



New Zealand Amateur Rock'n'Roll Association Inc.



MINUTES OF THE 2019 NZARRA Inc. 36th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AIRPORT MOTEL CONFERENCE CENTRE, SATURDAY 18th MAY 2019

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

The NZ Executive Committee members present were introduced

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| President | Nola Calvert |
| Vice President | Karen Birch |
| Secretary | Brenda Neill |
| Treasurer | Yolanda Van Dorrestein |
| Head Judge | Colleen Ryan |

The President moved that the voting procedure be as follows:

That voting for Remits will be on a show of hands, the majority 50% of clubs and Executive present.

Election of Officers — Secret Ballot for all positions. Brenda Neill & Lynn Offord, the Observer from Hutt Valley, will act as scrutineers for the voting of Executive Officers.

Moved by the President Seconded by Harbour City - Carried unanimously

That voting papers will be destroyed at the end of the elections.

Moved by the President Seconded The Secretary - Carried unanimously

With 16 clubs plus 5 Executive in attendance, the majority for voting is 11 until the arrival of 2 more clubs.

Apologies

Gracelands
River City

Christchurch moved the apologies be accepted.

Seconded by The Secretary. Carried unanimously

Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

The Secretary moved the Minutes be accepted.

Seconded by Tauranga. Carried unanimously

There were no matters arising.

President's Report

The President's report was circulated prior to the meeting.

There were no matters arising.

The President moved that the report be accepted.

Seconded by City of Sails. Carried unanimously

Head Judge's Report

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

Colleen spoke to her report which covered key aspects and noted that there were a good number of trainees. Future workshops will be looking in depth at variety, after dealing with Timing and Harmony at previous workshops.

There were no questions.

The Head Judge moved that her report be accepted.

Seconded by Surf City. Carried unanimously

Correspondence Inwards/Outwards

The list of Inwards and Outwards correspondence was circulated.

There were no matters arising

The Secretary moved that the Correspondence Report be accepted.

Seconded by Dunedin. Carried unanimously

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Treasurer conveyed thanks to Helen Reeves who reviewed the accounts

It was noted that Southern club has resigned, and Bush is in recess, intending to re affiliate when they can. There are currently 34 affiliated clubs.

The Treasurer moved that all levies and fees remain unchanged for the 2019/20 year.

Seconded by Kapi Mana. Passed unanimously

The Treasurer moved that the Financial Report be accepted.

Seconded by Drifters. Carried unanimously

Nationals Reports

Senior Nationals 2018 Report - Wellington

Richard Reder presented the report for Wellington

Being our 40th anniversary we combined the Friday night as our reunion and celebration of past and present members. This went really well as we had members come from overseas and all around NZ. It was great to see old faces renew friendships.

Saturday went well apart from the sound letting us down. An adjustment at lunchtime rectified this. Sorry to those people affected as we had done sound checks Thursday - Friday and Sunday was great also.

Our club was fortunate enough to have a sub-committee to organise the reunion, decorations and the catering for judges. The sub-committee were separate from our club committee and this took a huge load off club resources. Thank you guys and gals.

The venue was great!

The club made a profit of \$19039.00. We applied for grants but no grants were accepted.

So many thanks to the Rock n Rollers who made this another great Nationals.

Wellington moved that the report be accepted.

Seconded by Gold Coast. Carried Unanimously

Junior Nationals 2019 Report – Invercargill

Nicky Phillipson presented the report for Invercargill Club

What a weekend! We finally made it to the main arena at Stadium Southland - third time lucky they say!

2019 Nationals was a great success. Invercargill had a fantastic time hosting the Nationals, with a great team of volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who travelled to attend and we hope you thoroughly enjoyed it.

We hope everybody enjoyed the venue, the space and that you all took advantage of the props to record the special memories of 2019.

We sold 253 weekend floor passes, 69 Saturday floor passes and 47 Sunday floor passes. On top of that we took General Admission for 500 people approx. – at one point on Saturday afternoon we almost opened the upper stand.

Eftpos definitely helped and we would advise it is available at all Nationals.

37 DVD's were ordered by the end of the weekend.

We have found an additional 18 badges that will be available at the AGM or can be ordered by emailing 2019juniornationals@gmail.com or calling Nicky 0272131592.

We ordered 50 general badges.

We had some issues regarding “sessions” for general admission - we charged \$10 per session for adults. Our sessions were morning, afternoon and evening. Next time we would do day & night sessions.

We would ask that there is some discussion/feedback on if Video Passes (with modern technology) are still necessary. There was a lot of live streaming etc. and we only had one video pass purchased.

We made a profit of \$16,800. We were fortunate to receive funding of \$14,500, however the venue and sound costs consumed all of this.

Thank you for the opportunity to host the 2019 Junior Nationals and we wish Drifters and all future clubs the best of luck in hosting future Junior Nationals.

Invercargill moved that their report be accepted.

Seconded by Christchurch. Carried unanimously

Senior Nationals 2019 Progress Report.

Craig Blaikie presented the report for Christchurch Club

The Christchurch Rock n Roll Club organising committee would like to extend an invitation to all Rock'n'Rollers & supporters to come to the Senior Nationals 2019 in Christchurch.

You can be guaranteed a great weekend of fun, good music and fantastic dancing.

We offer you a great atmosphere at a great venue Lincoln Event Centre - Lincoln.

Accommodation list can be found on our website.

Venue tickets are \$95 for the weekend or \$50 per day for Saturday and Sunday.

Notes:

- Motels on the list are between 15-20 minutes from the venue
- You will need to secure rental vans / cars
- Motor homes are welcome: a special area has been ear-tagged.
- Free internet access
- Free filtered water
- Newsletter & ticket order forms will be sent soon.

The committee is working hard to ensure a great weekend.

We look forward to seeing you in Christchurch in 2019.

Check out our website for further updates.

www.christchurchrocknroll.org.nz

Christchurch moved their report be accepted.

Seconded by Hawkes Bay. Carried unanimously

Junior Nationals 2020 Progress Report

Greg Sammons presented the report for Drifters.

There are only 328 days until Drifters club will welcome you all to "TRON" for the 2020 Junior nationals

We are excited and planning is well underway.

Venue: The competition will be held at the Fraser High School Gymnasium complex on Elliot Road. The venue consists of 3 separate but interconnected gymnasiums, the largest will be used for the dance competition and one of the smaller gyms for a warm up and marshalling area. The third gym will be for sales tables and a chill out area. There are adequate toilets and changing facilities within the complex.

There is ample parking adjacent to the gym and our team will guide you in on the first day.

There will be motorhome parking at the venue with details available at a later date.

Accommodation: There is a vast range of accommodation available in Hamilton with the bulk of motels on Ulster Street, about 10 minutes drive from the venue.

A comprehensive list is available on our website www.drifters.org.nz/2020.

If your club is having any difficulties please don't hesitate to contact us and we will do our best to help out.

2020info@drifters.org.nz

Food and Dining; Remember Easter can be difficult with major supermarkets closed on the Friday, you will need to plan in advance to save disappointment. Using the Supermarket delivery service to your motel is a great option. The normal range of fast foods outlets open over the weekend, listed in our flyer, or just use uncle Google.

Things to do Just in case you have any spare time there are a range of facilities available in Hamilton:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Waterworld | Garnet Avenue |
| Hamilton Zoo | Brymer Road |
| Hamilton Lake | Pembroke Street |
| Hamilton Gardens | Cobham Drive |
| Classic Museum | Railside Place |

Ticketing In due course we will release a ticket order form, but in the interim if you have any ticketing queries contact Chris at 2020tickets@drifters.org.nz

For further information check the website or drop us a line at 2020info@drifters.org.nz

Drifters moved that their report be accepted.

Seconded by Rock'n'Roll Live Carried unanimously

Senior Nationals 2020 Progress report

Karen Saul presented the report for Whakatane Club.

Wow I can't believe a year has gone past already, since we got that all important nod to say we were hosting the 2020 nationals. As you can imagine the club was over the moon and super excited about getting that opportunity.

We have the backing from our local council & Mayor and have secured our venue at the Whakatane War Memorial Event Centre. The club has been out & about promoting themselves around town, getting sponsorships & grants, while doing a lot of fundraising. This nationals is definitely the talk of the town now and our local radio station is getting behind us too, which is doing us the world of good.

The club have got some great ideas brewing, to make this nationals one to remember. Bringing back some highlights from the past, and creating some new experiences.

We do however want to highly recommend that you book your accommodation as soon as possible, like now would be good! Ha ha. We have no idea what other events are on that same weekend in our area, and it is basically first in first served with the motels around town. I have brought you all the accommodation list so you can do that as soon as possible.

It is only 12 months, 22 weeks and 5 days away. Looking forward to having you all come party with us in sunny Whakatane.

Whakatane moved their report be accepted.

Seconded by Tauranga. Carried unanimously

Voting majority is now 12 with all clubs present.

Allocation of 2021 Senior and Junior Nationals

Senior Nationals 22nd – 24th October 2021

River Rockers Whanganui – Accepted unanimously

Junior Nationals 2nd – 4th April 2021

Kapi Mana in Porirua, Wellington – Accepted unanimously

City of Sails expressed their wish to bid for 2023 Senior Nationals, it is the Club's 35th Birthday.

The President thanked the clubs for their interest and congratulated both future host clubs.

End of Reports and Nationals allocation.

Remits: Alterations to the Rule Book

Remit 1 – Executive/Kapi Mana

Amend Rule 1.8 (a) as follows:

Junior Championship Sections

| | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Junior | 5 years to 9 years |
| 2 | Intermediate | 10 years to 13 years |
| 3 | Seniors | 14 years to 17 years |
| 4 | ----- | |
| 5 | Top Club | 5 years to 17 years |
| 6 | Novelty | 5 years to 17 years |
| 7 | Triples Junior | 5 years to 13 years |
| 8 | Triples Intermediate | 5 years to 17 years |
| 9 | Cheerleaders | 5 years to 17 years |
| 10 | Restricted | 5 years to 17 years |
| 11 | ----- | |
| 13 | Same Sex | 5 years to 17 years |
| 14 | Novice | 5 years to 17 years |
| 16 | Junior Same Sex | 5 years to 12 years |

Intention

To bring the ages for the Triples sections in line with the Same Sex sections and the Best Dressed Female sections at Junior Nationals by making Intermediate Triples an “open” section.

Reasoning

Making Intermediate Triples an open age range would allow a range of ages to dance together and encourage entries in the section, still leaving Junior Triples available for a trio of younger dancers. This format has worked very well in the Same Sex section, encouraging entries and making it one of the larger sections in the Championship.

The Secretary spoke to the Remit.

This gives an “open” triples sections for juniors in line with Same Sex and Best Dressed, and also in line with sections in the Senior Championships.

Voting on the Remit 20 For, 1 Against. – Remit Carried

Remit 2 – Drifters/Rock’n’Roll Live

Amend rule 1.8 (a) to create a new section 10 Junior Restricted and renumber the existing Restricted to become Section 11

Amended rule to read

Junior Championship Sections

| | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Junior | 5 years to 9 years |
| 2 | Intermediate | 10 years to 13 years |
| 3 | Seniors | 14 years to 17 years |
| 4 | ----- | |
| 5 | Top Club | 5 years to 17 years |
| 6 | Novelty | 5 years to 17 years |
| 7 | Triples Junior | 5 years to 13 years |
| 8 | Triples Intermediate | 14 years to 17 years |
| 9 | Cheerleaders | 5 years to 17 years |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10 Junior Restricted | 5 years to 12 years |
| 11 Restricted | 13 years to 17 years |
| 13 Same Sex | 5 years to 17 years |
| 14 Novice | 5 years to 17 years |
| 16 Junior Same Sex | 5 years to 12 years |

Intention

To create a new section in the Junior Championships Sections called Junior Restricted. Junior Restricted would be a separate age group from the juniors who can dance in the Restricted Section.
Also, to renumber the Restricted section accordingly.

Reasoning

National events have breakdowns in other sections for juniors.

We have a number of Junior-Juniors who would love to do Restricted but because they go up against kids as old as 17 their interest wanes due to it not being a fair competition.

A lot of younger kids are not confident enough to do jumps yet and allowing them to dance in a male/female partnership without jumps at a National level in their own age gap allows them to gain experience and have more time on the floor without the intimidation of the older kids dancing against them.

The reason for the age split at 12/13 years is to differentiate the intermediate school aged children from the high school aged children.

Amendment to the Remit: Drifters/Christchurch

Alter Section 11 to 5 -17 years.

Reason – in line with the previous Remit

Voting on Amendment: Carried unanimously

Wellington – If there is just one entry in the Junior Restricted would they then go into the Restricted Section?
The Secretary – we would always seek further entries if the numbers in a section look low.

Voting on the Amended Remit Carried unanimously

Remit 3 – Drifters/River Rockers Whanganui

If amended rule 1.8 (a) is passed then amend rule 3.8

Amended rule to read

Depending on how many judges are utilised, the total number of points will vary but the set “National Qualifying Level” will be:

Junior Championship Sections

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1 Junior | 20% |
| 2 Intermediate | 30% |
| 3 Seniors | 45% |
| 7 Triples Junior | 30% |
| 8 Triples Intermediate | 35% |
| 10 Junior Restricted | 25% |
| 11 Restricted | 30% |
| 13 Same Sex | 30% |
| 16 Junior Same Sex | 25% |

Intention

To add a National Qualifying Level for the new section Junior Restricted.

Reasoning

To align the National Qualifying Level of the new section Junior Restricted with the Junior Same Sex section which has the same age range, and renumber the Restricted Section accordingly.

Voting on the remit. Carried unanimously

Remit 4 - Drifters /Christchurch

If amended rule 1.8 (a) is passed then:
Amend rule 4.10 (b)

Junior Championship

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Junior | 3 couples |
| 2 | Intermediate | 3 couples |
| 3 | Seniors | 3 couples |
| 4 | ----- | |
| 5 | Top Club | 3 teams |
| 6 | Novelty | 3 entries |
| 7 | Triples Junior | 3 teams |
| 8 | Triples Intermediate | 3 teams |
| 9 | Cheerleaders | 3 teams |
| 10 | Junior Restricted | 3 couples |
| 11 | Restricted | 3 couples |
| 12 | ----- | |
| 13 | Same Sex | 3 couples |
| 14 | Novice | 3 couples |
| 16 | Junior Same Sex | 3 couples |

Intention

To add a minimum number of club entries to hold a competition for new section Junior Restricted, and renumber the Restricted Section accordingly.

Reasoning

It is sensible to have a minimum number of entries for the new section which is consistent with the other sections.

Voting on the Remit: Carried unanimously

Remit 5 – Drifters/Whakatane

Amend Rule 1.8 to read

Senior Championship Sections

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Open | 18 years and over |
| 2 | Platinum | 30 years and over |
| 3 | Golden | 40 years and over |
| 4 | Masters | 50 years and over |
| 5 | Top Club | 18 years and over |
| 6 | Novelty | 18 years and over |
| 7 | Open Triples | 18 years and over |
| 8 | Senior Triples | 40 years and over |
| 9 | ----- | |
| 10 | Open Restricted | 18 years and over |
| 11 | Senior Restricted | 40 years and over |
| 12 | Diamond | 60 years and over |
| 13 | Open Same Sex | 18 years and over |
| 14 | Novice | 18 years and over |
| 15 | Senior Team | 40 years and over |
| 16 | Senior Same Sex | 40 years and over |

Intention

To bring the Senior Triples section age range into line with the other senior sections.

Reasoning

Over the last few years the Senior Nationals competition has struggled to get enough teams in the Open Triples section. We believe that by changing the age range the number of entries in each section will be more evenly distributed.

Drifters spoke to the Remit

This would align the Triples section to align with Senior Team, Senior Same Sex and Senior Restricted sections.

Tauranga – It may put people off, we could lose dancers from the senior triples, with the potentially 22 year age gap from 18 to 40.

The Head Judge – Perhaps it would solve the issue of fewer in Open triples.

Drifters - Right of reply - We have a potential 35 year difference in ages now in senior triples, 35 – 70 for example.

Voting on the Remit: 16 For, 6 Against, 1 Abstention. Remit carried

Remit 6 – City of Sails/Kapi Mana

Delete Section 3 Assessments

Intention

To increase entries and hopefully encourage more people to consider competing

Reasoning

To remove Section 3 assessments to allow for all those who wish to enter National Championships to do so without the fear of assessments. To try to encourage and increase competition entries. A follow on would be an increase in supporters and higher attendance at National Championships which is something we have all been discussing with a view to increase.

This could be done as either a complete removal of the rule or as a suspension for a specific time frame on a trial basis for say 24 months.

City of Sails spoke to the remit:

This is to encourage entries, take away the fear of assessment. Perhaps a trial to see whether it works or makes a difference.

Harbour City - Against – Assessment is benchmark to get into the competition. It is also an avenue for judges to gain experience.

Hawkes Bay – Against – a benchmark of ability.

Invercargill – Against – The weekend is long enough now. Some couples may only go to Nationals, not local competitions and club events.

Kapi Mana - For – We would welcome a trial of no assessments

River Rockers Whanganui – Against – assessment is good training, of dancing and being judged.

The Secretary – Against - for administrative reasons, assessments give an indication of the numbers coming through for a Nationals.

Drifters – For – Those are not valid reasons. Assessments should not be used as a control or for training judges. We believe we are past having bad dancing on the floor.

The Head Judge – people can be reassessed and assessment does give dancers feedback.

City of Sails Right of reply. This is an opportunity to find out if we would get a greater number entries without assessment. Hence the suggestion of the trial.

Voting on the remit. 6 For, 17 Against. Remit lost

Remit 7 - City of Sails/Kapi Mana

Add a New Rule No: 3.9 (a)

Wording of the New Rule

Any couple/triple having achieved National Qualifying level points as per rule 3.8, in the first round (Heat) of the previous National Championship shall be deemed to have passed assessment and shall be entitled to compete at the National Championship in the section for which they have passed assessment.

The inclusion of this remit will require 3.9 (a) & 3.9 (b) to become 3.9 (b) & 3.9 (c)

Reasoning

This is so that couples/triples who have competed at Nationals previously and who have shown in the heats that they can obtain sufficient points at Nationals to pass assessment, do not need to go through the assessment process to compete the following year. If however, the couple/triples does not obtain sufficient points in the heat round at Nationals they will need to be assessed during the year prior for the next Nationals they wish to compete at

Intention

To eliminate unnecessary assessments and the time, money and paperwork they involve

This remit will also affect Rule 3.1

Amend Rule 3.1

3.1 To ensure that the National Championships are of a high standard, competing couples/triples teams must be assessed for the section that they intend to compete in. (Refer rules 1.8 (a) and 1.8 (b)). The assessment is to be held within the 12 months preceding the National Championship concerned **or at the Previous National Championship** and have been judged by two or more New Zealand Association Judges.

City of Sails spoke to the Remit– This would be valid for the same partnerships, in the same section and for the immediate following nationals only

Amendment to the Remit - Drifters/Tauranga

Delete the words “in the first round (Heat) of” Replace with “at”

Voting on the Amendment: 17 For, 3 Against, 2 Abstained. Amendment carried

Tauranga - Against – the whole situation would be problematic – who is going to keep track of this?

Rock'n'Roll Live – Against – We believe it creates tiers of dancers, with some sailing through to the next Nationals and others having to work through an assessment.

Wellington - Against – Assessment night or however a club runs its assessments, locks in dancers. We need assessments for several reasons.

Harbour City – Against – This could damage the Club spirit. We may not see some competitors all year, just at Nationals. Dancers need to support clubs throughout the year, and assessments are one way to do this.

Hawkes Bay – Against for all the reasons given.

Drifters – For – It is not about clubs, it's about dancers. Assessment is not the way to foster club spirit and should not be used as a tool for judges.

Head Judge – Against – Assessment is a valuable tool for dancers and judges.

City of Sails Right of Reply – Clubs have their own rules. If dancers are of quality to dance nationals, they should not have to keep proving that year after year. If you are good enough one year, why not the following year.

Voting on the Amended Remit: 4 For, 19 Against. Remit lost

Remit 8 – Executive/Wellington

Alter Rule 4.4

The closing Date for all entries (including Novelty) is Junior Championships 6th February

Intention: To assist clubs in getting juniors assessed and entered in Junior Nationals.

Reasoning: this change of date for entries for Junior nationals to after the school term starts should make it easier for clubs to get children assessed, forms signed and entered, while still having a recognisable and easy to remember closing date (Waitangi Day). The date is the latest that will still allow time for processing before the earliest likely championship date.

The Vice President spoke to the Remit – this gives an extra week and is when most schools are back and clubs have made contact with their juniors. It is purely to assist the clubs.

Amendment to the Remits Drifters/Rock'n'Roll Live.

The closing Date for all entries (including Novelty) is Junior Championships 7 weeks prior to Easter.

Treasurer – Against

The President – Medals need ordering and 7 weeks makes it tight.

Drifters – Just trying to get entries by making the date flexible given that Easter is a moveable date.

Voting on the Amendment: 2 For, 20 Against, 1 abstained. Amendment lost

Further discussion on the Remit

The Secretary - Against – This change isn't workable, there are several issues with timelines, getting a meeting in to do the programme, select music, prepare judges sheets and a host of administrative tasks.

Treasurer – For – this remit came from a request from clubs. Clubs are up and running again before this proposed date and the majority of Executive was for putting the motion.

The Treasurer – The purpose was to assist clubs to get entries in on time.

Voting on the Remit: 19 For, 4 Against. Remit carried

Remit 9 – Executive/Kapi Mana

Alter Rule 10.6 (c) which should refer to Rule 4.12 (e) (not (d) as now.

Reason – A tidy up so the correct rule referred to.

Voting on Remit: Carried unanimously

Remit 10 - Harbour City/Kapi Mana

Update Rule 1.8 (b) and Rule 4.10 (b) to replace “14. Novice 18 years and over” and “14. Novice 3 couples” with “14. -----“

Intention: To remove Novice as a section from the Senior National Championships.

Rationale: Novice as a concept works well at club level where it is typically measured in terms of how long a couple have been dancing, and therefore usually has a relatively-even playing field. The criteria for Senior Nationals is simply that neither dancer in the couple have previously danced at Nationals (excluding Novelty and Cheerleaders), and there is no assessment prior. This obviously allows for a much wider range of dancing capability, which can make for much more uneven competition, and is unfair (and off-putting) to our newer dancers, who could find themselves up against very experienced dancers. We feel that everyone competing at Senior Nationals should have demonstrated their ability to dance to a particular level, via assessment. We feel that Senior Nationals is not the place for unassessed dancers to be competing, but that adding an assessment criteria to Novice would put many would-be competitors off. We understand that this section was introduced to encourage more dancers to compete at Nationals, in the hope that after competing in Novice they would go on to enter other sections in future years. There has been little evidence of this happening. We are not proposing any change for the Junior Championships – as a club we have very little knowledge of Junior Nationals.

Harbour City – The intent is to remove Novice altogether from Senior nationals. We feel Novice as a concept works better within a club environment. Nationals is not the place for unassessed dancers. It was introduced to get more dancers on the floor and we don't consider it to have made much difference.

Whakatane – Against – Novice is important for a first time entrant, but we would consider assessment for Novice as appropriate.

Hutt Valley –Perhaps Novice could be managed better with assessment or time limit on experience dancing.

Hawkes Bay – Against removing the section, it is scary for those first time on a Nationals floor against experienced dancers, especially in the younger age sections.

Rock'n'Roll Live – Against - Novice gives dancers a taste of Nationals.

City of Sails – Against - The section is to encourage people who have been dancing to get out on the competition dance floor. It is not about Novice being for brand new dancers, but getting more dancers into competition.

Wellington – Against - Some would not have competed at all if they went immediately into their age sections.

Head Judge – Against – Novice is well attended and gives dancers a taste of nationals. It is a great section for first timers at Nationals and dancers do go on to do other sections. Novice is a very valuable section.

Harbour City – We are not discouraging people from dancing but novice aren't assessed. If we lose this motion we would welcome discussing assessment. If you have a very good Novice dancers they should go into their own section, so true Novices don't compete against them.

Voting for the Remit: 3 For, 20 Against. Remit lost

Remit 11 - City of Sails/Rock'n'Roll Live

Alteration to Rule 10.6 (c)

Rule 10.6 (c) Delete the words “1 male and 1 female dancer” and replace with the words “**two competitors**”. Delete the bracketed (d) and replace with (e). Amended Rule would read:

A Novice couple is defined **as two competitors** both of whom have never competed at any National competition, excluding Sections 6 & 9, (Novelty and Cheerleaders). Refer Rule 4.12 (e).

Intention: The intention would be to incorporate the Novice Same Sex section into the Novice section so that regardless of the combination of how a partnership is formed everyone is a novice and competing against first time National competitors.

Reasoning: Currently there is no Novice section for Same Sex couples which puts them at a disadvantage. Currently a Male/Female couple can compete in a Novice section against other competitors who have never competed before, however a Same Sex couple due to having no novice section straight away can be competing against a strong couple who have competed more than once. This can make novice competitors feel very intimidated to the point of not competing.

City of Sails spoke to the Remit. There is no suggestion for a separate section, but same sex couples don't have the option to dance novice as other new dancers have. Delete "one Male one Female", so same sex couples can dance in Novice on Saturday.

Wellington & Invercargill – Against – The preference is for Novice Same Sex as a separate section.

Harbour City- Against – It is taking focus away from Same Sex.

Voting on the Remit 7 For, 15 Against, 1 abstention. Remit lost

Remit 12 – City of Sails – Withdrawn, no longer Relevant

Amend Rule 4.12 (e)

Existing Rule:

4.12 (e) An entrant or competitor in Section 14 (Novice) cannot compete in any other section except 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15 or 16 (Top Club, Novelty, Triples, Same Sex sections, Cheerleaders & Senior Team).

Amended rule to read

4.12 (e) An entrant or competitor in Section 14 (Novice) cannot compete in any other section except 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15 (Top Club, Novelty, Triples, Cheerleaders & Senior Team).

Remit 13 - Kapi Mana/River Rockers

Amend Rule 5.4(d)

Add the following after "semi-finals"

"with the difference in speed between the slow and fast song/instrumental being no less than 25 bpm."

Amended Rule will read:

"The music for National Championships selected for each dancing section should be of similar length and tempo within that sections heats, quarters or semi-finals with the difference in tempo between the slow and fast song/instrumental being no less than 25 bpm."

Intention: We feel there needs to be a minimum difference in beats per minute between the slow song and fast song, to differentiate them.

Reasoning: If the fastest slow and slowest fast were given to the same couple it would feel like you are dancing to two fast songs. Although the nominated sections dance to 1 slow and 1 fast song/instrumental the bpm for slow songs is up to 136 bpm and for fast songs is no less than 155 bpm which is a difference of only 19 bpm. We believe the differential should be a minimum of 25 bpm and that this should be legislated.

Amendment Kapi Mana /Drifters

Delete "Tempo" and replace with "Speed".

Voting on the Amendment: Carried Unanimously

Kapi Mana spoke to the Amended Remit

The thinking behind this Remit comes from our competitors, who believe that often there is little difference in the dancing between the slow and the fast and making this gap would ensure that it was different.

Christchurch – Against – we are worried about a group of songs not being used. It limits choice when selecting music.

Harbour City - What problem is being solved?

City of Sails – How is Music chosen?

Wellington – How would it change the way music is chosen?

The Secretary – The Executive look at the sections, songs used need to be speed appropriate. We need to have similar length, speed and tempo within a sections heats or semis. We avoid using what was used for a section the year before. It is a complex process. The speed difference now is 20 bpm, would another 5 make much difference?

Voting on the Amended Remit: 5 For, 16 Against, 2 Abstained. Remit lost

Lunch Break 12 noon

Meeting Resumed at 12.45 pm

Remit 14 - Harbour City / River Rockers Whanganui

Add after the first sentence of Rule 5.5 (a)

“For the Senior Championships, the best dressed parade will be combined for sections 7 and 8, and for sections 13 and 16.”

Updated rule would read:

“A best dressed parade will be held on Saturday prior to the particular section of competition for Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12 & 14, and on Sunday prior to competition 5, 7, 8, 13, 15 & 16 .

For the Senior Championships, the best dressed parade will be combined for sections 7 and 8, and for sections 13 and 16. Entry is optional. Seven official Judges will judge these parades.”

Rationale: Our intent is to combine best dressed competitions for similar sections on the Sunday at Senior Nationals. This will create more competition within those sections, while reducing the time required, and recognises that there is no need to have an age criteria as part of the best dressed consideration.

We have age-based criteria for our dancing sections because there is a perceived difference in agility or capability between a much younger and a much older dancer. But we do not need to take any such difference into account when considering our dress – dancers of any age are able to compete equally.

We are proposing that

- The best dressed competitions for Open and Senior Triples be combined
- The best dressed competition for Open and Senior Same Sex be combined

The existing Open Best Dressed trophies would continue to be used.

When we proposed this at a previous AGM, the main objection was from dancers, that they like having a best dressed section and parading immediately prior to being called to the floor to compete – but this only applies to those in the first heat, everyone else has to enter best dressed and then wait anyway, so this objection doesn't really stand.

We are not proposing any change for juniors – as a club we have very little knowledge of Junior Nationals.

We would be open to an amendment on the day of the AGM, to extend this to include combining the best dressed competitions for sections 10 and 11, Open Restricted and Senior Restricted.

Harbour City spoke to the Remit. We seek to reduce the time required on Sunday for these parades by combining Triples and Same Sex. There is no perceived advantage in splitting these sections as far as dress is concerned.

Wellington – Against - what happens to the trophies that clubs/people have donated?

River Rockers Whanganui – Against – Marshalling/Best Dressed flow nicely and we want to keep that.

Whakatane – For. If you can't dance in a jacket why be judged in it for best dressed. Should be what you dance in.

The Vice President – Why not for Saturday competition as well?

Tauranga – Against – A lot of thought, money and time is spent on outfits, and competitors could be lost in amongst everyone. Ages do matter in Best Dressed. The required clothing is suited to younger bodies, and older people wouldn't stand a chance.

Drifters – Against – Best Dressed is a big part of nationals for competitors.

Voting on Remit – 6 For, 15 Against, 2 Abstained. Remit lost

Remit 15 – Wellington/Invercargill

Alter the first paragraph of Rule 6.3.2 (a) to read:

In Sections 10 & 11 (Restricted), if a judge sights an illegal move as per 11.5.1 then that judge will mark an "X" in the box provided in addition to points of which a maximum of 2 points can be deducted for that song regardless of which categories they are judging; timing, harmony and or variety.

Wellington spoke to the Remit – If you are a judge and were intending to give a 9 or 10, how can you justify that mark when you see an illegal move and have to give an "X"? We would like to have the ability to deduct up to 2 points. If you are the only judge to have seen the illegal move, the reduced mark should not unfairly disadvantage the couple.

The Treasurer – For the intent of the Remit- There should be some point penalty instead of the current "X" for an illegal move.

Kapi Mana– Why not just deduct points and not use the "X" at all?

The Head Judge – Restricted has been under discussion amongst judges. It is a unique section, with definite rules about illegal moves. In a final works out with the couple being placed appropriately by the scrutineers. In Heats, awarding an "X" with no points being removed was passed last year as potentially one judge could exit a couple from the competition. Hence the "X" plus points. Perhaps this is Phase 2 of looking at this and we have had time now to figure what is fair and allowing up to two points deduction seems fair.

Whangarei – What about breaking the rules in other sections? There is a point penalty then.

Drifters – For - With all other sections judges use their discretion to deduct points. This rule allows judges to represent what they have seen.

City of Sails– Against –If it is illegal you give an "X". If you take points off as well you are having a double penalty. Until 2 judges have seen it, the move is not illegal.

Wellington – How can you give an "X" and justify a 10? Being able to deduct 1 or 2 points gives the judge confidence to give an "X" and recognize the fault.

Voting on the Remit: 16 For, 6 Against, 1 Abstained. Remit carried

Remit 16 – Executive/Invercargill

Alter Rules 10.9 and 10.10. Delete the words "can be made up of" and replace with "is defined as"
Reason – a tidy up, making the rule clearer.

Voting on the Remit: Passed unanimously.

Remit 17 – Executive/Tauranga

Alter Rule 11.5 to read:

11.5 An inappropriate move in Rock'n'roll is any move that

- (a) In sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 16 (excluding sections 5 & 15) is done more than two arms lengths apart, such move(s) breaking the continuity of the dance.
- (b) In sections 5 (Top Club) and 15 (Senior Teams) where one person is more than two arm lengths from every other person on the team excluding entry and exit.
- (c) In sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16 is one where physical contact is lost between partners whilst one is above the head of the other(s) when standing in an upright position.

Intention: a tidy up to better reflect the intention of the rule changes passed at the 2018 AGM.

The Treasurer spoke to the Remit.

We had a pretty good go at changing this last year but it was not quite right. Without changing the intent, the remit rewords the clause so that it is really clear. It was muddled before and this is stating what we were trying to achieve.

Voting on the Remit: Passed unanimously

END OF REMITS.

Election of Officers

Nominations for President

Nola Calvert - Nominated by Invercargill.

Nominations for Vice-President

Karen Birch - Nominated by Invercargill

Nominations for Secretary

Neva Zainey - Nominated by Drifters.

Nominations for Treasurer

Yolanda van Dorrestein - Nominated by Harbour City.

All Nominees were elected by secret ballot.

Confirmation of Head Judge

Colleen Ryan was announced as Head Judge, elected by National Association and Association Judges by postal vote prior to AGM.

The President thanked Brenda Neill, the outgoing Secretary and presented flowers, a gift and the Executive Pin. The Secretary badge was presented to Neva Zainey.

Break for 5 minutes

General Business

Item 1 – Wellington – New Songs

Wellington – New songs added to or deleted from the song list – We would like to see a 1 year trial to all the clubs and then voted on at the following AGM. Some of the songs are not appropriate, we want to pre-vote. Some new songs are not dancing songs and not appropriate for Club night.

The Treasurer - Why at an AGM, why not postal vote? Is it a majority of clubs, or those that vote?
Any suggestions for new music is welcome.

The Secretary explained the process in selecting new music, and acknowledged Steve Bowden for all the songs he has submitted, and Duncan Jury for formatting the ones eventually chosen.

It was agreed that with new songs submitted, before they are approved by the Executive, the shortlist would be sent to clubs for comment, with a response time stated and adhered to.

Item 2 – Wellington - All Teams - Senior & Junior

Should all teams revert back to 3 x male and 3 x female? Should another category be created for mixed teams that are not 3 x males & 3 x females?

The Secretary – At the recent juniors, if we only allowed traditional “couples” teams there would have been just two teams. As it was we had some lovely dancing from 5 teams which made a great competition. For smaller clubs with a smaller pool of dancers it allows them to get a team on the floor. It makes no difference when judging them.

Invercargill – A mix should remain, but on the proviso that there are two sections, a mixed one being introduced as well.

Head Judge – Does the current definition place one configuration above another? The makeup of a team may affect the choreography, but it is working as it is. I don't think traditional teams particularly have any advantage or disadvantage. The judges do discuss judging teams within the workshops.

Invercargill – We support traditional teams against “showcase” teams, they are very different.

Drifters – The current definition of teams is about getting barriers out of the way, choreography can be done by any type of team. We should be careful use of “showcase” as a word, “Showcase” is dance without rules. There are definite rules for teams.

Item 3 – Executive

Rule 6.3.2 (a) second paragraph – there is an incorrect word, replace “heat” with “song”

New Remit: Executive/ Drifters

6.3.2 (a) replace “in a heat” with “in the same song”

Voting on the Remit: Carried unanimously

Item 4 - Executive

New Remit Executive/Wellington

6.5 Replace “six” with “five”.

Reason – this was missed when the number allowed in a heat, semi or final was reduced to 5. This remit brings that into line.

Voting on the Remit: Carried unanimously

Item 5 - Rock'n'Roll Live - How is Most Supportive club judged?

The President - There is a guide to how it is judged in Book B, Section 8.7. Clubs have to be involved throughout both days to be considered.

Invercargill – as coordinator at the last juniors, I had no idea who was doing the most “supporting”

Drifters – We suggest that the words “host club coordinator” be removed and replace the words “may” with ‘are to” for consulting the MC and DJ. Agreed.

Item 6 City of Sails - Achievement awards for retiring Executive and Officials

City of Sails – this is a topic arising from last year – the criteria other organizations have for this type of thing was to be investigated.

The Treasurer - We did seek feedback. Options include life membership, most valuable or most improved or length of service. We felt none really met what we wanted.

Drifters – Does it need to be other than resigning?

Invercargill – We are still keen to put something through.

Wellington – Perhaps some sort of virtual Honours Board?

City of Sails – Perhaps a Badge stating years of service?

The Secretary – We can look at a list of past Judges and volunteers, but not DJ's as they are paid.

Item 7 Drifters - The purpose of the AGM

Drifters – We are making decisions that affect a lot of people who dance and sometimes things are punched along and we don't seem to have robust discussions. The limit on speaking and trying to fit so much in a short time frame makes the process rushed. We suggest that we talk about how the delegates want the meeting run.

The Treasurer – On the programme the meeting procedure is listed. Nothing was said at the beginning.

Drifters - Today things were pushed ahead very quickly.

The Treasurer – We could propose an Adoption of Standing Orders which could be distributed prior, for delegates to discuss and adopt or propose changes at the start of the AGM.

Whangarei – So much is put into a short time. Is there any support for a two day meeting?

The Secretary – historically this was a full two day meeting, with everyone staying overnight. That was when the rule book was formulated and being written pretty much from scratch. Then it was a full day on Saturday, again with delegates staying overnight and departing Sunday morning. As time went on the meeting was finishing earlier and earlier on Saturday to evolve into what we have now. It is General Business which always takes time and perhaps seems rushed towards the end of the day.

The business of our AGM is to receive and pass reports, select Host Clubs, consider Remits and notice of Motion, elect the new Executive and discuss General Business. My preference would be for “Notified” general business to have priority. Being notified allows clubs to fully consider the item/s. All but two of these topics today came off the floor, and only the delegates from the submitting club have had time to consider them.

The President – Is there support for two day meeting? By a show of hands, a minority of mainly local clubs.

Invercargill - If we want more discussion time, why not at Nationals?

Surf City – It is too hard for smaller clubs to justify the expense of staying. Our club has to have me here overnight, due to flights and that is the case for many regional clubs.

The Treasurer – We can prioritize what we do.

8 - Drifters - Medals at Junior Nationals

Drifters – There was Medal mix up – our suggestion is when the table is set up it is double checked.

The President – The set-up is checked, but things still happen. In this instance, the mix up was sorted very easily and quickly, so I cannot see that it is a major issue.

The Treasurer – the table we were provided with didn't allow a full set up on Friday, and we did a quick set up Saturday evening. The clubs involved didn't seem particularly worried and it was all sorted without any issues.

9 – Drifters - Trainee Judges

Drifters - Do we need to look at training for judges, rather than using assessments, is there perhaps a better solution for training judges?

The Head Judge – There is no time frame for completing training but there are a number of steps that need to be taken.

Dunedin – In the South Island with not so many clubs, it takes a long time between competitions, and trainees have to travel, go away to other clubs to train.

The Vice President - We did ask clubs to let us know when competitions were taking place so trainees could contact the clubs about arm chairing.

The Secretary – This just didn't happen, I only managed to list the competitions I personally know about.

Drifters – Can there be a report about what is stopping judges progressing?

Wellington – 4 years or more seems a long time for people to train. Some clubs aren't running club champs anymore, and some Clubs do at times turn down requests from trainees to armchair.

The Treasurer - too many judges standing around can be intimidating.

Tauranga – Sometimes we need to be flexible and let trainees come to competitions.

Head Judge – Progress can depend on the availability of events, and the willingness of the trainee. Some are happy to take their time. Having a mentor assists. I have created a PDF file for trainees to complete. It is on the agenda for workshops about how we can help and assist trainees. They can judge from the sideline if they wish.

10 – Drifters - Newspaper Article

Drifters – We are concerned about an historical case of abuse involving Rock'n'Roll people which has been published in a local paper and is available online.

To protect coaches and our dancers, particularly juniors, clubs need rules.

Examples of rules are that coaches don't text juniors directly and that parents are always at practice. We have rules about jumps at social events and other things and these are written rules. This is about keeping coaches safe as well as kids.

Wellington – As a club we are careful, after hours is out of our hands. But inside the hall rules apply.

The Head Judge – We do have to be vigilant, be mindful and aware of what is happening at club events, including coaching sessions, dances and lessons.

Cambridge Cruisers– If things happened outside the club it is not the club responsibility.

11 – Harbour City/Hutt Valley – Novice Section assessment or time dancing

Hutt Valley - There are no restrictions around Novice except that they haven't danced at a Nationals. Do we need assessments or a criteria of length of time dancing?

Harbour City – There is a wide gap between those dancers who are very new and those that have been dancing for a long time. Would we be open to be assessed for Novice?

City of Sails – Novice is to get more competitors out on the dance floor, putting restrictions will cut down numbers. It is to encourage dancers to taste nationals. If there is a standard on Novice, the really new dancers aren't going to pass. The idea of Novice was to get them on the floor, with no restrictions.

Cambridge Cruisers – The section is for first time competitors at nationals, a Rookie section.

Christchurch – What about a reverse assessment, if you are above a level you can't go into the Novice section?

The Treasurer – What is Novice – it is new to Nationals.

City of Sails – It is not necessarily “novice” or new, the section is for first time dancers at Nationals.

Whakatane – Perhaps Novice needs a name change?

Wellington – Clubs need to talk to their members, encourage them to compete and enjoy the experience and also make them aware that all ages and all levels of dancing could be out on the floor.

12 - River Rockers Whanganui – Warm-up Song

River Rockers Whanganui - If time frames were a concern at Nationals, are warm up songs needed.

The Secretary – The judges take their positions during the warm up so no time would be saved, as the alternative is to call the judges to the floor, which takes about the same amount of time.

13 – The Treasurer – Restricted Section – illegal against inappropriate

The Treasurer – The Restricted sections is different in that it limits what a couple can do but why “illegal” moves. Does some of the problem go away if we change that to “inappropriate”?

Drifters – Restricted is defined by the illegal move. Illegal is the fact you can be disqualified.

The Head Judge– Overwhelmingly judges and this forum want the “X” and the “illegal” element. The Restricted rule is quite clear.

End of General Business

The President thanked all delegates for their valuable input and participation.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 3.30 pm.

The proposed date for the 2020 AGM is Saturday 16th May

The Venue and Date are to be confirmed.