



USA Dance

2017 Proficiency Point System



DanceSport Athlete Step by Step Guide

Step-by-step guide to help you calculate proficiency points you will earn for a given event, how those points will accumulate across age categories and proficiency levels and when you need to move up in proficiency level.

The 2017 Proficiency Points System is a “point out” system. An athlete will “point out” of a Proficiency Level in a given Dance Style and Age Category when s/he has accumulated 2 proficiency points in that Proficiency Level, Dance Style and Age Category.

The 2017 system is a “rolling” system. Only proficiency points earned over the previous 3 competition years are counted. At the conclusion of the National Championships (which are, as of this writing, held in March/April each year), an Athlete’s proficiency level for the next competition year is determined by the points earned in the previous 3 competition years. All points earned prior to this three year cycle are deleted.

The 2017 system does not discourage participation in multiple NQE’s in order to avoid “pointing out”. An Athlete can only earn one (1) proficiency point in a given Dance Style, Age Category, and Proficiency Level for a top tier placement in an NQE during the competition year no matter how many top tier placements s/he achieves at NQEs during that competition year.

In the 2017 system, proficiency points are only earned in proficiency point eligible events, per rule 5.3.4.1, at NQE competitions and the National DanceSport Championships.

In the 2017 system points are earned by achieving a “top tier placement”. An Athlete achieves a “top tier placement” by placing in the top 12.5% of qualified couples who actually dance in a given heat. Top tier placements include placing first in a heat with 8 or more couples, first or second in a heat with 16 or more couples, etc. No points are earned in a heat with less than 8 couples dancing regardless of placement.

In the 2017 system, points are accrued by individual athletes, not couples. A couple is eligible to dance a given Proficiency Level, Dance Style, and Age Category if each member of the couple is eligible to dance that Proficiency Level, Dance Style, and Age Category.

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In order to explain how points accrue from a single competition, we will present a single example with multiple steps. Each step will be explained verbally and illustrated by a chart. The blank chart for an **individual athlete** and a **single competitive event** would look like this:

Athlete:		Partner:								
Comp:		Date:								
Event:										
Age:										
Proficiency:										
Final Place:		# of Entrants:								
	<i>PT 1</i>	<i>PT 2</i>	<i>JR 1</i>	<i>JR 2</i>	<i>YTH</i>	<i>AD</i>	<i>SR 1</i>	<i>SR 2</i>	<i>SR 3</i>	<i>SR 4</i>
Bronze										
Silver										
Gold										
Novice										
Pre-Champ										
Champ										

This chart is for **Adult** and **Senior** competitors. The Youth age categories are grayed-out since an Adult competitor can never dance in them regardless of proficiency level eligibility.

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We start by entering the competitor, competition, and event information. In this example, let's say that Henry & Eliza are entered in the Gumbo DanceSport Championships in June, 2017. They are dancing the Senior I American Smooth Pre-Champ event. Remember that points accrue to individual athletes, so each member of a partnership would have his/her own chart of points for each event.

Athlete:	Henry Higgins		Partner: Eliza Dolittle							
Comp:	Gumbo DanceSport Championships		Date: June, 2017							
Event:	American Smooth									
Age:	Senior I									
Proficiency:	Pre-Champ									
Final Place:	# of Entrants:									
	<i>PT 1</i>	<i>PT 2</i>	<i>JR 1</i>	<i>JR 2</i>	<i>YTH</i>	<i>AD</i>	<i>SR 1</i>	<i>SR 2</i>	<i>SR 3</i>	<i>SR 4</i>
Bronze										
Silver										
Gold										
Novice										
Pre-Champ										
Champ										

This chart is now ready to be filled in with the points which Henry has earned by virtue of his placement in this particular single event. Henry begins the 2017-2018 competition year with zero points in all categories because the new system has been put into effect after the 2017 National Championships.

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- **An athlete is considered to have achieved a Top Tier Placement in an Event at a given Proficiency Level, Dance Style, and Age Category, if the Athlete has placed in the top 12.5%**

This Senior I American Smooth Pre-Champ event has 16 couples who actually dance in the heat. Henry & Eliza dance the event and finish 2nd out of 16 couples. Henry (& Eliza) each have achieved a top tier placement.

- ***At National Qualifying Events an Athlete achieving a Top Tier Placement in an Event, earns one proficiency point in that Proficiency level and in all lower Proficiency Levels in the given Dance Style and Age Category.***

Henry's proficiency point chart for American Smooth after this event is shown below.

Athlete: Henry Higgins		Partner: Eliza Dolittle								
Comp: Gumbo DanceSport Championships		Date: June, 2017								
Event: American Smooth										
Age: Senior I										
Proficiency: Pre-Champ										
Final Place: 2		# of Entrants: 16								
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3	SR 4
Bronze							1			
Silver							1			
Gold							1			
Novice							1			
Pre-Champ							1			
Champ										

Notice that the final placement and the number of entrants have also been filled in to the appropriate spaces in the chart. The number of entrants is the number of couples who actually took the floor to dance the event. Scratched couples do not count toward your proficiency points.

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- **An Athlete earning Top Tier Placements in multiple NQE's, in the same competition year, in a given Proficiency Level, Dance Style, and Age Category accrues no more than one proficiency point in that Proficiency Level, Dance Style, and Age Category in that competition year.**

Henry and Eliza attend the Carolina Fall Classic in September of 2017. They again dance in the Senior I American Smooth Pre-Champ event and they place first out of 10 couples. They do not accrue any proficiency points for this event, as they cannot earn more than one point in a given Proficiency Level, Dance Style, and Age Category at an NQE during a single- competition year. His **cumulative chart** for competition year 2017-2018 after the Carolina Fall Classic is shown below.

Athlete:	Henry Higgins		Partner:	Eliza Dolittle						
Comp:	Carolina Fall Classic		Date:	October, 2017						
Event:	American Smooth									
Age:	Senior I									
Proficiency:	Pre-Champ									
Final Place:	1		# of Entrants:	10						
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3	SR 4
Bronze							1			
Silver							1			
Gold							1			
Novice							1			
Pre-Champ							1			
Champ										

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Henry and Eliza compete in the Senior I American Smooth Championship Event at the Mid-Atlantic Championships in Bethesda in February of 2018. They place second out of 18 couples. Henry earns a proficiency point in Senior I American Smooth Championship but does not earn an additional point in the lower age categories as he can only earn 1 point in a given Proficiency Level, Dance Style, and Age Category in the same competition year. His **cumulative chart** for competition year 2017-2018 after the Mid-Atlantic championships is shown below.

Athlete:	Henry Higgins		Partner:	Eliza Dolittle						
Comp:	Mid-Atlantic Championships		Date:	February, 2018						
Event:	American Smooth									
Age:	Senior I									
Proficiency:	Championship									
Final Place:	2		# of Entrants:	18						
	<i>PT 1</i>	<i>PT 2</i>	<i>JR 1</i>	<i>JR 2</i>	<i>YTH</i>	<i>AD</i>	<i>SR 1</i>	<i>SR 2</i>	<i>SR 3</i>	<i>SR 4</i>
Bronze							1			
Silver							1			
Gold							1			
Novice							1			
Pre-Champ							1			
Champ							1			

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- **At National Championships an Athlete achieving a Top Tier Placement in an Event at a given Proficiency Level, Dance Style, and Age Category earns two proficiency points in that Proficiency Level and in all lower Proficiency Levels in the given Dance Style and Age Category.**

Henry and Eliza enter the Senior I American Smooth Pre-Champ Event at the National Championships in Baltimore in March/April of 2018. They dance in the Event and place second out of 20 couples. Henry earns two proficiency points in Senior I American Smooth Pre-Championship and in all lower age categories. His **cumulative chart** for competition year 2017-2018 after Nationals is shown below.

Athlete:	Henry Higgins		Partner:	Eliza Dolittle						
Comp:	National Championships		Date:	March/April, 2018						
Event:	American Smooth									
Age:	Senior I									
Proficiency:	Pre-Champ									
Final Place:	2		# of Entrants:	20						
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3	SR 4
Bronze							3			
Silver							3			
Gold							3			
Novice							3			
Pre-Champ							3			
Champ							1			

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- **An Athlete becomes ineligible to Compete in a Proficiency Level, Dance Style, and Age Category, if in the preceding three (3) competition years, at the National Championships and NQEs, the Athlete has accrued two or more proficiency points in that Proficiency Level, Dance Style, and Age Group.**
- **In a given Dance Style and Age Category, an Athlete's Proficiency Level is defined to be the Proficiency Level one level higher than the highest level at which an Athlete is ineligible.**

Henry is ineligible to dance Senior I American Smooth Pre-Championship events or Senior I American Smooth Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Novice Events for the competition cycle April 2018 through March 2021. He is able to dance American Smooth Championship Events and his Proficiency Level in American Smooth is defined as the Championship level.

- **An Adult or Senior Athlete who is Ineligible to Compete, in a Proficiency Level and Dance Style in a particular Age Category is ineligible to compete in that same Proficiency Level and Dance Style in any older Age Category.**

Henry is also ineligible to dance Senior II, Senior III, or Senior IV American Smooth Bronze, Silver, Gold, Novice, or Pre-Champ Events for the competition cycle April 2018 through March 2021.

Athlete:	Henry Higgins					Partner:	Eliza Dolittle				
Comp:						Date:	April 2018 – March 2021				
Event:	American Smooth										
Age:	Senior I										
Proficiency:	Championship										
Final Place:	# of Entrants:										
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3	SR 4	
Bronze							X	X	X	X	
Silver							X	X	X	X	
Gold							X	X	X	X	
Novice							X	X	X	X	
Pre-Champ							X	X	X	X	
Champ											

X = Ineligible

Let's do another quick example. Now that the methodology is clear, we will enter all the data into the proficiency point chart in one step.

Skye Masterson and Sarah Young dance an Adult Silver Standard event at the MAC in January, 2018, which begins with a 26 couple quarterfinal round, finishing in 2nd place. The completed proficiency point chart for Sarah from this event would be:

Athlete: Sarah Young		Partner: Skye Masterson								
Comp: MAC		Date: January, 2018								
Event: International STD										
Age: Adult										
Proficiency: Silver										
Final Place: 2		# of Entrants: 26								
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3	SR 4
Bronze						1				
Silver						1				
Gold										
Novice										
Pre-Champ										
Champ										

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Skye and Sarah do not earn another top tier placement in Adult Silver Standard until they dance this event at the MAC in January, 2020. This event begins with a 22 couple quarterfinal round and they finish in 1st place. The completed cumulative proficiency point chart for Sarah for the current 3 year cycle after this event would be:

Athlete: Sarah Young		Partner: Skye Masterson								
Comp: MAC		Date: January, 2020								
Event: International STD										
Age: Adult										
Proficiency: Silver										
Final Place: 1		# of Entrants: 22								
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3	SR 4
Bronze						2				
Silver						2				
Gold										
Novice										
Pre-Champ										
Champ										

Sarah has earned 2 points in Adult Silver Standard during the 3 year competition cycle beginning April 2017 and ending after Nationals 2020. She can continue to dance Adult Silver Standard through Nationals 2020 but she will then be ineligible to dance Adult Silver Standard for the following competition year April 2020 – March 2021.

Sarah does not accrue any additional points in Adult Silver Standard during the remainder of competition years, April 2019 to March 2020. She begins and ends the competition year April 2020 – March 2021 with 2 points each in Adult Bronze and Silver Standard. After 2021 Nationals, the points which she earned in Adult Bronze and Silver Standard in January 2018 at the MAC will be deleted. Sarah now has 1 point each in Adult Bronze and Silver Standard for the competition cycle April 2021 – March 2022. She can again dance Adult Bronze & Silver (or higher proficiency level) Standard through the 2022 National Championships.

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In this next example, Nathan Brown (age 14) and Adelaide Green (age 14) dance a Youth Novice Latin event at the 2018 National Championships. They place 3rd out of 25 couples dancing in the event. Nathan's chart after 2018 Nationals is shown below.

Athlete: Nathan Brown		Partner: Adelaide Green								
Comp: National Championships		Date: 2018								
Event: International Latin										
Age: Youth										
Proficiency: Novice										
Final Place: 3		# of Entrants: 25								
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3	SR 4
Bronze				2	2					
Silver				2	2					
Gold				2	2					
Novice				2	2					
Pre-Champ										
Champ										

Nathan is ineligible to dance Youth or Junior II Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Novice Latin for the competition cycle April 2018 through March 2021.

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Athletes are responsible for tracking their own proficiency points. Proficiency points will not be considered confidential and all records will be accessible by athletes, organizers and USA Dance officials. All USA Dance Athletes' competition entries for National Qualifying Events and the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships will be checked for proficiency level eligibility. Knowingly entering below your proficiency level is grounds for disciplinary action by the DanceSport Council. Therefore, you should make every effort to track your proficiency points accurately. If your records disagree with ours, you can ask that your proficiency level be reviewed by contacting the DanceSport Council Eligibility Committee Chair at ds-eligibility@usadance.org.

- ***Athletes may petition the DanceSport Council for a waiver concerning their Proficiency level due to injury, medical or other conditions and situations not covered by these Proficiency Rules.***

If for some reason, you feel that you need to move down in proficiency level, you may apply to reduce your proficiency level by contacting the DanceSport Eligibility Chair at ds-eligibility@usadance.org. Such reductions must be for compelling reasons and will be subject to a case-by-case consideration by the USA Dance DanceSport Council. Since you are always free to dance above your recorded proficiency level, you do not need to petition to raise your proficiency level.

If you have any questions, contact DanceSport Council Eligibility Committee Chair at ds-eligibility@usadance.org for clarification.

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