

NZARNR Assoc. Judges Workshop Report August 2009:

Retirement of 2 Southern Judges, Michael Timu and Trevor Rigby. Thanks will be extended for their years of service through the Executive Committee.

2 Trainees - Jeff Alley and Bryan Wales have passed their exam and now able to assess dancers.

1. The faults sheet of the guidelines (page 3) was confirmed and discussion took place regarding the **entirety** of the song and when has a couple deemed to have stopped dancing?

As it is evident that not all judges see everything that happens on the floor (even if there are only two couples or teams dancing) then each judge must decide on what their interpretation of STOPPED DANCING is.

Guideline to assist.

The Judging guidelines at present state that we are to award points for what the couple has danced. If they get up and continue to dance, this MAY allow ½ a point for finishing or a well planned finished may be marked higher. HOWEVER, if a couple stop dancing and you get the feeling of "When are they going to get up or are they going to get up or what are they doing standing/sitting there?" then obviously the severity of the stop would deem that they have not danced to the entire song and thus would be awarded "O" for that song. **Common sense** is vital for this interpretation. It is unfair on the other couples/teams not to penalize a couple/team that has not completed the song. (Page 3 will be adjusted to note this)

2. Cheerleaders:

- a) Message must be clear and received. Loud, Clear and more than a few seconds long. Variation of the chant should be acknowledged.
- b) Use of Pom Poms – while not a rule to use – skill should be acknowledged if their use is executed well
- c) Uniformity of the team
- d) Important and appropriate use of music
- e) Originality
- f) All team involved and in time with each other

It was important to note that sometimes we are faced with conventional cheerleaders compared to a more modern interpretation. Both have merits but the above points are to be met within the routine.

3. Top Clubs and Senior Teams:

Judges must be aware of the following:

- a) It is not always the team that moves around the floor the most that demonstrates good variety. Circles and variation of lines can detract

from the tempo of the song. However if displayed with skill definitely add to the variety of the routine.

- b) Harmony of all the team is a critical factor.
- c) The team must dance not just string jumps and dips together. Floor dancing is essential.
- d) Good use of the floor and spacing is important to create the necessary harmony of the couples. i.e spacing between couples equal.

NEXT WORKSHOPS: 27 February – Auckland

7 March - Christchurch

20 March – Wellington

Jan Morgan
Head Judge