



2025 Competitor Information & Rules

Please note that competition events may differ in their qualification requirements and rules, so please read this rules document carefully.

Thank you for respecting the right of each Event Director to implement a set of rules that they believe to be appropriate for their event.

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SECTION A: COMPETITOR ENTRY & REGISTRATION

1. Competitors under 18 must apply to the Event Directors for entry and participation at Ignite QMJC. Acceptance will require written consent from their parent/guardian and minors must have a parent/guardian present at the competition venue with them at all times.
2. All entries must be submitted electronically at danceconvention.net
3. To be fair to competitors working on choreography, all **Choreographed Routine entries** must be submitted by **Friday 18th July 2025** to ensure there are enough entries for these categories to go ahead.
4. The closing date for all other categories is **Friday 1st August 2025**. Full payment is required no later than this date, and a space is only secured once full payment has been made. Spaces are limited and some categories may fill before the closing date, so please enter and pay EARLY to avoid disappointment.
5. Two person categories will only go ahead if a minimum of 5 couples enter. If this is not achieved at the highest level of the competition, that category will run as a non-competitive performance.
6. Choreographed Routine categories will only go ahead if a minimum of 5 Teams/Showcases enter. If a Team/Showcase category does not go ahead, the dancers MAY be invited to be included as a non-competitive performance.
7. **There will be no refund for competitors who withdraw after the closing date of Friday 1st August 2025.**

SECTION B: GENERAL DEFINITIONS

1. **Leader/Follower:** Modern Jive is a partner dance involving one dancer leading their chosen moves and movements, and the other dancer following and complementing those moves and movements. Competitors may dance in the role of their choice, either Leader or Follower, provided they maintain that role throughout the dance and throughout all categories of this competition. See **Section D** for specific rules.
2. **Freestyle Categories:** One leader and one follower enter the competition as a **fixed partnership** and are judged as a couple. Dance moves can and should of course be rehearsed, however should **not** be visibly choreographed in set repeated sequences with no regard to the music. The focus is on Modern Jive Freestyle dancing.
3. **Dance With A Stranger (DWAS) Categories:** Leaders and followers enter the competition **individually** and rotate to a variety of partners of the same level. Leaders and followers are judged and awarded **separately**, however still based on their partnering skills.
4. **Dancing Up:** When one half of a Freestyle partnership qualifies for a higher level than the other, the lower level dancer may 'dance up' to the next level with the higher level partner. See **Section C** for specific rules.
5. **Showcase:** One couple dancing their set piece of Modern Jive choreography to their chosen piece of music.
6. **Team:** A number of couples dancing their set piece of Modern Jive choreography to their chosen piece of music.

SECTION C: COMPETITION LEVELS & QUALIFICATION/PROGRESSION

1. **Beginner**
2. **Intermediate**
3. **Over 50s**
4. **Intermediate Plus**
5. **Advanced**
6. **Champions**
7. **All Stars**

What Level Am I?

LEVEL	PROGRESSION TO THIS LEVEL	QUALIFICATION FOR THIS LEVEL
Beginner	This is the entry level, there is no progression to this level.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less than 12 month's Modern Jive experience* 2. No other qualification for any higher level
Intermediate (<2yrs)	PROGRESSION IS BASED ON TIME	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More than 1 year but less than 2 years Modern Jive experience* OR 1st Place achievement at Beginner level regardless of time 2. No other qualification for any higher level 3. Regular beginner class demonstrators (even if less than 1 year Modern Jive experience), assuming no other qualification for any higher level 4. <i>Beginner mainstream and progression/consolidation teachers may NOT enter this level</i>
Intermediate Plus	PROGRESSION IS BASED ON TIME	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More than 2 years Modern Jive experience* OR 1st Place achievement at Intermediate (<2yrs) level regardless of time 2. No other qualification for any higher level 3. Regular intermediate class demonstrators, assuming no qualification for any higher level 4. Teachers of Beginner mainstream or progression/consolidation classes, assuming no qualification for any higher level 5. <i>Teachers of intermediate classes (or higher) may NOT enter this level</i>
Advanced	PROGRESSION IS BASED ON PLACINGS (QUALIFICATION)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Placings at Intermediate Plus (or equivalent) amounting to the relevant number of points in the Points Table below 2. Teachers of intermediate (or higher) Modern Jive classes, assuming no qualification for any higher level 3. Teachers/professionals of other dance styles, or previous but not current teachers may be approved to enter at this level
Champions	PROGRESSION IS BASED ON PLACINGS (QUALIFICATION)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Placings at Advanced (or equivalent) level amounting to the relevant number of points in the Points Table below 2. Modern Jive Directors and Teachers who do not generally compete may be approved to enter at this level
All Stars	PROGRESSION IS BASED ON PLACINGS (QUALIFICATION) AND CAN ALSO BE INVITATIONAL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Placings at Champions (or equivalent) level amounting to the relevant number of points in the Points Table below 2. An invitation to enter this level may be offered by the Event Directors to dancers who have not accumulated the relevant number of points on the competition circuit, but who have otherwise achieved this level in the Modern Jive community or have a high level of Champions points.

***TIME Note** – Assessment of time may be at the Event Directors' discretion taking absence due to the pandemic into account.

Prior Competition Places for Qualification

Where previous competition places are considered to determine progression to the next level, the following applies:

1. Qualification is considered **separately for DWAS and Freestyle**, ie a competitor's DWAS placings will only count for their progression in DWAS, and their placings in Freestyle will only count for their progression in Freestyle (even with a different partner).
2. Only prior placings in categories that had a **minimum of 6 entries** are considered.
3. Only prior placings **dating back to 2016** are considered.
4. Only prior placings at **major recognised events** with comparable levels and qualification requirements are considered. Regional, developing and secondary events are not considered. *
5. Placings in Showcases, Teams or Pro-Am categories (or equivalent) **do not** attract points.
6. **Points are reset at each level** – once a competitor progresses to the next level, they restart from zero points to earn their progression to the next level.

Note: Discretionary decisions on appropriate levels may be made by the Event Director. In all cases, the Event Directors' decision will be final.

* Major recognised events currently include, but are not limited to (in Australia): **Ignite QMJC** Brisbane/Gold Coast, **ACDC** Sydney (previously CMJ Champs), **VMJC** Melbourne, **Gold Coast Champs** (Move Your Body). Major international events *with comparable levels and qualification requirements* are also considered. Places gained at events that do not have directly comparable levels and qualification requirements may or may not be applicable - see Appendix 1 for more details.

Competitors found to be withholding information on relevant prior places or other qualifying criteria may be disqualified. Any relevant information occurring between submission of the entry form and the actual competition needs to be disclosed by the competitor before the start of the weekend event.

Points Table

Please note that the Points Table is only for the purpose of easily identifying how many placings are required for progression to the next level. It is NOT comparable to international points systems.

1 st Place =	5 points
2 nd Place =	4 points
3 rd Place =	3 points

Note: In an invitational situation, any points earned will be at the competitor's actual qualifying level and any placing does not entitle the invited competitor to stay at the higher level (unless they qualify via points).

POINTS REQUIRED FOR QUALIFICATION AT QMJC IN 2025:

At Intermediate Plus Level, to move up to Advanced:	8 Intermediate Plus points required
At Advanced Level, to move up to Champions:	12 Advanced points required
At Champions Level to move up to All Stars:	18 Champions points required

Note: The amount of points required will be reviewed periodically and may change in future years.

Points Examples

We advise competitors not to get bogged down with the points, but instead to think back to their (relevant) prior placings, and then simply use the Points Table to work out how much each place is worth to determine whether they have sufficient placings to move up. A centrally accessible points recording system will soon be available for competitors to check their points history – until this is ready, please contact igniteqmic@gmail.com with any points history or qualification enquiries.

Below are some examples based on the requirement to earn '8 points' before moving up from Intermediate Plus to Advanced (assuming no progression higher than Advanced has since occurred):

- I've placed **1st once** and **3rd once** in Intermediate Plus DWAS (ie 8 points) – I now qualify for Advanced DWAS
- I've placed **3rd three times** in Intermediate Plus DWAS (ie 9 points) – I now qualify for Advanced DWAS
- I've placed **2nd once** and **3rd once** in Intermediate Plus DWAS (ie 7 points) – I don't yet qualify for Advanced DWAS, I need one more placing.
- I've placed **1st once** in Intermediate Plus **DWAS** (5 points), and **3rd once** in Intermediate Plus **Freestyle** (3 points) – I don't yet qualify for either category at Advanced level because points across the two categories are considered **independently**.

Dancing Up in Freestyle

1. When one partner qualifies for a higher level than the other, the Freestyle partnership must compete at the level appropriate for the **higher level Freestyle dancer**.
2. In this situation, the two dancers must be **no more than one level apart**, unless prior approval for an exception has been granted by the Event Directors.
3. The dancers will both still dance at their individual level for DWAS.
4. If the partnership places 1st, 2nd or 3rd (and minimum 6 couples are entered), Freestyle points will be earned at the higher level for both members of the partnership.

IMPORTANT CHANGE IN 2025 The lower-level partner will also receive the same amount of Freestyle points at their ACTUAL qualifying level. The lower-level partner is NOT eligible to stay at the higher level based on the partnership placing, unless those points qualify them to move up.

Example 1:

- An Intermediate Plus follower dances up to Advanced Freestyle due to their leader's qualification - The follower previously has placed 2nd in Intermediate Plus Freestyle (i.e. 4 points) and now places 3rd in Advanced Freestyle (3 points) - The follower now has 7 Intermediate Plus points, so can dance Freestyle at that level again (with a partner of that level) until placing again and tipping over to 8 points, at which point they qualify for Advanced Freestyle and will start on 3 Advanced points from the 3rd place they received when previously dancing up to that level.

Example 2:

- An Intermediate Plus follower dances up to Advanced Freestyle due to their leader's qualification - The follower previously has placed 1st in Intermediate Plus Freestyle (i.e. 5 points) and now places 2nd in Advanced Freestyle (4 points) - The follower now has 9 Intermediate Plus points, so must move up to Advanced, where they will start with the 4 Advanced points they received when previously dancing up to that level.
5. The Dance Up rule is not applicable to Pro-Am Freestyle or to any Invitational categories.
 6. Dance Up Note: A competitor qualifying for Beginner or Intermediate or Intermediate <2yrs who dances up to Intermediate Plus is still permitted to enter Pro-Am Freestyle.

Competing at Multiple Levels

1. Dancers are not permitted to compete in two levels of the same category.
For example, a dancer may compete at their own level in Advanced DWAS and 'dance up' to their partner's level in Champions Freestyle, however they may NOT dance in Champions Freestyle AND in Advanced Freestyle.
The exception to this rule is when competing at the Over 50's level, dancers may also compete at the InterPlus level (or lower) within the same category, subject to the rules.
2. Competitors are not permitted to enter a Freestyle level more than one level apart from their DWAS level, and vice versa. For example, if a competitor has qualified for Champions Freestyle, and is only technically qualified for Intermediate Plus in DWAS, their DWAS status is automatically upgraded to Advanced.
3. At QMJC, your secondary role must not be more than one level apart from your primary role, within the same category. i.e. An **All-level DWAS Leader** must compete as a **Champions-level DWAS Follower**. If that leader is competing as a **Champion-level Freestyle Leader** (allowed, as per the 'one-level' rule), they may also compete as an **Advanced-level Freestyle Follower**.

What If I Have Already Moved Up To A Level That I No Longer Qualify For Under The 2025 Rules?

		If YES	If NO
1	Have you competed at that higher level yet?	Go to Question 2	You ARE NOT considered to qualify for that higher level.
2	Have you placed 1 st 2 nd or 3 rd at that higher level since (and including) 2016?	You ARE considered to qualify for that higher level.	Go to Question 3
3	Have you made it to one or more Finals (but didn't place) at that higher level since (and including) 2016?	You are LIKELY to be considered to still qualify for that higher level. Please apply to the Event Directors for approval.	You technically don't qualify for that higher level, however can apply for approval to stay there, or to drop back a level.
4	If your answer was 'No' to Questions 2 and 3, did you place or make the Final at that higher level BEFORE 2016?	You technically don't qualify for that higher level, however can apply for approval to stay there, or to drop back a level.	You technically don't qualify for that higher level, however can apply for approval to stay there, or to drop back a level.

IMPORTANT: Competitors must make the above assessment TWICE – **once for DWAS** and **once for Freestyle** as both categories are considered independently.

There are a lot of variables to the above scenarios so all competitors who are unsure of their level should submit an email enquiry to igniteqmc@gmail.com.au and a decision on level will be made by the Event Directors. Competitors are encouraged to do this EARLY before registrations open and before making any commitments to partners.

Note: Competitors approved to revert to a lower level and who subsequently place 1st will be considered for immediate bounce back up to the higher level without the need to earn more points.

SECTION D:

LEADER & FOLLOWER ROLES

1. Competitors may dance in **both roles over the course of the weekend**, but only one role per category.
ie A Leader in DWAS may also dance as a Follower in Freestyle, but cannot dance again in DWAS as a Follower.
2. Competitors **must not swap roles** during the dance*
3. **Qualification rules** apply with **relevance to the specific role**. For example, a competitor who has qualified for Advanced as a *Follower* does not automatically qualify for Advanced as a *Leader* – they must ‘earn their stripes’ by competing at Intermediate Plus as a Leader, to qualify upwards in the usual way.
4. At QMJC, your secondary role must not be more than one level apart from your primary role, within the same category.
5. **Time Based rules** apply to **the competitor not the role**. For example, a competitor who has been dancing as a Follower for 10 years and started to learn the Leader role less than one year ago, will NOT qualify for the Beginner Category. In general, all competitors who have been dancing for more than 2 years must start at minimum Intermediate Plus.
6. In points 3 and 5 above, discretionary decisions may be made by the Event Directors.

* Point 2 above is not applicable to Teams and Showcase events, where a competitor may dance a different role and may swap roles during the dance as part of the choreography.

Note: In all categories, the Lead/Follow factor is on the understanding that this is NOT a Battle of the Sexes style competition, and all competitors must execute moves and dress in costumes appropriate to the nature of the event. Any competitors not respecting this basic etiquette may be disqualified from the competition.

SECTION E:

COMPETITION MUSIC

1. Music for all categories (except Showcase and Teams) will be provided by the Event DJ and will have a time signature applicable to Modern Jive.
2. Showcase and Teams entrants must submit their music track in mp3/mp4 format by **Friday 18th July 2025**.
3. Music provided by the Event DJ will not contain excessively explicit lyrics - any music provided by competitors for the relevant categories is required to be the same.
4. While we take every care to ensure all music is fit for the general public, we can take no responsibility for songs with hidden meanings or implications perceived as offensive by any individual.

SECTION F: AERIALS

Aerials Definitions

1. **Baby Aerial:** Both feet leave the ground while the majority of either partner's weight is BELOW the chest height of their partner.
2. **Aerial:** Both feet leave the ground while the majority of either partner's weight is ABOVE the chest height of their partner.
3. Competitors should be mindful that this is a dance competition, not an acrobatics competition, so whilst aerials can be spectacular, they must be executed safely and seamlessly and integrated smoothly into the dance with appropriate timing and interpretation of the music.

Permitted Aerials – Summary Table

DANCE WITH A STRANGER	Baby Aerials	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	2 per round
All Stars DWAS	Yes	2 per round
FREESTYLE	Baby Aerials	Aerials
Pro-Am Freestyle	Yes	No
Beginner Freestyle	Yes	No
Intermediate (<2yrs) Freestyle	Yes	No
Over 50s Freestyle	Yes	2 per round
Intermediate Plus Freestyle	Yes	2 per round
Advanced Freestyle	Yes	2 per round
Champions Freestyle	Yes	2 per round
All Stars Freestyle	Yes	2 per round
OTHER	Baby Aerials	Aerials
Partners Blind	No	No
Lucky Dip	Yes	No
Pro-Am Showcase	Yes	Yes
Showcase	Yes	Yes
Teams	Yes	Yes

SECTION G: COMPETITION CATEGORIES

FREESTYLE & DANCE WITH A STRANGER (DWAS) CATEGORIES	
CATEGORY	ANY APPLICABLE NOTES
Beginner Freestyle	
Beginner DWAS	
Intermediate <2yrs Freestyle	
Intermediate <2yrs DWAS	
Over 50s Freestyle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Intermediate Plus dancers (and lower) over 50 years young may enter this level, AS WELL AS their respective open-age level, however <u>not with the same partner</u>. Any placings awarded at this level will not attract points. There is no progression beyond this level. Competitors who place are permitted to continue entering an unlimited number of times in future competitions, provided they have not progressed beyond Intermediate Plus level in Freestyle. <p>Competitive dancers in Advanced (or higher) Freestyle/DWAS, are not permitted to enter this event.</p>
Over 50s DWAS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Intermediate Plus dancers (and lower) over 50 years young may enter this level, AS WELL AS their respective open-age level, however <u>not with the same partner</u>. Any placings awarded in this category will not attract points. There is no progression beyond this level. Competitors who place are permitted to continue entering this category an unlimited number of times in future competitions, provided they have not progressed beyond Intermediate Plus level in Freestyle. <p>Competitive dancers in Advanced (or higher) Freestyle/DWAS, are not permitted to enter this event.</p>
Intermediate Plus Freestyle	
Intermediate Plus DWAS	
Advanced Freestyle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Format of the Final will be a two song All Skate plus a Rapid Fire (64 straight counts per couple)
Advanced DWAS	
Champions Freestyle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Format of the Final will include Clustered Spotlights (two couples on the floor)
Champions DWAS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Format of the Final will include Clustered Spotlights (two couples on the floor)
All Stars Freestyle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Format of the Final will include Individual Spotlights
All Stars DWAS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Format of the Final will include Individual Spotlights

PRO-AM CATEGORIES

1. A **Pro-Am Freestyle** partnership must **not** have competed together in Pro-Am Freestyle (or equivalent) at any previous Modern Jive competition. (*see exception below)
2. Entering the same **Pro-Am Showcase** routine together at another event is permitted.
3. **Pro-Am Freestyle** and **Pro-Am Showcase** may be danced with the same partner at this event.
4. Partnerships are judged as a couple, however with the focus on the ability of the lower-level partner.

** Exception will be made for Interstate Competitors (only) to dance Pro-Am Freestyle with a partner they have competed with before, provided they have not placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd together. This is on the basis of sometimes limited numbers travelling from interstate and often limited options for partnering in this category as a result.*

CATEGORY	NOTES
Pro-Am LUCKY DIP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'Pro' must be either a Modern Jive Teacher or a competitor at minimum Champions (DWAS or Freestyle) level. 2. 'Am' must be at Beginner or Intermediate (<2yrs) level. <i>Note: Am's 'dancing up' to Intermediate Plus Freestyle based on their freestyle partner's level are still permitted to enter Pro-Am Freestyle (provided they <u>actually</u> qualify for Beginner or Intermediate <2yrs)</i> 3. 'Am' Leaders and 'Am' Followers are judged and awarded in separate heats and finals.
Pro-Am SHOWCASE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One half of the partnership is a Modern Jive Teacher or a competitor qualified for Champions level or above (DWAS or Freestyle) (the 'Pro'), and the other is qualified for maximum Intermediate Plus (DWAS or Freestyle) level (the 'Am'), dancing a set piece of Modern Jive choreography to their chosen music (minimum 1 minute, maximum 1.5 minutes). 2. Please read Section H for vital information on Modern Jive content in the choreography. 3. Minimum 5 entries for this category to go ahead. Early entry therefore required by 18th July 2025. 4. Am Leaders and Am Followers are judged and awarded in two separate subcategories*. For this reason, each dancer must take on one role of either leader OR follower and is not permitted to swap during the routine. 5. Ams may only enter EITHER Pro-Am Showcase OR the general Showcase category and with one routine only. 6. Pros may enter in BOTH Pro-Am Showcase AND general Showcase and with more than one routine in both. <p><i>* Subcategories may be merged if there are less than 5 entries in each.</i></p>

Additional Notes for Pro-Am Showcase

1. Routines must be choreographed specifically for a Pro-Am Showcase competition and be in the spirit of mentoring. It is not permitted to enter a routine that has been choreographed and adapted from an existing Showcase or Team routine, or which has **wholly** been choreographed by someone outside of the partnership. Application to the Event Directors may be made for an exception.
2. Students should be aware that if the Pro is a teacher and/or experienced choreographer, they may charge private lesson rates for all or part of their time – rates vary but are generally between \$70 and \$100 per hour. As a minimum, room hire fees may be payable by the student for rehearsals of the routine. Both halves of the partnership should discuss this and be clear on any financial expectations before choreography commences.

PARTNERS BLIND

1. Couples will dance to two songs together, roughly 2 minutes each.
For the first song, the followers will be blindfolded – for the second song, the leaders will be blindfolded.
2. This category does not attract points.
3. Please make sure to source your own blindfolds, as we don't want to be sharing sweaty ones!

LUCKY DIP – OPEN

1. This category follows the same fixed-partnership rules as Freestyle, however competitors will be randomly matched up with each other prior to the event, to be advised at the beginning of the event. See [aerials](#) for more info on this front.
2. Competitors will remain in this partnership for the duration of the event.
3. This category does not attract points.

TEAM & SHOWCASE CATEGORIES	
CATEGORY	NOTES
Teams	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A team of minimum 3 couples of any level, dancing a set piece of Modern Jive choreography to their chosen music (minimum 2.5 mins, maximum 4 mins).2. Please read Section H for vital information on Modern Jive content in the choreography.3. Minimum 5 team entries for this category to go ahead as a judged category. Early entry from the team leader is therefore required by 18th July 20254. Triples and Steals entries not permitted.5. There is no progression beyond this level - competitors who place are permitted to continue entering this category an unlimited number of times.
Showcase	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Two dancers of minimum Intermediate Plus level, dancing a set piece of Modern Jive choreography to their chosen music (minimum 2.5 mins, maximum 4 mins)2. Entries from partnerships below Intermediate Plus are subject to approval by the Event Directors.3. Please read Section H for vital information on Modern Jive content in the choreography.4. Minimum 5 entries for this category to go ahead. Early entry is therefore required by 18th July 20255. Dancers may submit multiple entries into this category but must be with a different partner.6. There is no progression beyond this level - competitors who place are permitted to continue entering this category an unlimited number of times.
Pro-Am Showcase	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>See Pro-Am Categories section</i>

SECTION H: TEAMS & SHOWCASES – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Modern Jive Content

Choreographed routines must show clear demonstration of a combination of the Modern Jive fundamentals **the majority of the time** during the dance. Modern Jive fundamentals include:

1. Connection to a partner
2. Concertina motion
3. Consistent timing based on directional lead/movement on the upbeat

These fundamentals must be demonstrated by all participants in the routine and are encouraged to be enhanced by, not overtaken by, other elements such as breakaway dancing, aerials/acrobatics, and other movement/styling that may or may not be borrowed from other dance styles, as long as these elements are used to show good interpretation of the chosen music, and sufficient evidence of the listed fundamentals are present for the **majority** of the routine in the judge's opinion.

Examples of elements choreographers are **encouraged to incorporate**, to provide variety and entertainment in their routine, include:

1. Dips/Drops
2. Aerials (Baby and/or Full)
3. A limited amount of Breakaway Movement
4. Formation Changes and Partner Swaps (Teams)

While there is no fixed percentage of Modern Jive content required, judges will essentially be scoring routines highest that are a combination of the following (in no particular order) in addition to the criteria in the table in Section I:

1. Overall **recognizable as Modern Jive** for the purpose of a Modern Jive dance competition
2. Demonstrating evidence of a combination of the **fundamentals** the **majority** of the time
3. Well choreographed
4. Well executed
5. Using music with a time signature that allows the fundamentals to be easily identifiable

Choreographers should consider that routines including any of the following elements *may* not be scored as highly as routines that demonstrate a higher quota of Modern Jive dancing:

1. Use of non musical narrative
2. Choreography for some dancers to remain still and/or enter/exit the floor mid-routine
3. Breakaway dancing for more than two consecutive minor phrases (8 MJ counts / 16 straight counts)
4. Routines at the minimum allowable duration

*These rules are designed to encourage creativity in choreography, however it must be stressed that **this is a Modern Jive competition** and evidence of the listed Modern Jive fundamentals must be demonstrated the **majority** of the time.*

In addition, competitors are advised to understand that judges will have different opinions, and some may place higher importance on some elements than others. Hence the recommendation for variety in routines and the existence of an entire panel of judges to arrive at a final combined result.

Video Submission

1. We invite and encourage choreographers to submit a video of their routine to the Event Directors before submitting their entry, to gain the Event Directors' personal opinion on whether there is sufficient Modern Jive content. This should be done EARLY in case choreographers want to make adjustments following the feedback.
2. This is on the understanding that the feedback provided will be **general, unofficial**, and purely an individual **opinion**. The opinion of the judges on the day may differ.
3. Choreographers choosing to submit a video for feedback must also be comfortable with the possibility that the Event Directors providing the feedback may also have a routine entered in the competition and/or may be judging that category on the day.

Routine Disqualification

1. Judges will only report a routine for disqualification if they feel it is **clearly identifiable as a completely different dance style to Modern Jive** and therefore not appropriate for entry in a Modern Jive competition.
2. A **minimum of two judges** must report a disqualification in order for action to be taken and the Head Judge, in consultation with the Event Directors, will make a final decision on whether action is warranted.

Action on Insufficient Demonstration of Fundamentals

1. A routine that is considered by a judge to be essentially a Modern Jive routine but not demonstrating the listed fundamentals the **majority** of the time, will simply be scored lower than other routines by that judge. Judges are asked to inform the Head Judge whether this was their deciding factor, and if so, competitors will be advised of such by the Event Directors after the event (with judges remaining anonymous).

2. On calculation of the overall scores from the entire judging panel, if a routine has a final result of 1st, 2nd or 3rd place, yet was also flagged by minimum two of the judging panel (or the Head Judge), a review will be conducted and the Head Judge, in consultation with the Event Directors, will make a final decision on whether any action is warranted. The maximum penalty will be a downgrade of final placing to a non-podium placing.

Routine Music

1. Routine songs will not be used in any of the Freestyle/DWAS etc categories scheduled before performance of the routine. The song may be used for a category scheduled after performance of the routine. For this reason, all Team leaders and Showcase competitors must advise of their music choice by **18th July 2025**. It is always possible that another Showcase/Team will have chosen the same music – in this case, all parties involved in the same choice will be notified before the event out of courtesy, and multiple entries using the same music will be permitted.
2. The actual music track, including any optional bow/reprise must be submitted in mp3/mp4 format no later than **Friday 1st August 2025**.
3. The time limit of **2.5-4 minutes for Showcases and Teams**, and **1-1.5 minutes for Pro-Am Showcase** is the **duration of the music track** (not including any bow/reprise), not the amount of time actually dancing, so use the time wisely.
4. Routine music must not contain excessively explicit lyrics.

Other Team & Showcase Information

1. The minimum number of couples in a Team is **3**. There is no official maximum, however due to floor size we recommend no more than **12**. Teams of all sizes take their own responsibility for safely fitting within the size of the dance floor area.
2. Triples/Steals dancing is permitted as a small component of a Team routine; however a specific Triples/Steals routine is not permitted as either a Showcase or Team entry.
3. Teams and Showcase entrants will be offered one timeslot for a short Floor Trial/Rehearsal. Due to time limitations at the event, no alternative can usually be offered.

SECTION I: JUDGING AND SCORING

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 the criteria and guidelines given in the Judging Criteria section below.
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.
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. All scores are final.

2. Competitors may request their scores and placings from the Event Directors via email **after** the event. Only a competitor's own scores/placings will be provided. Judge names will not be provided.
3. Competitors are encouraged to understand that while our judges are carefully chosen for their expertise, experience, ability to judge impartially & fairly and to always follow the judging criteria, this is not a race – there is no clear winner who crosses the line first. Judges may or may not see something great and/or something not so great at any given time during the few minutes they have to look at all dancers on the floor. Judges will always also have different opinions and preferences.

For this reason it is not unheard of for six judges to select a couple to go through to the next round and one judge not to select that couple. Or in the Finals for one judge to rank a couple 1st and for another judge to rank them 5th for example.

We ask competitors to therefore be prepared for this and to use knowledge of their scores as an insight into how they were scored and ranked in general across the competition. If your scores aren't as good as you expected, try not to take it to heart, and do also consider that competition results are only indicative of how you danced **on that particular day** and of course **comparatively against your fellow competitors**.

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 Communication & Etiquette

We ask that all competitors respect that our judges have a very busy role on competition day, and therefore may not be able to interact with you in the same way as they would in other environments. The following guidelines apply:

1. Competitors are not permitted in the judges seating or breakout areas.
2. Competitors may not approach the judges during the course of the competition day for advice and reasons for scores/rankings and/or what they should do in order to proceed to the next round. Competitors may ask judges for feedback AFTER the event and it is the judge's personal choice whether or not to provide it.
3. If choosing to give feedback after the event, judges will discuss only what they thought of the performance, and how the competitor can improve for the next competition. Judges are not expected to pass judgement on where a competitor placed and whether or not they (or other competitors) deserved that place.
4. Judges are entitled not to reveal their scoring decisions.
5. Judges score the competitors based on what they see on the floor in the time allocated. Any prior knowledge of how competitors usually dance or have danced previously is irrelevant.
6. Judges will score independently without discussion with other judges.
7. Judges are required to reveal any conflict of interest before the event in terms of any category they are assigned to judge (eg: choreography assistance, close contact etc) and the Event Directors will assess accordingly.
8. Most judges are generally teachers and directors of groups that have people dancing in the competition. Judges will not cheer for their group whilst judging or sitting in the judging area, however when outside of the judging area and during the trophy presentation they will, of course, show support for their group.
9. The decision on which judges are on the panel at any given time is at the discretion of the Event Directors and/or Head Judge. Competitors may not request exclusion of any judge from the panel.

SECTION J:

FORMAT OF HEATS/SEMIS/FINALS

Definitions

1. **All Skate:** A heat/semi final/final where a number of competing couples are on the floor at the same time.
2. **Rapid Fire (Mini Spotlight):** One continuous song with individual couples moving on and off the floor one couple at a time according to the MC calls.
3. **Spotlight:** One couple dancing on the floor for the duration of the song/s.

Floor Positioning & Space

1. Apart from in Teams, Showcase, Spotlights and Rapid Fire, multiple couples will dance at once in an 'All Skate' format and all are required to dance within the space allocated to them on the floor by the MC. Travel across the floor is not permitted.
2. 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 on an All-Skate floor. (See our Breach of Rules policy for information on penalties.)

DWAS Format

1. In all rounds of **DWAS**, competitors will dance with a minimum of three different partners and will be judged as individuals.
2. Where there is an uneven number of leaders and followers, some leaders/followers will be randomly selected to dance again to make up the numbers but not be judged. Where possible, only dancers of the same level will be randomly selected for this purpose.
3. The **Champions and All Stars DWAS Finals** will be run as a Spotlight format, in which case partners will be allocated with a dice roll or similar random selection method. Champs/All Stars competitors will be judged as a **partnership** in the final, not as individuals.

In this case, dancers may not be matched with a partner they are competing with in any other category **at this event** (not including brief partner changes in Teams). Each competitor is responsible for highlighting any conflict in this area before the music commences and failure to do so may result in disqualification of both partners. In the unlikely case where an unresolved number of conflicts occur after **three dice rolls**, the Event Directors will match the partnerships. DWAS competitors at the Champions and All Stars levels will be judged as a **partnership** in the final.

Marshalling and Scheduling

1. Competitors must be ready at the marshalling area before their heat, otherwise they could forfeit their entry. If a competitor is not on the floor after **3 calls** by the MC, they (in DWAS) and their partner (in all other categories) will be eliminated from the competition unless a suitable workaround can reasonably be actioned by the Event Directors.
2. The Event Directors reserve the right to change the format of any heats/semi finals/finals due to competitor numbers, time restraints, or other reasons. The running order could therefore change at any time, so competitors (or a representative who can contact them) are required to **remain inside the event room at all times** to listen for announcements regarding any change, and **event staff will not be held responsible for competitors missing heats/finals etc for any reason.**

Champions & All Stars Freestyle Finals - Song Choices

The Spotlight component of the **Champions Freestyle Final** and **All Stars Freestyle Final** MAY involve songs preselected by the finalists.

This decision is yet to be finalised at time of publication and will depend on final competitor numbers and subsequent time limitations in the schedule. *If* song submissions are required, all couples in the relevant category will be required to provide 3 song choices before the event and the following will apply:

1. All choices must be **between 90 and 165 BPM** and have a 4/4 (or equivalent) time signature suitable for Modern Jive.
2. Competitors must send to igniteqmcj@gmail.com.au the EXACT TITLE AND ARTIST of the track including information on any remix versions (**or preferably attach it as a mp3/mp4 file**) to ensure the correct version is played. If the actual music file is

not provided, the track must be available for us to legally purchase, and we take no responsibility if the incorrect version is played.

3. Songs must not be offensive or contain excessively explicit lyrics.
4. We recommend that consideration is made to the content of the actual first minute of the track as that is the part that will be played in the Spotlight.
5. If three choices are required, but are not received by the date advised, the Event DJ will select a song.

SECTION K: JUDGING CRITERIA

General Criteria

The number one judging criteria at this competition is **timing**. Each dancer must demonstrate the fundamental timing, footwork, and body movement of **Modern Jive** the majority of the time.

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

Whilst costumes are not part of the judging criteria, dancers at all levels are encouraged to choose costumes that will enhance their body movement and stand out on the competition floor.

Judging Criteria – Summary Table

CATEGORY	JUDGING CRITERIA
FREESTYLE & DWAS	<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 <p><i>Note: When competitors are judged individually in DWAS, good partnering skills are a high priority. Inconsiderate leading/following will not score well.</i></p>
	JUDGING CRITERIA
PRO-AM FREESTYLE	All of the above with the focus on the LOWER LEVEL competitor's ability in the partnership
	JUDGING CRITERIA
SHOWCASE	<p><i>In no particular order:</i></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
	JUDGING CRITERIA
PRO-AM SHOWCASE	The same as Showcase with the focus on the LOWER LEVEL competitor's ability in the partnership.
	JUDGING CRITERIA
TEAM	<p><i>In no particular order:</i></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 and formations

SECTION L: OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Event Directors are permitted to enter the competition. Any decisions usually required to be actioned by the Event Directors will instead be actioned by the Head Judge in any categories in which an Event Director is competing.
2. The Event Directors are permitted to be on the judging panel.
3. All participants at this event are required to act in a safe, courteous and responsible manner. Any competitors deemed by the event staff to be dancing or behaving inappropriately or offensively, or to be under the influence of alcohol or other substance which may cause harm or offence may be disqualified from the competition.
4. For all categories apart from DWAS, competitors must compete with the designated partner with whom they registered (for that category), for the duration of that category throughout the competition – ie if one half of the partnership forfeits, the entire partnership will forfeit their entry in that category of the competition.
5. 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.
6. 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.

All Spotlights, Teams and Showcases will be professionally filmed - PERSONAL VIDEOING OF TEAMS AND SHOWCASES IS **NOT PERMITTED**.
7. Stills photography is permitted throughout the event.
8. There is **no allocated seating** at the event, so spots are on a first come first served basis. Please place all bags safely underneath the seats or in the changing area. A limited number of spaces will be reserved for spectators, and we ask competitors to ensure these seats are vacated should a spectator require one.
9. Ignite QMJC and the Event Directors accept no responsibility for loss or injury to persons or possessions at the event.

Good luck and have fun!

If you have any queries please contact igniteqmic@gmail.com before the event date.

We'll see you on the dance floor!

Mick French.
Event Director
Ignite QMJC 2025
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Appendix 1: Competition Places at Other Events/Other Points Systems

The identification of a competitor's level can be complex in cases where they have competed at events operating under a different qualification system. As the points systems are usually based on a competitor's competition history, the time factor for dancers with more or less than one and two years experience that is used at QMJC and some other national competitions does not easily translate.

Below is an APPROXIMATE guide on whether places gained at other events will be relevant to qualification at QMJC.

Unless you have ONLY competed at events with a comparable qualification system to QMJC, you may have to submit an enquiry to the Event Directors for a decision on your level before submitting your entry form.

LEVEL (AUS/NZ POINTS SYSTEMS)	HOW THAT LEVEL IS GENERALLY DEFINED ON POINTS SYSTEMS	HOW WE TRANSLATE/COMPARE THAT LEVEL TO QMJC LEVELS (GENERAL AND APPROXIMATE ONLY)
Level 1	Newcomers and Beginners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beginner, or• Intermediate <2yrs
Level 2	Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intermediate <2yrs, or• Intermediate Plus
Level 3	Experienced/Early Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intermediate Plus, or• Advanced
Level 4	Advanced and Champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advanced, or• Champions
Level 5	Champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Champions, or• All Stars

Please note the above is only a guide and we intend no offence to anyone at a level with a definition that they feel is lower than their actual ability.

General Translation of Time Based Levels:

1. If you qualify for a **time based level** at QMJC (ie **Beginner, Intermediate <2 Yrs** and **Intermediate Plus**) but qualified at another event for a level lower than the comparable level in the table above, then your result from that level **will not be applicable for qualification at this event**.

EXAMPLE 1: If you qualify for Intermediate Plus at QMJC because you have been dancing Modern Jive for more than two years, but competed at Level 1 at a points based event because you are new to competitions, your result from that event will not be considered relevant to your qualification for QMJC.

2. If you qualify for a level at QMJC that is **based on placings** (ie **Advanced, Champions and All Stars**) but qualified at another event for a level **HIGHER** than the comparable level in the table above, then your result from that level **MAY be applicable for qualification at QMJC**.

EXAMPLE 2: If you don't yet qualify for Champions at QMJC but have competed in Level 4 at a points based event, your result may or may not count for your Advanced status and is unlikely to mean instant qualification to stay in Champions level at QMJC.

As a general summary, if you placed in a category at another event and were competing against dancers who qualify for a lower level than you, your place is unlikely to count for qualification at QMJC.

In all cases the minimum 6 entries and **2016** timeline rules apply for any placing to be considered in 2025.

In addition, places awarded in categories with the required minimum 6 entries but with insufficient judges at the highest level (sometimes resulting in a self judging system) may or may not be considered.

In cases of 'may or may not be applicable/considered' please contact the QMJC Event Directors for decision on your level before completing your entry form and committing to partnerships.