



## **United Kingdom Same Sex Dance Council Competition Rules**

NOVEMBER 2009  
TO TAKE EFFECT FROM MARCH 2010

### **INDEX:**

Introduction

- Rule 1. Application
- Rule 2. Definitions: Couples, participants
- Rule 3. Miscellaneous
- Rule 4. Competition Categories: Dance Styles or Disciplines
- Rule 5. Types of Competition
- Rule 6. Graded Competitions: Classes
- Rule 7. Dances
- Rule 8. Competition Dress
- Rule 9. Competition Officials
- Rule 10. Competition Management
- Rule 11. Adjudicators
- Rule 12. Competition Schedule: Introduction
- Rule 13. Rounds
- Rule 14. Selection System and Results

- APPENDIX: 1. Information required from organisers.
2. Information required from competitors.

### Introduction:

The purpose of the "UKSSDC Competition Rules" is to supply a guideline for the organization and regulation of dance competitions for female couples and male couples in order to prevent misunderstanding and disorderly proceedings.

**Rule 1. Application UKSSDC Competition Rules:**

- Rule 1.1 These UKSSDC Competition Rules apply to single sex dance competitions (i.e. Women only and Men only) couples held in the UK.
- Rule 1.2 When a situation arises during a competition that is not covered by these rules, an appeal shall be made to the competition management. Their decision is final.

**Rule 2. Definitions; couples, participants:**

- Rule 2.1 A dance couple must be comprised of two female partners or two male partners.
- Rule 2.2 All dances per dance style or competition category must be danced with the same partner.
- Rule 2.3 Couples of mixed nationality are allowed.
- Rule 2.4 Couples may choose which role (Leader / Follower) each partner dances. Roles may be changed at any time throughout the performance.
- Rule 2.5 The competitions are open to all levels of dancing from beginners and social dancers through to amateurs and professionals.

**Rule 3. Miscellaneous:**

- Rule 3.1 Registration responsibility: Couples are responsible for their own competition registration and the payment of any fee to the organizers.
- Rule 3.2 Confirmation registration: The organizer must confirm each application either in writing or email. The organizer has the right to withdraw applications if the minimum number of participants has not been reached or the maximum number exceeded.
- Rule 3.3 Protection of personal details: Any information supplied by participants must be handled with care and may not be supplied to any third party. All efforts must be taken to comply with laws relating to the protection of personal data. Only the first name, family name, gender, city, country and name of dance club/school (where applicable) of participants may be published in a programme.
- Rule 3.4 Publicity: It is possible that during the competitions filming and photography will take place. The organizer is not answerable for these. In the event that participants do not wish to be filmed or photographed, their participation in the competition is not possible.
- Rule 3.5 Filming: Anyone wishing to film these competitions commercially should enter into separate negotiations with the organizer who should ensure that all legal requirements are fulfilled.
- Rule 3.6 Medical care: First aid should be available during the competition.
- Rule 3.7 Drug abuse: Doping is strictly forbidden. Doping covers the use by, or distribution to, a dancer of substances in contravention of IOC rules.
- Rule 3.8 Commercial use and advertisements: It is forbidden to undertake commercial activities in or around the dance venue without prior

approval of the organizer. This includes the sale of any articles, distributing of brochures and advertisements.

**Rule 4. Competition Categories; dance styles or disciplines:**

- Rule 4.1 Modern Ballroom, also called Standard.  
Dances: Waltz, also called English Waltz or Slow Waltz (W) Tango (T) Viennese Waltz (VW) Slow Foxtrot (SF) Quickstep (QS)
- Rule 4.2 Latin American.  
Dances: Samba (S) Cha-Cha-Cha (CCC) Rumba (R) Paso Doble (PD) Jive (J)
- Rule 4.3 Other styles of competition including Sequence, New Vogue, Argentine Tango, Country & Western, Salsa, Mambo and Line Dancing may be included if wished.

**Rule 5. Types of Competitions:**

- Rule 5.1 Separate judging and competitions for female couples and male couples are preferable. If the organizer wishes to present combined competitions for female couples and male couples, this should be clearly stipulated in all publicity prior to the competition.
- Rule 5.2 Graded or non-graded competitions:
- a. Graded competitions:  
To achieve a fair contest equal level couples must compete together in the same class. Classes are defined (see Rule 6.1.)
  - b. Non-graded competitions:  
When the number of competing couples per type or sort of competition is too low (for instance Senior or Wheelchair competitions) a non-graded competition may be organized. No Classes are defined. Everybody within a type of competition must compete with all other couples of that specific competition type.
- Rule 5.3 Senior competitions, also called 'Age' competitions:
- a. Both partners must be 35 or over on the date of the competition and have a combined age of 80 or above on the date of the competition.
  - b. According to the number of senior couples, a graded or non-graded competition can be held. The organizer must state this in advance.
  - c. At least 3 dances have to be danced:  
Ballroom: W, T, QS.  
Latin American: CCC, R, J.
- Rule 5.4 Ten Dance:
- a. All Ballroom and Latin American dances must be danced with the same partner.
  - b. Unless otherwise specified, this category will compete as a Non-graded competition.

- c. When a separate Ten Dance competition is not being run, combined markings may be taken from the Ballroom and Latin American competitions held at the same event (not necessarily on the same day.) All 10 dances must have been danced.
- d. All Round Competitions (see ESSDA Rules) are not held at the moment in the UK.

Rule 5.5 Other categories such as Wheelchair dancing, Team Matches, Formation dancing and Showdance are not specifically covered by these guidelines.

**Rule 6. Graded Competitions; classes:**

Rule 6.1 Class A. CHAMPIONSHIP intended for couples who have considerable experience in competitions at an advanced level.  
 Class B. PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP intended for couples with experience at a high level.  
 Class C. INTERMEDIATE competition couples.  
 Class D. NOVICE intended for competition couples who are just beginning.  
 Class E. STARTER/ BEGINNER intended for those new to dancing who have no competition experience in either same sex or mixed gender competitions.

Rule 6.2 Combined Classes:  
 If the total number of couples is insufficient, the organizer has the right to amalgamate classes.

Rule 6.3 Classification:

- a. Couples are classified separately for each dance style.
- b. When registering each couple should enter at the class they normally dance in each dance style.
- c. If entering same sex dance competitions for the first time couples should indicate approximately the class level.
- d. Experienced competition couples: Couples who are experienced with same sex dance competitions are expected to register themselves consistently and fairly based on personal experience and results.

**Rule 7. Dances:**

Rule 7.1 Number of compulsory dances: The number of compulsory dances depends on the competition class. In general, the higher the class, the greater the number of compulsory dances.

Class	Ballroom	Latin American
A	W T VW SF QS	S CCC R PD J
B	W T SF QS	S CCC R J
C	W T QS	CCC R J
D	W T QS	CCC R J
Starter	W QS	CCC J

Rule 7.2 Additional dances: Couples should be aware that the organizer and the adjudicators may choose to upgrade them to a higher class and that they will be obliged to dance extra dances for that class. If a couple is not able to do so, with the result that they miss one or two dances, they will nevertheless be marked as having danced, and then with the lowest possible score for that particular dance.

Rule 7.3 Prescribed Figures Modern Ballroom and Latin American:  
 a. Couples must dance International style only. Other dance styles such as free style dancing, American Smooth style dancing and Show dancing are not permitted.  
 b. Figures which might endanger other couples are not permitted.  
 c. Modern ballroom dancing: closed hold only, unless momentarily when changing the role of leader and follower.  
 d. Lifts are not permitted in either category. NOTE: A lift is any movement during which one of the dancers has both feet off the floor at the same time with the assistance or support of the partner.

Rule 7.4 Music:  
 a. Duration: In all competition rounds the music played shall be between 1\_ - 2 minutes for the Waltz, Tango, Slow Foxtrot, Quickstep, Samba, Cha-Cha-Cha and Rumba. The time for Viennese Waltz and Jive shall be between 1 – 1\_ minutes. Paso Doble will be played to the second highlight unless announced differently.  
 b. Selection Rounds: The duration of the music may be longer.  
 c. The tempi for each dance shall be as agreed by the British Dance Council.

Modern Ballroom		Latin American	
Waltz	30	Samba	50
Tango	32	Cha Cha Cha	30
Viennese Waltz	60	Rumba	26
Slow Foxtrot	30	Paso Doble	60
Quickstep	50	Jive	42-44

d. Type of music: In all competitions the music must have the character of the dances.

**Rule 8. Competition Dress:**

Rule 8.1 The competitors' clothes should be in accordance with accepted rules of decency and good taste.

Rule 8.2 Couples are required to wear their competitive outfits at the presentation of prizes.

Rule 8.3 In starters/beginners competitions couples should dress according to the spirit of the event e.g. no tail suits.

Rule 8.4 The competition management has the right to instruct any couple to change their clothes and to disqualify any couple who refuses to comply.

**Rule 9. Competition Officials:**

- Rule 9.1 The term 'Officials' applies to the competition management and the adjudicators.
- Rule 9.2 All officials are appointed by the organizer.
- Rule 9.3 The names of the officials should be announced at the competition and may be published in the programme.

**Rule 10. Competition Management:**

- Rule 10.1 Functions:
- a. Compere: The compere presents the tournament, if necessary together with an assistant. Her/his main function is to announce the dances and the competitors' numbers.
  - b. Scrutineer: The Scrutineer of the tournament is responsible for all scrutineering functions of the tournament, together with their assistants and the competition desk. She/he is also responsible for the recording of marks and marking sheets.
  - c. Chair of Adjudicators: This includes responsibilities such as the orderly formation of the adjudicators. In association with the Scrutineer, it also involves management of the time schedules, the number of rounds and the number of couples qualified for each class. The Chair also supervises the tempo and duration of music throughout the event.
- Rule 10.2 Organization:
- a. All core members of the competition management are responsible for the running and progress of the competition.
  - b. The competition management has the authority to change the timetable of the competition.
  - c. The competition management has the authority to exclude dance couples from an entire discipline or the entire contest. Possible reasons for exclusion are:
    - Indecent behaviour
    - Unsports(wo)manlike conduct
    - Refusal for promotion or demotion regarding classes
    - Refusal to adapt clothing
    - Medical reasons
  - d. The competition management has the authority to make decisions on matters not covered by these guidelines and on all other matters or situations arising.
  - e. The competition management should consult the organizer regarding important issues and questions arising (if possible).
- Rule 10.3 Competition Desk:
- Under the direction of the competition management, there will be a competition desk available during the contests. This desk will serve the following functions:
- a. An initial registration point for each couple on arrival.

- b. The supply of participants' competition numbers and timetables together with lists of all competing couples per discipline with their respective competition numbers.
- c. An intermediary between participants and the competition management for passing on last minute changes or cancellations.
- d. An information point for answering any questions, as well as a collection and distribution point for information, for example any changes and reclassification of classes.

**Rule 11. Adjudicators:**

Rule 11.1 Function:

- a. The adjudicators shall mark impartially at all times.
- b. The adjudicators' decision will be final.

Rule 11.2 Panel Composition:

- a. The number of members of one panel of adjudicators must be uneven; 3 persons minimum.
- b. International competitions: a minimum of 33% of the panel of adjudicators must be invited from other countries.
- c. A chairperson of adjudicators should be appointed to oversee judging and recording of marks.

Rule 11.3 Qualifications:

- a. The adjudicators should have a recognized licence for judging.
- b. It is not permissible to be an adjudicator if she/he also competes at same sex competitions.
- c. Adjudicators are not allowed to judge their partner or close family relatives.

Rule 11.4 Judging Criteria:

- a. Musicality.
- b. Quality of movement: fluency of movement, harmony of the couple, interaction between the partners.
- c. Character of the dance.
- d. Choreography.
- e. Charisma, presentation
- f. Technical performance.

**Rule 12. Competition Schedule:**

Rule 12.1

- a. Registration: Each couple should report to the competition desk to confirm registration.
- b. Warming up: If possible before the start of each competition, a dance floor should be available for the participants of the following rounds to warm up.
- c. Announcements: All participants must be in the vicinity of the dance floor at least half an hour before the start of the first heat.

- Rule 12.2 **Round Components:**
- a. General Look (optional)
  - b. Graded Competitions: classification rounds
    - First classification round
    - Second classification round (optional)
  - c. Competition Rounds as necessary
  - d. Semi final
  - e. Final
- Rule 12.3 The actual course of the competition and time schedule may differ from any published information.
- Rule 12.4 Each competition discipline will have the same system of successive components and will be completed in one day.
- Rule 12.5 **Heats:** All rounds, with the exception of the final, may be contested in more than one heat. The number of couples within one heat is generally between 6 and 12. The Chair of adjudicators shall determine the exact number of heats for each round.
- Rule 12.6 For each competition round, except for the finals, Chair of adjudicators/Scrutineer will decide how many couples shall be passed through to the next round, with a minimum of 50%.

**Rule 13. Rounds:**

Rule 13.1 **General Look:** Before the classification rounds, the programme may start with a "general look." A general look is a round in which the panel of adjudicators does not judge, but has the opportunity to make an overview and get an impression of the available qualities. Only one to three dances should be danced. The general look is part of the competition and all couples must dance.

Rule 13.2 **Classification Rounds:**

- a. **Goal:** The purpose of classification rounds, also called "grading rounds," is to control and adjust the distinction in classes by separating all couples of the same average level to the same class. The number of couples per class can differ greatly; an equal number of couples per class are NOT a starting point.
- b. **Number of dances:** In the classification round, a maximum of three dances should be danced:
  - Ballroom: W T QS
  - Latin American: CCC R J
- c. **Mode of Heats:** Couples who have registered for D or E class should not be placed into the same heat as couples registered for A class.
- d. **Calculation system:** The performance of every couple must be graded by the adjudicators according to the probable number of classes.

5 classes		4 classes		3 classes		2 classes	
E class	1 point	D class	1 point	C class	1 point	lowest	1 point
D class	3 points	C class	3 points	B class	3 points	highest	3 points
C class	5 points	B class	5 points	A class	5 points		
B class	7 points	A class	7 points				
A class	9 points						

The points of the individual couples are added per dance. The classes follow from this resulting order.

e. A second classification round is optional. The Aim is to review the classification. The judges only note if they want to move certain couples to a different class, therefore it is possible that the judges may write nothing at all in this round. If the majority of judges move a couple they will be re-graded.

f. All couples must dance all Classification heats. It is not allowed to award them the lowest mark (1) if they did not dance.

g. The adjudicators, in close consultation with the competition management, still retain the right to upgrade or downgrade couples during the whole contest, except during the finals.

h. After the classification round, couples may be required to dance in a different class to the one they entered.

Rule 13.3 Competition Rounds: After the classification round(s), the competition proper will start. The number of competition rounds will depend on the number of couples in each class.

Semi final: Normally the total number of couples will be between 7 and 12. More couples may dance at the discretion of the Chair of Adjudicators/ Scrutineer. If the number of couples per class is 6 or less, there may be no semi finals and all couples would pass directly to the finals.

Final: Normally 6 couples should participate in the finals, but if more or less than 6 couples qualify, the Chair of adjudicators / Scrutineer will determine the number of participants.

#### **Rule 14. Selection System and Results:**

Rule 14.1 Selection System: The Skating system must be used to calculate recalls and final placing.

Competition Rounds and Semi Final: The adjudicators must recall into the next Round the number of couples requested by the Chair of Adjudicators.

Final: The couples must be classified after every dance with rank numbers (1 for the first, 2 for the second, etc.). The Skating System must be employed (rank qualification by majority classification). The rank for every dance must be decided by an absolute majority of the classifications delivered. The ranks of the dances must be added.

Visual (open) marking is optional for the finals of the 'A' class.

Rule 14.2 Results:

a. The Scrutineer and her/his team will handle all results.

b. Competitors will have the opportunity to inspect the competition results for the finals after the event on the website.

Rule 14.3 Prize Presentations:

a. All couples in the finals are asked to line up on the dance floor per class, dressed in the clothes worn during the finals.

b. Numbers and names may be announced in reverse order.

**Appendix 1:** Information supplied by organizers in their publicity should include:

- a. Name or title of the competition.
- b. Organiser: Name of contact person, address, telephone, (fax,) email and internet address.
- c. Date(s) and time: The dates of the various competition events, giving start times and an estimated end time. The organizer should allow enough time to consult with other dance school owners and dance organizations before setting the date of a competition.
- d. Finances: The application fee per dance couple, if necessary per event, as well as the method and currency of payment should be clearly explained.
- e. Competition categories and styles.
- f. Separate or combined competitions for female couples and male couples.
- g. Graded competitions and/or Non-graded competitions.  
Graded competitions (classes): The organiser must be specific in announcing the number and titles of possible combined competition classes.
- h. Venue and dance floor:
  - The name of the hall and/or the building, with address, including postcode.
  - Directions /Parking.
  - Access for wheelchair visitors.
  - Availability of changing rooms, showers, catering.
  - Smoking / non-smoking area.
  - Dance floor measurements (length, width, any special details).
- i. Overnight accommodation: Commercial accommodation (hotels, guest houses) and private addresses. If the organization has an appointed contact person to assist with these arrangements, their name, telephone number and/or email address should be supplied.
- j. Limits in numbers of dance couples (optional): The organizer can fix a minimum and a maximum to the number of participating couples.
- k. The organizer may offer prize money.

**APPENDIX 2:** Information required from applicants for registration:

- a. Registration per dance couple.
- b. Contact person for each couple: First name, family name, postal address, email address, telephone and fax number, date of birth and gender.
- c. Dance partner: First name, family name, postal address, email address, telephone and fax number, date of birth and gender.  
Optional: different dance partners can be registered per dance style or sort of competition.
- d. Dance categories and styles.
- e. Graded and/or non-graded competitions.  
Graded competition: indication of Class.
- f. Name of dance club or dance school or dance teacher.
- g. If applicable: Special Needs.