



Junior Mentoring Program

Developed by the DSA Accreditation Commission

Introduction

Until now, the minimum age at which a DSA Member could undertake a Coaching Accreditation (Instructor or Coach) was 18, with 16 being the minimum age for an Assistant DanceSport Instructor (ADI) accreditation. Within Registered Training Facilities (RTFs) there are several junior boys who have regularly partnered Recreational girls, as well as junior girls looking for a partner. At this time these Juniors are unable to obtain any DSA Accreditations, and sometimes become lost to DSA as future DanceSport competitors due to competition from many other activities and sports who focus on children of this age.

This situation started the Accreditation Commission members thinking about the possibility of a Junior Development Program, with the introduction a Junior Assistant DanceSport Instructor program/certification. This has further developed into a Junior Mentoring Program (JMP):

- This would be for children between the ages of 13 and 15 (i.e. same as Junior competitive age group). They would do the technical component (ADI level, removing some dances), wouldn't do the online Community Coaching course, and the minimum 5 hours per style teaching would be for assisting in classes.
- This would allow many Junior dancers to dance in Teacher/Recreational events.
- This would not be considered an Accreditation but a Certification, and those completing the program would not be permitted to take private lessons or teach classes, but only to assist accredited coaches.
- An important component is having a Mentor (RTF Principal or Coach) work with the Junior candidate in an ongoing capacity. This may involve some training for the Mentors from DSA.

Junior Mentoring Program Components

The JMP is largely based on the current ADI program, and would be assessed in terms of Technique and Theory at the same level.

General Requirements:

The technical assessment involves two sections: Practical and Theory sections which are conducted on a style-by-style basis. There is also a Practical Assistant Teaching module required to be completed.

- Technical Requirements:

At the commencement of the assessment the candidate is required to dance to music with a partner of the opposite sex. The candidate is only required to dance his or her own part. The main aspect to be assessed

will be an approach capable of basic dancing in harmony with both music and partner. The dances need to be at least four Syllabus figures in 3 dances in the styles of Standard and Latin American, and 1 dance of each rhythm in New Vogue. Note: Practical routines are expected to be limited to extent of syllabus figures, and figures and dances are to be the choice of the candidate.

- Syllabus Dances: (Specified Syllabus Figures are listed between Pages 4 and 5)
 - Standard: Modern Waltz, Slow Foxtrot, Tango, Quickstep (no VW)

- LA: Cha Cha, Samba, Rumba, Jive (no Paso Doble)
- NV: Swing Waltz, Merrilyn, Tangoette, Evening Three Step, Gypsy Tap (No Parma Waltz, and Charmain)
 - i.e. focus on the dances used most in Restricted Syllabus events.
- Theory:
 - 60 Minutes duration (20 minutes per style)

Assessor to test the candidate's basic knowledge of any of the DSA Assistant Instructor Syllabus Figures or Dances (as Man and or Lady) for the included dances. The candidate may be requested by the assessor to dance to music without a partner his or her own part of any Syllabus Figures. The Theory component of the exam will be based on the candidate being required to -

- Give a solo demonstration to music of figures/dances as requested by the assessor, if required and to be able to state the rhythm/timing.
- Define a basic knowledge of each of the Chart Headings as applicable to each style.
- Know the time signature and tempo of each dance
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of the beat values of any syllabus figure.
- Show the Holds and Body Positions applicable to any syllabus figure.

In summary, the intent is for the candidate to show that he/she can dance and can interpret the Technical Manuals at a basic level. In order to demonstrate a "basic knowledge" the candidate shall be able to demonstrate a figure in a Dance from the Standard and Latin American Syllabus, as well as a New Vogue Dance showing their understanding and application of chart headings, and be able to answer basic questions in relation to Hold, Tempo, Beats and Bars and a Precede and Follow to any of the Syllabus Figures.

- Online Coaching Module:
 - Not used here (could develop a simple version if necessary)
- Practical Teaching Module:
 - Minimum 5 hours per style assisting in group classes under the supervision of a suitable Mentor.

A major part of this Program is that successful candidates earn credit towards a full ADI when they turn 16, i.e. they would only be examined on the dances not included in the JMP and would have to do some higher-level supervised teaching per style and the online Coaching Course.

More than just providing Juniors who can dance as Teachers in the Teacher/Recreational events, it would also be a great introductory program for Juniors, helping them to become involved in theory and working towards the Adult accreditation options- it may even help to keep more Juniors in DanceSport for longer! The Mentoring component is a vital part of this program.

Reference books can be found in the current Accreditation Program (H9.2)

Syllabus Dances and Figures

Standard	Latin American	New Vogue
Waltz	Cha Cha Cha	1. Swing Waltz
1. Closed Changes	1. Basic Movements – (closed, open, and In Place)	2. Marilyn
2. Natural turn	2. New York (To Left- or Right- Side Position)	3. Tangoette
3. Reverse turn	3. Spot Turns to Left or Right (including Switch and Under Arm Turns)	4. Evening Three Step
4. Natural Spin Turn	4. Three Cha Cha Chas (Forward & Back)	5. Gypsy Tap
5. Whisk	5. Hand to Hand (To right and Left Side Position)	
6. Chasse from Promenade Position		
	Samba	
Slow Foxtrot	1. Basic Movements (Natural, Reverse, Side, Progressive)	
1. Feather Step	2. Whisks (Also with Lady’s underarm turn)	
2. Three Step	3. Samba Walks (Promenade)	
3. Natural Turn	4. Rhythm Bounce	
4. Reverse Turn (incorporating Feather Finish)	5. Travelling Voltas	
5. Change of Direction	6. Travelling Bota Fogos, (Forward)	
Tango	Rumba	
1. Walks	1. Basic Movement (Closed, Open, In Place and Alternative)	
2. Progressive Side Step	2. Cucarachas (LF and RF)	
3. Progressive Link	3. New York (To Left- or Right- Side Position)	
4. Closed Promenade	4. Spot Turns to Left or Right (Including Switch and Under Arm Turns)	
	5. Hand to Hand (To Right and Left Side Position)	
Quickstep	6. Progressive Walks Forward or Back	
1. Quarter Turn to Right.	7. Side Steps (to Left or Right)	
2. Natural Turn		
3. Natural Pivot Turn	Jive	
4. Natural Spin Turn	1. Basic in Place	
5. Progressive Chasse	2. Fallaway Rock	
6. Forward Lock	3. Fallaway Throwaway	
	4. Link	
	5. Change of Places Right to Left.	
	6. Change of Places Left to Right	

Document Record

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