

Memo To: AGM Delegates, Clubs and Dancers
From: Colleen Ryan – Head Judge NZARRA
Date: April 2018

Welcome to our May 2018 AGM and herewith my Head Judge Report for the year.

I'd like to start by welcoming our new Trainee Judges Ashlee Froggatt, Caleb Lay, Malcolm Mazur, Krystal McCullough and Kimberley Lamond. It's great to see we are keeping the community growing and the role of the mentor is critical for each trainee to keep their ongoing development. Acknowledgement to the Clubs who put forward their trainee nominations.

I want to Congratulate Chloe Krugier to achieving National Association status. Chloe has applied herself in a consistent and graceful manner with an approachable and eager to learn mindset.

Attending workshops and keeping current throughout the year is a high priority and we've had well attended workshops both prior to the Senior and Junior Nationals and by way of ZOOM webinars. This year of course we hold the national combined workshop open to all judges on Saturday 7 July in Wellington and we hope for a high attendance. This is an opportunity for the nation of judges to come together in one room and evaluate and discuss the many aspects of our judging guidelines. Bringing the wealth of wisdom from our senior experienced judges and sharing ideas and viewpoints from everyone is paramount to the continued success of our goal – to serve our dancers and apply the guidelines.

I have developed a PDF Trainee Development form for all trainees and their mentors so they can keep track of their progress and goals each year. It can take a few years to get through the basic criteria and it's never a quick process.

Along with several topics for this year's Workshop I hope to cover in-depth the aspect of Harmony within our guidelines.

Thank you to all our Demo Dancers at the workshops held over the year – we so value your presence and time and willingness to be available.

I want to acknowledge the Panel of Judges that officiated at our Nationals - Seniors 2017 and Juniors 2018. It's the ideal set of circumstances to truly apply our learnings and talents and the focus and integrity everyone shows is very satisfying to observe.

The level of dancing continues to rise and it's important that as many judges as practical get the opportunity to judge at these events.

Over the last 6 months there has been discussion around how we treat the Restricted Ruling. This came about due to myself being approached around the subject of Restricted by several different people.

As Head Judge, I am asking dancers and judges to please consider if any changes need to be made to ensure our dancers are given the best possible outcome. We as judges are here to serve the dancers and therefore want to hear people's views on this.

Is an X too severe as one judge can potentially remove dancers from a competition? Has the time come to look at how we deal with the X?

Please note we are not questioning the judging itself but how we apply the ruling.

In a Final, there is rulings around ONE X or TWO X's.
In Points/Heats ONE X can potentially exit a couple from the competition.

Judges have been asked to consider this ruling and It's had some discussions at workshops. There is a memo from Judy Russell to all Delegates around this subject.

I understand that keeping an open mind and being open to why others are putting forward their ideas is important and I encourage that conversation. Over the years things change but it takes time for people to feel comfortable about change. It all starts with communication.

With the new configurations of what makes up Top Club and Teams we are seeing an emerging and creative set of presentations. Our guidelines of Timing Harmony and Variety remain the same and the excellence of presentation and synchronisation of all these points being in alignment are paramount.

I would like to thank all our judges who have participated giving their time, energy, input, ideas over the year. On behalf of all our judges a very big 'thank you' to all the dancers and Clubs who give so much to make our communities thrive.

Colleen Ryan
April 2018 Head Judge NZARRA