



159 N. 25th Street, Camp Hill, PA, USA, 17011-3609

Hello Dancers,

Congratulations to all of you who are competing here at Worlds! Also thank you to all those who take time to comment and suggest- your thoughts and support are appreciated. This year we release rules for 2017 – 2019. During this period we will be working on updating the appendices. This list of updates- and more details- will be sent to all Associate Members and posted on the UCWDC® Webpage and Facebook page.

• **Social Divisions for Line Dance, Couples and ProAm:**

- **Line Dance Social divisions:** We will change Line Starter to Social. These divisions will have: Junior/Open/Silver divisions; no skill levels; free UCWDC® Associate Membership for the first year (and usual \$5 for the year after that); only UCWDC® membership will be required for Worlds eligibility; no costume rules; all dances vanilla only; 3 dances (not motion specific and chosen from Copper Knob dance charts). These divisions will have an overall and be danced at Worlds. Any event may choose to use regional dances rather than UCWDC® dances for their Social divisions but must clearly post which dances are to be used.
- **Beginner for ProAm and V for Couples:** We will add social divisions with Junior and Open ages (and Male/Female for ProAm) with no routines, no costumes, and 1 Dance Season plus (no more than 2 Worlds) graduation. These will dance at Worlds with an overall and only Associate Membership will be required for Worlds eligibility
- **Syllabus:** In 2017 we will begin using patterns from the DVIDA Country Syllabus in divisions A, B, C, and D. A list of these patterns is found in Appendix B in the UCWDC Rules. In 2017, the current Syllabus A and B may also be used.
- **Line Dance Intros:** wording will change to: During intro music prior to count in, contestants may move their bodies to express the music but must stay in place.
- **Worlds Line Dance Judges:** Worlds Line Dance Judges are required to learn and submit videos of all Line Dances they will Judge.
- **Line Crown format:** will not change.
- **Worlds Eligibility for Juniors and Western Canada:** All Juniors who now need 3 events (as well as Western Canada-Manitoba and west) will need 2 events be eligible for Worlds.
- **ProAm Newcomer/Div IV Music:** Songs may be rotated and will be previewed. That is, if more than one song will be used, all songs that might be used will be previewed.
- **Boots:** Boots must have a raised heel, a shaft (so boot is less likely to slouch), and must have the appearance of a traditional cowboy boot. Boots, like all parts of the costume, are Judged in every heat of every dance where they are required.
- **Entry/re-entry to our sport:** Wording will be “Any person who has individual competition or performance experience in any genre of dance must enter Novice or div III or above.” Competitors beyond the Eligibility Period may move down one level from their previous division(s). **If a competitors feel they don’t belong where they danced, they may apply for dispensation.**

United Country Western Dance Council

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- **Crossover Rules:** ProAm and Couples will be able to go down one level when entering any new dance type.
- **Professional Status Specifics:** Will be based on what level the Professional instructs rather than earnings. Details may be found in the UCWDC Rules.
- **Music tempo windows:** Will be updated in the Rules and will apply both to Classic Line Dances (the full tempo windows) and ProAm/Couples dances (more specific to levels/ages). For Line Dances not described in our rules we will use a link to a tempo list:
- **ProAm Spotlight:** The current division will remain as is (Adult Int/Adv levels) and Junior and Silver ages will be added. There will be no change in music or movement requirements or limitations (100% country, Crown Solo Medley rules which means portable props are allowed).
- **We will add language for Self selected themes:** Themes must not be about the UCWDC, it's contest officials, or competitors
- **Classic divisions with pre-released music P5 3):** We will add language so Pantomiming, singing, speaking... is not allowed **except in Showcase, Teams and ShowDance.**
- **Scoring:** Vastel rules will go away. In its place will be head to head wins and losses. If a tie remains, it will still be a tie. Also we will clarify that Associate Membership is required for all who calculate scores (scrutineers/scoring directors).
- **Teams:** We have added an International category. This will be separate from Line and Partner Classic Country -with Classic Line and Masters flights rules and no props. To clarify, Line and Partner Open have Crown solo medley rules (this means for Partner Open lifts shoulder level or lower are OK and for both portable props are OK - but no sets like Cabaret). We will require that any team who has not danced qualifiers for Worlds submit a video to the Worlds Contest Director with or before their Worlds registration to confirm they are in the correct division(s). This will not guarantee they are following all rules (which would give them an unfair advantage) but would place them in the correct division(s).
- **Props language clarifications:** we'll clarify that competitors can't touch audience or staff, have a living prop, or get help from outside. Props are anything that is not normally worn as clothing and are allowed in all Team divisions except Classic Country Line and Partner. All Solo Medleys, Spotlights, and ShowDances may use props where the prop is portable, a not-living object, and can be delivered to and removed from the performance arena only by the contestants. Time for setup will be included in total time.
- **Crown/Masters/SuperStars:** We will add Line Crown Plus (age 55+), Masters Plus (age 45+), and SuperStars (30+). These will be with same wording as the current Couples Crown Plus – at regular events these divisions will happen when the division has more than 5. We will add language that flights must be in the same session with a minimum of 10 minutes between flights and add language to standardize drawing.

We hope you all dance your best ever, socially and/or competitively here at Worlds, and have a fabulous 2017 Dance Season.

See you dancing!

Beth Emerson
UCWDC® Vice President of Rules,
Contest Procedures and Scoring Format