

Ashby House Line Dance Festival – rules

- The Choreography rules are a different set of rules - please see below
- Entries close 2 April 2009 (Early Bird Entries)
- Entries are to be sent via email linedance_entries@hotmail.com

Definition

1. A line dance is a set of step patterns that are repeated with all dancers 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 pattern must repeat at least once...this means that two-step patterns must be completed.

Entries

4. Early Bird Fees: \$7 per person per dance, late \$8 per person per dance. Please note if your entry is late and the extra fee's are not included they will not be accepted.

Early Bird Entries close 2 April 2009. Late entries are due 9 April 2009.

Choreography is \$7 per dance regardless of whether they are in for early bird or late due dates.

Entry fees after entries have been emailed, can be sent to:

Chris Watson
PO Box 5291
SOUTH TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Please make cheques payable to Chris Watson.

Or, you can request bank details via Email to make a direct deposit.

5. Entrants may compete only **ONCE** in any section they qualify for, except the instructor/student sections where the instructor may dance **TWICE**.
6. Entry is open to all line dancers including teachers/instructors.
7. A **small group** consists of at least 4 and no more than 10 dancers.
8. A **large group** consists of at least 11 dancers.
9. Groups 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 whole dance. **NOTE:** a diamond formation is deemed to be 3 lines.
10. Free form entry (including contra and waves) onto the floor to introductory music is allowed.

11. A minimum of 3 entries per section is required (except for Standard/Freestyle Solos). Competitors who enter sections that do not meet this requirement will be contacted by the event director/entries co-ordinator to discuss options as soon as possible after closing date.
12. Entry (per section) may be limited at the discretion of the event directors.
13. Competitors may be removed from group entries, but may not be added or substituted after closing date of entries.
14. Instructor / student section: Instructor must conduct at least 1 advertised class per week not just be a trainer/coach for competitions.
15. Each Club cannot use the same piece of music more than twice.
Penalty, disqualification

Dress Code

Penalty for infringement of following rules – minimum of 3 points per judge for each infringement.

16. Entrants should wear Country/Western style clothing, except in the interpretive section/s.
17. The following are specifically **NOT ALLOWED**. Please note that western Bolos, Ties are accepted.
 - a. Any clothing exposing midriffs unless worn with appropriate undergarments or bodysuits.
 - b. Strapless tops or dresses.
 - c. Tank tops, polo shirts or t-shirts.
 - d. Cummerbunds, tails, formal wear, etc
 - e. Chaps, spurs, badges, guns, holsters.
 - f. Any item that can be deemed as a prop.
18. Skirts (if worn) should be **no shorter than 10cm** above the **centre** of the knee, **front and back**.
19. **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 penalized.** A good length from the floor is 20cm – please note: this is a **suggested length only**.
20. **Modesty skirts must be worn under all skirts – long or short.**

21. 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 sections.
22. Western style boots are mandatory for all standard, freestyle and non-country sections however Dance Sneakers May be worn in Choreography Competition
23. The event directors in conjunction with the head judge of the current section will confer regarding any infringements of this dress code, i.e. whether an outfit is deemed to be country/western style clothing, if a skirt is too long, etc

Proof of Age

Penalty for infringement of the following rules – Competitors will be disqualified.

24. Age is determined as at date of the competition.
25. Proof of age is required on request by event directors.
26. In all sections competitors must meet any listed age criteria.

Conditions Of Entry

27. **It is the competitors' responsibility to know the rules and subsequent penalties.**
28. Competitors enter at their own risk and MUST be in good physical condition. Event directors & Wests Entertainment Group take no responsibility for dancers and by entering, dancers agree that they take full responsibility for themselves.
29. Competitors must dance in the order published in the official program unless otherwise organised with event directors.
30. **Competitors must be ready to compete when called. Failure to do so after 2 calls will result in disqualification. Due to time, this rule will be strict.**
31. No competitor will restart a dance after breakdown unless requested to do so by the judges.
30. The judges' decision is **final**. No correspondence or discussion will be entered into.

Music and Time Limits

31. Entrants choose their own music/dance for all sections, excluding solos, unless otherwise specified.
32. All Sections are own choice of music. Please note Freestyle sections are also Own Choice of music and can contain all of one genre or a mixture. Maverick, interpretive and choreography are all own choice.
33. Music selected for any **waltz section** are to include simple and compound 3/2, 3/4, 3/8, 6/8, 9/8 12/8 time signatures. Dance steps must be in 3/4 timing.
34. The rise and fall of WALTZ must be adhered to regardless of music timing, steps should be in groups of three (3), and syncopations are allowed. Points will be deducted in Execution for non-compliance of this rule.
35. **Standard** sections time limit **5 minutes Maximum**. Competitors will incur a 5 point penalty from each judge for every 15 seconds, or part thereof, over the time limit.
36. **Freestyle** sections time limit is **4-7 minutes** for **duos**, **5-8 minutes** for **trios** and **6-10 minutes** for **groups**. Competitors will incur a 5-point penalty from each judge for every 15 seconds, or part thereof, under/over the time limits.
37. Two copies of music must be provided on CD, mini disc, MP3 Player, iPod, etc.
38. All CD's must be clearly marked with the entrant's name, section number, the track number of their dance and any instructions for the DJ i.e. dance on, start on the floor, etc. A FORMAT LABEL WILL BE SUPPLIED, please contact the entries coordinator (Kristen Wade) for music forms.
39. 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.
40. A piece of music could be used no more than two (2) times by one group during the Championships.

Penalty – disqualification

41. Music for the standard sections must be on one track and may be lengthened or shortened to fit in with the time constrains; however the song cannot be enhanced by splicing two or more tracks together.

Penalty – disqualification

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

Standard Dance Sections - General Rules and Penalties

43. Judging starts from the beginning of the dance through to the last sound recorded on the track.
44. Competitors may enter from either or both sides of the stage.
42. No intentional mirror imaging or contra movements or handholds are allowed EXCEPT for the introduction time before the dance starts.

Penalty – minus 2 points per judge per 8 beats.

43. 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 – minus 2 points per judge.

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

Penalty – Points lost in UNITY

45. No props allowed.

Penalty –loss of 2 points per judge

46. 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.

Penalty – Points lost in EXECUTION

47. Should a contestant's hat or belt fall to the floor it should be picked up immediately.

Penalty –1 point per judge will apply for initial infringement (i.e. dropping hat or belt) and an additional 1 point for every 4 counts will apply until the item is recovered and routine resumes.

48. No obscene, or overly suggestive body movements, abusive or bad language or music to be used by competitors including interpretive sections.

Penalty –loss of 2 points per judge.

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

Penalty – Judging panel WILL NOT score the routine and a zero total will be entered.

Solo – Standard and Freestyle Sections

50. Entrants in the Solo Sections are required to dance the specified dances for their category.
51. Dance sheets will be available to contestants from the website.
52. No introductions allowed.
53. Dance starts from DJ's count in.
54. Solo competitors must be careful to retain personal dance space not intentionally or carelessly intrude on another dancer's area.
55. In SOLO STANDARD section there will be one dance only which should be danced EXACTLY as written on the official step description sheet provided by the organisers.
56. Competitors in the SOLO FREESTYLE sections are required to dance the first TWO VANILLAS (sequences) EXACTLY as written on the official step description provided by the organisers.

Penalty – Points loss in compliance.

57. They may then add their own variations and interpretations ONLY AFTER these first two sequences are completed. 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 emphasize step length to purposely move out of line with other dancers.

Penalty – points will be deducted in Maintained Flow.

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

Freestyle Duos, Trios and Teams

Team Members may:

59. Dance facing each other, or in opposite directions – Contra and/or mirror image.
60. Split or separate provided they follow an organised and/or choreographed flow of movement.

61. Dance in rounds (the wave or cannon motion).
62. Have differing hand movements providing that all ladies do the similar hand movements (not necessarily at the same time) and all men and/or persons wearing jeans execute the SAME hand movements (not necessarily at the same time).
63. Team members may not after the commencement of the first dance steps, do any of the following:
 - a. Touch for more than 8 counts.
 - b. Lower knee(s) to floor for more than 8 counts.
 - c. Skid or slide across the floor.
 - d. Form or initiate couples type movements.

Penalty – minimum 1 point per judge for each time these rules are breached as determined by the judging panel.

Time Limits Freestyle/Maverick Sections

- a. Solo : 3-5 minutes time limit
- b. Duo : 4-7 minutes time limit
- c. Trio : 5-8 minutes time limit
- d. Team : 6-10 minutes time limit

Mixed Age Sections

64. There MUST be **7 years** age difference between at least 2 competitors.

Penalty – disqualification.

Interpretive/Maverick Section Rules

65. This section is designed to allow competitors 'ultimate' creative license. Judged primarily on creativity (including originality, staging and interpretation of the chosen music), presentation (including costuming and performance) and entertainment value based on a spectator's perspective.
66. 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.
67. Athletic and acrobatic moves are allowed but no interactive lifts are permitted **NO LIFTS OR JUMPS** where one person's weights is supported

by another. Competitors should be aware at all times of their own safety and that of others and not perform any moves that could be considered dangerous.

Penalty for infringement – -2 points per judge

68. A suitable area will be floor marked (including the stage area). Competitors must dance within the marked area.
69. This is a family event. The use of obscene or overly suggestive moves or music will be grounds for disqualification.

Novice Sections

70. Definition of Novice for the Australian Line Dance Festival (Mayworth) 2009:
- (a) Never competed in a line dance competition before; or
 - (b) Competed in a line dance competition, but have never received a medal; or
 - (c) Only won a medal in a Novice Section in a line dance competition, not any other section in a line dance competition.
71. Instructor/Novice Team must consist of at least **two** Novice competitors.

Choreography Competition Rules

The nominated Line Dance should be an original composition and no older than **8** months. Each choreographer's involvement is limited to 5 entries per section

- Entry** must be accompanied by
 - A. 2 signed copies of the step description
 - B. Entry fee of \$7 per dance
 - C. Completed entry forms
- Step description** must be typed and in a format suitable for teaching and include:
 - A. Name of the dance
 - B. Choreographers name & contact details and the date choreographed
 - C. Song - artist and album and the track time length and starting point
 - D. Level Of Dance
 - E. Number of walls, total counts & Direction (Clockwise/Counter clockwise)
- Competitors are required to report** to the Head Judge 15 minutes prior to their scheduled performance (as per the program) and remain in the area until their dance demonstration
- The Line Dance should be country in style**
- The music:**
 - A. Must be provided by the competitor on a currently available commercial CD

- B. Is to be handed to the DJ on request and must be clearly marked with the competitors name, dance name, track number and section number.
- C. Music may be country or non-country remembering that selected music may reflect upon the dance style, which is country
- D. Music selected for the **Waltz section** will include simple and compound time as follows 3/2,3/4,3/8, 6/8, 9/8, 12/8 time signatures. As long as the step combination is in groups of 3.

– Rise and fall of waltz must be adhered to regardless of music timing...steps should be in groups of three...syncopation's are allowed

- **Dance is recommended to be performed** by at least **two** dancers (No more then 8) who are required to dress the same wearing either blue or black jeans and a plain white shirt or T/shirt. Western hats are optional but if worn they should be either black or white and both dancers must wear the same.

NO crop tops or singlet shirts allowed and all dress should adhere to the clothing rules above.

- The dance should be presented as a regular line dance without freestyle variations and with the steps executed exactly as choreographed and documented on the cue sheet provided. No extra styling/hat work is to be added unless it is part of the dance choreography as per the dance cue sheet.
- Overly suggestive movements** will be grounds for disqualification. Overly suggestive/offensive music will also be grounds for exclusion from competition.
- Any person not abiding by the rules may be disqualified or incur a heavy point loss.
- No restarts of dances will be permitted** unless requested by the judges.
- The judge's decision will be final** and no correspondence will be entered into.
- A limit of 5 dances may be entered in each section as stated, however the event organisers retain the right to limit the total number in a section if it is deemed necessary and to limit the time / length of the dance demonstration if/when necessary
- A dance may be entered in its level section and the Australian section, note: The Australian section has a slightly different judging style.
 - Waltz's May be entered into the appropriate sections (intermediate line dance etc)

NOTE:

1. Prizes for choreography will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places when there are 5 or more entries in the section.
- 2 In sections with less than 5 entries winner and runner up medals will be awarded.
- 3 Only one (1) prize per dance will be presented, as it is the dance winning the title NOT the choreographer.
- 4 The dance will be adjudicated on presentation of step description, dance content including suitability of dance for level entered, flow of choreographed moves, suitability of steps for music/rhythm selected, floor craft and visual appeal.
- 5 If there are less than 3 entries per section, that section will be withdrawn and entry fees will be returned to the competitor.

- 6 Unless otherwise stated, all general rules will apply for the choreography section and infringement of these rules will incur the listed penalty.**