

Ignite QMJC 2026

Competitor Rules & Guidelines

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SECTION A: Event Policies & Guidelines

General Guidelines

Minors (Under 18)

Persons under the age of 18 must apply to the Event Directors for entry and/or participation at Ignite QMJC, requiring written consent from a parent or guardian and maintained supervision while inside the venue.

Dress Code, Etiquette & Behaviour

Dancers are expected to behave in a kind, courteous and respectful manner. This includes interactions with fellow competitors, volunteers, judges, and spectators — both on and off the dance floor.

Competitors found to be behaving inappropriately, offensively, or under the influence of alcohol or other substances, may be disqualified and/or removed from the event. The Event Directors reserve the right to make these decisions at their discretion, and their judgment is final.

Across all categories, competitors are expected to dance with each partner they have entered with, or rotate to in DWAS (or DWAS-style categories). If a competitor has any reasonable concern, they are encouraged to approach the Event Directors **early**, though adjustments can not be guaranteed.

Marshalling & Scheduling

1. If a competitor is not ready to marshal at the time of their category round, their name will be called by the MC a maximum of three (3) times. If the competitor does not present themselves shortly after their final call, they (in DWAS-style categories), and their partner (in Freestyle-style categories), are scratched from the contest, unless the Event Directors can find another reasonable alternative. In these instances, the 1st or 2nd '**Alternate**' will be called upon to fill their place in the final.
 2. The Event Directors reserve the right to adjust the Event Schedule, or format of the contests, at any time. Generally, this only happens when required to make up lost time, but is otherwise avoided.
 3. As the event schedule is subject to change, competitors (or someone able to reach them) **should stay inside the ballroom** to catch any verbally-announced changes; event staff carry no responsibility for anyone who misses a heat, final or any other call, for whatever reason.
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Floor Positioning & Space

1. Outside of Teams, Showcase, Spotlights and Rapid Fire, several couples will share the floor simultaneously in an 'All Skate' - each couple must keep to the area the MC assigns them.
 2. On an All-Skate floor, a couple may be penalised where poor spatial awareness — or a recklessly executed move — pushes them into another couple's space, or results in a collision or injury.
Note: Endangering other couples on the floor is not permitted — 'Death Spirals' are one example, as their large sweeping action can easily carry into another couple's space.
 3. The floor-size at Ignite QMJC 2026 is: **TBA**. Choreographers are encouraged to keep this in mind while creating/rehearsing their routines, particularly for large Teams entries.
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SECTION B: Competitor Entry & Registration

Registration Details

Callout: All entries are to be submitted via danceconvention.net only. The closing date for all categories is **Friday 14th August 2026**.

Payment must be finalised by the closing date to confirm registration – entries without a complete payment will not be held. As entries for some categories may be capped, early registration and payment are advised.

Choreographed Routine Entries

To be fair to competitors preparing choreography, and to determine whether these choreographed categories will be able to go ahead as competitive events, all entries into these categories (i.e. Teams and Showcases) must be submitted by **Saturday 1 August 2026**.

Teams and Showcase categories will only run as competitive events, where at least **five entries** are received; however, if the category is deemed to be non-competitive, these dancers MAY be offered an opportunity to perform their routines as non-judged performance pieces.

Refund Policy

Registrations cancelled after the closing date of **Friday 14th August 2026** are non-refundable - except for in extenuating circumstances, at the Event Director's discretion.

Multiple Roles

For dancers competing in both roles at the same event, the only practical limitation is that a dancer who wishes to both lead and follow within the same category, must do so at two different levels, as competitors cannot compete against – or with – themselves. Applicable to DWAS and Freestyle only.

SECTION C: Categories

DWAS

This category is run to the specifications of the AMJR Framework. See the links below for rules relating to AMJR-Certified DWAS events.

Links: [AMJR](#) · [AMJR Rules PDF](#)

General

DWAS Format

1. **DWAS** rounds will see dancers rotating to a minimum of three partners in a round.
2. Partners are scored individually (except for in the Champions DWAS Final).
3. When the Leader/Follower ratio is imbalanced within a round, competitors from a previous heat (or the closest levels) may be randomly selected to dance again, as an unjudged "stand-in".

Champions DWAS

1. The **Champions DWAS Final** will run as a Spotlight round, where partners will randomly select one another by dice roll (or equivalent). These partnerships will remain for the entire Champions DWAS Final, and will be judged as a partnership.
2. Champions may not randomly select their Freestyle partner **at this event**. In the unlikely case that clashes remain unresolved after **three dice rolls** (or equivalent), the Event Directors will assign the partnerships themselves.

Over 50s DWAS

Over 50s is an additional subcategory. Eligible dancers may enter this category *in addition* to their respective open-age level, as long as they are **not eligible to compete any higher** than the Inter-Plus DWAS level.

Eligibility	Dancers aged 50 and over are eligible to compete in this category, in addition to their open-age level.
Exclusions	Dancers currently eligible to compete at the Advanced DWAS level (or higher) are <i>not</i> eligible for this category.
Non-Point Earning	This category is for participation and placement only; it does not attract points.
Future Eligibility	There is no progression beyond this level. Competitors who place may continue to enter this category in future events, provided they are not eligible to compete any higher than the Inter-Plus DWAS level.

Round Formats

CONTEST	HEATS	FINAL	AERIALS
Beginner DWAS	All-Skate · 2x songs	All-Skate · 2x songs	None
Intermediate <2yrs DWAS	All-Skate · 2x songs	All-Skate · 2x songs	Baby only
Intermediate Plus DWAS	All-Skate · 2x songs	All-Skate · 2x songs	Baby only
Advanced DWAS	All-Skate · 2x songs	All-Skate · 2x songs	Baby only
Champions DWAS	All-Skate · 2x songs	Individual Spotlight 2x + All-Skate 1x	Baby + 2 Full/round
Over 50s DWAS	All-Skate · 2x songs	All-Skate · 2x songs	Baby only

→ Refer to [Appendix 2: Aerials](#) for complete aerial rules.

Freestyle

This category is run to the specifications of the AMJR Framework. See the links below for rules relating to AMJR-Certified Freestyle events.

Links: [AMJR](#) · [AMJR Rules PDF](#)

Over 50s Freestyle

This is an additional subcategory. Eligible dancers may enter this category *in addition* to their respective open-age level, as long as they are **not eligible to compete any higher** than the Inter-Plus Freestyle level.

Eligibility	Dancers aged 50 and over are eligible to compete in this category, in addition to their open-age level; however, they must do so with different Freestyle partners.
Exclusions	Dancers currently eligible to compete at the Advanced Freestyle level (or higher) are <i>not</i> eligible for this category.
Non-Point Earning	This category is for participation and placement only; it does not attract points.
Future Eligibility	There is no progression beyond this level. Competitors who place may continue to enter this category in future events, provided they are not eligible to compete any higher than the Inter-Plus Freestyle level.

Round Formats

CONTEST	HEATS	FINAL	AERIALS
Beginner Freestyle	All-Skate · 2x songs	All-Skate · 3x songs	Baby only
Intermediate <2yrs Freestyle	All-Skate · 2x songs	All-Skate · 3x songs	Baby only
Intermediate Plus Freestyle	All-Skate · 2x songs	All-Skate · 3x songs	Baby + 2 Full/round
Advanced Freestyle	All-Skate · 2x songs	All-Skate 2x + Rapid Fire 64 counts	Baby + 2 Full/round
Champions Freestyle	All-Skate · 2x songs	Individual Spotlight 2x + All-Skate 1x	Baby + 2 Full/round
Over 50s Freestyle	All-Skate · 2x songs	All-Skate · 2x songs	Baby + 2 Full/round

→ Refer to [Appendix 2: Aerials](#) for complete aerial rules.

Lucky Blinds

Each year, we try to change things up a little - this year is no different!

Lucky Blinds is a new category to Ignite QMJC, and is an amalgamation of two of our biggest categories in the past; Lucky Dip and Partners Blind. In this new category, partners will be allocated to each other prior to each round, giving them a chance to meet and briefly get to know each other's dancing.

For a different spin on things (pun intended), partnerships will be reassigned at **every** round. This means: a set partner for the heats, a new partner for the semis, and a new partner for the final - for those Lucky enough to make it through!

This is a fun/social category. There is no progression associated with this category - however, in assigning partnerships, the Event Directors will do their best to match partners based on their respective DWAS levels, with the intention of assigning higher-level partners to lower-level competitors.

Contest Format

Run as an All-Skate over two songs, in both the heats and the final. No aerials are permitted. For the first song, all Followers are blindfolded – for the second song, all Leaders are blindfolded.

Safety & Etiquette

Blindfolds	Competitors are responsible for bringing their own blindfolds. For hygiene purposes, sharing or borrowing blindfolds from the Event Organisers will not be an option.
Spatial Awareness	Blindfolded dancers must remain sensitive to their partner's lead/follow, in order to stay within their designated dance space.
Aerials	Full Aerials and Baby Aerials are not allowed .

Pro-Am Showcase

Callout: Choreographed Routine Rules

All Showcase entries must be submitted by **1st August 2026**. Please refer to [Competition Music](#) for guidelines. Please refer to [Appendix 3: Modern Jive Content](#) & [Appendix 4: Routine Disqualification for Modern Jive Content requirements and Disqualification guidelines](#).

Eligibility

The Am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ams must have been learning Modern Jive for a period of less than 2 years.• Ams may enter either the Pro-Am Showcase OR the Showcase (Open) category. Ams are limited to one entry within this category.
The Pro	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pros must be an Advanced-level (or higher) DWAS or Freestyle competitor, or a genuine Modern Jive teacher to their student.• Pros may enter both the Pro-Am AND Open Showcase categories, with multiple entries in each, provided each entry is with a different partner.

Entry Requirements

Music	Pro-Am Showcase tracks must be within the 1-1.5 minute marks. This time limit refers to the duration of the music track , not including any bow or reprise.
Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When possible, Am Leaders and Am Followers will be judged separately, as each role generally requires vastly different skill competencies.• Ams are to choose one of these roles and are required to maintain this role for the duration of the routine.
Choreography	Each routine must be built from scratch for the Pro-Am Showcase and reflect a genuine mentoring relationship. Repurposing or reworking an existing Showcase or Team routine is not allowed, nor is entering a routine <i>entirely</i> choreographed by someone outside the partnership. Exceptions can be requested from the Event Directors.
Minimum Entries	A minimum of 5 total entries is required for this category to proceed. If either of these contests receives fewer than 5 entries, they may be combined at the Event Director's discretion.

Additional Notes

Costs	Where the Pro is a teacher or seasoned choreographer, students should expect that private-lesson rates may apply to some, or all, of the time spent choreographing and/or learning together, at the teacher's usual rates - this may also include venue hire. Students are encouraged to discuss this with their teacher prior to starting any choreography.
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Submit Music

Open Showcase

Callout: Open Showcase entries must be submitted before August 1st, to confirm competitive viability. If this category does not meet the minimum entry criteria, couples MAY be offered an opportunity to showcase their piece as a non-judged performance.

Partnership Eligibility

Experience Level	Both dancers should be competing at this event at the Intermediate Plus level, in DWAS AND Freestyle, at a minimum. Exceptions may be made at the Event Directors' discretion for competitors eligible for lower levels, provided they are not also entering a Pro-Am Showcase.
Multiple Entries	Dancers may submit multiple entries in this category, provided each entry is with a different partner.

Entry Requirements

Format	A set piece of Modern Jive choreography to music of your choice. Performed as an Individual Spotlight.
Music	Open Showcase tracks must be a minimum length of 2.5 minutes, and a maximum of 4 minutes. This time limit refers to the duration of the music track , not including any bow or reprise.
Minimum Entries	A minimum of 5 entries is required for this category to proceed. If this category does not meet the minimum entry criteria, dancers MAY be offered an opportunity to showcase their piece, as a non-judged performance.

[Submit Music](#)

Teams

Eligibility & Entry Requirements

Size	A minimum of three (3) couples is required to enter this category - there is no official maximum. Teams of all sizes take their own responsibility for safely fitting within the size of the dance floor area.
Partnerships	This category is for couples-based choreography. Triples and Steals entries are prohibited as a full routine, but may be used as a performative component.
Minimum Entries	A minimum of five (5) teams are required for this category to proceed as a competitive event. Where less than 5 entries are received, this category MAY go ahead as a competitive category, but only 1st place will be awarded.
Music	Team Routine tracks must be a minimum length of 2.5 minutes, and a maximum of 4 minutes. This time limit refers to the duration of the music track , not including any bow or reprise.

The winning team of this category will have their team name added to the **Ignite QMJC Perpetual Team Trophy**. Individual trophies are not awarded for this category.

[Submit Music](#)

SECTION D: Miscellaneous

Competition Music

1. **DJ-Selected Music:** The Event DJ will supply music for every category, with the exception of Showcase and Teams.
2. **Self-Supplied Tracks:** Entrants competing in Showcase and Teams categories need to provide their own music. Tracks must be in mp3 or mp4 format and submitted before the deadline of **21st August 2026**.
3. **Content Standards:** Best efforts are made to ensure that all tracks are free of **excessively** explicit lyrics and inappropriate themes. However, being an 18+ event (with exceptions made for competitors under 18, with parental consent), the Event Directors will not be held responsible for music that falls outside of these parameters.

Any music provided by competitors for Showcase, Teams or Champions categories, must fit within these same parameters.

Submit Music

Video and Photography

1. In 2026, **ALL** categories will be professionally filmed, **EXCEPT** for any categories held on the Friday night (i.e. Lucky Blinds heats). All-skates (multiple couples on the floor), will be filmed as a stationary, floor-wide shot. Videography for Spotlights, Teams and Showcases will be professionally attended, ensuring quality footage. Footage will be uploaded to YouTube at a later date.
2. Competitors and spectators are encouraged to video friends and family, except as part of a Showcase and/or Team Routine (unless with express consent by the performer/s, choreographer/s and Event Directors). Please ensure that if a video portrays another dancer, that you have their express permission to post this footage anywhere.
3. Parts of the event will be recorded by video and stills photography, which may be used by Ignite QMJC and/or the Directors of the event or any Le Step branded group. By entering the event you understand and agree to this footage being used for social media, website and other promotional purposes by Ignite QMJC, and/or the Directors at Le Step Dance Company, Le Step on the Coast, or any other Le Step branded group.

Venue & Liability

1. Seating is **unallocated** and runs on a first-come, first-served basis. Please keep your belongings stored safely underneath the seats or in a place that they will not be obstructing a thoroughfare.
 2. Attendees are responsible for the safety of themselves and their belongings. Ignite QMJC and the Event Directors take no responsibility for loss or injury at the event.
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Director Participation

1. Due to the limited number of competitive opportunities within Australia, the Event Directors will be allowed to compete at this event. In any category an Event Director enters, decisions that would normally be theirs to make, instead pass to the Head Judge.
 2. Any category that would normally be DJ'd by an Event Director will be delegated to another DJ.
 3. Event Directors may also sit on the judging panel.
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SECTION E: Contact Us

For any questions, queries, concerns, comments or conundrums, please contact the Event Directors ahead of the event date, at igniteqmc@gmail.com.

Time to burn the floor! Happy dancing! 🔥

NAME	ROLE	EMAIL
Mick French	Event Director	mick@lestep.com.au
Emma Keating	Event Director	emma@lestepgc.com.au
Eamon French	Event Director	eamon@lestep.com.au

APPENDIX 1: Definitions

TERM	MEANING
Competition / Event	Referring to a competitive event, as a whole. Often used interchangeably with 'Event'.
Role	Referring to a Leader or a Follower; the two Roles within our dance style.
Category	Referring to the type of Contest being held (e.g. 'Freestyle', 'DWAS', 'Lucky Blinds').
Level	Referring to a dancer's competitive level (e.g. 'Beginner' or 'Advanced').
Contest	Referring to the combination of Level/Category (e.g. 'Beginner Freestyle' or 'Advanced DWAS').
All-Skate	A round (heat, semi-final or final) danced with several competing couples on the floor together.
Rapid Fire	A single unbroken track during which couples enter and leave the floor, one at a time, on the emcee's call.
Spotlight	A single couple, holding the floor for the length of the track(s).
DWAS	Dance With A Stranger. A format where competitors dance with multiple randomly-assigned partners, judged individually on their partnering skills.
Aerial / Baby Aerial	Refer to Appendix 2: Aerials for definitions and allowances.

APPENDIX 2: Aerials

Definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
Baby Aerial	One partner has both feet come off the floor, while the majority of their weight is being supported BELOW the other partner's chest height.
Aerial	One partner has both feet come off the floor, while the majority of their weight is being supported ABOVE the other partner's chest height.

In categories where aerials are allowed, they must be performed cleanly and safely, with appropriate timing and musical interpretation. The number of full aerials allowed per round (heat/semi/final) is capped, so that Modern Jive fundamentals remain more of a focal-point than big tricks.

Safety First

Highest Priority: At all times, the safety of our dancers is the highest priority. While baby aerials are allowed in most DWAS levels, there is an expectation that both partners are on board *before* the move takes off – dancers seen to be putting their partners (or other competitors) at risk will be penalised.

Allowed Aerials

Dance With A Stranger

CATEGORY	BABY AERIALS	FULL AERIALS
Beginner DWAS	No	No
Intermediate <2yrs DWAS	Yes	No
Intermediate Plus DWAS	Yes	No
Over 50s DWAS	Yes	No
Advanced DWAS	Yes	No
Champions DWAS	Yes	2x per round

Freestyle

CATEGORY	BABY AERIALS	FULL AERIALS
Beginner Freestyle	Yes	No
Intermediate <2yrs Freestyle	Yes	No
Over 50s Freestyle	Yes	2x per round
Intermediate Plus Freestyle	Yes	2x per round
Advanced Freestyle	Yes	2x per round
Champions Freestyle	Yes	2x per round

Other Categories

CATEGORY	BABY AERIALS	FULL AERIALS
Lucky Blinds	No	No
Mentor / Pro-Am Showcase	Yes	Yes
Showcase (Open)	Yes	Yes
Teams	Yes	Yes

APPENDIX 3: Modern Jive Content

The Fundamentals

Modern Jive is an inherently adaptable dance style that combines elements and techniques from countless other dance styles, both partnered and solo. As a baseline however, Modern Jive can usually be defined by a few core fundamentals:

FUNDAMENTAL	MEANING
Connection	The physical "compression" and "resistance" that we create with our partners to communicate our intentions within the dance.
Concertina	A term that Modern Jive uses to articulate the accordion-like movement that we use in our dance style. Concertina generally refers to the Leader and Follower moving <i>toward</i> each other, and <i>away</i> from each other, in unison.
Timing	<p>Modern Jive recognises two types of beats; 'upbeats' and 'downbeats'. Upbeats are usually identified by the 'AND' count of a Modern Jive count (AND 1, AND 2, AND 3, AND 4), or an 'even' number in a straight count (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8), while downbeats are the opposite.</p> <p>Footwork: Generally, a Leader takes their first step with their right foot, on the upbeat, and their left foot on the downbeat. Followers are the opposite.</p> <p>Frame: Dancing on the opposite foot may not <i>always</i> break the dance – what matters most is that a dancer's FRAME is in the right place, at the right time, providing the right connection.</p> <p>Momentum: Traditionally, 'directional leads' should be present on the upbeats, while the 'positions' of a move are demonstrated on the downbeats. Exceptions may apply.</p>

Non-Modern Jive Content

While we *have* the capacity to incorporate technique from other dance styles, for the purposes of competition, we suggest you do so sparingly. If these 'borrowed' techniques are used too frequently and cause your dancing to look like a different dance style (i.e. **not recognisably Modern Jive**), this would be subject to review by the Head Judge and/or the Event Directors.

Ideally, any borrowed technique should not 'overpower' our Modern Jive fundamentals. Some elements that are not fundamentally Modern Jive, but are encouraged for the purpose of *enhancing* your Modern Jive dancing, include: *Breakaway, Aerials, Syncopated Timing, Footwork and Directional Leads, Influencing or Co-piloting, among more*. For more information, book a private class with one of our guest teachers ;)

Musical Structure

Modern Jive is traditionally danced to music with a 4/4 time signature; however, there is no hard rule that enforces this at Ignite QMJC. Competitors are welcome to submit music outside of this time signature for routine performances, provided that they use appropriate techniques to maintain a two-step rhythm.

For example, in a song with a 6/8 time signature, competitors would be expected to utilise "third-timing", where dancers are stepping on every **third** beat, similar to the way that we "half-time" some faster music. Note that this often muddies the waters and makes it more difficult to identify Modern Jive fundamentals, which MAY impact the judge's scoring.

APPENDIX 4: Routine Disqualification

Grounds for Disqualification

1. A competitor will only be considered for disqualification, if their dancing is deemed to be **clearly identifiable** as a dance style that is entirely distinct from Modern Jive, therefore making it inappropriate for a Modern Jive competition.
2. **Procedural Requirements:** To ensure fairness, the following protocol must be observed before any action is taken: - **Reporting:** A minimum of **two (2) judges** must independently report the routine for disqualification. - **Review:** Upon receiving these reports, the **Head Judge** will consult with the **Event Directors** to review the performance. - **Final Determination:** The Head Judge and Event Directors hold the absolute authority to determine if disqualification is warranted.

Action on Insufficient Demonstration of Fundamentals

Where a judge interprets that Modern Jive fundamentals are missing from **the majority** of a dance (in any category), that judge simply marks the entrant below the other competitors.

Judges are asked to flag this with the Head Judge when this drove their score; if two judges individually flag the same concern, a review is triggered, and the Head Judge and/or Event Directors are to decide on appropriate action - the steepest penalty being a drop to an off-podium placing, or a placing that does not receive points in a Tiered category.

If two judges have flagged a lack of Modern Jive content, the Head Judge and/or Event Directors will inform the affected competitors **after** the event weekend; however, the judge's names and scores will remain anonymous.

Potential Scoring Penalties

Dancing that leans heavily on the following may not score as highly as those demonstrating a higher quota of Modern Jive dancing:

- **Non-Musical Narrative:** Over-reliance on "theatrical" storytelling at the expense of dancing.
- **Excessive Breakaway:** Non-connected dancing running beyond two minor phrases back-to-back (8 MJ counts / 16 straight counts).

Video Submission (optional)

1. **Preliminary Review:** Choreographers are encouraged to submit a video of their routine to the Event Directors prior to official entry. This allows for an informal assessment of whether the routine contains sufficient Modern Jive content. To allow adequate time for any suggested adjustments, videos should be submitted as early as possible.
2. **Scope of Feedback:** Please note that any feedback provided is general and unofficial - it serves as the personal opinions of the Event Directors, to assist in your preparation. The opinions of the other judges at the actual competition may vary.
3. **Conflict of Interest Disclosure:** Choreographers submitting videos for review must acknowledge and accept that Event Directors providing feedback may have their own routines entered in the competition, and may be members of the official judging panel for the category on the day.

Video Submission

APPENDIX 5: Judging & Scoring

Judging Priorities at QMJC

The only criteria that we impose on our judges, is the presence of **Modern Jive Fundamentals** and **Critical Timing**.

Timing sits near the top of the judging criteria at this competition, only second to **Safe Connection**. While dancers are competing, for the majority of their time on the floor, each dancer should be demonstrating correct critical timing, as per the Modern Jive Fundamentals.

Judges

Our panel of judges are selected based on a number of factors, including: Experience, Expertise, Competitive Level, Active Status, and Technical Articulation, along with Community Involvement, Reputation, Geographical Representation, and Prior Attendance.

Ultimately, while we value the alignment of a judge's criteria to that of the QMJC, we trust our judging panel to make judicial decisions based on their own criteria, as priorities may vary between schools. This is an opportunity to reward and promote those priorities on an international scale - otherwise, geographical representation becomes a moot point.

Scoring/Ranking

1. In the **Heats** and **Semi Finals**, competitors are judged comparatively against ALL competitors across that round. Judges are asked to select a number of 'Definites' and a number of first and second choice 'Alternates' to go through to the next round, based on their own judging criteria and guidelines.
2. Any competitors listed as 'Alternate' after the first round should be **on standby to compete** in the next round, in case one of the listed competitors withdraws between rounds or can't be found.
3. The quantity of competitors who will progress to the next round is determined when the scores from each complete round have been processed. In all cases, the Event Directors will have provided the Scoring Manager with a desired number, however if this precise number cannot be achieved due to a tie, the Head Judge and/or Event Directors will make the decision on whether to progress more or less competitors to the next round, without looking at competitor names. In cases where this still cannot achieve an appropriate number of competitors, the Head Judge's scores will be used to break the tie.
4. In all Finals and in the Showcase and Team categories, all competitors will be **ranked** in order 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc based on the judging criteria.

Scores & Results

1. Once submitted, scores become final.
2. *After* the event, a competitor may email the Event Directors for their own scores and placing. Only that competitor's results are released, and judges are never named.

It's worth competitors keeping in mind that, in the few minutes a judge has to watch the whole floor, they may happen to catch a brilliant moment, or a weaker one, or neither. Judges also bring their own tastes and opinions, so it's entirely normal for six judges to advance a couple while a seventh doesn't — or, in a Final, for one judge to place a couple 1st and another to place the same couple 6th.

We ask competitors to expect and respect this, and to treat their scores as a broad read on how they ranked across the competition, rather than a precise verdict. If the numbers fall short of what you hoped, try not to take it personally — remember that any result only reflects how you danced *on the day*, and only *relative* to the rest of the floor.

Scores will be uploaded to the AMJR as soon as possible after the event.

Scoring Staff

Many of our event staff are volunteers who also have the opportunity to dance in the competition. In cases where a member of the scoring team is in the competition, a procedure is in place to ensure integrity of their own scores and any scores of a spouse or other close contact.

Judge/Competitor Etiquette

Please bear in mind that judging is a demanding role on the day, so our judges may not be free to engage with you, the way they otherwise would. With that in mind:

1. Competitors are to stay out of the judges' seating and breakout areas.
2. During the competition day, please don't approach judges for advice, for the reasoning behind scores or rankings, or for tips on advancing. Feedback can be requested **AFTER** the event, and whether to provide this, is entirely up to the individual judge.
3. Any judge who does offer post-event feedback will speak only to what they made of the performance and how the competitor might improve next time. Judges aren't expected to comment on where anyone placed, or whether that competitor (or others) deserved their result.
4. Judges are within their rights to keep their scoring decisions private.
5. Scoring rests on what a judge sees on the floor in the time given; how a competitor usually dances, or has danced before, has no bearing.
6. Each judge scores on their own, without conferring with the others.
7. Before the event, judges must declare any conflict of interest for the categories they're assigned (for instance, having helped with choreography, or a close personal connection), and the Event Directors will weigh it accordingly.
8. Most of our judges are teachers or run groups with dancers in the competition. While judging or seated in the judging area, they are welcome to cheer, but won't do so for a particular couple or

group. However, away from that area — and during the Awards Ceremony — they'll naturally get behind their people.

Acknowledgements

These rules build on a shared lineage of Modern Jive competition frameworks, but is primarily an adaptation of the original rules document authored by Julie Gunn, established for the Australian Ceroc Dance Championships (ACDC).

Our sincere gratitude and a heartfelt thank you, goes to Julie for the dedication and expertise she brings to our competitive scene - and of course, to the many event organisers that have helped define, refine and evolve our competition rules over the years.

Thank you.
