

USA DANCE, INC



DANCESPORT BALLROOM DIVISION RULEBOOK

Governing USA Dance DanceSport Ballroom
Division Competitions,
Athletes, Organizers and Officials

2025B



USA DANCE

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1 FOREWORD

1.1 SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- 1.1.1 USA Dance is the Recognized Sport Organization for DanceSport by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and the National Member Body in the United States of America for the World DanceSport Federation.
- 1.1.2 As such, USA Dance is authorized and obligated to regulate DanceSport Athletes, Officials, and Competitions within the United States.
- 1.1.3 This USA Dance DanceSport Ballroom Division Rulebook, under the authority granted by the Board of Directors, governs all registered Ballroom DanceSport Athletes, Officials, and Competitive Events in the United States under the Ballroom Division of USA Dance.
- 1.1.4 The purpose of this rulebook is to clearly define and establish rules, procedures, and policies related to Ballroom DanceSport Athletes, Ballroom DanceSport Officials, and Ballroom DanceSport competitions to encourage and support fair competitions so that Athletes have the opportunity to compete in a way that allows them to offer their best performance.
- 1.1.5 USA Dance has a policy of gender neutrality so that the gender of the Athlete is irrelevant as to the role they fill in a dance couple. For example, those who gender identify as women can lead and those who gender identify as men can follow.
- 1.1.6 USA Dance, and all activities supported or sanctioned by USA Dance, are committed to creating an environment free of discrimination, harassment, and bullying and to represent the highest values of DanceSport.
- 1.1.7 Points that arise which are not covered by the USA DANCE DANCESPORT BALLROOM DIVISION RULEBOOK will be referred to the Ballroom DanceSport Council for clarification and/or resolution.

1.2 PRECEDENCE

- 1.2.1 In the event of conflicts between these Rules and Regulations and the USA Dance Corporate By-laws, the USA Dance Corporate By-laws will take precedence.

2 DEFINITIONS

2.1 GENERAL

- 2.1.1 The following definitions for terms and organization names are used throughout this document. In cases for which the stated definition of any term deviates from the reader's perception of the normal usage of that term, the definition given here will take precedence.

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2.2 TERMS

2.2.1 **Adjudicators** are classified based on the type and level of credentials achieved. Credentials are obtained through certification from a USA Dance recognized teaching organization, USA Dance, WDSF, WDO, a recognized National Member Body of the WDSF, or a recognized National Organization of the WDO. USA Dance may choose to recognize, on a case-by-case basis, the certification granted by another dance organization such as WDC.

2.2.1.1 Credentials of adjudicators are recognized against the grading system shown in Table 1.
Credentials of Adjudicators Grading System

2.2.1.2 .

2.2.1.3 Adjudicators with specific credentials are further classified as:

2.2.1.3.1 **Competition Certified Adjudicator:** certified at the "-" level in a given style of dance.

2.2.1.3.2 **Championship Certified Adjudicator:** certified at the "+" level in a given style of dance.

2.2.1.3.3 **National Certified Adjudicator:** certified at the A+, B+, C+, and D+ classifications.

2.2.1.3.4 **Fellow/WDSF International Certified Adjudicator:** Certified at the A++, B++, C++, D++, and E++ classifications.

A- Associate Degree in International Style Standard. A+ Member Degree in International Style Standard. A++ Fellow or WDSF Certified in International Style Standard
B- Associate Degree in International Style Latin. B+ Member Degree in International Style Latin. B++ Fellow or WDSF Certified in International Style Latin
C- Associate Degree in American Style Smooth. C+ Member Degree in American Style Smooth C++ Fellow or WDSF Certified in American Style Smooth
D- Associate Degree in American Style Rhythm. D+ Member Degree in American Style Rhythm D++ Fellow or WDSF Certified in American Style Rhythm
E- Associate Degree in Theatre Arts, Cabaret, and ShowDance E+ Member Degree in Theatre Arts, Cabaret, and ShowDance E++ Fellow or WDSF Certified in Theatre Arts, Cabaret, and ShowDance

Table 1. Credentials of Adjudicators Grading System

2.2.2 **Athlete** and **DanceSport Athlete** are interchangeable terms to describe an individual who is registered with a member organization of the WDSF or WDO as an Athlete and who meets the eligibility criteria for an Athlete as described in the Rules for Competitors (Section 4).

2.2.2.1 **Amateur Athlete** describes an individual who is registered with a member organization of the WDSF or WDO as an amateur competitor and who meets the eligibility criteria for an Amateur Athlete as described in the Rules for Competitors (Section 4).

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- 2.2.2.2 **Championship Athlete** is an Amateur Athlete who has acquired an A-class proficiency level in one or more Dance Styles.
- 2.2.2.3 **Pro/Am Amateur Athlete** is a membership category of USA Dance for an Amateur Athlete dancing with a partner who is registered as a Professional with a WDSF or WDO member organization. A Pro/Am Amateur Athlete member of USA Dance may not dance with an Amateur partner in USA Dance sanctioned competitions without upgrading their membership to DanceSport Athlete level.
- 2.2.2.4 **Professional DanceSport Athlete** describes an individual who has declared themselves as a professional competitor or who has competed as a professional at any professional competition (including Pro/Am competitions) and who meets the eligibility criteria for a Professional Athlete as described in the Rules for Competitors (Section 4).
- 2.2.2.5 Unless registered with the WDSF or WDO representing a country other than the United States, Athletes must be members in good standing with USA Dance in a DanceSport Ballroom Division member category.
- 2.2.3 **Ballroom Division** is the division of USA Dance with oversight over the competitive dance disciplines in the United States and/or internationally known as American Rhythm, American Smooth, International Latin, International Standard, Night Club, Hustle, Peabody, Polka, Merengue, West Coast Swing, and related partner dance forms.
- 2.2.4 **Chair of Adjudicators** is an adjudicator who is certified at the A+, B+, C+, D+ classifications and certified as a Chair of Adjudicators by the USA Dance Ballroom DanceSport Council. A Chair of Adjudicators manages all aspects of the technical aspects of the competition. Chairs of Adjudicators who are certified at the A+, B+ classifications and were certified as a Chair of Adjudicators prior to 2025 will be grandfathered in as Chairs of Adjudicators.
- 2.2.5 **Coach** describes an individual who is registered with a member organization of the WDSF or WDO as a coach and is engaged in the physical and/or mental training of Athletes for DanceSport.
- 2.2.6 **Competition** is an organized gathering of DanceSport Ballroom Athletes and officials for the purpose of holding competitive events. A competition is composed of one or more events. Competitions are further classified based on the level of sanctioning (Section 5).
- 2.2.6.1 **Chapter/Collegiate Club Competition:** is a competition that is a “for fun” competition that must meet a reduced set of requirements from other competitions as defined in section 5.2. Chapter/Collegiate Club Competitions do not award Proficiency Points or Ranking Points.
- 2.2.6.2 **State Competition:** is a competition that is organized by a state-member of the National Congress of State Games, the National Senior Games, Move United, or Special Olympics. It is intended for state events such as State Games, State Senior Games, Special Olympics, and Wheelchair Games. State Competitions do not award Proficiency Points or Ranking Points.

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- 2.2.6.3 **Provisional Challenge Competition:** is an introductory level competition at which the requirement for certified officials including judges is relaxed but which otherwise follows the rules for a Challenge Competition. A Provisional Challenge Competition will have up to three years to grow into meeting all the requirements of a Challenge Competition. Provisional Challenge Competitions do not award Proficiency Points or Ranking Points.
- 2.2.6.4 **Collegiate Challenge Competition:** is a competition hosted by a college that meets all the requirements for a Challenge Competition except that the officials and Athletes are not required to be members of USA Dance. Collegiate Challenge Competitions do not award Proficiency Points or Ranking Points.
- 2.2.6.5 **Challenge Competition:** is a competition sanctioned by USA Dance that awards qualification points towards the USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships and is allowed to host WDSF events but is not sanctioned as a Regional Championship. Challenge Competitions award Proficiency Points and Ranking Points.
- 2.2.6.6 **Regional Championship:** is a competition sanctioned by USA Dance that is allowed to host WDSF events, and which allows Athletes to directly qualify for the next annual USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships. Regional Championships award Proficiency Points and Ranking Points.
- 2.2.6.7 **National Championships:** is the highest-level sanctioned competition in USA Dance and is the competition at which national titles are conferred and USA Dance World Team placements are determined. The National Championships awards Proficiency Points and Ranking Points.
- 2.2.7 **Competition Officials** are individuals registered with a member organization of the WDSF or WDO and are subdivided as follows:
- 2.2.7.1 Unless residing outside the United States or registered with the WDSF or WDO representing another country, Adjudicators, Invigilators, and Chairs of Adjudicators eligible to serve at USA Dance sanctioned competitions must have a “Professional DanceSport Official” membership in USA Dance.
- 2.2.7.2 Unless residing outside the United States or registered with the WDSF or WDO representing another country, other officials (Music Directors/DJs, Registrars, Lead Deck Captains, Competition Owners, Competition Organizers, DanceSport Rules Officials, Scrutineers, Assistant Scrutineers, and Masters of Ceremonies/Emcees) eligible to serve at USA Dance sanctioned competitions must be members in good standing of USA Dance.
- 2.2.8 **Competition Organizer:** is an individual who has responsibility for the planning and execution of a competition including oversight of securing the venue and hotel, funding of the competition, securing equipment and merchandise vendors, contracting with the officials, registration of participants, obtaining necessary awards, recruitment of volunteers, marketing of the competition, ensuring that all USA Dance rules are followed, and various other duties as may be necessary to execute the competition.

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- 2.2.9 **Competition Owner:** is an individual who is financially responsible for the execution of a competition. All board members of an organization that manages a competition are considered to be owners of the competition.
- 2.2.10 **Competition Season** is the period from the end of one National Championships to the start of the next National Championships. A competition season typically spans parts of two years.
- 2.2.11 **Couple** is comprised of two athletes in a DanceSport partnership.
- 2.2.12 **Dance Organization** or **Sports Organization** is an organization established to promote and facilitate dancing as a sport, hobby, recreational activity, etc.
- 2.2.12.1 **Approved Dance Organization** is comprised of, but not limited to, Affiliate Organizations and National Sport Organizations recognized by USA Dance.
- 2.2.13 **DanceSport** describes all forms of competitive dance in the United States and/or Internationally (e.g.: Acrobatic Rock n Roll, American Rhythm, American Smooth, Boogie Woogie, Breaking, International Latin, International Standard, New Vogue, Old Time, Salsa, Sequence, Theatrical Ballroom, West Coast Swing, and others which may come into vogue).
- 2.2.14 **Division of USA Dance** refers to a structural entity organized under the authority of the USA Dance Board of Directors.
- 2.2.15 **Event** describes all rounds of a specific category of competition, classified by:

Table 2 Classification of an Event

	Examples:
Competitive Category :	Amateur Athlete, Professional Athlete, Pro/Am, Team, etc.
Dance Style:	Latin, Standard, Smooth, Rhythm, ShowDance, etc.
Set of Dances	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, or 10 dances
Proficiency Level:	N-class, E-class, D-class, C-class, B-class, A-class, S-class, or No proficiency restriction
Syllabus Level	Pre-Bronze, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Open
Age Category:	Junior, Adult, Senior I, etc.

- 2.2.15.1 **Championship Event:** is an Open event with no proficiency restrictions and which includes all dances of a style or two styles. All National or Regional titles must be Championship Events.
- 2.2.15.2 **Open Proficiency Event:** is an event that includes all proficiency classes associated with no syllabus restrictions – Open C-class, B-class, A-class, S-class.
- 2.2.15.3 **Proficiency Event:** is an event in Standard, Latin, Smooth, or Rhythm styles, 9-Dance, or 10-Dance, where Proficiency Points are awarded. The Proficiency Event may have one or more dances.
- 2.2.15.4 **Solo Competitor Event:** An event danced without a partner whereby the Athlete is judged on

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a solo execution of their material.

- 2.2.15.5 **Syllabus Proficiency Event:** is an event that includes all proficiency classes associated with syllabus restrictions – N-class, E-class, D-class, Closed C-class.
- 2.2.16 **Invigilator** is an adjudicator who is certified at the A+, B+, C+, D+ classifications and certified as an Invigilator by the USA Dance Ballroom DanceSport Council. An invigilator monitors adherence to syllabus restrictions.
- 2.2.1 **Proficiency Point System:** is used to track an athlete's progress in gaining skill by awarding points based on how many competitors are beaten in the final placements for each event, how many rounds are danced, and the level of the opponents. An athlete can advance through N-, E-, D-, C-, B-, A- and S-classes. The points are collected by each athlete for each dance separately. A proficiency class is assigned to the Athlete for each style.
- 2.2.2 **Ranking Points:** are used to rank partnerships during each competition season for nomination as US representatives to a World Championship. Points awarded are based on the number of competitors and the final placement in Championship events at Challenge competitions, Regional Championships, and the National Championships.
- 2.2.3 **Regulated/Unregulated Dances:** Dances which have an established USA Dance syllabus and for which USA Dance adjudicators are certified in the “-” and “+” levels based on an established training process are Regulated Dances. Dances without these characteristics are Unregulated. The dances in Standard, Latin, Smooth, and Rhythm are Regulated dances. Cabaret, Salsa, Merengue, Night Club Two-Step, etc. are Unregulated dances. USA Dance competitions may hold events in both Regulated and Unregulated dances, but, except for ShowDance and Formation Team events, Regulated and Unregulated dances may never be combined into a single event.
- 2.2.4 **Sanctioned:** refers to a competition that has been granted approval to be held under the auspices of USA Dance.
- 2.2.5 **Scrutineer:** is an individual who is certified as a Scrutineer by the USA Dance Ballroom DanceSport Council, the WDSF, or the WDO. The scrutineer tabulates the results of the judges during a competition using approved software. The Scrutineer may not be an athlete competing at the competition.
- 2.2.5.1 **Assistant Scrutineer:** is an individual who is certified as a Scrutineer by the USA Dance Ballroom DanceSport Council, the WDSF, or the WDO. The Assistant Scrutineer assists the Scrutineer in tabulating the results of the judges during a competition using approved software. The Scrutineer may be an athlete competing at the competition provided they do not tabulate results for any heat in which they are competing.

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2.3 ORGANIZATIONS

- 2.3.1 **Ballroom DanceSport Council (BAC)** is the division of USA Dance which is responsible for administrative functions associated with regulating DanceSport Ballroom Division matters in the United States.
- 2.3.2 **IOC** is the **International Olympic Committee**.
- 2.3.3 **IWGA** is the **International World Games Association**
- 2.3.4 **WADA** is the **World CleanSport Agency**.
- 2.3.5 **WDC** is the **World Dance Council**.
- 2.3.6 **WDSF** is the **World DanceSport Federation**, the IOC recognized International Sports Federation for Dance.
- 2.3.7 **WDSFPD** is the **World DanceSport Federation's Professional Division**.
- 2.3.8 **WDO** is the World Dance Organization.
- 2.3.9 **USA Dance** is the USOPC Recognized Sports Organization for DanceSport in the United States and a National Member Body of the WDSF.
- 2.3.10 **USOPC** is the **United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee**.

3 TECHNICAL RULES OF COMPETITION

3.1 COORDINATION AND UNIFORMITY

- 3.1.1 USA Dance recognizes that it is highly desirable to have uniform Technical Rules of Competition governing the sport of DanceSport nation-wide and worldwide.
- 3.1.2 The Technical Rules of Competition stated herein will be made compatible with or identical to the WDSF rules to the greatest extent possible through mutual coordination and agreements.
- 3.1.3 Where differences occur, they will be resolved by the Ballroom DanceSport Council in coordination with the USA Dance Board of Directors.
- 3.1.4 The rules contained herein are mandatory for USA Dance DanceSport Ballroom Division sanctioned competitions. It is recommended that this DanceSport Ballroom Division Rulebook be adopted by other competition organizers to establish uniformity.

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3.2 COMPETITIVE EVENTS

3.2.1 SCRUTINEERING SYSTEM

- 3.2.1.1 In all USA Dance competitive events, the USA Dance approved scrutineering systems shall be utilized. As of April 1, 2025, the following scrutineering systems are approved by USA Dance: O2CM, Ballroom Comp Express, DSCO. The WDSF AJS system is not currently approved.

3.2.2 PROPERTIES

- 3.2.2.1 Except for ShowDance competitive events, no properties (props) are allowed at any time for any event.
- 3.2.2.2 A property is defined as any item that is not part of the regular costume worn by the dancers and is not attached to the dancer or their costume for the full duration of time the dancers are competing.
- 3.2.2.3 Any article of clothing will be considered a prop if it is deliberately removed at any time during the performance from the dancer's body.

3.2.3 LIFTS

- 3.2.3.1 Lifts are not allowed in any competitive event except for ShowDance and the entrances and/or exits of Adult Formation Teams.
- 3.2.3.2 A lift is defined as any movement during which one of the dancers has both feet off the floor at the same time with the assistance or support of the partner. The Chair of Adjudicators may disqualify couples using lifts in events where lifts are not allowed.

3.2.4 CONDUCT OF COMPETITION

- 3.2.4.1 When there is not a split heat, a reasonable minimum time (15 seconds) will be given between dances to allow the competitors to prepare for the next dance.
- 3.2.4.2 For multi-round events, there will be a minimum of 4 minutes per dance required between rounds (i.e., 12 minutes for a three-dance event; 16 minutes for a four-dance event, etc.).

3.3 SHOWDANCE

PLEASE NOTE: These regulations follow the WDSF ShowDance Regulations as a guide. However, prior to attending any WDSF sanctioned event, please read the WDSF ShowDance Regulations available on the WDSF website: www.worlddancesport.org. Failure to follow the WDSF ShowDance Regulations may result in disqualification at that event.

- 3.3.1 ShowDance is a competitive event patterned after the WDSF ShowDance Division. This competition category encompasses ShowDance, Cabaret, Theatre Arts, and elements from

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other genres such as Jazz and Ballet. Finals are held annually at the USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships

- 3.3.1.1 Separate events are run for DanceSport Amateur Athletes in the Adult age category, in the Pro-Am Adult age categories, and for Professional Athletes.
- 3.3.2 Entry Requirements: Eligibility to enter does not require qualifying at a Regional Championship; however, it does require submission of an audition video to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division or their designated representative no later than 6 weeks in advance of the beginning of the National Ballroom DanceSport Championships. The representative must respond no later than 4 weeks in advance of the beginning of the National Ballroom DanceSport Championships.
- 3.3.3 COMPETITORS MUST PROVIDE: With the audition video, the competitors must provide: a full list of music titles and other data, such as publisher(s), composer(s), arranger(s) needed by the organizer to comply with copyright regulations.
 - 3.3.3.1 The name of the routine's choreographer must be supplied with the audition video.
 - 3.3.3.2 Listing of Dances: Competitors must provide an accurate list of the dances and their order of performance in their choreography. This information must contain a list showing, in seconds, the duration of each dance's choreographic section, each lift, and any "other" movements incorporated into the choreography from other dances or non-ballroom genre.
- 3.3.4 ShowDance Disciplines include: Standard ShowDance, Latin ShowDance, Smooth ShowDance, and Rhythm ShowDance.
- 3.3.5 Required Number of Dances: A minimum of three out of the usual regulated competition dances from the chosen discipline must be included in a ShowDance performance.
 - 3.3.5.1 The choreography must display clearly identifiable character and technique for each declared regulated dance.
 - 3.3.5.2 The tempo may be out of the normal range required for competition, but the rhythm must be according to the standardized rhythm for each regulated dance chosen from a declared discipline.
 - 3.3.5.3 Each regulated dance must have at least one continuous segment with no lifts and with a minimum duration of 20 seconds.
 - 3.3.5.4 Duration: The maximum duration of each regulated dance selected must not exceed 90 seconds per continuous choreographic segment, excluding the duration of lifts.
 - 3.3.5.5 A minimum of 60% of the total duration of the performance, excluding lifts, must be from the selected dances in the chosen discipline.

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- 3.3.5.6 Up to a maximum of 40% of the duration of the performance may be comprised of elements of other dances and dance forms.
- 3.3.5.7 Originality: Each competitive choreography should be an original piece of work created for a given couple. Plagiarism (not an admitted cover version) will result in a disqualification of the couple (including subsequently, if plagiarism is discovered or disclosed after the competition).
- 3.3.6 Music: Competitors must provide their music to the competition organizers no later than 7 days prior to the first day of the competition. Music must be provided in a format determined by the Music Director.
 - 3.3.6.1 **Duration of Music:**
 - 3.3.6.1.1 Entrance and Exit included: The duration of the music must be a minimum of 3 minutes (180 seconds) and a maximum of 3.5 minutes (210 seconds).
 - 3.3.6.1.2 Entrance and Exit Not Included: Music is not required during the entrance or exit. When entering and exiting without music, neither the entrance nor the exit may exceed 15 seconds.
 - 3.3.6.1.3 Time Restriction: Use of the full 15 seconds for an entrance or exit without music is not mandatory. However, time may not be borrowed from the entrance to use for the exit or vice versa.
 - 3.3.6.1.4 Total Performance Duration: When entering and exiting while music is playing, the total duration of the performance will be between 3 minutes (180 seconds) and 3.5 minutes (210 seconds). When entering and exiting without music, the total duration of the performance will be between 3.5 minutes (210 seconds) and 4 minutes (240 seconds). Note that the latter time allotments include the additional 15 seconds available for the entrance and exit performances without music.
 - 3.3.6.1.5 Time Calculation: The total time of a performance will be calculated from when the first partner enters the floor and ending when the last partner has exited the floor. The total time duration of 3.5 minutes (210 seconds) for a performance with entrance and exit included in the music or 4 minutes (240 seconds) for a performance with entrance and exit not using music may never be exceeded.
 - 3.3.6.1.6 The Music Director must start the music for the performance no later than 15 seconds after the performance begins.
 - 3.3.6.1.7 Disqualification: The Chair of Adjudicators or a designated invigilator must disqualify any couple that exceeds the time limits stated in 3.3.7.1 through 3.3.7.1.5.
- 3.3.7 Competition Format: A ShowDance competition will consist of a maximum of a first round and a final. Competitors must perform the same choreography in the same order and to the same musical arrangement in every round.

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3.3.8 Lifts:

- 3.3.8.1 Definition: A lift is defined as any movement during which one of the dancers has both feet off the floor at the same time with the assistance or support of the partner.
- 3.3.8.2 Overhead Lift: In this type of lift, the lifted partner's hips, shoulders, and head must be above the lifting partner's head. This may not be accomplished by kneeling or standing on the lifting partner's shoulders.
- 3.3.8.3 Lifts may not be performed with the use of properties/props.
- 3.3.8.4 During the performance, there must be a minimum of 2 lifts, at least one being overhead. There are no restrictions on the number of lifts during a performance.
- 3.3.8.5 The lift duration is counted from the moment when both feet of the lifted partner have left the floor to the moment when the first foot of the lifted partner touches the floor.
- 3.3.8.6 If the lift position or type of the lift is changed without touching the floor during the

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Overhead Lift 1



Overhead Lift 2



Shoulder Lift 1



Shoulder Lift 2

transition, it is counted as a lift sequence and each lift is counted as a separate lift.

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- 3.3.9 Properties/props: Up to two non-electrical properties/props, accessories, or stage decorations are permitted at any time immediately before, during, or immediately after the performance, provided they are carried on and off by one person and they do not litter the floor.
- 3.3.9.1 Properties/props may be typical accessories such as flowers, umbrellas, a chair, etc., or part of the costume such as scarf, cap, gloves, hat, etc., if used by the competitors as independent objects during the performance.
- 3.3.10 Competition Dress: At a minimum USA Dance Dress Regulations Appendix A Section 2.3 and 2.8 apply. Competition dress, makeup, and hair styling will all suit and complement the theme of the show.
- 3.3.11 Lighting conditions must be the same for all couples in all rounds. Spotlights may be used but direct glare on the couple must be avoided.
- 3.3.12 Holds:
 - 3.3.12.1 In Standard ShowDance, partners may release the normal Standard hold for a maximum of 50% of the total duration of the performance. Alternative holds are allowed if they maintain the character of the dance.
 - 3.3.12.2 In Latin, American Smooth, or American Rhythm ShowDance there are no hold restrictions.
- 3.3.13 Order of Dance Outline: The order in which the couples perform will be decided by the drawing of ballots by the Chair of Adjudicators or the Chair's approved representative. At the draw the following individuals must be present: The organizer-appointed Chair of Adjudicators or the Chair's approved representative; one dancer from each couple or their representative; a representative of the organizer to finalize the rehearsal timetable. The same order of performance will be used for the rehearsal and the 1st round of competition. The order will be drawn again according to the same protocol for the final round.
- 3.3.14 Rehearsal: At a reasonably convenient time, the organizers must provide each couple with an official rehearsal on the competition floor. Each couple must be given a minimum of 10 minutes of rehearsal time. The Athletes and the Chair of Adjudicators or a Chair-designated invigilator must be present for such rehearsals.
 - 3.3.14.1 The Chair of Adjudicators or a Chair-designated invigilator must disqualify any couple who fails to appear for any rehearsal.
 - 3.3.14.2 Recordings: All shows may be recorded during rehearsal and during the show to be used only as information in any decision about violations of these Rules.
 - 3.3.14.3 Compliance Determination: Each ShowDance routine will be assessed for rules compliance by the USA Dance ShowDance Rules Compliance Review Board prior to the competition. Where rules infractions are determined, the couple will be notified and will have an

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opportunity to bring their routine into compliance with these rules. During the rehearsal at the competition venue, the Chair of Adjudicators or a designated invigilator will make a final determination of rules compliance based on the rules and regulations set by USA Dance. In case of a violation of any rules or regulations, the Chair of Adjudicators or the designated invigilator will inform the non-compliant couple so they may make corrective adjustments to their show.

- 3.3.14.4 Except for the above-mentioned corrective adjustments in a ShowDance needed for rules compliance, all dancers must perform the same choreography and show using the same props throughout the rehearsal and the competition.
- 3.3.14.5 Costuming Compliance: During the rehearsal and all competition rounds, the same costumes must be worn.
- 3.3.14.6 Music Compliance: During the rehearsal and all competition rounds, the music must be the same.
- 3.3.14.7 Audio/Music Technical Problem Resolution: If a technical problem with the music occurs during a ShowDance rehearsal, the affected couple must be given time to solve the problem and must be given the opportunity to demonstrate once more after the last couple in the rehearsal schedule. If the problem cannot be solved, and the problem is not the fault of the Music Director, they must be disqualified from the competition. If such problems occur for the first time during the first round, the same procedure applies so that the affected couple may repeat their performance after the last couple performs in the first round. The Chair of Adjudicators must immediately disqualify a couple that experiences subsequent technical music problems, if the issue is due to the couple's music and not the fault of the Music Director.
- 3.3.15 Announcements: All couples must complete a form in which details of their show and the theme of the show are described. When the couple has been announced they must enter the floor immediately to begin their show.
 - 3.3.15.1 For all preliminary rounds the information must be:
 - The couple's names.
 - The name of the show.
- 3.3.16 Disqualification: Any violation of these ShowDance Rules in a competition by either Athlete in a couple may lead to immediate disqualification of that couple. In case of a disqualification, a detailed report signed by the Chair of Adjudicators and/or the designated invigilator and a copy of the recorded performance must be sent to the USA Dance Vice President Ballroom Division no later than one week following the conclusion of the competition.
- 3.3.17 Final Decision: In any case where the USA Dance ShowDance Rules are silent, incomplete, or uncertain, the Chair of Adjudicators' decision will be final.

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3.4 GROUP COMPETITIVE EVENTS

3.4.1 DEFINITION:

3.4.1.1 Group Competitive Events are defined as competitive events at which two or more competitors or couples dance simultaneously in competition with each other.

3.4.1.2 The following dances must be used for group competitive multi-dance events for the following categories, in the order given.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD	OLD NOMENCLATURE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD	Waltz	Tango	Viennese Waltz	Slow Foxtrot	Quickstep
Championship, B-class, A-class, S-class	Championship Open	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C-class	Pre-Championship Gold, Open	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Novice	✗			✗	✗
D-class, E-class, N-class	Syllabus	One or more dances selected from all above options listed for Standard				
INTERNATIONAL LATIN	INTERNATIONAL LATIN	Samba	Cha Cha	Rumba	Paso Doble	Jive
Championship, B-class, A-class, S-class	Championship Open	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C-class	Pre-Championship Open, Gold	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Novice	✗	✗	✓		
D-class, E-class, N-class	Syllabus	One or more dances selected from all above options listed for Latin				
AMERICAN SMOOTH	AMERICAN SMOOTH	Waltz	Tango	Foxtrot	Viennese Waltz	
Championship, B-class, A-class, S-class	Championship Open	✓	✓	✓	✓	
C-class	Pre-Championship Open, Gold	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Novice	✗	✗	✗		
D-class, E-class, N-class	Syllabus	One or more dances selected from all above options listed for Smooth				
AMERICAN RHYTHM	AMERICAN RHYTHM	Cha Cha	Rumba	Swing	Bolero	Mambo
Championship, B-class, A-class, S-class	Championship Open	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C-class	Pre-Championship Gold, Open	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Novice	✗	✗	✗		
D-class, E-class, N-class	Syllabus	One or more dances selected from all above options for Rhythm				
	TEN DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP					

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	Waltz	Tango	Viennese Waltz	Slow Foxtrot	Quickstep
	Samba	Cha Cha	Rumba	Paso Doble	Jive
	NINE DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP				
	Waltz	Tango	Slow Foxtrot	Viennese Waltz	Cha Cha
	Rumba	East Coast Swing	Bolero	Mambo	

Table 3. Group Competitive Events for Provisional Challenge, Collegiate Challenge, and Challenge Competitions

- 3.4.1.3 For Provisional Challenge, Collegiate Challenge, and Challenge Competitions, the Championship Event in a style must include all dances listed in this style. Open events must include the dances listed in Table 3. Syllabus events may include from one to all dances of the style.
- 3.4.1.4 For multi-dance events for Regional and National Championships, see Table 19.
- 3.4.2 Couples must dance all dances of a group competitive event to place or move to the next round of competition.
- 3.4.3 **ROUNDS OF COMPETITION**
- 3.4.3.1 The total number of rounds will be determined by the number of entries. No more than 50% of the remaining competitors will be eliminated in any one round of competition and at least two couples must be eliminated in each round.
- 3.4.3.2 It is appropriate in rounds prior to the final to divide the round into heats to provide comfortable space for the competitors and sufficient evaluation time for the adjudicators. No more than 14 couples may dance in any heat of a competition round in Open events.
- 3.4.3.3 If split heats are used, competitors will be divided into groups of essentially equal size. At the discretion of the Chair of Adjudicators, participants in the heats will be rotated for each round. It is preferred that Championship events have their heats rotated.
- 3.4.3.4 After each round preceding the final round, the identifying numbers of the couples that will be called back to the next round will be posted or otherwise made available to the competitors as soon as possible before the next round begins.
- 3.4.3.5 In the final round all competitors may dance on the floor at the same time or specific dances may be danced individually by competitors or couples.
- 3.4.3.6 If possible, the adjudicator panel will be consistent across all heats and rounds and must be consistent for all championship heats and rounds.
- 3.4.4 **MUSIC LENGTH**
- 3.4.4.1 The amount of music played for each dance in each heat will be monitored and made equal

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for each heat in a round.

3.4.4.2 The minimum and maximum length of each dance will be:

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD	Minimum	Typical	Maximum
Waltz	90 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Tango	90 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Viennese Waltz	80 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Slow Foxtrot	90 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Quickstep	80 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
INTERNATIONAL LATIN	Minimum		Maximum
Samba	90 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Cha Cha	90 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Rumba	90 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Paso Doble	2 nd Highlight	2 nd Highlight	3 rd Highlight
Jive	80 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
AMERICAN SMOOTH	Minimum		Maximum
Waltz	90 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Tango	90 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Foxtrot	90 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Viennese Waltz	90 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
AMERICAN RHYTHM	Minimum		Maximum
Cha Cha	90 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Rumba	90 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
East Coast Swing	90 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Bolero	90 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds
Mambo	80 Seconds	90 Seconds	120 Seconds

Table 4. Min/Max Times for Lengths of Dances

- 3.4.4.3 For Pro/Am events, the minimum length of music is 75 seconds, and the maximum length is 120 seconds. For Paso Doble the minimum length is 2nd highlight and the maximum length is 3rd highlight.
- 3.4.4.4 The length of each dance will be determined by the Chair of Adjudicators on a dance-by-dance basis provided that Rules 3.4.4.1 and 3.4.4.2 are followed. The length of each dance may not be reduced below 90 seconds for Championship or Professional events. For other contested events, the length of each dance may be reduced to no less than 75 seconds.
- 3.4.4.5 When there are no more than 3 uncontested events on the floor, the duration of the music per dance may be reduced at the Chair of Adjudicators' discretion to no less than 60 seconds per dance or the 2nd highlight for Paso Doble.
- 3.4.4.6 If there are more than 3 uncontested events on the floor, the duration of the music may be reduced, at the Chair of Adjudicators' discretion, to no less than 75 seconds.

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3.4.5 MUSIC TEMPI

3.4.5.1 DEFINITION

- 3.4.5.1.1 The tempi for the Standard, Latin, and Smooth dances will be as specified by the WDSF. The tempi for the remaining dances will be as specified by Dance Vision. The following were specified at the time of printing and are included for reference (mpm = measures per minute).

Dances	MPM	Dances	MPM
International Waltz	28-30	American Waltz	28-30
International Tango	31-33	American Tango	30
International Viennese Waltz	58-60	American Foxtrot	30-32
International Slow Foxtrot	28-30	American Viennese Waltz	53-54
International Quickstep	50-52		
International Samba	50-52	American Cha Cha	30
International Cha Cha	30-32	American Rumba	30-31
International Rumba	25-27	American East Coast Swing	34-36
International Paso Doble	60-62	American Bolero	24-26
International Jive	42-44	American Mambo	47
		American Peabody	60-62
		American Merengue	29-32
		American Paso Doble	58-60
		American Samba	48
		American West Coast Swing	28-32
		American Polka	60-62
		American Hustle	28-30

Table 5. Music Tempi

3.5 FORMATION TEAM COMPETITIONS

3.5.1 DEFINITION

- 3.5.1.1 Formation Team Competitions are defined as competitive events at which 2 or more teams of dancers compete against each other. One team dances at a time to music provided by the team. Each team is judged and ranked in comparison with the other teams dancing.

3.5.2 DANCES

- 3.5.2.1 Competitive Formation Dancing will be in either of the following styles:

- 3.5.2.1.1 Standard/American Smooth

- 3.5.2.1.2 Latin/American Rhythm

- 3.5.2.2 Routines will be based on the following dances for each style:

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- 3.5.2.2.1 Standard/American Smooth: International Style Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot, and Quickstep; and/or the American Style Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, and Viennese Waltz.
- 3.5.2.2.2 Latin/American Rhythm: International Style Samba, Cha Cha, Rumba, Paso Doble, and Jive; and/or the American Style Cha Cha, Samba, Rumba, Mambo, Bolero, East Coast Swing, and West Coast Swing.
- 3.5.2.3 No dances other than those listed will be allowed except for Adult teams.

3.5.3 ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- 3.5.3.1 See the **COMPETITIVE CLASSIFICATIONS** (section 4.7) of the **RULES FOR COMPETITORS** (section 4.0) for additional eligibility definitions.
- 3.5.3.2 The composition of each team will be:
 - 3.5.3.2.1 Pre-Teen Teams: Restricted to Pre-Teens and up to two Junior athletes
 - 3.5.3.2.2 Junior Teams: Restricted to Juniors, any number of Pre-Teens, and up to two Youth athletes
 - 3.5.3.2.3 Youth Teams: Restricted to Youths, any number of Juniors, and up to two Adults under 20 years of age
 - 3.5.3.2.4 Adult Teams: Restricted to Adults and any number of Youths
 - 3.5.3.2.5 Senior Teams: Restricted to Athletes 35 years of age and older
- 3.5.3.3 All competitors will dance with only one team in each style at any given dance competition.
- 3.5.3.4 Coaches may replace team members with reserves for any round in the contest. Substitutions must not occur during the actual time the team is on the floor competing.
- 3.5.3.5 Coaches of formation teams are required to submit a roster with the name and USA Dance membership number of each competitor on their team, including reserves, to the Competition Organizer at least 30 days prior to the competition.
- 3.5.3.6 Coaches of Pre-Teen, Junior, and Youth Teams are required to submit legal proof of birth date for each team member only once to each different Competition Organizer.

3.5.4 SIZE OF FORMATION TEAMS

- 3.5.4.1 Teams of six or eight couples may compete in each formation style.

3.5.5 TIME RESTRICTIONS

- 3.5.5.1 The following time restrictions will be observed:

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PRE-TEEN FORMATION TEAMS	
Music for Routine	2 minutes maximum
Entrance and Exit Combined	30 seconds maximum
Total	2 1/2 minutes maximum
JUNIOR FORMATION TEAMS	
Music for Routine	3 minutes maximum
Entrance and Exit Combined	30 seconds maximum
Total	3 1/2 minutes maximum
YOUTH FORMATION TEAMS	
Cumulative Dancing Time	3 minutes minimum
Music for Routine	4 1/2 minutes maximum
Entrance and Exit Combined	1 minute maximum
Total	5 1/2 minutes maximum
ADULT FORMATION TEAMS	
Cumulative Dancing Time	3 minutes minimum
Music for Routine	4 1/2 minutes maximum
Entrance and Exit Combined	1 1/2 minute maximum
Total	6 minutes maximum

Table 6. Formation Team Time Restrictions

3.5.5.2 The timing of the formation team routine begins when the first person on the team steps onto the dance floor. The timing ends when the last person on the team steps off the dance floor.

3.5.6 NUMBER OF DANCES

3.5.6.1 Pre-Teen Formation Teams will be limited to one dance from the approved list for each style.

3.5.6.2 Junior Formation Teams will be limited to no more than two dances from the approved list for each style.

3.5.6.3 Youth Formation Teams will be limited to no more than five dances from the approved list for each style.

3.5.6.4 Adult and Senior Formation Teams will be limited to no more than five dances from the approved list for each style. Sixteen bars of one additional dance may be performed. This additional dance need not be one on the approved list for each style.

3.5.7 ENTRANCES AND EXITS

3.5.7.1 Pre-Teen and Junior Formation Teams are not allowed to use music for their entrance and exit. The team must remain motionless for a period of at least two seconds before the start of the music and then again at the end of the dance before they start their exit.

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- 3.5.7.2 Youth and Adult Formation Teams are allowed to use music for their entrance and exit if desired. When music is used for the entrance and/or exit there must be either a gong sound or a complete break in the music for a space of at least two seconds that separates the entrance/exit from the routine music proper. The formation team must remain motionless during this break both before and after the routine proper.
- 3.5.8 **SOLO (OPEN) WORK - STANDARD AND AMERICAN SMOOTH CATEGORIES**
- 3.5.8.1 Solo (Open) work is defined as when any couple in the formation team has less than two points of contact between the two partners. Even though a couple may not be in a traditional closed hold, they will be considered to be in "closed" position if there are at least two points of contact between the two partners.
- 3.5.8.2 If a couple is in open position at the end of a bar of music, then that bar is counted as a solo. If a couple is in a closed position at the end of a bar of music, then that bar is not counted as solo.
- 3.5.8.3 Pre-Teen Formation Teams will be allowed eight bars of solo work during their routine proper.
- 3.5.8.4 Junior Formation Teams will be allowed twelve bars of solo work during their routine proper.
- 3.5.8.5 Youth, Adult, and Senior Formation Teams will be allowed twenty-four bars of solo work during their routine proper. Solo work will not exceed eight bars for any one dance.
- 3.5.8.6 Regardless of how many "open bars" of music are danced, every team must have at least 50% of their bars in the routine proper danced in the traditional competitive ballroom hold (which includes the follower's left hand being placed on the leader's right shoulder).
- 3.5.8.7 The Coach of the formation team will be prepared to present a breakdown of the phrasing of the music, indicating which measures are open, to the Chair of Adjudicators at the team's rehearsal in the competition facility.
- 3.5.9 **REHEARSAL AT THE COMPETITION FACILITY**
- 3.5.9.1 Before a competition, adequate facilities must be provided for formation team rehearsals.
- 3.5.9.2 Each formation team must be allowed an equal amount of rehearsal time. This time must be a minimum of 10 minutes per team.
- 3.5.9.3 At the commencement of this rehearsal, they must dance their routine with music and perform their entrance and exit one time for the Chair of Adjudicators, or their designated representative, who will notify the team Coach of any rule violations.

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3.5.9.4 The Chair of Adjudicators is allowed to video each team's performance at their official rehearsal in the competition facility for the purpose of confirming adherence to the rules.

3.5.10 MUSIC

3.5.10.1 Formation teams are required to provide their music to the Music Director in the format of the Music Director's choosing.

3.5.11 DRESS

3.5.11.1 No change of clothing or costumes is permitted once the performance begins.

3.5.11.2 Costumes must adhere to Dress Regulations (Appendix A) for age category and proficiency level.

3.5.12 The order of dancing for each round of Formation Team events will be determined by draw, under the supervision of the Chair of Adjudicators or their designated representative.

3.6 TEAM MATCHES

3.6.1 Team Matches are defined as competitive events at which two or more teams, each consisting of at least two couples, dance in competition with each other. Each team is judged and ranked in comparison with the other teams.

3.6.2 The complete team match consists of a number of separate dances during each of which one or more couples dance at a time against the same number of couples from each of the other teams.

3.6.3 Dances may all be from one particular style or of mixed styles (i.e., Latin, Standard, etc.) The organizer may allow mixed International and American or may restrict the match to one or the other.

3.6.4 Every team will have the same number of couples dancing any particular style as all of the other teams.

3.7 AMATEUR MIXED PROFICIENCY EVENTS

3.7.1 An Amateur Mixed Proficiency event consists of a judged Amateur Athlete and an unjudged Amateur Athlete who has a higher proficiency class than the judged Athlete

3.7.2 For Amateur Mixed Proficiency events, eligibility is determined by the judged Amateur Athlete's age and proficiency class.

3.7.3 Lead and follow competitors must be judged separately in Amateur Mixed Proficiency events.

3.7.4 An Amateur Mixed Proficiency couple may not compete together as an amateur couple in group competitive events.

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- 3.7.5 Any Amateur Athlete complying with the eligibility criteria under Section 4.3 of this Rulebook may dance either as a judged OR unjudged Athlete in the Amateur Mixed Proficiency category.
- 3.7.5.1 Pro/Am Amateur Athlete members may dance only as the judged Athlete in an Amateur Mixed Proficiency event.
- 3.7.6 A Professional Athlete or a Professional DanceSport Official is not allowed to dance as an unjudged Athlete in the Amateur Mixed Proficiency category.

3.8 PRO/AM EVENTS

- 3.8.1 USA Dance Pro/Am events may be offered in any or all of the following proficiency levels: N-class, E-class, D-class, C-class, B-class, A-class, S-class with Pre-Bronze, Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Open syllabus levels as outlined in Table 13 including separate or merged categories by age or role (lead/follow) as defined in section 4.7.5.2.
- 3.8.2 USA Dance Pro/Am competitions may offer ShowDance events.
- 3.8.3 USA Dance Pro/Am events may include Unregulated dances from outside of the dance styles described in Section 3.5.2.2 (e.g., salsa, merengue, night club two-step, bachata, etc.). In this case the proficiency classes are not applicable.
- 3.8.4 USA Dance Pro/Am competitions may be based upon a theme (e.g., pirate costumes) provided that at a minimum USA Dance Dress Regulations in Appendix A Sections 2.3 and 2.8 apply.
- 3.8.5 Pre-Teen, Junior, and Youth Pro/Am Amateur Athletes must follow the dress and/or costuming rules as provided in Appendix A.
- 3.8.6 Pre-Teen, Junior, and Youth Pro/Am syllabus events must follow the USA Dance Syllabus Guidebook (Appendix B).
- 3.8.7 An active adjudicator may compete as the Professional in a Pro/Am or Pro/Pro event at a competition where they are not serving as an adjudicator.

Available USA Dance Events	Adjudicator	Professional	Amateur Athlete	Pro/Am Amateur Athlete
Professional Events		X		
Open & Syllabus Amateur Events			X	
Amateur Mixed			X	X

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Available USA Dance Events	Adjudicator	Professional	Amateur Athlete	Pro/Am Amateur Athlete
Proficiency Events				Student Only
Pro/Am Events	X	X	X	X

Table 7. Competitor's Membership Subclass

3.9 SOLO COMPETITOR EVENTS

- 3.9.1 A Solo Competitor is an Amateur Athlete in the Pre-Teen I through Adult age categories.
- 3.9.2 Solo Competitor events are danced without a partner whereby the Athlete is judged on a solo execution of their material.
- 3.9.3 For Solo Competitor events, eligibility is determined by the DanceSport Athlete's age and proficiency level.
- 3.9.4 Lead and Follow Athletes may be judged separately in Solo Competitor events.

3.10 DRESS REGULATIONS

- 3.10.1 The Dress Regulations for sanctioned competitions can be found in *Appendix A: USA Dance Dress Regulations* of this rulebook.
 - 3.10.1.1 These regulations follow the WDSF Dress Regulations as a guide. However, prior to attending any WDSF sanctioned event, please read the WDSF Dress Regulations available on the WDSF website: www.worlddancesport.org. Failure to follow the WDSF Dress Regulations may result in disqualification at a WDSF event.

3.11 RESTRICTED SYLLABUS EVENT REQUIREMENTS

- 3.11.1 Competition Organizers may stipulate that certain competitive events are restricted to a specific Syllabus level classification of the approved Syllabus Guidebook (Appendix B).
- 3.11.2 Competitors in "Syllabus" level competitive events or other competitive events for which the Competition Organizer has stipulated a restricted syllabus must limit their figures to those of the syllabus level classification as outlined in the approved Syllabus Guidebook (Appendix B).

3.12 COLLEGIATE EVENTS

- 3.12.1 A Collegiate event may be "open" or "closed."
 - 3.12.1.1 In a closed collegiate event both dancers must be college students at the time of the event. "College student" is defined as being currently enrolled in or having graduated from a degree-seeking program within approximately 6 months prior to an event. (For clarity, a

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student graduating in May/June can continue to compete at the college level through the upcoming January of the following year. Likewise, a student graduating in December can compete at the college level through June of the following calendar year.)

- 3.12.1.2 An “open” collegiate event may include collegiate and non-collegiate dancers of any age category. Professional athletes are not permitted to compete in Collegiate Events.
- 3.12.2 Collegiate events only have a single age category (i.e. they cannot run multiple age categories such as Junior 2, Youth, Adult, Senior) where all couples compete against one another in the same age category level.
- 3.12.3 Collegiate events may be in any recognized dance style.
- 3.12.4 Collegiate events may include N-class, E-class, and D-class proficiency classes with Bronze, Silver, and Gold syllabus levels and/or may include Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced categories that roughly translate to Bronze, Silver, and Gold syllabus levels. Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced events need not be inviolated for potential syllabus violations.
- 3.12.5 Collegiate events may include Open level events. If Open events are offered, the dances must be paired as listed in Table 3.
- 3.12.6 Collegiate events may include formal team matches as set forth in Section 3.6. Collegiate events may also include “fun” team matches which may be based upon a theme (e.g., pirate costumes) and which may include dances from outside of the dance styles described in Section 3.5.2.2 (e.g., salsa, merengue, night club two-step).
- 3.12.7 Collegiate events may include Performance Team events, as outlined in Section 3.13.11.1
- 3.12.8 At the Competition Organizer’s discretion, collegiate events may allow participants to enter events on the day of the competition or as “To Be Announced” competitors. For example, organizers may permit competitors to register for the competition in advance, but to enter specific events (with the same or different partners) by 9 a.m. on the day of the competition. Similarly, the Competition Organizer may require competitors to enter competitions individually with the partner listed as TBA, and the organizer may then randomly assign leaders and followers as partnerships.
- 3.12.9 At the Competition Organizer’s discretion, collegiate events may allow participants to attend workshops and coaching sessions during the course of the competition that are organized by the Competition Organizer. Provision of such workshops and coaching sessions and interactions of the instructors with competitors at Collegiate Events will not violate Rule 6.1.4.3 through 6.1.4.4 and Rule 6.3.5 of these Rules. This exception to these rules is only available to sanctioned Collegiate Competitions, not to other sanctioned competitions that may include collegiate events.
- 3.12.10 Collegiate competitions are expected to comply with the Adult Dress Code rules in Appendix A of this rulebook.

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3.12.11 Collegiate Performance Team events

- 3.12.11.1 Performance Team Competitions are defined as competitive events at which two or more teams of dancers compete against each other. One team dances at a time to music provided by the team. Each team is judged and ranked in comparison with the other teams dancing.
- 3.12.11.2 Performance Teams will consist of eight or more dancers.
- 3.12.11.3 Performance Team competitors will dance on behalf of only one educational institution at any given dance competition.
- 3.12.11.4 Teams may replace team members with reserves for any round in the contest. Substitutions must not occur during the actual time the team is on the floor competing.
- 3.12.11.5 Performance teams are required to submit a roster with the name of each competitor on their team, including reserves, to the Competition Organizer prior to the registration deadline of the competition, unless a shorter period is permitted by the Competition Organizer.

4 RULES FOR COMPETITORS

4.1 GENERAL

- 4.1.1 The following Rules and Regulations govern all Athletes in the DanceSport Ballroom Division.

4.2 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

- 4.2.1 With the exception of Collegiate Challenge competitions and the exceptions that follow in 4.2.4 and 4.2.5, all individuals must be current Athlete members of a national member body organization of the WDSF or WDO to enter competitive events at a USA Dance sanctioned competition. Participants in Provisional Challenge Competitions may be Social Dance members of USA Dance. If the individual's respective country does not have an organization holding membership in the WDSF or WDO, the individual(s) desiring to participate in a USA Dance sanctioned competition will require the prior written permission of the USA Dance Ballroom DanceSport Council.
- 4.2.2 With the exception of Collegiate Challenge competitions and the exceptions that follow in 4.2.4 and 4.2.5, US citizens and other residents of the United States or one of its possessions, who are not currently registered with another foreign member organization of the WDSF or WDO as an Athlete and who wish to enter a USA Dance sanctioned competition must be current USA Dance Athlete members. Participants in Provisional Challenge Competitions may be Social Dance members of USA Dance.
- 4.2.3 All Athletes are subject to the SafeSport Policy of USA Dance and CleanSport controls as prescribed by the WDSF, USOPC, and USA Dance.

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- 4.2.4 For the remainder of the 2025-2026 competitive season, non-USA Dance members may dance at Challenge Competitions and Regional Championships but not the USA Dance National Championships. The competition will be required to pay the USA Dance National organization for each non-USA Dance competitor an extra \$40 per competitor for Adult and Senior competitors and an extra \$10 per competitor for Pre-Teen, Junior, Youth, and Collegiate competitors who are non-DanceSport Athlete members.
- 4.2.5 For the remainder of the 2025-2026 competitive season, non-USA Dance members may dance at Chapter/Collegiate Club and Provisional Challenge Competitions. The competition will be required to pay the USA Dance National organization for each non-USA Dance competitor an extra \$40 per competitor for Adult and Senior competitors and an extra \$10 per competitor for Pre-Teen, Junior, Youth, and Collegiate competitors who are non-USA Dance members.

4.3 AMATEUR ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 4.3.1 An Amateur Athlete member will meet at a minimum all the following Eligibility Criteria: (The Ballroom DanceSport Council may consider additional factors on a case-by-case basis. Individuals may appeal such rulings as stated in the Athletes' Rights section of these rules.)
- 4.3.2 The Athlete must have not had their Athlete status revoked or reinstated by the Ballroom DanceSport Council or any member organization of the WDSF more than once.
- 4.3.3 The Athlete must not have engaged in any prohibited activity as described in the Prohibited Activities section in the prior twelve (12) month period.
- 4.3.4 If the Athlete engaged in prohibited activities within the past ten (10) years, then:
- 4.3.4.1 The Athlete must submit a completed application in a form prescribed by the Ballroom DanceSport Council to the Chair of Eligibility & Discipline at ballroom-eligibilitychair@usadance.org and must provide information relating to the entirety of their dancing activities including competitions entered and the results of those competitions.
- 4.3.4.2 By submission of the application, the Athlete authorizes the Ballroom DanceSport Council to conduct a verification investigation of the applicant's dance activities.
- 4.3.4.3 The Ballroom DanceSport Council will review the application, along with any other pertinent information it wishes to obtain and make a ruling on the eligibility of the applicant to be registered as an Amateur Athlete.
- 4.3.4.4 Material omissions by the applicant are grounds for denial of reinstatement as an Amateur Athlete.
- 4.3.4.5 The decision of the Ballroom DanceSport Council is appealable to the Executive Committee of USA Dance. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

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4.3.5 For the purpose of determining an individual's eligibility to register as an Amateur Athlete, no distinction is made between DanceSport and other partner dance styles, e.g., Country Western, Swing, Hustle, etc.

4.3.6 ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE IN THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

4.3.6.1 An Amateur Athlete will be eligible to compete in the USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships provided they are USA Dance members in good standing and have satisfied at least one of the following qualifying criteria for each event:

4.3.6.1.1 The Athlete has competed in a minimum of one USA Dance Regional Championship competition since the end of the last USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships placing in the top 50% of USA Dance Athlete Couples in that event at the Regional Championship.

4.3.6.1.1.1 The total number of USA Dance Athlete Couples is measured by the actual number that dance in the event.

4.3.6.1.1.2 Mathematical rounding-up is applied, based at .50 (point-five-zero) and above. For example: In an event with 7 USA Dance Athlete Couples entered, 4 couples will qualify ($7 \times 50\% = 3.5$).

4.3.6.1.1.3 In events with only 3 USA Dance Athlete Couples or fewer, all couples qualify.

4.3.6.1.2 In addition, an Athlete can qualify for Nationals by achieving six (6) points in the same event (same proficiency class, same age category) based on the following table:

Competition Level	Points received by dancing at competition
Chapter/Collegiate Club Competition	0
State Competition	0
Provisional Challenge Competition	0
Collegiate Challenge Competition*	2
Challenge Competition	2
Regional Championship	4
Regional Championship Placing in the Top 50%	6

Table 8. Qualification for National Championships

*A competitor only earns a qualification point at a Collegiate Challenge Competition if they are a member of USA Dance at the time of the competition and the qualification is only for the competitor's actual age category.

4.3.6.1.3 For the remainder of the 2025-2026 competitive season, should a non-USA Dance member couple who has competed in a Challenge Competition or Regional Championship decide that they wish to participate in the National Championships, they will have to become DanceSport Athlete members of USA Dance.

4.3.6.1.4 Regardless of placement at a USA Dance Regional Championship, a non-member couple will only

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accrue 4 National Qualifying points for participating in a Regional Championship.

4.3.6.1.5 A non-USA Dance member couple will accrue 2 qualifying points for participating in a Challenge Competition.

4.3.6.2 The following events do not require direct qualification in the event at a Regional Championship to compete at the National Ballroom DanceSport Championships: International 10-Dance, American 9-Dance, Collegiate, ShowDance, Formation Team, Pro/Am, Professional, Solo Competitor, and Amateur Mixed Proficiency.

4.3.6.2.1 To qualify to dance International 10-Dance at Nationals, Athletes must qualify in B-class or higher proficiency level events in both Standard and Latin.

4.3.6.2.2 To qualify to dance American 9-Dance at Nationals, Athletes must qualify in B-class or higher proficiency level in both Smooth and Rhythm.

4.3.6.2.3 Rule 3.3.3 defines qualifications for ShowDance events at Nationals. Other events will be identified in each year's registration materials for the USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships, with specific registration requirements for each.

4.3.6.2.4 Collegiate Competitors are automatically qualified to dance in one level of Collegiate Events at the USA Dance National Collegiate DanceSport Championships. Provided that the National Collegiate DanceSport Championships are held alongside the USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships, Collegiate competitors are automatically qualified to dance in the same level of Adult amateur events except for the Championship events. At the discretion of the Nationals Organizing Committee, Collegiate competitors may participate in additional amateur events. Additional participation shall be clearly described on the website for the USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships.

4.3.6.3 If an Adult or Senior Athlete qualifies for Nationals and before the next USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships the couple becomes eligible in the next higher age category, they will be considered to be qualified for the next USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships in both the age category in which they actually qualified and the next higher age category for which they are now eligible.

4.3.6.4 If a Preteen/Junior/Youth Athlete qualifies for Nationals and before the next USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships the couple becomes eligible in the next higher age category, they will be considered to be qualified for the next USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships in the age category for which they are now eligible. If the Athlete also qualified in a higher age category directly, they will be allowed to dance in both their new age category and the next higher age category at the next USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships provided they meet all other age eligibility qualifications. The Athlete will not be allowed to compete in the younger age category at Nationals if they no longer meet the age restriction of that category.

4.3.6.5 If a couple qualifies in a specific proficiency level and before the next USA Dance National

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Ballroom DanceSport Championships the couple becomes ineligible to dance at this level due to the proficiency class level up, this couple is eligible to dance in the higher proficiency level event.

4.3.6.6 **WAIVERS FOR NATIONALS** (For Proficiency Point waivers/reduction in class/proficiency level, please see Appendix D – Proficiency System, located on the USA Dance website, under the Ballroom tab.) A request for a reduction in class/proficiency level must be made by email to the Chair of the Eligibility & Discipline Committee (ballroom-eligibilitychair@usadance.org).

4.3.7 **MEDICAL WAIVER**

4.3.7.1 A Medical waiver of Rule 4.3.6 and all applicable sub-sections may be considered under certain circumstances. A request for medical waiver must be made by email to the Chair of the Eligibility & Discipline Committee (ballroom-eligibilitychair@usadance.org) according to the following procedure:

4.3.7.1.1 The Athlete asking for a medical waiver must be registered and paid at a Regional Championship and be forced to withdraw due to injury or illness.

4.3.7.1.2 If there is another Regional Championship the Athlete could potentially dance, they will be asked to do so, provided such Regional Championship is at least 3 weeks later than the Regional Championship from which the Athlete withdraws.

4.3.7.1.3 If there is no other Regional Championship more than 3 weeks later than the one from which they must withdraw, the Athlete may submit to the Chair of the Eligibility & Discipline (ballroom-eligibilitychair@usadance.org) Committee proof of medical necessity for their withdrawal. The Athlete must provide complete medical documentation on a doctor's or hospital's letterhead including proof of office/hospital visit, ICD-9 codes, and treatment plans. Any additional medical documentation may be included at the Athlete's discretion.

4.3.7.1.4 If there is another Regional Championship within the appropriate time frame but attending would prove to be a financial hardship for the Athlete because of distance and travel expenses, the Athlete may still apply for a medical waiver. The Athlete must provide a statement of financial duress, including estimates of the travel expenses which would be incurred by attending the alternative Regional Championship, to the Eligibility & Discipline Committee Chair. The Chair of this committee must present this material to the entire Ballroom DanceSport Council for a discussion and vote.

4.3.7.1.5 All submitted documents will be checked for veracity and accuracy by the Eligibility & Discipline Committee and submitted to the Ballroom DanceSport Council. The Ballroom DanceSport Council will make a decision regarding the medical waiver and communicate it to the Athlete within 48 hours of receiving the request and complete documentation. Lack of complete documentation will result in a rejection of the request.

4.3.7.1.6 After receiving the Ballroom DanceSport Council's decision, the Athlete may appeal the

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decision to the Executive Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee is final.

4.3.8 NON-MEDICAL HARDSHIP WAIVER

4.3.8.1 A non-medical waiver of Rule 4.3.6 and all applicable sub-sections may be considered under certain circumstances. A request for a non-medical waiver must be made by email to the Chair of the Eligibility & Discipline Committee (ballroom-eligibilitychair@usadance.org) according to the following procedure:

- 4.3.8.1.1 Reasons for non-medical waivers may include, but are not limited to, significant loss or hardship within 7 days of the Regional from which the Athlete withdrew. Failure to register and attend a Regional Championship for financial reasons alone does not qualify for a non-medical hardship waiver.
- 4.3.8.1.2 The Athlete asking for a non-medical waiver must be registered at a Regional Championship, have paid the registration fee, and be forced to withdraw due to the circumstances for which they are requesting the waiver.
- 4.3.8.1.3 If there is a Regional Championship the Athlete could potentially dance, they will be asked to do so, provided such Regional Championship is at least 3 weeks later than the date of their waiver request.
- 4.3.8.1.4 If there is another Regional Championship within the appropriate time frame but attending would prove to be a financial hardship for the Athlete because of distance and travel expenses, the Athlete may still apply for a non-medical waiver. The Athlete must provide a statement of financial duress, including estimates of the travel expenses which would be incurred by attending the alternative Regional Championship.
- 4.3.8.1.5 If there is no other Regional Championship more than 3 weeks later than the one from which they must withdraw, the Athlete may submit to the Chair of Eligibility & Discipline Committee (ballroom-eligibilitychair@usadance.org) a detailed explanation of the reasons for their withdrawal from the Regional.
- 4.3.8.1.6 All documents submitted in support of their request will be checked for veracity and accuracy by the Eligibility & Discipline Committee and submitted to the Ballroom DanceSport Council. The Ballroom DanceSport Council will decide regarding the non-medical waiver and communicate it to the Athlete within 48 hours of receiving the request and complete documentation. Lack of complete documentation will result in a rejection of the request.
- 4.3.8.1.7 After receiving the Ballroom DanceSport Council's decision, the Athlete may appeal the decision to the Executive Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee is final.

4.3.9 ELIGIBILITY TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES IN WORLD EVENTS

4.3.9.1 A couple is eligible to represent the United States in WDSF World Events provided:

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- 4.3.9.1.1 Both Athletes hold valid U. S. passports, or one Athlete holds a valid USA passport, and the partner has appropriate legal documents allowing them to travel out of and back into the United States.
- 4.3.9.1.2 Both Athletes are members of the WDSF in good standing representing USA Dance.
- 4.3.9.1.3 Both Athletes comply with any additional eligibility requirements of the WDSF.
- 4.3.9.1.4 Neither Athlete has represented another country or competed in another country's National Championship in WDSF World Ranking or Open Competitions within the last eight (8) months unless a letter of release is received from that country's WDSF member organization to allow the Athlete to represent the United States.
- 4.3.9.1.5 Neither Athlete has represented another country in a WDSF Championship or Cup within the past twelve (12) months.
- 4.3.9.1.6 The couple is nominated by USA Dance to represent the United States in a WDSF Event.
- 4.3.9.2 In order to represent the United States in the IWGA World Games, a couple must meet the current eligibility requirements specified by the IWGA World Games and the couple must be nominated by USA Dance to represent the United States in the IWGA World Games.
- 4.3.9.3 The Ballroom DanceSport Council is responsible for determining an individual Athlete's status and will revoke or suspend an Athlete's registration if sufficient cause is found to do so. The decision of the Ballroom DanceSport Council is appealable to the Executive Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee is final.

4.4 PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 4.4.1 A Professional Athlete must meet, at a minimum, all of the following Eligibility Criteria in order to compete in USA Dance sanctioned Professional Athlete competitions (the Ballroom DanceSport Council may consider additional factors on a case-by-case basis. Individuals may appeal such rulings to the Executive Committee, whose decision is final.)
 - 4.4.1.1 Must have registered as a Professional Athlete with USA Dance.
 - 4.4.1.1.1 For Pro/Am events only, the Professional may be registered as a Professional DanceSport Coach or Professional DanceSport Official with USA Dance.
 - 4.4.1.1.2 For the remainder of the 2025-2026 competitive season, Professionals who are not members of USA Dance may dance at Challenge Competitions and Regional Championships but not the USA Dance National Championships. The competition will be required to pay the USA Dance National organization for each non-USA Dance competitor an extra \$40 per competitor for Adult and Senior Professional competitors and an extra \$10 per competitor for Youth Professional competitors for non-USA Dance members.

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- 4.4.1.2 A Professional's status (either as a Professional Athlete or previously as an Amateur Athlete) may not have been revoked or reinstated by the Ballroom DanceSport Council or any member organization of the WDSF more than once.
- 4.4.2 Should an adjudicator wish to reinstate their Professional Athlete status, a declaration letter must be sent to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division and the Membership Director prior to the start of the next competitive year (which commences immediately following the National Championships) in which the individual wishes to be competing. The Athlete will then be eligible to compete immediately following the National Championships.

4.5 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES FOR ATHLETES

4.5.1 AMATEUR ATHLETES

- 4.5.1.1 An Amateur DanceSport Athlete is ineligible to compete in USA Dance DanceSport Amateur Athlete events if found by the Ballroom DanceSport Council to have explicitly or implicitly become a professional.
- 4.5.1.2 The following acts are considered sufficient for an individual to become a Professional Athlete:
 - 4.5.1.2.1 By competing as a Professional (including as the Professional in Pro/Am) in any DanceSport competition, regardless of the competition's sanctioning body.
 - 4.5.1.2.2 By publicly declaring themselves to be a Professional either verbally or in writing. An example of such a declaration is professional registration in any DanceSport organization.
- 4.5.1.3 A Professional may be reinstated to Amateur DanceSport Athlete status by complying with the requirements of Rule 4.3.4. Such reinstatement will become effective after approval by the Ballroom DanceSport Council.
 - 4.5.1.3.1 The decision of the Ballroom DanceSport Council can be appealed to the Executive Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee is final.
- 4.5.1.4 Any Professional who has had their amateur status reinstated will be assigned a proficiency class not lower than B-class.

4.5.2 PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE

- 4.5.2.1 A Professional athlete is ineligible to compete in USA Dance sanctioned events as an Amateur Athlete, as the Judged or Unjudged Amateur Athlete in Amateur Mixed Proficiency events, or as a Pro/Am Amateur Athlete.

4.6 PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

- 4.6.1 Athletes may participate in dance related activities which are not prohibited or otherwise

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restricted by the Ballroom DanceSport Rulebook, the USA Dance Bylaws, the Code of Ethics, or the Code of Conduct.

4.7 COMPETITIVE CLASSIFICATIONS

4.7.1 Competitive events are classified by age, proficiency level, style, invigilated syllabus level, set of dances, and role.

4.7.2 PROFICIENCY AND SYLLABUS CLASSIFICATIONS

There are seven general proficiency classifications: N-class, E-class, D-class, C-class, B-class, A-class, and S-class. Each dancer has a proficiency class for each style. The couple's proficiency level is defined by the proficiency level of the partner with the higher proficiency level.

4.7.2.1.1 There are four Syllabus categories that can be invigilated: Pre-Bronze, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Only syllabus figures, as outlined in the official Syllabus Guidebook in Appendix B of this rulebook, may be danced in the Syllabus levels. Open events have no syllabus restrictions and are not invigilated.

N-class	E-class	D-class	C-class	B-, A-, S-class
Pre-Bronze	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Open

Table 9 Corresponding Syllabus Levels for the Proficiency Classes

4.7.2.1.2 The proficiency levels are irrelevant to the age classifications.

4.7.3 CLASSIFICATION ELIGIBILITY

4.7.3.1 Amateur Athletes may compete in up to two consecutive age categories for which they are qualified within each style of dance. Under 21 does not count as an age category for purposes of this rule. Within each age category athletes may compete in up to two consecutive proficiency levels; the proficiency levels may be different for each dance style and age category.

4.7.3.2 The eligibility to compete in a proficiency level is determined by the points an Athlete gains under the Proficiency Point system as outlined in Appendix D. A partnership is only eligible to compete in a level if each member is eligible to compete in that proficiency level and if both members are age eligible.

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Athlete Proficiency Level	Maximum Enterable Events for DanceSport Athletes*						
	N-class	E-class	D-class	C-class	B-class	A-class	S-class
N-class	X	X	X	X			
E-class		X	X	X			
D-class			X	X	X	X	X
C-class				X	X	X	X
B-class					X	X	X
A-class						X	X
S-class							X

Table 9. Maximum Enterable Events for DanceSport Athletes per Proficiency Level

*An athlete in the proficiency class listed in the left column is eligible to enter events in any of the proficiency levels listed in that row. However, at a given competition, an athlete can only enter two consecutive proficiency levels.

<NOTE> **(Concerning National Ballroom DanceSport Championships)** Since C-class is the highest proficiency level in the Pre-Teen II age category, a Pre-Teen II Athlete may compete at Nationals in Pre-Teen II C-class and one of the Junior I open proficiency levels, provided the Pre-Teen II Athlete has qualified in that Junior I open proficiency level as outlined in 4.3.6.1. An Athlete may only dance in those styles in which they have qualified. An Athlete cannot dance D-class and C-class in PT2 and then also dance a Junior 1 open level regardless of their qualified Junior 1 events. They may only dance PT2 C-class and then a single qualified open event in the appropriate style.

4.7.4 AGE CLASSIFICATION

4.7.4.1 The following definitions are based on internationally accepted age classifications for Athletes adopted by the WDSF.

4.7.4.2 The following age classifications are based upon the individual's birthday that occurs within the calendar year:

Pre-Teen I	9th or less	
Pre-Teen II	10th or 11th	
Junior I	12th or 13th	
Junior II	14th or 15th	
Youth	16th, 17 th , or 18th	
Under 21	16 th to 20 th	
Adult	19th or greater	
Senior I	35th or greater	One partner must reach their 35 th birthday or more in the calendar year and the other partner must reach their 30 th birthday or more in the calendar year.

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Senior II	45th or greater	One partner must reach their 45 th birthday or more in the calendar year and the other partner must reach their 40 th birthday or more in the calendar year.
Senior III	55th or greater	One partner must reach their 55 th birthday or more in the calendar year and the other partner must reach their 50 th birthday or more in the calendar year.
Senior IV	65 th or greater	One partner must reach their 65 th birthday or more in the calendar year and the other partner must reach their 60 th birthday or more in the calendar year.
Senior V	70 th or greater	Both individuals in the couple must reach their 70 th birthday or more in the calendar year.

Table 10. Age Classifications

4.7.4.3 **PRE-TEEN, JUNIOR, YOUTH, and ADULT CLASSIFICATION:**

- 4.7.4.3.1 One partner of the couple may be no more than two age classifications younger, except in Amateur Mixed Proficiency and Pro/Am events, where only the Judged Athlete must meet the age requirements.
- 4.7.4.3.2 Organizers of Challenge Competitions may optionally combine consecutive age groups, for example Pre-Teen I and Pre-Teen II, into a single Pre-Teen event.
- 4.7.4.3.3 Pre-Teen, Junior, and Youth Athletes may compete in the next higher age category held at a given competition provided that both Athletes are in the same or separated by only one age classification.
- 4.7.4.3.4 Pre-Teen I and Pre-Teen II competitive events must be limited to N-class, E-class, D-class, and closed C-class only. This age category is prohibited from dancing Open events. Master of Syllabus events may be offered.

4.7.4.4 **SENIOR CLASSIFICATION:**

- 4.7.4.4.1 Both members of the couple must meet the age requirements, except in Amateur Mixed Proficiency and Pro/Am events where only the Judged Athlete must meet the age requirements.

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4.7.5 PRO/AM CLASSIFICATIONS:

4.7.5.1 Available Pro/Am Events

Available Pro/Am Events	
Follows	Open to Follows dancing with a USA Dance registered or non-member professional. The Pro/Am Amateur Athlete will be evaluated.
Leads	Open to Leads dancing with a USA Dance registered or non-member professional. The Pro/Am Amateur Athlete will be evaluated.
Pro/Am Combined	Open to Leads and Follows dancing with a USA Dance registered or non-member professional. The Pro/Am Amateur Athlete will be evaluated.
Pro/Am Couple	Open to Pro - Pro/Am Amateur Athlete couples. The couple will be evaluated.

Table 11. Available Pro/Am Events

4.7.5.2 Pro/Am Proficiency Classifications

Pro/Am Amateur Athlete Proficiency Classifications (only Pro/Am Amateur Athlete will be evaluated)			
Proficiency Class	Old Proficiency Level	Recommended Syllabus Level	Notes
N-class	Newcomer	Pre-Bronze	Any combination of dances within one style
N-class		Bronze	Any combination of dances within one style
E-class	Bronze	Bronze	Any combination of dances within one style
E-class	Open Bronze	Silver	Any combination of dances within one style
E-class		Gold	Any combination of dances within one style
E-class		Open	Any combination of dances within one style
D-class	Silver	Silver	Any combination of dances within one style
D-class	Open Silver	Gold	Any combination of dances within one style
D-class		Open	Any combination of dances within one style
C-class	Gold	Gold	Any combination of dances within one style
C-class	Open Gold	Open	Any combination of dances within one style
C-class	Novice	Open	Three dance category
B-class	--	Open	Any combination of dances within one style
B-class	Pre-Championship	Open	Four dance category
B-class	Championship	Open	Five dance category
A-class	Championship	Open	Five dance category
S-class	Championship	Open	Five dance category

Table 12. Pro/Am Amateur Athlete Proficiency Classifications

4.7.5.3 Classification Eligibility

- 4.7.5.3.1 A Pro/Am Amateur Athlete may participate in a maximum of four consecutive syllabus levels (i.e., Pre-Bronze, Bronze, Open Bronze, and Silver) but not in a level lower than their proficiency level.

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- 4.7.5.3.2 Organizers are encouraged to offer single, multi-dance, or any dance combinations to enhance dancers' competitive experience.
- 4.7.5.3.3 At Regional and National Championships, organizers are required to offer scholarship events. Organizers may combine similar syllabus levels into a single scholarship event. (i.e. Pre-Bronze, Bronze, Open Bronze can be combined into a single Bronze scholarship event)
- 4.7.5.4 Pro/Am Couple Competitions

Pro/Am Couple Competitions (dance couple will be evaluated)	
Pro/Am Couple Open	Open material, multi-dance events only. Open to Pro/Am Amateur Athletes eligible in A1, A2, A3, and A4 (i.e., 16+) age levels only.

Table 13. Pro/Am Couple Competitions

- 4.7.5.5 Pro/Am Amateur Athlete Age Classification

Category	Age
Pre-Teen 1	9 or younger
Pre-Teen 2	10 to 11 years old
Junior 1	12 to 13 years old
Junior 2	14 to 15 years old
Youth	16 to 18 years old
Adult A1	19 to 35 years old
Adult A2	36 to 50 years old
Adult A3	51 to 70 years old
Adult A4	71+ years old

Table 14. Pro/Am Amateur Athlete Age Classifications

- 4.7.5.5.1 The Organizer may, upon the approval of the Ballroom DanceSport Council, combine or subdivide age categories.
- 4.7.5.5.2 Except for Adult A1, Pro/Am Amateur Athletes may dance in two consecutive age categories.
- 4.7.5.5.2.1 Pre-Teen, Junior, and Youth Pro/Am Amateur Athletes may compete in their own and in the next higher age category held at a given competition.
- 4.7.5.5.2.2 Adult A2, A3, and A4 Pro/Am Amateur Athletes may compete in their own age category or lower.

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4.8 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.8.1 Every participant in DanceSport, including Athletes, coaches, and officials, is responsible for contributing to the integrity of the sport and to help foster a fair and level playing field for Athletes. As such all participants must abide by the Code of Conduct contained in Appendix C of this rulebook.

4.9 ATHLETES' RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.9.1 Athletes are required to comply with all rules and regulations contained in the USA Dance Ballroom Division Rulebook.
- 4.9.2 Athletes are required to present proof of current "Athlete" membership (other than Provisional Challenge and Collegiate Challenge competitions) and a photo ID to the competition registrar at every USA Dance sanctioned competition in which they wish to compete. Athletes at Provisional Challenge Competitions must present proof of current "Athlete" or "Social Dance" membership. Proof of membership includes a digital or physical copy of the USA Dance membership card.
- 4.9.2.1 Organizers and their staff or volunteers may not accept a paper application for USA Dance membership at the competition.
- 4.9.2.2 For the remainder of the 2025-2026 competitive season, non-USA Dance members may participate in Chapter/Collegiate Club Competitions, Provisional Challenge Competitions, Challenge Competitions, and Regional Championships but not the USA Dance National Championships.
- 4.9.3 Athletes are responsible for being in attendance and ready to compete thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled time for the event(s) entered and for checking in with the On-Deck Captain (if any).
- 4.9.4 Athletes are responsible for adherence to the dress code requirements specified by the USA Dance Ballroom DanceSport Rulebook, Appendix A.
- 4.9.5 Athletes are responsible for dancing only in those events and age classification categories for which they are eligible. If an Athlete couple dances below their proficiency level, this constitutes grounds for disciplinary action.
- 4.9.6 Any Athlete who removes, defaces, or destroys any of the Master Scrutineering Sheets will be subject to disciplinary action.

4.10 ATHLETES' RIGHTS

- 4.10.1 Athletes are protected from arbitrary discrimination and are entitled to fair hearings as required by the USOPC.

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- 4.10.2 At USA Dance sanctioned competitions, no individual, official, or organization will:
 - 4.10.2.1 Discriminate against any Athlete with a valid USA Dance "Athlete" registration on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender identity, or national origin (except that closed competitions with specified age limits, membership, or residency requirements are permitted, as are invitational events).
 - 4.10.2.2 Deny or threaten to deny any eligible Athlete with a valid USA Dance "Athlete" registration the opportunity to participate in competitive events for which they are eligible if they have adhered to all requirements of the above section Athletes' Responsibilities.
- 4.10.3 Athletes are entitled to fair notice and the opportunity for a hearing before the Ballroom DanceSport Council prior to being declared ineligible to compete as an Athlete as provided for in these rules. Rulings made by the Ballroom DanceSport Council can be appealed to the USA Dance Executive Committee.
- 4.10.4 Unresolved disputes between any Athlete and the USA Dance Executive Committee involving the Athlete's opportunity to participate in competition will be submitted to binding arbitration conducted in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. Expenses will be shared equally among the parties.

4.11 RULE VIOLATIONS BY ATHLETES

4.11.1 TYPES OF VIOLATIONS

- 4.11.1.1 The basic types of violations that can be committed by an Athlete are:
 - 4.11.1.1.1 Competition Violations
 - 4.11.1.1.2 Prohibited Activity Violations
 - 4.11.1.1.3 Misrepresentation of Eligibility
 - 4.11.1.1.4 Conduct and Ethical Violations
 - 4.11.1.1.5 CleanSport Violations
- 4.11.1.2 Competition violations include but are not limited to:
 - 4.11.1.2.1 Dancing in a category for which the Athlete is not eligible.
 - 4.11.1.2.2 Removing, defacing, or destroying any Master Scrutineering Sheets or altering in any way the competition/couple number as issued (folding, cutting, marking on the number, etc.). Covering the number in a clear plastic sleeve or laminating the number in clear plastic is not considered altering the number.
 - 4.11.1.2.3 Behaving in an unsportsmanlike or uncivil manner during a competition.

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- 4.11.1.2.4 Competing or claiming USA Dance Athlete status while their USA Dance membership is not current.
- 4.11.1.2.5 Costume Violations - Mandated Deductions:
 - 4.11.1.2.5.1 When noticed in a primary round (1st, quarter, semi-final, etc.) the DanceSport Rules Official will inform the Chair of Adjudicators that the couple/individual needs to be called to the dais and the DanceSport Rules Official, representing the Chair of Adjudicators, will inform the couple of the costume violation and required corrections.
 - 4.11.1.2.5.2 If the infraction is not corrected in the next round, that couple will not be moved into the following round regardless of their placement by the adjudicator panel. For example, if the infraction was noted in the quarter-final and the infraction was not corrected for the semi-final, that couple will not advance into the final regardless of their placement by the adjudicator panel.
 - 4.11.1.2.5.3 If the infraction was noted in the semi-final and not corrected in the final, the couple will be reduced to last place in that event by the Chair of Adjudicators regardless of their placement by the adjudicator panel.
 - 4.11.1.2.5.4 If the infraction was only noted in the final, the couple will be reduced by one (1) place in that event by the Chair of Adjudicators, per their placement by the adjudicator panel, e.g., if the couple was placed 1st by the adjudicator panel, the Chair of Adjudicators will place the couple 2nd and the 2nd place couple will be placed 1st. If the couple placed last, they would remain last. If the costume violation occurs in a final heat of a multi-dance event like 9 or 10-Dance, the penalty will be applied in the heat in which the costume violation occurred, e.g., a costume violation in a Latin heat will be applied to the Latin portion of the 10-Dance event. The couple will be notified at the end of the event of the costume violation and mandatory deduction.
- 4.11.1.2.6 Syllabus Invigilation Violations - Mandated Deductions:
 - 4.11.1.2.6.1 When noticed in a primary round (1st, quarterfinal, semi-final, etc.) the Invigilator will inform the Chair of Adjudicators that the couple needs to be called to the dais, and the Invigilator will inform the couple of their infraction.
 - 4.11.1.2.6.2 If the infraction is not corrected in the next round, that couple will receive zero recall marks for that particular dance. Other dance(s) in the event will be marked as recalled by the adjudicators. This means that the couple may still advance into the next round based on the totality of recall marks in all dances, including zero recall marks for the dance with the infraction.
 - 4.11.1.2.6.3 If the couple repeats the infraction in a following round and there is still a round before the final, there will once again be a mandatory zero recall marks for that particular dance; the other dances will be marked as recalled by the adjudicator panel. This means that the couple may still advance into the next round based on the totality of recall

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marks in all dances, including the zero recall marks for the dance with the infraction.

- 4.11.1.2.6.4 If the infraction is only noted in the final or the infraction was not corrected in the final, then the couple will be reduced to last place in the dance in which the infraction was noted. For example, if the infraction was noted in Cha Cha but there were no infractions in any of the other dances, the couple would only be reduced to last place in Cha Cha. The final placements would include the last place for Cha Cha and the actual placement for the other dances. If infractions are noted in all dances, then the couple will be reduced to last place in all dances.
- 4.11.1.3 An Athlete who violates any of the rules in the Prohibited Activities section (section 4.5) will be subject to disciplinary action.
- 4.11.1.4 If a violation is committed by a couple, both members of the couple will be considered individually as regards to determination and penalty.

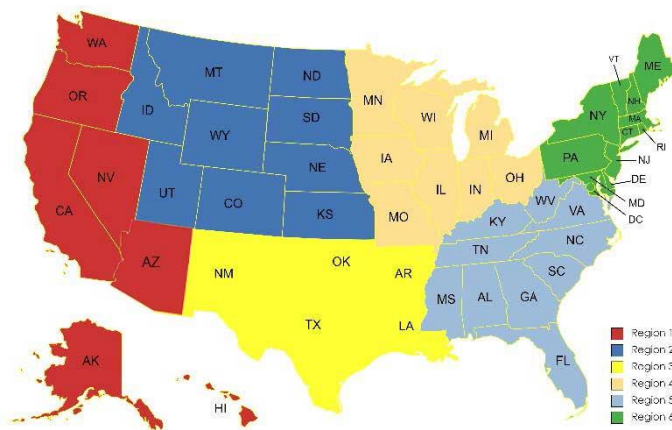
4.12 DUE PROCESS FOR RULE VIOLATIONS

- 4.12.1 Due process for rule violations and breaches of the Code of Conduct is covered in Section 7.

5 RULES FOR ORGANIZERS

5.1 COMPETITION MILEAGE AND DATE REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1.1 Unless waived by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, no competition may be granted USA Dance sanction unless they comply with the following:
- 5.1.1.1 Regional Championships must be at least 4 weeks apart.
- 5.1.1.1.1 There shall be only one (1) approved Regional Championship per region.



- 5.1.1.2 Any sanctioned competitions that are in the same region as a Regional Championship or in

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a city within 500 miles of where the Regional Championship is being held must occur at least 21 days (3 weeks) before or 14 days (2 weeks) after the Regional Championship.

- 5.1.1.3 Sanctioned competitions that are in the same region as another sanctioned competition or in a city that is within 500 miles of the city in which the sanctioned competition is being held must occur at least 14 days (2 weeks) before or 14 days (2 weeks) after the other sanctioned competition.
- 5.1.1.4 The distance calculations for mileage requirements will be determined by the shortest distance in driving miles via automobile between dance competition venues (comparing both directions) using <http://maps.google.com>.
- 5.1.2 An existing organizer can request a special waiver from the Ballroom DanceSport Council to move their date or location slightly in the event that their traditional facility is not available on the traditional dates or other unforeseen circumstances arise.

5.2 CHAPTER/COLLEGIATE CLUB COMPETITIONS

- 5.2.1 Chapter/Collegiate Club Competitions are competitions that are local in nature, and which do not need to be formally sanctioned by USA Dance.
 - 5.2.1.1 One purpose of Chapter/Collegiate Club Competitions is to give USA Dance Chapters and collegiate teams or clubs the ability to hold competitions “just for fun” that do not need to follow all the rules required for sanctioned competitions.
 - 5.2.1.2 Chapter/Collegiate Club Competitions do not need to follow the rules for floor size, music length, invigilation, certification of judges, etc.
 - 5.2.1.3 Chapter/Collegiate Club competitions must follow USA Dance policies regarding gender neutrality, SafeSport, and harassment.
 - 5.2.1.4 Chapter/Collegiate Club Competitions do not award ranking points or proficiency points.
 - 5.2.1.5 Chapter/Collegiate Club Competitions do not contribute towards the eligibility to compete in the USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships.
- 5.2.2 A Chapter/Collegiate Club Competition may be organized by a USA Dance Chapter, USA Dance Club, Approved Dance Organization, or a combination of up to three of these entities provided that:
 - 5.2.2.1 Each of the entities organizing the competition must be a USA Dance Chapter, USA Dance Club, or Approved Dance Organization.
 - 5.2.2.2 Participation in the competitive events is restricted to members of the USA Dance Chapter(s), USA Dance Club(s), or Approved Dance Organization(s).

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- 5.2.2.3 All participants in the Chapter/Collegiate Club Competition are members of USA Dance.
- 5.2.2.4 Reasonable efforts are made to minimize date and location conflicts with other USA Dance Competitions in the area.
- 5.2.2.5 This authority has not been suspended or placed on probation by a majority vote of the Ballroom DanceSport Council or the Board of Directors.
- 5.2.2.6 For the remainder of the 2025-2026 competitive season, non-USA Dance members may participate in Chapter/Collegiate Club Competitions. The competition will be required to pay the USA Dance National organization for each non-USA Dance competitor an extra \$40 per competitor for Adult and Senior competitors and an extra \$10 per competitor for Pre-Teen, Junior, Youth, and Collegiate competitors who are non-USA Dance members.
- 5.2.3 If a Chapter/Collegiate Club Competition wishes to use the USA Dance name or logo in its promotional materials and be listed on the USA Dance competition calendar, it must pay a \$50 fee to USA Dance and apply to the Ballroom DanceSport Council.

5.3 SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS

- 5.3.1 Individuals organizing a USA Dance sanctioned competition must be members of USA Dance. Where a sanctioned competition is organized by a chapter, corporation, or similar entity, the individuals responsible for organizing the competition on behalf of the organizing entity must be identified on the sanction request form and must be USA Dance members.
- 5.3.2 The Ballroom DanceSport Council has the authority and sanctioning jurisdiction over State Competitions, Provisional Challenge Competitions, Collegiate Competitions, Collegiate Challenge Competitions, Challenge Competitions, and Regional Championships including standalone Professional and Pro/Am competitions as well as those events taking place at sanctioned Challenge competitions and Regional Championships.
- 5.3.3 The USA Dance Board of Directors has sanctioning authority over the National Championships.
- 5.3.4 Organizers wanting to hold a USA Dance sanctioned competition must submit a request in writing on the Sanctioning Request Form provided by the Ballroom DanceSport Council with the lead time as indicated in Table 17. The request must include:
 - 5.3.4.1 The proposed name and title of the competition.
 - 5.3.4.1.1 The competition name must conform to USA Dance branding guidelines given in 5.3.9.12.
 - 5.3.4.2 The proposed location, venue, and date(s).
 - 5.3.4.3 The name of the organizer and competition manager. If the organizer is an organization a list of all board members and ownership percentage must be provided.

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- 5.3.4.4 A list of the competitive events tentatively scheduled and the number of each type of official planned.
- 5.3.4.5 The expected number of competitors attending.
- 5.3.4.6 Upon request, adequate proof of financial and organizational capacity to conduct the competition.
- 5.3.4.7 Upon request, an audited or notarized financial report of similar competitions, if any, previously conducted by the organizer.
- 5.3.5 A sanction will only be granted if all past due balances have been paid.
- 5.3.6 **COMPETITION APPROVALS**
- 5.3.6.1 State Competitions, Provisional Challenge Competitions, Collegiate Competitions, Collegiate Challenge Competitions, and Challenge Competitions will be approved for one year only.
- 5.3.6.2 Regional Championships may be approved for two years on a single sanction request proposal.

COMPETITION TYPE	Ranking Points Awarded ⁴	Proficiency Points Awarded ⁴	Approving Organization ¹	Number of Days to Submit Sanctioning Request Prior to Competition ¹	USA Dance Certified Judges Required
State Competition	No	No	Ballroom DanceSport Council	45	No*
Provisional Challenge Competition	No	No ²	Ballroom DanceSport Council	90	No
Collegiate Challenge Competition	No	No ²	Ballroom DanceSport Council	45	No*
Challenge Competition	Yes	Yes	Ballroom DanceSport Council	90	At least 75% must be USA Dance certified*
Regional Championships	Yes	Yes	Ballroom DanceSport Council	180	Yes*
National Championships	Yes	Yes	Board of Directors	BoD's Discretion	Yes*

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COMPETITION TYPE	Ranking Points Awarded ⁴	Proficiency Points Awarded ⁴	Approving Organization ¹	Number of Days to Submit Sanctioning Request Prior to Competition ¹	USA Dance Certified Judges Required
WDSF Events at USA Dance Competitions	Yes**	Yes	WDSF Member Federation ³	N/A	N/A
WDSF World Championships	No	No	WDSF Member Federation	N/A	N/A

Table 15. USA Dance Competition Sanctioning Requirements

¹ The organization that must be notified and the number of days of advance notice.

²Provisional Challenge and Collegiate Challenge competitions may award Proficiency Points if at least 75% of the judges are USA Dance certified.

³ Ballroom DanceSport Council approval is required before application to the WDSF.

⁴A non-USA Dance member will not accrue Ranking Points or Proficiency Points.

*All officials, regardless of their USA Dance membership status, must comply with the SafeSport Policy of USA Dance and be “SafeSport Certified” per the policy.

**Provided that a USA Dance approved scrutineering system is used

5.3.7 Once a competition sanction is granted, any change in competition ownership or management as appearing on the sanction request form must be approved by a vote of the Ballroom DanceSport Council. Based on the proposed changes the council may “approve”, “approve with a reduction in competition sanction level”, or “not approve”. Failure to comply with this will result in loss of sanctioning ability of the organizer for all current and future USA Dance competitions.

5.3.8 REQUIREMENTS COMMON TO ALL SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS

5.3.8.1 Organizers of sanctioned competitions must adhere to all provisions of the USA Dance Ballroom DanceSport Rulebook unless exempt as outlined in other sections of the rulebook.

5.3.8.2 USA Dance has the right to use images from the competition to promote USA Dance owned and operated events with no limitations.

5.3.8.3 Organizer Financial Responsibilities

5.3.8.3.1 For private organizers, USA Dance, either at the national or chapter level, will not assume

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financial responsibility for sanctioned competitions.

5.3.8.3.2 The organizer or associated organization must show adequate proof of financial stability if requested to do so.

5.3.8.3.3 Organizers who have not satisfied all outstanding debts incurred at any USA Dance sanctioned competition for which they were an organizer or responsible party will not be eligible for a competition sanction.

5.3.8.4 **Promotional Materials**

5.3.8.4.1 All advertising and promotional materials, including printed flyers and posters, web pages, and videos for the competition, must abide by the rules and guidelines established in Appendix E.

5.3.8.4.2 A competition must be approved by the BAC and all marketing materials must be approved by the Marketing Department before being published.

5.3.8.4.3 Publishing material that has not been approved may result in the competition being delisted from the USA Dance competition calendar until the problems have been resolved.

5.3.8.5 **Competition Officials**

5.3.8.5.1 The names of the Chair of Adjudicators and the full judging panel selected by the organizer are to be submitted to the Ballroom DanceSport Council for approval not fewer than 30 days prior to the start of State Competitions, 45 days prior to the start of Provisional Challenge and Challenge Competitions, 30 days prior to the start of Collegiate Challenge Competitions, and 60 days prior to the start of Regional, National, and other International Competitions.

5.3.8.5.2 A current list of USA Dance certified adjudicators is to be used when selecting the panel.

5.3.8.5.3 The names and certifications of any WDSF or WDO certified judges must be included in the list for approval.

5.3.8.5.4 The names of any non-USA Dance/WDSF/WDO certified judges (State, Provisional Challenge, Collegiate Challenge, and Challenge competitions only) must be included in the list.

5.3.8.5.5 The number of adjudicators and invigilators must meet the minimum requirements given in Table 20 appropriate to the level of sanctioning for the competition.

5.3.8.5.6 Not more than 60% of adjudicators can be from any one gender identity.

5.3.8.5.7 A USA Dance certified Chair of Adjudicators is required.

5.3.8.5.8 A USA Dance certified Scrutineer is required.

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- 5.3.8.5.9 At least one USA Dance certified invigilator is required. The Ballroom DanceSport Council can require more than 1 invigilator if appropriate based on the size and schedule of the competition.
- 5.3.8.5.10 A complete list of the names of all other officials (including Scrutineer, Music Director/DJ, Emcee/MC, Registrar, and Lead Deck Captain) selected by the organizer are to be submitted to the Ballroom DanceSport Council for approval not less than 30 days prior to the competition for State Competitions, 45 days prior to the start of Provisional Challenge and Challenge Competitions, 30 days prior to the start of Collegiate Challenge Competitions, and 60 days prior to the start of Regional, National, and other International Competitions.
- 5.3.8.5.11 In the event that any of the approved competition officials are unable to attend the competition, the organizer should submit the name of the replacement officials to the Ballroom DanceSport Council for approval as soon as possible.
- 5.3.8.5.12 Organizers wishing to share concerns regarding the ethics or behavior of adjudicators will provide those on the appropriate form (supplied by USA Dance) and send those to only the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division within 15 days of the competition. If the concern is regarding the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division, then the organizer should send the form to the Senior Vice President.
- 5.3.8.6 **Software System**
- 5.3.8.6.1 All USA Dance sanctioned competitions are required to use USA Dance approved software for registration, scrutineering, and reporting of results.
- 5.3.8.7 **Competitor Numbers**
- 5.3.8.7.1 Lead competitors must be provided with a three-digit number. Competitors are prohibited from altering the number provided by organizers. Covering the number in a clear plastic sleeve or laminating the number in clear plastic is not considered altering the number.
- 5.3.8.8 **Competition Dance Floor**
- 5.3.8.8.1 The competition floor must be a smooth, wooden surface with no breaks or gaps of larger than ¼ inch. Carpet, concrete, and ceramic tile are not acceptable surfaces for a dance floor.
- 5.3.8.8.2 The dance floor must have some level of “give” to reduce the risk of injury to Athletes.
- 5.3.8.8.3 The competition floor must be an unobstructed rectangle. There cannot be any columns, poles, dais, podium, banners, or other objects within the rectangle of the competition floor.
- 5.3.8.8.4 The length to width ratio of the competition floor must not be less than 1.6:1 nor greater

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than 2:1.

- 5.3.8.8.5 The ceiling height over the entire competition floor must be no less than 12 feet with no projections over the floor at less than 12 feet. If ShowDance events are being held, the ceiling over the entire competition floor must be no less than 19 feet.

5.3.8.9 **Sound System and Lighting**

- 5.3.8.9.1 The sound system must be of good quality and easily heard throughout the ballroom.
- 5.3.8.9.2 Lighting should be sufficient with no dark spots on the dance floor.
- 5.3.8.9.3 Additional lighting is required if the venue lights are not adequate.

5.3.8.10 **Volunteers and Staff**

- 5.3.8.10.1 A sufficient number of volunteers and staff is required to establish and maintain efficiency throughout the event.
- 5.3.8.10.2 All volunteers and staff should be gracious hosts.
- 5.3.8.10.3 An individual must be stationed at each entrance to the ballroom through which spectators or competitors are admitted to control access during the times that the competition is in progress.

5.3.8.11 **Availability of Files**

- 5.3.8.11.1 All Athlete registration files, event information, entry forms, and categories must remain available for review by USA Dance prior to, during, and after the competition.

5.3.8.12 **Competition Branding Guidelines**

- 5.3.8.12.1 All competitions sanctioned by USA Dance must abide by naming rules to protect the name and intellectual property of USA dance.
- 5.3.8.12.2 Competition names must be approved by the Ballroom DanceSport Council.
- 5.3.8.12.3 Competition names may not use the name of a person, any company, any product, or any dance organization other than USA Dance.
- 5.3.8.12.4 Chapter/Collegiate Club and State Competitions
 - 5.3.8.12.4.1 Chapter/Collegiate Club and State Competitions may not use the words “Challenge”, “Championship”, “Open”, “Regional”, or “National” in their name.
- 5.3.8.12.5 Challenge Competitions

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- 5.3.8.12.5.1 Challenge and Provisional Challenge Competitions may not use the words “Championship”, “Regional”, or “National” or any similar words in their name.
- 5.3.8.12.6 Regional Championships
 - 5.3.8.12.6.1 Regional Championships may not use the word “National” or any similar words in their name.
- 5.3.8.12.7 Each competition will use the appropriate USA Dance logo in its promotional materials.
- 5.3.8.12.7.1 Chapter/Collegiate Club Competitions will use the CHAPTER/COLLEGIATE CLUB COMPETITION LOGO.
- 5.3.8.12.7.2 State Competitions will use the STATE COMPETITION LOGO.
- 5.3.8.12.7.3 Provisional Challenge ~~Local~~ Competitions will use the PROVISIONAL CHALLENGE COMPETITION LOGO.
- 5.3.8.12.7.4 Collegiate Challenge Competitions will use the COLLEGIATE CHALLENGE COMPETITION LOGO.
- 5.3.8.12.7.5 Challenge competitions will use the CHALLENGE COMPETITION LOGO.
- 5.3.8.12.7.6 Regional Championships will use the REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS LOGO.
- 5.3.8.12.7.7 The National Championships will use the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS LOGO.

5.3.9 STATE COMPETITIONS

- 5.3.9.1 State Competitions are competitions that are organized by specific Affiliate Organizations of the USOPC.
 - 5.3.9.1.1 Like Chapter/Collegiate Club Competitions, State Competitions do not need to follow the rules for floor size, music length, invigilation, certification of judges, etc.
 - 5.3.9.1.2 State Competitions must follow USA Dance policies regarding gender neutrality, SafeSport, and harassment.
 - 5.3.9.1.3 State Competitions do not award Proficiency Points or Ranking Points.
 - 5.3.9.1.4 State Competitions do not contribute towards the eligibility to compete in the USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships.
- 5.3.9.2 State Competitions may be organized by a state-member of the National Congress of State Games, the National Senior Games, Move United, or Special Olympics provided that:
 - 5.3.9.2.1 All participants in the competitive events are members of USA Dance.

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- 5.3.9.2.2 All participants in the competitive events meet the eligibility criteria of the state-member.
- 5.3.9.2.3 Reasonable efforts are made to minimize date and location conflicts with other USA Dance Competitions in the area.
- 5.3.9.2.4 This authority has not been suspended or placed on probation by a majority vote of the Ballroom DanceSport Council or the Board of Directors.
- 5.3.9.3 The State Competition may award State Champion, State Senior Champion, Adaptive State Champion, or Special Olympics State Champion titles on behalf of USA Dance as relevant.
- 5.3.9.4 The sanctioning fee for a State Competition is \$50. A sanction must be approved by the Ballroom DanceSport Council. The State Competition must use the USA Dance name or logo in its promotional materials and be listed on the USA Dance competition calendar.
- 5.3.10 **PROVISIONAL CHALLENGE COMPETITIONS**
 - 5.3.10.1 Organizers may apply to the Ballroom DanceSport Council to host a USA Dance Provisional Challenge Competition.
 - 5.3.10.2 Provisional Challenge Competitions are new competitions, run by organizers who have never run a competition before, and the goal would be to grow into a Challenge Competition within 3 years.
 - 5.3.10.3 An event that hosted more than 200 competitors in the past year must apply for a different USA Dance sanction level.
 - 5.3.10.4 Sanctioning of the event is limited to three years before being required to apply for a different USA Dance sanction level.
 - 5.3.10.5 Organizers wanting to host a USA Dance Provisional Challenge Competition must submit a request in writing on the Sanctioning Request Form provided by the Ballroom DanceSport Council and provide the information listed in Section 5.3.5.
 - 5.3.10.6 A decision of the Ballroom DanceSport Council to deny sanction may be appealed by the Organizer(s) of the competition to the Executive Committee. Such an appeal shall be made by written notice from the Organizer(s) to the National Secretary, which notice must set forth all the reasons why the Organizer(s) feels that sanction should be granted. The Executive Committee shall review both the application and the notice of appeal and shall determine whether to grant sanction. The Organizer(s) may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors whose determination shall in all events be final.
 - 5.3.10.7 Provisional Challenge Competitions may not hold WDSF events, Professional events, or Pro/Am events.

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- 5.3.10.8 In general, Provisional Challenge Competitions do not award Proficiency Points or Ranking Points. However, if greater than 75% of the judges are USA Dance certified, the competition may award Proficiency Points.
- 5.3.10.9 Provisional Challenge Competitions do not contribute towards the eligibility to compete in the USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships.
- 5.3.10.10 **Membership Requirements**
- 5.3.10.10.1 All competitors must be Athlete or Social Dance members in good standing of USA Dance, a WDSF national member body, or a WDO national organization from outside the United States.
- 5.3.10.10.2 Officials must be members in good standing of USA Dance, a WDSF national member body, or a WDO national organization from outside the United States.
- 5.3.10.10.3 All officials must comply with the USA Dance SafeSport Policy and be “SafeSport Certified” prior to the start of the competition.
- 5.3.10.10.4 For the remainder of the 2025-2026 competitive season, non-USA Dance members may participate in Provisional Challenge Competitions. The competition will be required to pay the USA Dance National organization for each non-USA Dance competitor an extra \$40 per competitor for Adult and Senior competitors and an extra \$10 per competitor for Pre-Teen, Junior, Youth, and Collegiate competitors who are non-USA Dance members.
- 5.3.10.11 **Venue**
- 5.3.10.11.1 A Provisional Challenge Competition must be held in one of the following suitable venues: hotel ballroom, sports arena, convention center, gymnasium, or large dance studio.
- 5.3.10.12 **Competition Floor**
- 5.3.10.12.1 The competition dance floor must be a smooth unobstructed rectangle of at least 2000 SF in size and meet all the requirements in section 5.3.9.8 above.
- 5.3.10.12.2 A practice floor is not required for a Provisional Challenge Competition.
- 5.3.10.13 **Changing Rooms**
- 5.3.10.13.1 If provided, separate changing rooms must be available for male Athletes, female Athletes, and non-binary Athletes.
- 5.3.10.14 **Competition Officials**
- 5.3.10.14.1 A USA Dance certified Chair of Adjudicators is required.

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- 5.3.10.14.2 A USA Dance certified Scrutineer, or a Scrutineer certified by the scrutineering software, is required.
- 5.3.10.14.3 A DanceSport Rules Official is not required.
- 5.3.10.14.4 All officials must be under contract.
- 5.3.10.15 **Events and Titles**
 - 5.3.10.15.1 Each event must be offered in a minimum of four age classifications, or their combinations, as follows: Adult (Under 21, Adult, and Senior I combined), Senior (Senior II through Senior V combined), Youth (Junior I, Junior II, and Youth combined), and Pre-Teen (Pre-Teen I and Pre-Teen II combined).
 - 5.3.10.15.2 Provisional Challenge Competitions must offer at a minimum N-class, E-class, D-class, and C-class proficiency levels with Pre-Bronze, Bronze, Silver, and Gold syllabus levels.
 - 5.3.10.15.3 Each syllabus event may consist of one or more dances.
 - 5.3.10.15.4 If Open events are offered, the dances must be paired as listed in Table 3.
 - 5.3.10.15.5 If an organizer wishes to hold competitive events at a Provisional Challenge Competition which are not otherwise covered in the Rulebook, plans must be submitted for approval to the Ballroom DanceSport Council at least 45 days before the date of the Provisional Challenge Competition. Appropriate events in this category include fun social dances and Jack and Jill events.
- 5.3.10.16 **Awards**
 - 5.3.10.16.1 At a minimum, ribbons must be provided for first through finalist places in all events.
- 5.3.10.17 **Medical Supervision of the Athletes**
 - 5.3.10.17.1.1 An AED must be provided and be accessible to the ballroom within 60 seconds.
- 5.3.10.18 **Reports**
 - 5.3.10.18.1 The Chair of Adjudicators must provide a report on the competition (template provided by USA Dance) to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division within 15 days of the end of the competition.
 - 5.3.10.18.2 The Organizer must provide a report on the competition (template provided by USA Dance) to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division within 15 days of the end of the competition.

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5.3.11 COLLEGIATE COMPETITIONS

5.3.11.1 Sanctioned Collegiate Ballroom DanceSport Competitions

- 5.3.11.1.1 Collegiate DanceSport Clubs or Teams may apply to the Ballroom DanceSport Council to host a USA Dance Sanctioned Collegiate Competition.
- 5.3.11.1.2 Organizers wanting to host a USA Dance Sanctioned Collegiate Competition must submit a request in writing on the Sanctioning Request Form provided by the Ballroom DanceSport Council and provide the information listed in Section 5.3.5.
- 5.3.11.1.3 Competition Organizers that are adding a sanctioned Collegiate Event to an existing USA Dance sanctioned competition do not need to provide the information listed in Section 5.3.5.
- 5.3.11.1.4 Organizers of Sanctioned Collegiate Ballroom DanceSport Competitions, other than Collegiate Challenge competitions, must meet the requirements for all sanctioned competitions in Section 5.3.8.
- 5.3.11.1.5 A decision of the Ballroom DanceSport Council to deny sanction may be appealed by the Organizer(s) of the competition to the Executive Committee. Such an appeal shall be made by written notice from the Organizer(s) to the National Secretary, which notice must set forth all the reasons why the Organizer(s) feels that sanction should be granted. The Executive Committee shall review both the application and the notice of appeal and shall determine whether to grant sanction. The Organizer(s) may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors whose determination shall in all events be final.
- 5.3.11.1.6 Collegiate Competitions may not hold WDSF events, Professional events, or Pro/Am events.
- 5.3.11.1.7 Collegiate Competitions must have a college as the host.

5.3.11.2 Collegiate Challenge Competitions

- 5.3.11.2.1 Collegiate Challenge Competitions must meet all the requirements for all sanctioned competitions in Section 5.3.8 except the requirements for Officials and Athlete membership in USA Dance.
- 5.3.11.2.2 Collegiate Challenge Competitions may offer only one age group.
- 5.3.11.2.3 This age category may optionally be called “Collegiate” and open only to college students.
- 5.3.11.2.4 In general, Collegiate Challenge Competitions do not award Proficiency Points or Ranking Points. However, if greater than 75% of the judges are USA Dance certified, the competition may award Proficiency Points.

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5.3.11.2.5 Collegiate Challenge Competitions contribute towards the eligibility to compete in the USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships only if the competitor is a member of USA Dance at the time of the competition and only in the competitor's actual age category.

5.3.11.2.6 **Membership Requirements**

5.3.11.2.6.1 Competitors are not required to be members of USA Dance to compete at Collegiate Challenge Competitions. However, if a competitor is not a member of USA Dance at the time of the competition, they do not accrue any qualifying points to dance at the National Championships.

5.3.11.2.6.2 Officials including adjudicators are not required to be members of USA Dance.

5.3.11.2.7 **Venue**

5.3.11.2.7.1 A Collegiate Challenge Competition must be held in one of the following suitable venues: hotel ballroom, sports arena, convention center, gymnasium, or large dance studio.

5.3.11.2.8 **Competition Floor**

5.3.11.2.8.1 The competition dance floor must be a smooth unobstructed rectangle of at least 2000 SF in size and meet all the requirements in Section 5.3.9.8 above.

5.3.11.2.8.2 A practice floor is not required for a Collegiate Challenge Competition

5.3.11.2.9 **Changing Rooms**

5.3.11.2.9.1 If provided, separate changing rooms must be available for male Athletes, female Athletes, and non-binary Athletes.

5.3.11.2.10 **Competition Officials**

5.3.11.2.10.1 Half of the adjudicators must have a license certifying them to judge competitions from a recognized national or international Ballroom DanceSport organization.

5.3.11.2.10.2 A USA Dance certified Chair of Adjudicators, Scrutineer, and Invigilator are not required.

5.3.11.2.10.3 A DanceSport Rules Official is not required.

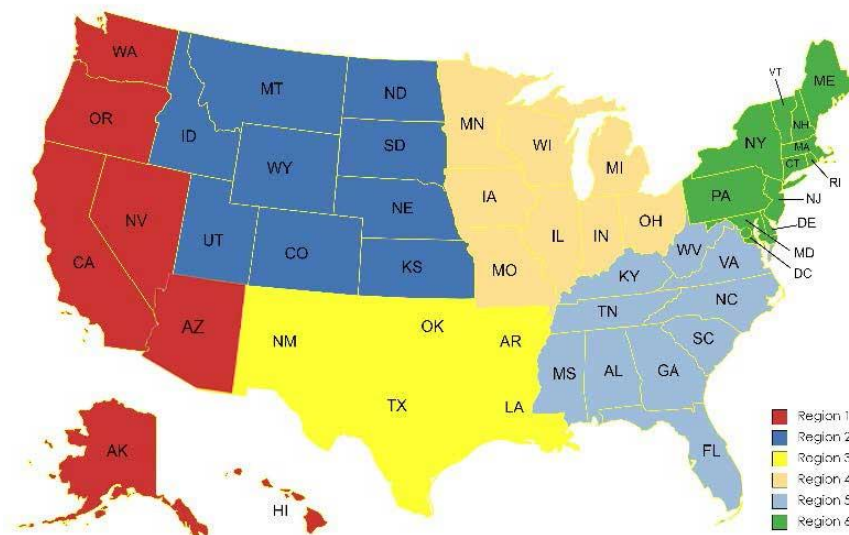
5.3.11.2.10.4 All officials must be under contract.

5.3.11.2.10.5 A complete list of the names of all officials (including Adjudicators, Scrutineer, Music Director/DJ, Emcee/MC, Registrar, and Lead Deck Captain) selected by the organizer are to be submitted to the Ballroom DanceSport Council for approval not less than 30 days prior to the competition and posted on the competition website not less than 30 days prior to the competition.

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- 5.3.11.2.10.6 In the event that any of the approved competition officials are unable to attend the competition, the organizer should submit the name of the replacement officials to the Ballroom DanceSport Council for approval as soon as possible.
- 5.3.11.2.11 **Events and Titles**
- 5.3.11.2.11.1 A Collegiate Challenge Competition may only offer one age category.
- 5.3.11.2.11.2 Collegiate Challenge Competitions must offer at a minimum N-class, E-class, D-class, and C-class proficiency levels with Pre-Bronze, Bronze, Silver, and Gold syllabus levels.
- 5.3.11.2.11.3 Each syllabus event may consist of one or more dances.
- 5.3.11.2.11.4 If open events are offered, the dances must be paired as listed in Table 3.
- 5.3.11.2.11.5 Collegiate Challenge Competitions may not award National or Regional titles.
- 5.3.11.2.12 **Awards**
- 5.3.11.2.12.1 At a minimum, ribbons shall be provided for first through finalist places in all events.
- 5.3.11.2.13 **Medical Supervision of Athletes**
- 5.3.11.2.13.1 An AED must be provided and be accessible to the ballroom within 60 seconds.
- 5.3.11.2.14 **Reports**
- 5.3.11.2.14.1 The Chair of Adjudicators must provide a report on the competition (template provided by USA dance) to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division within 15 days of the end of the competition.
- 5.3.11.2.14.2 The Organizer must provide a report on the competition (template provided by USA Dance) to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division within 15 days of the end of the competition.
- 5.3.11.3 **REGIONAL COLLEGIATE BALLROOM DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS**
- 5.3.11.3.1 Competition Organizers may apply to the Ballroom DanceSport Council to host a USA Dance sanctioned Regional Collegiate Ballroom DanceSport Championships. There shall be a limit of one Regional Collegiate Ballroom DanceSport Championships per region per academic year (October to March).

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5.3.11.3.2 Regional Collegiate Ballroom DanceSport Championships must follow all the requirements for a Regional Championship in Section 5.3.14 except that they may offer only one age category.

5.3.11.4 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BALLROOM DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

5.3.11.4.1 The Board of Directors may designate one competition to be the USA Dance National Collegiate Ballroom DanceSport Championships in the United States during each academic school year.

5.3.11.4.2 The USA Dance National Collegiate Ballroom DanceSport Championships may bestow national collegiate titles on behalf of USA Dance.

5.3.11.4.3 The National Collegiate Ballroom DanceSport Championships must meet all the requirements of the National Championships except that they are not required to have two adjudicators from a foreign country.

5.3.11.4.4 High placing teams and Athletes at the USA Dance National Collegiate Ballroom DanceSport Championships may be selected to represent the United States at the International University Sports Federation World University Games.

5.3.12 CHALLENGE COMPETITIONS

5.3.12.1 All Challenge competitions must be sanctioned by the Ballroom DanceSport Council and meet the criteria for sanctioned competitions given in Section 5.3.8.

5.3.12.2 A decision of the Ballroom DanceSport Council to deny sanction may be appealed by the Organizer(s) of the competition to the Executive Committee. Such an appeal shall be made by written notice from the Organizer(s) to the National Secretary, which notice must set forth all the reasons why the Organizer(s) feels that sanction should be granted. The

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Executive Committee shall review both the application and the notice of appeal and shall determine whether to grant sanction. The Organizer(s) may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors whose determination shall in all events be final.

- 5.3.12.3 Challenge Competitions award Proficiency Points and Ranking Points for competitors who are USA Dance members but not for non-USA Dance member participants.
- 5.3.12.4 Challenge Competitions contribute towards the eligibility to compete in the USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships.
- 5.3.12.5 Any person who organizes and/or owns a Challenge, Regional, or Nationals competition cannot dance in a Challenge, Regional, or National competition that they organize or own.
- 5.3.12.6 **Membership Requirements**
 - 5.3.12.6.1 All competitors must be Athlete members in good standing of USA Dance, a WDSF national member body, or a WDO national organization from outside the United States.
 - 5.3.12.6.2 75% of Adjudicators must be members of USA Dance.
 - 5.3.12.6.3 All officials other than Adjudicators must be members in good standing of USA Dance.
 - 5.3.12.6.4 All officials must comply with the USA Dance SafeSport Policy and be "SafeSport Certified" prior to the start of the competition.
 - 5.3.12.6.5 For the remainder of the 2025-2026 competitive season, non-USA Dance members may participate in Challenge Competitions. The competition will be required to pay the USA Dance National organization for each non-USA Dance competitor an extra \$40 per competitor for Adult and Senior competitors and an extra \$10 per competitor for Pre-Teen, Junior, Youth, and Collegiate competitors who are non-DanceSport members.
- 5.3.12.7 **Venue**
 - 5.3.12.7.1 A Challenge Competition must be held in one of the following suitable venues: hotel ballroom, sports arena, convention center, gymnasium, or large dance studio.
- 5.3.12.8 **Competition Floor**
 - 5.3.12.8.1 The competition dance floor must be a smooth unobstructed rectangle of at least 2000 SF in size and meet all the requirements in Section 5.3.9.8 above.
 - 5.3.12.8.2 A practice floor is not required for a Challenge Competition.
- 5.3.12.9 **Changing Rooms**
 - 5.3.12.9.1 If provided, separate changing rooms must be available for male Athletes, female Athletes,

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and non-binary Athletes.

5.3.12.9.2 Changing rooms should all have mirrors, clothing racks, and other appropriate amenities.

5.3.12.10 **Competition Officials**

5.3.12.10.1 At least 75% of the adjudicator panel is to hold current WDSF or WDO certification or USA Dance certification at the Associate certification level.

5.3.12.10.2 The remaining adjudicators must have a license certifying them to judge competitions from a recognized national or international Ballroom DanceSport organization.

5.3.12.10.3 A DanceSport Rules Official is not required for a Challenge Competition.

5.3.12.10.4 All officials must be under contract.

5.3.12.10.5 Minimum fees to be paid at Challenge Competitions are:

5.3.12.10.5.1 Adjudicators and Invigilators: \$200 per full day worked

5.3.12.10.5.2 Chair of Adjudicators: \$300 per full day worked

5.3.12.10.5.3 Officials may, at their own discretion, donate their time or accept less payment.

5.3.12.10.6 Officials' expenses to be paid at Challenge Competitions are:

5.3.12.10.6.1 Hotel, travel, and food expenses are to be paid or reimbursed.

5.3.12.10.6.2 Airline ticket expenses must be submitted in advance for approval prior to full reimbursement.

5.3.12.11 **Events and Titles**

5.3.12.11.1 All provisions of the USA Dance DanceSport Ballroom Rulebook must be observed.

5.3.12.11.2 Challenge Competitions must offer at a minimum N-class, E-class, D-class, and C-class proficiency levels with Pre-Bronze, Bronze, Silver, and Gold syllabus levels.

5.3.12.11.3 Each syllabus event may consist of one or more dances.

5.3.12.11.4 If Open events are offered, the dances must be paired as listed in Table 3.

5.3.12.11.5 Each event must be offered in a minimum of four age classifications, or their combinations as follows: Adult (Under 21, Adult, and Senior I combined), Senior (Senior II through Senior V combined), Youth (Junior I, Junior II, and Youth combined), and Pre-Teen (Pre-Teen I and Pre-Teen II combined).

5.3.12.11.6 If an organizer wishes to hold competitive events at a Challenge Competition which are not

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otherwise covered in the Rulebook, plans must be submitted for approval to the Ballroom DanceSport Council at least 45 days before the date of the Challenge Competition. Appropriate events in this category include fun social dances and Jack and Jill events.

- 5.3.12.11.7 Challenge Competitions may hold WDSF events with the approval of the Ballroom DanceSport Council. The list of WDSF judges and events must be submitted to the Ballroom DanceSport Council and approved prior to announcement of those events. The Board of Directors of USA Dance must also approve those events. Those events must also be submitted to WDSF for approval by that organization's board. These requests must be included on the Sanctioning Request Form to the Ballroom DanceSport Council at the time of the sanction requests. A Challenge Competition may hold additional international events at the discretion of the organizers.

5.3.12.12 **Awards**

- 5.3.12.12.1 At a minimum, ribbons shall be provided for first through finalist places in all events.

5.3.12.13 **Medical Supervision of Athletes**

- 5.3.12.13.1 An AED must be provided and be accessible to the ballroom within 60 seconds.

5.3.12.14 **Reports**

- 5.3.12.14.1 The Chair of Adjudicators must provide a report on the competition (template provided by USA Dance) to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division within 15 days of the end of the competition.
- 5.3.12.14.2 The Organizer must provide a report on the competition (template supplied by USA Dance) to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division within 15 days of the end of the competition.
- 5.3.12.14.3 The Organizer must ensure that the competition results are sent to the Proficiency System within 5 days after the competition.

5.3.13 **REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- 5.3.13.1 All Regional Championship competitions must be sanctioned by the Ballroom DanceSport Council and meet the minimum standards outlined in Section 5.3.8 above.
- 5.3.13.2 The organizer or the management team must have successfully run at least two Challenge Competitions or above with a minimum of 100 competitors in order to qualify as an organizer of a Regional Championship competition. Previous National Qualifying Events, Sanctioned Events, and Registered Events count as Challenge Competitions or above for this purpose.
- 5.3.13.3 An individual may not hold a maximum of 51% share of ownership in or sit on the Boards of

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more than two Regional Championships. All Board members of an organization that manages a competition are considered to be owners of the competition.

- 5.3.13.4 Any person who organizes and/or owns a Challenge, Regional, or Nationals competition cannot dance in a Challenge, Regional, or National competition that they organize or own.
- 5.3.13.5 Owners may hire others to manage the Regional Championship for them, but an individual may not organize and/or own more than two Regional Championships.
- 5.3.13.6 A decision of the Ballroom DanceSport Council to deny sanction may be appealed by the Organizer(s) of the competition to the Executive Committee. Such an appeal shall be made by written notice from the Organizer(s) to the National Secretary, which notice must set forth all the reasons why the Organizer(s) feels that sanction should be granted. The Executive Committee shall review both the application and the notice of appeal and shall determine whether to grant sanction. The Organizer(s) may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors whose determination shall in all events be final.
- 5.3.13.7 Regional Championships award Proficiency Points and Ranking Points to competitors who are members of USA Dance but not to non-member competitors who participate.
- 5.3.13.8 Regional Championships contribute toward the eligibility to compete in the USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships.
- 5.3.13.9 **Membership Requirements**
 - 5.3.13.9.1 All owners and members of the organizing team must be members in good standing of USA Dance.
 - 5.3.13.9.2 All competitors must be Athlete members in good standing of USA Dance, a WDSF national member body, or a WDO national organization from outside the United States.
 - 5.3.13.9.3 All Adjudicators, Chairs of Adjudicators, Scrutineers, and Invigilators must be USA Dance Professional DanceSport Official members, WDSF members, WDSF National Member Body members, or WDO national members from outside the United States in good standing.
 - 5.3.13.9.4 All other officials (Music Director/DJ, Leading Deck Captain, Registrar, Emcee/MC, and DanceSport Rules Official) must be members in good standing of USA Dance.
 - 5.3.13.9.5 For the remainder of the 2025-2026 competitive season, non-USA Dance members may participate in Regional Championships. The competition will be required to pay the USA Dance National organization for each non-USA Dance competitor an extra \$40 per competitor for Adult and Senior competitors and an extra \$10 per competitor for Pre-Teen, Junior, Youth, and Collegiate competitors who are non-DanceSport members.

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5.3.13.10 **Location**

5.3.13.10.1 The venue should be within 40 miles of a major airport.

5.3.13.10.2 The host city must be within the designated geographical region shown in **Figure 1**.

5.3.13.11 **Competition Dates**

5.3.13.11.1 Only one Regional Championship is allowed in each region per competition year.

5.3.13.11.2 Dates for Regional Championship events must be in accordance with the schedule established by the Board of Directors:

- January 1 to February 15 – Region 6 (Northeast)
- February 16 through March 15 – Region 5 (Southeast)
- March 16 through April 15 – National Championships, no Regionals allowed
- April 16 through June 15 – Region 1 (West)
- June 16 through September 15 – Region 2 (Rocky Mountain)
- September 16 through November 15 – Region 4 (Midwest)
- November 16 through December 31 – Region 3 (South)

5.3.13.11.3 No Regional Championship may be held 14 days before or 14 days after the National Championships.

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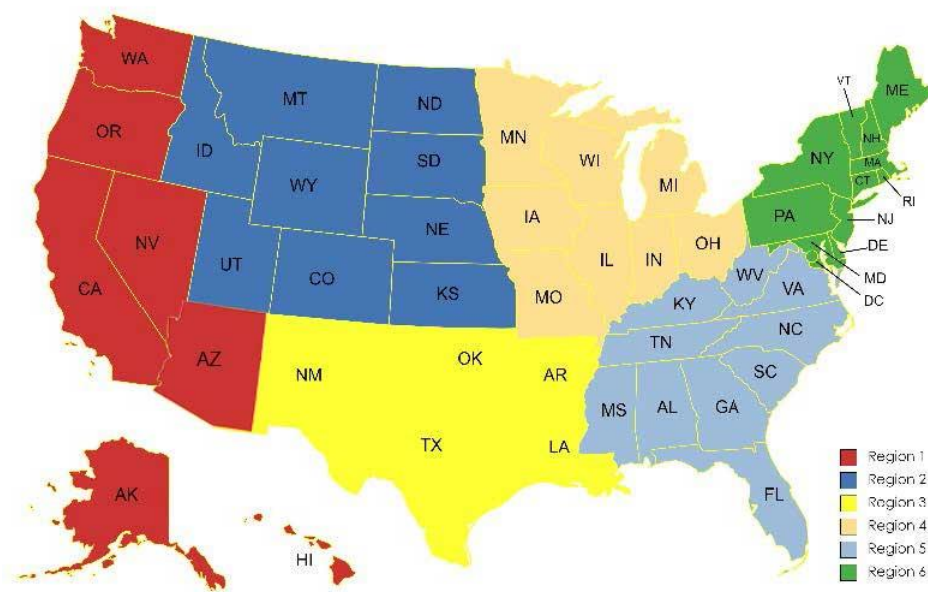


Figure 1. USA Dance Competition Regions

5.3.13.12 Venue

- 5.3.13.12.1 A Regional Championship must be held in one of the following suitable venues: hotel ballroom, sports complex, or convention center with the host hotel within ¼ mile of the venue.
- 5.3.13.12.2 Food Availability
 - 5.3.13.12.2.1 The venue must have an onsite restaurant, or one must be located nearby.
 - 5.3.13.12.2.2 Other food sources should be within walking distance (1/2 mile), including quick food availability.
 - 5.3.13.12.2.3 If the venue and immediately available food services cannot provide meals in a timely fashion for the expected number of attendees, arrangements should be made with the venue to provide supplementary food availability.
- 5.3.13.12.3 The venue must accommodate the following:
 - 5.3.13.12.3.1 There is a ballroom at least 9000 SF in size.
 - 5.3.13.12.3.2 A registration/package pickup/ticket sales area is available outside of the ballroom with adequate room around it to accommodate a reasonable number of competitors and spectators.
 - 5.3.13.12.3.3 An area outside of the ballroom is required to accommodate all merchandise vendors.

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5.3.13.12.3.4 The ballroom must have adequate space in addition to the dance floor to accommodate officials and spectators.

5.3.13.12.3.5 Separate areas for judges must be provided inside the ballroom and outside the ballroom.

5.3.13.13 **Competition Floor**

5.3.13.13.1 The competition dance floor must be a smooth unobstructed rectangle of at least 70 x 40 feet [2800 SF] and meet all the requirements in Section 5.3.9.8 above.

5.3.13.13.2 A practice floor is required. The practice floor must be at least 30% of the size of the competition floor and of the same quality. If the competition floor is a permanent, non-portable floor, the practice floor may be a portable dance floor.

5.3.13.14 **Changing Rooms**

5.3.13.14.1 At a minimum, separate changing rooms are required for male Athletes, female Athletes, and non-binary Athletes.

5.3.13.14.2 Changing rooms should all have mirrors, clothing racks, and other appropriate amenities.

5.3.13.15 **Competition Officials**

5.3.13.15.1 All adjudicators must be current members of USA Dance, WDSF, a WDSF National Member Body, or a WDO national organization from outside the United States.

5.3.13.15.2 The competition must meet the requirements of a Regional Championship as to the number and required qualifications of adjudicators and invigilators per Table 20 of the Rulebook.

5.3.13.15.3 No more than 60% of the adjudicator panel may be from the same gender identity.

5.3.13.15.4 At least 50% of the adjudicator panel must hold current WDSF certification, WDO certification, or USA Dance National certification at the A+B+C+D+ level.

5.3.13.15.5 All other adjudicators must be Championship certified adjudicators for the events they judge.

5.3.13.15.6 Not more than 50% of the adjudicator panel may be from any one geographical region as defined in **Figure 1**.

5.3.13.15.7 Adjudicators are to be selected from three or more geographical regions as defined in **Figure 1**.

5.3.13.15.8 At least two USA Dance certified Invigilators are required. The Ballroom DanceSport Council can require more than two invigilators if appropriate based on the size and

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schedule of the competition.

5.3.13.15.9 Regional Championships are required to have a non-paid, expense paid DanceSport Rules Official present throughout the event. The DanceSport Rules Official is assigned by the Ballroom DanceSport Council.

5.3.13.15.10 All officials must be under contract.

5.3.13.15.11 Minimum fees to be paid at Regional Championships are:

5.3.13.15.11.1 Adjudicators and Invigilators: \$250 per full day worked

5.3.13.15.11.2 Chair of Adjudicators: \$350 per full day worked

5.3.13.15.11.3 Officials may, at their own discretion, donate their time or accept less payment.

5.3.13.15.12 Officials' expenses to be paid at Regional Championships:

5.3.13.15.12.1 Hotel, travel, and food are to be paid or reimbursed.

5.3.13.15.12.2 Airline ticket expenses must be submitted in advance for approval prior to full reimbursement.

5.3.13.16 Events and Titles

5.3.13.16.1 If approved by the Ballroom DanceSport Council and at the discretion of the Board of Directors, Regional Championships may hold WDSF events including World Championships, World Cups, International Open events, and World Open events.

5.3.13.16.2 Each syllabus and open event must be paired as shown in Table 19. Additional dances may be offered as separate events, but they will not be used to qualify competitors for the National Championships or accrue Proficiency Points.

5.3.13.16.3 If an organizer wishes to hold competition events at a Regional Championship which are not otherwise covered in the Rulebook, plans must be submitted for approval to the Ballroom DanceSport Council at least 45 days before the date of the Regional Championship. Appropriate events in this category include fun social dances and Jack and Jill events.

5.3.13.16.4 A Regional Championship shall have the right of first refusal to award Regional titles in Amateur Mixed Proficiency, Solo Competitor, ShowDance, and Formation team events. This selection must be made during the sanctioning process. If the organizer chooses not to request these titles on the sanction form, another competition sanctioned as a Challenge Competition in the region may be awarded these titles.

5.3.13.16.5 All Regional Championships shall hold Professional and Pro/Am events.

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5.3.13.17 **Awards**

- 5.3.13.17.1 A Regional Championship shall award titles related to its own region such as “Southeastern Regional Championship” titles.
- 5.3.13.17.2 Medals must be presented to first through third places and ribbons for fourth through finalist for any Open events and for events awarding World Championship or World Cup titles.
- 5.3.13.17.3 Ribbons must be presented to all finalists in syllabus and other events.
- 5.3.13.17.4 Scholarships should be presented at Regional Championships. The allocation of scholarships is at the discretion of the organizer.
- 5.3.13.17.5 It is recommended that scholarships be presented to various skill levels.
- 5.3.13.17.6 Professional and Pro/Am events shall provide the minimum monetary awards as required by the Rulebook.

5.3.13.18 **Medical Supervision of Athletes**

- 5.3.13.18.1 Proper medical supervision of the athletes must be provided. This includes:
- 5.3.13.18.2 An AED must be located such that it can be available in the ballroom within 60 seconds notice.
- 5.3.13.18.3 Certified EMTs or Certified Athletic Trainers who will always be within the ballroom while the competition is in progress.
- 5.3.13.18.4 Volunteers may be used as medical personnel for a competition provided the following conditions are met:
 - 5.3.13.18.4.1 Each volunteer holds current certification in Basic Cardiac Life support.
 - 5.3.13.18.4.2 Each volunteer has examined the AED present at the competition site and familiarized themselves with its use.
 - 5.3.13.18.4.3 The following equipment is present at the competition site and each volunteer has experience and knowledge in the use of this equipment: Ambu bag, face mask (several sizes), oral airways (several sizes), gloves, scissors, razors, padded tongue blade, and a Fingertip Pulse Oximeter.
 - 5.3.13.18.4.4 A First Aid Kit is present at the competition site containing at a minimum alcohol wipes, band aids, moleskin, gloves, bandages, gauze pads, tape, scissors, antibiotic ointment, self-adhering bandage wraps or Ace wraps, instant cold packs.
 - 5.3.13.18.4.5 A schedule of when each volunteer is on duty in the ballroom as the medical personnel

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must be created and provided to each medical volunteer, the Chair of Adjudicators, the MC, and the DRO. The schedule should cover all times that the competition is in progress. Volunteers must never be scheduled during times when they are competing. The schedule should include the location of the AED as well as who is responsible for bringing it to the site of the emergency if it is needed.

5.3.13.19 **Reports**

- 5.3.13.19.1 The Chair of Adjudicators must provide a report on the competition (template provided by USA Dance) to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division within 15 days of the end of the competition.
- 5.3.13.19.2 The Organizer must provide a report on the competition (template provided by USA Dance) to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division within 15 days of the end of the competition.
- 5.3.13.19.3 The Organizer must ensure that the competition results are sent to the proficiency System within 5 days after the competition.
- 5.3.13.19.4 The DanceSport Rules Official must provide a report on the competition (template provided by USA Dance) to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division within 15 days of the end of the competition.

5.3.14 **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- 5.3.14.1 All National Championships must be sanctioned by the USA Dance Board of Directors.

5.3.14.2 **Organizer**

- 5.3.14.2.1 The USA Dance Board of Directors shall appoint a committee to organize the National Championships each year.
- 5.3.14.3 Any person who organizes and/or owns a Challenge, Regional, or Nationals competition cannot dance in a Challenge, Regional, or National competition that they organize or own.

5.3.14.4 **Membership Requirements**

- 5.3.14.4.1 All members of the organizing committee must be members of USA Dance in good standing.
- 5.3.14.4.2 All competitors must be Athlete members in good standing of USA Dance and must have qualified to participate in the National Championships as described in Section 4.3.6 of the Rulebook.
- 5.3.14.4.3 All adjudicators, Chairs of Adjudicators, Scrutineers, and Invigilators must be USA Dance Professional DanceSport Official members, WDSF members, WDSF National Member Body members, or members from a WDO national organization from outside the United States

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in good standing.

5.3.14.4.4 All other officials (Music Director/DJ, Emcee/MC, Leading Deck Captain, Registrar, and DanceSport Rules Official) must be members in good standing of USA Dance.

5.3.14.5 **Location**

5.3.14.5.1 The venue should be within 40 miles of a major airport.

5.3.14.6 **Competition Dates**

5.3.14.6.1 The National Championships should, but may not always be, held in the spring of each calendar year.

5.3.14.7 **Venue**

5.3.14.7.1 The National Championships must be held in one of the following suitable venues: hotel ballroom, sports complex, or convention center with the host hotel within ¼ mile of the venue.

5.3.14.7.2 **Food Availability**

5.3.14.7.2.1 The venue must have an onsite restaurant, or one must be located nearby.

5.3.14.7.2.2 Other food sources should be within walking distance (1/2 mile), including quick food availability.

5.3.14.7.2.3 If the venue and immediately available food services cannot provide meals in a timely fashion for the expected number of attendees, arrangements should be made with the venue to provide supplementary food availability.

5.3.14.7.3 The venue must accommodate the following:

5.3.14.7.3.1 The ballroom must be at least 9000 SF.

5.3.14.7.3.2 A registration/package pickup/ticket sales area is available outside of the ballroom with adequate room around it to accommodate a reasonable number of competitors and spectators.

5.3.14.7.3.3 An area outside of the ballroom is required large enough to accommodate all merchandise vendors.

5.3.14.7.3.4 The ballroom must have adequate space in addition to the dance floor to accommodate officials and spectators.

5.3.14.7.3.5 Separate areas for judges must be provided inside the ballroom and outside the ballroom.

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5.3.14.8 **Competition Floor**

- 5.3.14.8.1 The competition floor must be a smooth unobstructed rectangle of at least 70 x 40 feet (2800 SF) and meet all the requirements in Section 5.3.9.8 above.
- 5.3.14.8.2 A practice floor is required. The practice floor must be at least 30% of the size of the competition floor and of the same quality. If the competition floor is a permanent, non-portable floor the practice floor may be a portable dance floor.

5.3.14.9 **Changing Rooms**

- 5.3.14.9.1 Separate changing rooms are required for male Athletes, female Athletes, boys, girls, and non-binary Athletes. Alternatively, a family dressing room may be provided for the boys and girls.
- 5.3.14.9.2 Changing rooms should all have mirrors, clothing racks, and other appropriate amenities.

5.3.14.10 **Competition Officials**

- 5.3.14.10.1 The competition must meet the requirements of a National Championship as to the number and required qualifications of adjudicators and invigilators per Table 20 of the Rulebook.
- 5.3.14.10.2 All members of the adjudicator panel must hold WDSF certification, WDO certification, or USA Dance National certification at the A+B+C+D+ level.
- 5.3.14.10.3 No more than 60% of the adjudicator panel can be from the same gender identity.
- 5.3.14.10.4 Not more than 50% of the adjudicator panel can be from any one geographical region as defined in **Figure 1** under Regional Championships.
- 5.3.14.10.5 Adjudicators are to be selected from four or more geographical regions as defined in **Figure 1** under Regional Championships.
- 5.3.14.10.6 At least two adjudicators must be certified as WDSF adjudicators from a foreign country or as WDO adjudicators from a national organization outside the United States.
- 5.3.14.10.7 At least two USA Dance certified Invigilators are required. The Ballroom DanceSport Council can require more than two invigilators if appropriate based on the size and schedule for the competition.
- 5.3.14.10.8 All officials must be under contract.
- 5.3.14.10.9 Minimum fees to be paid at National Championships are:
 - 5.3.14.10.9.1 Adjudicators and Invigilators: \$300 per full day worked

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- 5.3.14.10.9.2 Chairs of Adjudicators: \$375 per full day worked
- 5.3.14.10.9.3 Officials may, at their own discretion, donate their time or accept less payment.
- 5.3.14.10.10 Officials' expenses to be paid at National Championships:
 - 5.3.14.10.10.1 Hotel, travel, and food expenses are to be paid or reimbursed.
 - 5.3.14.10.10.2 Airline ticket expenses must be submitted in advance for approval prior to full reimbursement.
- 5.3.14.11 **Events and Titles**
 - 5.3.14.11.1 National Championships may not hold any WDSF events.
 - 5.3.14.11.2 Each syllabus and open event must be paired as shown in Table 19. Additional dances may be offered as separate events.
 - 5.3.14.11.3 At the discretion of the Board of Directors, the National Championships may hold competition events which are not covered in the Rulebook. Appropriate events in this category include fun social dances and Jack and Jill events.
 - 5.3.14.11.4 The National Championships is authorized to award National Champion titles in all dance styles, proficiency levels, and age categories including Amateur, Solo Competitor, Showdance, Amateur Mixed Proficiency, Formation Team, Professional, and Pro/Am events.
- 5.3.14.12 **Awards**
 - 5.3.14.12.1 Medals must be presented to first through third places and ribbons for fourth through finalist for any Open events.
 - 5.3.14.12.2 Ribbons must be presented to all finalists in syllabus and other events.
 - 5.3.14.12.3 Scholarships should be presented at the National Championships. Allocation of scholarships is determined by the Nationals Organizing Committee.
 - 5.3.14.12.4 It is recommended that scholarships be presented to various skill levels.
 - 5.3.14.12.5 Professional and Pro/Am events shall provide the minimum monetary awards as required by the Rulebook.
- 5.3.14.13 **Medical Supervision of Athletes**
 - 5.3.14.13.1 Proper medical supervision of the athletes must be provided. This includes:
 - 5.3.14.13.1.1 An AED is located such that it can be provided to the ballroom within 60 seconds.

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- 5.3.14.13.1.2 A medical company must be hired to provide onsite EMTs or Certified Athletic Trainers who will always be within the ballroom when the competition is in progress.

5.3.14.14 **Reports**

- 5.3.14.14.1 The Organizer must provide a report on the competition (template provided by USA Dance) to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division within 15 days of the end of the competition.
- 5.3.14.14.2 The Organizer must ensure that the competition results are provided to the Proficiency System within 5 days after the competition.
- 5.3.14.14.3 The Chair of Adjudicators must provide a report on the competition (template provided by USA Dance) to the Vice President of DanceSport - Ballroom Division within 15 days of the end of the competition.
- 5.3.14.14.4 The DanceSport Rules Official must provide a report on the competition (template provided by USA Dance) to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division within 15 days of the end of the competition.

5.3.15 **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS**

- 5.3.15.1 The USA Dance Board of Directors has sanctioning and organizational jurisdiction over the National Ballroom DanceSport Championships and other International competitions held in the United States.
 - 5.3.15.1.1 All National and International competitions are required to use USA Dance approved software for registration, scrutineering, and reporting of results.
 - 5.3.15.1.2 All provisions of the USA Dance DanceSport Ballroom Division Rulebook or WDSF Rulebook must be observed.
 - 5.3.15.1.3 Organizers who have not satisfied all outstanding debts incurred at any USA Dance sanctioned competition for which they were an organizer or responsible party will not be eligible for National and International sanctions.

5.3.16 **PRO/AM EVENT SANCTIONS**

- 5.3.16.1 The Organizer or Organizers of a USA Dance Challenge Competition or a Regional Championship Competition may apply for a sanction to hold Pro/Am events.
- 5.3.16.2 Organizers wanting to hold any Pro/Am events must submit a request in writing on the Sanctioning Request Form provided by the Ballroom DanceSport Council and indicate if they want to offer USA Dance Pro/Am Regional Title Events.
- 5.3.16.3 After reviewing the completed sanction request, the Ballroom DanceSport Council may request additional information from the Organizer including but not limited to:

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- 5.3.16.3.1 A resume that indicates the person's experience and background in the field of dance, including, but not limited to, involvement with any past, present, or future dance competitions whether sanctioned by USA Dance
- 5.3.16.3.2 A current financial statement
- 5.3.16.3.3 Organizers who have not satisfied all outstanding debts incurred at any USA Dance sanctioned event for which they were an organizer or responsible party will not be eligible for Pro/Am sanction.
- 5.3.16.4 A decision of the Ballroom DanceSport Council to deny sanction may be appealed by the Organizer(s) of the competition to the Executive Committee. Such an appeal shall be made by written notice from the Organizer(s) to the National Secretary, which notice must set forth all the reasons why the Organizer(s) feels that sanction should be granted. The Executive Committee shall review both the application and the notice of appeal and shall determine whether to grant sanction. The Organizer(s) may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors whose determination shall in all events be final.
- 5.3.16.5 Organizers of Challenge Competitions and Regional Championship Competitions shall offer competitive prize money for both Professionals and Pro/Am Amateur Athletes in Pro/Am events as determined by the organizer.
- 5.3.16.5.1 Minimum cumulative prize money, inclusive of Pot of Gold or other incentives, for both Professionals and Pro/Am Amateur Athletes offered for Pro/Am events at the following USA Dance sanctioned competition levels shall be:
- USA Dance National Pro/Am Title Events \$5000 total
- 5.3.16.6 Full details of all restrictions pertaining to Pro/Am prizes and/or scholarships must be listed on the website. Any potential reduction or non-payment in advertised awards due to participation levels not being met must be clearly stipulated in the primary advertising.
- 5.3.17 **PROFESSIONAL EVENT SANCTIONS**
- 5.3.17.1 The Organizer or Organizers of a USA Dance Challenge Competition or a Regional Championship Competition may apply for a sanction to hold Professional events.
- 5.3.17.2 Organizers wanting to hold any Professional events must submit a request in writing on the Sanctioning Request Form provided by the Ballroom DanceSport Council and indicate if they want to offer USA Dance Professional Regional Title Events.
- 5.3.17.3 After reviewing the completed sanction request, the Ballroom DanceSport Council may request additional information from the Organizer including but not limited to:
- 5.3.17.3.1 A resume that indicates the person's experience and background in the field of dance,

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including, but not limited to, involvement with any past, present, or future dance competitions whether sanctioned by USA Dance

- 5.3.17.3.2 A current financial statement
- 5.3.17.3.3 Organizers who have not satisfied all outstanding debts incurred at any USA Dance sanctioned competition for which they were an organizer or responsible party will not be eligible for Professional sanction.
- 5.3.17.4 A decision of the Ballroom DanceSport Council to deny sanction may be appealed by the Organizer(s) of the competition to the Executive Committee. Such an appeal shall be made by written notice from the Organizer(s) to the National Secretary, which notice must set forth all the reasons why the Organizer(s) feels that sanction should be granted. The Executive Committee shall review both the application and the notice of appeal and shall determine whether to grant sanction. The Organizer(s) may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors whose determination shall in all events be final.
- 5.3.17.5 Organizers of Challenge Competitions and Regional Championships events shall offer competitive prize money for Professional Competitors in Professional events.
- 5.3.17.5.1 If a competition is holding Professional events, minimum prize money for Professional Competitors offered for each Professional event at USA Dance Challenge Competitions and Regional Championship Competitions shall be:
- First Place \$250
 - Second Place \$200
 - Third Place \$150
 - Fourth Place \$100
 - Fifth Place \$100
 - Sixth Place \$100
- 5.3.17.5.2 Minimum prize money for Professional Competitors offered for each Professional event at USA Dance National Championships shall be:
- First Place \$1000
 - Second Place \$800
 - Third Place \$600
 - Fourth Place \$400

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- Fifth Place \$300
- Sixth Place \$200

5.3.17.5.3 A competition organizer may reduce the minimum prize money for Professional Competitors by up to 50% if there are fewer than 6 registered couples per professional event.

5.3.17.6 Full details of all restrictions pertaining to Professional prizes and/or scholarships must be listed on the website. Any potential reduction or non-payment in advertised awards due to participation levels not being met must be clearly stipulated in the primary advertising.

5.4 SANCTIONING FEES & CONDITIONS

5.4.1 Organizers requesting a USA Dance sanction for a competition will pay a sanctioning fee, as periodically established by the Ballroom DanceSport Council and ratified by the Board of Directors, with the request for the sanction.

Schedule of Sanctioning Fees		
Event Type	Pre-Event Sanctioning Fee	Post-Event Sanctioning Fee
Listing of a Chapter/Collegiate Club Competition	\$50	N/A
State Competition	\$50	N/A
Provisional Challenge Competition	\$50	\$0.50 per competitor
Collegiate Challenge Competition	\$200	\$0
Challenge Competition	\$50	\$1.00 per competitor
Regional Championship	\$250	\$2.50 per competitor

Table 16. Schedule of Sanctioning Fees

5.4.1.1 In addition to the above fees, the organizer of a sanctioned international competition must reimburse USA Dance for all sanctioning fees required to be paid to WDSF, and/or USOPC for its (or their) sanctions plus any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by USA Dance relating to obtaining the international sanction.

5.4.2 Organizers of sanctioned competitions must also provide:

5.4.2.1 Free admission, but not free admission as an Athlete, to USA Dance Board of Directors members and to the local chapter president.

5.4.2.2 Place to prominently display a USA Dance Banner.

5.4.2.3 A free full-page ad in the program (if any) and video wall for USA Dance National DanceSport

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Championships.

- 5.4.2.4 Free full-page ads in the program (if any) and video wall for all USA Dance Regional Championships.
- 5.4.2.5 Free video wall ads for all other USA Dance sanctioned competitions.
- 5.4.2.6 A list of all sanctioned Competitions in the program (if any) and on the competition website.
- 5.4.2.7 A web link to the USA Dance website on the competition website.
- 5.4.2.8 A booth or vendor space to distribute USA Dance literature.

5.5 BLANKET SANCTIONS

- 5.5.1 Recognizing that the USOPC constitution declares that each sport's National Governing Body is responsible for sanctioning competitions and that other bodies in addition to USA Dance organize competitions in the USA, the USA Dance Board of Directors, to encourage and support such competitions, may grant blanket sanctions for any number of Non-Championship Competitions held by other qualified bodies.
- 5.5.2 Blanket Sanctions grant approvals to hold any number of Non-Championship Competitions, provided that:
 - 5.5.2.1 The USA Dance DanceSport Ballroom Division Rules are observed for all portions of such competitions which involve DanceSport Athletes.
 - 5.5.2.2 Other conditions, which may be specified by the USA Dance Board of Directors, are met.
 - 5.5.2.3 The USA Dance Board of Directors will grant Blanket Sanctions only to Qualified Competition Organizers or Qualified Organizations.

5.6 MINIMUM EVENT REQUIREMENTS FOR REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The dances listed in Table 19A will be applicable until the conclusion of the 2026 USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships. After the conclusion of the 2026 National Championships, the dances in Table 19B will be applicable.

Standard	Old Nomenclature Standard	Required Multi Dance Events
Championship, B-class, A-class, and S-class	Championship / Open	Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot, Quickstep
C-class	Pre-Championship & Gold, Open	Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Quickstep
D-class	Novice & Silver	Waltz, Foxtrot, Quickstep

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N-class, E-class	Pre-Bronze, Bronze	Waltz, Quickstep
Latin	Latin	Required Multi Dance Events
Championship, B-class, A-class, and S-class	Championship Open	Samba, Cha Cha, Rumba, Paso Doble, Jive
C-class	Pre-Championship & Gold, Open	Samba, Cha Cha, Rumba, Jive
D-class	Novice & Silver	Samba, Cha Cha, Rumba
N-class, E-class	Pre-Bronze, Bronze	Cha Cha, Rumba
Smooth	Smooth	Required Multi Dance Events
Championship, B-class, A-class, and S-class	Championship Open	Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Viennese Waltz
C-class	Pre-Championship & Gold, Open	Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Viennese Waltz
D-class	Novice & Silver	Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot
N-class, E-class	Pre-Bronze, Bronze	Waltz, Foxtrot
Rhythm	Rhythm	Required Multi Dance Events
Championship, B-class, A-class, and S-class	Championship Open	Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing, Bolero, Mambo
C-class	Pre-Championship & Gold, Open	Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing, Bolero
D-class	Novice & Silver	Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing
N-class, E-class	Pre-Bronze, Bronze	Cha Cha, Rumba

Table 17. Event Requirements for Regional and National Championships

Standard	Required Multi-Dance Events and Syllabus Restrictions	
Championship, B-class, A-class, & S-class	Open	Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot, & Quickstep
C-class	Gold, Open	Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot, & Quickstep
D-class	Silver, Gold	Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, & Quickstep
E-class	Bronze, Silver	Waltz, Viennese Waltz, Quickstep
N-class	Pre-Bronze, Bronze	Waltz, Quickstep
Latin	Required Multi-Dance Events and Syllabus Restrictions	
Championship, B-class, A-class, & S-class	Open	Samba, Cha Cha, Rumba, Paso Doble, Jive
C-class	Gold, Open	Samba, Cha Cha, Rumba, Paso Doble, Jive
D-class	Silver, Gold	Samba, Cha Cha, Rumba, Jive
E-class	Bronze, Silver	Samba, Cha Cha, Jive

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N-class	Pre-Bronze, Bronze	Cha Cha, Rumba
Smooth	Required Multi-Dance Events and Syllabus Restrictions	
Championship, B-class, A-class, & S-class	Open	Am. Waltz, Am. Tango, Am. Foxtrot, Am. Viennese Waltz
C-class	Gold, Open	Am. Waltz, Am. Tango, Am. Foxtrot, Am. Viennese Waltz
D-class	Silver, Gold	Am. Waltz, Am. Tango, Am. Foxtrot
E-class	Bronze, Silver	Am. Waltz, Am. Foxtrot
N-class	Pre-Bronze, Bronze	Am. Waltz, Am. Foxtrot
Rhythm	Required Multi-Dance Events and Syllabus Restrictions	
Championship, B-class, A-class, & S-class	Open	Am. Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing, Bolero, Mambo
C-class	Gold, Open	Am. Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing, Bolero, Mambo
D-class	Silver, Gold	Am. Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing, Mambo
E-class	Bronze, Silver	Am. Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing
N-class	Pre-Bronze, Bronze	Am. Cha Cha, Rumba

Table 18. Event Requirements for Regional and National Championships

5.7 COMPETITION ORGANIZER RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.7.1 The Organizer of a competition sanctioned by USA Dance must:
- 5.7.1.1 Abide by the rules contained in this rulebook for all portions of the competition involving categories or events.
 - 5.7.1.2 Be responsible for ensuring that the Technical Rules of Competition provided in the rulebook are followed for all portions of the competition involving Athlete categories or events.
 - 5.7.1.3 Ensure that the competition is conducted by qualified USA Dance certified officials.
 - 5.7.1.4 Take appropriate measures to protect the eligibility of Athletes to compete in athletic competitions.
 - 5.7.1.5 Provide proper medical supervision for the Athletes.
 - 5.7.1.6 Protect the personal welfare of the participants and spectators by taking proper safety precautions.
 - 5.7.1.7 Abide by USA Dance's competition insurance requirements.
 - 5.7.1.8 Provide adequate financial and organizational capacity to conduct the competition.

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- 5.7.1.9 Ensure that due regard has been given to any rules or requirements set forth by the WDSF which are applicable to the competition.
- 5.7.1.10 Prominently display the USA Dance Logo in all promotional materials, programs, registration materials, advertising, medals, trophies, and in the facilities during the competition.
- 5.7.2 Any person who organizes and/or owns a Challenge, Regional, or Nationals competition cannot dance in a Challenge, Regional, or National competition that they organize or own.
- 5.7.3 **SCHOLARSHIPS**
- 5.7.3.1 Any scholarship awarded must have a measurable financial value and must be independent of any future action by the recipients. A cash amount; a free air fare; a free lesson, not involving travel or other expenditures by the recipient(s) to redeem; and a free costume are examples that satisfy these criteria. Discounts on future purchases; “buy-one get-one” offers; and any other inducement for the recipient to first perform a financial transaction prior to receiving the scholarship value do not meet these criteria.
- 5.7.3.2 Partial scholarships for Dance Camps and other workshops may be provided so long as the financial value of the discount is a minimum of \$100 or 15% of the total registration cost (whichever is greater).
- 5.7.4 **PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS**
- 5.7.4.1 An organizer holding a sanctioned competition must include the following on all entry forms, materials, advertising, and programs:
- "No responsibility for loss or theft of articles left in changing rooms, ballrooms, hotel rooms, or other competition facilities can be accepted by USA Dance. Nor can USA Dance be held liable for injury sustained by persons attending the competition; it being hereby stated that persons attending the competition do so at their own risk. All persons attending this competition, whether as spectators, Athletes, officials, or guests of the organizer, will be bound by the rules of USA Dance. All Athletes and competition officials may be subject to drug testing by the WDSF or USA Dance."*
- 5.7.4.2 An organizer of a sanctioned competition will publish (as part of advance materials and as part of the competition program) a complete list of competitive categories, the dances for each competitive category, dress code requirements, and any special rules or departures from USA Dance’s prescribed Rules pertaining to the categories or events.
- 5.7.4.2.1 Said special rules or departures from the Rulebook will require the advance written approval of the Ballroom DanceSport Council.
- 5.7.4.3 An organizer of a sanctioned competition will publish the list of all officials on the competition website no less than thirty (30) days in advance of the competition.

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- 5.7.4.4 Copies of all promotional information relating to the competition will be sent to the Ballroom DanceSport Council as soon as they become available. If there are any required changes in the promotional materials to conform to the Rulebook or sanction, the organizer agrees to publish said changes in a timely manner at their own expense.
- 5.7.4.5 The organizer will state in promotional literature whether Athletes will be eligible to earn Proficiency Points at the competition.
- 5.7.4.6 Organizers are required to have the following statements in BOLD typeface on all syllabus entry forms:

***ALL CLOSED SYLLABUS EVENTS WILL BE INVIGILATED USING THE CURRENT
USA DANCE SYLLABUS LIST OF ELEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS. PENALTIES
MAY BE GIVEN WITHOUT WARNING FOR ANY SYLLABUS INFRACTIONS.***

- 5.7.4.7 Where an organizer offers prize money and/or scholarships at their competition, full details of all restrictions pertaining to those prizes and/or scholarships must be spelled out in the primary information packets. Any potential reduction or non-payment in advertised awards due to participation levels not being met must also be clearly stipulated in the primary advertising.

5.8 COMPETITION OFFICIALS

- 5.8.1 A complete list of approved USA Dance Adjudicators and their respective credentials and certification is maintained by the Ballroom DanceSport Council in conjunction with the USA Dance Membership Director.
- 5.8.2 Competitions must furnish to the Ballroom DanceSport Council the list of competition officials for review and approval as follows: State and Collegiate Challenge Competitions at least 30 days prior to the competition; Provisional Challenge and Challenge Competitions at least 45 days prior to the competition; Regional Championships at least 60 days prior to the competition.
- 5.8.3 National Collegiate Ballroom DanceSport Championships and National Ballroom DanceSport Championships organized by an outside entity must furnish to the Ballroom DanceSport Council for approval the list of competition officials at least one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the competition.
- 5.8.4 No Individual, Official, Competition Organizer, or Organization will:
 - 5.8.4.1 Discriminate against any USA Dance Athlete on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender identity, or national origin (except that closed competitions with specified age limits, membership, or residency requirements are permitted, as are invitational events).
 - 5.8.4.2 Deny or threaten to deny any eligible USA Dance Athlete with a valid USA Dance membership the opportunity to participate in competitive events for which the Athlete is

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eligible and has adhered to all requirements of the Athletes' Responsibilities in section 4.0 of the Rules for Competitors.

- 5.8.5 The adjudicating panel for each category, level, and style will consist of an odd number of qualified adjudicators.
- 5.8.6 The **minimum** number of adjudicators and their **minimum** required qualifications are based on the type of competition. This minimum number is the number of adjudicators to be on the panel for these events during a competition.

Competition Classification	Syllabus Events	Open C and B-class Events	Championship, A and S-class Events & Formation Team
Chapter/Collegiate Club Competition	NA	NA	NA
State Competition	NA	NA	NA
Provisional Challenge Competition	3 Adjudicators*	5 Adjudicators*	5 Adjudicators*
Collegiate Challenge Competitions	3 Associate Certified (in the style being judged)	5 Associate Certified (in the style being judged)	5 Associate Certified (in the style being judged)
Challenge Competitions	3 Associate Certified (In the style being judged) 1 Invigilator	5 Championship Certified (In the style being judged)	5 Championship Certified (In the style being judged)
Regional Championships	5 Championship Certified (In the style being judged) 2 Invigilators	5 Championship Certified (In the style being judged)	7 Championship Certified (In the style being judged)
National Championships, International Events	5 Championship Certified (In the style being judged) 2 Invigilators	7 Championship Certified (In the style being judged)	9 Championship Certified (In the style being judged)

Table 19. Sanctioned Competition Adjudicator Requirements

*See 5.3.11.14 for Adjudicator Requirements for Provisional Challenge Competitions

- 5.8.7 In sanctioned Pro/Am events, three (3) USA Dance certified adjudicators (in the style being judged) and one (1) invigilator is a minimum requirement except for multi-dance events where five (5) USA Dance certified adjudicators (in the style being judged) and one (1) invigilator is a minimum requirement.
- 5.8.8 Each sanctioned competition must also have the following officials with the specific credentials listed and names forwarded to the Ballroom DanceSport Council: Chair of Adjudicators, Scrutineer, Invigilator(s), Music Director, Lead Deck Captain, Registrar, and Emcee.
- 5.8.8.1 The Chair of Adjudicators recognized and/or certified as such by USA Dance, the WDSF or any of their national member bodies, or the WDO or any of their national organizations from outside the United States must also be a certified Scrutineer and computer competent and experienced. Apart from shadow judging to uphold the highest sporting standards, the Chair

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of Adjudicators must not participate on any Adjudicating panel, for any event, while serving as the Chair of Adjudicators except as noted in 6.2.7.2.

- 5.8.8.2 The Scrutineer must be recognized and certified as such by USA Dance, the WDSF or any of their national member federations, or the WDO or any of their national organizations from outside the United States in addition to being computer competent and experienced.
- 5.8.8.3 The Invigilator must be recognized and certified as such by USA Dance to invigilate all closed syllabus competitions.

5.9 COMPETITORS

- 5.9.1 Organizers of sanctioned competitions will require Athletes to provide their:
 - 5.9.1.1 Name.
 - 5.9.1.2 Year of birth
 - 5.9.1.3 USA Dance membership number (or their registration number and the name of their national member organization of the WDSF or WDO national organization from outside the United States) and a digital or hard copy of their membership card (not required for non-members at Collegiate Challenge competitions).
 - 5.9.1.4 Photo ID.
 - 5.9.1.5 Categories entered: style, age, proficiency, and syllabus levels.
 - 5.9.1.6 For each style they wish to enter, the proficiency level of the couple under USA Dance DanceSport rules in that style.
 - 5.9.1.7 For the remainder of the 2025-2026 competitive season, non-USA Dance members may participate in Chapter/Collegiate Club Competitions, Provisional Challenge Competitions, Challenge Competitions, and Regional Championships but not the USA Dance National Championships.
- 5.9.2 The organizer and registrar will make every effort to ensure that no Athlete dances below their proficiency level. Organizers and Registrars who knowingly allow such violations may lose future competition sanctions. The Ballroom DanceSport Council reserves the right to amend the results of any category where Athletes are later found to have danced below their proficiency level. This may be appealed to the USA Dance Executive Committee.
- 5.9.3 Organizers must obtain the prior written approval of a parent or legal guardian for any Athlete participating under 18 years of age.
- 5.9.4 Organizers must publish in advertising material that all Athletes must comply with the Dress Regulations (Appendix A).

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- 5.9.5 Questions concerning competition results must be directed to the competition organizer within 60 days after the completion of the competition.
- 5.9.6 A printed copy of the USA Dance Ballroom DanceSport Rulebook will be available for public inspection at the competition.
- 5.9.7 The organizer will post a timetable of scheduled events prior to the commencement of the competition. The timetable will be adhered to with delays kept to a minimum. Competitors must be notified, by public announcements, of delays of more than thirty (30) minutes.
- 5.9.8 Any change to a previously published schedule of heats must not exceed 30 minutes earlier or later unless all registered Athletes are notified in advance.
- 5.9.9 If the organizer wishes to run a heat earlier than 30 minutes prior to the posted time, they will do so only with not less than fifteen (15) minutes advance notice to each and every Athlete in the heat and receive their agreement to the change plus a public announcement of the change. Public announcement only of the change will NOT be considered adequate notice to the Athletes.
- 5.9.10 The organizer of a Challenge Competition or Regional Championship sanctioned competition must provide a minimum of adequate and separate changing facilities for male, female, and non-binary Athletes.
- 5.9.10.1 The organizer of a USA Dance National Championships sanctioned competition must provide a minimum of adequate and separate changing facilities for male, female, boy, girl, and non-binary Athletes or a family facility for the boys and girls.
- 5.9.11 The organizer is required to adhere to the categories, dances, etc. specified in the promotional materials unless registered competitors affected by the change are notified in advance.
- 5.9.12 An organizer may have social dance events, Jack & Jill competitions, or informal Team Matches without the requirement of USA Dance "Athlete" membership. This condition along with any category restrictions will be included in the promotional materials.
- 5.9.13 Organizers may not promote, feature, or in any way bring attention to an individual Athlete or couple that is competing in their competition. This includes an emcee or other official highlighting accomplishments or titles of individuals or couples when they are competing. Competing Athletes may not be featured in an article in the competition program. Prior to competing, athletes may not do exhibitions or featured dance/performances. Organizers may use a listing and/or photos of their prior competitors to promote their competition.
- 5.9.14 Professional events may only be held as Championship events.
- 5.9.15 **WARM-UP REQUIREMENTS**
 - 5.9.15.1 The organizer of Provisional Challenge, Collegiate Challenge, or Challenge Competitions will

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comply with at least one of the following Open Level warm-up requirements:

- 5.9.15.1.1 For all Open proficiency level events, competitors will be given non-adjudicated, restricted to entrants only, warm-up time on the actual competition floor of not less than one minute of correct tempo music for the first dance in each round to be adjudicated. The warm-up period will be granted immediately prior to the commencement of each elimination round of the Championship event.
- 5.9.15.1.2 The requirement for the warm-up period on the competition dance floor may be waived by the Chair of Adjudicators if the organizer has provided a separate practice dance floor which is not less than 30% of the square footage in size of the actual competition floor and of the same type of floor surface as the actual competition floor. If the competition dance floor is a permanent, non-portable floor, the practice floor may be a portable dance floor.
- 5.9.15.2 The organizer of Regional Championship Competitions shall provide a separate practice dance floor, which is not less than 30% of the square footage in size of the actual competition floor and of the same type of floor surface as the actual competition floor. If the competition dance floor is a permanent, non-portable floor, the practice floor can be a portable dance floor.

5.9.16 ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

- 5.9.16.1 At all sanctioned competitions, only the Chair of Adjudicators and the Scrutineer(s) will have access to the judging marks until after the category is completed and the results have been announced. Thereafter, the Master Scrutineer Sheets or copies thereof will be made available for public inspection.
- 5.9.16.2 The announcement of placement and awarding of prizes will be done as soon after the end of the final round as possible, but no later than 90 minutes afterward.
- 5.9.16.3 All Master Scrutineer documents of sanctioned competitions will be maintained by the organizer and the scrutineer for a period of ninety (90) days from the end of the competition.

5.10 SUSPENSION AND PROBATION OF SANCTIONING AUTHORITY

- 5.10.1 The Board of Directors or the Ballroom DanceSport Council may suspend the authority of an organizer to conduct DanceSport competitions or place the organizer on probation if the organizer is found to be in violation of published rules, policies, and/or procedures.
- 5.10.2 The procedure to act against an organizer follows the Due Process procedure outlined in Section 7.
- 5.10.3 The Board of Directors or the Ballroom DanceSport Council will notify the organizer of the precise violations and the terms of the probation or suspension by mail or email.

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- 5.10.4 If the organizer's sanctioning authority is suspended, the organizer is not permitted to organize DanceSport competitions until the suspension is officially lifted. If they are the owner of the competition, they may hire another person or organization to manage the competition for them.
- 5.10.5 If the organizer's sanctioning authority is placed on probation, the organizer may provisionally continue to organize DanceSport competitions, subject to the terms of the probation.
- 5.10.6 Decisions of the Ballroom DanceSport Council can be appealed to the USA Dance Executive Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

6 RULES FOR COMPETITION OFFICIALS

6.1 ALL OFFICIALS

- 6.1.1 An active Athlete may serve as a Scrutineer, Music Director, Lead Deck Captain, DanceSport Rules Official, or Emcee only at a competition where they are not competing.
- 6.1.2 An active Amateur Athlete may only adjudicate Chapter/Collegiate Club Competitions or Collegiate Challenge events regardless of the sanctioning body of the competition. The Athlete must be at least B-class proficiency level to adjudicate these events.
- 6.1.3 All officials (Chairs of Adjudicators, Adjudicators, Invigilators, Scrutineers, Music Directors, Emcees, Registrars, Lead Deck Captains, DanceSport Rules Officials) shall be required to comply with the SafeSport and CleanSport Policies of USA Dance.
- 6.1.4 Prohibited Activities: No Competition Officials will:
 - 6.1.4.1 Discriminate against any Athlete with a valid USA Dance "Athlete" registration on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender identity, or national origin (except that closed competitions with specified age limits, membership, or residency requirements are permitted, as are invitational events).
 - 6.1.4.2 Deny or threaten to deny any eligible Athlete with a valid USA Dance "Athlete" registration the opportunity to participate in competitive events for which they are eligible if they have adhered to all requirements of the Athletes' Responsibilities section of the Rules for Competitors.
 - 6.1.4.3 Give coaching to any competitor during the entire period commencing at 12:00 AM on the day of the first competitive session and concluding with the end of the last session.
 - 6.1.4.4 Create any appearance of impropriety by engaging in conversations with competitors or their coaches in a private location from the beginning of the competition until after the completion of the competition.
 - 6.1.4.5 Discuss the performance of a competitor with any individual except the Chair of Adjudicators

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from the beginning of the competition until after the completion of the competition.

6.1.5 Electronic Communication Devices Policy

6.1.5.1 Use of a cell phone or other electronic communication devices (ECD) is not allowed by adjudicators while they are on duty judging.

6.1.5.2 Scrutineers are not to use personal phones as a judging device. Regarding any questions arising from this policy, the Chair of Adjudicator's decision shall be final.

6.1.5.3 Use of ECDs in the ballroom by adjudicators is only allowed in the area designated for the judges by the Chair of Adjudicators and only when the judges are not on duty judging.

6.1.5.4 Regarding any questions arising from this policy, the Chair of Adjudicator's decision shall be final.

6.2 CHAIR OF ADJUDICATORS

6.2.1 The Chair of Adjudicators will be responsible for determining the maximum number of Athletes per heat or round which can be accommodated on the floor and by the adjudicating panel without impairing the quality of the dancing or the safety of the Athletes as well as the number of rounds after consultation with the DanceSport Rules Official.

6.2.2 The maximum number of couples permitted on the floor at the same time in Open events will not exceed fourteen (14).

6.2.3 The Chair of Adjudicators will ensure that the round is split into heats as required when the number of Athletes competing at one time would cause the quality of the dancing or the safety of the Athletes to be impaired.

6.2.4 The Chair of Adjudicators will ensure that the music and tempi are in observance of the requirements set forth in the Technical Rules of Competition.

6.2.5 The Chair of Adjudicators is responsible for the proper implementation of the scoring system to include the following:

6.2.5.1 The Chair of Adjudicators will instruct the adjudicators on the points of evaluation and the scoring system.

6.2.5.2 The Chair of Adjudicators is responsible for the correct interpretation of the marks after each heat and for verification that they have been correctly transcribed. This rule does not apply when using a USA Dance approved scrutineering system.

6.2.5.3 The Chair of Adjudicators is responsible for referring any score card requiring correction to the adjudicator concerned.

6.2.5.4 The Chair of Adjudicators is responsible for warning couples of rule violations immediately

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following the end of the round in which the violation occurred.

- 6.2.5.5 The Chair of Adjudicators is responsible for notifying the couples of their penalty or disqualification due to a rule infraction.
- 6.2.5.6 The Chair of Adjudicators is responsible for verifying all Final Summary Marking Sheets.
- 6.2.6 The Chair of Adjudicators is responsible for excusing any Adjudicator from officiating when the Chair feels that the Adjudicator's sound judgment may be impaired.
- 6.2.7 The Chair of Adjudicators must not participate on any Adjudicating panel, for any event, while serving as the Chair of Adjudicators except as noted in 6.2.7.2.
 - 6.2.7.1 This restriction shall not apply to shadow judging to uphold the ideals of high ethical standards and fair play of our adjudicating system. These marks shall be for informational purposes only and not factored into the results of the event.
 - 6.2.7.2 In situations when a judge or judges fails to serve on the panel due to illness or other emergencies with no or short notice to the Chairperson, the Chairperson may do the following to ensure that the competition continues smoothly: (1) Allow an even number of judges except for Championship and Titled events, in which case the Chair should step in; (2) allow fewer than the minimum number of judges required for non-Championship events; (3) Delay the competition until a replacement is found; (4) Allow a USA Dance recognized adjudicator present at the competition to judge provided the organizer agrees to pay them the required payment per the rulebook.
- 6.2.8 The Chair of Adjudicators has the authority to disqualify any Athlete or Team deemed to have violated any of the Rules for Competitors during the competition.
- 6.2.9 In all matters relating to the conduct of the competition, questions on Adjudicators' marks, and changes in program scheduling, the Chair's decision will be final.
- 6.2.10 Where applicable, the Chair of Adjudicators will submit a report (provided by USA Dance) to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division within 15 days of the end of a competition. Details of said report shall not be shared with the competition organizer. The competition organizer may request a copy of the report from the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division.
- 6.2.11 Any complaints dealing with Adjudicator ethics or behavior will not be in the general report but must go in a separate report (provided by the Ballroom DanceSport Council). This report must go only to the Vice President for DanceSport Ballroom Division. This report is due 15 days after the competition.

6.3 ADJUDICATORS

- 6.3.1 An adjudicator must not judge in any event, and must retire from the panel, if they know or

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believe that their physical or mental condition does not allow them to perform the job properly without any limitations.

- 6.3.2 An adjudicator must not judge any event, and must retire from the panel, where any person competing in that event is a member of their immediate and extended family. "Immediate and extended family" includes anyone to whom that judge is related by blood or marriage, to the degree of first cousin or closer, or adoption order, or with whom the judge lives or cohabits.
- 6.3.3 An adjudicator must not accept money, awards, articles, or things of substantial material value, or favors or promises of any future consideration, whether as a gift or as payment for services, from any competitor or organizer, or from any other third party, who may be or may have been affected directly or indirectly by the adjudicator's decision.
- 6.3.4 An adjudicator must not make any false representation in respect to their accreditation level or experience and in relation to their adjudicator's license.
- 6.3.5 An adjudicator or Chair of Adjudicators must not coach, teach, or give any advice to any Athlete who is not their regular student (and has been a student during the prior three months) at any time during the 14-day period prior to the start of that competition if they have accepted an invitation to adjudicate at that competition.
- 6.3.6 An adjudicator must not threaten nor promise to mark a couple in a particular way.
- 6.3.7 An adjudicator must not in any way threaten or praise a couple during the course of a competition they are judging and in which the couple is competing.
- 6.3.8 An adjudicator must refrain from publicly taking any negative position in respect to any couple they may judge in any competition.
- 6.3.9 An adjudicator must not seek by any means to improperly influence or to intimidate another adjudicator.
- 6.3.10 From the start of the competition through the end of the competition, an adjudicator who is not a member of the judging panel for an event must not discuss with any adjudicator who is a member of the judging panel for that event the merits of the performance of a competitor in that event or any previous performances or results before the completion of the competition.
- 6.3.11 An adjudicator must not seek to influence the outcome of a competition other than by marking all couples in the competition on their merits.
- 6.3.12 An adjudicator must judge USA Dance events strictly according to USA Dance rules and policies. WDSF events must be judged according to WDSF rules and policies.
- 6.3.13 An adjudicator must not engage in any conduct that is intended to gain an advantage for any

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competitor from the start of a competition through the end of a competition.

- 6.3.14 An adjudicator must not falsely claim to officially represent USA Dance in any capacity.
- 6.3.15 Judges must not speak to anyone about the performance of an athlete during a competition.
- 6.3.16 Judges may not have any conversation with any competitors, coaches, spectators, officials, or any other person about the performance of a competitor during a competition.
- 6.3.17 It is a basic requirement that any adjudicator engaged to judge at a competition must:
 - 6.3.17.1 Arrive on time at the venue in reasonable physical and mental condition.
 - 6.3.17.2 Report their presence to the organizer and Chair of Adjudicators.
 - 6.3.17.3 Ascertain the timetable of the events.
 - 6.3.17.4 Be available to perform the duties of an adjudicator as scheduled.
- 6.3.18 During the course of a competition, the adjudicators on the judging panel must:
 - 6.3.18.1 Stand apart from one another and at such locations that they do not interfere with the competitors.
 - 6.3.18.2 Move about to enhance their perspective of the Athletes but must not stand or be seated together during the actual conduct of the round except for ShowDance and Formation Team events.
 - 6.3.18.3 Judge independently and not compare notes with the other adjudicators.
 - 6.3.18.4 If paper scoring is used, mark and sign their paper score card in ink, including their adjudicator code letter and initial each and every alteration they make to the score card.
 - 6.3.18.5 Not make any attempt to become familiar with the names, numbers, and nationalities of the participants by using the official competition program or with any intermediate results or marks of other adjudicators of the competition before the end of the competition.
 - 6.3.18.6 Follow any instruction given by the Chair of Adjudicators.
 - 6.3.18.7 Concentrate on judging only and not have any communication with the audience, fellow adjudicators, or couples and not do anything that might distract themselves, including the use of any electronic device, except for scoring the competition.
- 6.3.19 Adjudicators must mark Athletes solely on their performance in the dance event that is being adjudicated at the time. No consideration of titles, reputation, previous performances in other events, preceding rounds, rule infractions, or preceding dances are admissible.

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- 6.3.20 Adjudicators must mark a score for each heat of which they are an adjudicator.
- 6.3.21 Adjudicators must always comply with the USA Dance adjudicator dress code for all USA Dance sanctioned competitions. Dress Code is:
 - 6.3.21.1 Day Session: Black, Midnight-Blue, Burgandy, Forest Green, or Gray business suit or Jacket, skirt or trousers, dress shirt or blouse, necktie or scarf.
 - 6.3.21.2 Night Session: Formal wear or Black or midnight-blue business suit, skirt or trousers, dress shirt or blouse, necktie or scarf.
 - 6.3.21.3 Dress shoes, no sneakers, flip flops, etc.
 - 6.3.21.4 WDSF certified Adjudicators must comply with the WDSF dress code while judging a WDSF event.
 - 6.3.21.5 Competition Organizers may suggest a color or theme when contracting with an adjudicator. However, participation is at the discretion of the adjudicator and so long as they comply with this dress code they cannot be penalized.

6.4 SCRUTINEER

- 6.4.1 The Scrutineer must be certified by the Scrutineering Examining Committee recognized by the USA Dance Ballroom DanceSport Council, the WDSF, or the WDO.
- 6.4.2 The Scrutineer is responsible for tabulating the judges' markings and compiling the competition results. These will then be presented to the Chair of Adjudicators for verification.

6.5 INVIGILATOR

- 6.5.1 A qualified invigilator will be any person certified as an Invigilator by USA Dance.
- 6.5.2 The Invigilator will watch all rounds of all events which have a restricted syllabus and will report pattern violations of the syllabus as outlined in the USA Dance Syllabus Guidebook (Appendix B) to the Chair of Adjudicators but must not invigilate competitors based on poor execution of steps/patterns. Assessing the execution of steps and patterns is the responsibility of the judges when marking Athletes.
- 6.5.3 The Invigilator may serve as an Adjudicator for non-syllabus events but may not invigilate and adjudicate the same round.
- 6.5.4 The invigilator must use the Official USA Dance Syllabus Infraction Form for recording each violation.
- 6.5.5 Any competitor who is warned or penalized will be provided with a copy of this infraction form.

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6.5.6 The invigilator will submit a written or electronic report using the Official USA Dance Syllabus Infraction Report to the Chair of the Invigilation Subcommittee.

6.5.7 USA Dance Organizers are required to have the following statements in BOLD typeface on all syllabus entry forms and the competition website:

6.5.7.1 **ALL CLOSED SYLLABUS EVENTS WILL BE INVIGILATED USING THE CURRENT USA DANCE SYLLABUS LIST OF ELEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS.**

6.5.7.2 **PENALTIES MAY BE GIVEN WITHOUT WARNING FOR ANY SYLLABUS INFRACTIONS.**

6.6 DANCESPORT RULES OFFICIAL

6.6.1 The DanceSport Rules Official (DRO) shall be an individual who is approved by the Ballroom DanceSport Council and who has the responsibilities described in this section.

6.6.2 The DRO shall not be a competition organizer. An Athlete or close relative of an athlete may serve as a DRO at a competition where the athlete is not competing. An adjudicator may serve as a DRO at a competition where they are not adjudicating.

6.6.3 The DRO assigned to a particular competition by the Ballroom DanceSport Council shall not be the family, employee(s), employer(s), business partner(s), or contractor(s) of the competition organizer.

6.6.4 The DRO shall introduce themselves to the Organizer(s) and Chair of Adjudicators upon arriving at the competition. The DRO shall stress that their role is one of service to the Chair of Adjudicators and to USA Dance. The DRO's role is to help prevent infractions before they occur and to be available to administer to the needs of the Athletes.

6.6.5 The DRO shall be responsible for advising on matters primarily relating to DanceSport Ballroom Division Rules.

6.6.6 The DRO is an on-site representative of the Ballroom DanceSport Council. Inasmuch, the DRO retains the authority to resolve matters of eligibility of Athletes for a particular category, proficiency level, and age group.

6.6.6.1 This judgment shall be based solely on firsthand knowledge and the Athlete shall be given the benefit of the doubt.

6.6.6.2 Should the DanceSport Rules Official's ruling be based on incomplete or incorrect information, the Athlete shall still be liable for disciplinary action should it be later ruled that he or she was in fact knowingly ineligible.

6.6.7 The DRO, when presented with evidence of a potential infraction, shall initially present the evidence to the accused Athlete(s) and request their voluntary compliance should it be determined to be valid. If the Athlete(s) refuses to comply, the DRO shall inform the Chair of

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Adjudicators who shall institute any prescribed disciplinary actions deemed appropriate.

- 6.6.8 The DRO shall ensure that all Athletes who are participating in restricted costume events are notified of these restrictions and given every chance to correct any costume violations. The names of Athletes who decline to follow the rules will be provided to the Chair of Adjudicators for appropriate prescribed disciplinary actions.
- 6.6.9 The DRO shall have a copy of the current USA DANCE DANCESPORT BALLROOM DIVISION RULEBOOK and make it available for inspection by any Athlete or competition Official.
- 6.6.10 The Organizer and the Registrar are responsible for establishing the membership status of all participating Athletes. The DRO may assist in any disputes.
- 6.6.11 The DRO shall provide, upon request, instructions on the appeal process to an Athlete if the Athlete should disagree with a ruling by the DRO or the Chair of Adjudicators.
- 6.6.12 The DRO shall complete a competition report on a form provided by Ballroom DanceSport Council and submit it to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division within 15 days of the completion of the competition.
 - 6.6.12.1 All incidents and rulings shall be detailed therein and used for analysis.
 - 6.6.12.2 The organizer may request a copy of the report from the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division.
- 6.6.13 The organizer will cover the DRO's expenses and provide lodging and meals in line with other competition officials.

6.7 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 6.7.1 Officials and Coaches must abide by all Codes of Conduct defined by the WDSF, WDO, USOPC, and USA Dance (Appendix C).

6.8 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

- 6.8.1 Due process for rule violations and breaches of the Code of Conduct are covered in section 7.

7 DUE PROCESS FOR RULEBOOK VIOLATIONS AND BREACHES OF CODE OF CONDUCT

7.1 RESPONSIBLE EVALUATION BODIES

- 7.1.1 All individuals accused of violating the Rulebook or the Code of Conduct are entitled to a fair hearing of the charges against them and will be given an opportunity to present evidence before any penalties are imposed against them.

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7.1.1.1 The Chair of Adjudicators is empowered to take immediate action during a competition if they deem it necessary to preserve safety, maintain order, prevent damage, or prevent a Rule or Code violation that could not be effectively remedied after the fact.

7.1.2 The responsibility to investigate and hold a hearing resides with the Eligibility and Discipline Committee of the Ballroom DanceSport Council.

7.2 REPORTING VIOLATIONS

7.2.1 For a formal investigation into a rule violation or a breach of the Code of Conduct to take place, a written and signed statement plus any evidence must be submitted by mail to the corporate mailing address of USA Dance or via email to central-office@usadance.org.

7.2.1.1 A complaint will not be considered unless the following criteria are met:

7.2.1.1.1 The complaint must be made in writing and signed by the complainant and mailed or emailed to the USA Dance Central Office within 30 days of the date of the alleged violation or breach together with any supporting documentation.

7.2.1.1.2 The complainant must specify the full name, address, and contact details of the complaining person or persons and must agree in writing to provide evidence of the complaint and to be cross examined on that evidence. If these criteria are not met, the Chair of Eligibility and Discipline will write to the complainant immediately advising them that they have failed to meet these criteria and inviting a revised complaint that meets these criteria.

7.2.1.2 The complainant may request that their name be kept confidential only in the case where the evidence does not depend upon the complainant as a witness (example: physical evidence of a violation).

7.2.1.3 The Ballroom DanceSport Council will inform the complainant as to whether there is merit in the evidence sufficient to start an investigation.

7.2.1.4 Upon conclusion of the investigation and the Ballroom DanceSport Council ruling, the complainant will receive notification of the final ruling.

7.2.1.5 A complaint about the Vice President for DanceSport Ballroom Division will be sent to the Senior Vice President and the Executive Committee.

7.2.1.6 Nothing in this rule shall prevent any voting member of the Ballroom DanceSport Council from initiating an investigation at any time they believe there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct or a violation of any USA Dance rule or policy.

7.3 INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS

7.3.1 An evaluation of the evidence on its own merit will be made by the responsible evaluation

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body to determine whether it is sufficient to cause an investigation to commence.

- 7.3.2 If it is determined to commence an investigation, the Ballroom DanceSport Council will carry out the following actions:
 - 7.3.2.1 An investigative review committee made up of members of the responsible evaluation body and any others selected by the Ballroom DanceSport Council to serve on the investigative review will be convened to investigate the facts in the case within 14 days of receiving all relevant materials.
 - 7.3.2.2 The accused will be notified of the alleged violation. A copy of the complaint and the nature of the evidence will be provided to the accused upon which the accused will have 30 days to respond.
 - 7.3.2.3 Within 60 days of the commencement of the investigation, the committee will forward a report on their findings to the Ballroom DanceSport Council.
 - 7.3.2.4 Within 30 days of receipt of the committee's report, the Ballroom DanceSport Council will issue its ruling and penalty as appropriate. Copies of the ruling will be sent to the accused, the complainant, committee members, and included in the Ballroom DanceSport Council report to the Board of Directors.

7.4 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

- 7.4.1 If the Ballroom DanceSport Council concludes the actions described in a complaint do not constitute a violation of the rules or a breach of the Code of Conduct, the accused and the complainant will be notified explaining the reason for this decision.

7.4.2 WARNING LETTERS

- 7.4.2.1 If the Ballroom DanceSport Council concludes that the actions described in a complaint require a warning, a Warning Letter will be sent to the alleged violator(s).
- 7.4.2.2 A Warning Letter will contain the text of the relevant Rule(s) and a full explanation of their interpretation in the context of the alleged violations.
- 7.4.2.3 The publication of a Warning Letter is desirable as a means of continuously educating members of USA Dance in the correct interpretation of the Rules. The Ballroom DanceSport Council shall publish all Warning Letters which have been issued on the USA Dance website.

7.5 PENALTIES OTHER THAN WARNING LETTERS

- 7.5.1 The Ballroom DanceSport Council will impose penalties at its discretion. It may:
 - 7.5.1.1 Suspend an Athlete or Official member's status:

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- 7.5.1.1.1 For up to 6 months for a first infraction
- 7.5.1.1.2 For up to 9 months for a second infraction occurring within 2 years after a first infraction or
- 7.5.1.1.3 For up to 18 months for more than 3 infractions which occur within any 5-year period
- 7.5.1.2 An individual will automatically regain eligibility for Athlete or Official status at the end of their suspension provided that they have not engaged in any Prohibited Activities (Section 4.5) during the suspension period.
- 7.5.1.3 If the Ballroom DanceSport Council rules to suspend or terminate an individual's registration as an Athlete or Official, the Ballroom DanceSport Council must:
 - 7.5.1.3.1 Notify the individual in writing.
 - 7.5.1.3.2 Notify the USA Dance Board of Directors in writing.
 - 7.5.1.3.3 Notify the USA Dance official responsible for maintaining USA Dance membership registrations in writing. The individual's membership status will then be changed to a USA Dance DanceSport Advocate classification for the duration of their suspension period.
- 7.5.1.4 The Ballroom DanceSport Council may, at its discretion, impose additional penalties including, but not limited to, loss of USA Dance membership provided doing so is within the confines of the USA Dance bylaws.

7.6 APPEALS

- 7.6.1 Individuals may appeal the rulings made during a competition by a Chair of Adjudicators by submission of a formal written/email appeal to the Chair of the Ballroom DanceSport Eligibility and Discipline Committee.
- 7.6.2 Individuals may appeal the rulings of the Ballroom DanceSport Council to the USA Dance Executive Committee by submission of a formal written/email appeal to the National Secretary.
- 7.6.3 During the appeal process, any ruling made will stand unless and until overturned or suspended by a higher ruling body.
- 7.6.4 Unresolved disputes between any Athlete and the USA Dance Executive Committee involving the Athlete's opportunity to participate in competition will be submitted to binding arbitration conducted in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. Expenses will be shared equally among the parties.

8 ANTI- DOPING POLICY

8.1 COMPLIANCE

- 8.1.1 All Athletes, Officials, Coaches, and Other Participants in USA Dance sanctioned competitions must comply with the USA Dance CleanSport Policy and applicable provisions of the current USOPC and WDSF Anti-Doping Codes.

8.2 LOCATION OF POLICY

- 8.2.1 The current Anti-Doping rules of the WDSF, USOPC, and USADA are available on the USA Dance website (usadance.org).

9 ACCEPTED JUDGING SYSTEM

9.1 JUDGING OF GROUP COMPETITIVE EVENTS

- 9.1.1 The Skating System of judging is used for all USA Dance group competitive events including Standard, Latin, Smooth, and Rhythm.

9.2 JUDGING OF OTHER EVENTS

- 9.2.1 Formation, ShowDance, or Fun events may use a different judging system.

10 WORLD TEAM SELECTION

10.1 SELECTION PROCESS FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES TO WORLD GAMES, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, AND WORLD CUPS

- 10.1.1 These rules cover the selection of USA Dance National Representatives for IWGA World Games, WDSF World Championships, and WDSF World Cups. These are referred to as World Events. Couples selected to be USA Dance National Representatives become members of the USA Dance World Team.
- 10.1.2 All couples selected as USA Dance National Representatives must sign and comply with the USA Dance National Team Agreement.
- 10.1.3 If two couples are to be selected as USA Dance National Representatives, the order of selecting couples will be as follows:

Chosen	Chosen from
1 st	1 st place at Nationals and receives the higher stipend in Table 23
2 nd	1 st place in Ranking Points and receives the lower stipend in Table 23
3 rd	1 st replacement couple would be chosen from the 2 nd place couple at Nationals
4 th	3 rd place at Nationals

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5 th	2 nd place in Ranking Points
6 th	3 rd place in Ranking Points

- 10.1.4 If a couple takes first place at Nationals and is first in Ranking Points, then the second-place couple at Nationals would be invited as the second USA Dance National Representative.
- 10.1.5 If a couple takes the place of the first-place couple from Nationals, then they will receive the higher representative stipend in Table 23 and the couple taking the second National Representative slot will receive the lower stipend. This process continues through the third-place couple in Ranking Points.
- 10.1.6 If one couple is to be selected as USA Dance National Representatives for an event that awards Ranking Points, the order of selecting couples will be as listed in 10.1.3.
- 10.1.7 If one couple is to be selected as USA Dance National Representatives for an event that does not award Ranking Points, that determination will be based on the placement at the most recent National Ballroom DanceSport Championships.
- 10.1.8 For all Professional categories and the Amateur categories Under 21, Amateur 9-Dance, and Amateur 10-Dance categories, all USA Dance National Representatives will be selected based on their placement at the most recent National Ballroom DanceSport Championships. No Ranking Points will be accumulated during the year for these events.
- 10.1.9 Couples will be selected as USA Dance National Representatives based on placement at the National Ballroom DanceSport Championships only through third place in the event. No couple placing lower than third at the National Championships will be eligible to be a USA Dance National Representative based on their placement at Nationals. If none of the couples who placed third or higher at the National Championships are eligible or willing to attend the appropriate World Event, then this National Representative slot will remain unfilled.
- 10.1.10 Couples will be selected as USA Dance National Representatives based on Ranking Points only through the third highest Ranking Point total. No couple placing lower than third in Ranking Points or third in placement at the National Ballroom DanceSport Championships will be eligible to be a USA Dance National Representative based on their Ranking Points. If none of the couples who placed third or higher in Ranking Points are eligible or willing to attend the appropriate World Event, then this National Representative slot will remain unfilled.
- 10.1.11 The number of USA Dance National Representative couples to be selected in each category for World Events are shown in Table 21. USA Dance National Representatives may be selected even if there is no corresponding World Event. The number of USA Dance National Representatives is separate from the number of Representative Stipends to be awarded, which is shown in Table 23.

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USA Dance Event Category	No. of Couples Selected as National Representatives
Junior 2 Standard	2
Junior 2 Latin	2
Junior 2 10-Dance	1
Junior 2 Standard Solo Competitor	1
Junior 2 Latin Solo Competitor	1
Youth Standard	2
Youth Latin	2
Youth 10-Dance	1
Youth Standard Solo Competitor	1
Youth Latin Solo Competitor	1
Under 21 Standard	2
Under 21 Latin	2
Under 21 10-Dance	1
Adult Standard	2
Adult Latin	2
Adult 10-Dance	1
Adult Standard Solo Competitor	1
Adult Latin Solo Competitor	1
Adult ShowDance Standard	1
Adult ShowDance Latin	1
Adult Smooth	2
Senior 1 Standard	2
Senior 1 Latin	2
Senior 1 10-Dance	1
Senior 1 Smooth	2
Senior 2 Standard	2
Senior 2 Latin	2
Senior 2 10-Dance	1
Senior 2 Smooth	2
Senior 3 Standard	2
Senior 3 Latin	2
Senior 3 Smooth	2
Senior 4 Standard	2
Senior 4 Latin	2
Senior 5 Standard	2
Senior 5 Latin	2
Professional Standard	2
Professional Latin	2
Professional Smooth	2
Professional 10-Dance	1
Professional ShowDance Standard	1
Professional ShowDance Latin	1

Table 20. Dance Event/Number of National Representatives to be Selected

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10.2 RANKING POINTS

- 10.2.1 Ranking Points will accrue only for Championship Level events.
- 10.2.2 Ranking Points will accrue only for Standard, Latin, Rhythm, and Smooth styles.
- 10.2.3 Ranking Points accrue for a couple and the points do not carry over to an individual in the event a partnership dissolves and the Athletes form new partnerships.
- 10.2.4 Ranking Points will accrue from the day after the National Ballroom DanceSport Championships through the following National Ballroom DanceSport Championships. Ranking Points expire after every National Ballroom DanceSport Championships.
- 10.2.5 The results for couples who are not USA Dance couples will be removed before the calculation of Ranking Points for an event. For example, a USA Dance couple that places 2nd behind a non-USA Dance couple will be awarded Ranking Points as if they placed first and the Ranking Point adjustment will be calculated only considering the total number of USA Dance couples.
- 10.2.6 A couple's "year-end" total will be the totals from their top four competitions during the year including the National Championships. The "year-end" total will be used in the selection process for USA Dance National Representatives to World Events, when appropriate, during the following year until the next National Championships is run.
- 10.2.7 Couples will earn Ranking Points based on their placement at USA Dance sanctioned competitions as shown in Table 22. No Ranking Points will be awarded for placements below 12th.

PLACE	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP / WDSF Ranking	CHALLENGE EVENT
1	600	300	150
2	560	280	140
3	520	260	130
4	480	240	120
5	440	220	110
6	400	200	100
7	360	180	90
8	320	160	80
9	280	140	70
10	240	120	60
11	200	100	50
12	160	80	40

Table 21. Ranking Points Schedule

- 10.2.8 Adjustments to Ranking Points Based on the Number of USA Dance Couples

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Only one couple participating in the event	-50%
Two or three couples participating in the event	-20%
Four or five couples participating in the event	-10%
Six through twelve couples participating in the event	no adjustment
More than 12 couples participating in the event	+10%
More than 24 couples participating in the event	+20%

10.2.9 National Ranking Points will be Earned only at the following Competitions

- USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships
- USA Dance Regional Championships
- USA Dance Challenge Competitions
- WDSF World Championship and Open events

10.2.10 Non-USA Dance members who participate in Challenge Competitions or Regional Championships will not earn Ranking Points.

10.3 REQUIREMENTS FOR WORLD TEAM NOMINATIONS

10.3.1 Couples selected as USA Dance National Representatives according to the criteria listed in Section 10.1 must also meet the WDSF's regulations as appropriate, and must also meet the following criteria:

- 10.3.1.1 Membership in good standing with USA Dance as Amateur or Professional DanceSport Ballroom Division Athletes for both partners at the time of the National Ballroom DanceSport Championships and at the time of the appropriate World Event.
- 10.3.1.2 Compliance with all eligibility criteria for competing in the USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships.
- 10.3.1.3 Placement in the final of the National Ballroom DanceSport Championships in their event.
- 10.3.1.4 Age division match per the WDSF's published calendar.
- 10.3.1.5 Compliance with IWGA or WDSF citizenship/eligibility restrictions.
- 10.3.1.6 Signed Athlete Agreements by both partners.
- 10.3.1.7 USA Dance is not obligated to nominate couples to World Events or other International competitions. Nominations to a World Team position are finalized by the Ballroom DanceSport Council and the Council may choose to nominate fewer couples than allowed. Decisions of the Ballroom DanceSport Council may be appealed to the Board of Directors.
- 10.3.1.8 Any couple nominated to a World Event or other International competition that is unable

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to attend, for any reason, has an obligation to notify the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division immediately upon the determination of their inability to represent the USA, but no later than 15 days after receiving the invitation.

- 10.3.1.9 Any openings created on a World Team by a couple's withdrawal shall be filled by lower ranked couples through the third placement in the USA Dance National Ballroom DanceSport Championships or the top three Ranking Point positions as appropriate.

10.4 REPRESENTATIVE STIPENDS

- 10.4.1 Representative Stipends are monetary awards offered by USA Dance to (based on the number of stipends available as shown in Table 23) qualified USA Dance National Representative couples.
- 10.4.2 Representative Stipends awarded by USA Dance are specific to the event and couple for which they are awarded and are not transferrable to other events or other couples.
- 10.4.3 Basic requirements for those receiving a Representative Stipend include good sportsmanship and acting in keeping with the athlete's role as an ambassador of the USA, such as:
- 10.4.3.1 Compliance with the Athlete Agreement.
- 10.4.3.2 Compliance with all requests for information and entry forms in a timely manner.
- 10.4.3.3 After April 1, 2024, provided that four or more USA Dance Academy sanctioned athlete training camps have been held during the previous 12 months, attendance in at least one of the USA Dance Academy sanctioned athlete training camps held in the last 12 months prior to their world event.
- 10.4.3.4 Participation in all opening and closing ceremonies and meetings required by the World Championship organizer.
- 10.4.3.5 World Team Athlete members may request additional funds for World Championships in remote areas or to assist with chaperone costs for Junior 2 and Youth athletes. The request should be directed to the Vice President of DanceSport Ballroom Division and will need the approval of the Board of Directors in advance of the competition.
- 10.4.3.6 The number of Representative Stipends and the amount awarded for each USA Dance category are shown in Table 23. The first couple chosen receives the higher amount in Column 3 and the second couple chosen receives the lower amount in Column 3.

USA Dance Event/Category	No. of Stipends available for WDSF World Championships	Amount of Stipend/Couple
Junior 2 Standard	2	\$2500/\$1500
Junior 2 Latin	2	\$2500/\$1500
Junior 2 10-Dance	1	\$2000

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Junior 2 Standard Solo Competitor	1	\$750
Junior 2 Latin Solo Competitor	1	\$750
Youth Standard	2	\$2500/\$1500
Youth Latin	2	\$2500/\$1500
Youth 10-Dance	1	\$2000
Youth Standard Solo Competitor	1	\$750
Youth Latin Solo Competitor	1	\$750
Under 21 Standard	1	\$1500
Under 21 Latin	1	\$1500
Under 21 10-Dance	1	\$1500
Adult Standard	2 for World Championship 1 for World Games	\$2000/\$1000 \$1500
Adult Latin	2 for World Championship 1 for World Games	\$2000/\$1000 \$1500
Adult World Cup Standard	1	\$1500
Adult World Cup Latin	1	\$1500
Adult 10-Dance	1	\$1,500
Adult ShowDance Standard	1	\$1,500
Adult ShowDance Latin	1	\$1,500
Adult Standard Solo Competitor	1	\$750
Adult Latin Solo Competitor	1	\$750
Senior 1 Standard	2	\$1,000
Senior 1 Latin	2	\$1,000
Senior 1 10-Dance	1	\$1,000
Senior 2 Standard	2	\$1,000
Senior 2 Latin	2	\$1,000
Senior 2 10-Dance	1	\$1000
Senior 3 Standard	2	\$1,000
Senior 3 Latin	2	\$1,000
Senior 4 Standard	2	\$1,000
Senior 4 Latin	2	\$1,000
Professional Standard	2	\$2000/\$1000
Professional Latin	2	\$2000/\$1000
Professional 10-Dance	1	\$1,500

Table 22. National Representative Stipends Available

- 10.4.3.7 When the event is held in the United States, the maximum Representative Stipend will be \$1,500 for Junior and Youth, \$1,000 for Adult and Professional, and \$750 for Senior events.
- 10.4.3.8 Representative Stipend reimbursement requests must be submitted within 60 days after the World Event by submitting receipts totaling the amount of the stipend or greater to the Vice-President DanceSport Ballroom Division or their designee. At the discretion of the USA Dance Executive Committee, failure to submit by this time will result in forfeiture of the stipend.
- 10.4.3.9 If an event allows for more couples than outlined above, the Board of Directors may

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consider funding Representative Stipends for the number of couples allowed.