

I.A.G.L.C.W.D.C. COUNTRY WESTERN INDIVIDUAL LINE DANCE COMPETITION RULES AND SCORING FORMAT

*As adopted by the Dance Competitions Committee in October 2009
at the Semiannual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.*

PREAMBLE

The International Association of Gay/Lesbian Country Western Dance Clubs (IAGLCWDC) recognizes the importance of country western music and dance to the life of the gay/lesbian community. We are committed to supporting these activities and have taken great pride in providing the community with events that have earned respect and national recognition. We acknowledge the constraints that we experience as a volunteer organization. We are, nonetheless, committed to continuing a proud tradition of high quality activities that reflect positively on our association and the community. There shall be one IAGLCWDC sanctioned championship competition per year to be held at the annual convention of that year consisting of all three events (couples dance, line dance, and teams). Any IAGLCWDC club may run their own competition using IAGLCWDC rules and regulations and sanctioned judges. This competition may consist of all three events or may consist of only one or two of the events. These are to be held as regular competitions following IAGLCWDC rules and are not to be run as preliminaries to the championship competitions at the annual conventions.

ELIGIBILITY

IAGLCWDC dance competitions are open to all. Each competitor is subject to the minimum age laws of the governing state. Refer to specific event registration forms for exact age requirements for each event. Competition entry forms must be submitted to the Competition Director no less than 30 days prior to this event. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Competition Director.

Entry fees shall be determined by the host organization and will be specified on competition entry forms.

DIVISIONS

Determination of an appropriate division rating assignment is predicated on the honesty and integrity of the individual competitor. We recognize that IAGLCWDC possesses limited ability to verify an individual's actual experience in venues and competitions except for events that are sanctioned by IAGLCWDC. Subsequently, each dancer is expected to enter the division that most closely fits his or her actual skill level.

- III. Beginner: Has not placed first in the beginner overall division (where three or more competitors competed overall). May dance in this division for only two [years worth of](#) championship competitions.
- II. Intermediate: Has not previously placed first in the intermediate overall championship division (where three or more competitors competed overall).
- I. Advanced: Any competitor placing first in the advanced division may continue to compete in this division.

- Competitors may choose to enter any of the divisions of competition subject to divisional guidelines stated herein. An individual may compete in the line dance competition in only one division.
- Any competitor who has "professionally" taught couples or line dance, either in group classes or private lessons, for monetary compensation, whether it benefited the competitor or an organization, must enter the Intermediate Division or higher.
- Any competitor who has "professionally" taught couples or line dance, where at least 50% of their income comes from dance instructions, must enter the Advanced Division.
- [For purposes of overall division winners being required to advance to the next higher division, "overall championship division" shall apply at the IAGLCWDC annual dance competition or at any other IAGLCWDC-sanctioned dance competition intended to draw an international field of competitors \(such as competitions at the World OutGames and Gay Games\). Overall division winners at an IAGLCWDC sanctioned dance competition with a regional or local focus shall not be required to advance to a higher division even if three or more competitors were featured.](#)
- [The Competition Director has the option to declare that a given IAGLCWDC-sanctioned competition qualifies for "overall championship division" based on the field of competitors actually present. These competitors must be notified prior to the start of the competition.](#)

DANCES

- Three (3) dances will be offered in each of the three divisions.
- All competitors may dance any or all dances offered in their division. To qualify for Division Overall, competitors must have danced in all of the dances offered in their division.
- The line dances and music are provided by the IAGLCWDC Dance Competitions Committee, and must be included on the competition entry forms.
- A copy of the step descriptions of the dances being offered will be mailed out with the competition entry forms. In addition, copies of the step descriptions will be available for distribution at the event registration desk at no cost to registered competitors.
- There will be an audible countdown over the recorded music.

COMPETITION FORMAT

- Number of Judges: There shall be an odd number of judges with a minimum of five (5) judges per event at the annual championship competitions and a minimum of three (3) judges per event at all other IAGLCWDC sanctioned competitions. Special exceptions may be made by the Director of Dance in case the Competition Director cannot get the required minimum of judges.
- There will be no more than eight (8) competitors per heat.
- There shall be awards given to the top three (3) competitors in each dance.
- There shall be an award given to the overall winner of each division.

I.A.G.L.C.W.D.C. COUNTRY WESTERN INDIVIDUAL LINE DANCE COMPETITION
RULES & SCORING FORMAT, OCTOBER 2009, Page 3 of 5

- All competitors shall be recognized at the awards ceremony, however only the top three competitors of each dance and the overall winners of each division shall be announced.
- Single dance and overall placement sheets will be made available to the competitors only, after the Awards presentation. There shall be no critique sheets provided to competitors.
- The type and composition of awards is at the discretion of the Competition Director and the Hosting Organization. THERE WILL BE NO CASH AWARDS.
- There shall be a time and place provided for a post-competition critiquing session between the competitors and the judges.

RULES OF THE DANCE

Competitors shall dance four (4) repetitions total. The first pattern (repetition) of a dance must be done as originally choreographed as per the step descriptions issued for that event. If a competitor does not dance the first pattern as originally choreographed per the step descriptions, it will be considered personal interpretation and may negatively affect final placement.

- During the first vanilla pattern of the dance, arm styling specified in the choreography must be done. Any other arm styling will be permitted but will not be scored.
- Competitors will dance the first vanilla pattern with their backs to the judges except in the one wall line dances.
- The following three (3) dance patterns may be done with individual country western styling and interpretation as long as the step/beat count and general flow and direction are the same as the original choreography.
- Syncopations and freeze breaks no more than 8 beats/counts are allowed as long as they do not interfere with another competitor's dance space. The dance must remain recognizable.
- Athletic movements (i.e. flips, splits, etc.) are allowed. No extra credit will be given for these movements.
- Poor execution and interference with another competitor's dance space may negatively affect final placement.
- While flirtatious moves are acceptable, overt sexual, vulgar or crude dance presentations are inappropriate. If a move is deemed inappropriate, the violation may negatively affect the final placement.

ATTIRE

The following attire must be adhered to or competitors will not be allowed to compete.

- Footwear will be western style boots.
- Competitors will compete in western style fashion. For dances using non-country music, competitors may compete in attire appropriate for the music style. Western style fashion will be acceptable regardless of music style
- Hats are optional. If worn, loss of hat may negatively affect final placement.
- Props are not allowed. A prop is defined as anything used that is non-clothing, or clothing worn with the intent to use as a prop (i.e. handkerchiefs used during the dance, skirts torn away or reversed, spurs, sheriff's badges, etc.)

SCORING FORMAT

The "Skating System" will be used by the judges in the IAGLCWDC competition.

- In preliminary rounds, each judge will call back the competitors they want to see in the final rounds. Number of call backs will be determined by the Competition Director in coordination with the hosting convention committee or director.
- In the final rounds, each judge must place all competitors in each dance.
- A judge must not tie competitors for any place in the finals of any dance.

I.A.G.L.C.W.D.C. COUNTRY WESTERN INDIVIDUAL LINE DANCE COMPETITION
RULES & SCORING FORMAT, OCTOBER 2009, Page 4 of 5

- The winner of a particular dance is the entry who is placed first by an absolute majority of judges. Second place is the entry who is placed second by an absolute majority of judges. The remaining places are allocated in a similar manner.
- The overall winner is the entry who has the absolute majority of first places in the required dances of each division. The remaining places are allocated in a similar manner.

JUDGES QUALIFICATIONS

- The IAGLCWDC will maintain and update a list of qualified judges. In order to be added to this list, an application form must be submitted by the potential judge or by a competition director on behalf of a potential judge. The application will be reviewed by the IAGLCWDC Dance Competition Committee. The potential Judge and Competition Director will be notified of acceptance or declination and reasons of declination within 60 days. All judges for an IAGLCWDC sanctioned event must be on this IAGLCWDC approved Judges list. Allow at least 60 days for processing and notification.
- The Competition Director may select competent judges from the IAGLCWDC list with the following stipulations:
 - No judge may judge any event in which they are not currently approved.
 - No judge may provide private coaching to any competitors during the Event, until the Dance Competitions are concluded.
 - No judge may compete in any single event where he/she is judging. (i.e. a Judge may compete in Couples, and judge Individual Line.)



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