



UCWDC® Judge Certification Line Dance Fundamentals Curriculum

Section 1: The Dances – Basic Concepts

Waltz, Polka, Samba, East Coast Swing, Nightclub, West Coast Swing, Cha Cha, Street, and Stage

I. Core Concepts

A. Timing

1. Definitions

- a. Time Signatures: Waltz: 3/4, all other dances 4/4.
- b. Dancer's Timing: Stepping on the correct beat of the music with relations to figures/patterns in each dance.
- c. Strike of Weight & Degree of Weight Change
 - i. Part of the moving foot makes contacts with the floor.
 - ii. Transfer of weight from one foot to the other.
 - iii. Amounts of weight transfer.

B. Rhythm

1. Definitions

- a. Rhythm (Music Definition): Regular occurrence of accented beats.
- b. Rhythm: (Dance Definition): Accented steps that correspond to the regular beats.
- c. Syncopation (Music Definition): Temporary displacement of accented beats.
- d. Syncopation (Dance Definition): A change in regular accented beats for a limited time and return to normal rhythm.

2. Dance Rhythms

- a. Audio Recognition: Various ways to vocally express rhythm(s) of each dance.
- b. Visualization of Rhythm: Movement depicts rhythm(s) of the dance, apparent in time value of steps.

C. Motion

1. Definitions

- a. Repetitive Action which defines the dance.
- b. Repetitive Actions which facilitate the dance.
- c. Occurs through weight changes and rhythm.

2. Visualization of Motion

- a. Match movement and steps to accented beats.
- b. Acceleration and Deceleration
- c. Difference in time value of steps specific to the dance

D. Character

1. Definitions

- a. Culmination of Timing, Rhythm and Motion
- b. Emotional context per dance
- c. Story Line

2. Visualization of Character – movement depicts the definitions listed above.



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E. Defining the Dance: Waltz, Polka, Samba, East Coast, Nightclub, West Coast , and Cha Cha

1. Definitions - “Signature Figures” and “Signature Variations”
 - a. A particular series of steps (patterns/figures) common to each dance
 - b. Identifies the foundation of the dance.
 - c. Signature figure variations build upon the foundation of the base figure.
 - d. Examples of Signature Figures found on Judge Certification website.
2. “Signature Figures & Variations” Implications
 - a. Must be present throughout the majority of the dance.
 - b. Absence or lack of indicates the dance is not defined.

F. Street Considerations

1. Fundamentals
 - a. Upbeat songs use upper core.
 - b. Downbeat songs use lower core.
 - c. Commonly used foot positions 1st, 2nd, and 4th.
2. Commonly Used Types of Street
 - a. Pop
 - b. Lock
 - c. Hip Hop
 - d. Waacking
 - f. Voguing
 - g. Illusion
 - h. Commercial
 - i. House/Funk Dancehall
3. Categories of Street
 - a. Smooth: Illusion and Dancehall
 - b. Rhythm: Pop, Lock, Hip Hop
 - c. Lyrical: Lyrical Hip Hop
4. Styling
 - a. Appropriate to Dance
 - b. Appropriate to Song

G. Stage Considerations

1. Styles of Stage
 - a. Charleston
 - b. Disco
 - c. Broadway
2. Common movements of Stage
 - a. Jumps
 - b. Turns
 - c. Kicks



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3. Common Styles of Stage
 - a. Era: (20's through 70's)
 - b. Cinema: Bollywood
 - c. Fad: disco, twist, mashed potato
 - d. Other dance types: jazz, ballet, lyrical, contemporary etc.