



Remits and General Business for the 2020 AGM

Remit 1 - Drifters

Amend rule 1.8 (a) to change Junior age range to 5 years to 10 years and Intermediate age range 11 years to 13 years.

Currently:

1	Junior	5 years to 9 years
2	Intermediate	10 years to 13 years

Amended rule to read:

Junior Championship Sections

1	Junior	5 years to 10 years
2	Intermediate	11 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 make this rule more age appropriate and for most, within their skill level.

Reasoning

To change the age in Junior from 5 - 9 years to 5 - 10 years. This would allow these dancers to compete fairly within their peer group. 10 year olds, generally are still in primary school and 11-13 year olds are at intermediate. Currently 10 year olds will compete against 12 - 13 year olds and they tend to also be a higher caliber dancer.

Children tend to dance within their age group of 8 - 10 year olds, so once they turn 10 they now find themselves no longer having a dance partner which in turn means they are no longer able to compete at Junior Nationals.

Remit 2 - Harbour City

Add to current rule 3.9 new clause (b), and re-letter the remaining clause.

"Any couple/triple having achieved National Qualifying Level points as per rule 3.8 may, on request, and at the discretion of the Executive, also be deemed to have passed assessment for a section with

lower National Qualifying Level points that they and their assessment met any other criteria to enter”.

Reasoning

Last Senior Nationals we had only one couple choose to enter a particular section. As they were both old enough, the Exec asked them to instead consider entering an “older” section, but to do so, they had to be reassessed - even though when they had been assessed, their standard of dancing had already obtained a National Qualifying Level that was well above what was required for them to qualify them to compete in that section. This change would allow them to make this change without the need for reassessment. Note that this (correctly) could not apply for changing to a Restricted section, as their assessment would not have met the “any other criteria” needed.

Remit 3 - Harbour City

Remove rule 5.5 (a), amend rule 5.5 (b) to remove the word “also”.

Reasoning

Every year we hear that there isn’t enough time at Nationals to relax, dance, catch up, socialise. The competition days are long, the hall clears as soon as presentations are finished, and long gone are the days when we had time on Sunday morning for a look around our host club’s neighbourhood. This is mainly because we have continued to add new sections as we discover a need or desire for them e.g. senior club, senior triples, senior restricted, best dressed junior female – but we’ve not removed anything from the programme.

From our perspective, it seems that a small number of clubs are very invested in best dressed as an event. We feel that although it is great to see people understanding and adhering to the dress “of the day” and our defined and agreed standards, that the focus of Nationals should be on the dancing and less on the dress.

When we proposed something similar at a previous AGM, the main objection was from dancers, that they liked parading prior to being called to the floor to compete. This could still be done at the start of each section immediately after marshalling, but there would be no judging, no call-backs to finals, and no presentations.

The best dressed female and male sections on Sunday would remain unchanged.

Remit 4 - Harbour City

Amend the first sentence of rule 5.5 (a).

Note: this will be withdrawn if the above remit 3 is passed.

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.”

Intention

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 valid need to have an age criteria as part of the best dressed consideration.

Reasoning

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 – senior 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.

From our perspective, it seems that a small number of clubs are very invested in best dressed as an event. We feel that although it is great to see people understanding and adhering to the dress "of the day" and our defined and agreed standards, that the focus of Nationals should be on the dancing and less on the dress. 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, if there was support for this.

Remit 5 – Executive

Amend Rule 5.8 as follows:

'Competitors in Section 9 (Cheerleaders) shall perform cheers and chants with accompanying music **(without words)** if desired, no longer than **4** minutes duration, **such time to include entry/exit from the competition floor**. No club participation from the sidelines is allowed.'

Intention

To clarify the use of music and change how timing applies to align with Novelty, and to increase the time allowed as a result.

Reasoning

Cheerleaders were to have appeared at Juniors this year for the first time in almost 10 years. There were a number of queries from clubs regarding the use of music and clarification of the rules was required. It was also felt that to change what constitutes the 'start' of the cheerleading and then align the floor time rule to be consistent with the Novelty section made for less confusion.

Remit 6 – Drifters

New Rule - Section 7 - Conduct and Obligations

Number this new rule 7.1 - General conduct over National weekends.

Needs to come first as we feel it's an important rule.

Wording of the new rule

During the competition weekend, there will be zero tolerance of anyone considered to be verbally or physically abusing anyone attending the event. The NZ Executive reserves the right, should they deem it necessary, to enforce the removal of anyone in breach of this rule from the venue.

Reasoning

To safeguard and provide guidelines for everyone at Nationals when incidents involving these types of abuse may arise.

Note: The rest of the rules in Section 7 would be renumbered accordingly as we feel this rule should be first, being the most important.

This remit will also affect Book B, Section 5.1 - Information for Club Team managers, number 8 on the information sheet. This rule only addresses the judges and other peoples conduct towards the judges, suggest that this part of Book B will need to be revisited and amended.

Remit 7 - Executive

Remove 8.7 and 8.8 and create a new section after current 8.6 called "Judge Qualification Criteria" containing new rules 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 8.10, 8.11 and 8.12 as below:

Amend Rule 10.13 to align with the relative rule changes above:

- Level One - reference to 8.9 renumbered to 8.7
- Level Two - reference to 8.10 renumbered to 8.9

Amend rule 10.20 to add definition for Mentor:

"A mentor is defined as a National Association Judge who undertakes to assist a Trainee Judge through all steps of their judging pathway".

New rules 8.7,8.8, 8.9, 8.10, 8.11, 8.12

8.7 Before being accepted onto the Trainee Judges List, an applicant must:

1. Have attained the age of 18 years;
2. Complete and return to the Association Head Judge and introductory questionnaire attesting to their rock 'n' roll experience and commitment, along with a nomination in writing from their Club;
3. Have their application considered and accepted by the Executive Committee.

8.7.1 Addition to the official register of Trainee Judges, will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

8.8 The criteria to remain as a Trainee Judge is as follows:

1. To attend a minimum of one workshop per calendar year.

8.8.1 Any Trainee Judge failing to meet the above criteria, unless due to circumstances outside their control and agreed to by the Head Judge (who will consult with the National Executive), may be removed from Trainee Judge status.

8.9 The criteria to qualify as an Association Judge is as follows and must be completed:

1. Armchair judge a minimum of six competitions, all using the NZARRA rules and judging guidelines;
2. Officially judge a minimum of four competitions, all using the NZARRA rules and judging guidelines;
3. To attend a minimum of one judging workshop per calendar year;

4. Upon completion of the above, the trainee judge consults with their mentor and the Head Judge to determine the next step in their journey. One of the considerations would be that they (trainee, mentor and Head Judge) feel confident that they are ready to sit the exam;
5. Sit and pass an examination set by the Head Judge.

8.9.1 Addition to the official register of Association Judges will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

8.10 The criteria to remain as an Association Judge is as follows:

1. To attend a minimum of one judging workshop per calendar year;
2. Armchair or judge at least one club competition or equivalent event/competition/assessment per calendar year.

8.10.1 Any Association Judge failing to meet the above criteria is to consult with the Head Judge regarding their circumstances. They may then be required to attend a judges' workshop prior to recommencement of judging. If reinstatement to the Association List is required then this will be at the discretion of the Head Judge and Executive.

8.11 The criteria to qualify as a National Association Judge is as follows:

1. To have qualified as an Association Judge;
2. Armchair judge at least one Junior and one Senior National Championships.

8.11.1 Addition to the official register of National Association, Judges will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

8.12 The criteria to remain as a National Association Judge is as follows:

1. To attend a minimum of one judging workshop per calendar year;
2. Be available to judge at least one National Championship per calendar year;
3. Armchair or judge at least one club competition or equivalent event/competition/assessment per calendar year.

8.12.1 Any National Association Judge failing to meet the above criteria, unless due to circumstances outside their control, and agreed to by the Head Judge (who will consult with the National Executive), may be removed to Association Judge status.

Reasoning

Tidy up criteria and make a clear pathway for all judging levels and provide a communication opportunity throughout the process. The following Judge Qualification Criteria determines and clarifies status and expectations for judges of all levels.

Over the past 18 months at workshops around the country, the topic of training and criteria were discussed in an effort to establish a more clear pathway and allow balance and flexibility in situations.

The trainee judge level gives a generous timeline and will be encouraged to attend workshops and work closely with their mentor. This will be one of the determining aspects to the progress they make. The description of mentor appears in rule 8.9 (4) and hence requires a definition (the proposed change to rule 10.20). A mentor is critical in the progress of a trainee judge.

Once a judge has been accepted onto the Association and/or National Association list, there is a requirement and expectation to keep updated and current.

All levels give opportunity to communicate and convey at every step along the way to ensure that everyone gains the best value and help, in their judging roles.

This remit supports and is in line with our judges values for ongoing training and sharing of ideas and trends that support the growth of our rock 'n' roll communities within New Zealand.

Judges understand they serve the dancers and give their time and expertise generously.

The value of collaboration of all our judges to assist one another and our trainees coming through cannot be under-estimated.

Several opportunities are provided for workshops and they take place on the Friday prior to Junior and Senior National events, at Regional workshops, at the Combined National Workshop every alternate year, and to ensure the availability of communication is always open additional workshops can also be by way of ZOOM meetings.

Obviously, in life there are known and also unknown challenges, circumstances and commitments such as for work, family responsibility, personal, travel, stress, health or wellbeing, illness and the like. Any judge unable to attend a workshop for any reason can let the Head Judge know.

You will see that the new rule **8.9 has removed the words 'in the following order'** – this is due to the fact that some judges are very capable of judging at competitions and invited by Clubs to judge in an official capacity. The thoughts are by allowing the process to be simultaneous seems the most logical and helpful way forward in the judging pathway process.

Remit 8 – Christchurch

Remove the word Insurance from Rule Book A 8.13 and Rule Book B 3.5.

Intention

That the word “insurance” should be deleted both from rule Book A 8.13 and from Book B Paragraph 3.5 Reimbursements.

Existing Rules:

Rule Book A, 1.11

All reasonable accommodation/travel expenses pertaining to National Championships expended by official judges and scrutineers on behalf of the Association will be reimbursed by the Association.

Rule Book A, 8.13

Reimbursements shall be no more than the Air New Zealand smart saver or equivalent airfare excluding commission/insurance fees, or mileage at the current cents per km rate as listed in Book B, whichever is the lesser.

Rule Book B, 3.5 - Reimbursements

Travel - Officials will, upon production of receipts, be reimbursed travel expenses no more than the Air New Zealand “Seat + Bag” * or equivalent airfare excluding booking/commission/insurance fees, or petrol/vehicle costs at 40c per Kilometre whichever is the lesser.

Reasoning

That it is perfectly “reasonable” and prudent to purchase insurance for flights and insurance costs should also be reimbursed. Flight delays and cancellations, weather related or otherwise, should be insured against and the cost should be reimbursed.

Remit 9 - Executive

Amend Rule 9.6 (a) as follows:

‘Each place-getter in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 and only one of each place-getting team in Sections 6 **and 9** receive an engraved place medal and ribbon.....’

Intention

To present one medal to place-getting teams in Cheerleaders (Section 9), as happens in Section 6 (Novelty).

Reasoning

This year, 4 Cheerleading teams were entered, with team sizes being 7, 10, 11 and 12. Therefore it was necessary to order medals for the largest team, i.e. 12, in each of gold, silver and bronze places, a total of 36 medals. It may be that smaller teams would have placed and consequently there would have been medals that were not used. As each medal costs \$8.50, the 36 medals ordered for Cheerleaders cost \$306, instead of \$25.50 if only one medal was presented to each placing team. While we appreciate that each participating junior would get a thrill from receiving a medal, the Executive is always conscious of the need to use funds wisely. The presenting of one medal for a team is already done for Novelty, where numbers again may vary.

Remit 10 - Harbour City

Amend Rule 10.6 (c) to replace “1 male and 1 female dancer” with “a Couple or Same Sex couple”

Replace 2.1 (b) with “Females will dress in lady’s attire, males in men’s attire.”

Intention

To allow for same sex Novice entrants.

Reasoning

With the uptake in same sex at club level, we would like to see this encouraged, but there is currently no “introductory” section for these newer dancers at Nationals. Rather than suggesting an additional section at Nationals, we are suggesting that our current Novice sections allow same sex couples to be included. There would be no change to Novice assessment levels.

Remit 11 - Harbour City

Amend Rule 10.11 to read “A Triple team is defined as three dancers.”

Replace 2.1 (b) with “Females will dress in lady’s attire, males in men’s attire.”

Intention

To allow for same sex triples combinations.

Reasoning

With the uptake in same sex, we are seeing same sex triples combinations at club level, and would like to see this encouraged. Rather than suggesting an additional section at Nationals, we are suggesting that our current Triples sections allow same sex triples combinations to be included. There would be no change to Triples assessment levels.

END OF REMITS

General Business

Item 1 - Drifters

Judges Sheets for purchase

We would like to discuss the option to purchase a digital copy of Judges sheets instead of a paper copy? If this was an option would the cost be cheaper? We also feel that this is an environmentally friendly option.

Item 2 - Wellington

Assessments

The juniors that were assessed for 2020 nationals, could their assessment be carried over to 2021 nationals providing they are still with the same dance partner, same section and same level in that section they were assessed for. Otherwise any changes would of course be a new assessment.

Item 3 - City of Sails

Agm 2021

Please can we put a proposal forward, to hold next year's AGM at an earlier date so that there is no issue with clubs using their flight credits within the 12 month period. Lots of us had brought tickets early and the 12 months may fall outside of the proposed AGM dates for 2021.

Item 4 - Invercargill

Life Achievement Award

'New Zealand Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame'

Awarded to someone who has passion, dedication and commitment to the New Zealand Rock 'n' Roll Association and keeping the era of the 50's Rock N Roll dance alive and strong.

This award will be awarded yearly during the weekend of the Senior Nationals, most preferably on Sunday evening at the end of the weekend, or Friday night which will encourage more attendance along for that night.

To determine the recipient of this award they will be chosen because of the following:

- Years of dedication, passion and commitment to the association and clubs from around New Zealand.
- Either as a judge, head judge, MC, sitting on the exec, helping clubs from throughout New Zealand with workshops etc, years of competing and enjoying Rock 'n' Roll in general.

To acknowledge and commend members from around New Zealand that have gone above and beyond for Rock 'n' Roll dancing in New Zealand. These people have made what Rock 'n' Roll is today and without them it just would not be the same or may not even be existing at all. As members of the association we cannot let this go unnoticed and start rewarding members and publicly congratulate them on having such passion and commitment towards what we all love and enjoy.

Notes

There are two options in deciding who would receive the yearly award: Either, individual clubs put forward their nominations and then the exec has to choose who will be awarded determined by the nominations Or, the exec puts a list of nominations to all clubs and they decide by choosing one from the list then it goes back to the exec and the one that gets the most votes is the recipient. The exec will be the only ones that will know who is being awarded till the name is being read out.

Also discussion needs to be made on who pays for the trophy? Trophies don't cost too much so it just needs to be supported by a club that would like to sponsor the award which I don't think we will find hard to do but will also need to pay for the engraving on a yearly basis.

The only concern is whether the recipient will be at the nationals or how to get the person there without letting them know and who will pay for that person to attend? Please have a good read over this remit and put your suggestions forward as it's hard to put something like this together but I'm sure with all of the clubs around the table, we can come up with a concrete remit to put forward.

Item 5 - Kapi Mana

Insurance

Would like to ask other clubs, if they can advise if they take out insurance to cover their assets and also if they have Public Liability Insurance? Kapi has both of these types of insurance currently and is wondering what position other clubs take on insurance, in particular Public Liability Insurance.

END OF GENERAL BUSINESS