

**MINUTES OF THE 2007 NZARRA Inc 23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BRENTWOOD HOTEL,
SATURDAY 26TH MAY 2007**

Welcome

The Annual General Meeting opened at 10am with a welcome from the NZ President, Warren Jeffrey.

The NZ Executive Committee was introduced:

Brian Wales	Vice President
Brenda Neill	Secretary
Julie Cowan	Treasurer
Jan Morgan	Immediate Past President

The President moved that the voting procedure be as follows:

Voting for remits on a show of hands, Majority of 11 for all voting.

Election of Officers: Secret Ballot for all positions, two Brentwood staff will be supervised by Sue Campbell, observer for Kapi Mana.

Carried Unanimously

Apologies

Apologies were received from Gold Coast, Wellington, New Plymouth, Timaru and Tokoroa.

Tauranga moved the apologies be accepted, Kapi Mana seconded

Carried Unanimously

Minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting

Tauranga moved the Minutes be accepted. Kaiapoi seconded. Carried Unanimously

There were no matters arising.

President's Report

The President's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Were there any queries? No.

The President moved that the report be accepted. River City seconded.

Carried Unanimously

Head Judge's Report

The Head Judge's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Head Judge added that communication was her primary role, and initiatives in this had been very well received. Reports to judges were met with surprise at first, now judges are opening up and talking about judging and what is happening. There are a few "work in progress" items, for example the Guidelines for judging the Variety category, the outcome of this will be advised to clubs on the website. The Head Judge has found it a stimulating year, and thanked the clubs and judges for the welcome, support and hospitality shown through the year.

Were there any queries? No.

The Head Judge moved that the report be accepted. Rotorua seconded.

Carried Unanimously

Correspondence Inwards/Outwards

The list of Inwards and Outwards correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The President asked if there were any matters arising. No.

The Tauranga moved that the Correspondence be accepted. Dunedin seconded.

Carried Unanimously

Treasurer's Report

A Summary of the 2006/7 financial reports were circulated as attached, along with the Treasurer's report.

The Treasurer commented

Main points last year:

- Changed auditors/accountants which has worked well.
- Clubs urged to keep up with the treasurers register, which was working very well.
- Fewer penalties paid for late payments.

Drifters: Are the 2007 Junior Nationals Figures actual? Yes

The Treasurer moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Seconded Hawke's Bay
Carried Unanimously.

Setting of Fees and Levies

The Treasurer recommended that all fees remain as they are, but warned that an increase may be needed next year if Senior Nationals income remains low.

Appointment of Auditor

The Treasurer Proposed that Owen Feary of Jorgenson's in Nelson be the Auditor.
Seconded by Hawkes Bay. Carried Unanimously
Warren thanked Julie for tidying up the financial side of the Association.

Nationals Reports

Tauranga 2006 Senior Nationals Report

Colleen Jeffrey presented the report for Tauranga

"We were very pleased with the upgrade to the Elizabeth Youth Centre, as it gave the hall a fresh and clean look and added to the atmosphere of the weekend. Our only concern was the public gallery having to come down into the floor to use the toilets. This did prove a challenge as we had to evict several rock'n'rollers, who had paid a public door price only, off the floor during general dancing. We would ask that club committees that they make their members aware that they should not expect the same privileges as people who pay full price. We were disappointed with the presentation of the finger food suppers Friday and Saturday nights. It was not as we expected and advised the caterers accordingly. However the meal on Sunday was up to expectations.

Unfortunately we had to cancel the after function venue Saturday and Sunday nights as the Tauranga City Council would not grant the Tauranga RSA with a late liquor license, but it was awesome to see the dancing continuing after presentations and the evenings finished on a high note.

Pre ordering of apparel and ordering on the weekend was a success as we did not get landed with leftover stock. Once again we would like to thank you all for supporting the 2006 Senior Nationals. We look forward to seeing you in Christchurch."

Tauranga moved that the report be accepted. Rotorua seconded. Carried Unanimously.

Discussion

Drifters: Spectators- any conclusions?

Tauranga – Rock'n'Rollers need to be made aware public price does not include dancing during the breaks. It is very hard to police.

City of Sails – Numbers through the door?

The Treasurer – The average was 640 per day.

Gracelands – Were there any comments about there being no badges for sale?

Tauranga – Not that we are aware.

Gracelands – Could they have been included in the apparel?

Tauranga – The minimum number was too great to risk ordering. The object was to keep costs down and we didn't take the risk. With different areas costs are different eg Hall costs were expensive for us, whereas they may be cheaper for another host club.

Kapi Mana 2007 Junior Nationals Report

Mark Goddard presented the report for Kapi Mana.

"After two years in the planning, countless meetings over the last twelve months and seemingly endless lists of things to do, we finally had an opportunity to put all of our plans into practice.

From the Friday set up till the breakdown on Monday morning things went according to plan, we had an incredible group of volunteers who once were given a task to carry out did this with no hesitation or complaints. We have estimated we had 380 on Friday night 450 on Saturday and 410 on Sunday paying, volunteers and complimentary guests over the course of the weekend.

Comments

1. *We had an organising team of 6 and a team of 32 volunteers, the smaller organising team made for much quicker decision making and far less arguments (it should also be noted that even a small club can host a successful Nationals and not have to stress too much about numbers of club members).*
2. *One of the things we started from day one was to assign responsibilities to a person who had experience in that area and leave them to fulfill that task (advice for future events hosts are to establish a talent pool and use them).*
3. *When setting your budget allow at least a quarter of your budget for catering, we found a really excellent caterer that was willing to work with us, thus allowing us to set the menu with what we thought our guest wanted not the other way round.*
4. *We replaced the standard buses with a fleet of mini vans, this was due to a total lack of cooperation from the bus companies, and this proved to be very successful, both in cost and setting timetables, as the vans were at our disposal for the whole weekend.*
5. *One of the things we had in our favor was club members of our own club and due to a close relationship with other clubs in the area, we managed to have the use of a lot of equipment free of charge, or for the price of a few tickets.*
6. *Friday night we decided not to have supper, however we realised that we had to do something to replace it and as Kapi is famous for our sausage sizzles so we decided that this was a fun, different and as turned out very successful alternative, due to the positive feed back we strongly recommend this as an option.*

Problems - Luckily they were few and far between.

1. *Late confirmation of tickets, this is a hassle for setting catering and transport numbers.*
2. *Poor response from the local area outlets, we had to work really hard to get sponsorship, give aways or even table decorations. We were lucky in having Darren who did a fantastic job in obtaining the sponsorship we did manage to secure.*

Recommendations

- *Set a budget and stick to it.*
- *Establish talent pool and use it*
- *Allow ¼ of your budget for catering*
- *Ask for numbers, accommodation and travel information ASAP"*

Kapi Mana moved that the report be accepted. Tauranga seconded. Carried Unanimously.

Discussion

Treasurer – Complimentary tickets don't include a levy?

Kapi Mana – They were mainly people who wouldn't have been there in most cases – not Rock'n'Rollers

Drifters – The vans worked very well, comments were all positive.

River City – Public seating did bring in a lot of revenue for us – sometimes it is better to have part of the revenue than none at all if you have somewhere to put them.

Kapi Mana – Public viewing – we didn't have any as it was too hard to police.

The Treasurer – A few were perhaps discouraged from coming. There is often a follow on with new members from the Public area.

Tauranga – It wasn't the public but the clubs that were the problem for us.

The Head Judge – clubs need to let their members know the rules.

The President thanked both Clubs for hosting successful Nationals.

Christchurch 2007 Senior Nationals 19th – 21st October 2007 – Progress Report

John Rickerby presented the report for Christchurch.

The organising committee is please to report the planning is well underway for a fantastic weekend in Christchurch. Pioneer Stadium is our venue for the weekend. There will be public seating, but clubs do cause some problems with trying to get onto the dance floor.

Friday night is setting up to be a fun social night for rock n rollers to meet and greet and see some first class entertainment. DJ & Band

There will be transport provided to and from the venue Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Also, the Orbiter bus goes past the door both in Riccarton and the Pioneer Stadium.

The venue will be BYO Friday, Saturday night & Sunday subject to liquor license (18 yrs and over.)

We are trialing a new format for Saturday, there will be no supper provided on Saturday night allowing more time to social dancing after prize giving. The tea hour will be extended to allow plenty of time to refuel. There are no restrictions on food bought into the venue and there will be food sold at the venue all weekend. The Spit Roast Company is booked to provide a meal on Sunday night.

All merchandise will be pre-orders that will be available on arrival, we are happy to take additional orders over the weekend if required.

There will be a photographer on site all weekend displaying shots of the day.

After Functions have been organised for Saturday & Sunday nights, and this will be in the Riccarton area.

It is anticipated Ticket prices will be set and available to clubs by the end of July. Order forms will be sent to the clubs at that time, for both venue tickets and video passes. More video passes will be available at the door also, and will be available to club members provided their club has purchased a main pass that includes the DVD.

We are looking forward to hosting and providing a wonderful weekend of entertainment and memories in the city that ROCKS – Christchurch. Check out the website for information.

Christchurch moved that the report be accepted. River City seconded.

Carried Unanimously.

River City – Friday – no food?

Christchurch – Correct.

Tauranga – We applaud Christchurch for making this step.

Dunedin – We want clarified that the club must have a main video pass for subsidiary pass to be sold to members?

Christchurch – Correct.

Drifters Junior Nationals 2008: 21 – 23 March 2008 – Progress Report

Cindy Mohn presented the report for Drifters

“Our dedicated Junior Nationals committee is in full swing organising the 2008 Junior Nationals. It is our objective to provide a hassle free and enjoyable Nationals. To help us fulfil our objective we welcome any feedback on your likes, dislikes or suggestions for improvements. Please email feedback to jnrnats@drifters.org.nz. All feedback will be considered.

The following information is for your benefit:

- *Venue is the Hamilton's Frazer High School Gymnasium*
- *Venue has a highly polished floor; therefore no high heels will be permitted. This applies to Competitors, Officials and Spectators.*
- *A list of motels is posted on the Association website.*
- *Transport will be provided from the designated motels.*
- *DJ's have been confirmed as Duncan Jury and Nigel Fisher.*
- *At this stage it is uncertain if door tickets will be sold at the venue. This will be subject to final seating arrangements. Clubs will be notified of the decision prior to the close off date for ordering tickets.*

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.”

Drifters moved that the report be accepted. Seconded by Hawke's Bay

Carried Unanimously.

The President thanked Drifters for stepping in and hosting this Juniors,

City of Sails Senior Nationals 24th – 26th October 2008 – Progress Report

Heather Blackburn presented the report on behalf of City of Sails.

The venue is the Howick Recreation Centre, in Pakuranga Road.

We will not be running the café as we did at Juniors, but food outlets will be on site.

There will be transport provided from motels in the Pakuranga region only – not Manakau.

A newsletter is coming soon.

Report Moved By City of Sails Seconded by River City

Carried Unanimously.

Kaiapoi – list of motels?

City of Sails: Yes, this will be with the newsletter.

The President thanked all past host clubs, and wished the future host clubs every success.

Allocation of 2009 Junior and Senior Nationals

Junior Nationals, 10th – 12th April 2009 Not Allocated

Go back to clubs and discuss it and return to the Association before 29th June

Senior Nationals, 23rd – 25th October 2009

Go back to clubs and discuss it and return to the Association before 29th June

10.50 – Break

11.05 – Meeting Reconvened

The President announced that the 2009 Senior Nationals would be hosted by Surf City club in Gisborne.

Remits

The President confirmed that the majority for Remits is 11 affirmative votes, by a show of hands.

Remit One

Executive/Tauranga

Dress Code

Move Rule 1.10 and 1.10.1 to create a new Rule Book Section 2 – Dress Code.

Renumber Rules 1.11 – 1.17.

Renumber all subsequent Rule Book sections.

Reason: Clarification to the Rule Book

Voting Carried Unanimously

Remit Two

Executive/River City

New Rule 1.10 (f)

1.10 (f) Shoes with heels should have heels no higher than 20mm. The heel prints must have a minimum measurement of 40 x 40mm.

Reason – specification for “heels” as requested by the 2006 AGM

River City – Needs to be measured from the sole, otherwise brothel creepers wouldn't be allowed.

Head Judge – The Rule is about shoes with heels, example a ladies shoe with Cuban heels – not brothel creepers, they are flat shoes.

President: We are talking about heels on shoes, not flat shoes, and the safety of other dancers on the floor. The heel print is important, and 40mm x 40mm is a good minimum

River City – For the dancing sections only?

The President: Yes, the safety of dancers rather than a floor issue,

Kaiapoi: Competitive dancing only?

President– Yes, other restrictions or Hall requirements are up to the Host Club.

Head Judge – Without a ruling it is a judgment call – it safe guards us and dancers if there is a ruling.

River City/Surf City – Amendment – add “measured from the instep”

Voting on amendment: Carried unanimously

Voting on amended remit: Carried Unanimously

Remit Three
Executive/Tauranga

New Rule 1.10 (g)

1.10 (g) A medical certificate is required for any dancer needing a wrist bandage.

Reason: Rule Book tidy up

City of sails – Where is it in the rule book?

The President: It is not there, it is just an unwritten rule

Kapi Mana: What about an injury at the venue – medical practitioner or the word of the first aid practitioner?

Hutt Valley – Is a note from a School nurse enough?

The President – No, it must be a medical certificate

Amendment Kapi Mana/Invercargill

Insert “or dispensation from the Floor Manager/s if injured on the day,”

Voting on the amendment: Carried Unanimously

Voting on Amended Remit: Carried Unanimously

Remit Four
Executive/Christchurch

4.4 (e) - Alter to read:

Medium songs will be from 137 bpm to 160 bpm inclusive.

Reason: to even out the ranges of music speeds for sections.

Drifters – 156BPM would be better, that is no cross over songs.

River City- 160 too quick for triples, should be 137 – 156 bpm inclusive

Amendment River City/Tauranga ‘137bpm – 156 bpm inclusive’

Voting on amendment: Carried unanimously.

Voting on amended remit: For 20/Against 1 Carried.

Remit Five
Executive/City of sails

Object – to remove the requirement to be assessed from all Junior Nationals sections.

Reason: To encourage more competitors at Junior Championships and foster the future of Rock'n'Roll

Remit 5 – Part 1

Insert the following sentence before Rule 2.1:

“Entrants to all Junior sections (1, 2, 3, 7, 8 & 10) do not need to pass an assessment to allow them to dance at a Junior Nationals Competition.”

Remit 5 – Part 2

Make the following Rule book alterations to delete reference to assessments for all Junior Nationals sections:

Rule 2.2 Alter to read:

Senior Championships dancing partnerships.....

Delete the 1st Bullet Point in Rule 2.2

Delete “Easter and” from the 3rd Bullet Point and change “are” with “is”.

Rule 2.8 (a) Delete the words “both Junior and”. Alter the sentence to read:

“A points system for assessment at club level is the criteria for entry into the NZAR'n'RA. Inc. Senior National Championship.”

Add the following note below Rule 2.8 (a)

Note: Competitors at the NZAR'n'RA. Inc. Junior National championships do not need to have passed an assessment to enter the competition.

Rule 2.9: delete references to Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Junior Restricted, Junior Triples & Intermediate Triples sections.

Rule 2.10 (a) Alter to read:

“Any senior couple having achieved National Qualifying Level points as per Rule 2.9 shall be entitled to compete in sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11 & 12 at the Senior National Championships.”

Alter 2.10 (b) to read: “Any *Open or Senior* Triples team having.....

Remit 5 – Part 3

Add New Rule 2.10 (c)

Any junior couple in sections 1, 2, 3 & 10 and any Junior or Intermediate triples team will be entitled to enter the Junior National Championships.

The Head Judge spoke to remit – reassessments worked well for juniors – 7 were reassessed and passed. However, the reassessments did put a lot of pressure on the judges, and becomes a mockery when a second assessment happens within a short time. The majority of judges would like to see no assessments tried for this year – The Same Sex section this year proved standards won't drop.

Discussion

River City – For, however, the attitude to nationals could drop, preparation could be less. There are now improving standards with the steps to Nationals. Are we going to see a major drop in standards with juniors entering for fun, not working to attain a standard?

Tauranga – Against, we want to see assessments – it is a goal and part of being in Nationals

Drifters –Dancing in Nationals is a privilege, not a right. We agree for the junior/junior section, but not all sections. Perhaps better to put a time limit to reassess at a month.

Kapi Mana – For, a good idea, no assessments would boost numbers.

Dunedin – It puts readiness for nationals back on the club

Secretary - Who in the club is going to tell people they are not ready?

Kaiapoi – Against – people just shouldn't just be able to dance nationals as a right – they need a goal.

Reassessments need to spaced to give time for improvement.

River City –Deciding at club level means differing levels, assessment is decided on a standard. It becomes personal if left to clubs.

Harbour City – Either have a standard or not, if not, then all should be exempt, not just Juniors

Kapi Mana – It would give experience at dancing at National.

Drifters - Club champs is the place to gain experience, not Nationals.

Hutt Valley – Coaches are in favor assessments – even if they are reassessed the next day after hard work overnight.

The Secretary - Use newer children for cheerleaders, top teams, novelty to give them the nationals experience if they are not ready to dance.

Head Judge - Perhaps we need to look at the reassessment issue. I like the idea of a standard to get to nationals – also the training for judges is good, but there are cost issues to consider.

River City - Why not have a Novice section for juniors also?

Hawke's Bay- For – we want to see them on the floor

Christchurch - Against – we want a standard set.

Tauranga – Perhaps look at the percentage level instead.

Voting on the Object to remove assessments for Juniors: For 6, Against 14, Abstentions 1
Remit Failed.

Remit Six

Executive/Tauranga

Add a reference to 2.1 (b): (Refer also to Rule 7.12)

Reason – A Rule Book tidy up..

Voting: Carried Unanimously

Remit Seven Withdrawn

Executive

New Rule 3.1 (a)

Entries forms for Junior National competitions, once received by the Secretary, are deemed to be final and no alterations whatsoever can be made.

**Remit Eight
Executive/River City**

New “Same Sex” Section

Object – To include a “Same Sex” section in the Junior National competition

Reason: to encourage more entries in the junior competition – encouragement for clubs to host, and also to make the competition financially viable.

The President – the objects are encouragement for clubs to host, to get more entries, more dancers on the floor. Of the 15 couples in the trial at Kapi Mana, half didn't dance in another section.

Tauranga: For - having judged at the competition, it created atmosphere, got more people into the hall earlier, helped make Sunday a great day.

Question - Would there be assessments?

The President - Yes 35% if the remit is passed.

River City - For – we were blown away by the standard this year. It goes to show they didn't need assessment to get there

Head Judge – I was anxious about the judging of the section, however, it enhanced the whole Nationals. I have the majority of judges behind me to have this section.

Voting on inclusion of the Same Sex Section in Junior Nationals: Carried Unanimously

Executive/Tauranga
Remit 8 – Part 1

Alter Rule 1.9 (a) to include new section 13 for Juniors - Same Sex 5 years to 17 years

Voting: Carried Unanimously

Executive/Surf City
Remit 8 – Part 2 – Rule Book Alterations required.

New Rule 2.10 (c) Any Same Sex couple having achieved National Qualifying level points as per Rule 2.9 shall be entitled to compete at the national championship in section 13.

Make the appropriate alterations to Rules 1.8, 3.10 b, 4.1 (b) & (c), 4.4 (a), 4.5, 5.4.2, 8.7 (a) and 10.5 to include the new section.

Alter Rule 2.9 to add an assessment level of 35% for the section.

Voting: Carried Unanimously

Remit 8 – Part 3
New rules pertaining to the Section

Executive/River City
(A)

New Rule 9.6 (a) A Same Sex couple is defined as 2 male or 2 female dancers.

Voting: Carried Unanimously

Executive/City of Sails
(B)

New Rule 3.13 An entrant in Junior Section 13 can also compete in any other section at the National Championships.

Harbour City: the alteration is not needed – this is covered in Rule 3 12
Clause withdrawn with the permission of seconder

Executive/Drifters
(C)

New Rule 1.10.1 (d) The National Dress code will apply to Junior Section 13 i.e. female will dress in lady's attire, males in men's attire.

Voting Carried Unanimously

Trophies for the section– The Executive have a waiting list for trophies and will be contacting these clubs for trophy donations.

**Remit Nine
Executive/River City**

New “Senior Novice” Section

Object – To include a Senior Novice section in the Senior National competition

Reason: to encourage new competitors onto the senior nationals’ floor.

It is often a daunting prospect for new adult dancers to dance directly in their age section – the transition from local competition to National competition is often perceived as too great.

The section is intended for Senior nationals only, as a Novice section in the Junior competition could seriously deplete the junior & intermediate sections.

The Head Judge - The Judges at workshops felt this was a worthwhile way of putting new dancers on the floor, without the pressures of assessment and dancing in their age group against experienced dancers.

Discussion

Harbour City – We would like to see a trial, like Same Sex at Juniors

Kaiapoi – Against – Nationals is a pinnacle – club and local competitions are where these people get their grounding. Perhaps a freestyle section instead, to encourage dancers who haven’t competed for some time.

The Treasurer – For but I am concerned about crunching the programme to fit it in.

Tauranga – Against – Perhaps a trial section first.

River City - For – This does give people coming into the national level a chance to enter the national floor. Would it be a restricted or jumps section?

The President: An Open section.

Hawke’s Bay – For. This gives new people a chance to dance at nationals without going against experienced dancers.

Tauranga – If for Seniors, why not for juniors also?

Dunedin – Newer dancers seem to have a preoccupation with assessments, people are hung up on getting assessment, and this is preventing them from moving forward..

A Vote was taken on the object to introduce a new section, Novice, to the Senior Nationals Competition

Voting: For 11, Against 9, Abstained 1. Carried

Executive/River City

Remit 9 – Part 1

Alter Rule 1.9 (b) to include new section 14 for Seniors – Senior Novice 18 years and over

Voting: For 14, Against 3, Abstained 4. Carried

Remit 9 – Part 2 :Rule Book Alterations required.

Executive /Rotorua

New Rule 2.10 (d) Any Senior Novice couple shall be entitled to compete at the senior national championship in section 14. Assessment is not required.

For 11, Against 9, abstained 1. Carried

Make the appropriate alterations to Rules 1.8, 3.10 b, 4.1 (b) & (c), 4.4 (a), 4.5, 5.4.2, 8.7 (a) and 10.5 to include the new section.

Harbour City, Drifters – Where in the programme? What Day?

President: Not sure – can you leave it to the executive’s discretion? And see what the entries are?

Tauranga – We prefer Sunday to get programme going.

President: When setting the programme we will allocate a time according to entries. Is the Council happy that Rule 1.8 is not altered at the moment? – Yes.

Voting: For 15, Against 3, Abstained 3. Carried

Executive /Drifters

Remit 9 – Part 3: New rule pertaining to the Section

New Rule 9.6 (b) A Senior Novice couple is defined as 1 male and 1 female dancer both 18 & over, both of whom have never competed at any National competition. (refer Rule 3.12)

Harbour City/River City Amendment – add “excluding Novelty”

Voting on Amendment For 18, Abstained 3 Carried

Voting on Amended Remit: For 15, Abstained 5. Carried

Tauranga – the section has no assessments so they shouldn't dance another section

River City – We need to clarify whether they can.

The President - Whole idea was to get dancers on the floor without assessment – it is not the intention for them to dance in other sections.

River City – There needs to be a rule somewhere to say that they can't go into an assessment section.

Voting on the rest of Remit 9 deferred until after the break.

Lunch Break at 12 45 pm

Reconvened at 1.55 PM

Continuing Remit Nine.

Executive/River City

New remit:

“Add to end of rule 3.12. An entrant or competitor in section 14 cannot compete in any other section except 5 or 6 (Top Team & Novelty)”

Discussion

Tauranga: Not triples? No

Kapi Mana: If they haven't danced in a nationals they can dance in the novice section – nothing to say they can't dance other sections

Harbour City – That is not the intent of the section. If you are competent to dance triples then Novice is not for you.

The Treasurer – This is a section where they can dance against people of a similar level.

Invercargill – We agree with Kapi.

Harbour City – That is not the intent.

River City – There are experienced dancers who have never competed in nationals, not just new ones.

The Secretary - They stay Novice for the whole weekend, excluding Novelty and Top Team

Voting on the Remit For 17, Against 1, Abstained 3. Carried

Remit Ten

Executive/Tauranga

Rule 10.4 Change “Criteria” to “guidelines”

Reason: To reflect the name change to Judges Guidelines as voted on at judges' workshops

The Head Judge spoke to the remit – “criteria” is a principle of rule, a “guideline” is open to interpretation.

Voting: Carried Unanimously

Remit Eleven

Kapi Mana/Invercargill

Add Rule 2.3.1

“Couples which have competed at a National Championship do not need to be assessed for the immediate following National Championship provided they are dancing in the same section, for the same club and with the same partner as the previous National Championship.”

Reason: Couples are competing at the Nationals and going back to their clubs to do a demo or private assessment (some taking place the day after the National's weekend) and being assessed for the next Nationals. If this is deemed acceptable with 11 or 12 months left to run, why not let them avoid the assessment altogether if there is no change in their criteria.

Kapi Mana – Appears to make a mockery of assessment when couples can get assessed the day after Nationals – why bother, why not just carry on provided nothing changes?

Tauranga – What if the couple danced at nationals and didn't reach the required marks.

Kapi Mana – Doesn't matter how you dance at Nationals – we just don't see point of having the assessment repeated.

River City – We would rather be assessed every year – but would sooner see them in the same calendar year of Nationals – that would stop assessments the next day or the next week.

Harbour City – Not sure why it should be the same club –. We are happy to have a limit on when you should be assessed, perhaps changed back to the calendar year

Invercargill – For. Cost is an issue, the fact that you dance in a nationals should mean you can dance the next nationals without assessment.

Tauranga - Against – Day after assessments were put there for the Australians.

River City – We feel it makes a mockery of the process.

Hawkes Bay – Against - assessment is part of the process.

Head Judge – I am not happy with the Kapi Mana wording. Also, who is to monitor it?

River City – This rule change would change how we do everything, will affect regional, club stuff as well.

Brenda – There are many reasons for early assessments, travel, having an operation, whatever, and most of the Aussies are ex pats and have danced our Nationals when they lived in New Zealand.

Voting For 2, Against 18, Abstained 1. Remit Failed

Remit Twelve Harbour City/Kapi Mana

Add to end of 2.3

Couples/triples teams are exempt from assessment if they have achieved National Qualifying level in the most-recently held Nationals championship (Junior or Senior as appropriate), in the section that they intend to compete in.

Reason: Couples and triples teams that have demonstrated at Nationals that they have enough marks to pass assessment (the National Qualifying Level or NQL), shouldn't need to be reassessed - given that at the moment a couple or triples team can be assessed the day after Nationals, for their next Nationals.

The rule as it currently stands says that couples/triples teams must be assessed within the 12 months preceding Nationals. Currently we have some competitors getting assessed on the Monday of Labour or Easter Weekend, or in the weeks shortly after. So in terms of "ensuring that National Championships are of a high standard", which is the stated intention of assessments, isn't valid for that assessment to be 12 months before the couple/triples team actually compete.

If a couple dances at Nationals and attains the National Qualifying Level required for their section, they are obviously at the level required to pass assessment. The suggested addition to Rule 2.3 removes the need for couples/triples teams that have already proved that they can dance at the standard expected, to be assessed as a separate exercise.

Including the words "most-recently" ensures that they would only be exempt from assessment if they had danced (and got enough marks) at the previous championships i.e. they could not go several years without competing and then still be exempt.

The words "Junior or Senior as appropriate" are included because otherwise the rule wouldn't make sense. Including these words means that a Senior couple would be exempt from assessment if they had danced and achieved National Qualifying Level in their section in the previous Senior Nationals, and a Junior couple would be exempt if they had achieved NQL in their section in the previous Junior Nationals.

If a couple/triples team wanted to dance in a different section, or formed a new couple/triples team with other dancers, this exemption would not apply, and they would have to be reassessed. The exemption would only apply for people who have already demonstrated their ability to perform at the standard expected.

Harbour City: Similar to the previous remit, however, the standard is still maintained through nationals mark.

Voting For 3, Against 17, Abstained 1. Remit failed

Remit Thirteen Harbour City Rule 2 Assessments. Delete 2.1(a)

"2.1(a) The Head Judge must receive notification **prior** to any assessment taking place."

Reason:

As you can now be assessed many times and all judges' sheets are required to be sent to the Head Judge within one week of the assessment why is it still a requirement for the Head Judge to be notified in advance?

Remit Lost through lack of a seconder.

**Remit Fourteen
Christchurch/Kapi Mana**

Alter Rule 2.9 as follows:

40% Senior Restricted Section
45% Open Restricted Section
35% Junior Restricted Section

Reason - Restricted section is often the entry point for new dancers at National Competition. This also evens up pass rates with comparative age sections. It is not easy to gain points in the Restricted sections, and the current pass rates can be discouraging to dancers.

Discussion

River City – We are keen to see Senior Restricted aligned the same as Golden. Where did the proposed Junior mark come from?

Brenda – We were taking an average mark for Juniors.

Head Judge – The assessment failure rate is highest in the restricted sections.

River City – Can we take each section?

Christchurch and Kapi Mana agreed.

Voting on Senior Restricted pass rate at 40%

Carried Unanimously

Voting on Open Restricted pass rate at 45%

13 For, 8 Against. Carried

Voting on Junior Restricted pass rate at 35%

Carried Unanimously

**Remit Fifteen/Tauranga
Christchurch**

Alter Rule 4.9 to read:

“Competitors in section 9 Junior Cheerleaders shall perform to accompanying music (if desired) and/or cheers and chants, no longer than 3 minutes duration, the timing to start from the first chant or the start of the music till the last competitor leaves the competition floor. No Club participation from the sidelines is permitted.”

Reason: to bring cheerleading into line with that usually performed at sporting fixture and on TV shows and make the section more exciting and interesting. Using music also allows smaller clubs to be competitive. Alterations to the judging guidelines may be required.

Christchurch – This would bring to cheerleaders much needed added variety, using music to suit themselves and making the most of the routine. It would make it a much more interesting section.

River City – It is very hard to hear the chants

Tauranga – Music, would it be from the list?

Brenda – No – they could choose their own. Advantages – interesting to do and to watch. Smaller or younger teams would compete on a more equal footing.

Drifters – Would it be more a dance to music?

Head Judge – Possibly. It is difficult to hear chants. Judges were mixed, more in favour than not. Quite right that smaller clubs struggle.

Vote For 15, Against 3, Abstained 3. Remit Carried

**Remit Sixteen
Kapi Mana/Gracelands**

Alter Rule 7.3 to read

"Any Judge having accepted the invitation to Judge at the forthcoming National Championships, must declare to the Head Judge any conflict of interest including coaching a couple in that National Championship. Where it is not possible for the Head Judge to use said Judge in an Arm Chair capacity for that section, they must cease coaching immediately or withdraw from Judging. Judges must also advise the Head Judge of any close personal or immediate family relations that may be competing in that Championship."

Reason: *There are 8 Judges invited to Judge at the Nationals and prior to the past Head Judge, the Judges that were coaching and had couples competing were juggled to Arm Chair that section. The Association expects and asks Clubs to support Judges but it is perceived as not supporting competitors by restricting judges from coaching and judging.*

Also Judges should not be judging close personal friends or family members when other Judges could be available or called in if needed.

Kapi Mana - We want a declaration from the judges regarding their coaching interests, and they shouldn't have to cease if they can be armchaired off the section.

Head Judge - What the remit is saying is if you are coaching, why should you have to cease if the judge can be armchaired out of the section. Why can't what happens with relations happen with coaching? Taking judges away from the club disadvantages their club.

The Secretary – This change doesn't take judges away from their clubs at a time when they are needed.

Julie – How would they be rostered?

Head Judge – They would armchair the whole section.

Drifters – It would be good for judges to armchair to see if they are impartial – a great training tool.

Voting on the Remit - For 19, Abstained 2 Remit Carried

Remit Seventeen

Executive

Alter Rules to reduce judges' workshops to one per year.

Remit Withdrawn

The Head Judge explained that she spoke to workshops about this remit with mixed reactions. There was concern about work in progress. A combined workshop is being planned, and we would like to see how this goes and revisit.

General Business

Item 1 - Executive

When assessments aren't taking place, the Head Judge isn't aware of competitions taking place, and therefore doesn't know that sheets should be sent for evaluation of judges. Should there be a requirement for these competitions to be notified to the Head Judge by altering Rule 7.12?

Head Judge – The Rules say sheets have to be sent. What sometimes happens is if I'm not aware that competitions are happening, I can't chase the sheets. Judges miss on evaluation letters, trainees miss on their criteria.

The President – We don't want to add too many rules, but clubs do need to get the sheets to the Head Judge in a timely fashion. It also makes judges accountable for the marks given.

The Head Judge – I will remind judges in my reports, they can remind the clubs to send in the sheets.

Item 2 Harbour City Dress Standard

When Harbour City were discussing the remits for this weekend's AGM, we noticed that the section on clothing guidelines seems to need reordering in places. We'd like to suggest the following "rule book tidy-up" - it doesn't change the intent at all, just groups existing clauses more-logically.

New Remit

Moved Harbour City/Seconded Tauranga

1. Split current 1.10 (a) into two parts, after the first sentence, and replace the first two words with "the" (and re-letter the remaining sections - new section (b) would begin "The lady's dress and petticoat...."). Move the sentence that is currently 1.10.1 (b) to the end of the new 1.10 (a)

The new 1.10(a) would then read, in total:

"(a) The dress code for competitors shall be traditional rock'n'roll clothing. This dress code does not apply to sections 6 and 9 (Novelty and Cheerleaders)"

2. Move the sentence that is currently 1.10.1(a) to the end of the new 1.10 (b), which would now read:

"(b) The lady's dress and petticoat must cover the kneecap completely, that is the crease at the back of the kneecap as well, inclusive of petticoats, which by definition shall be tiered, layered or frilled to enhance the fullness of the dress and must be worn whilst competing in the National Championships. The exception is Restricted Sections where ladies have the option of wearing calf length straight skirts"

3. Move the sentence that is currently 1.10 (e) to the end of newly numbered 1.10 (d), which would then read in total:

"(d) The dress code shall be monitored in a marshalling area by the Floor Manager(s) and the Head Judge prior to the Best Dressed competition. Competitors must be dressed as they intend to appear on the floor for the dance competition, apart from jackets, boleros/shawls/capes, ties and neck scarves, which are optional and may be removed before dancing. Where there is one article of clothing perceived to be two, then it will be as if it were the non-removable item e.g. a waistcoat attached to a jacket could not be removed."

4. Renumber current rule 1.10.1(c) as 1.10(g)

Reason: Clarify dress standard rulings and group them more logically - rule book tidy-up:

Harbour City - Relates more to each section, as several different rules been popped in over time.

Discussion

The President – everything will be in a logical order, nothing has been added or taken away.

Voting for the Remit: Carried Unanimously

Item 3

Combined Workshop

Head Judge – This is planned for 2nd February in Hamilton, Colleen Jeffrey and Dianne Halstead are coordinating, and it will be run by the Executive.

Dianne Halstead – We have booked the Airport Motel & Conference centre, which is right in the airport grounds, removing the need for transport.

We will apply to the Perry Foundation for Accommodation & Venue Costs, they have agreed it fits their criteria, but this is no guarantee.

Billets amongst the local clubs are available also.

Any clubs with judges needing to fly in can apply themselves for airfares for their judges.

Colleen Jeffrey - Replies are in from 33 judges with 30 attending and 3 unable to attend.

75% of the judges is our cut off, we need another 5 – 6 wanting to attend. Clubs are urged to help their judges attend.

Head Judge – We are nearly there, we need the clubs on board to help get their judges there. Take it back to your clubs. We will make the final decision on 1st July.

Harbour City - We applaud the efforts to bring this to fruition – have you thought of a levy to assist judges for future consideration? Yes.

Dianne Halstead – There is no guarantee of being successful with the grant.

President – It is important that we do get behind this venture.

Item 4

River City - Junior Nationals

1.9c and note 3

Dancing up of dancers, going from junior to senior nationals.

Remove words "Junior Championships only" and allow Senior Juniors to dance up in the Open sections.

Because of ages of couples – partnerships split up and we lose these dancers and don't see them again.

Can't see that making this possible would be an advantage to the dancers.

The President: If a 16 year old would be dancing seniors – what happens if the partnership breaks up?

Tauranga – is there no chance of finding other partner?

President – I have reservations – the loss to juniors, for example.

Kapi Mana – Could be a flow on effect.

Harbour City – Could it be for established partnerships only?

Secretary – It would be sad to lose people from Juniors. Encourage kids to stay interested in other ways.

Head Judge – Smaller clubs often haven't got that choice.

The President– I think it is blurring the lines between Junior and Senior too much. Perhaps more thought and bring this back as a remit.

River City – Thank you, we just wanted to sound out council

Item 5

River City - General Dancing Music

We feel there are too many covers of songs, and modern music, it should be a celebration of Rock'n'Roll with good music of the era. Remixes of songs etc, we are not happy with this.

Tauranga – We like to hear something different, some of the remixes very good and we have no problem with them
Secretary – It is up to the DJ's – I find it more annoying that general dancing music has lots of repeats.

Gracelands – Agree

Kapi Mana– The DJ's need to watch the floor to gauge whether it is full rather than just playing what they want/like.

Item 6

River City - Novice Section in Junior Nationals

The Treasurer – I wouldn't support that.

The Secretary – Would take too many kids out of the Junior & Intermediate sections.

Drifters – Kids don't worry – they just get on the floor and dance, the better, more experienced dancers don't worry them.

Gracelands – kids get on the floor anyway, it is the parents that have reservations.

Item 7

Harbour City - Senior Same sex

Why not Trial a same Sex section at Seniors?

The President: Taken on board

Item 8

Scrutineering - Harbour City

The President: We are updating the system – currently it only works on 98, We are upgrading to XP, and will run in tandem for a while.

Perhaps there has been too much reliance on the programme – it is always useful having a manual backup.

End of General Business

Election of Officers

The President reminded the council of the voting procedure, by secret ballot, as agreed at the start of the meeting.
Observer for Kapi Mana, Sue Campbell, will supervise the ballot.

The President moved that voting papers be destroyed at the close of voting. Seconded by Tauranga
Passed Unanimously

The Vice President took the chair for the election of the President

Nominations for President

Warren Jeffrey Nominated by Tauranga. Seconded by Surf City

There were no other nominations.

Warren Jeffrey was elected by a secret Ballot.

The President took the chair for the remainder of the elections.

Nominations for Vice President

Brian Wales Nominated by Rotorua. Seconded by Gracelands

There were no other nominations.

Brian Wales was elected by secret Ballot.

Nominations for Secretary

Brenda Neill Nominated by Christchurch. Seconded by Kaiapoi

There were no other nominations.

Brenda Neill was elected by secret Ballot.

Nominations for Head Judge

Jan Morgan Nominated by River City. Seconded by L & P Rockers

There were no other nominations.

Jan Morgan was elected by secret Ballot.

Nominations for Treasurer

Julie Cowan Nominated by Hawke's Bay. Seconded by Tauranga

There were no further nominations.

Julie Cowan was elected by secret Ballot.

The Election of Officers was Completed

The President thanked the Executive Committee for their work over the past year and the AGM delegates for their input and careful consideration of the business of the day.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 4.15pm

The date for the 2008 AGM is Saturday 24th May at the Brentwood Hotel, Wellington.