

Rules & Regulations 2026

I. General Event and Competition Guidelines

- A. The competition is scheduled to be held at the Disney's Coronado Springs Resort Convention Center.
- B. The competition officials shall have the right to alter the time and location of the competition in the event changes become necessary due to inclement weather, facility problems, video production requirements, or any other situation deemed by the competition officials to be essential to the successful execution of the competition.
- C. Athletes at The Dance Worlds may not perform more than five times and must represent the same club. Athletes may not compete in more than one routine in the same category and division. Example: A dancer may not compete in two Senior Small Jazz routines.
- D. Teams may not use Walt Disney World® themes, nor may they have costumes that resemble a Walt Disney World® character. However, Walt Disney World® music is acceptable if music licensing guidelines are followed.
- E. Routine performance time may not exceed two minutes and fifteen seconds (2:15) and may not be less than one minute and forty-five seconds (1:45).
- F. Each team is required to assign a responsible adult who knows the routine and music to stay at the music station during the team's performance. This representative is responsible for starting the music and stopping the music in case of technical malfunction or injury. Please make sure that all devices are fully charged, placed in airplane mode and the volume is turned up.
- G. The performance floor surface will be a Marley floor with a center line from the front to the back. The performance floor is 53.7 feet wide and 50 feet deep. The Marley floor is comprised of 10 strips, each 5 feet 3.5 inches wide. Each performance floor is on a stage. Each stage measures 60 feet wide and 56 feet deep.
- H. For the safety of all competitors, teams may not alter the performance surface (i.e. use of powder, flakes, rosin, etc.).
- I. Athletes shall use the designated stage entrance and exit areas only. Dancers may not enter and exit the stage during a routine. The use of wings is prohibited.
- J. All center markers are prohibited. All performance surfaces will have the center marked.
- K. Use of fire, noxious gases, live animals and other potentially hazardous, inert elements are strictly prohibited.

II. Performance Behavior

- A. Athletes are expected to exhibit the utmost sportsmanship, respect and support throughout the entire event.
- B. From team introduction, competitors are expected to take the floor within 30 seconds and assume starting position of the routine. At the conclusion of the routine, competitors are expected to exit the performance floor immediately, within 30 seconds.
- C. Actions that exhibit excessive boasting, a delay in competition, poor sportsmanship, unprofessional behavior, etc. may be penalized. All facets of a performance, including choreography and music, should be appropriate and suitable for family viewing.
- D. Athletes with bare midriffs or exposed upper legs (e.g., leotards without shorts) must wear suitable cover-ups, except in the warm-up area, on deck or on stage.
- E. Male-registered dancers must keep torsos covered. Shirtless appearances, unbuttoned shirts with nothing underneath or mesh-only tops are not allowed.
- F. Teams will be assessed a point penalty for exhibiting unsportsmanlike, unprofessional, disrespectful and/or unsupportive behavior. The amount of the penalty will be determined by competition officials.

III. Interruption of Performance

Competition officials reserve the right to interrupt a team's routine at any time deemed necessary and not covered by items A, B, or C.

A. Unforeseen Circumstances

1. If, in the opinion of the competition officials, a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the competition equipment, facilities, or other factors attributable to the competition rather than the team, the team affected or competition officials may stop the routine.
2. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the competition officials. The competition officials will determine if the team will perform again immediately or be allowed to perform at a later time. If decided by officials, the team will perform the routine again in its entirety, but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred. The spot in the schedule where the re-performance is to take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials.

B. Fault of Team

1. In the event a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the team's own equipment and/or music, the team must continue the routine.
2. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the competition officials. The competition officials will determine if the team will perform again immediately or be allowed to perform at a later time. If decided by officials, the team will perform the routine again in its entirety, but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred. The spot in the schedule where the re-performance is to take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials.

C. Injury

1. Persons that may stop a routine for injury are: competition officials, the club owner/head coach from the team performing, or an injured individual.
2. The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform at a later time. If the competition officials allow a routine to be performed at a later time, the spot in the schedule where the re-performance is to take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials. The injured athlete that wishes to perform may not return to the competition floor unless:
 - a. The competition officials receive clearance from, first, the medical personnel attending to that athlete, the parent/guardian (if present), AND THEN the head coach/owner of the competing team.
 - b. If medical personnel do not clear the athlete, the athlete can only return to the competition if a parent or legal guardian in attendance signs a return-to-participation waiver.
 - c. In the event of a suspected concussion, the athlete cannot return to perform without clearance from a medical doctor or designated official specifically trained in concussion management, even with a waiver from a parent or legal guardian.

IV. How to Handle Procedural Questions

Any question concerning the rules or procedures of the competition will be received only from one designated representative of the team (coach, director or club owner) and should be directed to a competition official. Such questions should be made prior to the team's performance. Any questions concerning the team's performance should be made to a competition official immediately after the team's performance.

V. Interpretations and Rulings

Any interpretation of any aspect of these rules and regulations or any decision involving any other aspect of the competition will be rendered by the event officials. The event official and judges will render a judgment in an effort to ensure that the competition proceeds in a manner consistent with the general spirit and goals of the competition.

VI. Finality of Decision

By participating in The Dance Worlds, each team agrees that the decisions by the judges will be final and will not be subject for review. Each team acknowledges the necessity for the judges to make prompt and fair decisions in this competition and each team therefore expressly waives any legal, equitable, administrative, or procedural review of such decisions.

VII. Sportsmanship

All athletes agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout and following the competition. Club owners and coaches of each team are responsible for seeing that team members, coaches, parents and any other persons affiliated with the team conduct themselves accordingly. Severe cases of unsportsmanlike conduct are grounds for disqualification as explained in this document.

VIII. Deductions and Disqualifications

Any team in violation of USASF and/or IASF Dance Rules will be assessed a penalty between 0.25 and 6.0 points off the final score.

IX. Scores and Rankings

Individual judge's score sheets are for the exclusive use of each particular judge. Each judge has the responsibility and authority to review and submit his or her final scores and rankings prior to the final tally of the scores for all teams. Scores and rankings will be available only to club owners and coaches at the conclusion of the division.

X. In the Event of a Tie

- A. **USASF Senior Divisions** will NOT break ties for teams advancing to the next round or final placements, including Bronze, Silver and Gold. Instead, the placement will reflect the tie. For example, if two teams are tied for 2nd place, the standings will be listed as: 1st, 2nd, 2nd, 3rd.
- B. If **USASF Senior Division** teams are tied when moving on to the next round or the finals, they will perform in the opposite order from their previous round performance.
- C. **IASF Open and Junior Divisions** will NOT break ties for finals placements including bronze, silver and gold.

XI. Music and Limitations

Routine music used at The Dance Worlds must comply with applicable copyright law. At Worlds, all teams must provide proof of licensing. This will be reviewed during roster verification (see page 15). This may include:

- A. proof of purchase from an approved music provider;
- B. if using a single song, receipt from purchase of single song; or
- C. if using an editor (editors do not have to be on the provider list), they must be able to provide you with proof of purchase from a provider and proof of licensing for all sound effects and voiceovers included in the mix.

If you have questions, contact smbate@usasf.net.

XII. Appearances, Endorsements and Publicity

All teams agree to have all appearances, endorsements and publicity approved through the IASF/USASF office.

XIII. USASF/IASF Logo Use

Teams will not be allowed to use the IASF/USASF logo or The Dance Worlds logo on items or apparel including banners, rings, bows, t-shirts, etc.

XIV. Rules

The Dance Worlds follows the most recent versions of the USASF Dance Rules for the Senior Divisions and the IASF Dance Rules for the Open and Junior Divisions. To access USASF rules, go to [USASF Dance Rules](#).

XV. Disney Costume Rule

Teams may not use Disney themes, nor may they have costumes that resemble Disney characters. However, Disney music is acceptable if following the music guideline. See *XI. Music and Limitations*.