

Newcomer

This Division is offered in the following categories:

Junior: 0-12; Teen: 13-17; OPEN: 18+; CYRSTAL 30-44; DIAMOND 45-54

This division is recommended for beginner dancers or dancers who have never competed before. He/she must move into the next highest, relevant division for the following competition year. Variations are not permitted in this division. The official step sheet must be strictly adhered to. Dance teachers of any form of dance may not compete at this level.

Division 4 Novice

This Division is offered in the following categories:

Junior: 0-12; Teen: 13-17; OPEN: 18+; CYRSTAL 30-44; DIAMOND 45-54

This division is recommended for dancers who have been line dancing for over 1 year, or who have some previous dance experience. Emphasis in this division is on correct vanilla footwork and technique. Minimal variations are allowed in this division, however dancers may not execute any turn/spin of more than 180 degrees on one foot.

Division 3 Intermediate

This Division is offered in the following categories:

Junior: 0-12; Teen: 13-17; OPEN: 18+; CYRSTAL 30-44; DIAMOND 45-54

This division is recommended for dancers who have been line dancing for 2-3 years, or who have three or more years of other dance training. Dance teachers who are new to competition are recommended to begin in this division.

Gold: 55+

This division is offered to dancers who fall into the relevant age category, as outlined above. Dancers, who fall into this age category, can alternatively choose to dance in the Open/Crystal/Silver age divisions. Gold is recommended for dancers who have been line dancing for 2-3 years, or who have three or more years of other dance training.

Division 2 Advanced:

This Division is offered in the following categories:

Junior: 0-12; Teen: 13-17; OPEN: 18+; CYRSTAL 30-44;

These divisions are recommended for experienced and accomplished dancers who have been line dancing for over 3 years, or who have an extensive dance background.

Division 1 All-stars Advanced

This Division is offered in the following categories:

OPEN: 18+

This division is for advanced dancers and is by qualification or who have an extensive dance background only.

Line Dance Rules Summary

Male and Female competitors will dance in combined heats.

Dancers may choose to dance one or any combination of dances offered in the division.

However, dancers will need to dance all specified dances to qualify for a placing. At least one dance in each line dance division will be danced to country music.

Dancers will be counted in.

V & V Rule - Vanilla & Variation: Dancers must dance the first TWO walls as vanilla. You may use your hands, arms, head and upper body, but you cannot change any of the steps, they must be performed exactly as the official step description issued. You will be penalised if the official step sheet is not strictly adhered to. On the third, fifth and all following ODD walls you may introduce variations.

Variations must flow in the same direction of movement as the Vanilla. On the fourth, sixth and all following EVEN Walls you must dance vanilla with styling.

Exceptions to the V&V Rule as follows:

Newcomer: Variations are not permitted at all in this division. Newcomer dancers must dance the dance exactly as written – no variations are allowed.

Division 4 Novice: The V&V rule applies in this division – however only minimal variations are allowed - dancers may not execute any turn/spin of more than 180 degrees on one foot. Excessive variations for this division will be penalized.

All vanilla patterns must be performed exactly as written on the official step descriptions. Dancers must keep to the basic footwork and direction of the dance. No additional turns or variations may be added.

Hand/arm work and body styling/movement is allowed. Competitors will be disqualified if they include their own version of the dance during the vanillas. If a dancer leaves the floor for any reason, he/she may be disqualified from that dance; under the rules of the scoring system, this means they would be ineligible for an overall placement.

Duos Ages + Rules Summary

Junior: 0-12; Teen: 13-17; OPEN: 18+;

* If the two dancers competing together fall into different age groups, they must dance in the division of the oldest dancer. Duos are two individuals, males, females or mixed, dancing in any non-joined pattern. Hands or bodies may briefly touch but dancers cannot join to execute any movement. A set piece of music will be pre-released to which Duos should choreograph their own routine. Several Duos will compete on the floor at the same time; therefore dance floor etiquette must be followed. Dancers should start dancing when they choose; they will not be counted in.

Line Dance Team

You may not dance in more than one team in the same category at a competition, however you may compete once in a standard team and once in team cabaret. You may not compete in both a junior team and an adult Team.

Teams must consist of **at least 4-10** members for each routine and involves individual dancers dancing any combination of dances. They may touch and join to create a formation, or initiate a turn or movement. Teams may include sequences from a line dance, partner dance or from couples dance styles. Lifts, drops and weight bearing moves are not permitted in Standard Teams, but are allowed in Cabaret Teams.

Music for **Teams**:

* **TEAM MUSIC** must be clearly labeled with the team name and number and given to the organizer during the submission of registration forms and a back up copy must be available if required. Delays of a teams' performance due to music unavailability may result in the team being disqualified.

All music must not be more than 2:30 minutes. The organizer reserves the right to edit/crop any part of the song if the music chosen by the competitors is more than 2:30 minutes. All music must be recorded into a CD, with only one track in the CD. All CDs must be labeled with the competitors' team name and the length of the track. All CDs must be submitted to the organizer upon registration. Please make at least two copies of the CD, one a competition song and one as the backup. The CDs WILL NOT be returned to the competitors.

Time starts with the first notes of the music and ends with the last notes. Any introduction or exit music **MUST** be included in the time allowance. Exceeding the time limits will result in a lower final placement

Costumes – All Divisions

General

Male: You must wear a shirt or shirt & waistcoat, trousers or jeans. Hats/Caps or any other accessories are optional. If any accessory worn is dropped during the course of the dance, and not retrieved at the earliest opportunity, you will be penalised.

Female: You must wear a) dress or b) shirt, top, leotard or blouse and trousers, skirt or jeans. . Hats/Caps or any other accessories are optional. If any accessory worn is dropped during the course of the dance, and not retrieved at the earliest opportunity, you will be penalised

Footwear- For all divisions

Competitors are only allowed to wear dance sneakers, western style boots, latin shoes or practice shoes.

Costumes and Footwear

** All Divisions – costumes and footwear. If you are unsure of the legality of any aspect of your costume or footwear, please check at the competitor's meeting before you compete.*

Costumes & Footwear for Newcomer Division

The Dress Rules are relaxed for this division. Dancers are not required to have a yoke on their costume. Hats/Caps are optional for all dancers. Any suitable footwear may be worn, however no trainers (except in Funky dances) or stiletto/high heels are allowed.

General Rules – All Line dance Divisions

Gum Chewing is not allowed.

Audio/Verbal sound/Singing is not allowed (*except in Team Cabaret*). Lip-synching is allowed. Talking - Competitors must not talk to other competitors, judges or the audience while dancing on the floor in competition. You risk not being recalled to the next heat or placed in a final.

Acrobatic moves are not allowed at any point during the dance (this also includes the introduction and 'end poses'). These moves are defined as follows:

- * Any move where both legs are above waist height of the competitor
- * Any move where the competitor's weight is on one or both hands
- * Any move where a competitor sits or lies on the floor

Splits are not permitted, except in Division 2 Advanced and Division 1 Allstars Advanced. If splits are performed in any other division the competitor/s will be penalized. Advanced competitors may use 2 beats of music exempt from Acrobatic Rule Restrictions to recover from the splits. Kicks are allowed, however kicks must not interfere with, or endanger, any other dancer on the floor.

All dancers must obey dance floor etiquette. If you are executing a move and by doing so cause interference with another competitor, you will not be recalled to the next heat or placed in a final.

The offended competitor will not be affected. This also means that variations should flow in the direction of the dance. Props are not permitted (*except in Team Cabaret*).

Vulgar, suggestive or crude movements are not allowed. Movements beyond the point of flirtation, humor or comedy, will result in the dancer not being recalled to the next heat or placed in a final.

General Information

Competition Ethics: Competitors MUST NOT question or consult the Judges about the Competition during the event. A critique service will be offered at certain events.

Competitors' Meeting: It is each competitor's responsibility to attend the Competitors Meeting. For teams, at least one team member should attend.

Competitors' Responsibilities: It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure they are fully up-to-date with the rules relating to their division. This includes official line dance step descriptions and costume regulations. Competitors should make themselves aware of competitors' registration and meetings. All competitors must be in the competitor's area 15 minutes before they are required to dance. Each competitor's number will be called twice and if the competitor is not on the floor ready to dance they may be disqualified from the dance. All teams must be ready to perform at the assigned time; delays may result in a lower placement.

All competitors are expected to behave in a professional and proper manner. Anyone acting in an unethical or unprofessional way may be disqualified from the event. If competitors do not abide by the published rules they will be disqualified. Improper behavior, competition enquiries, protests or disputes must immediately be brought to the attention of the Event Director. All decisions of the Event Director, Contest Co-ordinator, Judges and Scrutineers are final.

Judges: During the competition, judges/officials privy to competition scoring or results must not, under any circumstances or by any means, convey such information to the public or to a competitor. Judges & officials are not restricted from socialising at an event except whilst judging or carrying out official duties.

Judges Meetings: The reason for calling a judges' meeting and the result will only be conveyed to the dancers involved if necessary. If the Head Judge feels that a statement is required, then it will be made in general terms only and for the benefit/guidance of all competitors.

Junior/Teenage Competitors: Competitors aged under 18 must be accompanied by an adult who is held accountable for their conduct at all times. It is the adult's responsibility to convey all the information, step descriptions, dress rules, etc., to the dancer in their care.

Preliminary Heats: Preliminary heats are used to eliminate dancers in order to get to a final. Scores from prelims will only be used to decide final placing, if scores from the finals themselves are tied. There may be occasions when another heat is required because of a tie resulting from the judges' marks.

LINE DANCE Individual : The scores of all dances will be added together and the overall highest scoring dancers will move forward to the next heat/final. Heats will be held in all divisions with eight or more dancers. A percentage of the dancers in each heat will be recalled to dance again in the next heat until a maximum of seven competitors remain.

LINE DANCE TEAMS: Preliminary heats until a shortlisted teams remain.

Step Descriptions: The Event Director must issue a step description for each line dance offered at the Event. The dances will not include any tags or options. The competitors are required to dance to this sheet only and **must request** the step descriptions from the Event Director. A step description from any other source is **Not Valid** for the purposes of the competition.

By competing at any APLC/MIL sanctioned event, you are agreeing to the following statement ” We agree to hold the organizers of this event and their agents harmless for all suits, claims or demands of every kind and character arising out of and in conjunction with this event.

We hereby authorize the reproduction, sale, copyright, exhibition, broadcast and/or distribution of any event videotape without limitation. We understand the physical risks of entering dance competitions and social dancing and assume full responsibility for any injury or personal damages resulting from the event.”

* Please Note - any competition that does not strictly adhere to these rules will not be classed as a APLC/MIL competition

* Please note - these rules are subject to change at the discretion of the APLC/MIL.