Regulations for Competitions

19 GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR ALL COMPETITIONS

19.1 In all competitions, the Semi Final and Final must be contested using the same dances.

19.2 In all program items, heats must not be contested in dances other than those used in the final. The promoter or Competition Organisers must notify competitors when and if less than the advertised number of dances will be used in the preliminary rounds.

19.3 In the final of a competition, when couples are placed in order of merit by the adjudicators, the skating system (or such other system as DSA National Board may determine) shall be used to calculate results.

19.4 A Competition Organiser must NOT compete on the day of a competition they have organised.

20 REGULATIONS FOR DANCES

20.1 Standard events must be conducted using all, or a choice of, the following specified dances: Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot and Quickstep. The order of dances is prescribed in Rule 21.4.

20.1a Slow Rhythm is permitted as a subset of the Foxtrot rhythm in Under 16 and Development Division events.

20.2 Latin events must be conducted using all, or a choice of, the following specified dances: Samba, Cha Cha Cha, Rumba, Paso Doble and Jive. The order of dances is prescribed in Rule 21.4.

20.3 New Vogue events must be conducted using a choice of recommended dances as listed in Rule 34.3 herein.

20.4 Smooth events may include Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz and Foxtrot. Competitors must dance 25% of an open routine in closed hold. The order of dances is prescribed in Rule 21.4.

20.5 Rhythm events may include Cha Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing, Bolero and Mambo. The order of dances is prescribed in Rule 21.4.

20.6 Combined Style events shall be contested over six (6), eight (8) or ten (10) dances.

20.7 There must be an equal number of dances in events that are of Combined Style events from the first round.

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=rules:conduct&rev=1786686903

21 DANCES PER EVENT

21.1 The number of dances required per event has been set according to the below schedule. Competition Organisers must adhere to the number of dances per event as listed.

21.2 Where graded events are offered for Recreational, Amateur and Cross Divisional events, the Competition Organiser may choose to use the same dances across all age groups and grades to assist with scheduling events to run concurrently on the floor.

21.3 For Under 16, Recreational, Amateur and Professional Divisions, the following number of dances will apply:

- Solo C/B Grade – up to 3 dances
- Solo Open – up to 5 dances
- Recreational/Under 16 Lead/Follow – 1 dance
- Recreational Couples – 2 dances
- Sub-Juvenile and Juvenile C Grade – 2 dances
- Sub-Juvenile and Juvenile B Grade – 3 dances
- Amateur/Junior C Grade – 3 dances
- Amateur/Junior B Grade – 4 dances
- Sub-Juvenile/Juvenile/Junior/Under 21/Adult/Masters Open – 3, 4 or 5 dances (Development and Festival competitions)
- Sub-Juvenile/Juvenile/Junior/Under 21/Adult/Masters Open – 4 or 5 dances (Championships, State Opens, National Championships and the Australian Championship)
- Professional – 5 dances

For Cross Divisional Events, the following number of dances will apply:

- Coach/Student events (everything other than Pro/Am) – 1 dance
- Pro/Am – 1 to 5 dances

Couple events, by Age Group and Grade:

Sub-Juvenile / Juvenile Age Groups		**Junior Age Group**	
C Grade	2 dances	C Grade	3 dances
B Grade	3 dances	B Grade	4 dances
A Grade	4 dances	A Grade	4 or 5 dances
Under 21 / Adult Age Groups		**Masters 1 Age Group**	
C Grade	3 dances	C Grade	3 dances
B Grade	4 dances	B Grade	4 dances
A Grade	4 or 5 dances	A Grade	4 or 5 dances
Masters 2 / Masters 3 Age Groups		**Masters 4 Age Group**	
C Grade	3 dances	C Grade	2 dances
B Grade	4 dances	B Grade	3 dances
A Grade	4 or 5 dances	A Grade	3 or 4 dances

21.4 The order of dances in all events other than New Vogue shall be:

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=rules:conduct&rev=1786686903

Standard	Latin	Smooth	Rhythm
Waltz	Samba	Waltz	Cha Cha Cha
Tango	Cha Cha Cha	Tango	Rumba
Viennese Waltz	Rumba	Viennese Waltz	Swing
Foxtrot	Paso Doble	Foxtrot	Bolero
Quickstep	Jive		Mambo

Where an event is contested over fewer dances than are listed above for that style, the dances not being danced are omitted and the order of the remaining dances is unchanged.

22 MUSIC TEMPI

22.1 The recommended tempi for the **Standard** dances are as follows:

Waltz	28-30 bars per minute
Foxtrot	28-30 bars per minute
Tango	31-33 bars per minute
Viennese Waltz	58-60 bars per minute
Quickstep	50-52 bars per minute

The recommended tempi for the **Smooth** dances are as follows:

Waltz	28-30 bars per minute
Tango	28-30 bars per minute
Foxtrot	30-32 bars per minute
Viennese Waltz	52-54 bars per minute

22.2 The recommended tempi for the **Latin** dances are as follows:

Cha Cha Cha	30-32 bars per minute
Samba	48-52 bars per minute
Rumba	24-27 bars per minute
Paso Doble	56-62 bars per minute
Jive	42-44 bars per minute

The recommended tempi for the **Rhythm** dances are as follows:

Cha Cha Cha	30-32 bars per minute
Rumba	28-30 bars per minute
Swing	34-36 bars per minute
Bolero	24-26 bars per minute
Mambo	46-48 bars per minute

22.3 The tempi for the **New Vogue** dances are as follows:

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=rules:conduct&rev=1786686903

Swing Waltz	**50-54 bars per minute**
Parma Waltz, Lucille Waltz, Tracie Leigh Waltz	48-52 bars per minute
Twilight Waltz	52-56 bars per minute
Barclay Blues, Charmaine, Excelsior Schottische, Merrilyn, Carousel	28-32 bars per minute
Gypsy Tap, Evening Three Step	50-56 bars per minute
La Bomba, Tangoette, Tango Terrific	28-32 bars per minute

23 AMOUNTS OF MUSIC

23.1 For all Standard, Latin and New Vogue competitions the recommended amounts of music will be: four (4) bar introduction and a minimum of one minute and fifteen seconds (1m 15sec) to a maximum of two minutes (2 min).

23.2 For New Vogue Competitions and Championships:

- **(a)** The music used must have a four-bar introduction, clear eight bar and sixteen bar phrases, and be in thirty-two bar choruses. Bar 1 of the repeat chorus must follow immediately from Bar 32.
- **(b)** Competitors are required to dance in circular alignment. Competitors must not create a separate alignment or dance up and down the centre of the dance floor.
- **(c)** New Vogue adjudicators are not permitted to stand in the centre of the floor for a Semi-final or Final of any New Vogue event.

24 COACH/STUDENT EVENTS

24.1 Coach/Student and Pro/Student events can only be conducted in the following categories according to the organisers' requirements for program management.

- **(a)** Coach / Student – where the student is defined in the DEFINITIONS of these rules.
- **(b)** Pro / Student – where the student is defined in the DEFINITIONS of these rules.
- **(c)** Coach / Amateur – where the student is registered in the Amateur Division.
- **(d)** Coach / Recreational – where the student is registered as a Recreational competitor.
- **(e)** The student in the above events must wear the number.

24.2 The Coach member of competing partnerships in Coach / Student events must hold a DSA Accreditation.

24.3 Competitors in Rule 36.1 may be further sub divided into graded events based on the level of the Recreational Division competitor student of the partnership. Open to include all Levels may also be offered in each category.

24.4 Competitors in Rule 36.1 may be further sub divided into Grades C, B and A based on the level of the Amateur Division competitor of the partnership. Open to include all Grades may also be offered

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=rules:conduct&rev=1786686903

in each category.

24.5 In events conducted under terms of this Rule, it is the student that is being adjudicated.

24.6 The following events are not included in the Coach / Student and Pro / Student category of events Pro / Am events – as defined in Rule 25. Individual events in the Recreational Division Lead / Follow events

24.7 In Coach / Student events that are confined to sub-juvenile and juvenile competitors only, then the Restricted Dress and Approved Syllabus regulations, as applicable to this Age Group, are to apply.

25 PRO / AMATEUR EVENTS

25.1 The Professional partner must be a current financial DSA registered competitor in the Professional Division.

25.2 The Amateur partner must be a current financial DSA registered competitor in the Amateur Division.

25.3 Pro / Amateur events are judged as a couple.

25.4 Competition organisers may sub-divide this competition into male/female categories and/or grades.

26 FORMATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

26.1 Formation competitions must be held in a specific DanceSports style.

26.2 Choreography must be style specific except for up to 16 bars that may be freestyle.

26.3 Solo work in Standard and New Vogue categories is restricted to eight bars of any one dance used with a maximum of 24 bars over the whole presentation. Lifts are permitted.

26.4 In all competitions, teams shall consist of 6 to 8 pairs. No person may dance in more than one team in the same event. At any stage in a competition, team members may be replaced with reserves.

26.5 Competitors who compete in the Professional Division of competition are prohibited from dancing in Formation competitions.

26.6 No Formation Team shall dance a routine exceeding six (6) minutes including entry and exit. Of these 6 minutes, no more than 4½ minutes shall be judged and the beginning and end of the performance must be clearly identifiable.

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=rules:conduct&rev=1786686903

27 BREACH OF PERFORMANCE RULES – IMPLEMENTATION

27.1 An Invigilator must be appointed for all Championships, National Championships, State Opens and Australian Championships. Such an appointment will be discretionary at other competitions.

- **(a)** Nothing in this rule shall prevent another person from reporting to the Chairperson of Adjudicators an alleged breach of DSA rules. Such a report shall be submitted in writing and signed by the person making the report at a competition.
- **(b)** Nothing in this rule shall prevent a complaint being made regarding a DSA member to DSA.

27.2 The Chairperson of Adjudicators is notified of a breach in DSA Rules when:

- **(a)** a Chairperson of Adjudicators as appointed under Rule 29.4, has directly observed a breach in DSA rules,
- **(b)** an Adjudicator observing a breach of DSA rules, marks “D” against the competitor(s) number on their judging tablet or informs the Chairperson of Adjudicators directly
- **(c)** an Invigilator, as appointed under Rule 27.1, has observed the breach and informed the Chairperson.

27.3 The Scrutineer will inform the Chairperson of any ‘D’ (Disqualification) arising from Adjudicator markings.

27.4 In circumstances where the Competition Organiser is acting in place of the Chairperson of Adjudicators under Rule 29.4 and is unable to complete the procedures of Rule 29, the Scrutineer is responsible for reporting the ‘D’ (Disqualification) to DanceSport Australia through the DSA Executive.

27.5 Where a notification of a breach occurs prior to the final of an event, the Chairperson of Adjudicators will make all reasonable efforts to notify the coaches, parents/guardians or competitor(s) concerned of their infringement before the next round of the event.

27.6 Only the Chairperson of Adjudicators or Competition Organiser has the authority to discuss an infringement with the coach, parent/guardian or competitor(s) concerned. Any other adjudicators of the relevant event, (whether they have marked an “D” against the Competitor(s) or not) shall not discuss the infringement with the competitor(s) concerned.

27.7 If the same infringement is repeated in a subsequent round other than the final of an event, the Chairperson of Adjudicators has the power to remove the competitor(s) from the event.

27.8 If there are two or more disqualification marks against any couple in the final round of an event, that couple will be placed last in that dance by the Scrutineer on the authorisation of the Chairperson of Adjudicators.

27.9 All such “D” markings by adjudicators must be published in the results.

27.10 All disqualification actions: that is the removal of competitor’s marks from an event or the reduction to last place in a final must be reported to DSA through the DSA Incident Notification System so that any action required by DSA may be implemented.

- **(a)** Where a disqualification is reported for competitor(s), the DSA Executive must notify the Studio of the competitor. In circumstances where a Studio does not exist for that competitor,

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=rules:conduct&rev=1786686903

the DSA Executive must take all reasonable steps to inform the competitor's coach of the breach.

28 LICENCED INSTRUCTORS & COACHES (see Coach definition)

28.1 DSA members undertake not to act as an Instructor or Coach in any of the DanceSports styles, in Australia, unless they hold a current valid Instructor/Coach registration, or are otherwise exempted under these rules from holding a DSA Instructor/Coach registration.

28.2 DanceSport members are encouraged to engage current financial registered DSA Instructors and/or Coaches for the teaching of DanceSport.

28.3 A DSA Instructor/Coach registration shall only be granted to persons who hold a current valid Instructor/Coach Certification/Accreditation and a current and valid Working With Children and Working With Vulnerable People clearance in their relevant State of registration.

28.4 Overseas visitors who are resident in Australia for less than 3 months in a calendar year, are exempted from holding a DSA Coach registration, providing that they comply in all other respects with these rules.

28.5 DSA members who wish to act as a Coach in any of the DanceSports styles in another country are exempted from holding a DSA Coach registration provided they hold a coach or trainer registration with either the WDSF or member body in that country.

28.6 An Instructor/Coach registration shall not be refused to any applicant who meets the requirements of accreditation and who is a member or has submitted a valid application for membership of DSA (along with the required fee), providing that they are not currently serving a suspension or have lost their accreditation through disciplinary action.

28.7 It is a condition of a DSA accreditation that an accredited member shall not undermine DSA's accreditation system by offering to accredit persons as DanceSport Instructors or Coaches without the authorisation of the DSA Academy and the strict enforcement of guidelines set.

28.8 A DSA registered Instructor/Coach shall not advertise their services by using the image or likeness of a particular competitor or couple, unless the competitor or couple has given their written permission for the use of their image.

29 DUTIES – ADJUDICATORS, CHAIRPERSON OF ADJUDICATORS AND SCRUTINEERS

29.1 DSA Adjudicators, Chairpersons and Scrutineers must hold the relevant and current

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=rules:conduct&rev=1786686903

qualifications required to fulfil their role and must hold a current and valid Working With Children and Working With Vulnerable People clearance in their relevant State of registration.

29.2 Adjudicators are required to conform with the DSA Code of Conduct and act under the direction of the Chairperson of Adjudicators whilst undertaking adjudicating duties.

29.3 An Adjudicator may not compete on the same day they are officiating.

29.4 A Chairperson of Adjudicators must be appointed by the Competition Organiser for all Championships, National Championships, State Opens and Australian Championships. Such an appointment will be discretionary at other competitions.

- **(a)** Where a Chairperson of Adjudicators is not appointed, or is appointed but is not available, the Competition Organiser or their representative assumes the responsibilities of the Chairperson of Adjudicators under these Rules.

29.5 The Chairperson of Adjudicators is responsible for upholding the DSA Policies and ensuring that the competition adheres to DSA Rules.

29.6 The Chairperson of Adjudicators is responsible for the correct interpretation of the adjudicators' marks and for making decisions on points of question/conflict that arise during the conduct of a competition. It is the Chairperson's duty to consult with the Competition Organiser and agree the number of competitors to be passed forward to the next round, however where the safety of competitors is of concern, the final decision remains with the Chairperson.

29.7 It is strongly recommended that at least 50% of competitors taking part in any round of a competition be passed through to the next round.

29.8 The Chairperson of Adjudicators shall agree with the Competition Organiser on the number of heats in each round of competition, and the number of competitors in a final, except that the Chairperson of Adjudicators may limit the number of competitors in any heat or final if they believe that there could be any danger to the health and safety of the competitors caused by overcrowding.

29.9 The Chairperson of Adjudicators must not act in any other official capacity other than adjudicator, at any Championship or National Championship, for example compere, marshall, scrutineer.

29.10 The Chairperson of Adjudicators may serve in a voting capacity to replace an existing panel member if required and must be an accredited National Championship adjudicator in the relevant style.

29.11 Only the Chairperson of Adjudicators, Scrutineer/s and Competition Organiser shall have access to the marks whilst the competition is in progress. At the conclusion of the competition the competition marks may be posted online.

29.12 An appointed Chairperson of Adjudicators and the Scrutineer must each hold a DSA Scrutineer's Licence. A Competition Organiser, or their representative, who assumes the responsibilities of the Chairperson of Adjudicators under Rule 29.4(a) is not required to hold a DSA Scrutineer's Licence.

29.13 The Scrutineer is responsible for the correct recording of the marks. It is their duty to take instruction only from the Chairperson of Adjudicators.

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=rules:conduct&rev=1786686903

29.14 The Scrutineer may not act as Chairperson of Adjudicators.

29.15 A person who is competing at a competition may not officiate as a Scrutineer at that event.

29.16 A person who is officiating as a Scrutineer at a competition may not also officiate in any other capacity.

30 ROLE OF THE INVIGILATOR

30.1 An Invigilator is required to meet the requirements of Rule 29.1 and the following:

- **(a)** monitor the implementation of DSA Rules and to prepare and submit reports as required by DSA.
- **(b)** monitor all rounds of all events, including events that require competitors to perform according to a restricted syllabus, and report to the Chairperson of Adjudicators any alleged breaches of DSA Rules regarding the Approved Syllabus, Competition Performance Restrictions and/or Dress Code.
- **(c)** ensure that competitors dance in their assigned heats and that all couples are on the floor for their heat.

30.2 Check the competition dress of all athletes before the start of the first round if possible or during the first round and ensure that all are in accordance with DSA Dress Codes, and if any violation of the DSA Dress Code is detected, to provide this information to the Chairperson of Adjudicators.

30.3 The Invigilator may serve as an Adjudicator but may not invigilate and adjudicate at the same time.

30.4 All infractions of DSA Rules reported to the Chairperson must be documented according to DSA requirements in the DSA Incident System.

30.5 An Invigilator will not communicate any details of any infringement to any competitor or DSA official other than the Chairperson of Adjudicators.

30.6 An Invigilator may not be a registered competitor in any DSA division.

31 DSA SPORTS DIRECTOR

31.1 The DSA Sports Director is appointed by DSA National Board to liaise between DSA, its officials, members and Competition Organisers to develop and supervise the implementation of DSA Rules and Policies as they apply to competitions and sport development.

31.2 When present at an event the DSA Sports Director will carry out duties as outlined in Rule 29 and Rule 30 and the following:

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=rules:conduct&rev=1786686903

- **(a)** Ensure scrutineering and adjudication is carried out according to DSA Rules.
- **(b)** Advise the Competition Organiser on matters of procedure and policy.

From:
https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/ - **DSA Rules**

Permanent link:
https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=rules:conduct&rev=1786686903

Last update: **2026/08/14 15:55**

This printed or downloaded copy is not a controlled document. Always check the link above for the current version of this rule.