



The World Country & Line DanceSport Federation©

*In the true sportive spirit of our shared
Olympic dream*

The WCLDSF© Sports Rules for International Events and World Games

These Rules are valid from 2018 to end of 2022*

*The Rules included in this document are the propriety of the WCLDSF and are to be used by current members only.
These Rules are to be used in its entirety and can't be altered or modified unless authorized by the WCLDSF.
The WCLDSF Rules may be changed, modified or deleted without notice by the WCLDSF managing committee.

A. GENERAL RULES

1 – WORLD COUNTRY & LINE DANCESPORT FEDERATION (WCLDSF) AS GOVERNING BODY

- i. The WCLDSF consists of member nations which, when they join, recognize the need to participate under a system of rules based on sportsmanship, regardless of level of athletes or location of competition
- ii. The rules of the WCLDSF are intended to promote skill and athleticism in a fair and safe environment. Violations of these rules are dealt with during competition by competition officials. More serious violations may be further addressed after the competition by proper authorities in accordance with WCLDSF Statutes and Bylaws and WCLDSF Disciplinary Code.
- iii. A athlete, adjudicator, team coach, or member of any ANOM connected to competition manipulation will be disciplined based on the WCLDSF's Code of Conduct.
- iv. Athletes who compete for their member national federations in a WCLDSF event do so with the understanding and respect of these rules and agree to abide by them at all times.
- v. The WCLDSF Rule Book is applicable to all WCLDSF International competitions, Games and qualifications thereto and all other international games as established by the WCLDSF.

2 – DIVISIONS OFFERED

- i. Line Dance Male
 - a. Pre-Junior (4 through 6)
 - b. Junior (7 through 15)
 - c. Adult (16 and over)
 - d. Senior (35 and over)
- ii. Line Dance Female
 - a. Pre-Junior (4 through 6)
 - b. Junior (7 through 15)
 - c. Adult (16 and over)
 - d. Senior (35 and over)
- iii. Formation Teams
 - a. Pre-Junior (4 through 6)
 - b. Junior (7 through 15)

- c. Adult (16 and over)
- d. Senior (35 and over)

3 – GENDER PARTICIPATION

- i. For WCLDSF Line Dance competitions, no male may participate in a female's event, and no female may participate in a men's event.
- ii. WCLDSF Formation Team Competition event is a non-gender division, it may consist of any combination of male and female

4 – ATHLETES ELIGIBILITY/AGE

- i. The minimum age is 4
- ii. Line Dance and Formation Team divisions are offered in four (4) age groups outlined in (Rule 2 – Divisions Offered)
- iii. Contestant age defined as of December 31st of the competition year

5 – ADJUDICATORS and CONTEST OFFICIALS

See also WCLDSF Contest Procedure Manual

- i. All decisions made by judges and contest officials are based on their discretion in understanding, adjudicating, and interpreting the WCLDSF Contest Procedure Manual, Judges Certification Program System and this Rule Book in an unbiased manner.
- ii. The WCLDSF Judges Certification system or the international equivalent is used in all WCLDSF qualifying tournaments, International, and World Games. The duties of the judges and contest officials are the same in either system.
- iii. ANOM have the authority to use local or non-WCLDSF certified judges but are encourage using Certified WCLDSF Judges and Officials in competition which are completely under their jurisdiction.

6 – PROPER AUTHORITIES AND DISCIPLINE

See also WCLDSF Disciplinary Code

- i. "Proper Authorities" refers specifically to the sports director, contest officials and observer. In addition to the on-site officials, every WCLDSF events are overseen by assigned representatives. Actions by athletes, coaches and national team staff which show a flagrant disregard for the rules may be dealt with after the competition by proper authorities.

7 – DOPING

See also WCLDSF Anti-Doping Code and WCLDSF Disciplinary Code

- i. Membership in the WCLDSF includes acceptance of the WCLDSF Anti-Doping Program, World Anti-Doping Code and a requirement that the policies, rules, and programs of ANOM members are in compliance with the code.
- ii. WCLDSF Anti-Doping Code and related documentations are available on our website.
- iii. Mandatory random drug testing of athletes will be conducted without prior notice

8 – COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- i. Each National Country Line DanceSport Federation desiring to send a Team of Athletes to represent their country, carry their National Flag and compete to qualify for future WCLDSF Sanctioned International competition and/or WCLDSF World Games, *i.e.*, WCLDSF, IWGA, or IOC Games, must be a current WCLDSF Associate National Organization Member (*ANOM*).
- ii. To qualify their National Team members, ANOMs should hold at least one (1), or up to a preferred number of four (4) National Qualifying Events using the current year's WCLDSF rules for Line Dance and/or Line/Country Couples Formation Groups.
- iii. All mandatory Line Dances and Line Dance ShowDance Music downloads are available upon demand or on our website www.WCLDSF.org
- iv. Each participating ANOM Country must select and register one (1) National Head Coach with the WCLDSF, select their team of athletes and electronically submit a separate Competition Registration for each Athlete/Division, Coach and entourage member which includes uploading a copy of their Passport ID Pages, US Visa (if required), Athlete WADA Certification (with an optional TUE) and other required documents as well as making payment using an International Credit card or wire transfer for each entry at least 60 days before the competition start date (absolute, no-recourse deadline) by mail or email at sportsdirectorwcldsf@wcldsf.org

9 – COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- i. Line Dance
 - a. To determine the five (5) finalists in each age group of each gender, all Line Dance contestants first compete for placement in the mandatory Line Dance categories, *Rise and Fall, Pulse, Smooth, Cuban* plus either *Street* for the Pre-Juniors, Juniors and Adults, or *Stage* for the Senior divisions, danced in the order listed above in heats of 1½ minutes duration for all Divisions beginning with Senior ladies, with a timed thirty (30) second break between heats.
 - b. Each Line Dance contestant may be required to dance in at least two (2) Competition Rounds.
 - c. Current step sheets, videos and their annual dance change dates are available upon demand.
 - d. Throughout the competition each WCLDSF competitor must execute the Plain Vanilla version of the choreographer's dance as written on *all walls*, *except* optional, personal choreographic element substitutions are permitted to enhance the *last eight (8) beats of the musical phrase endings* of the song on even numbered walls (2nd, 4th, 6th, etc.)
 - e. Pattern content replacements are allowed in ABC dances only when the following three conditions exist:
 - i. When the element to be replaced has already been danced at least once as plain vanilla,
 - ii. During the last two (2) measures of a musical phrase
 - iii. When the athlete is working on an *even* numbered wall.
 - f. These permitted substitutions must still precisely follow the exact flow and spacing of the called dance as written.
 - g. "*Plain Vanilla*" does *not* mean that contestants should dance without style. It is choreographic content, style, musical interpretation, dance technique and the theatrical rendering of human emotion which separates winners from the remaining contestants.
 - h. In the Medal (*final*) Round, the Top Five (5) contestants of each gender/age group will dance a *Solo Dance Short Program (SDSP)*, using the *SDSP Rules* below, which will count as (25%) of each finalist's scores.
- ii. Formation Teams
 - a. Line Dance only Team, minimum of five (5) members dancing
 - b. Dancing Country Couples – minimum of three (3) couples dancing.

- c. In the Medal Round of competition each Team will compete once for final placement in any one, or a medley combination of any number of appropriate Line or Country Couples dances no less than 2½ minutes and no more than 4 minutes in duration using their choice of choreography and acceptable music, i.e., one, or a medley of, multiple dances and rhythms. Only musical transitions from one dance to another are allowed, no vocal or dance segues are allowed.
- d. Self selected Team music need to be submitted electronically with Team registration documentation.
- e. Formation Team Routine must include the specified *Required Choreographic Content Element(s) (RCCE)* listed in Rule below.

10 – DIVISIONAL FINAL ROUND

- i. Line Dance
 - a. Solo Dance Short Program (SDSP)
 - i. Athlete selected content choreographed to the entire WCLDSF current selected music (approx. 2-2½ minutes), heated.
 - ii. Each (SDSP) must include all Required Choreographic Content Element(s) (RCCE) listed below
 - iii. Athletes may carry small props and/or wear costumes appropriate to the routine being performed as long as they do not impede, touch and contact or interfere with any other athlete's performance.
- ii. Formation Team
 - a. Not applicable, no additional round, single dance division

11 – REQUIRED CHOREOGRAPHIC CONTENT ELEMENT(S) (RCCE'S)

- i. All Senior, Adult and Junior Line Dance finalists must perform all of their Required Choreography Content Elements (RCCE) at least once during their SDSP Program.
- ii. In the Formation Team Program, at least two (2) Formation Team dancers must perform all of the appropriate (Line Dance or Couples) respective RCCE at least once during their Team competition performance.

12 – DANCE SURFACE

- i. Competition surface is known as a dance floor. It must be of a quality deemed fit officials in charge of the competition.
- ii. The dance surface must be leveled and even preferably made out of wood, synthetic surface are allowed.
- iii. Size of the floor should be at least 10m wide and 18m long for a total of 180 sq. meter
- iv. Only competitors or contest officials are allowed on the dance surface during the dance.
- v. No national team official is allowed onto the dance floor without the consent of an official except in the case of attending to an injured player.
- vi. Spectator, friend, family or supporter should not stand or sit on the dance floor while competition is running
- vii. If, prior to or during the competition, if any section of the dance floor becomes dusty, wet, uneven or damaged, the officials will immediately stop the competition and ensure the necessary cleaning or repairs are made before competition resumes.
- viii. If any jewelry, costume part, accessories or any foreign object is detected on the floor
- ix. If the problem cannot be solved in a short period of time or if any section of the dance floor is of a quality that makes dancing dangerous, the WCLDSF officials has the right to postpone the competition until such a time as the dance floor can be properly made fit to Dance.

13 – COMPETITORS DRESSING ROOM

- i. Although the competitor dressing rooms are not a part of the dance floor, they are considered a part of it and are subject to rules pertaining to the dance floor.
- ii. Dressing rooms are gender divided, separated and close to the dance floor
- iii. Female dressing room should be the closer one to the staging area
- iv. Size of each dressing room should be at least 9 sq meter
- v. If fabric is used for dressing room walls, they need to be fully opaque with a closed door
- vi. The only people allowed in the dressing room are competitors and, if required, same gender personal assistant.
- vii. Both dressing rooms must be of the same dimensions and quality, offering advantage to neither gender in any manner.

14 – COMPETITORS WARM-UP SESSION

- i. Prior to competition start time, enough time should be allowed for every competitor to warm up
- ii. Depending of the number of competitors, generally thirty minutes before the start time should be enough.
- iii. It is the responsibility of the athletes and national coaches to show up 15 min. before warm up time as contest officials may have to meet with them for last minute instructions and check-in.
- iv. Official Competition DJ will conduct the warm-up, no athletes or national team member are allowed in the DJ area.

15 – NATIONAL TEAM PERSONNEL

- i. Every national team must have at least one coach with some expertise in case of injury.
- ii. Medical professionals to treat dancers in case of injury are recommended.
- iii. Interpreter from the national team may be necessary to communicate in English with competition officials

16 – NATIONAL TEAM OFFICIALS AND TECHNOLOGY

- i. National Team officials who stand near the dance floor are allowed to film performances with cell phone or tablet-type technology. Stand alone equipment like tripods are not permitted.
- ii. Video recording are permitted only for coaching purposes and cannot be used to try to influence the decisions of the competition officials or judges in any manner.
- iii. Video recording the contest officials and/or the judges is prohibited at all time
- iv. Drones or radio-controlled flying technology is prohibited at all time.

17 – ATHLETES COSTUMING

- i. Dancer must wear costumes appropriate to the routine and style of music being performed.
 - a. Country

- i. Country Boots for all gender
 - ii. Cowboy hat for male role.
 - iii. Country appropriate dress or shirt & pants for female
 - iv. Country shirt & pants for Male
- b. Non-Country
 - i. Appropriate dance shoes for all
 - ii. Dress appropriate to the style of music
- ii. Dancer must wear dance shoes, no dance sneakers except for "Street"

18 – COMPETITION GENDER AND SKILL SEQUENCE

- i. Line Dance
 - a. Male first, Female last
 - b. Senior, Adult, Junior and Pre-Junior in that order
- ii. Formation Team
 - a. Senior, Adult, Junior and Pre-Junior in that order

19 – COMPETITOR BIB NUMBER

- i. Every athletes must wear on the dance floor their assigned BIB number they received at the on-site registration office
- ii. No number substitution is allowed.
- iii. If for any reason BIB number is lost or destroyed, contest officials must be contacted before competition starts
- iv. An Athlete dancing without an official BIB number will not be judge

20 – COMPETITOR DANCE FLOOR CONDUCT

- i. Competitors will take all necessary steps to avoid contact with other
- ii. Looking around you while dancing is part of your skills
- iii. Competitors intimidating or blocking purposely other dancers will be penalized by the judges

21 – CONTEST AND SCORING RULES

- i. Only WCLDSF approved officials can manage international level or World Game competition events
- ii. Contest and Scoring Rules book are only available to WCLDSF approved officials.

22 – AWARD CEREMONIES RULES

- i. Refer to Contest and Scoring Rules book

23 – OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

- i. Refer to Contest and Scoring Rules book

B. DANCES SPECIFICS

1 – LINE DANCES CATEGORIES WITH POSSIBLE DANCE STYLE

- i. Rise and fall
 - a. Foxtrot
 - b. Waltz
 - c. Quickstep
 - d. Viennese Waltz.
- ii. Pulse
 - a. Country Polka
 - b. East Coast Swing
 - c. Jive
 - d. Samba
- iii. Smooth
 - a. West Coast Swing
 - b. Tango
 - c. Country Night Club
- iv. Cuban
 - a. Cha Cha
 - b. Rumba (International Style)
 - c. Mambo
 - d. Salsa
- v. Street
 - a. Break
 - b. Pop
 - c. Lock
 - d. Hip Hop
 - e. Street
 - f. Funk
- vi. Stage
 - a. Show dancing
 - b. Theatre

- c. Jazz
- d. Ballet
- e. Freestyle/Disco
- f. Modern
- g. Lyrical
- h. Contemporary
- i. Novelty

2 – RCCE's ELEMENTS

- i. Juniors & Adults:
 - a. At least one, double Pirouette, more than one (1) are encouraged.
 - b. At least two measures of a continuous chainé turns.
 - c. Line Dance:
 - i. Split - may be executed on either leg.
 - d. Couples:
 - i. At least one drop or lean.
- ii. Seniors:
 - a. At least one, single pirouette, more than one (1) are encouraged.
 - b. At least three (3) continuous chainé turns, more than three (3) are encouraged.
 - c. Line Dance:
 - i. Rond de jambe en l'air (full turn)
 - d. Couples :
 - i. At least one drop or lean

2018-2022 WCLDSF Sports Rules last update: March 2019

If you have any questions or comments about these Rules, please contact the WCLDSF Sports Director at sportsdirectorwcldsf@wcldsf.org or reach our office at officewcldsf@wcldsf.org