advanced and Junior Youth Advanced competitors may dance Novice as they advance in age.
  - d. Any new partnership or couple returning after the eligibility period may dance one skill level lower than the highest-level competitor.
  - e. Crown competitors may enter Classic Open I and Showcase Open to vie for Masters. When dancing Open I, or Showcase Open, they may not judge that Dance Type.
  - f. Masters may never move down, except when a Master dances with a new partner who is not Masters eligible.
  - g. Dispensation may be granted to move to a lower skill level, pending a review of scores and marks across dances, and multiple events (if applicable). Dispensation form is found at [www.UCWDC.org/rules](http://www.UCWDC.org/rules)
5. If a competitor earns a qualifying win in a Showcase division, they must then enter their respective Classic division at the Advanced level for Line Dance or ProAm, or Division I for Couples beginning the next Dance Season.
6. Masters and Crown division candidates, who have become Ascension eligible, only achieve their status after they have danced a full program at that level of competition.
7. Professional Status Specifics:
  - a. Competitors that teach Novice and above competitive ProAm or Line Dance competitors, or Division III and above Couples competitors are eligible to enter couples Division II or above.
  - b. Competitors that teach any lower levels of competition, Wedding Couples, Studio New Students Specials, Group classes, social dance, or any dance form may not enter Couples Division IV or lower.
  - c. If competitors regularly assist a dance instructor, they may not enter the Couples IV or Newcomer level of dance or lower.

## I. Division Rules

For an explanation of the movements listed below, see Glossary at [www.UCWDC.org/rules](http://www.UCWDC.org/rules)

1. Classic Format
  - a. The songs selected by each DJ or Event Director, for each Couples division, are revealed the day of the competition. The songs played for contiguous heats of the same dance and division in Couples must be different and of approximately the same tempo.
  - b. The basic timing(s) and rhythm(s), plus the musical tempo ranges for each dance, are listed in Article O. Dance Categories.
  - c. Classic Movement Limitations:
    - i. All Couples competitors must enter and dance Two Step to be eligible to compete except: Syllabus, Couples IV, Social, Juniors, Masters, and Crown divisions. Failure to do so will result in disqualification in that division.
    - ii. All Couples competitors, except Masters and Crown, must start with their bodies touching each other. Syllabus and Couples IV must start in one of the seven (7) Closed positions: Basic Closed (Right Inside Partner), Left Inside Partner, Right Parallel, Left Parallel, Promenade, Reverse Promenade, or Fan. Couples Social may start in of the closed positions or in two hand open.

- iii. Couples competitors must follow the Basic Rule which requires them to dance one full, visible basic pattern of the dance per standard phrase of music (32 count for 4/4 time or 24 count for ¾ time). For phrased dances, the two measures of basic timing must be performed in each phrase of music but need not be back to back. The basic pattern must be performed within the character of the dance and in a connected position.
  - iv. Moves that include lifts (any type), throws, carries, aerials, acrobatics, drops (any type), rides, drags, slashes, pirouettes, fouettés, sitting on the floor, lying on the floor, or bridging on the floor are not allowed.
  - v. Jumps and jetés are not allowed.
  - vi. Dance movements that rotate on balance in adagio are permitted to turn only up to 360 degrees except Masters and Crown which may rotate more than 360 degrees.
  - vii. A stationary split or rotating pedestal is not allowed except for Masters and Crown. For Masters and crown, rotation cannot be seen as counter-balanced.
  - viii. Except in Masters and Crown, dance moves that incorporate shine are not allowed except for Chase, Contra-Chase, Circles, Contra-Circles, and Challenge in Cha-Cha. Contra-Chase is also allowed in East Coast Swing and West Coast Swing.
  - ix. Free spins are permitted only when they are led from a connected position. They must finish through re-connection or as appropriate to end-of-pattern and cannot initiate additional movement concepts without a physical lead (shine).
  - d. Additional Movement Limitations for Couples Division IV:
    - i. Competitors must use the basic timing(s) (see Dance Categories in Article O.) through each dance except for a foot change.
    - ii. Hops, leans, lunges, arabesques, penchés, piqués, attitudes, développés, rond de jambe en l'air, and télé rondés are not allowed.
    - iii. Adagio movement is not allowed except for kicks, flicks, floor sweeps, or passé when done without losing the basic timing.
  - e. Additional limitation for Syllabus:
    - i. Competitors, except for a “starter step”, must use only the patterns from Syllabi approved by the UCWDC and found on DVIDA for the respective divisions with only the variations listed at [www.UCWDC.org/rules](http://www.UCWDC.org/rules)
2. The Showcase Format
- a. Showcase divisions dance to music which is pre-selected for each dance on a rotating schedule. The songs, artist names, and details for usage dates are posted under “Competition Music” on our web page, [www.UCWDC.org/Competition-music](http://www.UCWDC.org/Competition-music)
  - b. The choreographic interpretation of the music is one of the most important factors being judged. Competitors should select movement that they feel best interprets the musical nuances, tempo, character and mood of the musical selection and the dance’s characterizing rhythm, motion and style.
  - c. Movements allowances and limitations for Showcase Couples:
    - i. A Couple may enter any dance category of their choice.
    - ii. A Couple may begin in any dance position.
    - iii. Aerials are not allowed except in Showcase masters.
    - iv. Inverted lifts held on the vertical plane (rather than cartwheels that move through the vertical plane) and throws transporting the partner through the air are not allowed except in Showcase masters.
    - v. Two-beat rule (except Showcase Masters): A partner may be lifted for up to two beats of music as long as any part of the lifted partner’s head, torso, arm, or leg remains at or below the shoulder level of the lifting partner and the lifted partner is not inverted. Medium lifts (with a part of the body at or below waist level) are allowed.
    - vi. There are no movement limitations in Showcase Masters.

## J. Floor Craft

1. For all dances, competitors should be courteous at all times on the floor, as well as vigilant so as not to interfere with other competitors.
2. For Couples progressive dances, competitors should generally move in Line-of-Dance (LOD), counter-clockwise around the outside of the dance floor. When a competitor performs a stationary movement in progressive dance, it should be to the outside of the floor, and as long as it does not block the inside lane, the stationary competitor has the right-of way. If another competitor slows or stops, trailing competitors should pass on the inside (toward the center of the dance floor.)
3. For Couples spot dances, competitors should generally remain in place. Once established on a spot, stationary competitors have the right-of-way over any competitor moving toward their space. When spot competitors use traveling movements they need to return to their original spot unless they are moving to an empty space. Stationary competitors have the right-of-way for their spot along with reasonable space in which to perform.

## K. Costuming

1. Competitors in all Divisions must wear:
  - a. Costumes that are Country and are appropriate to the dance, the arena, and the competitor wearing them.
  - b. Traditional looking Cowboy boots except:
    - i. Syllabus and Social competitors who are required to wear boots at The Country Dance World Championships, and are encouraged, but not required, to wear boots at other events.
  - c. Traditional looking Cowboy hats for men, except:
    - i. Syllabus, Social, and Couples IV competitors must wear Cowboy hats at The Country Dance World Championships, and are encouraged, but not required, to wear Cowboy hats at other events.
  - d. Hose (tights) and dance pants (shorts) for women, if either are revealed during the dance performance.
  - e. Masters and Crown are permitted to discard articles of their costumes which, if used in dances other than Solo Medley or ShowDance, cannot remain on the floor when discarded. After all dance categories all articles must be removed by the competitors.
  - f. Sponsored logos on costumes are allowed if they are no larger than 5 inches by 5 inches (12.7 centimeter by 12.7 centimeter) in dimension per article of clothing. Logos should be tasteful and not detract from the costume.
  - g. Junior competitors may not wear boots or other footwear with more than a 1.5 inch/3.75 cm heel.
2. Syllabus and Social competitors are not allowed to wear costumes that have sequins, rhinestones, beads or metal embellishments built into the design of the outfit, or metallic threads or dots woven into or pressed into the costume. This does not include jewelry, which can include bracelets, necklaces, broaches, hatbands, hair-combs, rings earrings, collar-tips, button snaps, belt buckles (but not the belt itself), boot bracelets, or stirrups. Discretion and tasteful decorum appropriate to the style of country and the store of the dance performed is highly encouraged.
3. Please remember that how a competitor presents him or herself for performance is part of the final placement on every judge's ballot, in every dance, according to the style and story of the dance. It is essential to consider that the entire visual or "look" of the performance is judged including costuming as well as steps.
4. Props are anything that is not normally worn as clothing and are only allowed in competitor-selected music divisions. Props must be portable, not living, and delivered to and removed from the performance arena only by the competitors. Performers and props must not touch audience or staff. Time for setup will be included in performance time – no extra time will be allowed- and removal of the prop must occur on the walk-off after performers take their bow.



## L. Choreography

1. Like music, under international law, all original choreography is automatically copyrighted when it has been performed and may not be copied, reproduced, or imitated without permission by the owner under penalty of law.

## M. Music

Competition Music preview is not allowed for any Couples except Syllabus and IV, where songs may rotate but all must be previewed. Warm-ups to music that is not used for competition or is a set of music that is randomly rotated, are encouraged for divisions not previewed. We request that DJ's make every possible effort to play phrased music for the phrased dances (Polka, Cha-Cha, NightClub, and Waltz). It is highly recommended that Polkas be 2/4-time, NightClub be 4/4-time and Waltz be 3/4-time. It is also highly recommended that within a set of selected music for a specific dance. That the intro of each song is the same phrase length, and that the music is played to the end of phrase after the 90-second stipulated song duration. For the non-phrased dances (Triple Two, Two-Step, East Coast Swing, and West Coast Swing), we request that all music to be pulsed appropriately. It is highly recommended that Triple Two has soft upbeats, Two-Step has definitive downbeats that are not double-timed, and both Swings are danced to backbeat swing music.

1. Competition Music length minimums are maximums (which may extend to the end of the phrase):
  - a. Couples (except Syllabus and Social) – 1 ½ minutes
  - b. Classic Masters and Classic Crown – 1 ½ minutes
  - c. Masters and Crown ShowDance – up to 2 ½ minutes where at least 2 minutes must be dancing to music.
  - d. Syllabus – 1 minute
  - e. Social – 45 seconds to 2 minutes
  - f. Solo Medley, (Masters) – 4 to 7 minutes
  - g. Crown Solo Medley – 2 ½ to 5 minutes
2. Showcase Music: The songs and artist names are posted under "Music" on our web page, [www.UCWDC.org](http://www.UCWDC.org), at least 2 months before they are first used at UCWDC competitions.
3. For Event Music Selections, all Classic music must be as described below.
4. Competitor-selected music limitations:
  - a. Competitor-selected music must be as described below for all parts of their performance, except:
    - i. Masters and Showcase Crown Solo Medleys where only music used for internal requirements must be as described below.
  - b. Showcase Masters competitor-selected music for Waltz and Two-Step must be a single song. If the song is edited, it may not contain anything not found on the original CD and may not be longer than the original song.
  - c. For the purposes of selecting competition music for our organization, music and artists that are identified by the following categories or descriptions are considered acceptable for country dance competition music within the UCWDC:
    - i. Country
    - ii. Contemporary Country
    - iii. Country Pop & Country Rock
    - iv. Americana/Alternative Country
    - v. Classic Country/Hillbilly
    - vi. Neo-traditionalist
    - vii. Western Swing
    - viii. Honky Tonk/Hardcore Country
    - ix. Bluegrass
    - x. Bakersfield
    - xi. Nashville/Countrypolitan
    - xii. Progressive Country & Outlaw Country
    - xiii. Urban Country

- d. Two competition dances, Cha-Cha and West Coast Swing, have roots outside the country music genre. Therefore, Tejano music is acceptable for Cha-Cha and Blues music is acceptable for West Coast Swing. These music types are allowed only for these dances
- e. Country music artists and songs appropriate for UCWDC competition may be identified by their presence on these platforms or by membership in these organizations:
  - i. Billboard or similar country music charts
  - ii. AM/FM/Satellite radio airplay on country stations
  - iii. iTunes, Spotify, internet-based music services in the country genre
  - iv. Record labels within the country genre
  - v. Halls of Fame – national, state and regional
  - vi. Nashville songwriters performing their own material
  - vii. Nominations for country categories at Grammy’s and other music industry awards
  - viii. Included on soundtracks for country-themed movies
  - ix. Performs/ed at the Grand Old Opry
- f. Competitor-Selected Music:
  - i. It is the competitor’s responsibility to submit music 24 hours prior to the competition at every Regional Event where it is to be used and at least 96 hours prior to the performance at The Country Dance World Championships. The music must be accompanied by a properly filled out Competitor-Selected Music Itinerary ([www.UCWDC.org/rules](http://www.UCWDC.org/rules)). The music will be audited during competition for all requirements and must be submitted on a USB drive to the auditor designated by each specific event. The procedure for providing the information, how the information is evaluated and how any penalties are assessed if the program does not meet applicable rules are also found at [www.UCWDC.org/rules](http://www.UCWDC.org/rules)
- g. Brief, recorded introductions and curtain calls are permitted. Clocking begins when the performance-sound begins. Clocking ends when the music ends (not including curtain calls).

## N. Graduation Criteria

1. Competitors graduate on the first day of the next Dance Season, except for the following:
  - a. When a couple dances the first two (2) time in a Dance Season and accumulates a majority of GG’s in their dance(s), they must immediately graduate to the next higher level once they are informed by the Vice President of Rules.
2. Eligible wins occur if there are three or more competitors competing for overall, except if the majority of judges’ marks are grades of S or less. In the case of less than three competitors competing for overall, a win counts toward graduation if the majority of judges’ marks are grades GH and GG. At least 25% of all grades must be GG.
3. Graduation earned at UCWDC Regional Events:
  - a. Graduating in one Dance Type will not cause graduation in other Dance Types unless a competitor is already in separate levels. No competitor may dance more than one (1) level different in another Dance Type without a dispensation. For crossover between Dance Types, please see [www.UCWDC.org/rules](http://www.UCWDC.org/rules) . Dispensation form is also found at [www.UCWDC.org/rules](http://www.UCWDC.org/rules)
  - b. If a competitor qualifies for an overall in a division, at a particular skill level, they may dance one or more dances in the next higher skill level at the same event (and must dance Two-Step if it is required). If the competitor dances overall in the next higher skill level, they have self-graduated into the higher skill level and may no longer dance in the lower skill level. Competitors may not dance at a higher skill level at The Country Dance World Championships.
  - c. Number of eligible wins:
    - i. Couples competitors must graduate to the next higher level from the:
      - .1 Division IV level if they have eligible wins at two (2) or more UCWDC events during the current Eligibility Period.
      - .2 Division III level if they have eligible wins at two (2) or more UCWDC events during the current Eligibility Period.

- .3 Division II level if they have eligible wins at three (3) or more UCWDC events during the current Eligibility Period.
  - .4 Ascension into the Masters divisions occurs when a partnership is formed by two (2) people who have a combined lifetime total of eight (8) first place overall eligible wins in the Classic open I and/or Showcase Open divisions at UCWDC events. At least two (2) of their wins must have been danced with the current partnership and at least one (1) of those must have three (3) or more competitors except Showcase divisions, where two (2) are permitted.
  - .5 Ascension into the Crown divisions occurs when a partnership is formed by two (2) people who have a combined lifetime total of eight (8) first place overall eligible wins in the Classic Crystal I (once the competitors turn 40), Diamond I, Silver I, or Gold I/II (which graduated to Crown Plus) and/or Showcase Diamond divisions at UCWDC Events. At least two (2) of their wins must have been danced with the current partnership and at least one (1) of those must have three (3) or more competitors except Showcase divisions, where two (2) are permitted.
4. Graduation Criteria earned from a Continental Championship:
    - a. It will be the same as from any UCWDC Regional Event excluding the Country Dance World Championships.
  5. Graduation Earned at The Country Dance World Championships ('Worlds'):
    - a. Every competing couple who wins a first place Overall title at The Country Dance World Championships with grades of G or better must graduate to the next higher level of competition, unless they have fewer than three (3) competing for Overall in their division. In this case, competing couple will graduate only if the majority of judges' marks are grades GH and GG. At least 25% of all medals must be GG.
    - b. In addition, all competitors who dance for an overall award at a World Championship event graduate to the next higher division on a scale which depends on the total number of competitors. They graduate if they have one eligible win at a Regional Event and they won:
      - i. Second place overall at The Country Dance World Championships where there were ten (10) to fourteen (14) overall competitors.
      - ii. Second or third place overall at The Country Dance World Championships where there were fifteen (15) to nineteen (19) overall competitors.
      - iii. Second, third, or fourth place overall at The Country Dance World Championships where there were twenty (20) to twenty-four (24) overall competitors.
      - iv. Second, third, fourth, or fifth place overall at The Country Dance World Championships where there were twenty-five (25) or more overall competitors.

## O. Dance Categories

1. Couples Dance Categories – The Country Dance World Championship Classic and Showcase Couples Dance Categories are Triple Two, Polka, NightClub, Cha-Cha, Waltz, Two-Step, East Coast Swing, and West Coast Swing, danced in this order at all UCWDC events except for Masters and Crown Classic, which will dance their chosen dances in two flights in the following order. First flight, slow or andante dances: Waltz, NightClub, Triple Two, and West Coast Swing; Second flight, fast or allegro dances: Two-Step, Cha-Cha, Polka, and East Coast Swing. The music for all flights will be automated with exactly a 30 second break between dances. A warning town will sound 5 seconds before the music. Competitors will signify they are not dancing a specific dance by stepping off the floor in which case they are required to stand within 3 feet (1 meter) of the floor and not consume food or beverages and in the true spirit of good sportsmanship must remain on the side of the floor when not dancing until the end of the flight. Flights will be in the same dance session with at least 10 minutes between flights.

2. These UCWDC contest dance categories list the minimum, maximum and preferred musical tempos in beats per minute (BPM) for Classic Couples. These basic timings fulfill the Basic Rule for each dance. To fully define the dances, refer to [www.UCWDC.org/rules](http://www.UCWDC.org/rules) (The FUNdamentals Curriculum and Standards). Timing notations in the dance categories: Black indicates a weight change; Grey (or Red) denotes no weight change. To meet the Basic Rule for the 'phrased' dances e.g., Waltz, Polka, NightClub, ad Cha-Cha, two measures of basic timing must be performed in each phrase of music (32 counts for 4/4-time or 24 counts for ¾-time) but need not be back to back.
- a. The Country Dance World Championships Core Dances:
    - i. **Two-Step:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Newcomer, Platinum: 172-180, 174 preferred. For Division III and Novice: 180-188, 184 preferred. For Division II or Intermediate and above: 188-196, 194 preferred.* Basic Two-Step timing are 1 2 3 4 5 6 ; 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 ; and 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 (QQS S ; QQS QQS ; QQQQS S). Two-Step is a smooth, progressive dance with weaved patterns and rhythm accents that separate the quicks and slows, emphasizing slows.
    - ii. **Waltz:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Division III, Newcomer, Novice, Platinum: 86-92. For Division II or Intermediate and above: 80-86.* Basic Waltz timing 1 2 3 4 5 6. Waltz is a progressive dance that uses patterns that move diagonally and are performed with Rise & Fall accentuated with Swing & Sway emphasizing hover. Waltz tempos in competitor-selected music division must be 120 BPM or less.
  - b. The Country Dance World Championships Swing Dances:
    - i. **East Coast Swing:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Newcomer, Platinum: 126-132, 130 preferred. For Division III or Novice: 132-138, 136 preferred. For Division II, Intermediate or above: 138-144.* Single, Double and Triple time swing are all permitted and interchangeable. Basic Triple East Coast Swing timings are: 1&2 3&4 5 6 and 1&2 3 4 5&6 7 8. Basic Single East Coast Swing timings are: 1 2 3 4 5 6 (S S QQ) and 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 (S QQ S QQ). Basic Double East Coast Swing timings are: 1 2 3 4 5 6 (S S QQ) and 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 (S QQ S QQ). East Coast Swing is a stationary dance that uses rotary patterns and is performed with semi-Cuban, emphasizing downward compression.
    - ii. **West Coast Swing:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Division III, Newcomer, Novice, Platinum: 104-112, 108 preferred. For Division II, Intermediate or above: 96-104.* Basic West Coast Swing timings are 1 2 3&4 5&6 and 1 2 3&4 5 6 7&8. West Coast Swing is a smooth, stationary dance with slotted patterns and rhythm accents, emphasizing back-beat.
  - c. Non-Country Dance World Championships Swing Dance:
    - i. **Pony Swing:** *For all 102-116, 106 preferred.* Basic Pony Swing timing is &1 &2 &3 &4 &5 &6 &7 &8. Pony Swing is generally stationary with revolving patterns performed with Lilt, emphasizing downward action on the numbered counts.
  - d. The Country Dance World Championships Alternate Dances:
    - i. **Triple Two:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Division III, Newcomer, Novice, Platinum: 86-92. For Division II, Intermediate or above: 80-86.* Basic Triple Two timings are 1 2 3&4 5&6 and 1 2 3&4 5 6 7&8. Triple Two is a smooth, progressive dance with looped and laced patterns performed with curved sway and shaping actions, emphasizing connected feathers.
    - ii. **Polka:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Division III, Newcomer, Novice, Platinum; 112-116. For Division II or Intermediate and above: 116-120.* Basic Polka timing is 1&2 3&4 5&6 7&8. Polka is a progressive dance with 2-rail (streamlined) patterns performed with Lilt motion, emphasizing downward action on the numbered counts.
    - iii. **NightClub:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Division III, Newcomer, Novice, Platinum; 58-62. For Division II or Intermediate and above: 54-58.* Basic NightClub timing is 1 2&3 4&5 6&7 8& (S QQS QQS QQS QQ). NightClub is a stationary dance with linear and geometric patterns performed with draping sway and counter sway, shaping actions, emphasizing developed slows.

- iv. **Cha-Cha:** *For Syllabus, Division IV, Division III, Newcomer, Novice, Platinum; 104-110. For Division II or Intermediate and above: 110-116.* Basic Cha-Cha timing is 1 2 3 4&5 6 7 8&. Cha-Cha is a stationary dance with intersecting patterns performed with Cuban motion, emphasizing the first beat of each measure.
- e. Non-Country Dance World Championships Alternate Dances:
  - i. **Shuffle (Ft. Worth Shuffle):** *For all 102-114, 108 preferred.* Shuffle timings are 1 2 3, 4&5, 6&; or 1 2 3, 4&5, 6 7, 8&. Shuffle is a progressive dance with leap-frog or pig-tail patterns, performed with Flat motion shaped in its movement. The dance accents 2 3 (six-count timing), or 2 3 and 6 7 (eight-count timing) with two progressive walks.
  - ii. **Schottische:** *For all 120-132.* Basic Schottische timing is 1 2 3 4[kick] 5 6 7 8[kick]. Schottische is a progressive dance performed with plié on 2 and relevé on 4, with zigzag patterns accented with lifted kicks, scoots, hops, or brushes.
  - iii. **Rhythm Two (Arizona Two-Step):** *For all 148-160, 154 preferred.* Basic Rhythm Two timing is 1 2 3 4[kick or touch] 5 6[kick or touch] and 1 2 3 4 5 6[kick or touch] 7 8[kick or touch]. Rhythm Two is a spot dance performed with semi-Cuban motion and circular patterns.
- f. Solo Performances:
  - i. Solo Medley for Showcase Masters and Crown: A musically-mixed, multi-dance Showcase category of 4-7 minutes for Masters and 2 ½ - 5 minutes for Crown with no BPM limitations. A medley of dances choreographed to music of the competitor's choice that must include a combined total of at least 45 seconds each of: a swing dance and three (3) other Country Dance World Championships dances for Masters, and a swing dance and 2 other The Country Dance World Championships dances for Crown; not to include Two-Step and Waltz for either, and which must be recognizable in pattern, rhythm, motion, and character. Recognizable patterns from non-UCWDC dances (e.g., Quickstep, tango, Samba, Rumba, Charleston, Clogging, Hip-Hop, et cetera) may only be used as appropriate for musical interpretation.
  - ii. ShowDance for Classic Masters and Classic Crown: (2 to 2 ½ minutes, of which 2 minutes must be dancing to music and timing begins when the music starts). A dance category which must be a single dance, and must be one of the 8 UCWDC dances defined above in Section O. The song can be one song or a medley of songs and may not contain anything not found on the original CD(s). Other dances are allowed momentarily for musical interpretation. The competitor order must be a scheduled drawing for choice or, if no time is scheduled, then random drawing/generator will be used.

## P. Competitor Conduct and Ethics

1. All decisions of the contest judges, the Contest Coordinator, and Event Director will be final. Competitors are expected to act and comply with the standards and rules outlined in UCWDC Associate Membership Code of Conduct, See [www.ucwdc.org/governance](http://www.ucwdc.org/governance). Competitors are required to provide on any competition registration form their full name, mailing address, birthdate, phone number (cell preferred), e-mail address and UCWDC Associate Membership number.
2. All Associate Members and participants acting on behalf of the UCWDC are expected to comply with all applicable laws at all times. The UCWDC reserves the right to exclude any competitor from an event for acting in violation of applicable law, or contrary to the UCWDC's mission, Associate Membership Code of Conduct as determined in the UCWDC's sole discretion.
3. Any complaint or challenge to the makeup of a judging panel or results from a judging panel must be done post-event and will go to the Judge Review Board. See the UCWDC Judge Certification Code of Conduct at [www.ucwdc.org/judge-certification](http://www.ucwdc.org/judge-certification)

4. Before entering a UCWDC Event, competitors may be required to sign an event waiver form that limits the event's liability with regards to injury or other damage, allows data collection and tracking, assigns the distribution rights of audio and video recordings of the attendee(s) to the event, and addresses privacy. competitors under the legal age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who has written parental permission to act as 'guardian', and who is responsible for the minor's safety and conduct at all times.
5. Information provided on the competition registration form will be used for tracking of performance results to determine divisional graduation status, divisional age eligibility, County Dance World Championships eligibility, and The UCWDC Points Championships.
6. All attendees are expected to act in a friendly, cordial, respectful, and professional manner throughout the event.

## Q. Reporting and Staging Procedure

1. For all heated divisions, competitors should report to the Floor Coordinator thirty (30) minutes before a division's first contest heat to check-in and preview their music or warm up, unless the size of the contest warrants an earlier reporting time (see event schedule). When reporting, each competitor will make themselves known to the Floor Coordinator by competitor number, confirming that they are dressed, ready, and able to perform in the proper division. During the contest, competitors must remain in the staging area, except for costume changes.
2. Competitor numbers must be touching the spine and must be worn in all divisions except self-selected music categories. However, Choreography competitors must wear numbers.
3. Even though UCWDC contests post the heats of competition for all divisions, the exact heat order is not guaranteed to any competitor. A competitor who fails to report to the Floor Coordinator on time or fails to answer the calls of the Floor Coordinator for a specific heat will be scratched (disqualified) from that dance category.

## R. Judge Meeting

1. Relevant contest information is discussed at the official UCWDC Judge Meeting held prior to each competition session at every UCWDC event.

## S. Competitor Meeting

1. Contest logistics and schedules are discussed at the official UCWDC Competitors Meeting held at some UCWDC events. If there is no Competitors Meeting, please see the Contest Coordinator for answers

# III. AWARDS & CHAMPIONSHIPS

## A. Overall Championships

1. An "Overall Champion" title is awarded only to the first-place overall winner in each specific division. When used in a competitor's dance resumé, the full name of the division must precede that title. i.e., "John Doe is the Classic Silver II overall Champion."
2. Conversely, when used, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place through 5<sup>th</sup> Place Overall winners' titles must be followed with the full name of the division. i.e., "John Doe is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Overall Classic Silver II" winner.
3. Titles are bestowed upon winners by the UCWDC. Titles which are abused by the recipient to misrepresent the credential or dupe the public in its declaration may be voided and withdrawn.
4. Overall Eligibility:
  - a. Syllabus divisions offer NO Overall Championship.
  - b. Social Divisions may or may not have an overall at each Event Director's discretion. If an overall is offered, competitors qualify by dancing every dance offered.

- c. Couples Overall entries, (except Masters, Crown, and Legends), must dance in at least Two-Step, Waltz, one (1) Swing dance, and two (2) Alternate dances.
- d. Showcase Masters and Couples Showcase Crown must compete in Two-Step, Waltz, and Solo Medley.
- e. Classic Masters and Couples Classic Crown must compete in Two-Step, Waltz, one (1) Swing dance, two (2) Alternate dances, and a ShowDance.

## **IV. COUNTRY DANCE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ('Worlds')**

Each Year the UCWDC presents the Country Dance World Championships, which offers world-class Couples, ProAm, ProPro, Line Dance, ShowTime, and Team competitions.

### **A. Eligibility**

1. Associate Membership: Each individual competitor may not begin to accrue qualifications for Worlds until their Associate Membership dues are current and paid for the Dance Season.
2. To be eligible to compete at The Country Dance World Championships:
  - a. Competitors who are permanent residents of North America and Europe must qualify by competing at three (3) or more UCWDC Events during the preceding Dance Season, except for all juniors and Manitoba and western Canada who must compete at two (2) or more events, and Syllabus who only need to compete at one (1) event to qualify.
  - b. Competitors who are permanent residents of Asia and Africa must qualify by competing in at least one (1) UCWDC Event during the preceding Dance Season.
  - c. Competitors who are permanent residents of continents other than North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa may enter without pre-qualification but must be active, dues paid Associate Members before dancing at The Country Dance World Championships.
  - d. Masters, Couples Showcase Open, and Couples Classic Open I must qualify by dancing three (3) full programs except if their permanent residence is Asia or Africa where they must dance one (1) full program.
3. The Country Dance World Championships qualification in Couples does not count for any other Dance Type.
4. The Country Dance World Championships competitors must have competed for the Overall at least once in the division in which they intend to compete, except:
  - a. Masters, Couples Open 1, and Couples Showcase Open competitors in Europe and North America, who must have competed for the Overall Championship three (3) times (in Classic or Showcase or a combination of the two (2)) over the course of three (3) or more UCWDC events.
5. For each Dance Type entered, The Country Dance World Championships competitors must compete in the highest division where they danced for overall during the preceding Dance Season.
6. In a new partnership, at least one partner must have competed at three (3) UCWDC Events and the new partnership must have competed at least once overall in the division they intend to compete at The Country Dance World Championships.

### **B. World Championship**

1. An "Overall Champion" title at The Country Dance World Championships is awarded only to the first-place overall winner in each specific division. When used, the year and the full name of the division must precede that title. i.e., "John Doe is the 1988 UCWDC Classic Silver II World Champion."
2. Conversely, when used in a competitor's dance resumé, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place through 5<sup>th</sup> Place Overall winners' titles must be followed with the full name of the division. i.e., "John Doe is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Classic Silver II" winner at the Country Dance World Championship.
3. Titles are bestowed upon winners by the UCWDC. Titles which are abused by the recipient may be withdrawn.

## **V. CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Each year the UCWDC may present a Continental Championship in one of its represented regions. All qualification requirements for the Continental Championship shall follow The Country Dance Worlds Championships format, unless noted otherwise.

## **VI. SCORING & JUDGE CERTIFICATION**

For Scoring Information, see Rules at [www.UCWDC.org/rules](http://www.UCWDC.org/rules)

For Judge Certification Information, please see [www.UCWDC.org/judge-certification](http://www.UCWDC.org/judge-certification)

## **VII. JUDGING**

### **A. Eligibility**

1. To be eligible to adjudicate at any UCWDC Event, including the Country Dance World Championship, each judge must be a current UCWDC Associate member in good standing.

### **B. Certification Regulations**

1. For all new countries applying for new Event Sanctioning, UCWDC contests may have three (3) judges, but five (5) are recommended where;
  - a. All First Year Provisionally Sanctioned Events must have a minimum of one (1) dual certified UCWDC Journeyman Level (or above) Judges, current and in good standing on each UCWDC contest panel.
  - b. All Second Year Provisionally Sanctioned Events must have a minimum of two (2) dual certified UCWDC Journeyman Level (or above) Judges, current and in good standing on each UCWDC contact panel.
  - c. The remaining judges required on the UCWDC contest panels must have dance judging experience.
2. For all events in Europe, Asia Pacific, North America, Africa or Antarctica, UCWDC contest must have three (3) judges but five (5) are recommended on each panel where all judges must be certified UCWDC Journeyman Level (or above), current and in good standing.
3. UCWDC Event Directors must submit to the UCWDC VP Judge Certification a list of each panel of judges per contest session, with a list of divisions judged during that session.

### **C. Judge Review Board**

1. The UCWDC Judge Certification Committee has a Board of Inquiry to respond to a written complaint regarding a judge's impartiality and judges' conduct and/or ethics. All request for review must follow the procedure outlined in the UCWDC Code of Conduct policy. For more information, please contact the VP Judge Certification at [judgecertification@UCWDC.org](mailto:judgecertification@UCWDC.org).

### **D. Judges' Regulations**

1. No competitor, other than a Masters or Crown competitor may judge the same Dance Type in which they are competing.
2. A judge competing in one Dance Type may judge another Dance Type.
3. No active competitor may judge at The Country Dance World Championships.
4. A competitor who wishes to judge may not judge his own level without taking four (4) months off from judging his division or any above it.
5. A judge who wishes to compete may not do so without taking four (4) months off from judging thier division or any above it.



6. The Am of a ProAm partnership is not allowed to judge UCWDC Couples.
7. Couples Division II and Division I competitors who are certified may judge ProAm but not ProPro.
8. No two (2) competitors who are members of a partnership; dancing, teaching, business or personal, may sit on the same UCWDC panel except for ProAm.
9. No competitors who are members of a partnership (dancing, teaching, business or personal) may judge their partner, a family member, or their partner's family member, except in the partner or family member is the teaching Pro of a ProAm or ProPro partnership.
10. No Division II, Intermediate or Division I, Advanced level competitor in any Dance Type may receive judging wages, compensation or inducements in that Dance Type. Such competitors may not have access to UCWDC judges' meeting. Offenders will lose their current competitive status and be suspended from further UCWDC competition for the current Dance Season.

#### E. Judges' Code of Ethics

For Judges' Code of Ethics, see UCWDC Judge Certification Code of Conduct at [www.UCWDC.org/judge-certification](http://www.UCWDC.org/judge-certification)

### **VIII. INVIGILATION**

Invigilation may be used when deemed necessary or useful. The specificity of any duties of an Invigilator should they occur will be described in [www.UCWDC.org/rules](http://www.UCWDC.org/rules)

### **IX. UCWDC CONTEST COORDINATOR**

For an explanation of the UCWDC Contest Coordinator responsibilities and requirements, see [www.UCWDC.org/rules](http://www.UCWDC.org/rules)

## **END OF COUPLES BOOKLET**