

Ignite - Queensland Modern Jive Championships (QMJC) Competition Information and Rules



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1.0 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 six entries for that category when entries close. The organiser will communicate this change to all competitors who have entered any category that is 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 for a mixed 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 always have consideration for other competitors on the floor and are responsible for the care and safety of their own partner and other competitors, for example, while performing aerial moves. Moves that may be dangerous to other dancers (eg 'Death Spirals') are banned, with the exception of during spotlights or showcases.
- Showcases and Teams have use of the entire dance floor.

2.0 Events

2.1 Roles

- Dancers may dance either role – Leader or Follower. If they register to dance in their non-dominant role, they will start from Intermediate Plus and progress as normal, regardless of their progression in their main role (unless they meet the time-based requirements for Beginner or Intermediate).
- Dancers may enter as BOTH a Leader and a Follower during the QMJC, but only at different levels and different categories of competition. i.e. A dancer would *not* be able to enter as a Champion DWAS *Leader* and an InterPlus DWAS *Follower*. They *would* be able to enter as a Champion Freestyle Leader and an InterPlus DWAS Follower.

2.2 Event Notes

- Every competitor must submit an online registration form at DanceConvention.
- Notifications of all Teams and Showcase entries must be registered by the due date to ensure there are enough entries in each event for that category of competition to proceed. There must be a minimum of five Teams and five Showcases for those events to be judged. If five entries are not received, the hosts will request Teams and Showcases are performed at the QMJC, but not judged. For all other categories, a minimum of three couples is required to run that competition, but subsequent placings/points are not counted towards future events unless there is a minimum of 6 couples.
- Event Director/Organisers may enter Team and Pro-Am events only.
- Spaces are limited, so entries are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Some categories may be filled before the closing date of submissions.
- See Appendix A for information on Aerial definitions and approvals for each level.
- See Appendix B for Judging Criteria and Descriptions for each event.

2.3 Events and Categories

DWAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitors enter as individuals as per their level in Section 2. • Competitors can enter one level of DWAS only. • Leaders and followers are judged separately. • The competitor level for Freestyle and DWAS will be a maximum of one level apart.
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 will be determined by the highest Freestyle or DWAS level within the partnership.

Over 45's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open-level category. Couples competing at Advanced/Champions/All-Stars at QMJC 2023, are not allowed to enter this category. ● Couples dance to music where the leader leads the follower through a sequence of spontaneous and improvised moves selected by the leader.
Pro-Am DWAS Leader & Pro-Am DWAS Follower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Champion and All-Stars level teachers only, as per Section 3, may dance as the Professional. ● Beginner or Intermediate level competitors in Section 2 may enter as the Amateur Leader or Amateur Follower. ● In the 'Pro-Am DWAS Leader' event, the Am (Amateur) is the Leader. ● In the 'Pro-Am DWAS Follower' event, the Am (Amateur) is the Follower. ● Pro-Am partnerships will be randomly generated. ● Spaces are limited, so entries are accepted on a first-come, first-entered basis. This category may be filled before the closing date of submissions.
Partners Blind New in 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The couple will dance to two songs. ● The first song, all Followers will be blindfolded. The second song, the blindfold is switched and given to the Leader.
Showcase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One couple (with at least half of the partnership competing at an Advanced/Champion level) will dance 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 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.

3.0 Levels and Points

QMJC 2023 will utilize a unique levelling system, that is both time-based AND points-based at different levels.

Before registering, dancers should read through this section to determine what level they should compete at. Note: your competitive level will be based off *previous* placings that are then allocated [point values](#).

On registration, please provide a list of placings/finals relevant to you, as these may need to be cross-checked to ensure dancers are competing at the appropriate level. For information on levelling requirements, please see the table below.

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.

3.1 Progression Criteria

Beginners (time-based)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Entry level. ● Dancers must have been dancing Modern Jive for a period of <i>less than 12 months</i>.
Intermediate (time-based)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dancers must have been dancing Modern Jive for a period of <i>between 12 months and 2 years</i>. ● <u>Regular Beginner Class demonstrators may enter at this level.</u>
Intermediate Plus (Inter-Plus) (time-based)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dancers must have been dancing Modern Jive for a period of <i>longer than 2 years</i>. ● <u>Beginner Class Teachers and Bridging/Consolidation Teachers may enter at this level.</u>
Advanced (point-based) 10 Point Requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dancers must have accumulated a minimum of 10 points at the <i>Intermediate Plus</i> level to progress. ● Once the point requirement has been met in <i>Intermediate Plus</i>, dancers have a period of <u>one year</u> to move up. After this period, dancers will automatically be moved up. ● Points accumulated in DWAS will only apply to your DWAS level - points accumulated in Freestyle will only apply to your Freestyle level. Points are not shared between events. ● Please see Point Allocation for information on how to accumulate points. ● <u>Intermediate Modern Jive Teachers may enter at this level.</u>
Champions (point-based) 12 Point Requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dancers must have accumulated a minimum of 12 points at the <i>Advanced</i> level, to progress. ● Once the point requirement has been met in <i>Advanced</i>, dancers have a period of <u>one year</u> to move up. After this period, dancers will automatically be moved up.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Points accumulated in DWAS will only apply to your DWAS level - points accumulated in Freestyle will only apply to your Freestyle level. Points are not shared between events. ● Please see Point Allocation for information on how to accumulate points.
All-Stars (invitational)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All-stars is an invitational category only.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- **Points will not be shared between categories.** i.e., Points accumulated in DWAS will only apply to your DWAS level - points accumulated in Freestyle will only apply to your Freestyle level.
- **Dancers may only compete with one level-difference between their DWAS and Freestyle events.** i.e., If someone is dancing in InterPlus DWAS and they move up from Advanced Freestyle to Champions Freestyle, their DWAS division would also move up, to maintain a 1-level difference – they would then dance at Advanced DWAS and Champions Freestyle.
- **A freestyle partnership will dance at the highest level of the partnership.** i.e., An InterPlus DWAS leader, freestyling with an Advanced DWAS follower, would dance in Advanced Freestyle.
- Being that Freestyle and DWAS will be treated as separate events with separate levelling systems, the aforementioned InterPlus DWAS leader that is dancing in Advanced Freestyle, would remain in InterPlus DWAS.
- **Dancers may not skip levels.** i.e., A Champion level dancer could not pull up an InterPlus dancer up for freestyle.
- As a Modern Jive teacher, you must dance at least **one level higher than what you teach.**
- Points are reset to a baseline of [0] after progressing up in level.

3.2 Point Allocation

Points will be allocated per placing/final.

Achievement	Level	Point Allocation:	DWAS	Freestyle
1 st Place	Beginner		-	-
	Intermediate		-	-
	Intermediate Plus		5 points	5 points
	Advanced		5 points	5 points
	Champions		-	-
2 nd Place	Beginner		-	-
	Intermediate		-	-
	Intermediate Plus		4 points	4 points
	Advanced		4 points	4 points
	Champions		-	-
3 rd Place	Beginner		-	-
	Intermediate		-	-
	Intermediate Plus		3 points	3 points
	Advanced		3 points	3 points
	Champions		-	-
Finals	Beginner		-	-
	Intermediate		-	-
	Intermediate Plus		1 point	1 point
	Advanced		1 point	1 point
	Champions		-	-

IMPORTANT NOTES

- You may only receive one set of points for a placing. e.g. A first place is worth [5] points for a placing, not [6] points for a placing *and* a final.
- Points will not be shared between categories. i.e. Points accumulated in DWAS will only apply to your DWAS level - points accumulated in Freestyle will only apply to your Freestyle level.

3.2.1 MJPI Placings Conversion

- To reflect the difference between the progression systems of MJPI and the QMJC, MJPI placings will be considered equivalent to a placing at the lower level of the division. i.e., A *Level 3* placing will be allocated points at the *Intermediate Plus* level.

MJPI Level	Description	Achievement
1	Beginner	Beginner equivalent. No points.
2	Intermediate / Lower Inter-Plus	Intermediate equivalent. No points.
3	Higher Inter-Plus / Lower Advanced	Equivalent of an <i>Intermediate Plus</i> placing.
4	Lower Advanced / Champions	Equivalent of an <i>Advanced</i> placing.

4.0 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 (8 MJ 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.
- The 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 include but are not limited to: Swan Drop Rotator, Charise Lift, Wrap Somersault.
- Full Aerials - both feet of the flyer are 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.
- 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
All-Stars DWAS	Yes	Yes
Freestyle	Baby Aerials	Full Aerials
Beginners Freestyle	Yes	No
Intermediate Freestyle	Yes	No
Intermediate Plus Freestyle	Yes	2 per song
Over 45's Freestyle	Yes	2 per song
Advanced Freestyle	Yes	2 per song
Champions Freestyle	Yes	2 per song
All-Stars Freestyle	Yes	Yes
Other	Baby Aerials	Full Aerials
Pro-Am DWAS	Yes	No
Infinity	Yes	Yes
Partners Blind	Yes	No
Showcase	Yes	Yes
Teams	Yes	Yes

Appendix B: Judging Criteria and Descriptions

B1. The key judging criteria of the competition is 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 (i.e., 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
Partners Blind	<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.