

MEMO To ALL Judges NZARRA
FROM Colleen Ryan Head Judge
DATE 13 July 2018
SUBJECT Combined Workshop 7 July 2018 Wellington Overview

Welcome to our our National Bi-Annual Workshop which was held at the Airport Motel Wellington, facilitated by Colleen Ryan and attended by 26 Judges. Due to unexpected late circumstances 3 judges couldn't attend and apologies from 5 others. Thank you to everyone who participated in the day making it a memorable and effective time together.

New Rule Book A 2018 were distributed to all present (thank you Craig Campbell for printing of these) and judges took additional books home to give to judges in their own locations.

Various activities and topics were covered and I'm pleased to say the day was one of passion, humour, insight and lots of laughs. Glad to know everyone returned home safely and herewith an overview of the key points.

**The theme of the day was Observation, Perception and Harmony
in all aspects of judging.**

'Candy Bar' – Rock n Roll is like a Picnic, Flake, Crunchy, Kit Kat, Mars BAR because....

The group creativeness just poured out as we started to share why we love our Rock n Roll.

'And This is My Picture' Best Dressed showed some great Gingerbread Girls and Boys and Teams and the attention to detail from head to toe was remarkable. Each 'candy bar team' presented their observations on dress code and discussion around the concept of complementary presentation, appropriate and well-fitting attire, shoes clean, hair tidy and jacket and dress lengths and fullness correct.

Discussion and pictures of team dress codes were observed and with the configurations of teams this also presents a dress code which can shows up the creative ideas of dress while still embarking on the complimentary team effect.

'Monkey Business' Inattentional Blindness – as human beings we can become so focused on ONE idea or instruction that we can actually miss what else might be happening around us. Keeping one's mind alert and peripheral vision is a key component to taking in the whole floor and mindful of all elements of our guidelines Timing, Harmony and Variety, Inappropriate Moves and Illegal Moves.

Covering off aspects of Restricted and clarity around the Rule itself with weight bearing moves and different types of manoeuvres that are encountered and carefully considering the breach of rule.

'Jack by Nimble' Oftentimes we only have a split second to make a judgement over the breach of the Illegal Rule.

When assessments for Restricted are taking place at Club Champs It was agreed that Judges needed to be aware of Restricted dancers in order to mark according to the Restricted Rules.

If you are Head Judge at any event please do ask if any assessments are taking place so you can monitor the dress code accordingly.

With the new AGM ruling around the X being awarded together with the mark for dancing please refer to the following information.

Please refer to your new Rule Book A 2018 and Rule 6.3.2 (a)

In Section 10 and 11 (Restricted) if a Judge sights an illegal move as per 11.5.1 then that Judge will give the couple an 'X' in addition to the points for that song regardless of which categories they are judging (Timing, Harmony, and/or Variety). If two or more judges sight an illegal move in a heat that couple will be awarded no points for that song.

This rule was passed at the AGM May and new sheets have been formulated for your use at Champs level and will be used at the upcoming Senior Nationals.

The new sheets will show the X BOX and a space for awarding the mark for the dancing and a copy of such sheet is attached for your information.

The X is given if a Judge sights an ILLEGAL MOVE as per Rule 11.5.1

AND you award the points for that dance independent of the X.

In other words, a judge does NOT deduct additional marks over and above the X. The X is given for the illegal move.

There was no agreement or major support at the AGM for deduction of marks at any point in relation to Restricted.

The overwhelming majority was to keep the ILLEGAL MOVE as part of the Restricted Category and award the X.

The reasoning behind this change is to provide a minimum of TWO JUDGES to sight an illegal move so thereby removing all points to the dancers for that song.

If only ONE Judges awards the X the points for that song stand.

If any changes are to be made to this rule then a remit is to come through to the next AGM 2019.

'Love is Blind' - lots of fun and insight around the feeling of harmony when we had some eager volunteers happy to show us what dancing blind looks like! The idea is the sense of Harmony is deeper than what we can see – it's a coming together of all elements of our dance. It's about connection and feeling and a sense of togetherness and dancing as a harmonic unit.

Thank you so much to those who took part in that activity – it was great to see and have your feedback too.

A PPT presentation has been uploaded in our Judges Facebook Private Group as a PDF for your further viewing and resource. We started to dig deeper to try to explain and think about what Harmony looks like ...
how do we know when we see it ?
how can we explain it?
the degrees of harmony that are presented to us....and so much more!

Think Connection...Flow...Ease and togetherness all to the mood of the song too.

In dance as in other art forms that excite the senses, harmony is the balance and relationship between contrasts: Harmony is the result of different things working together to produce a thing of beauty”
-Universal Dance Centre

Harmony will be an ongoing theme at the upcoming workshops and please feel free to offer any ideas that can portray harmony further and I'd be keen to add them into the presentation that I've started already.

'6 Degrees' Team Events are just as stunning as ever and the high calibre dancing is always exciting and oftentimes very close in judging outcomes.

It was agreed that the dancing ability and interpretation of the song are key components to what we like to look for in team events.

In no way do we want to see Novelty in our team events and dancers continue to provide us with creative and thrilling team dance routines.

With the many configurations of dancers within any team we are seeing more creativity reflected in the presentation of dress code and choreography.

The complementary dress of the team members themselves takes a lot of thought and we as judges, are presented with many options for team dress. It was agreed that tidy attire and all the usual aspects of dress code definitely apply in team events too.

Stamina, energy and equal ability of all dancers within the team are taken into consideration always looking for excellence in the whole dance by the whole team.

As always straight lines and clean configurations, synchronisation, variety and use of the music, innovation, spacing well executed moves still remain as key elements of team dancing.

Rule 11.5 (b) talks about each person must be within two arm lengths of another person within a team, excluding entry and exit. This is deemed as an inappropriate move and for a team breaks the continuity of the dance and helps keep the team cohesive.

Some Rule Book True/False questions, a mathematical equation, more laughs and thought provoking ideas and activities for the rest of the day.

Thank you again judges for your feedback and comments which were greatly appreciated by me and I trust you feel the way forward is exciting and one of unity and appreciation for all our personalities and talents and the value each person brings to our judging community.

Colleen Ryan
Head Judge 2018

“judging with focus, observation and feeling”.