

Australian Line Dance Championships 2010 Competition Rules

General Rules:

Definition:

- 1: A line dance is a choreographed dance sequence that is repeated with all dancers/competitors moving on the same foot, at the same time, in the same direction.
- 2: Competitors must use appropriate choreography, as defined above.
- 3: A choreographed routine requires that the step sequence must be repeated at least once. This means that two COMPLETE step sequences must be completed during the routine.

Entries and Entry Fees:

- 4: All competitors must be registered with the ALDC observing the following points:
 - a. Registration is to be completed online via the LDAA website.
 - b. NEW registrations will incur a \$6 administration fee.
 - c. ALTERATIONS (e.g. name/club changes) to your own registration can be made using the form available on the LDAA website.
- 5: Entries close at **12 midnight AEDST on Friday, 4 December 2009**. (No late entries will be allowed). Entries are to be submitted via the LDAA website.
The total fee will be calculated and the appropriate invoice sent to competitors.
Note: Entry Fees are payable by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) only.
Entry fees, quoting invoice number, must be paid by close of business (5pm) on **Friday, 18th December, 2009** via direct deposit to the ALDC bank account with details as follows:
 - a. Bank - Westpac
 - b. Name of Account - Line Dance Association of Australia
 - c. BSB - 032-010
 - d. Account Number 15-5299
- 6: Entry fee is \$8 per competitor per section or \$7 for LDAA members per competitor per section.

Entry Conditions:

- 7: All competitors and their supporters are to conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner throughout the ALDC. Failure to do so will result in the competitor's disqualification from the section and, in extreme cases, removal from the ALDC venue and/or disqualification from the remainder of the ALDC.
- 8: It is every competitor's responsibility to know the rules and subsequent penalties that may apply for any infringement of the rules.
- 9: Competitors may dance only **ONCE** in any section they qualify for, with the exception of the Maverick/Interpretive Section, the sibling, parent child section and instructor/student sections where they may dance **TWICE**.
PLEASE NOTE: Any competitor is deemed to be a line dance instructor if they run/conduct an advertised dance class for a fee, which is open to all dancers. Any person who trains or coaches a competition team is **not** deemed to be an instructor for the purpose of the Instructor/Student section and may not enter as such. Separate entry fees apply for each entered routine.
- 10: Entry is open to all line dancers including teachers/instructors/coaches.
- 11: A **small team** consists of at least 4 and no more than 10 dancers.
- 12: A **large team** consists of 11 or more dancers.
- 13: Teams must dance in a formation of at least 2 lines from the beginning of the dance and must maintain this formation, without change, for the entire routine. **PLEASE NOTE:** A diamond formation is deemed to be 3 lines.

Entry conditions continued:

14: Free form entry (including contra and waves) onto the stage/floor to introductory music is allowed.

15: A minimum of 3 entries per section is essential for that section to be included in the ALDC 2010. Sections that do not meet this requirement will be assessed by the event directors and options including the re-opening of the section/s to allow for more entries, and/or transferring competitors to another section, will be considered as soon as possible after closing date.

16: Number of Entries (per section) may be limited at the discretion of the ALDC 2010 Committee.

17: Competitors may be removed from group entries, but may not be added or substituted after closing date of entries. Clubs are obliged to inform the ALDC committee of any changes as soon as possible after the changes are made to the team.

18: In the event that an entered competitor is unable to dance in a section, or attend the ALDC 2010, the competitor must notify the event director or a LDAA committee member prior to the section being danced or the commencement of the ALDC 2010. This is to assist in maintaining the smooth running of the competition and to minimise time discrepancies for all other competitors, judges and participants of the ALDC 2010.

19: Entrants choose their own music/dance for all sections, excluding solos.

20: The APRA Performance Statement information (including song and artist) **must be completed online, when placing entries**. This information is required by APRA and must be provided at the time of entry to enable validation of competitor entries. **PLEASE NOTE the following 2 points:**

1) If necessary, changes may be made to this information on the day of competition. Competitors will need to inform the DJ and have the necessary changes marked on the list kept with the DJ.

2) APRA information is NOT required for freestyle or maverick section entries, please write one of the following: **FREESTYLE DUO/TEAM** OR **MAVERICK SOLO/DUO/TRIO/TEAM** in the appropriate areas.

21: The Competitors must supply their music in 2 separate digital formats with the preference being for CD's. Back-up music can be provided in any or the same digital format including CD, mp3, iPod, MD recordings.

22: Competitor music labels are available to download through the ALDC home page and must be used for the ALDC. All relevant information is to be filled in accordingly.

23: It is the competitor's responsibility to:

- a. Hand in music at the sound desk when requested
- b. Ensure their music is collected from DJ table.

24: A piece of music can be used no more than **twice/2 times** by any one group during the ALDC 2010. **PLEASE NOTE:** This includes use for entries from combined teams or groups BUT excludes Freestyle and Maverick/Interpretive sections.

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

25: Music for the standard sections must be from one recorded track only and may be lengthened or edited (spliced or cut) to fit in with the time requirements; however the song must not be enhanced by splicing two or more separate tracks together.

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

26: Music for dances in the solo sections will be provided by the event organisers.

27: Competitors enter at their own risk and **MUST** be in good physical condition.

28: Competitors must dance in the order published in the official program unless otherwise organised with event directors.

29: Competitors must be ready to compete when called. Failure to do so after 2 calls will result in disqualification. **PLEASE NOTE:** The program and running times are meant as a guide only and it is the competitor's responsibility to check with the time table for the sections they have entered on each day of the ALDC 2010.

30: No competitor will restart a dance after breakdown unless requested to do so by the judges.

31: The judges' decision is final. No correspondence or discussion will be entered into.

32: Competitors/Instructors/Coaches or team members are not to approach the judges' table during the running of a section - all enquiries are to be directed to a committee member who will then approach the judges on your behalf at the completion of the section

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

Entry Conditions continued:

Proof of Age:

33: Age is determined from Friday, 1st January, 2010.

34: Proof of age is required on request by event directors.

35: In all sections competitors must meet any listed age criteria.

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

Dress Code and Use of Props:

Applicable to all sections with the exception of the Maverick/Interpretive Section

36: Competitors must wear Country/Western style clothing in all sections, with the only exception being the **Maverick/Interpretive** section

37: The following are specifically **NOT ALLOWED**:

a. Any clothing that exposes a competitors' midriff.

b. Strapless tops or dresses, tops or dresses with singlet or shoe-string shoulder straps.

c. Tank tops, polo shirts or t-shirts including CLUB SHIRTS or shirts with CLUB LOGOS or promotional insignia or brand logos

d. Chaps, spurs, badges, guns, holsters.

e. Any item that can be deemed as a prop. For the purpose of these rules, a hat is not deemed to be a prop. An item of clothing is deemed to be a prop if it is removed during a performance i.e. mans jacket, tear away skirt, etc.

38: Skirts (when worn) should be no shorter than 10cm above the centre of the knee, front and back. Fringing, lace or lace panels, do not compensate for skirt length.

39: Long skirts can be any length, providing judges are able to see competitors' footwork. Skirts that are deemed to be too long and as such impede the judges' view of footwork will be penalised. A good length from the floor is 20cm - please note: this is a suggested length only.

PENALTY: 3 points per judge for each infringement of rules 36 - 39.

40: Modesty skirts **MUST** be worn under ALL skirts regardless of skirt length (long or short)

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

41: Western style hats are: -

a. **Mandatory for males** in all standard and solo sections.

b. **Optional for females** in all standard and solo sections.

c. **Optional for all competitors** in freestyle and interpretive sections.

42: If worn, hats must remain in the control of each individual competitor. With the exception of interpretive sections, hats must not be placed on the floor at any time during the performance, including introduction or ending.

43: Western style boots are mandatory for all standard and freestyle sections.

44: The event directors, in conjunction with the head judge of the current section, will confer regarding any infringements of the dress code, i.e. whether an outfit is deemed to be country/western style clothing, if a skirt is too long, etc.

Solo Rules - Standard and Freestyle Sections:

45: Competitors in the Solo Sections are required to dance the specified dances as choreographed for their entered sections.

46: Dance sheets will be available to competitors from the LDAA web site. The dance choreographers' ORIGINAL dance sheets will be supplied when and where possible.

47: No introductions allowed.

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

48: Dance starts from the head judge's count in.

49: Solo competitors must maintain a reasonable personal dance space and avoid intentionally or carelessly intruding on another competitor's floor space/area.

PENALTY: 3 points deducted per judge.

50: In **Solo Standard** sections, there will be one dance only which should be danced **EXACTLY** as written on the official and original/choreographer's step description sheet provided by the organisers. No hat or skirt work is allowed in standard solo sections.

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

Entry Conditions continued:

Solo Rules - Standard and Freestyle Sections continued:

51: In Solo Freestyle sections there will be two dances

52: Competitors may choose to compete in only one dance, for the competition experience, but will not be eligible for a place unless both required dances are performed. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you wish to enter both dances, and therefore be eligible for a placing, Dance 1 and Dance 2 must be entered individually when placing entries.

53: Competitors in the solo freestyle sections are required to dance TWO FULL WALLS OF THE DANCE (two vanillas) **EXACTLY** as written on the official step description provided by the organisers. If there is a restart on the 2nd wall before half of the counts of the sequence is completed (e.g. 24 counts in 48 count dance sequence), competitors are required to dance the next (third) wall as choreographed. **PLEASE NOTE:** Tags that occur at the end of the 2nd completed wall of the dance are open to the competitor's own variations.

PENALTY: Point loss in Compliance.

54: Competitors may then add their own variations and interpretations **ONLY AFTER** these first two full sequences are completed.

55: The dance must remain recognisable as the original dance. The flow and direction of variations must remain the same as the original dance i.e. if the original dance moves to the right, dance variations **MUST** move to the right, competitors must not over or under emphasise step length to purposely move out of line with other dancers. **PLEASE NOTE:** The count and timing of the dance should also be maintained e.g. cha cha counts and waltz timing

PENALTY: Point loss in Maintained Flow and Compliance.

56: Variations should enhance the original dance. Competitors must remain aware that over-use of variations, particularly one type of variation, e.g. Pantomime, turns, syncopation's or the dance becoming unrecognisable, will result in point loss.

57: No obscene or overly suggestive body movements, abusive or bad language to be used by competitors.

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

Standard Dance Sections:

58: Judging starts from the beginning of the dance through to the last sound recorded on the track.

59: Competitors may enter from either or both sides of the stage.

60: No intentional mirror imaging (or) contra movements are allowed **EXCEPT** for the introduction time before the dance starts.

61: Hand holds are not permitted at any time throughout the routine, including any introduction and/or finish.

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

62: No athletic movements such as flips or splits allowed - **NOTE** at the end of a dance, dancers may drop to one knee on the stage.

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

63: Hand/arm positions and movements may differ between male and female competitors except if both male and female competitors are wearing jeans in which case hand/arm positions and movements should be identical.

PENALTY: Points lost in presentation and/or unity.

64: Hands should generally be in the waist area, or on the buckle, in belt-loops, in pockets or on the waist. Marks will be deducted for loose or sloppy hand or arm movements. However, there will be no deduction of points if arm movements are choreographed to add to the performance of the routine provided they return to the specified area, that is, generally in the waist area.

PENALTY: Points lost in presentation.

65: Should any item of a competitor's outfit (a contestant's hat, belt, or any article of clothing) fall to the floor it must be picked up immediately by the competitor only. **PLEASE NOTE:** Hair accessories (e.g. ribbons, ties, pins) are exempt from this ruling.

PENALTY: 1 point per judge will apply for initial infringement and point loss will also apply in unity until the item is recovered and the competitor is once again part of the routine.

Entry Conditions continued:

Standard Dance Sections continued:

66: No obscene or overly suggestive body movements, abusive or bad language or music with graphic, implied or suggestive lyrics is to be used by competitors.

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

67: Restarts are only permitted at the head judge's discretion.

PENALTY: Judging panel will not score the routine.

Mixed Age Sections:

All general and standard rules apply to these sections.

68: There **MUST** be **10 years** age difference between at least 2 competitors. **PLEASE NOTE:** Proof of age may be required

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

Waltz Sections:

All general and standard rules apply to these sections.

69: The **rise and fall** of waltz must be adhered to regardless of music timing. Steps should be in groups of three.

PENALTY: Points will be deducted in Execution.

70: Music selected for any waltz section is the **competitor's own choice, country or non-country**. The music may include simple and/or compound time as follows 3/2, 3/4, 3/8, 6/8, 9/8 12/8 time signatures. Choreographed waltz routines must be in 3/4 timing. Syncopation's ("and counts) are permitted in the content of the choreography of the routine.

Own Choice Sections:

All general and standard rules apply to these sections.

71: Competitors may dance only once in these sections, and can choose to dance (including a waltz) to a country or non-country song.

Freestyle Duos and Teams Sections:

These sections are designed to allow competitors the opportunity to use a variety of music, tempos and formations throughout their performances, and will be judged accordingly.

Team members may:

72: Dance facing each other, or in opposite directions - Contra and/or mirror image.

73: Split or separate provided they follow an organised and/or choreographed flow of movement.

74: Dance in rounds (the wave or cannon motion).

75: Hand movements must also follow wave or cannon motion (not necessarily at the same time)

76: Team members **may not** after the commencement of the first dance steps, do any of the following:

a. Touch for more than 4 counts - either directly or indirectly (this includes touching through inanimate objects including hats and skirts).

b. Lower knee/s to floor for more than 8 counts.

c. Skid or slide across the floor.

d. Form or initiate couples type dance movements.

e. Include segments in the routine that are considered interpretive to the lyrics e.g. sequences of steps differing from one dancer to the next - this doesn't follow wave or cannon or progressive freestyle motion or movement

PENALTY: 2 points deducted per judge for each infringement of rules 71 - 75

77: No obscene or overly suggestive body movements, abusive or bad language or music with graphic, implied or suggestive lyrics is to be used by competitors.

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

Entry Conditions continued:

Maverick/Interpretive Section:

Solos, Duos, Trios and Teams (4 - 10 people) competing against one another in the one section.

78: This section is designed to allow the competitors the use of 'ultimate' creative license. This section will be judged primarily on creativity (including originality, staging and interpretation of the chosen music including choreography), presentation (including costuming and performance) and entertainment value based on a spectator's perspective.

79: Competitors may enter this section **twice** - but remembering they will be competing against themselves.

80: Standard music and dress restrictions **DO NOT APPLY**. Competitors are encouraged to use their showmanship abilities and may express these through comedy and/or variety of dance styles and/or the use of props and costume changes.

81: Any dance genre/form may be showcased in this section: e.g. ballet, tap, clogging, jazz, Rock and Roll (any genre), partner dancing (any genre) **PLEASE NOTE: Interactive lifts are permitted in this section. The competitors will be required to sign a waiver exempting the LDAA inc. and ALDC from all responsibility, against any injury or injuries that may occur during their performance.**

82: A suitable dance area will be marked on the floor. Competitors must dance within the marked area.

83: No obscene or overly suggestive body movements, abusive or bad language or music with graphic, implied or suggestive lyrics is to be used by competitors.

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

Music and Time Limits:

Standard Sections:

84: Unless otherwise specified all music used in standard sections music be country.

85: Music will be deemed to be COUNTRY if indicated as such by the Record label, and may be from any category - traditional bluegrass, country blues, country rock, bush ballad, instrumental and contemporary or new country

The ALDC 2010 Music Adviser (Kelvin Dale) will make the final determination to the music classification.

PENALTY: Competitors will be disqualified from the section.

86: Standard sections maximum time limit is **5 minutes**; there is no minimum time limit.

PENALTY: 5 points deducted per judge for any infringement above the time limit stated.

Freestyle Sections:

87: For freestyle sections competitors may use a combination of country and non-country music, country with a minimum of 50% country music content.

PENALTY: 5 points deducted per judge

88: Freestyle sections time limits are as follows:

DUOS: 4 - 7 minutes

TEAMS: 6 -10 minutes

PENALTY: 5 points deducted per judge for any infringement above or below the time limits stated.

Interpretive Section:

89: Music for interpretive section may be country or non-country or a combination of both, with no minimum or maximum content for either genre of music.

90: Music time limit for the Interpretive Section is 3 -10 minutes.

PENALTY: 5 points deducted per judge for any infringement above or below the time limit stated.

Best of luck to all dancers competing at ALDC 2010