



danceChamps 2010

Queensland Open Modern Jive danceChamps
Saturday 11th September 2010
Joingy Theatre - Stuartholme School
Birdwood Terrace - Toowong - Brisbane

Competitors' Notes and Regulations

Version 1.3

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1. Introduction

Our sensational danceChamps weekend event is almost here!
We look forward to your early registration and participation!
Please remember that there are only 380 seats available at this awesome new venue.

Modern Jive competitions are gradually becoming more and more standardised but competitions around Australia and overseas do differ. It is in your best interests to read these notes to ensure you understand the way the Queensland Open Modern Jive Championships will run.

So that all competitors know *in advance* what to expect, these notes not only list the rules but in some cases they also provide long-winded rationale (*generally in the appendixes*) for the way we intend to run our event.

Paramount to the hosting of our competition is our aim to run a fair competition of the highest integrity, where everyone is judged without bias and the judging and scoring are as transparent as practically possible.

Please note that the directors of Le Step will enforce the following rules and reserve the right to adjust any of the following rules and/or programme of events as necessary to ensure the success of the Le Step hosted Queensland danceChamps.

“Dance Escape 2010”...

Following the success of our danceEscape 2008, Le Step will be running another danceEscape week in 2010 which incorporates two key events as well as events throughout the week.

1. Our danceWeekender, which will be held on the first weekend of Sep 2010.
2. Our danceChamps, which will be held on the second weekend of Sep 2010.
3. Dance and non-dance related activities throughout the week joining these weekends. (danceWorkshops, combined routine etc)

During the danceEscape week we will be offering you the opportunity to learn an Intermediate/Advanced routine showcasing some of the latest Modern Jive moves and styling. Everyone is welcome to join us as we gather dancers from all over Australia and abroad to learn a FUN routine that will be performed at the pre-danceChamps Party on Friday night 10th Sep. 2010.

The combined choreographers will be;

- Mick French (Le Step Director) and Helen Luery (Bris)
- Lee Rays (Bris) and Kate Cooling (Bris)
- Sean Kavanagh (Syd) and Charlie Cowie (Syd)
- Louise Capps (Syd) and John Kennedy (Syd)

Bios for these dancers will be available under danceEscape at www.lestep.com.au.

See www.lestep.com.au for full details of these events.

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2. Registration of Competitors

Competition is open to anyone who learns Modern Jive with any company anywhere. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

ALL 2010 registrations;

- will be online at www.lestep.com.au
- can be accepted via phone +61 (0)7 3849 2553 or dance@lestep.com.au for those who are technologically challenged :-)
- include a disclaimer against injury that must be signed before competing
- will not be accepted once all available positions have been filled. (limited places)
- **MUST** be made **before Friday 20th August** 2010. (3wks before event)

ALL LATE REGISTRATIONS;

- will incur an additional \$20 late nomination fee
- will **ONLY** be accepted if positions are available.

3. Competitor Fees & Spectator Prices

Competitors:		
• One Category	<i>Non-Reserved seating included</i>	\$35pp
• Two Categories	<i>Non-Reserved seating included</i>	\$45pp
• Three Categories	<i>Non-Reserved seating included</i>	\$55pp
Spectators:	<i>Non-Reserved seating only:</i>	
	<i>purchased before 20th Aug 2010</i>	\$25pp
	<i>purchased after 20th Aug 2010</i>	\$35pp

4. Competitor Registration

Bib number allocation and confirmation of details – Friday night

- Please confirm your registration details in person at the Friday night at the pre-competition buffet dinner dance party. (Weller's Hill Bowls Club - Esher St Ekibin)
 - Registration in foyer area.
 - Those not attending the buffet dinner will be admitted to the main room after 8:15pm. \$10 entry fee will apply.
- Please bring a \$10 note as your refundable deposit for each competitor bib.
 - Lead dancers (males) and DWAS follows (females) will be allocated a bib *number* upon payment on Friday night.
 - You will collect your bib at the competition on the Saturday.
 - Your \$10 note will be refunded at the end of the competition when you return your numbered competitor bib.

Bib collection - Saturday between 11:00 and 11:45am

- All competitors must confirm their arrival at the venue and collect their numbered bib.
- All 'Modern Jive Showcase' and Team competitors *must* attend the morning rehearsals at Stuartholme College.
 - Rehearsal times will be distributed to competitors via e-mail.

It is your responsibility to ensure your competitor bib is securely attached to your back or leg with the safety pins provided and to clearly display your competitor number each time you enter the dance floor and prior to leaving the dance floor.

5. Getting There – Transport and Parking

There is limited parking available onsite at Stuartholme.

- It may be best to lift-share all the way or park near the Mt.Cootha botanic gardens and walk up or lift-share from there to Stuartholme.
- Toowong is also easy access from Brisbane CBD via car or bus.
 - Bus info from Translink on 131230 or <http://www.translink.com.au/>

From out of town?

- You might want to consider staying with some of our locals. You can register for billeting on our web site pages. This will work on a first-in first-served basis so get in quickly if you would like to be billeted.
- If you are intending to stay at a hotel, we suggest you stay in central Brisbane so that you can enjoy dinner and dancing on the Friday night plus Southbank and all that central Brisbane has to offer. There is more info available on our web site.
- It is very likely that after the competition is finished we will be able to organise return travel for you with other competitors heading towards the city.

6. Change Rooms

Small change room facilities are available at the venue.

DO NOT leave valuables unattended in these rooms or anywhere else in the venue. Le Step accepts no responsibility for loss or theft of your possessions.

7. Warm-up and Rehearsal Times

Competitors should take opportunity of the free dance time from 11:30am - 11:50am to ensure they are suitably warmed up.

Competitors must also ensure they are suitably warmed up immediately prior to their event/s.

8. Marshalling Area, Heats, Repechage & posting of results

Marshalling Area

- The 'Green Room' marshalling area is behind the stage area.

Repechage = second chance.

- If you don't make it through to the next round, you will generally have the opportunity to dance again in the 'repechage'.
- It is our intention to always offer repechage but depending on the number of competitors, we may not be able to offer 'repechage' for every event.

Results

- Results of heats and repechage will be posted in the Marshalling Area/Green Room.

9. Seating

- All seating is non-reserved.
 - The tiered seating auditorium allows everyone to be able to see the event.
 - Once we know how many to expect from each group/state, we will suggest suitable areas within the auditorium for the various groups/states so that friends can sit together.

10. Dance Surface and Size

- The dance floor at Stuartholme has been tested by a number of our best dancers and has been given the 'thumbs up'.
- The floor is a stage type floor – timber that has been painted black.
 - Our dancers agreed it was definitely not a 'fast' floor but wasn't too slow either.
- The usable dance floor area is approximately 9m wide by 7m deep.
 - You are not permitted to dance within 1m of the front edge of the floor.

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- If, during the warm-up or general dance time there is not enough room please leave the dance floor rather than put yourself or your partner at any risk.
- During the competition, you should clearly take note of the area in which you and your partner are to dance. If you dance outside this area and interfere with other couples, you may be penalised or disqualified.

11. Refreshments

- Water (with a secured lid) and food purchased at the venue (or similar style of food e.g. not chewing gum) are permitted in the auditorium.
- The canteen will have some basic food available.

12. Still & Video Photography

- We welcome use of still-shot cameras.
- Video photography (in any form) is NOT permitted.
 - To avoid any embarrassment and being evicted from the venue, please tell your friends and family too. "I just want it for my own use" or "I only videoed myself/my partner" is not an excuse to video and will not be tolerated.
- It is a condition of entry that any person involved in any such recording will be removed from the premises. Furthermore, we reserve the right to confiscate any and all equipment involved with any unauthorised recording of the event.

High quality, professionally produced "Impact Videos" of the danceChamps will be on sale and available soon after the event. We expect delivery to you within 3 to 5 weeks. Prices will be as advertised on the nomination forms and on the official programme at the competition.

Like most professionally produced DVDs, our DVDs may be encrypted with anti-copying software that will make it difficult for us or you to make additional copies once they have been duplicated.

13. Modern Jive Competition

Let's be very clear - we are hosting a MODERN JIVE competition – not a general dance competition.

We love dance in whatever style but this competition is provided for dancers of Modern Jive. Those who do not do modern jive, or who do not perform enough Modern Jive as it is currently identified at modern jive classes, will not score well with the judges who will be specifically asked to score according to the rules of our Queensland danceChamps.

Where a 2/3 majority of judges indicate there is not enough evidence of Modern Jive dance, the couple will be disqualified. This rule also extends to our 'Modern Jive Showcase' (which we see as a showcase of Modern Jive) and Team Events.

So, what is Modern Jive? See Appendix C if you want to know more.

14. Levels of Competition

IMPORTANT:

- Competitors may compete at one level of Freestyle only.
- Competitors may compete at one level of DWAS only.
eg You may not compete in Int Freestyle **and** in Advanced Freestyle.
- Competitors **can** compete at a different level for different categories.
eg You can compete at Intermediate Plus DWAS **and** Advanced Freestyle subject to you fitting the criteria for each level.

For more information on why we allow this please see Appendix I.

- As long as they qualify, dancers may compete at one level lower than the highest level at which they have previously competed.
eg If a competitor was forced to moved up a level last year because their partner at that time was in a higher level, they do not have to compete at the higher level again this year if they still qualify for a level one lower than the one at which they competed. They may not move back two levels.

Appendix A includes a list of what CATEGORIES (ie Freestyle or DWAS) are available at each LEVEL.

Modern Jive competition is about being open, honest and fair in your decision to compete at a particular level.

If you require more information on levels, please refer to APPENDIX G.

Why are our categories based on length of time dancing and not the number of classes?
See APPENDIX D

The following is a good guide and should place you in the correct level.

BEGINNER 0 - 12mths

- This level is for *novices* so they can have fun competing against others with little or no experience.
- No significant 'Other Dance Experience' allowed.
 - eg. If you have done Ballroom Medals or have learnt another style of dance for more than say 3 months then this section is most probably not for you.
- May include 'Taxi Dancers' and welcoming/door crew.
- May NOT include regular 'Demonstrators', 'Recap/Consolidation Teachers'.
- Demo/Performance Crew members and those who have done paid performances may not dance at the beginner level.

INTERMEDIATE UNDER 2 YEARS

- Over 12 months but under 2 year's experience.
- May include demonstrators or recap/consolidation teachers.

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- May NOT include regular 'Mainstream Teachers' or 'Regular Class Teachers'.

INTERMEDIATE PLUS

- Over 2 years but not classified as Advanced or Masters.
- May include 'Crew' and Recap/Consolidation/Intro-Mediate/Bridging Class Teachers, 'Taxi Dancers' and Demonstrators.
- May NOT include 'Mainstream' or 'Regular Class Teachers'.

ADVANCED

- Includes advanced dancers as well as current 'Regular Teachers' (sometimes referred to as 'Mainstream Teachers') of dance unless they qualify for 'Masters'.
- 'Regular Teachers' refers to those who have taught on more than 5 nights/sessions.
 - This rule applies regardless of the reason for teaching and regardless of the time period during which these classes were taught.
 - Furthermore, the term 'regular teacher' applies to those who have taught more than five 'workshops', 'private classes' and / or school classes, 'routine sessions' and/or other classes for which they personally and/or the dance group/business/company has received payment.
- Includes dancers who have choreographed routines which have been taught to fee paying clients.
- Members of Demo/Performance Crews may, in consultation with the directors, choose to dance at Intermediate Plus level provided that that is an appropriate level for their ability including that they have been dancing under two years.
- Competitors who at any Intermediate Plus level (or equivalent level, whatever the name) that have placed prior to 1st January 2010:
 - 1st on two or more occasions
 - Any combination of 1st, 2nd or 3rd on 3 or more occasions.
- Dancers (not including regular mainstream teachers) who have previously qualified for 'Advanced' but have not competed and/or have not made it to any final in the past three years, may compete at Intermediate Plus.

THE MASTERS

- Includes elite dancers and professional dance instructors.
- Professional dance instructors and dance professionals are those who receive the majority or a significant portion of their income from dance related activity including teaching or running dance companies. Directors of Dance Companies would normally compete at this level but it is not a requirement for directors to compete at this level if they qualify for a lower level.
- Competitors who have been placed as per below at any Advanced level (or equivalent level, whatever the name) dance competition prior to 1st January 2010;
 - 1st on two or more occasions
 - Any combination of 1st, 2nd or 3rd on 3 or more occasions.
- Dancers (not including Directors) who have previously qualified for 'The Masters' but have not competed and/or have not made it to any final in the last three years, may compete at 'Advanced'.

15. Categories of Competition - Freestyle and DWAS

Freestyle:

- Couples will dance to

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- 1 piece of music during each of the preliminary events
- 2 pieces in the semi-final if time permits – depending on number of competitors.
- 2 pieces of music in the final.
- The above does not apply to The Masters. See below.
- Each piece of music will be of about 1.5 - 2min in duration.
- Many couples will choose to put together a routine and dance their set routine to each piece of music. This can be a good technique for remembering moves but does not always reflect the music. Therefore, the higher the level of competition the less appropriate this strategy becomes. Others may choose to put together small “waves” or sequences of moves to dance during the competition. Others may simply choose to freestyle the whole song. Whichever way you decide to go - it’s up to you!
- Our system for the Masters’ Freestyle Final is a little different but is essentially based on the system introduced by the Victorian Modern Jive Championships in 2008.
 - During the final, couples will dance one group song as well as a spotlight to two songs chosen by the organisers and one song picked at random from a particular genre chosen by the couple.
 - Before the music draw, couples will have an opportunity to see the song titles in each genre & there will be an option to remove that title from a genre list if more than 50% of competitors agree the song is not appropriate for whatever reason

Dance With A Stranger:

- Disclaimer: It is your responsibility to check with your partner and tell your partner if you do not want to do baby aerals, aerial moves, 'up close and personal' moves or other moves that may not suit you for whatever reason.
- Modern Jive is about being able to lead and follow. Therefore the DWAS section is seen as a very important, yet fun, section of the danceChamps.
- The DWAS format will allow you to dance with a variety of different partners in each heat.
- You will meet each DWAS partner on the dance floor as the music is playing.
- As you start your dance together you should check with your partner, which moves they are capable of doing. Tell your partner if you do not feel comfortable doing some moves.
- Aerials are permitted in some levels only. Please see appendix A.
 - A reminder that all aerials are subject to suitable practise and training and there are to be no moves where there is total loss of contact.

During the DWAS Heats:

- Dancers will dance to one piece of music with a variety of different partners that change approximately every 40 to 50 seconds
- Males and females will be judged separately on their ability to dance (lead/follow).
- Leading and following with style is particularly important in this section and this process will see the better dancers make it to the final.

During the DWAS Final:

- Timing for music as per final of the freestyle section.
- Our system for the Masters’ DWAS Final is a little different but essentially based on the system introduced by the Victorian Modern Jive Championships in 2008.
 - During the final, couples will dance 1 group song & spotlight to two songs chosen by the organisers & 1 song picked *at random* from a particular genre chosen by the couple.

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- Before the music draw, couples will have an opportunity to see the song titles in each genre & there will be an option to remove that title from a genre list if more than 50% of competitors agree the song is not appropriate for whatever reason.
- Couples will dance with one allocated mystery partner (that will be determined at random on stage) and will be judged as a couple.
Why are couples judged as individuals in the heats and as a couple in the final?
See Appendix B

Categories / Events at each level are as follows:

See also the brief guide at the end of this document.

Beginner - Freestyle Only

- For safety reasons Aerial manoeuvres are not permitted at these levels of competition and attempting such moves will lead to disqualification.
- At least one foot of both partners must remain below *waist* height at all times.
- Drops and dips are allowed if you have received appropriate instruction and have rehearsed them sufficiently.

Intermediate Under 2 Years, Intermediate Plus & Advanced - Freestyle & DWAS

- Some moves at these levels are restricted. You should check the 'quick reference table' at the end of this document. You must have rehearsed and feel confident doing all aerial moves (including baby aerials) and only do them in sections where they are permitted.
- Be very aware that you may have to avoid some moves (eg Supergirl, Death Spin) due to space restraints. You must be absolutely sure you have enough space to safely do these moves without creating a hazard to others. If in any doubt - abort the move!

Open – ‘Freestyle Aerials Permitted’, Modern Jive Showcase & Team Challenge

Battle of the Sexes

- Find your same sex partner now for the fun Battle of the Sexes competition.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place trophies will be awarded to the top three couples regardless of what gender.

16. Modern Jive Showcase and Team Challenge

In 2010 we have changed the name ‘Cabaret’ to ‘Modern Jive Showcase’.

Modern Jive Showcase clearly indicates this as not a general dance competition but the best modern jive dancers showcasing modern jive!

This is a Modern Jive Competition and emphasis should be placed on dancing Modern Jive. Modern Jive Showcase and Team performances who do not present modern jive will be judged accordingly.

Music

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- A copy of your performance music **MUST** be received no later than three weeks prior to the event – Friday 20th August 2010.
- Competitors may **NOT** reserve songs for their Showcase or Team performance/s.
- Your music should be provided on C.D. as an audio file or MP3 file.
- If possible, you should provide a 'winner's fade' in the hope that you will receive a place. If unsure about this you should discuss a 'winner's fade' with the director of Le Step.
- It is your responsibility to bring a back-up of the music (eg on iPod) with you to the danceChamps.

Heats

- As Australian competitions grow there will be a need for Showcase/Team heats.
- Our policy at this time is, (subject to receiving the nomination form prior to the close of nominations), to guarantee one place per Dance Company in Showcase and Teams. After that, it's a first-come first-served basis until all positions are filled.

Rehearsals

- Modern Jive Showcase couples and Team leaders will be notified via e-mail of your rehearsal time and order of events for the evening.
- The rehearsal order will be as per the draw for the evening.
 - Your rehearsal is for the benefit of the sound and lighting technicians – not you.
 - However, it will also provide an opportunity for you to have a 'one-off' practise before performing it in the competition.

Lighting

- It is in your best interests to keep your lighting requirements simple and provide an outline of your requested lighting requirements when you submit your music.
- No group will be unfairly advantaged by being provided access to the sound and lighting people/system prior to the day of the event.

17. Modern Jive Showcase and Team Challenge Rehearsal

Modern Jive Showcase and Team Challenge dancers will be notified of their rehearsal time, which will be on the morning of the competition.

This schedule will be drawn randomly and publically at our Holland Park class on Monday night 23rd August 2010. We will then do our best to accommodate by negotiation the necessary changes of costume etc and notify dancers of the running order via email.

18. Stage Dimensions

The following are approximate stage measurements at Stuartholme:

- Width = 9m (Proscenium – curtain edge to curtain edge... stay within this.)
- Depth = 7m (Workable stage depth)
- Height = 1m (Therefore you may not dance closer than 1m from the front edge.)
- Photos are available online at www.lestep.com.au under competition.

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19. Aerials - What are they and are they allowed?

It is virtually impossible to get an agreed definition for what constitutes an "aerial" or "air-move" as it is sometimes called. However, to be fair to all, we need a clear-cut rule that determines what dancers can and cannot do in our competition.

For the Queensland danceChamps this is the definition of an aerial:

- An 'aerial' is any move where:
 1. The move is aerial by nature
AND
 2. The majority of either partner's weight is above chest height of their partner.

- A 'baby aerial' is any aerial move where:
 1. The move is aerial by nature
AND
 2. The majority of either partner's weight is below chest height of their partner.

Disallowed Aerial Moves:

- There is a total ban on attempting any move where either partner is airborne with no support and no contact from their partner. (eg Triple back flip with a 1½ pike.)
- Please keep in mind that as spectacular as this might be, we are running a dance competition, not a circus. Safety is our first priority.
- Furthermore, you may only attempt aerials if you have received appropriate instruction, have had ample experience without mishap and have permission from your partner to do such moves.
- Remember, it is important that you do not do too many aerials. Whilst 'waves' of aerials can look great they generally mean the guys spending their time standing still and doing lots of lifting. This is not dancing (moving to the music) but is simply providing a platform for the girls and you will be penalised for not demonstrating an ability to dance mainstream modern jive to the music. This also applies to Modern Jive Showcase and Team Events.

20. BREACH OF RULES POLICY

In the spirit of Modern Jive competition, it is rare that competitors who read the rules end up in breach of the rules. However, if you think you or someone else has broken the rules you should refer to appendix H.

21. Judges

We will have a large panel of judges from a variety of different backgrounds and Modern Jive dance groups. This enables a fair and impartial judging system. At our last championships we had almost 30 judges!

We believe we owe it to the competitors to provide the judges with formal training in what they should look for as judges and discuss issues openly to make the judging as fair as possible. As per our last few competitions, Le Step Dance Company will run a Judges' Training Workshop prior to the competition for all Queensland Judges.

We have long discussed Judges' Training Workshops with the other major dance groups in Australia and we still encourage them to run training sessions for judges. It is also our hope to meet with the judges and watch video footage of past competitions to enable a forum to openly discuss what each judge is looking for. In this way, we hope to establish more uniformity between the judges.

Another Judges' Workshop will be held during Dance Escape 2010. Judges, please see our web pages for more information.

Furthermore, all local and interstate judges will attend a meeting on the day of the competition to fully discuss the judging process for this competition.

For all levels and categories, the judges will use a ranking system which is the judging process widely adopted at Modern Jive competitions.

Other notes on the judging / scoring process... see *Appendix F*

22. Judges' Meeting

The judge's meeting will be at 10:30am in the meeting rooms at the venue. Please ask our crew at the front desk for directions.

23. Friday Night Social - Dinner and Dancing

There will be a fun social Dance on the Friday night (10th September) for all competitors, interstate and overseas guests. This is a brilliant opportunity to meet dancers from all over and who knows; perhaps you will dance with your mystery DWAS partner!

Venue: Weller's Hill Sports Club – Esher St Ekibin
Time: 6pm till 11:30pm
Food: Buffet Dinner and Desert and Heaps of Dancing.
Cost: All this for \$30

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Queensland dancers: please note that your "regular" 'Monthly Pass' will not be accepted before 8:15pm for this event as food will be served to everyone in the hall.

24. Recovery Sunday

There will be a social get-together organised for the day after the competition. This is a great opportunity to spend time getting to know dancers from all over Australia and overseas.

25. From Interstate or Overseas?

Some of our volunteers have offered to billet interstate & overseas guests. Please register online if you are interested.

You're already paying for an airfare so it makes sense to get the best value for your money by extending your stay in Queensland. Why not get some friends together and soak up some Queensland sun for a few days? Let us know if you are staying on for a while and if there are a quite a few we will try to organise some group activities at discount prices.

You should also check out all the danceEscape 2010 information at www.lestep.com.au.

APPENDIX A - Ready Guide to Events

This is a quick handy guide ONLY and must be used in conjunction with all competitor notes above.

LEVEL	CATEGORY	AERIALS
Beginner (Under 12mths)	Freestyle	No
	DWAS	No
Intermediate - Under 2 Yrs	Freestyle	*Baby Aerials only
	DWAS	*Baby Aerials only
Intermediate Plus (Over 2 Years)	Freestyle	*Baby Aerials only
	DWAS	*Baby Aerials only
Advanced	Freestyle	*Baby Aerials only
	DWAS	*Baby Aerials Only
Masters	Freestyle	*Baby Aerials Only
	DWAS	*Baby Aerials Only
Open	Battle of the Sexes / Same Sex Category	YES
	Showcase	YES
	Team Challenge	YES

* Please check our definitions for Baby Aerials & Aerials.

* All aerials are subject to the rules and guidelines contained in this document.
Please read them.

For clarification of anything contained in these pages, please contact the Le Step office on (07) 3849 2553 or Mick on 0412 174 111.

You can also email mick@lestep.com.au.

APPENDIXES B-I

The appendixes after here are required to run a professional competition but are generally only good reading for insomniacs and those who are anal about rules. :-)

APPENDIX B – Judging DWAS as partners or individuals.

Firstly, this is a “partner dance competition” and therefore we must, by definition, be ultimately judging couples as couples. It makes no sense to judge partnerships as individuals. It is how two people work together as a couple that is important.

Consider the guy who becomes aware his partner is a fantastic spinner so he unselfishly works as a couple by enabling her to perform to the audience by spinning her with a fantastic lead. For this, he may have danced well as a partnership but he is likely to get less attention from the judges than the guy who ignores his partner so he can simply show off his own spinning or styling. Similar issues develop for judges when they miss, for example, the guy who leads well, or the guy who provides a great platform for aeriels or the girl who simply wants to hijack moves to show off her own style.

So why do we judge individuals as individuals in the heats? It’s definitely not an ideal system (and no system is perfect) but it does provide us with an imperfect way of trimming the field before we get a smaller group of dancers who are hopefully more suited to the final. In this way, the final is a pool of dancers who are reasonably good for their level and as such, getting a partner in the final is less of a ‘lucky dip’ than it would be otherwise.

Q: What is the definition of a mystery partner in the final?

A: Upon meeting your DWAS partner in the final (only) you should ask yourself...

- Have you ever danced with that person on a regular basis?
- Apart from this weekend, have you danced with that person in the last three months?
- Is there any reason why you think you shouldn't dance with your allocated partner or any reason why you think someone else on the dance floor might think you shouldn't be dancing with your allocated partner? (Just because they think you'll win is not a reason!)
- If the answer to any of these is ‘yes’ you should volunteer to the M.C. to swap partners.

APPENDIX C – What is Modern Jive?

Q: So, what is "Modern Jive"?

A: Modern Jive is a dance form that just keeps evolving. Its ability to evolve is a fantastic thing because that will always keep this style fun and exciting and modern!

The easiest way to work out what is Modern Jive is to;

- look at what has been and is currently taught by Modern Jive Dance Companies in their mainstream classes and workshops.
- look at other styles of dance to determine what Modern Jive is not.

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Trends and fads are fantastic to incorporate into our dancing but if you can't show an ability to dance basic mainstream modern jive (as taught at mainstream modern jive classes) then you cannot expect the judges to look favourably upon your dancing. No doubt there are other generic 'dance competitions' to cater for you but this is specifically a 'Modern Jive Competition'.

At mainstream classes and workshops you will find some inherent things that make modern jive what it is and clearly not some other form of dance (or even a lack of dance). Here are just a few examples:

- Traditionally, there has been a dip on the "and" count. ie Knees bend as we step away from and towards partners on the "and" counts. Whilst this is less apparent nowadays, there may still be evidence of this. Certainly, the generally accepted norm for modern jive style is not bended knee leg-action found in West Coast Swing.
- The footwork is not that done in Salsa or other Latin Styles. Nor is it Rock 'n' Roll format or Ballroom format. Nor does it include lots of 'triple-steps' found in WCS.
- Boys step R, L, R, L. Girls step L, R, L, R.. So-called 'Beginner Footwork' (similar to common UK footwork) is different to our 'Step Footwork', yet it is clearly identifiable as a version of Modern Jive.. So whilst there are some identifiable variations, the basic stepping principle (above) is essentially true in Modern Jive. Throwing in the occasional step from another style can be fun and is very acceptable in freestyle or competition but should not play a major role in this dance.
- Modern Jive also allows for 'no footwork' for limited periods of time as per the way it is taught at classes. Those who dance this way should continue moving their body to the music (ie dance) rather than just stand still. Keeping feet planted on the spot for long periods and/or not showing evidence of footwork in time with the music is not acceptable as modern jive.
- Too many aerials may not be indicative of this dance style.

Whilst aerials may be taught at mainstream classes and workshops, they generally do not take up the entire routine. Your dancing at competition should demonstrate your ability to do general floor work.

Each year our Queensland judges will attend a training workshop.

In 2008 the Judges' Workshop will be run during the week of dance Escape and is open to all judges and only judges. Details of Dance Escape activities can be found on our web site..

A final note on making sure you dance Modern Jive: If you are questioning yourself as to whether it is counted as Modern Jive then you can be sure the panel of astute judges will have issues with it too!

APPENDIX D – Levels based on time and achievements.

Q: Some comps base the level on dancer on the number of classes.

Why are our categories based on length of time dancing and not the number of classes?

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A: Because Le Step, and most other dance groups, has the ability to check our database to confirm when people first attended at our classes. Most people remember when they started but many cannot be sure how many classes they have done in that time. Furthermore, it's *generally* true that someone who has done 20 classes in one month will not be as good as someone who has done 20 classes over three months. It takes time to improve. On the other hand, if they are keen to do 20 classes per month for three months they should be commended on their enthusiasm for Modern Jive rather than penalised.

As outlined below, previous *winner*s of Beginner, Intermediate Under 2 Years, Intermediate Plus, Advanced (or similar levels at other modern jive competitions - albeit under different names) must compete up one level *only* if they received that title prior to 1st January 2008. This rule applies to all local, national or international modern jive dance competitions. Other finalists do not have to compete up one level.

In the case where a dance group issues special cards to allow its clients to participate in classes and workshops of an intermediate or advanced standard, competitors must compete at the level shown on the card regardless of the time period for which they have held the card. In this way, it will be a clear-cut rule for all Le Step hosted competitions.

APPENDIX E – No reservation of music for Team/Showcase.

Q: Why do we not allow anyone to reserve music?

A: The policy of reserving music was one that worked extremely well in the days when the Modern Jive movement was much smaller and all the competitors were just from one club/group or even just one state. With expansion, we now have many competitors entering from a variety of states and overseas who have been working and re-working on their routine for months and months - unaware of what other states / groups / have been preparing for their own local / state competitions. It seems grossly unfair to not welcome all competitors - just because someone else (in our state or otherwise) wants to use the same piece of music.

Furthermore, in our constant endeavour to always run, and be seen as running, an extremely fair and totally non-political event, which is open nationally and internationally, we will not place ourselves in a position where we have to inform someone that they can't compete because someone else has 'presumably' already booked that music.

If, however, the Le Step directors become aware that two or more couples and/or Teams have inadvertently chosen the same piece of music, we will do all we can to encourage a change of music on behalf of the second couple/team to inform us of their choice. Therefore, it is still in your best interests to 'get in first' and register your choice of music sooner rather than later. We have already started to keep a record of music that couples/teams have chosen for this year's competition.

Ultimately, two couples and/or teams choosing the same piece of music will become a case of "may the best couple / team win". And, we're sure you agree, a level playing field for all is what fair competition is all about! No doubt each piece of music will be interpreted totally differently in each performance but if you are concerned about this, your best option is to choose music that you feel others probably won't choose. There is plenty of great music out there!

APPENDIX F – Judging/Scoring Process/Program

Other notes on the judging / scoring process...

- In our quest to provide the competitors with the fairest system of judging/scoring, we have worked through numerous scenarios. It is clear that there is no perfect system but we believe that we have adopted the best and fairest system available. This is a system of ranking that ensures the results cannot be dictated by an individual judge.
- Le Step will again use computer software created by Le Bop Melbourne. Le Bop has agreed to work with us and other interested dance groups to establish a more uniform system of judging. This will enable judges to become more familiar with one consistent system and enable competitors to feel comfortable in the knowledge that they will be judged on a fair and equitable system.

Furthermore, you should be aware that the following strategies are in place to ensure a competition of the highest integrity:

- Queensland Judges will have to attend a 'Judges Training Workshop' run by Le Step Dance Company. This will assist the judges in their ability to judge fairly and without bias. It will also provide potential judges with an open forum to discuss issues relevant to the judging process. It is hoped that other states will follow suit by providing training sessions for their judges.
- As a matter of principle, the directors of Le Step will not judge at this competition hosted by Le Step Pty Ltd.
- The directors of the host company (Le Step) do not, at any time, have the ability to alter the judge's results.
- Judges will not judge any event in which their life partner or regular dance partner is competing.
- In the event of a tie, one judge is ignored at random (computer generated) and only for the purposes of separating the tied couple/s. This is not used for deciding other placings in that event.
- In the event that a judge scores their card incorrectly, their score will be removed for the entire round and the results of the other judges will be final.
- We are also looking for up to two people (maximum of one from Queensland and not from Le Step) to act as a scrutineer. This person will oversee the tabulation of judges' results to ensure accountability and that no mistakes are made in processing the results. Please [email mick@lestep.com.au](mailto:mick@lestep.com.au) if you are not dancing at the competition and would like to volunteer to be our scrutineer.

APPENDIX G – More info on levels of competition.

More information on LEVELS:

- If you are in ANY doubt as to which section you are best suited, please discuss it with a mainstream teacher and contact the director of Le Step for confirmation.
- Competitors from other dance groups, including Interstate & Overseas competitors may be 'graded' by the various local mainstream teachers of Modern Jive in liaison with the directors of Le Step. Once again, we would like to stress that you and your mainstream teacher should contact us beforehand if there are any "potential issues".

- You may be asked to provide a list of all 1st, 2nd & 3rd places you have received in any modern jive dance competitions (local, national or international). Le Step will use this information in case of issues surrounding correct levels of competition.
- The Le Step directors reserve the right, in consultation with at least one other dance company director to determine at the competition, which category would be most suited for competitors and the rules will be strictly adhered to for the benefit of all involved.
- In the interests of the majority of competitors, it is our default policy that when in doubt, a competitor must compete one level up rather than one level down. This may inconvenience one couple but will ensure the competition is fair for the majority of couples competing.
- Competitors must dance at the level appropriate for the most experienced person in the couple.
- Based on these rules, competitors may compete at the lowest level for which they qualify even if they have been forced to dance at a higher level at another competition.
- Please be aware that we *will* disqualify competitors *after* the competition if we become aware post-competition that they have not been open and honest about the level at which they should compete.

APPENDIX H - Breach of Rules Policy

Determination of Breach of Rules;

- Two judges must independently report the incident to the head judge.
- The head judge will review the situation with the two or more judges reporting the incident.
- Together, they will decide (by majority vote if necessary) to either;
 - o Take action as per the process for breaches of rules listed below
 - or
 - o In the event of a “borderline or debatable infringement”, may request the involvement of the Judging Panel in determining if there was a clear breach of rules before deciding (by majority vote) to proceed with the process outlined below.

Breach of Rules in Heats, Repechage & Semi-Finals:

- The Head Judge will explain the breach of rules to the couple concerned
- The couple will be warned of the implications of future breaches.
and
- The couple will incur the penalty of being marked down one ranking in the offending heat, repechage or semi-final.
- The couple will incur the penalty of being marked down two rankings in the offending heat, repechage or semi-final if they breached the rules in any previous round and were given a warning.

Breach of Rules in Finals:

- The Head Judge will explain the breach of rules to the couple concerned
and
- The couple will incur the penalty of being marked down two rankings in the final regardless of whether or not the breach is for the same or similar offence.

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or

- The couple will incur the penalty of being marked down three rankings if they were notified at any time throughout the competition for *any* breach of the rules and regardless of whether or not the breach is for the same or similar offence.

In the very unlikely event that a couple display numerous blatant breaches of the rules (that are unsafe or not in the spirit of Modern Jive competition - as decided by the head judge) the judges reserve the right, only by a minimum 2/3 majority vote, to disqualify the offending couple immediately.

Vote Procedure:

In all cases where decisions need to be put to a vote;

- The Head Judge and other judges will avoid mentioning the couple's names and simply speak about the incident.
- The vote will come from the entire judging panel for that heat/final.
- Judges who did not actually witness the incident may choose to abstain from voting.
- The head judge will not vote unless the head judge is part of the judging panel for that event.
- The directors/organisers of the event will not vote.

Policy for informing the other competitors and spectators:

Our aim is not to embarrass any competitors who may breach the rules but it is only fair to other competitors and spectators that they are informed of;

- any penalty or disqualification imposed
- the specific category and level of competition in which this occurred

Informing everyone immediately will also help educate the other competitors that the judges are prepared to enforce the rules of *this* competition and thereby act as an incentive to reading the rules and as a deterrent to flouting the rules.

As soon as practically possible;

- The Head Judge will;
 - notify the couple concerned that they were disqualified for a breach of the rules and explain why
- The M.C. will;
 - announce that there was a penalty imposed and/or subsequent disqualification due to a further breach in the rules.
 - mention the Category *and* Level of Competition in which the breach occurred.
- The M.C. will NOT;
 - mention the couple's names.

Again, immediately prior to the overall presentation of Championship Awards;

- The M.C. will;
 - announce that there was a penalty imposed and/or subsequent disqualification due to a further breach in the rules.
 - mention the Category *and* Level of Competition in which the breach occurred.

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- The M.C. will NOT;
 - mention the couple's names.

APPENDIX I – Different levels for Freestyle and DWAS.

Why can competitors compete at a different levels for Freestyle and DWAS?

Some dancers are awesome when they can train and perform with just one partner but are not so awesome when they have to use general lead and follow skills with multiple partners.

There are dance skills that are required for both Freestyle and DWAS but there are other skills that are particularly important for DWAS.