



UCWDC® JUDGE CERTIFICATION CODE OF CONDUCT

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1. INTRODUCTION

The United Country Western Dance Council® is an international organization which promotes country western dance by producing festivals and competitions across the world. We host the annual Country Dance World Championships® for partner dancers and line dancers and we advocate country dancing as a social activity for people of all ages and abilities.

1.1 Purpose

This document outlines the Code of Conduct for all UCWDC Certified Judges, Judge-Apprentices and Judge-Candidates.

The United Country Western Dance Council (UCWDC) has a duty to provide guidance to its judges, judges in apprentice status, and approved judge applicants (so designated as candidates) on standards of behavior and ethical conduct.

Certified Judges, Judge-Apprentices and Judge-Candidates of the UCWDC are required to conduct themselves at all times in accordance with the current Bylaws, Polices, Procedures, and Code of Conduct.

This Code of Conduct represents the UCWDC's commitment to high standards. It should be regarded as minimum expectations for performance and behavior by all Certified Judges, Judge-Apprentices and Judge-Candidates.

2. STANDARDS

It is an honor and a privilege to be a UCWDC Certified Judge, Judge-Apprentice or Judge-Candidate. This designated status reflects the experience and expertise that comes from high-level training, teaching, and/or dancing, as well as an aptitude for learning and adapting to constantly developed methods of adjudication. The position of judge demands application of all published judge certification documents (to include Curriculum, Structure & Standards, Methodology, Code of Conduct, Rules, and Scoring Format). Behavior consistent with the status of judge, showing respect for judging criteria, the judging arena, competitors, contest staff, event directors, events, and the UCWDC as an organization, is required, as is a dedication to UCWDC contest priorities in a concerted effort to provide the best results possible. Judges who have a social media footprint must use it responsibly with the above in mind.

Please remember as a Certified Judge, Judge-Apprentice or Judge-Candidate you are always publicly considered to be an Ambassador of the UCWDC, whether judging or not judging at an event. Even outside of events, the public views you in this regard. It is essential to realize that the quality of a judge's behavior affects the image of an event, and the UCWDC as an organization. You are as such bound by this Code of Conduct for your duration as a judge, and automatically agree to these tenets without exception each time that you work as an employee of an event:

- Professional conduct must always be maintained, utilizing proper decorum in dealing with competitors, contest staff, event directors, and other members of the dance community;
- Proper dress as specifically requested by the event director is expected during all judging assignments;
- Be on time for all assignments (at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the contest unless otherwise stipulated), and refrain from viewing any of the warmups or music preview provided to the competitors;
- No texting or phone calls are allowed during your judging assignments, and as such, cell phones should either be turned off or not be taken into the contest arena;



- No alcoholic beverages should be imbibed prior to your judging assignment for that day, and such drinking will not be tolerated;
- Refrain from eating meals while you are actively judging, except for a small snack taken during breaks (or quickly between heats) if you are scheduled for a long contest;
- Refrain from talking to your fellow judges during heats of competition, as idle chatter is distracting and disrespectful to the competitors while they are dancing (questions of rules and procedures need to be directed to the contest coordinator, not a fellow judge);
- During shift on a contest panel, judges must focus their entire attention on the contestants, must have a positive demeanor and facial appearance toward the contestants, and make every attempt to complete the marking of their ballots for the current heat before the next contest heat enters the floor;
- Should there be a problem during the competition, any judge may contact the contest coordinator, and is advised to do so immediately to resolve any issue before the next contest heat commences;
- No judge, contest official, or contest coordinator may approach a competitor concerning his/her performance, dress, floor-craft, choreography, technique, execution, or any rules violation until after the contest shift has concluded its very last heat;
- In the event a judge feels the need to approach a competitor after the contest shift has concluded, it is recommended that the judge have a witness (a fellow judge, contest official, or contest coordinator) during any discussion with the competitor (and coach, if possible);
- A judge is not allowed to individually critique or make written comments about a competitor while they are actively assigned to judge that competitor's specific session of competition;
- A judge must recuse himself/herself from judging a specific division of competition if a personal partner, dancing partner, teaching partner, training partner, business partner, or relative is being judged (where the responsibility for recusing himself/herself rests with the judge, who must notify the proper contest official or contest coordinator before the session begins);
- No fraternization between a judge and a specific competitor being judged by him/her may occur prior to or during a contest session until the session has concluded all competition heats;
- When not on shift, judges are encouraged to socialize equitably with event patrons, however, they may not isolate themselves in the company of any contestant(s) they are judging during the event (that is, share lodging with, privately converse with, perceivably coach with, or publicly fraternize with);
- Any private lessons given by a judge to competitors they are judging may not be given until after the competitors are finished competing said competition session that was judged (and only if he/she is not judging them again for that event);
- A judge may never coerce, intimidate, or in any way perceivably threaten contestants into taking private lessons or coaching from him/her;



- Private lessons at an event should be preferably perceived as being initiated and asked for by competitors rather than offered by judges, although judges may dispense free critique if asked by competitors as to how the judge might see improvement in the competitors' performance;
- Judges may not discuss their own contest observations or reasons for their markings with any competitor(s) until after the competitor(s) are finished competing;
- Judges may never discuss other judges contest observations or markings that they may inadvertently witness, and all discussions or proceedings that are privileged to the event and the competition may not be revealed beyond the event's contest staff, and the contest staff should only be notified on a need-to-know basis (when in doubt about the information or the issue, please refer individuals to either the contest coordinator, or the event director);
- Judges shall be mindful of the content of their social media posts; any inappropriate content could result in suspension or revocation of their judge status.

3. RULES

Judges will further acknowledge and adhere to the following rules to maintain their position as a Certified Judge, Judge-Apprentice or Judge-Candidate:

1. You agree to use in its detail and entirety the Curriculum, Structure & Standards, Methodology, Rules, Scoring Format, as well as this Code of Conduct, as developed for and articulated to certified judges.
2. Your scoring marks may be evaluated, and contest videos reviewed where the marks were made, to insure the use and application of Methodology, Curriculum, and Structure & Standards. If there is enough evidence, either of clerical or visual import, that shows a critical instance or a chronic pattern of not using these applications fairly and correctly, a review may be initiated. Such a review could yield a warning with probation, or a suspension with probation. If additional education or examination is mandated by the review, such must be successfully completed before said suspension is lifted.
3. You agree your name will be directly associated with your scores at event(s) and your scores (with your name attached) may be released or published publicly.
4. You must be current in your annual dues for UCWDC Associate Membership before you can actively participate in Judging or Judge Certification work for that year. If you are not current, you will be put in 'pending' status where Judging or Judge Certification work may not be done until you are once again in good standing with UCWDC Associate Membership department.
5. You will complete all annual Continuing Education and Fundamental B (Intermediate/Advanced) requirements, open book tests, scheduled reviews, or any other assignments deemed necessary on time. Failure to do so will put you into 'pending' status taking you out of 'active' status until such required work is successfully completed (some form of monetary fine, or other penalty, might also be issued).
6. Your full understanding of the current UCWDC Rules and Appendices, complete with a working knowledge of the Scoring Format, is expected always.



7. You will always speak positively about other UCWDC judges, UCWDC events and event directors, and the organization of the UCWDC. You will also speak positively to our UCWDC competitors and customers. Failure to conduct yourself accordingly could result in a warning, a suspension, or a revocation of judge certification, depending on the severity of the issue or offense.
8. You will contact the Office of Judge Certification as soon as possible if any of your contact information should change (mailing address, email address, phone numbers, etc.).
9. You will forward all issues pertaining to judge certification to the Office of Judge Certification.
10. You do so acknowledge that certification does not guarantee employment as a judge at any UCWDC event. Undue pressure from a judge to gain employment as a judge prior to an event will not be tolerated and could be subject to the penalties listed in this section.
11. You agree to adhere to the policies and procedures set forth by the UCWDC Judge Certification program and understand that by accepting and performing work at a UCWDC event, that said agreement is binding. If you fail to follow this agreement, you acknowledge that by the tenets of this agreement, the UCWDC has the right to suspend or revoke your judge certification.
12. You do so acknowledge that if you do not judge within the eligibility period (defined in the Rules) that you will be placed in an inactive status and will not be able to return until all missed education courses are satisfied.

4. NOTIFICATION OF ETHICAL VIOLATION

Section removed.

See "UCWDC Ethics Complaint Process" for reporting, notifications of violation and appeal process.

5. NOTIFICATION OF ETHICAL APPEAL

Section removed.

See "UCWDC Ethics Complaint Process" for reporting, notifications of violation and appeal process.

END OF POLICY