

Ignite Queensland Modern Jive Championships (QMJC)

Competition Information and Rules



1. Responsibilities

1.1 Organiser Responsibilities

The organiser is responsible for ensuring the event is run safely, professionally and fairly. This is a complex undertaking and more information can be provided by the organiser upon request.

The organiser may decide to cancel a competition category if there are less than four entries for that category when entries close. The organiser will communicate this change to all competitors who have entered the category to be cancelled as soon as possible.

1.2 Competitor Responsibilities

- Competitors are responsible for reading and understanding this document, especially the General Rules and specific event rules and Appendices.
- Competitors are responsible for knowing which events they are eligible to enter.
- Shoes must not damage or mark floors. Heel caps must be worn on shoes with a heel base the size of an Australian 10c coin or smaller.
- Costumes must be appropriate to the audience.
- It is the desire of the organiser to hold an expressive and exciting dance competition without sacrificing the quality of dancing or good taste. To encourage this balance, any action that is unacceptable in a social dance setting is prohibited.
- Competitors are responsible for displaying their number in an appropriate place on their back. At the end of a song, competitors are required to rotate to ensure judges can clearly see their number.
- Competitors are required to be ready in the marshalling area at the appropriate time and are required to remain in the area assigned, unless otherwise stated.
- Competitors must use good floor-craft, which is the skill of utilising the space on the dance floor while you are dancing, without disrupting the dancing of others.
- Competitors must have consideration for other competitors on the floor at all times, and are responsible for the care and safety of their own partner and other competitors, for example, while doing a Death Spiral or aerial moves.
- Showcases and Teams have use of the entire dance floor.

2. International Competitors

When entering Ignite QMJC Dance competition for the first time, International competitors need to supplement their entry with an email of their placing history to the competition organizer. At the organizers' discretion and with the assistance of the dancer's teacher, the competitive level best suited to the dancer will then be determined. The dancer will then be contacted and advised of their Ignite QMJC Competitive level.

3. Levels

3.1 At what level do I dance?

Dancers must compete in the same level for both Freestyle and DWAS, competing at their highest qualifying level of the two events. For example, if a dancer qualifies for Advanced Freestyle and Intermediate Plus DWAS, that dancer must compete in the Advanced level for both events at QMJC.

Competitors who have won twice in Intermediate Plus or gained three placings (first, second or third) in Intermediate Plus at VMJC, CMJ, Gold Coast Champs or QMJC must compete at this level for 12 months after their qualifying placing before moving up to the next level. Exceptions include dancing up one level with a Freestyle dance partner.

If dancers are unsure of the level at which they should compete, they should submit their dance history via email to igniteQMJC@gmail.com for determination, at least 7 days before the close of registrations.

3.2 Levels Table - assuming you do not meet criteria at a higher level:

Beginners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry level, dancers must be dancing Modern Jive for less than 12 months
Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dancers must be dancing Modern Jive for between 12 months and for no more than 2 years • Regular Beginner Class demonstrators may enter at this level
Intermediate Plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dancers must be dancing Modern Jive for more than 2 years or have placed (with or without the same partner) in Intermediate Freestyle or DWAS prior to or at this competition last year • Beginner Class Teachers and Consolidation Teachers may enter at this level
Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dancers must be dancing Modern Jive and have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - won first place (with or without the same partner in intermediate plus TWO or more times in the same event (i.e 2 x 1st places in intermediate plus DWAS or 2 x 1st places in intermediate plus freestyle) prior to or at this competition last year, OR - placed on THREE or more occasions (any combination of first, second, or third placings) in the same event (ie 3 x Intermediate Plus DWAS placings OR 3 x Intermediate Plus Freestyle placings) prior to or at this competition last year. • Intermediate or Advanced Modern Jive Teachers may enter at this level
Champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dancers must be dancing Modern Jive and have won first place (with or without the same partner) on TWO or more occasions, or any combination of first, second or third in the same event on THREE or more occasions in the Advanced level prior to or at this competition last year.

4. Events

4.1 What events can I enter?

Every competitor must submit an entry online.

Notifications of all Teams and Showcase entries must be registered by the due date to ensure there are enough of these entries in each event to go ahead. There must be a minimum of three Teams and three Showcases for those events to be held. For all other categories, a minimum of three entries are required to run that level but subsequent placing are not counted towards future events unless there is a minimum of 6 couples.

All competitors should be 15 years or over and if under 18, must have written consent from their parent/guardian to compete as well as have a parent/guardian present with them at all times within the venue.

Event Director/Organisers may enter Team and Pro-Am events only.

Spaces are limited so entries are accepted on a first come first entered basis. Some categories may fill before the closing date of submissions.

There will be no refund for competitors who withdraw either before or during the event.

See Appendix A for information on Aerial definitions and approvals for each level.
See Appendix B for Judging Criteria and Descriptions for each event.

4.2 Events Table

DWAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Competitors enter as individuals as per their level in Section 3. ● Competitors can enter one level of DWAS only. ● Leaders and followers are judged separately with the exception of the Finals in every level where they will be judged as a couple. ● The competitor level for Freestyle and DWAS will be the same, and determined by the highest level attained in either category.
Freestyle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Couples enter as per their level in Section 3. ● Couples dance to music where the leader leads the follower through a sequence of spontaneous and improvised moves selected by the leader ● The competitor level for Freestyle and DWAS will be the same, and determined by the highest level attained in either category. ● This includes the Over 45's event.
Pro-Am with Leader or Follower Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advanced and Champion level teachers, as per Section 3, may dance as the Professional. ● Beginner or Intermediate level competitors in Section 3 may enter as the Amateur Leader or Amateur Follower partner. ● Partners cannot be performance dance partners or be competing in another category together at Ignite QMJC 2019.

Pro-Am with Leader or Follower Students continued...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If the teacher and student have competed in any past championships, they may not compete in this event together. The exceptions are if your partner is one you rotate to as part of a team routine, or interstate competitors (only) will be allowed to compete with someone they have previously competed with in Pro-Am, providing they did not place first, second or third.
Infinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contact between partners must be maintained with both hands to their partners hands while dancing throughout the song ● Any move (including Baby aerals and Full aerals) may be danced provided the hands remain in contact ● If a handhold is released the couple must leave the floor, or will be asked to leave the floor by judges ● Individuals may participate in either a leader or a follower role
Showcase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One couple with both dancers at a minimum of Intermediate Plus level dancing a choreographed performance to music chosen by the competitors ● Music should be 2.5 minutes to no more than 4 minutes in duration ● Music must be mp3/mp4 format and emailed to the Event Director no later than the closing date for entries
Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum of three couples, no maximum number of couples, no restriction of dance levels ● Dancing a choreographed performance to music chosen by the competitors ● Music should be 2.5 minutes to no more than 4 minutes in duration ● Music must be mp3/mp4 format and emailed to the Event Director no later than the closing date for entries

5. General Rules

These apply to all levels and across events other than Showcase and Teams.

- Competitors must dance in the Modern Jive style.
- Modern Jive is a partner dance with lead and follow roles performed in a predominantly concertina action.
- Competitors should maintain contact for the majority of the dance.
- Non-contact dancing is only allowed for 16 musical counts and competitors are required to dance/perform during this time.
- Competitors must use good floor-craft and utilise the space on the dance floor without disrupting the dancing of others
- Dancers must remain in the area assigned, unless otherwise stated.
- Showcase and Teams have use of the entire dance floor.
- Awards ceremony will take place for all events on Sunday night as per the Schedule of Events.
- The judges' decisions are final.

Appendix A: Aerials

A1. Aerials are moves where a dancer is lifted or held off the ground, or thrown in the air by another dancer. The dancer being lifted held or thrown is known as the flyer. The dancer doing the lifting or holding is the base.

- Baby Aerials - the flyer keeps one foot below the chest height of the base with the majority of the flyer's weight below the base chest height. Examples including but not limited to: Swan Drop Rotator, Charise Lift, Wrap Somersault.
- Full Aerials - both feet of the flyer is above the chest height of the base with the majority of the weight of the flyer above the base chest height. Examples including but not limited to: Aerial Star, Star Lift, Supergirl, and Propeller.
- Acrobatics - where the flyer is thrown and contact between the flyer and the base is broken
- Death Spirals are not allowed when other competitors are on the floor (except for Teams). Although not an aerial by definition, it is where the flyer is spun by the base using centrifugal forces to maintain the flyers shape while in rotation.

A2. While this is a dance competition and not an acrobatics competition, aerials must be executed safely, seamlessly, and integrated smoothly into the dance with appropriate timing and interpretation of the music.

A3. Competitors must only perform Aerials in the approved levels as set out below:

Dance With A Stranger	Baby Aerials	Full Aerials
Beginners DWAS	No	No
Intermediate DWAS	Yes	No
Intermediate Plus DWAS	Yes	No
Advanced DWAS	Yes	No
Champions DWAS	Yes	No
Freestyle	Baby Aerials	Full Aerials
Beginners Freestyle	Yes	No
Intermediate Freestyle	Yes	No
Intermediate Plus Freestyle	Yes	2 per song
Over 45s Freestyle	Yes	2 per song
Advanced Freestyle	Yes	2 per song
Champions Freestyle	Yes	2 per song
Other	Baby Aerials	Full Aerials
Pro-Am	Yes	No
Infinity	Yes	Yes
Showcase	Yes	Yes
Teams	Yes	Yes

Appendix B: Judging Criteria and Descriptions

B1. The key judging criteria of the competition is on accurate Modern Jive timing. Each dancer must demonstrate the fundamental footwork and body movement of Modern Jive.

B2. Timing: Moving to the beat/rhythm/tempo of the music. Competitors are expected to dance on time to demonstrate to the judges that they have an understanding of moving to the beat rather than against it.

If you are counting with straight count (ie 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 as a minor phrase in the music), Modern Jive starts / transitions on the even numbers (2,4,6,8) or the “upbeat”, and finishes on the down beat (1,3,5,7). If you are counting with ‘Modern Jive’ count (that is “& 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &”), Modern Jive starts / transitions on the “&” count and finishes on the “numbered” count. For example, a Change of Place with straight count starts on 8 (or another even number) and finishes on 5. A Change of Place with ‘Modern Jive count’ starts on & and finishes on 3.

B3. Technique - the display of controlled execution of moves including:

- Clear lead and follow
- Good balance and posture

B4. Presentation - includes:

- Connection to the audience
- Entertainment value
- Attitude
- Costume complementing the couple
- Costume complementing the choreography (applies to Showcase only)

B5. Partnership - is the display of:

- Connection with your partner
- complementing each other’s style and strengths

B6. Teamwork - is the display of:

- Synchronisation between Team couples
- Transitions within the dance
- Formation structure

B7. Choreography - is the pattern, order and formation of dance movements to a set piece of music and can incorporate:

- Expression of a story
- Range of moves
- Flow of dance/routines
- Use of lines/extensions
- Use of space and formation
- Innovation/creativity
- Interpreting the rhythm, melody, mood and imagery of the music piece

B8. Musicality - is the manner in which competitors interpret the rhythm, melody, mood and imagery of a song through movement, body language and expressions.

B9. Moves - are judged by:

- Difficulty
- Originality
- Selection
- Seamless execution

B10. All dancing in the Freestyle / DWAS events must have at least 90% recognisable Modern Jive content. For Showcase/Team events, the routines must be predominately Modern Jive content.

B11. In all categories except Showcase and Teams, the emphasis is on freestyle lead/follow dancing.

B12. Penalties may be applied if dancers lack spatial awareness or perform a move irresponsibly which causes movement into another couple's dance space or injury or collision with another couple.

B14. Judging Criteria Table

Category	Judging Criteria
Freestyle, DWAS and Over 45's	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timing 2. Evidence of Modern Jive fundamentals - footwork and concertina action. 3. Considerate and clear lead and follow, with good connection and technique. 4. Style and flow 5. Musical Interpretation 6. Variety of moves 7. Performance attitude / entertainment value / X Factor / Chemistry
Category	Judging Criteria
Pro-Am	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. See all criteria for Freestyle and DWAS 2. Focus on the student's ability within the partnership
Category	Judging Criteria
Infinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See all criteria for Freestyle and DWAS ● Focus on fun whilst demonstrating quality dancing
Category	Judging Criteria
Showcase	<p>In no particular order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Choreography - innovative, creative, and musically interpretive content ● Dancing - timing, style, quality of movement, posture, fluidity, connection, evidence of Modern Jive fundamentals ● Overall presentation - performance attitude, energy, mood, entertainment value
Category	Judging Criteria
Teams	<p>In no particular order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Choreography - innovative, creative, and musically interpretive content ● Dancing - timing, style, quality of movement, posture, fluidity, connection, evidence of Modern Jive fundamentals ● Overall presentation - performance attitude, energy, mood, entertainment value ● Teamwork – synchronicity, transitions and formations

Appendix C: Breach of Rules Policy

C1. If a judge witnesses an incident in which a competition rule has been breached, they will make comments on their scoring sheets, however, will continue judging without said breach affecting the scores. That judge is required to inform the Head Judge of the breach as soon as possible. Breaches of rules identified by competitors, audience members or video will not be addressed.

C2. It is the Head Judge's responsibility to identify the rule/s being breached and severity of the breach. Taking into consideration the following:

- Did the incident give the competitor an unfair advantage?
- Did the incident interfere with any other competitors?
- Has the competitor been informed of the breach of rules previously? (Where applicable)

C3. The Head Judge may then, in keeping with the Judge's manual, determine to:

- Warn the competitor, and identify the incident and rule/s that were breached.
- Penalise the competitor by loss of place/placings, and identify the incident, rule/s that it breached and outcome to the competitor.
- Disqualify the competitor from that category, and identify the incident, rule/s that were breached, and notify the outcome to the competitor.

These policies are current as at August 2019 and applicable to the Ignite QMJC event only.