

2026 UCWDC JUDGE METHODOLOGY CHART Partner (Pro-Am & Couples) & Line Dance

****Ascension Divisions/Showcase/Pro Pro/Honky Tonk See below****

Medal	Definition	Starter/Syllabus/Newcomer	Novice/Division III	Intermediate/Division II	Advanced/ Division I
HM	Rare occasion: dance unrecognizable!	Rare occasion: dance unrecognizable!	Rare occasion: dance is unrecognizable	Rare occasion: dance unrecognizable!	Rare occasion: dance unrecognizable!
Bronze	Poor Execution: not meeting skill level	No evidence Timing.	Lacking Timing	Lacking Timing and Rhythm.	Lacking timing, rhythm, motion: core fundamentals.
Bronze + (Pro-Am Only)	More consistent than bronze	More consistent	More consistent	More consistent	More consistent
Bronze * (Pro-Am Only)	Almost at minimum expectation	Almost at minimum expectation	Almost at minimum expectation	Almost at minimum expectation	Almost at minimum expectation
Silver	Average Performance meets minimum expectation of skill level.	Timing is being developed. May be inconsistent since newcomer. Basic, footwork, posture will be attempted.	Timing Variations, Rhythm, is being developed. Core usage attempted, Posture, frame, footwork developing.	Motion is being developed. Timing, rhythm, posture & frame turn tech, arm styling, animation more evident. Floor craft awareness.	All previous aspects are well in development. Quality of movement increasing with control of movement & floor craft. Degree of difficulty aligned with skill & age div.
Silver + (Pro-Am Only)	Slightly beyond silver expectation of skill level	Slightly beyond silver expectation of skill level	Slightly beyond silver expectation of skill level	Slightly beyond silver expectation of skill level	Slightly beyond silver expectation of skill level.
Silver * (Pro-Am Only)	More consistent at skill level, almost at Gold	Almost at Gold	Almost at Gold	Almost at Gold	Almost at Gold
Gold	Good Performance Exceeds minimum expectation of skill level	Footwork, Posture, Frame is being developed.	Turn tech, footwork, frame & arms are developing. Confidence growing.	Varied use of cores. Internal rhythm, body flight. Degree of difficulty aligned with skill & age divisions. Partnership.	Timing, rhythm, motion, animation, use of core is developed. Quality of movement is visually apparent.
Gold + (Pro-Am only)	Slightly beyond gold expectation of skill level	Slightly beyond gold expectation of skill level	Slightly beyond gold expectation of skill level	Slightly beyond gold expectation of skill level.	Slightly beyond gold expectation of skill level

Gold * (Pro-Am only)	More consistent at skill level, almost at Honors	Almost at Honors	Almost at Honors	Almost at Honors	Almost at Honors
Gold Honors	Excellent performance meets highest level of expectation of skill level	Posture/Frame, Turn Tech, Lead Follow, Movement skills being developed.	Emotional Aspect of Dance and arm styling starting to be present. Quality of movement clearly being developed.	Clear development & strength of previous elements. Animation & Emotional Connections becoming quite strong.	Showmanship is coordinated to the point there is a perception of story for the dance and between the dancers or the dancer.
Gold Honors + (Pro-Am only)	Slightly beyond gold with honors expectation of skill level	Slightly beyond gold with honors expectation of skill level	Slightly beyond gold with honors expectation of skill level	Slightly beyond gold with honors expectation of skill level	Slightly beyond gold with honors expectation of skill level
Gold Honors * (Pro-Am only)	More consistent at skill level, almost at Gold Graduate	Almost at Gold Graduate	Almost at Gold Graduate	Almost at Gold Graduate	Almost at Gold Graduate
Gold Graduate	Superior performance. Surpasses highest expectation for skill level. Ready next level.	Timing is clear. Rhythm is apparent. Posture/Frame good. Foot work developing. Ready Novice Level.	Timing & Rhythm are clear. Motion is apparent. Emotional aspects of dance evident. Superior of quality. Ready for Intermediate.	Emotion, floorcraft, musicality present. Superior quality. Ready for advanced.	All aspects of curriculum are in full view! Superior quality of movement executing the dance at the highest level.
Gold Graduate + (Pro-Am Only)	Used to rank the highest level competitors based on performance and artistry skills	Used to rank the highest level competitors	Used to rank the highest level competitors	Used to rank the highest level competitors based on performance and artistry skills	Used to rank the highest level competitors based on performance and artistry skills
Gold Graduate * (Pro-Am Only)	Used to rank the highest level competitors based on performance and artistry skills	Used to rank the highest level competitors	Used to rank the highest level competitors	Used to rank the highest level competitors based on performance and artistry skills	Used to rank the highest level competitors based on performance and artistry skills

****Ascension Divisions:** Are held to the highest level of adjudication! Please be thorough and expect excellence from every competitor!

Master, Rising Star & Superstar will and should have a variety of medals awarded. Crown and all Plus divisions: Please adjust for age considerations!

****Mixed Role - Judge** storyline & dance dynamics of lead/follow

****ProPro - Pro-Pro II:** uses advanced methodology. Pro Pro I uses ascension methodology.

****Showcase:** Musicality consideration while delivering the dance. Timing, rhythm, motion, character & artistry all necessary.

****Honky Tonk Line Dance:** social, fun division open to all levels - use novice methodology.

**** Partner Syllabus IV & III and Line Starer** are entry level divisions use one medal above usual newcomer methodology