

Revision of Judging the Dance

Judging Commission's ideas for improving our
judging system

Judging Commission:

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Guiding principles

- There are no barriers for ideas – even big changes are allowed
- A good judging system should:
 - distinguish between good and better performances as well as between bad and worse
 - be easy to handle for judges and scrutineers
 - be comprehensible (ideally also for the audience)
 - be tolerant to errors of judges (as far as possible)
 - provide feedback to dancers and coaches about how to improve
- A good judging system should therefore have:
 - well defined criteria with (ideally) no overlap (clarity and unambiguity)
 - not too many criteria in order to not distract the attention from the dancefloor
 - not too few criteria in order to provide meaningful feedback
 - balanced weight of criteria to reflect their importance in performing our dance
- Positive points → positive thinking (see and award what is good)

What we should keep

- Separation between Acro and Dance judges (focus!)
- Median/average of multiple scores, to avoid too high influence of individuum
 - Consequently „one judge per criterion“ discarded
 - What about the observer role?
How to establish a kind of „four eye principle“ at least?
- Similar scales for deductions in Acro and basic step
- Small/big mistakes (generally)

What we should adjust

- Unambiguous criteria: more precise and partly new focus and definitions
 - Remove unclear fields (Bonus)
 - Use clear separation of technical value and execution (like we do for acrobatics)
 - Rephrase definitions and avoid misleading leftovers from different approaches in the document „Judging the Dance“
 - Better define small/big mistakes
- Deductions scale for basic step like acrobatics: linear, points instead of %
 - no effect as value for basic step is anyway defined
- Simplify judging for the first rounds
 - More focus on the dancefloor
- Create rules where there are gaps
 - a couple not dancing at all should not be „better“ than a couple dancing with mistakes

How could the tablet look like – basic structure

Basic step	man	X	-95	-90	-85	-80	-75	-70	-65	-60	-55	-50	-45	-40	-35	-30	-25	-20	-15	-10	-5	OK
	woman	X	-	-90	-	-80	-	-70	-	-60	-	-50	-	-40	-	-30	-	-20	-	-10	-5	OK

Change scale to look linear



Dance

	Single element level (dance figures)	Program level (choreography)
Technical value	Variety / Difficulty / Originality 0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	Structure / Ideas / Musicality / Diffic. 0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
Execution	Accuracy / Synchronicity / Harmony 0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	Performance / Presentation / Impact 0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

Negative points:

Small mistakes: -2

- 0 +

Big mistakes: -10

- 0 +

Idea: Use scale 0-10 instead of 0-5 to closer reflect actual points in final calculation? Not really necessary! Doesn't make a difference

Simplified version for preliminary rounds

Basic step	man	X	-	-90	-	-80	-	-70	-	-60	-	-50	-	-40	-	-30	-	-20	-	-10	-5	OK
	woman	X	-	-90	-	-80	-	-70	-	-60	-	-50	-	-40	-	-30	-	-20	-	-10	-5	OK

Technical value	Variety / Difficulty / Originality											Structure / Ideas / Musicality / Diffic.										
	0	-	1	-	2	-	3	-	4	-	5	-	6	-	7	-	8	-	9	-	10	
Execution	Accuracy / Synchronicity / Harmony											Performance / Presentation / Impact										
	0	-	1	-	2	-	3	-	4	-	5	-	6	-	7	-	8	-	9	-	10	

Negative points:

Small mistakes: -2

- 0 +

Big mistakes: -10

- 0 +

To be defined:

- Use for all rounds with more than 1 couple / formation on stage?
- Is it good for semifinale? → Details make the difference!
→ Judging Commission proposal is to use full form for semifinals and finals (except for small formations)

Basic structure – Juniors + CDS

man	X	-95	-90	-85	-80	-75	-70	-65	-60	-55	-50	-45	-40	-35	-30	-25	-20	-15	-10	-5	OK
Basic step																					
woman	X	-	-90	-	-80	-	-70	-	-60	-	-50	-	-40	-	-30	-	-20	-	-10	-5	OK

Dance		Single element level (dance figures)	Program level (choreography)
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	Acrobatics	Execution 0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	Technical value: Difficulty / Variety 0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

Negative points:

Small mistakes: -2

- 0 +

Big mistakes: -10

- 0 +

Basic structure formations follows this logic

Distinction between „movement“ and „positions“ as the new basic principle for unique criteria w/o overlap!
Anything concerning MOVES is judged within dance / anything concerning POSITIONS is judged in formation mark

Basic step		<table><tr><td>X</td><td>-</td><td>-90</td><td>-</td><td>-80</td><td>-</td><td>-70</td><td>-</td><td>-60</td><td>-</td><td>-50</td><td>-</td><td>-40</td><td>-</td><td>-30</td><td>-</td><td>-20</td><td>-</td><td>-10</td><td>-5</td><td>OK</td></tr></table>																					X	-	-90	-	-80	-	-70	-	-60	-	-50	-	-40	-	-30	-	-20	-	-10	-5	OK
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Formation mark		Accuracy / (Synchronicity)										Positions: Difficulty / Variety / Creativity																															
		<table><tr><td>0</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr></table>										0	-	1	-	2	-	3	-	4	-	5	<table><tr><td>0</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr></table>										0	-	1	-	2	-	3	-	4	-	5
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Negative points:

Small mistakes: -2

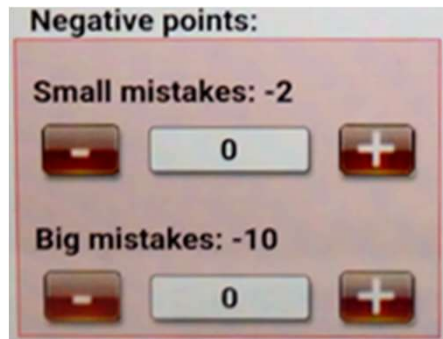
- 0 +

Big mistakes: -10

- 0 +

Check potentially new assignment of points to criteria (weighting)

Definition of Mistakes – current status



Rhythm mistakes, either small (≤ 4 beats) or big (> 4 beats)

- Opposite rhythm → move to basic step deductions! ✓
- Uncontrolled dance movement ✓
- Break of the dance (one or both dancers) ✓
- Fall down in dance ✓
- „technical rhythmic mistakes of basic step“ (only small, only once) ✗
→ move to basic step deductions!

New Definition of Mistakes

Proposal

A small/big mistake is subtracted according to the following criteria:

- Fall down in dance:
unintentional body contact with the ground; body contact = excluding hands or feet
- Break of the dance:
obvious unintended stop of dancing due to lack of understanding between partners or a mistake (stop of 1 dancer already qualifies for the mistake)
- Uncontrolled dance movement:
obvious unintended different dancing (including unintended bouncing/hopping/stepping) due to lack of understanding between partners or due to different memorization of their program
- Opposite rhythm kicks:
kicks on beat 2 or 4 instead of beat 1 and 3 of each bar (4/4 Rock'n'Roll music)



Open points

- Individual skills of dancer (e.g., posture, turnings) together with basic step as basic technique?
 - Currently part of execution
 - Execution could then focus on synchronicity and harmony between dancers (we are a couple dance sport or formation, so this is most relevant)
- Redistribution of points in formations
 - more weighting to choreography (dance part), less for formation mark
- Collection of examples („worst of...“) especially for mistakes



Ideas discussed but not pursued / approved by presidium

- Separate acro judges for CDS (not approved by presidium)
 - Requires acro catalogue with allocated value of acrobatic (like for main class)
 - Requires announcement of acros (like for main class)

Next steps

- Introduction of ideas to AGM to explain / discuss proposals
- Assuming acceptance:
 - Finetuning and alignment with acro changes (e.g., scale for deductions)
 - Work on details for update of document „Judging the dance“
 - Contact VP Education for planning of respective seminars or other training for judges
 - Implementation of „new“ system in Linum software: who will take care?

WRRC

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