

# MIL & CWDC



## Competition Rules 2008/09

### *Divisional Information*

The competition year begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September and ends on 31<sup>st</sup> of August. Your age on 1<sup>st</sup> September determines which division you will dance in for the competition year. If, through a relevant birthday, you are eligible to move into an older age division, you may move up an age category during the year, however this is not compulsory. Moving between divisions is allowed although once you have moved into a higher-level division, you cannot move down to a lower division, the exception to this is if you have moved up an age category – it would be acceptable, for example, for a Division 2 Junior dancer to move into Division 3 Teenage. For all finals, the division in which you last qualified will be the division in which you must dance. Dancers will only have to move into a higher-level division in the following competition year if they have won three or more competitions\*, or a CWDC Europeans/World Dance Masters Title during the dance year, although this does not apply to Division 1 Allstars Advanced - see *Recommendations and Promotional Rules* for further information. Dancers cannot enter more than one line dance division at an event. (\*this only applies if there are three or more competitors in the division).

### **Line Dance Age Categories & Divisions**

Rugrats: Age 0-6  
Primary: Age 0-8  
Junior: Age 0-12  
Junior Teen: Age 0-15  
Teen: Age 13-15  
Young Adult: 16-24  
Open: 25+  
Crystal: 35+  
Silver: 45+  
Gold: 60+

#### *Recommendations and Promotional Rules for Competitors:*

#### ***Rugrats***

*This division is only for beginner dancers aged 0-6*

Emphasis is on fun and enjoyment of the dance and to encourage our younger dancers to compete. Dances will be of a very basic level and only 1 dance will be offered in this division.

## ***Newcomer***

***This Division is offered in the following categories:***

***Junior: 0-12; Teen: 13-15; Young Adult: 16-24; Open: 25+; Silver: 45+***

This division is recommended for beginner dancers or dancers who have never competed before. Dancers may compete in this division a maximum of **FIVE** Times (this includes any final you have qualified to dance in), they then must move to Division 4 Novice or one of the relevant age divisions. If a Newcomer competitor **wins** three or more competitions or a CWDC Europeans/World Dance Masters title during the competition year, he/she must move into the next highest, relevant division for the following competition year. Variations are not permitted in this division. The official step sheet must be strictly adhered to. Dance teachers of any form of dance may not compete at this level.

## ***Division 4 Novice***

***This Division is offered in the following categories:***

***Primary: 0-8; Junior: 0-12; Teenage: 13-15; Young Adult: 16-24; Open: 25+; Crystal: 35+; Silver: 45+***

This division is recommended for dancers who have been line dancing for over 1 year, or who have some previous dance experience. Emphasis in this division is on correct vanilla footwork and technique. Minimal variations are allowed in this division, however dancers may not execute any turn/spin of more than 180 degrees on one foot. If a Division 4 Novice competitor **wins** three or more competitions or a CWDC Europeans/World Dance Masters title during the competition year, he/she must move into the next highest, relevant division for the following competition year.

## ***Division 3 Intermediate***

***This Division is offered in the following categories:***

***Primary: 0-8; Junior: 0-12; Teenage: 13-15; Young Adult: 16-24; Open: 25+, Crystal: 35+; Silver: 45+***

This division is recommended for dancers who have been line dancing for 2-3 years, or who have three or more years of other dance training. Dance teachers who are new to competition are recommended to begin in this division. If a Division 3 Intermediate competitor **wins** three or more competitions or a CWDC Europeans/World Dance Masters title during the competition year, he/she must move into the next highest, relevant division for the following competition year.

## ***Gold***

This division is offered to dancers who fall into the relevant age category, as outlined above. Dancers, who fall into this age category, can alternatively choose to dance in the Open/Crystal/Silver age divisions. Gold is recommended for dancers who have been line dancing for 2-3 years, or who have three or more years of other dance training.

## ***Division 2 Advanced:***

***This Division is offered in the following categories:***

***Junior: 0-12; Teenage: 13-15; Young Adult: 16-24; Open: 25+; Crystal: 35+; Silver: 45+***

These divisions are recommended for experienced and accomplished dancers who have been line dancing for over 3 years, or who have an extensive dance background.

### ***Division 1 All-stars Advanced***

***This Division is offered in the following categories:***

***Junior Teen: Age 0-15; Young Adult: 16-24; Open: 25+***

This division is for advanced dancers and is by qualification only. Dancers must have won at least 10 line dance championship events at Intermediate/Advanced level OR hold a Division 2 Advanced European/World Dance Masters title PLUS 5 wins at Advanced (from MIL or CWDC sanctioned events) level before they are eligible for this division. Wins are eligible only if there are 3 or more dancers in the division. *(Please note: you will be required to provide proof of Championship wins, and should check with the Event Director beforehand).* Competitors from other organisations who wish to enter at this level should contact MIL/CWDC to ensure that they are eligible to enter this division.

### ***Masters Invitational***

#### ***THIS DIVISION APPLIES ONLY TO MIL EVENTS***

This is an invitational division. Dancers are invited to compete in this division by the Event Director, or by successful application to the Event Director. Rules for this division will be supplied directly to the competitors from the Event Director.

*Event Directors may offer some or all of the above Divisions. Please check with the Event Director which Divisions they have on offer at their Event before you compete.*

## **Line Dance Rules Summary**

Male and Female competitors will dance in separate/combined heats.

Dancers may choose to dance one or any combination of dances offered in the division. However, dancers will need to dance all specified dances to qualify for a placing. At least one dance in each line dance division will be danced to country music.

Dancers will be counted in.

**V & V Rule - Vanilla & Variation:** Dancers must dance the first TWO walls as vanilla. You may use your hands, arms, head and upper body, but you cannot change any of the steps, they must be performed exactly as the official step description issued. You will be penalised if the official step sheet is not strictly adhered to. On the third, fifth and all following ODD walls you may introduce variations. Variations must flow in the same direction of movement as the Vanilla. On the fourth, sixth and all following EVEN Walls you must dance vanilla with styling.

### **Exceptions to the V&V Rule as follows:**

**Newcomer:** Variations are not permitted at all in this division. Newcomer dancers must dance the dance exactly as written – no variations are allowed.

**Division 4 Novice:** The V&V rule applies in this division – however only minimal variations are allowed - dancers may not execute any turn/spin of more than 180 degrees on one foot. Excessive variations for this division will be penalised.

All vanilla patterns must be performed exactly as written on the official step descriptions. Dancers must keep to the basic footwork and direction of the dance. No additional turns or variations may be added.

Hand/arm work and body styling/movement is allowed. Competitors will be disqualified if they include their own version of the dance during the vanillas.

If a dancer leaves the floor for any reason, he/she may be disqualified from that dance; under the rules of the scoring system, this means they would be ineligible for an overall placement.

## **Duos Ages + Rules Summary**

*Junior: Age 0 to 12; Young Adult: Age 13 to 24; Open: Age 25+*

\* If the two dancers competing together fall into different age groups, they must dance in the division of the oldest dancer.

Duos are two individuals, males, females or mixed, dancing in any non-joined pattern.

Hands or bodies may briefly touch but dancers cannot join to execute any movement.

A set piece of music will be pre-released to which Duos should choreograph their own routine.

Several Duos will compete on the floor at the same time; therefore dance floor etiquette must be followed.

Dancers should start dancing when they choose; they will not be counted in.

## **Showcase Duos Ages + Rules Summary**

*Open age division*

Duos are two individuals, males, females or mixed.

In Showcase Duos, couples may join and/or use elements of couples/partner dancing. This division is exempt from Acrobatic Restrictions, however, any moves that are deemed by the judges to be dangerous will be penalised.

A set piece of music will be pre-released to which Duos should choreograph their own routine.

Several Duos will compete on the floor at the same time; therefore dance floor etiquette must be followed.

Dancers should start dancing when they choose; they will not be counted in.

Dancers in this division must sign a disclaimer otherwise they will not be allowed to compete.

## **Quads Ages + Rules Summary**

*Open age division*

\* This combination of 4 dancers can be of any age, or any mix of ages.

Quads are four individuals, males, females or mixed, dancing in any non-joined pattern.

Hands or bodies may briefly touch but dancers cannot join to execute any movement.

A set piece of music will be pre-released to which all Quads should choreograph their own routine.

Several Quads will compete on the floor at the same time; therefore dance floor etiquette must be followed.

Dancers should start dancing when they choose; they will not be counted in.

No competitor may dance in more than one Quad Line Dance Team at an event.

## **Country Classic Team**

### **Open Age Division**

There must be a minimum of 5 dancers in this team division; there is no maximum limit on the amount of dancers in the team. Dancers may be any combination of ages.

Line dance rules apply in this division.

A line dance will be selected which teams must perform. Dancers will be required to dance the first two walls as vanilla, then may perform the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and all odd numbered walls as variations. Variations must flow in the direction of the vanilla, however dancers are allowed to change formation in the variation walls.

All dances selected in this division will be to country music.

## **Team Ages + Rules Summary**

*Junior: Age 0 to 13; Teen: Age 14 to 17; Open: Age 18+*

\* If two or more dancers in a team fall into different age groups, then the team must dance in the division of the oldest dancers. One team member from an older age group is allowed to dance in a younger team category. You may not dance in more than one team in the same category at a competition, however you may compete once in a standard team and once in team cabaret. You may not compete in both a junior team and an adult Team.

Teams must consist of **at least SIX** members for each routine and involves individual dancers dancing any combination of dances. They may touch and join to create a formation, or initiate a turn or movement. Teams may include sequences from a line dance, partner dance or from couples dance styles. Lifts, drops and weight bearing moves are not permitted in Standard Teams, but are allowed in Cabaret Teams.

Music for **Teams:**

\* **Standard Teams:** Music must be a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 minutes in length. Time starts with the first notes of the music and ends with the last notes. Any introduction or exit music **MUST** be included in the time allowance. Exceeding the time limits will result in a lower final placement. At least **50%** of the music used for standard teams must be country (i.e. appeared in the country charts, or performed by a recognised country artist or group).

\* **Cabaret Teams:** Music must be a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 10 minutes in length. Time starts with the first notes of the music and ends with the last notes. Any introduction or exit music **MUST** be included in the time allowance. Exceeding the time limits will result in a lower final placement. Any style of music is allowed in the cabaret division.

**TEAM MUSIC** must be clearly labelled with the team name and number and given to the DJ at least half an hour before they are scheduled to compete, or as directed. A back up copy must be available if required. Delays of a teams' performance due to music unavailability may result in the team being disqualified.

The order in which teams dance will be selected by the Event Director in a random and impartial fashion.

Acted themes, pantomime, singing or comedy performances of any kind are allowed in the Cabaret section but NOT in standard teams.

**Team Cabaret:** Teams may use any dance style or combination of dance styles appropriately presented with a theme and may use any music. Props are allowed. Cabaret/themed costumes are allowed. Audio/verbal sounds are allowed. Acrobatic moves are permitted, and therefore a disclaimer must be signed by the Team Captain/Organiser.

## Costumes – All Divisions

### General

**Male:** You must wear a shirt or shirt & waistcoat, trousers or jeans. You must wear a cowboy hat when the dance is to country music (i.e. appeared in the country charts, or performed by a recognised country artist or group), however, for non-country music; the cowboy hat is optional - please see individual step sheet for classification. If the cowboy hat is dropped during the course of the dance, and not retrieved at the earliest opportunity, you will be penalised.

**Female:** You must wear a) dress or b) shirt, top, leotard or blouse and trousers, skirt or jeans. You must wear dance pants with skirts and dresses. Flesh coloured dance tights must be worn. A cowboy hat is optional.

**For both male and female:** Any type of themed costume or formal dress is not allowed. No form of name or advertising should be displayed on any part of the costume.

### Costume Restrictions

All costumes must have a visible yoke. The yoke must be visible from 2 metres. The yoke is defined as follows:

**\* A visible pattern on the costume, which travels from one side of the costume to the other.**

Strapless tops are not allowed.

**Skirts:** All skirts are subject to the following rules: When standing still, NO part of the leg should be shown more than 4"/10cm above the centre of the knee. Skirt length is measured from the middle of the knee vertically to the hem of the skirt, at all angles. Fringing, lace and see-through/flesh-coloured material is not included in the measurement. Handkerchief hems and split skirts are measured from the shortest point. Tearaway skirts are not permitted, except in all team divisions.

**Trousers:** Regular design trousers are required. Hipsters are allowed. No splits, rips, cut-outs, holes, or see-through material etc. Trouser legs should not be exceptionally wide, bootleg trousers are permitted; as a guide to the width of the trousers, when the bottom of the trousers material is pulled taut, it must not go past the competitor's toe. Trousers must be ankle length. Pockets are not compulsory. Trousers may be decorated to match the costume. The exception to this rule is for designated Funky dances – any style of trousers may be worn in funky, however, when standing still NO part of the leg should be shown more than 4"/10cm above the centre of the knee.

**All Dancers, All Divisions, Male and Female:** See-through or flesh-coloured material used in any part of a dancer's costume that gives an immodest view of underwear or body that may give cause for embarrassment to competitors, judges or spectators, is not allowed. Bare midriffs are not permitted. Costumes must be worn for Awards Ceremonies.

## Footwear

For all dances done to country music (i.e. appeared in the country charts, or performed by a recognised country artist or group), competitors must wear western style boots. Western style boots must have a minimum 1"/2.5cm heel and a minimum 6"/15cm shaft. The heel is measured with the boot standing on the floor. The shaft is measured from the top of the heel, to the top of the boot. Pull-up loops are not included in the measurement.

For dances done to non-country music, dance shoes may be worn. Primary, Junior, Junior Teen and all Male dancers must not wear dance shoes with more than 1.5"/3.75 cm heel. All other dancers must not wear shoes with more than a 3" /7.5cm heel.

Dance trainers may be worn for dances that are classified as Funky.

Shorter ankle boots or lace up shoes may be worn in the Gold Division.

Wearing trainers, lace-up boots or western boots outside the measurements outlined above is not permitted.

## Costumes & Footwear for Newcomer Division

The Dress Rules are relaxed for this division. Dancers are not required to have a yoke on their costume. Cowboy hats are optional for all dancers. Any suitable footwear may be worn, however no trainers (except in Funky dances) or stiletto/high heels are allowed.

***\* Team Cabaret division is exempt from costume regulations, although any costume, which is a cause of embarrassment to judges/spectators, will be penalised.***

*\* All Divisions – costumes and footwear. If you are unsure of the legality of any aspect of your costume or footwear, please check at the competitor's meeting before you compete.*

## General Rules – All Divisions

Gum Chewing is not allowed.

Audio/Verbal sound/Singing is not allowed (*except in Team Cabaret*). Lip-synching is allowed.

Talking - Competitors must not talk to other competitors, judges or the audience while dancing on the floor in competition. You risk not being recalled to the next heat or placed in a final.

Acrobatic moves are not allowed at any point during the dance (this also includes the introduction and 'end poses'). These moves are defined as follows:

- \* Any move where both legs are above waist height of the competitor
- \* Any move where the competitor's weight is on one or both hands
- \* Any move where a competitor sits or lies on the floor

Splits are not permitted, except in Division 2 Advanced and Division 1 Allstars Advanced. If splits are performed in any other division the competitor/s will be penalised. Advanced competitors may use 2 beats of music exempt from Acrobatic Rule Restrictions to recover from the splits.

Kicks are allowed, however kicks must not interfere with, or endanger, any other dancer on the floor.

*(Please note: Team Cabaret and Showcase Duos are exempt from Acrobatic Rules restrictions)*

All dancers must obey dance floor etiquette. If you are executing a move and by doing so cause interference with another competitor, you will not be recalled to the next heat or placed in a final. The

offended competitor will not be affected. This also means that variations should flow in the direction of the dance.

Props are not permitted (*except in Team Cabaret*).

Vulgar, suggestive or crude movements are not allowed. Movements beyond the point of flirtation, humour or comedy, will result in the dancer not being recalled to the next heat or placed in a final.

## General Information

**Competition Ethics:** Competitors MUST NOT question or consult the Judges about the competition during the event. A critique service will be offered at certain events.

**Competitors' Meeting:** It is each competitor's responsibility to attend the Competitors Meeting. For teams, at least one team member should attend.

**Competitors' Responsibilities:** It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure they are fully up-to-date with the rules relating to their division. This includes official line dance step descriptions and costume regulations. Competitors should make themselves aware of competitors' registration and meetings. All competitors must be in the competitor's area 15 minutes before they are required to dance. Each competitor's number will be called twice and if the competitor is not on the floor ready to dance they may be disqualified from the dance.

All teams must be ready to perform at the assigned time; delays may result in a lower placement.

All competitors are expected to behave in a professional and proper manner. Anyone acting in an unethical or unprofessional way may be disqualified from the event. If competitors do not abide by the published rules they will be disqualified. Improper behaviour, competition enquiries, protests or disputes must immediately be brought to the attention of the Event Director. All decisions of the Event Director, Contest Co-ordinator, Judges and Scrutineers are final.

**Judges:** During the competition, judges/officials privy to competition scoring or results must not, under any circumstances or by any means, convey such information to the public or to a competitor. Judges & officials are not restricted from socialising at an event except whilst judging or carrying out official duties.

**Judges Meetings:** The reason for calling a judges' meeting and the result will only be conveyed to the dancers involved if necessary. If the Head Judge feels that a statement is required, then it will be made in general terms only and for the benefit/guidance of all competitors.

**Junior/Teenage Competitors:** Competitors aged under 18 must be accompanied by an adult who is held accountable for their conduct at all times. It is the adult's responsibility to convey all the information, step descriptions, dress rules, etc., to the dancer in their care.

**Preliminary Heats:** Preliminary heats are used to eliminate dancers in order to get to a final. Scores from prelims will only be used to decide final placings if scores from the finals themselves are tied. There may be occasions when another heat is required because of a tie resulting from the judges' marks.

**LINE DANCE:** The scores of all dances will be added together and the overall highest scoring dancers will move forward to the next heat/final. Heats will be held in all divisions with eight or more dancers. A percentage of the dancers in each heat will be recalled to dance again in the next heat until a maximum of seven competitors remain.

**TEAMS:** Preliminary heats must be held in all competitions with eight or more competitors in a division. A percentage of the teams will be recalled to dance again in the next heat until a maximum of seven teams remain.

**Scoring Analysis:** A scoring analysis of your performance is available. Request this from the registration staff or Scrutineer. In the event of there being excessive numbers of requests for scores, they will be posted out after the competition.

**Scrutineers:** Events are not sanctioned unless they are scrutinised by Licensed Adjudicators

**Step Descriptions:** The Event Director must issue a step description for each line dance offered at the Event. The dances will not include any tags or options. The competitors are required to dance to this sheet only and **must request** the step descriptions from the Event Director. A step description from any other source is **Not Valid** for the purposes of the competition.

By competing at any CWDC/MIL sanctioned event, you are agreeing to the following statement " We agree to hold the organizers of this event and their agents harmless for all suits, claims or demands of every kind and character arising out of and in conjunction with this event. We hereby authorize the reproduction, sale, copyright, exhibition, broadcast and/or distribution of any event videotape without limitation. We understand the physical risks of entering dance competitions and social dancing and assume full responsibility for any injury or personal damages resulting from the event."

\* Please Note - any competition that does not strictly adhere to these rules will not be classed as a CWDC/MIL competition

\* Please note - these rules are subject to change at the discretion of the CWDC/MIL.