



New Zealand Amateur Rock'n'Roll Association Inc.



JUDGES WORKSHOP'S REPORT FEBRUARY 2007

INFORMATION FOR CLUBS/DANCERS

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF INTEREST TO DANCERS AND CLUBS

1. A list of Judges who have been selected to Judge at each Nationals, will now be circulated to clubs and Judges in the Newsletter just prior to that Nationals.
2. Novelty section: Novelty's are open to the interpretation of what each judge finds entertaining. Rule 4.7 explains what we expect as a novelty, i.e. – capture attention. Comparisons were made of a fun, humorous skit, to a floor show. Both capture attention. Being well presented and not just a practice on the day, was thought to be a plus in presentation.
3. Same Sex: At Nationals level this is not a fun section as sometimes they can be at club champs. Best Dressed – Girls dress as girls and boys as boys. With 15 entries at Junior Nationals this section will no doubt be a valuable addition to the programme. Some judges would like to see it extended to Seniors as well.
4. Jumps: What constitutes a good clean lift? It was stressed that Jumps must be appropriate to the music. i.e. slow and fast. "Rhythm of the Jump" was considered to be vital. Multiple jumps are avidly discouraged.
5. What is Rock and Roll? Is precision becoming more prominent, are we losing Rock and Roll styles?

Precision dancing – pretty, graceful, Ballroom influence were all mentioned. Rock and Roll was meant to be loose, not perfect, short and sharp in the fast, although the slow was considered to be a more controlled dance. Dancers need to create their own identity as a couple and expression of the dance, rather than perhaps becoming clones. Pausing and posing takes the dancing out of the routine. A play with the beat is clever but should not be overdone.

6. The relationship between Timing and Variety: There is still a need for dancers to Test the timing mark by having enough variety to gain higher points. The Timing point allocation will be looked at, at the next round of workshops.

7. Best Dressed information sheets will soon be available to clubs/dancers/judges as a **guideline** to what was worn in the 1950's
8. Variety Point Allocation: This to be revised and summarised for the next round of workshops.

Dancers to adhere to their interpretation of the guidelines as they are at present, but a re-shuffle of the points allocation is being worked on for presentation at the next round.

Difficulty is confusing the dancers in trying to achieve high powered jumps (and too many of them). While this is clever, it is not what the majority of points should be awarded for.

A well structured, balanced routine is what the Judges are looking for. A routine that creates interest, and shows innovative moves to flow with the music.

An X factor is also being considered.

9. A Novice section at Nationals was suggested and the Executive will format a remit for discussion at the AGM.

Jan Morgan
Head Judge