

1. Head Judge role and responsibilities

The group as a whole identified the activities and behaviours we currently expect the Head Judge to undertake and exhibit, then worked in smaller groups to consider how it might be done differently to how it is now.

In summary, and for consideration by the new Head Judge:

Some aspects of the Head Judge role could be delegated e.g. feedback to the judges post competition, assessment admin, organising and running of workshops, trainee mentoring.

Delegation could be to people requested to take on a specific task ad hoc, formally nominated people who take on an agreed role or function, other Exec members, competition officials (e.g. to discuss feedback directly after a competition), a judge within the Nationals panel (for Head Judge role), "Senior judges" or regional reps (for workshops, feedback, trainee mentoring).

2. Judging Teams

At a previous regional workshop the request was made to review and discuss Team judging guidelines.

"Triples move", splitting into two groups of three – is this within the guidelines, when the definition clearly states three couples? Agreed that if they were within the two arm lengths rule for each couple, that this met the guideline, and perhaps this sort of move is no different in this aspect, to when the teams form a line or a circle and are no longer strictly "three couples".

Very long pause mid-jump – perceived by most as having stopped dancing.

3. Proposed breakdown of points on judging sheets

The sheets were trialled at 2014 Junior Nationals but replaced for officiating judges after the first section, as it took significantly longer for judges to complete their marking. Trainees continued using them.

Conclusion: the sheets are currently very useful for trainees, could be good for others but would need more experience to be able to use them instinctively, need to have opportunities to try them, without rushing into anything that could disadvantage the dancers.

4. Split of age for Best Dress Juniors

During the introductions, several judges had commented on how successful the split was. There was no further discussion. The new category was ratified at the AGM.

5. Nomination of Head Judge

At the beginning of the workshop, it was noted that the election of the Association Head Judge had been deliberately deferred from the AGM as the feeling at that meeting was that the judges able to attend this workshop were better qualified to elect this position.

The question was asked whether dancers would have a say in the new Head Judge (no), and whether the decision made today would be binding (no, the Association Executive need to ratify it).

Three nominations were received – Sue Campbell, Heather Blackburn, Shane Taurima – and all three spoke to their nominations. After a secret ballot, Shane Taurima was nominated as Association Head Judge.

Please note: The purpose of this report is to provide a summarised version of the key points and decisions made at the workshop. If you would like more information, please contact a judge in your region that may have attended the workshop, or the Head Judge at headjudge@rocknroll.org.nz