

USASF: A Contemporary or Lyrical routine uses organic, expressive, pedestrian and/or traditional modern and/or ballet vocabulary as it **complements the lyric, mood and/or rhythmic value of the music**. Emphasis is placed on control, expressive movement, dynamics, alignment, use of breath, uniformity, communication and **may incorporate purposeful elements and skills**.

IASF: Performances in Open Open incorporate organic, pedestrian and/or traditional modern or ballet vocabulary as it **complements the lyrics and/or rhythmic value of the music**. An emphasis is placed on group execution, including synchronization, uniformity and spacing. The choreography of a dynamic and effective routine utilizes musicality, staging and complexity of movement and skills. Costuming should reflect the category style.

OVERALL EFFECT

Communication/Projection, Audience Appeal and Appropriateness Judges will credit: genuine use of projection and energetic expression, including body energy; the fulfillment of the genre per the category description; has age-appropriate music, costumes and choreography that enhance the routine.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Musicality Judges will credit: how well the movement complements unique musicality and dynamics of the music; the originality of routine and concept. Movement that utilizes the music's accents, rhythm, tempo, phrasing, lyrics, style, etc.

Routine Staging / Visual Effects Judges will credit: how the choreography utilizes the stage exploring all directions/aspects and how the dancers are presented on the floor; the structure of challenging and unpredictable formations and seamless transitions. Incorporation of creative surprising visual effects developed through creative floor work, balanced use of features, group/partner work, level changes, and opposition.

Complexity of Movement Judges will credit: difficulty of the routine considering both movement and elements/skills (does not reflect execution); overall level, pace, and intricacy of movement such as footwork, varied tempos/rhythms within the movement, syncopation and direction changes. Difficulty as it relates to the appropriate use of dancers' ability level.

TECHNICAL & GROUP EXECUTION

Category Style Execution Judges will credit: the dancer's ability to display the correct foundation and form effectively and continually throughout the routine. The understanding of the movement using contraction/release, control, sustained and expressive movement, correct posture, body placement, resistance, alignment, and extension.

Movement Technique Execution Judges will credit: the true development of the movement; noting the movement-in terms of intensity, musicality, texture and nuance of the style.

Skill Technique Execution Judges will credit: demonstration of (not difficulty of) appropriate level skills/elements with correct approach, execution and completion of elements such as, but not limited to: leaps, turns, floor work, inversions, lifts, partnering, etc.

Synchronization/Timing with Music Judges will credit: the team's ability to maintain strong synchronization and timing with each other and the music, displaying accuracy, clarity, and control within both movement and technical skills/elements.

Uniformity of Movement Judges will credit: how well the clarity of movement as a team is upheld, the consistent approach and commitment to the style and interpretation of movement as a group.

Spacing Judges will credit: the ability of the dancers to use spatial awareness to position themselves with correct distances between each other in and throughout all formations and transition pathways.