

HEAD JUDGE REPORT AUGUST 2010 JUDGING WORKSHOPS

ATTN: NZARRA Affiliated Clubs

TRAINEE JUDGES

We have 6 new trainee judges who have been added to the list: Ashley Feck (Hamilton), Donald Walker, Murray Dillon, Terry Neil, Stacy & Kelly Grootjans (Wellington). Welcome on board and all the very best with your future judging.

RETIRED JUDGES

As we welcome new judges we farewell and thank Irene Hinz (New Plymouth) and Joy McIntyre (Blenheim) for their many years of service, dedication and commitment.

HOST CLUBS

Thank you to Christchurch, Wellington and City of Sails clubs for hosting the workshops and in particular to the organizers Brenda Neill, Viv Babbington & Annette Jenkins. We thank you for your time, organization and kind hospitality.

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

“Timing” was the main theme for this round of workshops and the definition of Timing has been revised and simplified in the judging guidelines. Timing has also been added to the Harmony & Variety definitions.

FINALS

There are a number of elements of the dance that judges should look for when judging finals and awarding placings. In some cases the “x” factor/personality/flair decides 1st & 4th places, but how do we decide 2nd & 3rd?

Given the evenness in some finals, we often find ourselves looking for mistakes. It is up to each judge to weigh up the severity of the “mistake” to determine where they are eventually placed. For example, a couple who has a fall, could still place 1st, if the rest of their dance still outweighs the performances of the other competitors.

We should always base our placings on the guidelines including but not limited to the following:

- Timing: starts & endings, execution of moves, tempo, flagging, expression and using the music
- Harmony: together, complimentary flow and attitude
- Variety: execution, complexity and creativity of moves

A - One Timing is an essential ingredient within the 3 categories along with a well balanced routine.

We should always be looking at the overall performance.

STYLE: The word “style” is only mentioned in Harmony and it refers to the individual styles of the couple/partnership being complimentary to our RnR revival ideals, well matched and complimentary to each other. Apart from that, we do not judge “styles”.

3RD SONG: As judges we should make a decision. However, if for any reason we are unable to do this – we should call for a 3rd song. The general feeling was the 3rd song

definitely has a place, but it should be used with discretion and under extreme circumstances.

In the event of a judge not being able to make a decision, they must leave their judge's sheet blank for that particular song. After the fast song, all judge's sheets will be collected as per normal and the floor manager(s) will pick up the fact that a 3rd song has been called for. Only the judge(s) that have called for the 3rd song will officiate, all other judges will armchair.

BEST DRESSED

An updated version of the 2007 "A view of what was worn in the 1950s" will be uploaded to the association website for all judges and clubs. Please be aware that the dossier shows what was worn in the era. As judges we are looking for the **"best look on the day"** and **"what was worn to a dance"**.

Judges are encouraged to get as many perspectives of Best Dressed as possible and practical including getting "up close" to appreciate the finer details of dress.

TIMING

As per the judging guidelines: Timing is A-One and an essential ingredient within the 3 categories along with a well balanced routine.

When judging Timing we should be looking at all body movements from "head to toe". The "whole body" must be in time to the music and consistent with the tempo and "rhythm" of the song. Sometimes you will see dancers – whose feet are in time with the music, but their upper body is not. **This dancer is out of time.**

"Timing" has been added to Harmony & Variety. The updated guidelines are attached and take effect from now.

GENERAL BUSINESS

TALKING/SINGING: We shouldn't penalize dancers who talk or sing during a song. However, we could deduct points if it takes away the Harmony and/or general enjoyment of the dance.

REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS: Clubs should be reimbursing all reasonable costs for official judges when they are invited to officiate at their club competitions i.e. travel & accommodation. Trainee & Armchair judges must be aware that clubs are not obligated to cover any of their travel or accommodation expenses.

RETIREMENT AGE: There is no desire to implement a retirement age. As with all judging matters it comes down to performance and not age. The Head Judge is the first point of contact for addressing performance issues.

LIFTS/TROWS: There is no requirement in our rules/guidelines for lifts/throws in any section (except the obvious rule in Restricted). Judges should not penalize a couple if they do not perform throws, but in the same token, they would not necessarily reward a couple for no throws. We should judge what is presented to us – with the concept of a "well balanced routine" in our upper mind at all times.

SAME SEX: There is no “requirement” for dancers to swap roles or leads – but this could add to their Variety (skill & competency) and should be rewarded accordingly.

OTHER STYLES OF DANCE: All dancers in our Rock n Roll “revival” era are taking moves from other dance styles, adapting them and using them in their everyday dance routines/moves. This is not a new practice and it will certainly continue into the future. As long as the moves are adapted to conform to our Rock n Roll ideals – and the moves are part of a “well balanced routine” – it is acceptable.

JUDGES LEAVE:

- Leave is a maximum period of two years
- On return from leave, a judge must attend a workshop and armchair a **minimum** of 2 club competitions to be an Association judge
- After being confirmed as an Association judge, the judge must armchair a **minimum** of 1 national competition to be reinstated as a National Association judge
- Any reinstatement would be at the discretion of the Association Executive. As with all judging matters, the Association Head Judge would monitor progress.

OTHER SECTIONS: We should always judge as per the guidelines unless directed to judge differently by the host club.

FEB/MARCH 2011 WORKSHOPS: In the interests of planning – please find below the dates and host clubs for the Feb/March 2011 workshops.

Northern – Hamilton

13 March 2011 (Sunday) to be hosted by River City
11am – 4pm

Central – Wellington

6 March 2011 (Sunday) to be hosted by Harbour City
10am – 3pm

Southern – Dunedin

20 February 2011 (Sunday) to be hosted by Dunedin
11am – 4pm

Shane Taurima
NZARRA Head Judge