



CLASSIFICATION OF DANCERS

1. PROFESSIONAL:

A Professional Dancer is one who is any or all of the following (anyone studying for or taking a theory exam will not be deemed a professional unless they declare themselves such as defined below):

- a. Registered as a Professional with the NDCA.
- b. One who partners a Pro/Am Student Dancer or Registered Amateur in Pro/Am Competitions.
- c. Any person who declares himself or herself a Professional by word or deed (Examples: serving as a hired Partner, or participating in Professional Competitions or Team Matches).

2. AMATEUR:

a. AMATEUR: An amateur competitor competes with an amateur partner. An amateur dancer may become a professional in the following manner:

- (1) By the declaration of such
 - (2) By competing against other professionals in an NDCA sanctioned Open Professional or Rising Star event
 - (3) By acting as a professional partner in an NDCA sanctioned Pro/Amateur competition event
- b. Pre-Teen, Junior, Youth and Adult Amateur dancers must be registered with the NDCA, unless they are participating only in pro/am events.

(1) NOTE: With the exception of honor dances and formation teams, amateurs are not permitted to demonstrate at NDCA events.

3. PRO/AM STUDENT DANCER:

a. The term "Pro/Am" refers to a professional dancer/teacher dancing with their student. In this case the student will be known as a "Pro/Am Student Dancer". A Pro/Am Student Dancer competes with a professional partner.

b. A Pro/Am Student Dancer competes in Ballroom dance purely as an avocation.

c. A Pro/Am Student Dancer 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 dances.

d. A Pro/Am Student Dancer may neither demonstrate nor give shows for compensation in any style of Ballroom dance.

e. A Pro/Am Student Dancer is permitted to enter Ballroom dance "Pro/Am Scholarship Events" which offer monetary prizes. In this case, any prize money awarded belongs to the Pro./Am Student Dancer, not to the professional, and the Pro/Am Student Dancer may decide how it is to be used.

f. Pro/Am Student Dancers who are found to be in violation of any of the above definitions, will not be permitted to continue to compete in NDCA sanctioned competitions or championships, and the organizers of all NDCA sanctioned competitions and championships will be so notified. Should the Pro/Am Student Dancer cease the activity that violated the above definitions, his or her right to compete as a Pro/Am Student Dancer in NDCA sanctioned competitions and championships may be restored upon application to the NDCA. A waiting period may or may not be required when such reinstatements are made.

***It is within the province of the Ballroom department to discipline by way of suspension and/or fines the professional partner of an amateur competing in pro/am competitions who is found to be teaching ballroom dance lessons.**



2026 Rules & Regulations (tentative)

Amateur/Amateur Competition

Age classifications, "a" through "f-(3)", will become effective on the individual's actual birthday. On a year where a competitor is going to move from one classification to the next they may make this change anytime during a 60 day period that begins 30 days prior to their birthday and ends 30 days following their birthday.

1. Pre-Teen I: 9th birthday or less
2. Pre-Teen II: 10th or 11th birthday
3. Junior I: 12th or 13th birthday
4. Junior II: 14th or 15th birthday
5. Youth: 16th, 17th or 18th birthday
6. Adult: 19th birthday or greater

Competitors may dance "up" or "down" as follows:

Pre-Teen I competitors may dance up one age classification to "Pre-Teen II".

Pre-Teen II competitors may dance up one age classification to "Junior I".

Junior I competitors may dance up one age classification to "Junior II".

Junior II competitors may dance up one age classification to "Youth".

Youth competitors may dance up to the Adult classification.

The following rules apply to competitors age 18 and under:

1. For Youth, Junior I and Junior II partnerships, one of the individuals may be no more than two age classifications younger.
2. If one of the individuals in the partnership is two age classifications younger, then the younger member of the partnership must request permission in writing from the NDCA Ballroom Department and in turn receive written approval prior to being allowed to compete. (example - a "Pre-Teen II" girl wishing to compete with a "Junior II" age boy) a) If written permission is given for the individual to dance up two age classifications, then that person may not return again to dance in the original younger age classification that they "gave up".
3. Under no circumstance will a Pre-Teen I, Pre-Teen II, or a Junior I competitor be allowed to compete in the Adult age classification.
4. A Junior II competitor may not apply for permission to dance up as an Adult until they are 15 years old, at which time they would need to apply to the Ballroom Department as noted above.
5. Youth competitors turning 19 years of age in the calendar year may still dance as youths until they have graduated from "High School".

A couple's age classification eligibility is defined as the age of the older partner for the Pre-Teen I, Pre-Teen II, Junior I, Junior II, Youth and Adult classifications, while it is defined as the age of the younger partner for the Senior classifications.

Any amateur competitor dancing in a Pre-Teen I, Pre-Teen II, Junior I, Junior II, or Youth "open singles event" may only be partnered by another amateur competitor aged eighteen years or younger.

Syllabus: Amateur Pre-Teen Pre-Teen: Couples competing in this age category may only dance Bronze, Silver and Gold figures from approved syllabi of member organizations of the NDCA as well as the official NDCA Syllabus.



2026 Rules & Regulations (tentative)

All infringements to the restricted syllabus will be reported to the Chairman of Judges. If an infraction occurs during preliminary rounds the couple will be given a warning. If the infraction occurs in subsequent rounds or in the final, the couple will be disqualified.

Pre-Teen couples wishing to dance outside the list of allowable figures are encouraged to dance in the student/student open syllabus divisions of the "All-American" One Dance Competitions.

The "All-American" Competitions are Closed Syllabus events, except for those noted as "Open Syllabus". Couples may dance Bronze, Silver and Gold syllabus figures from approved syllabi of member organizations of the NDCA as well as the official NDCA Syllabus. Couples competing in Newcomer and Bronze levels may only dance Bronze figures (for Newcomer steps 1-5 only). An Invigilator with knowledge of these syllabi will be engaged to make sure this rule is enforced. If an infraction occurs during preliminary rounds the couple will be given a warning. If the infraction occurs in subsequent rounds or in the final, the couple will be disqualified.

Amateur Pre-Teen Rules & Regulations

Amateur & Pro/Am

FIGURES - PRE-TEENS

Pre-Teens (9-11) may only dance Syllabus Figures up to the Gold Level. No open figures are allow as per NDCA rule.

DRESS AND/OR COSTUMING - PRE-TEENS

Pre-Teen Dress Requirements as of January 2012.

Pre-Teens must dress as listed below.

Pre-Teen Boys

1. Trousers
 1. Black or dark blue color only
 2. High waist optional
 3. Underfoot strap optional
 4. Satin stripes are allowed.
2. Shirts
 1. Plain white or black long sleeved collared shirt only (no wing collars)
 2. No pleats or ribbing
 3. Sleeves to be worn at wrist length
3. Sweaters and vests are not allowed.
4. Tie - Black color only, may be either straight or bow
5. Socks - Black or dark blue color only
6. Shoes- Heel height not to exceed 1.5 inches (must be black)
7. Materials - Fabrics must be plain, ie: cotton, polyester, cotton/polyester blend, wool blend
 1. No satin or shiny fabrics
 2. No rhinestones, glitter, metallic thread, patterns or sequins allowed



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3. Decorations - not allowed
8. Makeup - Not allowed
9. Hairstyle - Long hair must be worn in a pony tail

Pre-Teen Girls

1. Skirt with top or simple dress with attached under garment or leotard top with full skirt
2. Skirts
 1. Plain or pleated with minimum 1 to maximum 3 half circles. One plain simple underskirt allowed which is no larger or longer than top layer, and is the same or similar color as the outer skirt
 2. No uneven hem lines, use of boning, frills, splits, openings, fishing line, or edging (including "lettuce edging"). Edging or trim of any kind, including ribbon, satin, lace, sequins, etc, is not allowed. A simple hem is required.
 3. Length of skirt must not be shorter than 3 inches above the knee cap and no longer than 3 inches below the knee cap
3. Bodice
 1. Necklines: Boat, high neck, v-neck, sweetheart, 'peter pan' collar, and regular collar are allowed. Edging or trim of any kind, including ribbon, satin, lace, sequins, etc, is not allowed on the neckline
 2. Gathering or shirring on the bodice is not allowed
 3. Edging or trim on the bodice is not allowed
4. Sleeves
 1. Long, short, elbow length, cap, puff. or sleeveless styles are allowed
 2. Cannot be replaced by trimmings, frills, or edging on the shoulder line
 3. No "finger loops" allowed
5. Materials
 1. Fabrics MUST be only one color throughout
 2. No glitter, metallic thread, or fabric creating pattern effects'
 3. No use of feathers, fringes, bows, belts, frills or sequins
 4. No flesh color fabric
 5. Any use of color coordinated 'see through' fabric must be lined from waist to shoulder; for use on arms no lining is needed
 6. Satin or lace (or similar fabric) is not allowed. Lycra, Spandex, Polyester, plain velvet, and jersey is encouraged.
6. Shoes and Socks
 1. Shoes - Heel height not to exceed 1.5 inches, and must be block heel style if a dance shoe. If the shoe comes with rhinestones on the buckle then they are allowed. If the shoe comes with glitter on the shoe then it is allowed.
 2. Socks: White ankle socks (may have a small amount of lace), flesh colored pantyhose, or light pink or white tights must be worn.
 3. No Fishnet Tights
7. Accessories, jewelry, and makeup
 1. No use of arm bands, chokers or headbands
 2. No decoration is allowed on dress or in hair
 3. No jewelry is allowed, other than one small earring in each ear
 4. No makeup allowed
 5. Use of fake eyelashes, fake fingernails, colored or glitter hair spray is forbidden.

For pre-teen one-dance or two-dance events, competition organizers may require that the shirts/tops be white and the trousers/skirts be black.



2026 Rules & Regulations (tentative)

A. AGE CATEGORY CLASSIFICATIONS

1. Age classifications, "a" through "f", will become effective on the individual's actual birthday. On a year where a competitor is going to move from one classification to the next they may make this change anytime during a 60-day period that begins 30 days prior to their birthday and ends 30 days following their birthday.

- a. Pre-Teen I: 9th birthday or less
- b. Pre-Teen II: 10th or 11th birthday
- c. Junior I: 12th or 13th birthday
- d. Junior II: 14th or 15th birthday
- e. Youth: 16th, 17th or 18th birthday
- f. Adult: 19th birthday or greater

For the calendar year 2012 competitors may choose to compete in the age classifications that were in force during the 2011 calendar year if they wish instead of the age classifications above. The 2011 age definitions follow:

Age classifications, "a" through "f-(3)", will become effective on January 1st of the year in which the individual's classification age is attained, regardless of the actual birth date.

Pre-Teen I: 9th birthday or less
Pre-Teen II: 10th or 11th birthday
Junior I: 12th or 13th birthday
Junior II: 14th or 15th birthday
Youth: 16th, 17th or 18th birthday
Adult: 19th birthday or greater

2. Organizers may combine age classifications as follows:

- a. Pre-Teen I and Pre-Teen II into a single Pre-Teen classification.
- b. Junior I and Junior II into a single Junior classification.
- c. Senior I, Senior II, and Senior III into a single Senior classification.
- d. Organizers may combine classifications not listed above by obtaining written permission from the Ballroom Director.

3. Organizers may offer additional age category competitions, such as "Under 21", etc.

4. Competitors may dance "up" or "down" as follows:

- a. Pre-Teen I competitors may dance up one age classification to "Pre-Teen II".
- b. Pre-Teen II competitors may dance up one age classification to "Junior I".
 - (1) Pre-teen II competitors who dance up to junior must remain in the approved pre-teen costumes. This rule applies to the individual, not to the couple - if only one member of the partnership is a bonafide Junior age competitor then only that individual may wear a "Junior" costume.
- c. Junior I competitors may dance up one age classification to "Junior II".
- d. Junior II competitors may dance up one age classification to "Youth".
- e. Youth competitors may dance up to the Adult classification.
- f. When an organizer combines age classifications (Pre-Teen I & II, Junior I & II or Senior I, II & III) competitors may dance up or down as follows:
 - (1) Only Pre-Teen II age category competitors may dance up into the combined Junior age category.
 - (2) Combined Juniors may dance up into the combined Youth age category.
 - (3) Combined Seniors may dance down into the adult age category.



2026 Rules & Regulations (tentative)

5. The following rules apply to competitors age 18 and under:

- a. For Youth, Junior I and Junior II partnerships, one of the individuals may be no more than two age classifications younger.
- b. If one of the individuals in the partnership is two age classifications younger, then the younger member of the partnership must request permission in writing from the NDCA Ballroom Department and in turn receive written approval prior to being allowed to compete. (example - a "Pre-Teen II" girl wishing to compete with a "Junior II" age boy)
- (1) If written permission is given for the individual to dance up two age classifications, then that person may not return again to dance in the original younger age classification that they "gave up".
- c. Under no circumstance will a Pre-Teen I, Pre-Teen II, or a Junior I competitor be allowed to compete in the Adult age classification.
- d. A Junior II competitor may not apply for permission to dance up as an Adult until they are 15 years old, at which time they would need to apply to the Ballroom Department as noted above.
- e. Youth competitors turning 19 years of age in the calendar year may still dance as youths until they have graduated from "High School".

6. A couple's age classification eligibility is defined as the age of the older partner for the Pre-Teen I, Pre-Teen II, Junior I, Junior II, Youth and Adult classifications, while it is defined as the age of the younger partner for the Senior classifications.

7. Any amateur competitor dancing in a Pre-Teen I, Pre-Teen II, Junior I, Junior II, or Youth "Open Singles Event" may only be partnered by another amateur competitor aged eighteen years or younger."

Pro/Am Competition Rules

1. All students may enter in two age categories. Adults may enter their true age division and one lower while Pre-Teen-Youth students may enter their true age division and one higher. See entry forms for age categories.

2. Dance Level Categories: Material used should be based on an NDCA approved syllabus such as DVIDA, ISTD, etc.

Closed One Dance Division - Restricted To Syllabus

Newcomer - Less than 50 private lessons

Pre-Bronze - Beginning Bronze material

Intermediate Bronze - Intermediate up to Final Bronze.

Full Bronze - Final or completion of Bronze.

Pre-Silver - Beginning Silver material.

Intermediate Silver - Intermediate up to Final Silver.

Full Silver - Final or completion of Silver.

Pre-Gold - Beginning gold material.

Intermediate Gold - Intermediate up to Final Gold.

Full Gold - Final or completion of Gold.

Open One Dance Division - Not Restricted To Syllabus Open Bronze Open Silver Open Gold Open Gold Star Open divisions may incorporate figures from the next higher level (e.g. Open Bronze may have Silver figures).

3. Students may enter at any level of dance and only THREE higher in any one style of dance (American/International) in the closed single dance categories. Students may enter in completely different dance levels in the American Style between Smooth and Rhythm and in the International Style between Standard and Latin-American.



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A Pro/Am student may dance the Open Bronze, Open Silver and Open Gold levels (all 3 levels) if the student is in fact a true Bronze level dancer. The students level will be determined by the single dances entered (A Bronze level student is one who dances the majority of their single dances in the Bronze Level). A student may only dance up in level, never down.

4. No teacher will be permitted to compete with one of his/her students against another of his/her students - it is not possible to compete in the same heat with two people!

5. There is no limit on student entries in Open or Closed Freestyle Divisions.

6. In any category with three entries or less, the organizer reserves the right to eliminate the age and sex divisions and merge competitors into one category.

7. Pro/Am Scholarships and Multi-dance events: To qualify for Scholarship and Multi-dance events a student must enter a corresponding amount of Pro/Am single dances per Scholarship or Multi Dance event entered. The amount of Multi Dance events is unlimited after a student enters 4 Pro Am single dances (only in the same style as single dances). However, every Scholarship event requires additional, corresponding amount of single dances (for example: if a student wants to dance one or more Multi Dance event and one 5-Dance Scholarship - a total of 9 single dances will be required).

All scholarships are unisex competitions for adults. Closed scholarships are restricted to Bronze & Silver students. Please remember that the closed scholarships are restricted to closed syllabus figures (Bronze restricted to Bronze Syllabus and Silver restricted to Bronze & Silver Syllabus). Open scholarships are not restricted to any figures. In any scholarship event with fewer than three entries, the organizer reserves the right to eliminate the age and sex divisions and merge competitors into one division.

- All Scholarship competitors will receive 50% of the prize money offered if the event is held with three or fewer couples.
- Students MAY enter both the Silver & the Open scholarships in the same style.
- Students MUST enter the scholarship level of the highest single dance entry level in a style
- A student may dance two age levels. Their true age and one below.

8. Solo Exhibitions No Solo Exhibition is to exceed 3 minutes. Music must be on: a. Compact Disc, b. mp3 Player/ iPod/ iPad, c. USB Audio media.

9. Formations For additional rules please refer to the current N.D.C.A. Rules & Regulations. Maximum time - limited to three minutes (3:00) for a single dance and four minutes (4:00) for a medley. Timing of routine shall begin and end with the accompaniment. Pro/Am and Amateurs will be judged against one another.

10. Dress Code Evening wear is suggested for Newcomers. Beginning and above levels are open for ball gowns, Latin dresses or matching costumes, but are not mandatory.

11. Restricted Categories/Closed Division Freestyle A panel of invigilators may be used for all restricted categories/closed divisions. The categories will be strictly supervised and competitors committing infractions may be disqualified.

12. Critique/Score Sheets Critique/Score sheets will be given on Solo Exhibitions only.



2026 Rules & Regulations (tentative)

13. Registration All competing Professionals must be currently registered with the N.D.C.A. Registration forms will be available at the competition, or go online at www.ndca.org or may be requested by mail from the following address:

14. Pro/Am Rising Star Events

Pro/Am Rising Star events are open to students who have not placed in the final of the Pro/Am Open Scholarships in that style at any previous North American Imperial Star Ball.

Dance Vision Circuit

The Dance Vision Circuit is the largest international Dancesport Circuit in the world, with over 90 competitions worldwide. Focused on the Pro-Am community, students, teachers, and studios compete for a \$110,000+ cash purse and \$10,000 in additional prizes!

All Top Students, Top Teachers & Top Studios Awards will be presented on Saturday evening at the Emerald Ball Dancesport Championships in beautiful Los Angeles, California, USA.

Web Site: <http://DanceVisionCircuit.com/>

Best of the Best Competition

The Best of the Best Dancesport Challenge is a yearly competition between some of the top Pro/Am couples in the country.

The winners will be invited to the Grand Finale at the Ohio Star Ball in November.

For more information visit bestofthebestdancesport.com

World Pro/Am Dancesport Series

The World Pro/Am Dancesport Series is a network of over 80 Dancesport events held throughout North America that promotes their events with a highly desired reward system. The series is about giving back to you! Accumulating points is the name of the game! Points will rank you Regionally, Nationally, and get cash back to spend!

The top 20 overall students who compete in a World Pro/Am Dancesport event will each receive a Region pin along with their \$100 Voucher Award, which can be used towards Pro/Am entries at any other World Pro/Am Dancesport event outside the region in which you reside.

The placements you receive in our Multi-Dance Championships will earn you points towards the largest Team Match in North America held at the Ohio Star Ball Championships.

All necessary information is detailed at <http://www.dancesportseries.com/>.



2026 Rules & Regulations (tentative)

Student/Student Events

Student/Student events are an accommodation for Pro/Am Student Dancers, and are open only to one adult Pro/Am Student Dancer partnering with another adult Pro/Am Student Dancer – both of whom must comply with the requirements as stated in the definition of a Pro/Am Student Dancer. Student/Student events are not open to amateur dancers who compete in Amateur Competitions and/or Championships at the “Open Amateur” proficiency level as defined in section X. RULES FOR AMATEUR COMPETITORS.

Cancellations/Refunds

The deadline for a refund on a cancellation is **20** days prior to the date the competition commences. Refunds will be made by mail once the organizer has been contacted 20 days following the completion of the competition. There will be a minimum of \$50 service charge, per participant for cancellations. If the Organizer is notified of cancellations after the deadline, credit will be considered in cases of **emergency only** and must accompany a Doctor's Certificate. No substitutions will be allowed for entry cancellations taken at the event. No exchanges or refunds will be made on admission tickets. (ALL TICKET SALES ARE FINAL)

NDCA

All persons attending this event, whether as spectators, officials, competitors or guests of the Organizers shall be bound by the N.D.C.A. rules and by participating in this competition automatically become obliged to adhere to them.

The organizers of this competition and the N.D.C.A. are not responsible for the loss or theft of articles left in the changing rooms, ballroom(s) or hotel rooms. The Organizer(s) and the N.D.C.A. will not be held liable for injuries sustained by persons attending this event, whether as spectators, officials, competitors, or guests of the Organizer(s). Everyone attending does so at his/her own risk.