



# Masters In Line



## PRO-AM COMPETITION RULES 2007

The Pro-Am division requires the partnership of a professional with an amateur student dancing specified couples dances. Definition of an amateur competitor is one who dances as a non profit making pastime. Definition of a professional is one who holds a dance teaching qualification and/or teaches dance for a living.

### **Divisional information**

The competition year begins on January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The competitors age on January 1<sup>st</sup> determines which division you will dance in for the competition year. However if through a relevant birthday you are eligible to graduate to an older age division you may do so during the competition year once the relevant age is reached although this is not compulsory. Moving between division levels is permitted although you may not move down to a lower category except in juniors e.g. a division 2 junior competitor may move to division 3 teenage division due to relevant age requirements. If a competitor wins three or more competitions in which there were at least three dancers or a World dance masters title during the competition year he/she must move into the next highest, relevant division for the following competition year.

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### **Pro-Am categories and age divisions**

Primary: Age 0-8

Junior: Age 0-13

Teen: Age 14-17

Crystal: Age 30 +

Gems: Age 45+

Open: Age 18+

## **Division recommendations**

### **Primary**

Dancers in this division should show good footwork, basic technique and enjoyment of the dance.

### **Newcomer**

This division is offered in the following age categories: junior, teen, open, crystal and gems.

This division is recommended for beginner dancers or those who have never competed in pro-am or couples before. Dancers are expected to have a basic understanding of the dance style and technique.

### **Novice**

This division is offered in the following age categories: junior, teen, open, crystal and gems.

This division is recommended for dancers who have more than one years experience in pro-am or couples. Emphasis in this division is on correct footwork and good technique.

### **Intermediate**

This division is offered in the following age categories: junior, teen and open.

This division is recommended for dancers who have 2-3 years experience in pro-am, couples or line dance or those who have three or more years experience of another dance form. Emphasis is on a high standard of footwork, technique and showmanship.

### **Advanced**

This division is offered in the following age categories: junior, teen and open.

This division is recommended for experienced and accomplished dancers who have at least three years dance experience or who have an extensive dance background. Emphasis is on excellent footwork, technique and showmanship.

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## **Pro-am rules summary**

- \* All divisions will be offered for both male and female competitors.
- \* 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 an overall placing.
- \* If a dancer leaves the floor for any reason he/she may be disqualified leaving them ineligible for an overall placement.

## Costume Requirements

- \* Partners costumes should be complimentary to each other.

### General

Male: You must wear a shirt or shirt and waistcoat, trousers or jeans. A cowboy hat must be worn for dances performed to country music. Because the music is not pre-released before the event, the style of the music will be eg:

Two Step, Waltz and East Coast Swing – Country Music (You must wear a hat)

Cha Cha, Nightclub Two-Step and West Coast Swing – Non Country Music (A hat is not necessary)

If the 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) top, leotard, shirt or blouse and trousers, skirt or jeans. Strapless tops are not allowed. Tearaway skirts are not permitted. Dance pants must be worn with skirts and dresses and flesh coloured dance tights must be worn. A cowboy hat is optional.

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. The exception to this is in Cuban dances, where skirts may be shorter, when standing still, NO part of the leg should be shown more than 8"/20cm 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, etc. Trousers 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 competitors toe. Trousers must be ankle length. Pockets are not compulsory. Trousers may be decorated to match the costume.

**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 midriiffs 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 2.5" /6.25cm heel.

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 or stiletto/high heels are allowed.

## **General rules**

- \* Gum chewing is not allowed
- \* Costumes must be worn for awards ceremonies
- \* No advertising allowed on competition costumes
- \* Talking to other competitors, judges or the audience while dancing is not allowed.
- \* Acrobatic moves are not allowed:  
*An acrobatic move is one in which:*
  - 1 *both legs are above the waist height of the partner*
  - 2 *the competitors weight is on one or both hands*
  - 3 *a competitor sits or lies on the floor*
- \* Kicks are allowed but must not interfere with or endanger other dancers/ spectators.
- \* Overhead lifts are not allowed

## **Lift limitations include:**

### **Advanced**

Weight supported moves/lifts are allowed but one foot of the supported partner must stay in contact with the floor at all times.

## **Intermediate**

Weight supported leans, are allowed plus drops e.g. splits. Rotating horse and cart style moves are allowed. No lifts of any kind are allowed in this division.

## **Novice**

Weight supported leans are allowed plus drops. No lifts of any kind are allowed in this division.

## **Newcomer**

No drops or lifts allowed, weight supported leans are allowed. In regards to timing breaks and shine dancing, the rules for Newcomer are as follows:

\* You may change the timing of a dance but only for 4 BARS of music, then you must go back on the regular timing of the dance for a minimum of 4 bars of music. You may repeat this throughout the dance.

\* You may also perform "Shine" dancing. Shine dancing is any movement in where the contestant is not bodily connected to his or her partner and the move is deemed non-leadable. You may perform shine dancing for 4 Bars of music but you then must dance connected for a minimum of 4 bars of music, you may repeat this throughout the dance.

## **General Pro-Am Rules**

- \* You may compete with only one professional instructor at one event, you may however dance with a different instructor at another event.
- \* If you are a line dance instructor, you must enter a division higher than Newcomer.
- \* Props are not permitted
- \* Splits are allowed in divisions: Intermediate and advanced only
- \* 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 the final.
- \* 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 final. The offended competitor will not be affected.
- \* The amateur must display a competitor number whilst dancing

## **General information**

### **Competition ethics**

Competitors must not question or consult the judges about the competition before the awards and presentations have taken place. they may only consult the judges afterwards and only with regard to their own performance.

### **Competitors responsibilities**

It is the competitors responsibility to ensure they are fully up to date with the rules relating to their division. This includes costume regulations. Competitors should make themselves aware of competitors registration and meetings. A competitors meeting will take place at each event it is each competitors responsibility to attend. All competitors must be in the competitors area 15 minutes before they are required to dance. Each competitors 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 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. Good sportsmanship should be shown at all times. 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**

A minimum of 3 judges is required at an event: 5 or 7 judges are preferred, although any odd number of judges may be used. 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 and officials are not restricted from socialising at an event except whilst judging or carrying out official duties.

Judges meetings may be called the reason for which 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 and 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 adults 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 placing 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.

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 competitors. 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.

## **Scoring analysis**

The skating system will be used to calculate results.

A scoring analysis will be posted on the website as soon as possible following the event.

## **Scrutineers**

All scrutineers must be licensed with a recognised body. Events are not sanctioned unless they are scrutinised by licensed adjudicators.

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## **Music length**

Each dancer will be expected to dance for a minimum of 1:30 minutes rounded up to the nearest musical phrase. Full length music may be played in the final. Music will not be pre-released and will be chosen on the day by the event director/organiser.

## **Rules**

Should any point arise not covered in these rules it should be referred to the MIL whose decision will be final.

**Please note: These rules are subject to change at the discretion of MIL.**

**Disclaimer**

By competing at any 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."



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