



ESSDA Team Competition Rules

Approved by the ESSDA Board on 11 June 2023 and entering into force from 1 July 2024.

Rule 1 Entry

- 1.1 Showdance Teams must comprise a minimum of eight and a maximum of sixteen dancers.
- 1.2 All entrants must be 16 years of age or older.
- 1.3 Only one entry per Team will be permitted. Individual dancers may dance in two different Teams as long as at least two-thirds of the Team members do not dance in any other Team within the same competition.
- 1.4 Any dancer who intends to compete in more than one Team must inform the competition organisers of this as part of the registration.

Rule 2 Music and dances

- 2.1 The majority of each routine must exhibit one or more recognised Standard Ballroom, Latin or other syllabus partner dance (including but not limited to waltz, quickstep, tango, cha cha cha, jive, Argentine tango, salsa, foxtrot and Viennese waltz)
- 2.2 Entries where the majority of the choreography does not exhibit a recognised syllabus partner dance may be disqualified.
- 2.3 Elements from other dance forms, including lifts and physical movement, may be used to enrich and complete the choreography.
- 2.4 Team routines should reflect the overall ethos of same-gender and equality dancing and must therefore contain a significant element of partner dancing by same-gender or nontraditional mixed-gender (i.e. female leader, male follower) couples.

Comment: As Team routines often contain significant amounts of solo work and changes of partner, it is not practical to impose a strict limit on the proportion of the choreography that may be performed in traditional gender-role couples. Teams are therefore encouraged to err on the side of caution and to primarily exhibit same-gender or non-traditional mixed-gender dancing in their routine. For the avoidance of doubt, this criterion is assessed by reference to the team as a whole and not by reference to individual couples within the team. A couple may therefore dance as male leader and female follower throughout, provided the routine performed by the team as whole contains a significant element of same-gender or non-traditional mixed gender dancing.
- 2.5 The whole performance consists of the entry to the dance floor, the main part and the exit from the dancefloor. Any entry or exit performed without music, are not judged and should not exceed 30 seconds each.
- 2.6 The performance can start at any place at the floor. A clear sign or agreement with the DJ to start the music must be arranged during the Rehearsal.



- 2.7 The main part of the performance, of which between 5:00 mins and 5:30 minutes shall be judged, begins with the start of the music and finishes when the music stops. The total duration of the total music must be no more than 7:00 minutes.
- 2.8 The section of the routine that is to be judged must be clearly identified in a recognisable fashion at the beginning and the end.
- 2.9 Music must be supplied as a single track on Compact Disc (CD), USB stick or memory card or uploaded as a music file or any other widely available format as agreed in advance with the organiser.
- 2.10 Teams not complying with these requirements may be disqualified by the Chairperson.

Rule 3 Rehearsals

- 3.1 The chair of the adjudicators, or another suitably qualified person appointed by the chair, must attend rehearsals and warn teams of any breach of these Rules. If the Rules are breached during the competition, the chair may disqualify the team(s).

Comment: For the purposes of Rule 3, the rehearsals are not considered part of the competition as the rehearsals are not judged.

- 3.2 Adequate arrangements must be made for team rehearsal. Where possible these should be conducted without the public being present.
- 3.3 An equal amount of time at least 20 minutes long must be allocated to each team in the hall with appropriate music.
- 3.4 During the rehearsal the entire choreography including entry and exit must be performed at least once with music to promote conformity with these Rules.
- 3.5 The dance routine and music performed or practised at the rehearsal are the only movements and music permitted during the competition.
- 3.6 Notification of the rehearsal time slot for the team shall be given in advance by the competition organisers.
- 3.7 Any feedback from the chair (or their delegate) on compliance with these rules shall be given to each team immediately following their rehearsal and sufficient time for the feedback shall be included in the rehearsal timetable.
- 3.8 Teams must notify the chair of the adjudicators, or their representative, if the composition of the team at the rehearsal is different from the composition of the team that is expected to dance in the competition. If the chair of the adjudicators, or their representative, is of the view that the composition of the team at rehearsals does not allow them to appropriately assess adherence to these rules, the team may be disqualified.

Comment: The primary purpose of the rehearsal is to allow the chair of the adjudicators to ensure that the routines comply with these Rules. Some of these Rules, such as the requirement to exhibit a significant element of dancing by same-sex or equality couples (rule 4.1), may be very hard to assess at rehearsal if not all team members are present or if the



genders of the individuals at the rehearsal differ from those at the competition. At the same time, it is recognised that in exceptional circumstances (e.g. due to unforeseen travel delays), the team that takes part in rehearsals may have a different composition from the team that takes part in the competition. In such circumstances, the team and the chair of the adjudicators should make every reasonable accommodation to allow the chair to assess whether the routine complies with these Rules, for example by using stand-ins for the rehearsal. Ultimately however, the chair has the discretion to disqualify the team if, in their view the composition of the team at rehearsal does not allow them to make this assessment. Such disqualification is expected to be exceptional but might occur if a significant proportion of the team was not present or if it was not possible to assess compliance with rule 2.4.

Rule 4 Other restrictions

- 4.1 Use of props should be limited to the props that are used as part of the routine. The props must be carried on to the floor by the dancers at the start of the routine and carried off the floor by them at the end.
- 4.2 Throughout the entrance, performance and exit, the group must be alone on the floor. It is not permitted to coach the members of the teams during the judging of the event.
- 4.3 The chair of the adjudicators shall ensure that a mark is placed on the floor to indicate the centre of the front edge of the floor. No other mark may be placed by any person to indicate positions on the floor or within the room.

Rule 5 Rounds and Order of Dancing

- 5.1 The order of dancing will be drawn by ballot on the day of the competition.
- 5.2 A semi-final, and other preliminary rounds, will be danced if in the view of the chair of the adjudicators there are sufficient teams. In this case, no general look will be danced.
- 5.3 Semi-finals and other preliminary rounds will be judged in accordance with the skating system with the judges marking though to the next round the number of teams specified by the chair of adjudicators. Teams that receive a mark from the majority of the adjudicators will dance in the next round.
- 5.4 If, in the view of the chair of adjudicators, there are not enough teams to dance a semifinal or other preliminary rounds, a general look shall be danced.
- 5.5 The aim of the general look is for adjudicators to assess the range of the standard of dancing exhibited by the teams to help them in awarding marks in the final. The general look may be danced without the costumes and makeup used in the final, but any props and functional costumes (i.e. items of costume that the dancers put on or take off during the performance) must be used.
- 5.6 Final rounds will be marked according to Rule 6.



Rule 6 Marking System for the Final

6.1 For every round, marks will be awarded for:

6.1.A Technical Merit Caption (A)

6.1.A.i The technical quality of the dancing demonstrated by the dancers as individuals and in couples.

6.1.A.ii The technical quality of the dancing demonstrated by the team as a whole when moving in formation.

6.1.A.iii Demonstration and use of Standard Ballroom, Latin or other syllabus partner dance technique.

6.1.B Artistic Impression Caption (B)

6.1.B.i Choreography (is it used to express the music/theme to its fullest extent?)

6.1.B.ii Musicality (how well is the performance related to the music?)

6.1.B.iii Use of theme (choreography, performance style, choice of costume, music, etc)

6.1.B.iv Originality of the idea (does the choreography display clever and musically related ideas?)

6.1.C Entertainment Value Caption (C)

6.1.C.i Entertainment and emotional value

6.1.C.ii Audience appeal

Rule 7 Judges' marking criteria

7.1 The range of marks will be between 1 (lowest) and 7 (highest) in each Caption. Marks are to be awarded as whole integers only i.e., 1, 2, 3. etc

7.2 Each Judge will give a mark in each Caption (A), (B) and (C)

7.3 Marks for Captions A and B will each be doubled and added together with the mark for Caption C and a placing allocated to each team, with the highest total receiving 1st place, the second highest receiving 2nd place, etc

7.4 In the event of a tie, the marks in Captions (A) and (B) combined will decide the result, and if a tie still exist then the highest total of Caption (A) scores will decide the result.

7.5 The above marking system will apply only to the final. In the event of a preliminary round the skating system will be used.

7.6 The marks of the judges will be final.



Rule 8 Special Needs

8.1 Competitors with any special needs should notify the organisers in advance.

Rule 9 Awarding of ESSDA European Championship titles

9.1 For the winners of a Team Competition to be eligible for the title of the ESSDA Team European Champions, these Rules must be followed in their entirety. For all other events, competition organisers may, at their sole discretion, choose to deviate from these Rules provided they give the competitors as much advance notice of any such deviations as is reasonably possible under the circumstances.