

AMJR

Framework

For DWAS and Freestyle Competitions at
AMJR Events

Australian Modern Jive Registry

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1. AMJR

The AMJR (Australian Modern Jive Registry) is a robust and easily-accessible competitive framework, aimed at standardising competition rules across events. The AMJR exists to allocate points to achievements, track dancer progression, and foster a culture of **fairness, transparency, and community growth**.

The AMJR Framework is designed to be able to change and evolve. As the needs of our competitive Modern Jive community continue to transform, we'll strive to keep the AMJR on the forefront, ensuring it remains current and relevant.

1.1. Scope

This document relates only to the rules and regulations for Dance With a Stranger (DWAS) and Freestyle competitions at events affiliated with the AMJR.

The AMJR provides these guidelines, not as a rigid blueprint, but as a flexible framework. Event organisers are granted significant discretion to ensure competitions are run effectively, while upholding the spirit and standards of the AMJR.

Please note: **This is not a complete event rulebook**. Individual events will provide their own rulebooks, which competitors are expected to read, as they will contain important information about any additional categories offered by the event, and event-specific rules pertaining to DWAS and Freestyle.

1.2. Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge and thank the many event organisers who have put in countless hours of work over the years, to create the original competition systems that we are now building upon.

Special thanks to Neil Ashford for his efforts in developing and maintaining the AMJR database.

AMJR Framework, developed by Eamon French and Neil Ashford.

2. Terminology

Competition	Referring to a competitive event, as a whole.
Role	Referring to a <i>Leader</i> or a <i>Follower</i>
Category	Referring to a <i>type</i> of contest being held within a competition (e.g. 'Freestyle' or 'DWAS').
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').

Important

Example

3. Roles

Modern Jive is a partnered dance style typically involving one Leader and one Follower – these form the two **Roles** within our dance style.

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.

4. Categories

The AMJR provides frameworks for two categories of Modern Jive competition; Dance With A Stranger (DWAS) and Freestyle.

4.1. Dance With a Stranger

Dance With A Stranger (DWAS) is a competitive category wherein dancers are typically paired with various randomly-assigned partners, and judged individually, on their ability to connect, adapt, and express themselves within a potentially unfamiliar partnership.

While no prior practice is possible, dancers should aim to create a natural and musical connection, demonstrating the core principles of Modern Jive, with an element of personal style.

4.2. Freestyle

Freestyle is danced, and judged, as a fixed partnership, comprising of one Leader and one Follower. Couples are judged on how well they respond and adapt to each other, to the music, and to a performative environment.

While partners are encouraged to practice together beforehand, performances must not resemble pre-planned routines. Repeated, choreographed patterns that ignore the natural flow of the music, are likely to be marked down in competition.

Individual Freestyle Levels

While competitors compete within a fixed partnership, each partner has their own individual Freestyle level, which carries over between partnerships. A Freestyle partnership is eligible to dance at a given level, if either of the following conditions are met:

1. Both partners are **individually** eligible to dance Freestyle at that level.
2. One partner is individually eligible to dance Freestyle at that level, and the *other* partner '*Dances Up*' a level to match them. A Freestyle partner can not Dance Up by any more than one competitive level. '[Dancing Up](#)' is further explained in Section 6.7.

5. Points

Dancers are awarded points for their placings at [AMJR-Certified](#) and [AMJR-Adjacent](#) events, which allow for progression through to the higher competitive levels.

Points earned in competition are linked to the category/level they were earned in and are usually not interchangeable with points earned in any other category or level, except in the case of [Dancing Up](#).

Example: Points earned in Advanced Freestyle are not able to be counted for DWAS, or at any other Freestyle level, except in the case of [Dancing Up](#).

5.1. Tiered Points

AMJR recognises that some events attract larger numbers of competitors, making it more challenging for dancers to achieve podium placings. To reflect this, placings in contests with larger numbers of competitors will attract higher amounts of points.

Tiered Points are **exclusive to AMJR-Certified events**, that use this vetted framework and work collaboratively with the AMJR to provide full competitor lists.

AMJR-Adjacent events do not use this same framework, and are **not eligible** for Tiered Points. Any placings at these events will be allocated points at the lowest tier.

Note: In all contests, a minimum of six (6) entries is required to attract points.

		Number of Competitors <i>(see note, below)</i>				
		Tier 1: 6-12	Tier 2: 13-24	Tier 3: 25-36	Tier 4: 37-54	Tier 5: 55+
Points for Placing	1 st Place	5 points	8 points	11 points	13 points	15 points
	2 nd Place	4 points	6 points	8 points	9 points	10 points
	3 rd Place	3 points	4 points	5 points	6 points	7 points
	4 th Place	—	3 points	4 points	5 points	6 points
	5 th Place	—	—	3 points	4 points	5 points
	6 th Place	—	—	—	3 points	4 points

Table 1: Points Awarded for Each Placing at AMJR-Certified Events

Note: 'Number of Competitors' above, refers to the number of competitors that are in **direct competition**.

In DWAS, this is the total number of dancers in your role, in a particular contest. In Freestyle, this is the total number of couples in the contest.

This means that it is very possible for Leaders and Followers to earn a different number of points for the same placing in the same DWAS competition, as the number of entrants in each role may qualify them for different tiers.

Additional note: *Tiered Points will not be retroactively awarded for placings at competitions prior to 2026.*

5.2. Which events attract points?

For placings and points to be accepted under the AMJR, competitions must either be an [AMJR-Certified](#) event, using the AMJR Framework, or be an [AMJR-Adjacent](#) event, using comparable levels and progression criteria.

Regional, developing, and secondary events are not considered for point conversions, unless they are AMJR-Certified.

AMJR-Certified Events

An AMJR-Certified event is one which offers DWAS and Freestyle competitions according to frameworks outlined in this document, and with the support of the AMJR.

The following events are considered AMJR-Certified, as of 2026:

- Queensland Modern Jive Championships (Ignite QMJC)
- Australian Ceroc Dance Championships (ACDC)
- DownUnder Pros (DUP)

Prior to 2026, all events are considered to have been 'AMJR-Adjacent'.

AMJR-Adjacent Events

An AMJR-Adjacent event is one that uses a **similar** framework to the AMJR, with **comparative** rules and progression criteria. These events are not eligible for Tiered Points, but still attract placing points at the lowest tier.

The following current events are considered AMJR-Adjacent:

- Auckland Championships
- Ceroc New Zealand Nationals (CNZ)
- iDance Classic
- Christchurch Champs (CHCH)

The following events that have run in the past, are also considered AMJR-Adjacent:

- Queensland Modern Jive Championships (Ignite QMJC)
- CMJ Sydney (now ACDC - and ACDC, prior to 2026).
- Victorian Modern Jive Championships (VMJC).
- Gold Coast Champs (GCC).

When converting points earned at an AMJR-Adjacent event that does not use the same levelling system as in Section 6, see Appendix C for details on how to convert between point systems.

6. Levels

AMJR categories are divided into five competitive levels, with dancers at each higher level expected to show progressively higher qualities of dancing. The sections below describe each level, and the eligibility criteria for dancers wishing to compete in each.

AMJR Online Database

The AMJR maintains an online database of competitive Modern Jive dancers who have placed at [AMJR-Certified](#) and [AMJR-Adjacent](#) events since 2016, tracking their points and progression. The AMJR [Online Database](#) is the easiest place to find your current competition level, if you've previously achieved recognised placing points.

Things to keep in mind when determining your competition level:

Separation of Categories and Roles

Eligibility to compete at each level is calculated **separately** for each **category** (DWAS or Freestyle) and **role** (Leader or Follower) combination.

Being eligible to compete at a particular level for one category/role, does not automatically qualify a dancer to compete at that same level for any other category/role. Normal progression still applies, per category, per role.

Similarly, points earned for placings in one category/role combination, do not count towards progressions in any other category/role combination.

***Example:** An Advanced-level DWAS Leader, is not automatically qualified to dance in Advanced Freestyle. They must also gain points as an Inter-Plus Freestyle Leader.*

Progression Window

Points that a dancer earns at competition are counted towards level-progression for a period of **5 years**.

After this time, points are still retained and are visible on the AMJR, but cannot be used to meet progression criteria. Essentially, this means that progression must happen within a 5-year period.

The 'One Level Apart' Rule

The 'One Level Apart' rule stipulates that a competitor's DWAS and Freestyle levels can only be a maximum of **one level apart**, within the same role. This rule does not apply *between* [multiple roles](#), meaning a competitor can dance as a Leader and a Follower, more than one level apart.

Note: *If a dancer was to theoretically progress more than one level higher than the level of their other category, the level of the other category would automatically raise as well, to keep to the **One Level Apart Rule**.*

Example 1: *A Champion-level DWAS dancer, may only dance Freestyle at an Advanced-level, or higher. Dancers may not compete at multiple levels within the same category/role, even when Dancing Up.*

Example 2: *If an Inter-Plus DWAS dancer were to progress into Champions Freestyle, their DWAS level automatically gets "pulled up" to Advanced DWAS.)*

Eligibility for Multiple Levels

It is possible for a dancer to be eligible for multiple levels if they meet the minimum criteria for both – in these instances, dancers must make a choice of which level they would like to compete in.

If a competitor chooses to dance at the higher eligible level, they still have the option of dancing at the lower level in a future competition, provided they still meet the eligibility criteria.

For dancers who competed before 2026

With the introduction of the AMJR Framework in 2026, the point thresholds for each competitive level have changed. If you qualified for a level according to previous versions of the rules, you probably still qualify for that same level.

The AMJR [Online Database](#) is the easiest place to find your current competition level, if you've achieved a placing at an AMJR-Certified or AMJR-Affiliated event since 2016. If you, or your teachers, believe that your AMJR level needs to be updated for any reason, please submit a [Petition](#).

Appendix B explains how you can manually make pre-2026 progression calculations.

6.1. Beginner

Eligibility:

Dancers who have been learning Modern Jive for **less than one year** (based on the date of a dancer's first class, regardless of role or breaks taken) are generally eligible for this level, provided they don't meet the mandatory progression criteria.

Table 2: Progression Criteria from Beginner to Intermediate

Optional Progression	Mandatory Progression
There are no minimum requirements for a dancer to progress to Intermediate.	Dancers who meet any of the following criteria are <u>required</u> to move up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 year or more of Modern Jive experience. • 8 Beginner points, or more. • 1 Intermediate point, or more. • Regular Modern Jive teacher.

6.2. Intermediate

Eligibility:

Dancers who have been learning Modern Jive for **less than two years** (based on the date of a dancer's first class, regardless of role or breaks taken) are generally eligible for this level, provided they don't meet the mandatory progression criteria.

Table 3: Progression Criteria from Intermediate to Intermediate Plus

Optional Progression	Mandatory Progression
There are no minimum requirements for a dancer to progress to Intermediate Plus.	Dancers who meet any of the following criteria are <u>required</u> to move up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 years or more of Modern Jive experience. • 8 Intermediate points, or more. • 1 Intermediate Plus point, or more. • Regular Modern Jive teacher.

6.3. Intermediate Plus

Eligibility:

There are no minimum eligibility requirements for a dancer to compete at the Intermediate Plus level, but it is recommended for those with two or more years of experience.

Table 4: Progression Criteria from Intermediate Plus to Advanced

Optional Progression	Mandatory Progression
<p>Dancers who meet any of the following criteria are <u>allowed</u> to move up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 Intermediate Plus points, or more. • Regular Modern Jive teacher of Intermediate-level classes. 	<p>Dancers who meet any of the following criteria are <u>required</u> to move up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 Intermediate Plus points, or more. • 1 Advanced point, or more, if a dancer chooses <i>Optional Progression</i>.

Reminder: Eligibility to compete at each level is calculated **separately** for each category and role combination.

6.4. Advanced

Eligibility:

Dancers who meet any of the following criteria are allowed to dance in Advanced:

- **16 Intermediate Plus points**, or more.
- Regular Modern Jive teacher of Intermediate-level classes.

Table 5: Progression Criteria from Advanced to Champions

Optional Progression	Mandatory Progression
<p>Dancers who meet any of the following criteria are <u>allowed</u> to move up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 Advanced points, or more. 	<p>Dancers who meet any of the following criteria are <u>required</u> to move up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 Advanced points, or more. • 1 Champions point, or more, if a dancer chooses <i>Optional Progression</i>.

6.5. Champions

Eligibility:

Dancers who meet any of the following criteria are allowed to dance in Champions:

- **24 Advanced points**, or more.

Progression

At the highest competitive level, there is no further progression criteria – however, Champions may continue to compete and gain points, to strive towards an honorary **All Star** title, highlighting their commitment, expertise and achievement.

6.6. All Star (*Honorary Title*)

Dancers at the All Star level have consistently proven themselves at the Champions level, earning enough points to place them amongst the very best. While these dancers continue to compete at the Champions level, to recognise their commitment, expertise and achievement, they will be awarded an honorary “All Star” title on the AMJR database.

1. Earning an All Star Title

To qualify for an All Star title, a dancer must accumulate **30 Title points**.

Title Points

- Title Points are Champions points earned exclusively at AMJR-Certified events.
- When a dancer reaches 30 Title Points, the All Star title is automatically awarded on the AMJR.

2. Maintaining an All Star Title

From the date an All Star title is awarded, competitors have a period of three years to accumulate a minimum of **10 Legacy points** (see below).

Legacy Points

- Any Title Points earned beyond the 30-point threshold, become Legacy Points.
- Legacy Points are used to maintain an All Star title.
- Legacy Points also count as regular Champions points, as well as Title Points.

- If an All Star does not achieve a minimum of 10 Legacy Points within three years, the All Star title is forfeited.
- After the three-year grace period, All Stars must remain at, or above, 10 Legacy Points at all times; falling below this level results in forfeiture of the title.
- An All Star who forfeits their title must re-earn their Title Points again, and then collect new Legacy Points over a period of three years.

3. All Star Points Expiry

Title Points and Legacy Points expire after a period of three (3) years.

Future Updates to Progression Criteria & Points

Progression criteria and point allocations will be reviewed periodically and may change in future years, to suit the ever-changing needs of our Modern Jive community.

Note, any changes to the numerical values within this document will never retroactively move you out of a competitive level, if you have already qualified under previous rule sets.

Transitioning from an All Star Level to All Star Titles

Similar to progression updates that do not retroactively move competitors out of a previously qualified level, the transition of All Star from a competitive level to an honorary title will not disadvantage current holders. Dancers recognised as All Stars at the end of 2025 will have the Title Point requirement waived, but must achieve and maintain a minimum of 10 Legacy Points within three years to retain the title.

6.7. Dancing Outside Your Qualified Level

Dancing Up

In Freestyle (FS), a dancer may *Dance Up* to match the higher level of their FS partner, up to a maximum of **one level higher** than they actually qualify for.

***Example 1:** An Inter-Plus FS dancer may compete in Advanced FS, with an Advanced-level FS partner.*

If a competitor *Dances Up* and places, they will earn points **at the higher level** (e.g., *Advanced FS points*) – however, earning points at a higher level **does not automatically qualify** a dancer for that level; normal progression requirements still apply.

When *Dancing Up*, any points earned at the higher level are first applied to the competitor's **current level**, helping them progress as normal. Those same points will then also count at the higher level **after** the dancer has officially qualified for that level.

***Example 2:** If an Inter-Plus FS dancer competes in Advanced FS and earns points, those points will initially count toward their progression out of Inter-Plus. Once the dancer has officially qualified for Advanced FS, those same points will automatically contribute to their progression out of Advanced as well.*

Dancing Down

Occasionally, dancers step away from the Modern Jive competitive scene and later make a return after an extended period. Upon returning after a significant hiatus, dancers may feel they are no longer performing at their previously qualified level. To accommodate this, dancers who have taken a break of **five years or more** may submit a [Petition](#) to request a move down by **one competitive level** from the level at which they were most recently qualified.

Petitioning

If you, or your teachers, believe your AMJR level needs to be updated for any reason, please submit a petition to petitions@lestep.com.au. A petition only needs to be a quick email with your request and your reasoning – this process formalises your request and allows it to be reviewed by an advisory panel, who will assist in making the final decision.

AMJR reserves the right to make discretionary changes to a competitor's qualified level, outside of normal progression.

A. Online Database

The AMJR Online Database contains results from all [AMJR-Certified](#) and [AMJR-Adjacent](#) events across Australia and New Zealand, since 2016. It is designed to track competitor points and level progression, and is the place where dancers can view their current competitive level, provided they have earned a DWAS or Freestyle placing since 2016.

This database is operated on a best-effort basis, and may have errors, especially for dancers who have earned points prior to 2016. Please contact the AMJR for any corrections.

Visit the AMJR database using this link: <https://amjr.dance>.

B. Transitioning from Pre-2026 Rules

In 2026, with the official introduction of the AMJR Framework, the number of points required to progress between levels has increased. However, outside of the cases in Section 6.7, dancers cannot lose eligibility to compete at a level that they have previously qualified for under former AMJR progression criteria.

To manually check if you would have qualified for a particular level prior to the introduction of the AMJR Framework in 2026, use the following steps:

1. **Determine the highest number of valid points** (where a 1st = 5 points, a 2nd = 4 points, and a 3rd = 3 points) you had in a particular category/role, prior to 2026.
2. If you have **8 Intermediate Plus points** in a category/role, you are **eligible to compete at the Advanced level** for that category/role.
3. If you have **12 Advanced points** in a category/role, you are **eligible to compete at the Champions level** for that category/role.

If you've achieved a placing at an AMJR-Certified or AMJR-Adjacent event between 2016-2025, your associated points should be present on the AMJR [Online Database](#) - if you believe there is an error, we invite you to submit a [Petition](#).

C. Conversions from Other Point Systems

Some AMJR Adjacent events use different level names to AMJR events. See Table 6 for conversions between levels.

Event Name	Levels at that Event	Equivalent AMJR Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auckland Championships Ceroc New Zealand Nationals (CNZ) 	Newcomer	Beginner
	Intermediate B	Intermediate
	Intermediate A	Intermediate Plus
	Advanced B	
	Advanced A	Advanced
Champions	Champions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iDance Classic Christchurch Champs 	Level 1	Intermediate
	Level 2	Intermediate Plus
	Level 3	Advanced
	Level 4	Champions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gold Coast Champs (GCC) 2019 	Level 1	Beginner
	Level 2 Freestyle	
	Level 2 DWAS	Intermediate Plus
	Level 3 Freestyle	
	Level 3 DWAS	Advanced
	Level 4 Freestyle	
	Level 4 DWAS	Champions
Level 5 Freestyle		

Table 6: Equivalent Levels for AMJR Adjacent Events