

Judges Workshop Report March 2013

Points of interest for dancers and clubs:

1. Encourage Judges to get amongst dancers and assist with understanding of our guidelines.

Clubs who are fortunate enough to have Judges as members, should understand that they only have to ask. Judges usually are only too willing to help and guide dancers. Some clubs hold workshops with Judges so as to explain the guidelines.

2. Rock and Roll Theme: -Juniors especially have a vast influence of other types of dance available to them. What emphasis is placed on our ideals in comparison to creativity and variety?

Juniors like to be inventive and probably feel that Rock and Roll ideals are somewhat boring, encouraging revival, is not always that easy and it is a fine line as to how creative we want everyone to be. We do not want dancers to be clones of those who have danced the year before, but we do not want routines full of hip-hop and swing either.

3. Team Event: Use of song v good Timing and Harmony. Should we have a column for use of song and music?

This was thought to be a good idea and perhaps should be tested at Juniors to see if by adding a column to the worksheet for interpretation of music it would affect the judges placing. This will need to be discussed at next workshop if it is to be added and wording decided. It was noted the interpretation of music is in our guidelines already and we do not want the dance to become a novelty.

4. Club's Demo Night: Should Judges officiating at the proceeding nationals attend a clubs demo night?

This was deemed to question Judge's integrity and the Judge should be the one to make the call as to whether to attend or not. A point was raised about the element of surprise at nationals seeing the routines etc but we all Judge local competitions/assessments, so have seen many of the dancers before. As Head Judge I attend events to support dancers and clubs alike and also did so this year to support by daughter who was dancing. Any relationship between dancer and Judge is always considered at Nationals.

5. Suggestion from dancer - Winners at Nationals do not have to be assessed again if same partnership and section. No, this was not deemed to be a good idea. Standards set and need to be maintained.

6. Tempo – play with beat, marking of pauses, holds and syncopated moves. Is it all to do with how the move fits the music ? Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't – still good variety, inventive but hinders the tempo in some songs and not others?

Being clever with use of timing can be detrimental if it does not fit the song. It can also become boring if you have heats, ¼, semis and finals. Blending and flow of moves is important.

7. Bunny hop catch up.

Viewed as a timing catch up – penalised under timing, and to some degree under variety for not executing the move cleanly.