

NDCA Rule Book Changes Log - July 2025

(Strikeout text = deleted, Underlined text = added)

I.F. (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

The rules enumerated herein governing the conduct of NDCA sanctioned Events, Competitions and Championships shall apply to Competition Owners/Organizers, Dancers/Competitors, Pro/Am Student Competitors, Chairmen of Adjudicators, Adjudicators, Scrutineers, Music Directors, Registrars, Masters of Ceremonies, and all other NDCA licensees who participate in NDCA sanctioned events. Points that arise which are not covered in these rules, shall be referred to the Ballroom Department whose decision shall be final. Amendments to the Rule Book may be considered at any Ballroom Department meeting, and shall take effect upon publication.

I.G. (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

Adjudicators, Scrutineers, Officials and other professionals, to include but not limited to MC's, Music Directors, Registrars, Competition Owners/Organizers, Dancers/Competitors, etc. who choose to register with the NDCA are not permitted to officiate at or organize or own any Championship, Multi-Day Competition, or Local One-Day Event that is not sanctioned by the NDCA or any other NDCA recognized organization(s).

I.G.1.b. (July 2025)

This rule was deleted.

Professional Dancers Federation annual event. The Professional Dancers Federation will be allowed to run one single annual PDF competition that will be organized by the PDF as a closed PDF competition. This event must be run as a benefit for the PDF, no individuals may benefit or profit from this event and all funds must be deposited directly into the PDF bank account. This annual event must have the approval of the Board of Governors.

II.A.2.a.(1). (July 2025)

This rule was moved to now be II.A.3.a. along with a title. It now looks as below.

PRE-TEEN, JUNIOR AND YOUTH:

a. Amateur competitors who are of Pre-Teen, Junior, or Youth age may also dance as Solo Star dancers. These dancers are allowed to dance individually without a partner (see rule II.B.6.). Under no circumstances are Adult, and Senior age competitors allowed to dance as a Solo Star dancer.

II.A.3.c. (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

A Pro/Am Student Competitor does not teach Ballroom dance under any circumstances. Ballroom dance is any dance that is included in any NDCA sanctioned Pro/Am competition or championship event, and is not limited to the traditional ~~championship~~ ballroom dances.

II.B.3.h. (July 2025)

This rule was deleted.

Recommendation for organizers. It is suggested that Closed Gold Multi-Dance categories be offered in the International Styles at events offering closed multi-dance categories.

III.A.2.a. (July 2025)

This rule was deleted.

Applications for sanction of new multi-day competitions and new Local One-Day Events may only be placed on the first Ballroom Department Meeting Agenda once every three years, specifically in 2015, 2018, etc.

III.A.3.b.(3). (July 2025)

This rule was moved to now be rule III.D.33.

When two (or more) ballrooms are defined at the same time each assigned ballroom must have it's own dedicated space - couples may not share the same physical space if they are assigned different floors.

III.A.4. (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

A competition owner may apply to the council for sanction of the following: 1) the proposed name of the event, 2) the proposed location (city) of the event, 3) the proposed date of the event. The date of the event shall correspond to a certain day/date within the desired month that can be determined for future years using a clearly defined formula. If an owner wishes to change any of the above, then they may do so only after applying in writing to and receiving written permission from the NDCA Ballroom Director.

a. The dates for a sanctioned event may commence as early as the Monday of the week of the approved week/weekend of the sanctioned event and must conclude no later than the Sunday evening of the approved week/weekend of the sanctioned event.

b. Ancillary events (such as, but not limited to, congresses, dance camps, seminars, and summits) that are run in the same venue as the sanctioned event may begin at the earliest on the Monday of the approved week/weekend of the sanctioned event and must conclude no later than the Sunday evening of the approved week/weekend of the sanctioned event.

c. Events that do not have NDCA sanction and are run immediately before or after a sanctioned NDCA event in the same location will be considered part of the recognized NDCA event and must also comply with this rule unless approval is given by the NDCA.

III.A.4.a.(1). (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

It is the decision of this council that approval under this rule will not be given to WDSF, WDO or any other organizational sanctioned events for the foreseeable future.

III.A.6.a.(2). (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

The annual application and sanction fee for the next year must be submitted and paid ~~within 30 days following the conclusion of an event~~ by the end of the month following the event or it will be marked as cancelled on the NDCA online calendar.

III.B.1.c. (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

In all Professional and Adult Amateur Championship Events, a minimum of seven (7) Adjudicators shall officiate.

III.C.3.d. (July 2025)

This was added as a new rule.

Naming of events in NDCA Premier (and CMPMNGR) as well as in entry forms: the title for any event which is intended to be a syllabus competition must include the word "Closed".

III.C.6. (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

The observer's name is to be ~~printed in the program~~ posted on the competition website ~~and is to be announced at every session.~~

III.D.1.a.(1). (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

The organizer shall be penalized \$200 per couple for every round of every event taking the floor after 1:00 a.m. This penalty will be ~~imposed by the NDCA and distributed by the competition organizer(s)~~ and paid by the competition organizer(s) to the couples impacted on the day that they dance.

III.D.27. (July 2025)

This rule was deleted.

To ensure that the competitors of an NDCA event receive an "elegant" presentation of awards, all advertised purse awards must be presented from on stage or the competition floor. This is to include; Professional, Rising Star, Open Amateur and Pro/am Scholarships. All awards must be presented no later than the conclusion of each session.

III.D.12. (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

For Adult Open Amateur, Rising Star Professional and Open Professional events the length of music must be as follows:

III.D.20. (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

At all NDCA events, the Owners, Organizers, Chairmen of Judges, Adjudicators, Masters of Ceremonies, Scrutineers, Music Directors, and demonstrators are not permitted to compete in any competition, including solos, proficiencies, uncontested, etc.

III.D.36 (July 2025)

This rule was deleted.

It is recommended that a "Good Samaritan" kit be available at all Competitions.

IV.A.9. and IV.A.9.a. (July 2025)

These rules were amended.

9. Officials (including Adjudicators, Scrutineers, Registrars, Masters of Ceremonies, Music Directors and Owners/Organizers) are not allowed to give coaching lessons, on or off the premises, during the entire period of time of their officiating contract for the event. Once an official begins to work for an event their contract may not be suspended so that they may give coaching lessons. This does not apply to Lectures or Seminars that are not coaching lessons scheduled by the organizer and open to any interested parties.

a. Additionally, no official may give coaching lessons at the same venue where the event is held once the competition begins until the time that the competition ends (including a "kids" day), regardless of the start or end of their particular officiating contract. Venue is defined in this case as any and all parts of a hotel or facility where the competition is held.

IV.C.1.c. (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

For all professional competitions, and for all "championship adult amateur" competitions, if there are eight or more couples pre-registered to compete then a semi-final round must be scheduled.

IV.D.1.a.(7). (July 2025)

This was added as a new rule.

Officials may not share the assigned judging panels with competitors, coaches, parents, etc.

IV.D.1.d.(3). And VI.A.10. (July 2025)

These two rules were amended so that they correlated with each other.

- Professionals who take up residence in the USA, and who hold qualifications in affiliated associations, may be granted special clearance pending their taking an examination in an NDCA affiliated association in the type, style, or branch in which they wish to judge, as well as successfully passing the NDCA Adjudicator's Examination. Such clearance shall be limited to one year and be based on the recommendation of the Ballroom Department.

- Professionals who take up residence in this country, and who hold qualifications in affiliated associations, may be granted special clearance pending their taking an examination in an NDCA affiliated association in the type, style, or branch in which they wish to judge, as well as successfully passing the NDCA Adjudicator's Examination. Such clearances shall be limited to ~~six months~~ one year and be based on the recommendation of the Ballroom Department Committee.

V.B.5. (July 2025)

This rule was deleted.

A competitor who removes any of the Master Scrutineer Sheets without the permission of the Organizer, shall render themselves liable to disciplinary action.

VI.A.7. (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

The Ballroom Department should send each organizer an updated list of current registrants ~~approximately one week~~ prior to their NDCA event.

VI.A.12. (July 2025)

This was added as a new rule.

Members of formation teams who do not compete otherwise are not required to license with NDCA.

VI.B.4.a. (July 2025)

This rule was deleted.

Test results will be forwarded to the National Registrar, who will send successful candidates the NDCA Certificate and Registration Card.

VI.C.3. a.b.&c. (July 2025)

These three rules were amended.

a. Both members of the partnership are United States citizens, and neither member of the partnership has represented ~~or been listed as being from~~ another country in the previous 12 months. NDCA registered professionals who represent other countries in World Championships may dance in the United States National Closed Professional American Style Smooth and Rhythm, due to the fact that these two events are not used to select U.S. representatives for world championships.

b. One half of the partnership is a United States citizen, and neither member of the partnership has represented ~~or been listed as being from~~ another country in the previous 12 months, and the half of the partnership that is not a U.S. citizen has resided in the USA for the previous 6 months. NDCA registered professionals who represent other countries in World Championships may dance in the United States National Closed Professional American Style Smooth and Rhythm, due to the fact that these two events are not used to select U.S. representatives for world championships.

c. Both members of the partnership are non-United States citizens, but both members of the partnership have resided in the USA for the previous 6 months, and neither member of the partnership has represented ~~or been listed as being from~~ another country in the previous 12 months. NDCA registered professionals who represent other countries in World Championships may dance in the United States National Closed Professional American Style Smooth and Rhythm, due to the fact that these two events are not used to select U.S. representatives for world championships.

VI.B.2.d. (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

WORLD CLASS ADJUDICATOR CLASSIFICATION: Must be a citizen or resident alien of the U.S.A. and by examination hold at least a Membership degree (or it's equivalent) in that style to be judged. Also the person must have attained (in at least one of the following professional championships):

(1) the quarter-final of the British Open Professional International Ballroom or International Latin Championships.

(2) the semi-final of the International Open, United Kingdom Open, ~~USDC Open~~, or the World Professional International Ballroom or International Latin Championships.

(3) ~~the semi-final in all ten dances of a World Ten Dance Championship.~~

Having reached any one of the above results will give eligibility to judge Ten-Dance Championships.

VI.F.1.d. (July 2025)

This rule was deleted.

Foreign Teachers and/or coaches who wish to teach and/or demonstrate in the U.S.A. should first obtain clearance from their own governing body in the country where they are domiciled, and also from the NDCA Ballroom Director. While in the U.S.A. all NDCA Rules and Regulations must be adhered to.

VI.F.2. (July 2025)

This rule was deleted.

U.S.A. RESIDENT COMPETITORS AND ADJUDICATORS ABROAD:

USA teachers and/or coaches who wish to teach and/or demonstrate abroad, should first obtain clearance from the governing body of the country they are intending to visit.

VIII.A.2.a. (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

Penalties ~~will~~ could be as follows:

X.A.2.c. (July 2025)

This rule was amended.

Senior I, Senior II, ~~and~~ Senior III, and Senior IV into a single Senior classification.

XII.M.8. (July 2025)

This rule was deleted due to already addressed in rule IV.C.1.

In each round of the competition, no more than 50% of the teams should be eliminated for the subsequent round. No more than eight teams should participate in the final round. If the Chairman calls for the appropriate number of call backs and the marks do not allow for the correct number of teams to be advanced, then the Chairman has the authority to place less than 50% of the teams in the subsequent round. This can be considered especially if an additional round would be required in order to comply with the desired 50% rule.