

<p style="text-align: center;">JUDGES WORKSHOP REPORT for CLUBS Feb/March 2011</p>
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TRIBUTES

We pay tribute to Hiku Tapara, a senior and respected judge who passed away in March and we offer our thoughts and support to Colleen and family. We also acknowledge the passing of former Association President, Treasurer and Scrutineer Warren Holcroft.

We thank Warren Jeffrey and Tanya McAllister for their time and commitment as National Association Judges – they have both decided to step down. We wish them well for the future and look forward to seeing them at up and coming events. We also welcome new trainee judge Leila Maaka, who has returned to the judging fold in Dunedin.

HARMONY

The workshops focused on Harmony and our judging guidelines. While there was some talk of tweaking the guidelines, most judges felt comfortable with the current wording and breakdown of points. I have made small changes to the guidelines, including removing the word “showmanship”. Please note showmanship is already in our Variety guidelines.

A short definition of Harmony could be summed up as follows: The dancers work together in flow with the music; have well matched styles and show enjoyment, feeling, expression, attitude and confidence.

Harmony is something you “feel” – but a word of caution, the “feeling” needs to be based on the guidelines.

SENIOR TEAM & TOP CLUB

Judges shouldn't feel restricted to sitting/standing at the top of the dance floor – spread out, sit/stand around the floor to get a good view of the lines/formations/use of floor etc. At the end of the day, Timing is paramount, as per our guidelines. Teams can have great Variety, but must execute it in time with the music. Judges must also take into consideration: difficulty, changes in partnership(s), originality, excitement and of course, interpretation. Judges should also look at straight lines, “togetherness” and use of floor.

N.B. Clubs should be aware that judges at Nationals will be spread out on the floor and will not necessarily be seated/positioned in one area i.e. at the top of the dance floor.

BEST DRESSED

All judges should familiarise themselves with what was worn in the rock n roll era. There is literature available for all judges on the association website. We should be looking at the “complete style” of dress and should be rewarding those that dress accordingly. The main “styles” were the English look i.e. Teddy-boy, American and of course New Zealand had their own “unique” look.

NATIONALS

Judges are in favour of host clubs doing away with suppers to enable more competition to take place on Saturday night including semi-finals. This would allow a longer afternoon dinner break and/or later start to the day. Some judges preferred to stand and be able to walk the floor – but didn't have a problem with those judges wanting to sit. The most important thing is that judges have comfortable chairs to sit on, in between dances. The workshop didn't want to see any dancing sections cut back and felt that judging Best

Dressed as a 'finals' only would be too difficult to judge fairly, perhaps culminating with incorrect results.

REMINDER

A friendly reminder to all judges that any privileged information shared or gained while officiating at a competition must remain confidential. We must act in a professional manner and have a responsibility to the Association. Our conduct should always be beyond reproach when representing the Association.

AGM REMITS & NOTICES OF MOTION

Currently a judge must attend a workshop before they can start their training. The HJ believes this is unnecessary and can disadvantage a judge. We only have 2 workshops per year – which means trainee judges can sometimes have to wait up to 6 or more months before they can start training.

Thank you to River City, Harbour City and Dunedin for hosting 3 well organised and attended workshops - special mention also to Drifters and Brooklyn Rockers for helping to provide dancers. In the interests of future planning, we will be seeking expressions of interest for the next 3 workshops to be held in August/September from clubs.

I wish you well with your future judging and look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Shane Taurima
NZARRA Head Judge