

2025 ACDA New Rules and Amendments

FROM: Rowdy Dufrene, ACDA Rules Chair

The following are the newest rule changes and amendments to the 2025 ACDA Rules for the upcoming dance season. Please look carefully as we have added divisions and revised several rules to make them clearer.

We, as Directors, strive to provide a welcoming and transparent atmosphere and want to thank you ALL for being a part of and supporting the ACDA Dance Organization!

GENERAL RULES

1.08 Cabaret, (**Added - show dances/solo medley and spotlight dances (Pro Am and Couples: Hats and Boots are not required in these categories)**); however, costuming should fit the character of the performance but must be appropriate for a family-oriented venue.

2.0 Music

2.03 Music for dances as outlined in Appendix D used in an ACDA sanctioned event must be "Country" music, except where outlined below. Country music is defined as any music with country style. The use of non-country music in the Cha Cha, West Coast Swing, Waltz, Viennese Waltz, and Night Club will be allowed (**Removed - at the ACDA Rules Committee discretion**). Non-country Line Dances such as Cuban, Street, and Novelty May use non- country music.

PRO-AM & PRO-PRO

1.0 Pro-Am and Pro-Pro General Rules

1.01 Updated the definitions for Amateurs and Professionals

Amateur Definition:

Amateur refers to any dance competitor who does not meet any of the definition of a "Professional" as outlined in the "Professional" definition of the ACDA rules (see below).

An individual who regularly assists a "Pro" or dance instructor during classes must dance in Pro-Am level novice or above and must enter Couples Division III/Novice or above.

An individual who teaches social classes, non-competitive line dance, non-competitive couples, ballet, jazz, tap and other non-couple dances must dance in Pro-Am level intermediate or above and must enter Couples Division II/Intermediate or above.

An exception may be made to dance in a lower Couples division if the competitor is eligible to drop to that division due to a new partnership.

Any amateur on a 2-year hiatus (or greater) may drop down one (1) competitive division skill level. However, no amateur may drop down to Division IV/Newcomer or Pro-Am Newcomer if they have ever danced Novice or above.

Any prize money given from a sanctioned ACDA event (e.g., Top Student) belongs to the Pro-Am student and is not considered to be professional compensation.

Professional Definition:

A Professional/Instructor is someone who currently teaches/has taught any competitive partner dance forms in the last five (5) years.

Anyone meeting this standard MUST start at a minimum in Couples Level II or Pro-Pro Rising Star.

If a Professional does not teach any competitive partner dance form for five (5) years, they may start at Couples Level II or Pro-Am Intermediate.

NO PRO COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO COMPETE AS AN AMATEUR IN PRO-AM. (see Crossover Rules)

Pro-Am Elite Divisions: This division is only for those competitors who have graduated from the Advanced divisions of Pro-Am. Competitors in the Elite Pro-Am division may choose either to dance flights like Classic SuperStars (**Removed - with a show dance or the**) Showcase Format of Two Step, Waltz, and a Solo Medley (Showcase music rule 2.09 applies). COMPETITORS MAY ONLY DANCE IN ONE OF THESE DIVISIONS. (See Couples rules section 2.1) (**Added - Once a competitor dances in the Elite Division, they may not drop back down to Advanced, unless they have a two (2) year hiatus (see Amateur definition 1.01).**)

Removed CB Combined (30 to 49) and SGP Combined (50 and above)

Pro Am Elite Age Divisions now offered:

Open (18 and older)

Bronze (40 and older)

Gold (60 and older)

1.2 Pro-Am Skill Levels

(Removed Mixed and Changed name to Open Role) Divisions: (Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Elite, Spotlight, and all Pro-Pro divisions): For Pro-Ams where each partner may be of any gender to include one (1) leader and one (1) follower. Amateurs and Pros must adhere to the existing dress code to their presented gender.

COUPLES RULES

2.01 Couples must consist of a leader and a follower. The ACDA Rules & Regulations define a traditional couple in Country dance as a male and a female, where the male leads and the female follows. In the **(Removed Mixed and changed to Open Role)** category, couples may be of any gender combination. Once a leader or follower is established in a heat, they must remain so throughout the entirety of said heat (in

other words, dancers may switch lead/follow in different dances). (See 2.12 for definitions and divisions offered)

2.1 Couples Divisions

Open Divisions and (~~Removed Mixed and Changed to Open Role~~) Divisions (4, 3, 2, 1, & SuperStars): For couples where each partner is at least 18 years old.

Crossover: there is NO crossover from Royal/Regal SuperStars to Classic Superstars. Classic SuperStars may crossover to Royal or Regal Superstars if both partners meet the age requirements and one (1) of the following criteria are met: the partnership is either new, (~~Added - or both partners have not competed in Superstars for two (2) years~~).

LINE DANCE RULES

4.13 Line Dance Format

~~Updated and Clarified~~

4.2 Line Dance Levels

~~4.21 Changed Name from Pre-Newcomer to Starter and Newcomer Line Dance Movement Limitations~~

4.26 Superstars

SuperStars will perform the two dances listed in these rules (~~Removed working and changed Lilt and Rise & Fall to Dance A and Dance B,~~) 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 (Lilt, Rise & Fall, Smooth, Cuban, and Funky,) 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 Dance A and Dance B dances "plain vanilla." Tear away skirts shall be allowed in the Solo Medley.

4.4 Line Dance Competition Music

~~Updated.~~ The music preview will be at the discretion of the Event Director. Music will be faded at approximately 1 ½ minutes for all dances (~~except for dances that have multiple A, B, C, and D pattern structure, which will be the entire song~~). Dance selections will remain in effect for the entire dance season. See ACDA Line Dance Matrix.

DISPENSATIONS

~~The Dispensation information has been updated and will be available on the website!~~

Note: While some of these are minor not rule changes, please note that we removed the Event listing from the rules as well as our Committees and committee members. These will be stand-alone documents on the ACDA website (www.danceacda.com).

Thank you for voicing your opinions and for letting the ACDA know what you want to see from our organization. We try to listen to everyone and hope that you know we are wanting to progress our dance sport in any way we can. We look forward to seeing you all on the dance floor. Feel free to contact any one on the rules committee members with your Questions and concerns.