

2021 RULES

American Country Dance Association

Mission Statement

The American Country Dance Association was organized for the purpose of promoting Country–Western Dance primarily through the means of competitive dance events.

2021 Executive Board

Jerry Rainey	President
Bob Wheatley	Vice President
Judi Caudle	Secretary
Rowdy Dufrene/ Sherry Reynolds	Treasurer

2021 Events

Dates for 2021 are to be determined

February - On Hiatus 2020
Las Vegas, NV

Valentines in Vegas - <http://vny.dance/>
Russell Keller (940) 329-1321 callruss@blue-room.net

Jun 18 - 20
Ft. Worth, TX

Texas Hoe-Down - www.DanceTexasHoedown.com
Jerry & Virginia Rainey (940) 458-7276 jvdance@classicnet.net
Judi Caudle jcdancefun@hotmail.com

April 22 - 25
Alexandria, LA

Louisiana Country Dance Hayride - www.LaCountryDanceHayride.com
Ray Michiels (318) 447-7459 raysluckystars@aol.com

May 27 - 31 (On hiatus)
Kansas City, MO

Midwest Dance Festival - www.midwest-dance.com
Priscilla Young (816) 506-3653 fitpris@gmail.com

August 13 - 15
Austin, TX

LoneStar Invitational - www.LoneStarCountryDance.com
Rowdy Dufrene (512) 294-1815 LoneStarCountryDance@gmail.com

September 17 - 19
Little Rock, AR

Arkansas Country Classic - www.ArkansasCountryClassic.com
Richard & Bonnie Robertson (501) 614-9090 RiBonRober@aol.com

Sept 30 - Oct 3 (On hiatus)
Grand Junction, Colorado

Canyon Edge Dance Classic - www.canyonedgedanceclassic.com
Robbie Seng (713) 252-3247 Robbiesng23@gmail.com

October 8 - 10
Houston, TX

Waltz Across Texas - www.WaltzAcrossTX.com
Bob Wheatley & Catherine Pisano (832) 816-5815 masterdotdancer@gmail.com

November 19 - 21
Dallas, TX

ACDA National Championships - www.americancountrydanceassociation.com
Rowdy Dufrene (512) 294-1815 Rowdydance@gmail.com
Priscilla Young (816) 506-3653 fitpris@gmail.com
Virginia Rainey (940) 458-7276 jvdance@classicnet.net

Official ACDA Rules
Table of Contents

Intro/Event List.....Page 1

Table of Contents.....Page 2

ACDA GENERAL RULE FOR ALL CATEGORIES.....Page 3

1.0 Costuming.....Page 3

2.0 Music.....Page 4

ProAm Dance Category RulesPage 5

 1.0 General RulesPage 5

 1.1 Divisions (See also Appendix E)

 1.2 Pro Am Levels (See also Appendix E)

 1.3 Scoring Format (See also Appendix C).....Page 6

 1.4 ProAm Scoring FormatPage 7

Couples Dance Category RulesPage 8

 2.0 General Dance Rules.....Page 8

 2.1 Divisions (See also Appendix E)

 2.2 Levels (See also Appendix E).....Page 9

 2.3 Scoring Format (See also Appendix C).....Page 10

Teams Dance Category RulesPage 11

 3.0 Team Competition Rules.....Page 11

 3.1 Team Competition Divisions/Levels

Line Dance Category RulesPage 12

 4.0 Line Dance Competition Rules.....Page 12

 4.1 Line Dance Divisions

 4.2 Levels.....Page 13

 4.3 Music

 4.4 Scoring Format (See also Appendix C)

National Championships, Dispensation & Committees.....Page 14

 5.0 ACDA National Championships.....Page 14

 6.0 Special Dispensation.....Page 14

 7.0 ACDA Committees.....Page 15

Appendices.....Page 16

 Appendix A - Graduation Criteria Page.....Page 16

 Appendix B - Movement Limitations Page.....Page 17

 Appendix C - Scoring Format Page.....Page 18

 Appendix D - Dance Categories Page.....Page 19

 Appendix E – Competition Divisions.....Page 20

General Rules

1.0 Costuming (ProAm, Couples, Teams and Line Dance)

1.11 If the dress code is not adhered to, there will be a mandatory medal drop in that dance. This also includes the Pro of a ProAm partnership with a mandatory medal drop in that dance. i.e. Any placement in a gold medal will result in an automatic drop to silver, etc.

1.12 Costumes must be appropriate for a family-oriented venue.

1.13 No bare legs allowed for either Men or Women!

1.14 No Bare midriff allowed in Novice or below. A bare midriff is any bare skin that is showing on the center part of the torso, from the breast line to the waistline and from side seam to side seam. Bare midriff exposure IS ALLOWED in Division II/Intermediate and higher.

1.15 MEN - Western style shirts or collared shirts with vest, western style jeans or pants, cowboy boots, and cowboy hat required except as is outlined in 1.17

1.16 WOMEN - Western style shirts or blouses, skirts, jeans or western style pants, dresses, and western boots except as is outlined in 1.17

1.17 The requirement for boots and hats in the Newcomer Division is **optional** for competitors (still required for Male Pros, but not for Female Pros leading) during the year. Boots and hats are **mandatory** by the National Championships.

1.18 Cabaret costuming should fit the character of the performance, but must be appropriate for a family-oriented venue.

2.0 Music

2.1 All music may be played at a BPM of +/- 2% of the optimum BPM listed in APPENDIX (D).

2.2 ProAm and Couples music will be approximately 1-1/2 minutes (90 seconds) in length, except for Pre-Newcomer ProAm which will be approximately 1 minute (60 seconds) in length.

2.3 Music used in an ACDA sanctioned event must be "Country" music. Country music is defined as any music with country style. The usage of non-country music in the Cha Cha and West Coast Swing will be allowed at the Event Director's discretion.

2.4 Random music appropriate to each division and of appropriate BPM will be selected for ProAm and Couples competition by the D.J. or Event Director.

2.5 Music warm-ups for Novice divisions and above will be randomly selected for each heat. Warm-up music for Newcomer, Pre-newcomer and Division IV will preview the music to be used in their divisions.

2.6 Spotlight music shall be 2½-4 min and shall have no BPM limitations. One non-country song may be integrated into the dance, but more than 50% of the music selected must be country music.

2.7 Cabaret Teams will be allowed to use non-country music but must include at least 30 seconds of country music. Same gender partners are allowed.

2.8 Classic Superstars All contestants will dance their chosen dances in two flights in the following order:

Slow Dance Flight: Viennese Waltz, Waltz, Night Club, Triple Two, and West Coast Swing

Fast Dance Flight: Two Step, Cha-Cha, Polka, and East Coast Swing

There will be a break between flights. Music will be 1-1/2 minutes maximum in length. The Show Dance will be 2 to 2-1/2 minutes in length. The Show Dance must be a single dance and can be one song or a medley of songs.

2.9 Showcase Superstars: This division has self-selected music. A full program has Waltz, Two Step, and Solo Medley, and will be danced in that order. Maximum length for Waltz & Two Step is 3 ½ minutes. Solo Medley may be 4 to 7 minutes in length. With internal requirements of at least two rhythm dances and one swing dance with each a minimum of 45 seconds in length. Medleys are judged on entertainment value and should be themed, theatrical presentations. Non-country music may be used in the Superstar Solo.

3.0 Superstars and Royal Superstars Line Dance: The Solo Medley may be 4 to 7 minutes in length, and must include at least 60 seconds in one-line dance motion (Rise & Fall, Pulse, Smooth, Cuban, Stage or Street) and at least 60 seconds of another line dance motion. At least one of these motions must be different from the two required in the Superstars division. The remainder of the Medley may consist of any line dance motion desired by the competitor. Non-country music may be used in the Superstar Solo.

1.0 ProAm General Rules

1.01 ProAm is for AMATEUR competitors ONLY. Competition is for students dancing with their instructor.

1.02 A Contestant's age for the entire dance year shall be based on what their age is on the last day of the ACDA National Championships.

1.03 Age Division competitors may dance in ALL age divisions they are qualified for and may also dance in any of the younger age divisions as well as the open division at the same event.

1.04 Open competitors may dance "up" one experience level but may not compete for an overall placement in that level.

1.05 Dance Categories (The dances) are the same for both ProAm and Couples. See Appendix (D)

1.05 For advancement criteria please see Appendix A

1.2 ProAm Divisions

(ALL DIVISIONS OFFERED IN MALE AND FEMALE)

Junior Primary: (4 Skill levels) These age divisions are for students who are under 9 years of age.

Junior Youth: (4 Skill levels) These age divisions are for students who are 10 to 12 years of age.

Junior Teen: (4 Skill levels) These age divisions are for students who are 13-17 years of age.

Open: (4 Skill Levels) This division is for students who are a minimum of 18 years of age.

Copper: (4Skill Levels) This age division is for students who are a minimum of 30 years of age.

Bronze: (4Skill Levels) This age division is for students who are a minimum of 40 years of age.

Silver: (4Skill Levels) This age division is for students who are a minimum of 50 years of age.

Gold: (4 Skill Levels) This age division is for students who are a minimum of 60 years of age.

Platinum: (4 Skill Levels) This age division is for students who are a minimum of 70 years of age.

ProPro: (Only one level and two divisions – Bronze & Open) This division is for the professional who is continuing their dance training with another professional. ProPro is not judged as a couple, only the competing Pro is judged.

ProAm Spotlight: A single dance or medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice. Each dance portion must be recognizable in pattern, accent, motion, and character to one of the competition dance Categories listed in Appendix (D). Tear away skirts are allowed in the solo medley. The syncopation rule does not apply to this division. Only ProAm dancers at Intermediate (Level 2) or above are eligible to compete in this division. Spotlight shall be gender driven with male and female divisions judged by placement rather than medals. See rule 2.6 for Spotlight music rules.

ProPro Spotlight: Refer to the above explanation for ProPro and Spotlight. All ProPro dancers are eligible to compete in ProPro Spotlight

1.3 ProAm Levels (See also APPENDIX E)

1.31 Pre-Newcomer (5): For brand new dancers who have not competed in ProAm Newcomer or above; or Division IV Hats, boots, and costuming are optional. **Level 4 rules apply** & basic syllabus preferred. **Pre-Newcomers** are not eligible to dance in any Couples division. Please check ALL Level 4 limitations in couples' level 4

1.32 Newcomer (4): This division is for the student who has **NO** dance training and **NO** competition experience **OTHER THAN PRE-NEWCOMER LEVEL 5. THIS LEVEL IS INTENDED STRICTLY FOR THE BEGINNING C&W AMATEUR DANCE COMPETITOR.** Level 4 rules will apply to this division. **Leans, leverage, balance, acrobatic moves of any kind, develope's, aerial ronde's, splits, pantomime and shine movements will not be allowed in this division.** Floor sweeps, where the sweeping foot stays in contact with the floor, will be allowed. Couples must begin in one of the **seven (7) closed dance positions (i.e. right or left inside partner position, right or left outside partner position, promenade or counter promenade position, and fan), not to include single or double hand hold starting positions.** Breaking these rules will be a drop in placement. (i.e.: A gold medal will result in an automatic drop to Silver, ETC). Please check ALL Level 4 limitations in couples' level 4.

IN OUR PRE-NEWCOMER, NEWCOMER AND NOVICE PROAM DIVISIONS ONLY / MIXED GENDER LEADERS & FOLLOWERS SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING RULES: FEMALE PROS MAY DANCE WITH FEMALE AMATEURS AND MALE PROS MAY DANCE WITH MALE AMATEURS. HOWEVER, ALL AMATEURS MUST DANCE THE LEADER OR FOLLOWER ROLE OF THEIR NATURAL GENDER. MALE AMS MUST DANCE AS LEADERS AND FEMALE AMS MUST DANCE AS FOLLOWERS. BOTH PROS AND AMATEURS MUST ALSO ADHERE TO THE EXISTING DRESS CODES FOR THEIR NATURAL RESPECTIVE GENDER. IN NO CASE WILL MALES BE ALLOWED TO DRESS AS FEMALES OR FEMALES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRESS AS MALES.

1.33 Novice (3): This division is for the student that is no longer considered a beginner level dancer. Couples division I, II, and III rules will apply. Novice dancers are eligible for division III.

1.34 Intermediate (2): This division is for the moderately experienced student. Couples division I, II, & III rules will apply. Intermediate dancers are eligible for division II.

1.35 Advanced (1): This division is for the more experienced student who has advanced in their dance training. Couples division I, II, and III rules will apply. Advanced dancers are eligible for division I.

1.4 ProAm Scoring Format

1.41 ProAm levels and ProAm Spotlight, will use the judge’s majority medal placement for the medal grade of the dance. Each judge will mark a ballot with a “medal” grade of ability for all contestants that danced. Judges, therefore, grade each contestant’s relative ability against a standard for that titled level of competition. Each Judge shall mark on a ballot an assessed medal grade indicating a mark on his/her ballot a “prioritized” assignment to be attached to each contestant’s “medals” score. Each “medals” score will also receive a “Numerical” score creating rankings for placement within each “medal”.

1.42 Every contestant **SHALL BE RANKED** within **EACH MEDAL** so that the judges shall be responsible for the final placement of all contestants. For example, whereby all contestants ranked within the “silver medal” shall finish with a higher placement than all other ranked contestants in the “bronze medal”. All “gold medal” rankings will finish higher than all “silver medal”, etc.

1.43 Medal and Placement in the Dance:

1. The **Contestant’s Medal** will be the majority of medals given by the Judging Panel for that dance; (3 out of 5 Judges are a majority.)
2. The Judge’s medal for each contestant in the dance sets up the placement. Highest medal to lowest medal. Highest medal is ranked 1st, lowest medal is lowest ranking;
3. A Judge cannot tie contestants in the same Division and Level for that dance. If a Judge uses the same medal for contestants in the same Division and Level for that dance, they must be ranked within the like medal. In the group of the same medal, the best contestant is ranked 1st, next best contestant is 2nd, etc.
4. This is to be used for all Judges on the dance panel.
5. Take placement of the Judges for each contestant and use relative placement to figure **Placement in the Dance**. Relative placement determined by most 1st, 1st & 2nd, 1st & 2nd & 3rd, 1st & 2nd & 3rd & 4th, and 1st & 2nd & 3rd & 4th & 5th, etc. **All ties in a dance are broken using head-to-head competition.**

1.44 Overall Placement is determined by the Relative Placement in the 5 required dances. Two-Step, Waltz, their 2 highest Non-Swing, and their highest Swing

1. Relative placement most 1st, 1st & 2nd, 1st & 2nd & 3rd, 1st & 2nd & 3rd & 4th, and 1st & 2nd & 3rd & 4th & 5th, etc.
2. **Ties shall be broken by:**
 1. Using relative placement on the common dances of those tied.
 2. If a tie still exists, use Two Step and Waltz placements of those tied, best placement breaks tie.
 3. If a tie still exists, we will use the best placement in the Two Step.

2.0 Couples General Rules

2.01 Couples must consist of one man and one woman.

2.02 Dance Categories (The dances) are the same for both ProAm and Couples. See Appendix (D)

2.03 For advancement criteria please see Appendix A

2.1 Couple Divisions (See also APPENDIX E)

2.11 Contestant's age for the entire dance year shall be based on what their age is on the last day of the ACDA National Championships.

2.12 Couples may dance in ALL age divisions (including Open) they are qualified for.

Junior Primary: This age division is for couples who are 9 years old and under.

Junior Youth: This age division is for couples who are 10 to 12 years old.

Junior Teen: This age division is for couples who are up to 13 - 17 years old, with 1 partner being at least, 13 - 17 years old.

Open Divisions (4, 3, 2, 1, & Superstars): For couples where each partner is at least 18 years old.

Bronze: For couples where each partner is at least 40 years old.

Silver: For couples where each partner is at least 50 years old.

Gold: For couples where each partner is at least 60 years old.

Platinum: For couples where each partner is at least 70 years old.

Couples Spotlight: A single dance or medley of dances choreographed to music of the contestant's choice. Each dance portion must be recognizable in pattern, accent, motion, and character to one of the competition dance Categories listed in Appendix (D). Only Couples dancers at Intermediate (Level 2) or above are eligible to compete in this division. Tear away skirts are allowed. See rule 2.6 for Spotlight music rules.

Showcase Superstars

Showcase Superstars is for couples who have graduated out of the Open Level 1 Couples Division in any nationally recognized competition circuit, or contestants who already compete in those organizations highest competitive Open Division. Music see 2.9

Props are allowed but the contestants are the only ones allowed for set-up and take-down and can do so without delaying the contest. There are NO movement limitations in Showcase Superstars No syncopation rules apply.

Classic Superstars

This division is for couples who are not eligible for Division I or who last won a Championship title in the highest possible division in any other regional or national competition. A full program consists of Two Step, Waltz, one Swing dance, two Non-Swing dances, and a Show Dance. Music see 2.8

Low lifts that come off the floor no higher than waist level and for no longer than 4 measures are allowed.

The syncopation rule does not apply to this division.

Clarification: there is **NO** crossover between Classic Superstars and Royal Superstars.

Classic Royal Superstars

This division is for Age Division couples who are not eligible for Age Division I or who last won a Championship title in the highest possible division in any other regional or national competition.

Classic Royal Superstars is for Age Division competitors at least 40 years of age.

Showcase Royal Superstars

Showcase Royal Superstars is for Age Division competitors at least 40 years of age. This division has the same self-selected music rules as Showcase Superstars.

2.2 Couples Levels (See also APPENDIX E)

2.21 In the event that two ProAm competitors partner together to dance couples, the following guidelines apply: If either Am is Advanced, they must dance in Level 3 or Novice Age or above. If both Am's are Advanced, they must dance in Level 2 or Intermediate Age or above. If two (2) Newcomer Am's partner, they can dance in Level 4. If Two Novice Am's partner together they may also dance Level 4 in Couples. New partnership and they have not competed in two years may drop down a level. **Level 4** is for Newcomers only. However, someone that dances in couples may not drop down a level if they moved into a ProAm partnership they must stay at the same level.

2.22 Competitors may dance "up" one difficulty level but may not compete for an overall placement in that level.

2.23 A "Pro/Instructor" must enter Division II/Intermediate or above. An individual who regularly assists a "Pro" or dance instructor must enter Division III/Novice or above.

2.24 Competitors in Division II through Superstars may drop down one division if they have not competed in two years or if they are no longer competing with the partner they last competed with.

2.25 Members of a Couples Partnership MAY have multiple partners IN DIFFERENT DIVISIONS. All partners must dance at the same ability level. Couples may dance in All Age Divisions they are qualified for and dance in the Open Division of the same level. Example: John Doe with Lady A in Silver Novice, John Doe with Lady B in Bronze Novice, and John Doe with Lady C in Level 3. Novice and Level 3 are equal, Intermediate and Level 2 are equal, and Advanced and Level 1 are equal.

2.26 In order to qualify for a specific dance division at Nationals, that division must be danced two (2) times during the year, one being a full program.

A full program (Two-Step, Waltz, 2 Non-Swings and one Swing) must be danced in at least one of the two events.) New partnerships MUST adhere to the same qualifying rules regardless of events danced with former partners.

2.27 READ CAREFULLY the professional versus Amateur status rules. **Couples Level 4** is strictly for pure amateurs. **Couples Level 3** allows a competitor to assist teaching without compensation. **Couples Level 2 and above** allows entry for any professional/Instructor.

Newcomer Level 4

This division is for the new dancers who have minimal dance training and competition experience, and who have never competed in an organized interstate dance competition in a COUPLES Novice or Level 3 Division or above. **Leans, leverage, balance, acrobatic moves of any kind, develop's, aerial ronde's, splits, pantomime and shine movements will not be allowed in this division.** Floor sweeps, where the sweeping foot stays in contact with the floor, will be allowed. Couples must begin in one of the seven (7) closed dance positions (i.e., right or left inside partner position, right or left outside partner position, promenade or counter promenade position, and fan), not to include single or double hand hold starting positions. Costuming is optional but dress code must still be adhered to. Level 4 dancers are eligible for ProAm Newcomer only. **ONLY AMATEURS AS DEFINED ABOVE ARE ALLOWED**

Novice Level 3

This division is for the dancers who are no longer considered beginner level dancers and who are not eligible for Division 4, or who last competed in Division 3 in any other regional or national competition. Division 3 dancers are eligible for Division 3 or Novice Age divisions, if qualified, and ProAm Novice Divisions. **ONLY AMATEURS THAT ASSISTED IN GROUP CLASSES AS DEFINED ABOVE ARE ALLOWED**

Intermediate Level 2

This division is for the moderately experienced dancers who are not eligible for Division III, or who last competed in Division II in any other regional or national competition. Division 2 dancers are eligible for Division 2 or Intermediate Age Divisions, if qualified, and ProAm Intermediate Divisions. **ALL PROFESSIONALS MUST ENTER COUPLES LEVEL 2 OR ABOVE**

Advanced Level 1

This division is for the more experienced dancers who have advanced in their dance training and who are not eligible for Division II or who last competed in Division I in any other regional or national competition. Division I dancers are eligible for Division 1 or Advanced Age Divisions, if qualified, and ProAm Advanced OR ProPro. **No contestant may dance as BOTH an Amateur in ProAm and in ProPro ALL PROFESSIONALS MUST ENTER COUPLES LEVEL 2 OR ABOVE**

2.3 Couples & Pro Pro Scoring Format

See APPENDIX (C) for explanation of relative placement scoring.

Take placement of the Judges for each contestant and use relative placement to figure **Placement in the Dance**. Relative placement determined by most 1st, 1st & 2nd, 1st & 2nd & 3rd, 1st & 2nd & 3rd & 4th, and 1st & 2nd & 3rd & 4th & 5th, etc.

All ties in a Dance are broken using head-to-head competition.

Overall Placement in Couples and ProPro, will be scored on a **full program**: Two-Step, Waltz, their two (2) highest Non-Swing scores, and their highest Swing score, (except for the Superstars and Royal Superstars division.) Overall placement will be determined by the Relative Placement in the five (5) required dances. Overall placement for Classic and Royal Superstars will be determined by the relative placement in the five (5) required dances plus the Show Dance. Overall placement for Showcase Superstars and showcase Royal Superstars will be determined by the relative placement in the three (3) required dances.

Ties for overall shall be broken by:

- 1. Using relative placement on the common dances of those tied.**
- 2. If a tie still exists, use Two Step and Waltz placements of those tied, best placement breaks tie.**
- 3. If a tie still exists, we will use best placement in the Two Step**

3.0 Team Competition Rules

3.01 Open to groups consisting of at least 3 members. Performance will be judged from the beginning of the group's Music until the end and total length shall not exceed 10 minutes and not less than 3 minutes.

3.02 For scoring see Appendix (C)

3.03 For graduation criteria see Appendix (A)

3.1 Team Competition Divisions/Levels

OPEN LINE: Routines must be performed as individuals dancing in any non-lead / follow configuration.

OPEN PARTNER: Open to teams of couples consisting of one (1) man and one (1) woman. Lead / follow partner routine or one multi-partner routine is required.

SILVER OPEN LINE: All members must be a minimum of 50 years of age. Routines must be performed as individuals dancing in any non-lead / follow configuration.

SILVER OPEN PARTNER: All members must be a minimum of 50 years of age. Open to teams of couples consisting of 1 man and 1 woman. Lead / follow partner routine or one multi-partner routine is required.

CABARET: Open routines where props are allowed. Lifts, drops, and aerials are allowed at Event Director's discretion. These movements are allowed only in the Cabaret division. Cabaret Teams will be allowed to use non-country music. Same gender partners are allowed.

4.0 Line Dance Competition Rules

4.01 For a listing of the Competition Line Dances please refer to our web site: www.americancountrydanceassociation.com.

4.02 See APPENDIX (A) for advancement criteria.

4.03 See APPENDIX (B) for explanation of movement limitations.

4.04 A “**Professional/Instructor**” who teaches line dance must enter **Intermediate** line dance divisions or above.

4.05 A competitor must begin the dance facing a pre-designated direction positioned in a “line” with other competitors and perform the dance’s prescribed pattern after its official countdown (“5-6-7-8”) is spoken by the event DJ or is pre-recorded.

4.06 A competitor must perform the dance “plain vanilla” on the start of the dance and then must be “plain vanilla” on every other restart thereafter. (***Note: This does not apply to the Newcomer who must perform all walls “plain vanilla”.**)

4.07 An advanced dancer must perform the first wall “plain vanilla” and the first 8 or 6 counts (Waltz) of the third wall “plain vanilla.”

4.08 Dance movements that incorporate slides, splits, jumps, pantomime, singing, speaking, lip-synching, or acted themes are not allowed unless they are movements that are strictly called for by the dance’s step description. However, all of the above movements **are** allowed in the Superstar Line Dance Division.

4.1 Line Dance Divisions

4.11 There will be separate divisions for male and female dancers in each of the following categories.

4.12 Competitors may dance “up” one difficulty level but may not compete for an overall placement in that level.

Junior Youth: Dancers 12 years of age or younger.

Junior Teen: Dancers aged 13 to 17 years of age.

Open: This division is for individuals who are a minimum of 18 years of age.

Copper: This age division is for individuals who are a minimum of 30 years of age.

Bronze: This age division is for individuals who are a minimum of 40 years of age.

Silver: This age division is for individuals who are a minimum of 50 years of age.

Gold: This age division is for individuals who are a minimum of 60 years of age.

Platinum: This age division is for individuals who are a minimum of 70 years of age.

4.2 Line Dance Levels

There is no Pre-Newcomer or Primary level in the Line Dance Category

Newcomer: Dancers who have never competed in a Line Dance competition at an interstate dance contest at the Novice level or above.

Novice: Dancers who are not eligible for the Newcomer division or who last competed in the Novice line dance division of any other regional or national competition.

Intermediate: Dancers who are not eligible for the Novice division or who last competed in the Intermediate line dance division of any other regional or national competition.

Advanced: Dancers who are not eligible for the Intermediate division or who last competed in the Advanced line dance division of any other regional or national competition.

Superstars: Dancers who are not eligible for the Advanced division or who last competed in any division higher than the Advanced division in any other regional or national competition. Competitors may not “self-promote” to the Superstars division but may only advance to this division according to the American Country Dance Association’s graduation criteria.

Royal Superstars: Same as Superstars above except minimum age is 40 years old

Newcomer Line Dance:

A dancing introduction is not allowed during the initial “instrumental” phrase of the music prior to the countdown. Competitors are only permitted to use their hands, arms, facial expressions, body styling, and skirt or hat work. A competitor must remain stationary with only a shift of weight allowed. A competitor must not take a step in any direction during the dancing introduction. A competitor must also remain facing in the original direction throughout the introduction. No turns or rotations of any kind are allowed.

A competitor must perform the basic “vanilla” pattern exactly as the step description calls for. No added syncopations or rhythm breaks are allowed within a dance’s basic pattern nor are any other variations allowed beyond the dance’s dance description (dance movements that incorporate kicks, flicks, and floor sweeps, unless they are part of the dance description.) Movements that incorporate positions done “adagio” are not allowed.

Novice, Intermediate, Advanced:

A dancing introduction is allowed during the initial “instrumental” phrase of the music before the countdown. The introduction must be generally stationary (within the circumference of a single step in any direction,) thus maintaining the contestant’s position in line. Variations should retain the mood and character of the dance’s “motion.” Dance presentations that incorporate pantomime, singing, speaking, lip-synching, or acted themes are not allowed.

Superstars:

The Superstars division will perform the two dances listed in these rules (Lilt and Rise & Fall,) as well as a Solo Medley, in order to qualify for overall placement. The Solo Medley will be no more than 7 minutes long and must include at least 60 seconds in one-line dance motion (Rise & Fall, Pulse, Smooth, Cuban, Street, or Stage) and at least 60 seconds of another line dance motion. At least one of these motions must be different from the two required in the Superstars division. The remainder of the Medley may consist of any line dance motion desired by the competitor. Superstars must perform the first wall of their Pulse and Rise & Fall dances “plain vanilla.” Tear away skirts are allowed in the Solo Medley. Non-country music may be used in the Superstar Solo.

Royal Superstars:

Same as Superstars above except minimum age is 40 years old

4.3 Line Dance Competition Music

The DJ will preview all line dances prior to the first heat rather than throughout the line dance contest. Music will be faded at approximately two (2) minutes for dances of 40 counts or less, two minutes (2) for dances over 40 counts in length. Dance selections will remain in effect for the entire dance season.

4.4 Line Dance Scoring Format

See APPENDIX (C) for explanation of relative placement scoring.

(Rise & Fall, Pulse, Smooth, Cuban, Stage, or Street.)

Newcomer Line Dance Overall competitors must compete in all (3) the offered dances.

Novice Line Dance Overall competitors must compete in all four (4) of the offered dances.

Intermediate Line Dance Overall competitors must compete in all five (5) of the offered dances.

Advanced Line Dance Overall Competitors Open & Youth must compete in all six (6) of the offered dances,

Age Divisions Novelty/Stage dance will be offered for the Age divisions only & will not do Street.

5.0 ACDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

5.01 In order to qualify for the ACDA National Championships, each Divisional Couple, each ProAm Student, each Team Member, and each Line Dance Competitor must dance in two (2) qualifying events. i.e., A full ProAm or Couples program (Two-Step, Waltz, 2 Non-Swings and a Swing) must be danced in at least one of the two events. The Professional of the ProAm Couple must have competed in at least 1 A.C.D.A. sanctioned event.

5.02 In order to qualify for a specific dance division at Nationals, that division must be danced two (2) times during the year, one being a full program.

5.03 If a competitor advances to a higher division during the regular season due to advancement points, they may drop down and dance in the division in which they started at the beginning of the season. If a competitor advances to a higher division because they elect on their own to do so, they must dance in the higher division at the ACDA Nationals. If a ProAm student receives a majority medal placement of Gold Graduate in all five of the required dances at two (2) events before June 1st they must graduate to the next level at the next event. That competitor must stay at that graduated level for the remainder of the year and dance the National Championships at that higher graduated level.

5.04 All competitors must dance a full program at the ACDA Nationals. If a competitor drops a dance at the ACDA Nationals, which would take them out of the overall, then they would receive **NO PLACEMENTS** for any of their dances. No refunds will be distributed.

5.05 There must be at least 3 Couples, 3 ProAm, or 2 Line Dancers in a division dancing full programs in order to have to move up to the next division.

5.06 A Couple may not move themselves “up” into a division that they have not danced in for the National Championships

5.07 The ACDA National Championships will offer required dances only.

6.0 SPECIAL DISPENSATION

6.0 SPECIAL DISPENSATION: Please note that all rules apply equally to everyone. However, in some situations where an event director or contest coordinator may not be able to satisfy some unforeseeable situation or condition that may escape the boundaries of these rules, the contestant may in writing contact the President of the ACDA for “Special Dispensation”. If needed, the rules committee will consider some possible variance, and then forward their suggestion on to the council for review. Issues such as health or division eligibility or costuming variances for medical reasons are a few examples, and there could be many more. Items will be reviewed by the president and only brought forward to the council on a case-by-case basis. Decisions by the president and or ACDA Board are final.

6.1 Professional Qualifications for Pro's dancing with their Am's at Nationals:

If a Pro cannot dance at a 2nd Event with his or her Am's for a legitimate reason: injury, serious family problem, etc., there could be a special dispensation given to another Pro to dance with his Am's; with that replacing Pro having danced at least one ACDA Event.

7.0 2020 COMMITTEES

DATA BASE COMMITTEE:

JERRY RAINEY

LINE DANCE COMMITTEE:

ROWDY DUFRENE (CHAIRMAN)
KAREN HEDGES

RULES COMMITTEE:

BOB WHEATLEY (CHAIRMAN)
ROWDY DUFRENE
SHERRY REYNOLDS
BONNIE ROBERTSON

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

RAY MICHELS (CHAIRMAN)
VIRGINIA RAINEY

PROMOTIONS / PR & FACEBOOK COMMITTEE:

PRISCILLA YOUNG HAASE
CATHERINE PICARD
ROWDY DUFRENE

JUDGE CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE:

SHERRY REYNOLDS (CHAIRMAN)
BOB WHEATLEY
ROWDY DUFRENE
PRISCILLA YOUNG HAASE

WEBSITE COMMITTEE:

ROWDY DUFRENE
ELAINE KANT

APPENDICES:

APPENDIX (A) – Graduation Criteria

A **Couples or Line dancer** who accumulates 60 or more points at any time during the season must advance to the next higher division immediately. A Couples or Line dancer may advance on their own at any time during the season, except into the Superstars or Royal Superstars division, but may not move back down to a lower division.

First place winners at the ACDA National Championships with 3 or more ProAms and Couples or 2 or more Line Dance competitors must advance to the next higher division for the next dance year. If a competitor wins first place in a national championship or regional championship on any other country dance circuit and is moved up to a higher division or has graduated or advanced, they must dance in that higher equivalent division on the ACDA Circuit. ACDA will advance both 1st and 2nd place winners to the next level, if there are 10 or more competitors in their division at Nationals. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will advance if there are 15 or more competitors, and so on.

Point Accumulation by Divisional Placements

1 st place.....	10 points
2 nd place.....	8 points
3 rd place.....	6 points
4 th place.....	4 points
5 th place.....	2 points

There must be at least 3 Couples or 2 Line Dance competitors in a division, dancing a full program, in order to earn advancement points. Points that are accumulated during the year will be carried over to the following year.

Points will also be awarded at the ACDA National Championships.

ADVANCEMENT IN PROAM DIVISIONS

A ProAm student, who accumulates 160 or more points at any time during the season, must advance to the next higher division immediately. GG advancement: If a Pro Am student receives a majority medal placement of Gold Graduate in all five of the required dances at two (2) events before June 1st during the year, they must advance to the next level at the next event. The competitor must stay at that level for the remainder of the year and dance the National Championships at that level.

A ProAm student may advance on their own at any time during the season but may not move back down to a lower division. **There must be at least 3 competitors in a division dancing a full program in order to earn advancement points.**

Any ProAm student receiving ‘GH’ grades or higher and any Couple receiving ‘A’ grades or higher shall move to the next higher level if there are less than FIVE competitors in their Division at the National Championships.

First place winners at the ACDA National Championships with 3 or more in a division, must advance to the next higher division for the next dance year. If a ProAm competitor wins first place in a national championship or regional championship on any other country dance circuit and is moved up to a higher division or has graduated or advanced, they must dance in that higher equivalent division on the A.C.D.A. Circuit. ACDA will advance both 1st and 2nd place winners to the next level, if there are 10 or more competitors in their division at Nationals. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will advance if there are 15 or more competitors, and so on.

Point Accumulation by Medal Placements

Gold Graduate.....	8 points
Gold w/Honors.....	5 points
Gold.....	4 points

Points that are accumulated during the year will be carried over to the following year. Points will also be awarded at the American Country Dance Association’s National Championships.

APPENDIX (B) - Movement Limitations

NO LIFTS, DROPS OR AERIALS ---- The use of these movements will be grounds for disqualification in that dance. A Judge's meeting is required if a couple demonstrates one of these movements.

NOTE: Superstars, Royal Superstars, couples and Line Dance, have no movement Limitations.

1. **LIFT** - where both feet of either partner are off the floor with the weight being supported by the other partner. Lifts are allowed in Superstars, Royal Superstars and Cabaret Teams.
2. **DROP** - where both the head and torso of either partner are below the knee level, with the weight supported by the other partner. Drop are allowed in Superstars, Royal Superstars and Cabaret Teams.
3. **LEAN** - is any stationary move where the head or torso of either partner is at or above the knee level standing of the other partner and weight is partially supported (leaning-in) or countered balanced (leaning-out) by the other partner. A lean is not allowed in division IV or in the ProAm Newcomer level.
4. **JUMP** - any move where a contestant compresses into the floor and uses knees and thighs to independently propel both feet off the floor. A jump is seen as a contestant becoming airborne by design.
5. **AERIAL** - where both feet of a dancer are air born (off the floor) at the height of waist level or above. Drop are allowed in Superstars, Royal Superstars and Cabaret Teams.
6. **ACROBATIC** - is any move where a contestant independently or in partnership passes their foot, leg, or body above and across the plane of his/her head or the other partner's head, or passes their body through the legs of the other partner, while maintaining contact with the floor. Acrobatic moves are not allowed in division IV or the ProAm Newcomer division.
7. **DEVELOPPE'** - any move where either partner has one foot placed with full supporting contact to the floor and elevates the opposite leg. The elevated leg is extended with a bent knee forwards and upwards until the elevated leg is straightened at the height of the movement. A Developpe' is not allowed in division IV or the ProAm Newcomer level.
8. **ROND DE'** - any move where either partner rotates his/her body while having placed one foot with supporting contact to the floor, sweeps the second foot around his/her body in an arc with the foot and leg being in the air. Rond de's are not allowed in division IV and the ProAm Newcomer level.
9. **SPLIT** - any move where feet separate while staying in contact with the floor and the body is lowered to the floor angle of leg is greater than 45 degrees or right angle. Splits are not allowed in division IV or the ProAm Newcomer level.
10. **SHINE** - any move where a contestant in the pair's performance is not bodily connected to his/her partner and the move is deemed non-lead able. Shine is not allowed in division IV or the ProAm Newcomer level.

APPENDIX (C) – Scoring

Couples, ProPro, Teams, and Line Dance divisions will utilize the “Relative Placement” scoring format. This format will determine the “placement” of winners for each contest category. The “Relative Placement” scoring format will also determine Overall Championship winners.

In the Relative Placement format for each division, each judge shall mark on their ballot their 1st place choice with the number “1”, their 2nd place choice with the number “2”, their 3rd place choice with the number “3”, etc., until all contestants have received a placement number. Judges must complete all placements for all contestants and cannot assign the same “placement” to more than one contestant.

The contestant who receives a majority of 1st place marks will be the first-place winner. The contestant who receives a majority of 1st and 2nd place marks will be the second-place winner. The contestant who receives the majority of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place marks will be the third-place winner, etc., etc.

In the Finals for each division, the majority opinion of the judges shall determine the results. Couple’s placements shall be determined in order from highest to lowest beginning with how many 1st place marks, followed by how many 2nd place marks, followed by how many 3rd place marks, etc., until all marks for the couple are accounted for.

APPENDIX (D) – Dances

TRIPLE TWO

26 beat syncopation limit, Optimum BPM: Newcomer/Novice = 86 to 90 Intermediate/Advanced = 80 to 86

A step pattern that uses six beats of music and includes two triple steps and two 1 beat steps and progresses counter-clockwise around the dance floor. A smooth and semi-circular dance with a repetitive dance count of: 1,2, 3&4, 5&6

POLKA

28 beat syncopation limit, Optimum BPM: Newcomer/Novice = 110 to 116 Intermediate/Advanced = 116 and above

A step pattern that consists of continuous triples and progresses counter-clockwise around the dance floor. A pitched dance with lilt and a repetitive dance count of: 1&2, 3&4

NIGHT CLUB

28 beat syncopation limit, Optimum BPM: Newcomer/Novice = 56 to 62 Intermediate/Advanced = 52 to 56

Any 8 count basic Night Club pattern (1, 2&, 3, 4&, 5, 6&, 7, 8&) may be used that has a generally stationary pattern. The dance generally accents counts **1 and 5** with a slow developing “side step” and has a definite sway motion to it.

CHA-CHA

26 beat syncopation limit, Optimum BPM: Newcomer/Novice = 104 - 110 Intermediate/Advanced = 110 - 118

A step pattern of any combination of eight count (1, 2.,3, 4&, 5, 6,7, 8&) Cha-Cha patterns that breaks (rocks) or accents the 2nd and 6th beat of music. “Chase” patterns are considered a basic part of cha-cha and may be danced beyond the 26 beats of music.

VIENNESE WALTZ

Newcomer is CLOSED BRONZE DVIDA SYLLABUS!! See Dance Vision at: <https://www.dancevision.com/>

Novice and up is OPEN

Optimum BPM: Newcomer/Novice = 130 to 150 Intermediate/Advanced = 162

Progresses counter-clockwise around the dance floor, using the step pattern of (1,2,3 / 4, 5, 6)

WALTZ

24 beat syncopation limit, Optimum BPM: Newcomer/Novice = 86-90 Intermediate/Advanced = 80-86

Progresses counter-clockwise around the dance floor, using the step pattern of (1,2,3 / 4, 5, 6)

TWO-STEP

26 beat syncopation limit, Optimum BPM: Newcomer/Novice = 172-180 Intermediate/Advanced = 180-194

A pattern that has a generally forward counter-clockwise progression accenting the downbeat and contains the Two-Step rhythm of:

1, 2, 3_, 5_ (Q,Q,S,S) **OR** 1, 2, 3_, 5, 6, 7_ **OR** (Q,Q,S, Q,Q,S) **OR** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5_, 7_ (Q,Q,Q,Q,S,S)

EAST COAST SWING

26 beat syncopation limit, Optimum BPM: Newcomer/Novice =126-132 Intermediate/Advanced = 132-144 (Average)

A step pattern of any combination of six or eight count swing patterns that has a generally stationary, circular step pattern, each style having mutually performed rock steps or variations thereof. 6-count or 8-count swing may include single, double and/or triple rhythms. Basic dance rhythms are: (1&2,3&4,5,6) **OR** (1&2 ,3,4, 5&6, 7,8)

WEST COAST SWING

26 beat syncopation limit, Optimum BPM: Newcomer/Novice = 102 - 108 Intermediate/Advanced = 96 -112

A step pattern that consists of any 6 **OR** 8 count swing pattern that has a generally stationary, slotted step pattern: Basic dance rhythms are: (1,2, 3&4, 5&6) **OR** (1,2, 3&4, 5,6, 7&8) A coaster step is considered a forward progressive step and is not allowed in place of the anchor step.

Other recognizable country dances may be offered at the Event Director’s discretion.

Example: Pony, Hoe-Down- (Heel-Toe Polka), Cotton-Eyed Joe, Ft. Worth Shuffle.

Syncopation - Splitting the beat of music or a step pattern variation. A couple may vary the step pattern for the given number of beats for each dance before returning to the basic step pattern.

APPENDIX (E) – Competition Divisions

COUPLES CATEGORIES

AGE DIVISION	LEVEL				
<10 Junior Primary	Newcomer	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	
10 - 12 Junior Youth	X	X	X	X	
13 - 17 Junior Teen	X	X	X	X	
18 + Open	DIV IV	DIV III	DIV II	DIV I	Superstars
40 + Bronze	X	X	X	X	Royal
50 + Silver	X	X	X	X	Superstars
60 + Gold	X	X	X	X	
70+ Platinum	X	X	X	X	

PRO AM and LINE DANCE CATEGORIES

Note: there is no Pre-Newcomer in Line Dance

DIVISION	LEVEL				
	PreNewcomer				
<10 Junior Primary	Newcomer	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Pro Pro
10 - 12 Junior Youth	X	X	X	X	
13 - 17 Junior Teen	X	X	X	X	
18 + Open	X	X	X	X	X
30 + Copper	X	X	X	X	
40 + Bronze	X	X	X	X	X
50 + Silver	X	X	X	X	
60 + Gold	X	X	X	X	
70 + Platinum	X	X	X	X	

2021 ACDA Line Dances						
	Rise and Fall	Pulse	Smooth	Cuban	Street (Only for Youth and Open Division)	Stage (Only for Age Divisions)
Newcomer (Must dance 3 for an overall)	N/A	In Love	N/A	Live Forever	Sushi	Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy
Novice (Must dance 4 for an overall)	Rain Bow Connection	Some Kind of Wonderful	N/A	Katchi	Treat 'Em Right	Jailhouse Rock
Intermediate (Must dance 5 for an overall)	How Long Will I Love You	O I Love You	Bleeding Love	You Don't Know Me	Monster	A Little Swing
Advance (Must dance 5 for an overall, except for Open and youth)	Last Waltz	1,2 Many	Attention	Senorita	Taki Taki	Let's Nacho
Royal Superstars (Age 40 & Up + Solo)	Look Inside	Gimmie Gimmie				
Superstars & Rising Star (+ Solo)	Anytime, Anywhere	Can't Hold Us				