



EEDA Equality DanceSport Competition Rules (EEDCR)

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A. Introduction

A.1 Background

With the growth of Same-Sex competition dancing in preparation for the 1998 Gay Games in Amsterdam and the explosion of interest in same-sex dancing thereafter, there was a need for one set of rules to assist the organisation and running of Same-Sex dance competitions across Europe. Since then, there has been a desire to increase inclusion and to welcome all individuals from the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as allies. This has led to the development of equality dancing where everyone can dance with whomever they like, in whichever role they like (leader or follower, regardless of sex or gender). Recognising this development, the European Same-Sex Dance Association (ESSDA) became the European Equality Dance Association (EEDA) in 2024 and, following consultation with members, these rules have been updated as a consequence.

A.2 Rules of other dance organisations

Although the rules of international dance organisations such as the World DanceSport Federation (WDSF), the World Dance council (WDC), and the World Dance Organisation (WDO) are acknowledged, EEDA is aware that equality dance competitions have specific requirements that are not covered by the rules of such organisations. Where competition organisers apply the EEDCR, they override the rules of any other dance organisation.

A.3 Differences between EEDA Rules and those of other dance organisations

The principal differences between EEDA's rules and those of other organisations are that the EEDA Rules:

- Allow for greater flexibility regarding principles of participation.
- Allow couples to dance in different classes at different competitions.
- Include a detailed classification system.
- State that the roles of 'Leader' and 'Follower' are interchangeable and are not gender-specific.
- Provide definitions of dance-gender categories.
- The age requirements for senior categories differ between EEDA and other organisations.
- Do not have restrictions in choreography for lower classes.
- Provide for fewer clothing regulations.
- Do not distinguish between amateurs and professionals.

Rule 1. Application of the Rules

1.1 Application

The EEDA Equality DanceSport Competition Rules (EEDCR) shall apply to the EEDA European Championships either run separately or as part of a multisport event such as EuroGames. Where organisers of other equality dancesport competitions choose to follow these rules, EEDA accepts no responsibility for the application of the rules.

1.2 Couple composition

A couple comprises two individuals who can freely choose whether they dance as leader or follower without regard for gender. See Rule 2.5 for a definition of dance-gender categories.

1.3 Events, competitions, categories and classes

- 1.3.a An event consists of one or more days devoted to dancing that are promoted under a single title such as the Gay Games 2026. An event may include non-competitive elements such as social dances and workshops as well as competitions.
- 1.3.b A competition consists of all the competitive elements within a single event and may include EEDA European Championship titles
- 1.3.c A category is a separate portion of a competition that is distinguished from other categories by differences in dance-style, dance-gender category, age etc
- 1.3.d Categories may be divided into classes through the application of classification rounds (See Rules 4 and 5)

1.4 Situations not contemplated in these Rules

If a situation arises during a competition that is not covered by these rules, an appeal shall be made to the General Chairperson. Their decision is final.

Rule 2. General Rules of Participation

2.1 Responsibility for registration at competitions

- 2.1.a Couples are responsible for registering for competitions and paying any applicable fees.
- 2.1.b Competition organisers should clearly indicate in publicity materials any registration requirements including the date, fees and other useful information.
- 2.1.c Competition organiser/s may allow dancers to enter additional competition categories at their discretion.
- 2.1.d Competition organisers may, at their discretion, allow change of partner/s after registration.

2.2 Compliance with the law

Competition organisers should be aware of, and comply with, any legal requirements in force in the state where the competition is carried out, including, for example, health and safety and safeguarding legislation. Competition organisers should apply, and may amend, the EEDCR so as to ensure compliance with local legal requirements. First Aid facilities should be available at all times.

2.3 Anti-doping

- 2.3.a Doping is strictly forbidden. Doping covers the use by, or distribution to, a dancer, adjudicator or member of the management team, of substances or methods in contravention of the WADA code (www.wada-ama.org), with the exception of any substances prescribed by a suitably qualified medical professional and for which the relevant individual can provide appropriate evidence if requested by the competition organiser or chair of adjudicators.
- 2.3.b Doping in contravention of 2.3.a shall lead to automatic disqualification - see rule 2.12.c

2.4 Commercial activities and advertising

Commercial activities in or around the dance competition venue shall be prohibited without prior approval of the competition organiser. This includes the sale of any articles or distribution of brochures and advertising materials.

2.5 Dance-gender categories

2.5.a There are three dance-gender categories:

- Men's
- Women's
- Open-Gender

2.5.b The Open-Gender category is open to all individuals and couples regardless of sex or gender.

2.5.c The Men's category is open to all individuals who identify as male.

2.5.d The Women's category is open to all individuals who identify as female.

2.5.e Individuals who identify as neither male nor female can choose to dance in either the Men's or the Women's category depending on which category they feel most comfortable dancing in.

Comment: Individuals are expected to choose their dance-gender category based on the category that they feel best reflects their identity and not in order to achieve any competitive advantage whether real or perceived. In many cases their chosen dance-gender category is likely to reflect the gender as which they live on a full-time basis, where they are reasonably able to do so.

2.5.f Individuals who identify as neither male nor female have the choice to dance in either the Men's or the Women's category in a single competition (e.g. the EEDA Championships 2027). They may switch between the Men's and Women's categories between competitions, but may not dance in both the Men's and Women's categories in the same competition.

2.5.g Couples competing in the Men's or Women's category may also compete in the Open-Gender Category at the same competition, subject to any restrictions imposed by the competition organisers for practical or logistical reasons such as capacity constraints.

2.5.h Where issues arise regarding the dance-gender of an individual, the gender rules policies of the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation, and, where the competition is held as part of the EuroGames, the gender policy of the relevant EuroGames shall apply.

2.6 Eligibility

2.6.a Competition organisers may offer competition categories and classes at all levels from beginners up to professional dancers.

2.6.b Competition organisers may limit the number of couples participating due to capacity constraints.

2.6.c Dancers may compete in more than one age category, subject to any capacity constraints imposed by the competition organiser (see Rule 3.3)

2.6.d Adult competitions and Senior competitions may be danced with different partners.

2.7 Partners

In any given competition category, all dances shall be danced with the same partner. Different competition categories may be danced with different partners.

2.8 Roles

Each competing couple may decide which partner shall dance 'Leader' and/or 'Follower'. Roles may be exchanged at any time in the same dance or across the dances in a competition.

2.9 Sexual orientation

Equality competitions are often intended to provide an environment that is welcoming to, and tailored for, the LGBTQIA+ community. Competitors shall be treated equally regardless of their sexual orientation.

2.10 Nationality and country of residence

Couples of different nationalities may compete together.

2.11 Requirement to dance different rounds

2.11.a General Look and Classification: All competitors are required to dance all rounds. Couples that fail to dance in the General Look and/or the Classification rounds shall be automatically disqualified.

2.11.b Competition Rounds: if a couple fails to dance one or more dances in a competition round, that couple shall receive no marks in any of the omitted dances.

2.11.c Final Round: if a couple fails to dance one or more dances in a final, they shall be placed last in the omitted dances.

2.12 Disqualification

A dancer or couple may be disqualified from a competition for any of the following:

2.12.a Performing prohibited lifts – see rule 6.3c

2.12.b Wearing inappropriate clothing – see rule 7.4

2.12.c Consuming or being under the influence of impermissible substances in contravention of rule 2.3

2.12.d Failure to dance in the General Look or Classification Rounds (see rule 2.11.a)

2.12.e Indecent behaviour

2.12.f Unsporting conduct

2.12.g Refusing to dance in the allocated class.

Rule 3. Competition Categories and Classes

3.1 Category definitions

Competition Categories shall be defined by:

- (i) Dance style,
- (ii) Dance-gender,
- (iii) Age

Categories may further be divided into classes (e.g. A to D) based on proficiency.

Example: Women's Standard Senior I A

3.2 Distinction by dance-style

3.2.a Standard, also called Modern Ballroom or Ballroom.

- Waltz, also called English Waltz or Slow Waltz, (EW)
- Tango (TG)
- Viennese Waltz (VW)
- Slow Foxtrot, also called Slowfox or Foxtrot (SF)
- Quickstep (QU)

3.2.b Latin American, also called Latin.

- Cha-cha-cha (CC)
- Samba (SB)
- Rumba (RB)
- Paso Doble (PD)
- Jive (JV)

3.2.c 10-Dance competitions:

3.2.c.i In a 10-dance competition all five Standard dances and all five Latin dances are danced

3.2.c.ii To take part in a 10-dance competition, a couple must dance all 5 Standard and all 5 Latin dances.

3.2.c.iii In a 10-dance competition there are no classes as defined by Rule 3.5 and Rule 4.1

3.2.d Combined Competitions:

3.2.d.i In a Combined Competition a couple's results from the separate Standard and Latin categories are combined into a single result. The calculation of the combined score is explained in Appendix 1

3.2.d.ii To take part in a Combined Competition the same couple must participate in both Standard and Latin competitions during a single competition.

- 3.2.e Other styles, such as: Showdance, New Vogue, Sequence, Argentine Tango, Country & Western, Salsa and Line Dancing, etc. are not covered by these rules. For Couple Showdance and the Team Competition, see the relevant EEDA Rules.

3.3 Distinction by gender

- 3.3.a In principle, all the three separate dance-gender categories (Men's, Women's and Open-Gender) should be offered.
- 3.3.b When the Competition Organiser wishes not to offer all three dance-gender categories in a given competition, this should be clearly communicated to all couples as soon as possible.

3.4 Distinction by age

- 3.4.a All competitors in equality dance competitions must be at least 18 years of age.
- 3.4.b Senior categories are defined as follows:
- 3.4.b.i For Senior I, by the start of the competition the combined age of the couple shall be at least 90 years, and each dancer shall be at least 40 years old.
- 3.4.b.ii For Senior II, by the start of the competition the combined age of the couple shall be at least 120 years, and each dancer shall be at least 55 years old.
- 3.4.c For the purpose of ascertaining the combined age of a couple as required in rule 3.4.b, the age of both partners shall be added together. Only full years since birth will be considered and any other units of time such as months, weeks and days shall not be disregarded.
- 3.4.d Where Competition organisers wish to introduce age categories other than Adults and Seniors all publicity material should state all age categories clearly.

3.5 Sub-division of Categories into Classes

- 3.5.a To ensure that competitions are fair, couples may compete against other couples of similar proficiency.
- 3.5.b A group of couples exhibiting a similar level of proficiency shall constitute a "class" as defined in Rule 4.
- 3.5.c There shall be a maximum of five different classes with no minimum number of classes.
- 3.5.d In any category the number of classes and the allocation of couples to those classes is determined by the results of the classification rounds (see Rules 4 & 5).

3.6 Amalgamation of Categories and Classes

3.6.a Competition organisers may, at their discretion, combine different categories and/or classes due to capacity constraints or to ensure there are sufficient couples within a category for there to be an appropriate element of competition. The preferred order of amalgamation is to:

- Combine age categories
- Combine dance-gender categories
- Combine classes

3.6.b If competition organisers opt to combine categories, they should inform competitors of their intentions as soon as possible.

3.6.c Competition organisers may, at their discretion, choose to have two or more categories danced together, but awarded separately. For example, all couples in Senior I and Senior II could dance together as Senior I, and the results used to place couples in both Senior I and Senior II.

3.7 Restrictions on the number of categories to be entered

Competition organisers may, at their discretion, due to capacity or other practical constraints, limit the number of categories which couples may enter – for example only to enter two of the three age categories.

Rule 4. Classes

4.1 Classes explained

There shall be a maximum of five classes, defined as:

- Class "A" – Couples that demonstrate the highest level of proficiency in dancing such as exhibiting the ability to perform both fundamental and more difficult figures with high levels of quality and consistency.
- Class "B" - Couples that exhibit a good level of understanding of the fundamentals of the relevant dance style and demonstrate a good level of proficiency when dancing more difficult figures/routines, but are not yet able to execute them with high levels of quality and consistency.
- Class "C" - Couples that demonstrate an intermediate level of understanding of the fundamentals of the relevant dance style when dancing simpler figures/routines, but may display low levels of proficiency when performing more difficult figures/routines.;
- Class "D" - Couples that demonstrate a level of proficiency that would be expected of beginner dancers such as significant uncertainty in demonstrating the fundamentals of the relevant dance style (including timing issues), even when dancing simpler figures/routines.;
- Starter Class – Starter couples – couples that are new to partner dancing have no competition experience in any partner dance competitions.

4.2 Allocation of couples to classes

- 4.2.a The allocation of competitors into the different classes shall be made according to the rules of classification (see Rule 9.2b and Rule 9.2c).
- 4.2.b.i If only one couple is assigned to a particular class, that couple shall, at the discretion of the chair of adjudicators, have the choice to dance on the floor at the same time as another class, but shall be marked separately.
- 4.2.b.ii Following the classification round(s), couples shall compete in the class assigned in the classification round(s).

Rule 5. Self-classification

5.1 Registration

- 5.1.a Each couple shall state in their competition registration form in which competition class (from A to D or Starter) for each dance style they believe they are most likely to be placed.
- 5.1.b Couples that are not experienced in equality dance competitions should estimate the dance class in which they expect to dance (see Rule 4 for guidance).
- 5.1.c Couples experienced in equality dance competitions are expected to register themselves consistently and fairly, based on their own personal experience and past results.

5.2 Use of self-classification

Self- classification information provided by couples competing is used in order to:

- enable the organizers to generate a rough timetable after registration;
- mix the couples in the heats of the first classification round (see rule 9.2.a.i);
- provide an additional criterion for the classification if the main rules for classification are not effective.

5.3 Confidentiality

Couples' self-classification information is confidential to the Competition Organiser. It shall not be published before, during or after the competition.

Rule 6. Dances, Music & Figures

6.1 Dances per round and class

6.1.a The dances to be danced in each round and class are:

Round/Class	Standard	Latin
General Look:	One dance: EW or TG or QU	One dance: CC or RB or JV
Classification I:	Three dances: EW, TG, QU	Three dances: CC, RB, JV
Classification II: (Optional)	Two dances: EW or TG or QU	Two dances: CC or RB or JV
Starter class competition:	EW, QU	CC, JV
D class competition:	EW, TG, QU	CC, RB, JV
C class competition:	EW, TG, QU	CC, RB, JV
B class competition:	EW, TG, SF, QU	CC, SB, RB, JV
A class competition:	EW, TG, VW, SF, QU	CC, SB, RB, PD, JV

- 6.1.b A couple may be allocated to a class higher than that indicated on their registration form. This may result in a couple having to dance more dances than they had prepared for.
- 6.1.c If a couple is allocated to a class higher than that indicated on their registration form, they are not permitted to dance in the lower class by reasons of not knowing the dance or not having a routine.
- 6.1.d If a couple in the position described in rule 6.1.c chooses not to dance one or two dances in the class to which they have been allocated, they shall be marked with the lowest possible score for that particular dance.

6.2 Tempi and durations per round

6.2.a During all preliminary rounds as well as the final, the tempi and duration of the music shall be as follows:

Dance	Tempo (bars/minute)	Duration (secs)
Slow Waltz	28 – 30	90 - 120
Tango	31 – 33	90 - 120
Viennese Waltz	58 – 60	60 - 120
Slow Foxtrot	28 – 30	90 - 120
Quickstep	50 – 52	90 - 120
Cha-cha-cha	30 – 32	90 - 120
Samba	50 – 52	90 - 120
Rumba	25 – 27	90 - 120
Paso Doble	60 – 62	To 2 nd or 3 rd highlight
Jive	42 – 44	60 - 120

- 6.2.b During the first classification round, the duration of the music may be longer to allow the adjudicators time to classify all couples.
- 6.2.c For the general look and the second classification, the music for each dance round shall be played for approximately one minute.
- 6.2.d The regulations regarding tempi and duration of the music apply to all age categories.

6.3 Prescribed Figures

- 6.3.a Couples shall dance in the international style only. Other dance styles such as free-style dancing, American style dancing and show dancing are not permitted.
- 6.3.b Figures which might endanger other couples shall not be permitted.
- 6.3.c Lifts shall not be permitted in either dance style.
- 6.3.d For the purposes of rule 6.3.c a lift is defined as any movement during which one of the dancers has both feet off the floor at the same time with the assistance or support of their partner.
- 6.3.e The General Chairperson may disqualify any dancers performing a lift.
- 6.3.f In the Standard (Ballroom) dance style, dancers shall only dance in closed hold unless they are changing roles from Leader to Follower and vice versa.
- 6.3.g There shall be no figure restrictions for the lower classes (C, D and Starter).
- 6.3.h All figures are allowed in any class and in any round.

Rule 7. Competition Dress

7.1 Minimum standards

Competitors shall wear clothes in accordance with accepted standards of decency and etiquette.

7.2 Competition dress at award ceremonies

Couples shall wear their competition outfits at the presentation of prizes.

7.3 Competition dress for couples in Starter Class

Couples competing in Starter Class are advised to dress according to the spirit of the event e.g. no tail suits.

7.4 Request that couple change clothes

- 7.4.a If clothing is deemed inappropriate, the General Chairperson may instruct any couple to change clothes.
- 7.4.b If a couple refuses to change clothes as requested, as per rule 7.4.a, the General Chairperson may disqualify the couple.

7.5 Advertising material on competition dress

- 7.5.a Competitors shall be allowed to display a maximum of three sponsors' logos on their competition dress which may take up a maximum of 40 sq mm per logo.
- 7.5.b Organizers may display advertising material on competition numbers up to 20% of the surface of the number card.

Rule 8. Competition Officials

8.1.a Appointment of competition officials

All officials shall be appointed by the Competition Organiser.

8.1.b Announcement of Officials

The names of the officials involved in a competition shall be announced at the beginning of the competition and published in the program.

8.1.c Competition Management

The competition management team shall be responsible for all procedures of the competition. The schedule of responsibilities among the members must be stated clearly and should be published.

The Competition Management shall perform the following duties:

- 8.1.c.i appoint the adjudicators and check their licenses,
- 8.1.c.ii organise the timetable, including updates as necessary,
- 8.1.c.iii organise the heats,
- 8.1.c.iv organise the number of rounds and the number of couples in each class/ round,
- 8.1.c.v record the marks and marking sheets,
- 8.1.c.vii ensure compliance with EEDA rules and regulations,
- 8.1.c.viii make decisions on matters not covered by these Rules and on all other matters or situations that may arise,
- 8.1.c.ix have the authority to exclude couples from a competition category or from the entire contest on the grounds of a dancer or couple's:
 - 8.1.c.ix.1. Indecent behaviour,
 - 8.1.c.ix.2. Unsporting conduct,
 - 8.1.c.ix.3. Performance of prohibited lifts, (see Rule 6.3.e and Rule 8.3.c)
 - 8.1.c.ix.4. Refusal to dance in the allocated class,
 - 8.1.c.ix.5. Failure to dance in the Classification rounds
 - 8.1.c.ix.6. Health/medical reasons, and
 - 8.1.c.ix.7. Drug abuse
- 8.1.c.x. make all relevant announcements in the competition such as introducing the adjudicators, announcing the dances, announcing the competitor numbers, and any other public announcements. In competitions where there are foreign competitors all announcements shall be made in English as well as the language/s of the country where the competition is held.

8.1.d General Chairperson/Chair of Adjudicators

- 8.1.d.i The General Chairperson's role is to guarantee that the tournament unfolds in compliance with the EEDA rules and guidelines.
- 8.1.d.ii They are available to support the scrutineer and have the authority to make decisions on matters not covered by these Rules and on any other matters or situations arising in the course of the competition.
- 8.1.d.iii The decisions of the General Chairperson (after consultation where appropriate) shall be final.
- 8.1.d.iv The General Chairperson shall have the authority to exclude dance couples from a competition category or from the entire contest (see rule 8.1.c.ix).

8.2 Competition Desk:

There shall be a competition desk operating at all times. The competition desk shall undertake the following functions:

- 8.2.a. It shall serve as the initial registration point for each couple on arrival.
- 8.2.b. It shall provide the couples with their competition numbers and their registration package.
- 8.2.c. For the purposes of rule 8.2.b a registration package shall consist of:
 - Timetables
 - Lists of all competing couples per competition category
 - The following information on the competing couples:
 - Each couple's competition number(s),
 - The first name of the partners in the couples
 - The family name of the partners in the couples
 - The couples' gender category
 - The couples' town and country of residence and
 - Where applicable, the name of the couples' dance clubs.
- 8.2.d. It shall serve as a first point of contact between the participants and the competition management for passing on last minute changes or cancellations.
- 8.2.e It shall serve as a first point of contact between participants and the competition management for information and complaints regarding the current competition.
- 8.2.f It shall serve as an information point for answering any questions and distributing information.
- 8.2.g It shall hold certificates for collection by the non-finalists (where applicable).

8.3 Adjudicators

8.3.a Quantity and panel composition

8.3.a.i Table on panel composition:

	European Championships	Other competitions
i) Minimum number of adjudicators	9 who shall be allocated to several panels.	3 or any higher odd number
ii) Minimum number of adjudicators in a panel.	7 for any competition category and class. The competitions the A class may be held with 9 adjudicators.	
iii) Nationality requirement in relation to the composition of a panel	At least 4 out of 7 adjudicator 6 out of 9) in a panel shall have their habitual residence in a country other than the country hosting the competition. No more than two adjudicators in a given panel shall come from the same country except in the case of the host country where three may have their habitual residence in the country hosting the competition.	At least 1 of 3, 2 of 5, 2 of 7 or 3 of 9 adjudicators in international competitions shall have their habitual residence in a country other than the country hosting the competition. Organisers of more local competitions should be clear in any publicity that although international competitors may enter, the panel will not reflect this.
iv) Gender balance	When appointing the panel of adjudicators, Competition Organisers shall make reasonable attempts at striking gender balance in the panel composition.	

8.3.a.ii It is preferable that the same panel shall be responsible for a complete competition category from the Classification rounds to the Finals of all classes or at least for one complete competition (first round to the final or one class).

8.3.b Adjudicators' qualifications

All adjudicators engaged in judging equality competitions shall meet at least one of the two criteria below:

- Hold a current licence from a recognised dance sport association; and/or
- Be an active or former international tournament dancer in mixed competitions at top level and/or former tournament dancer in equality competitions at the top level; in addition, they shall have commenced the process of obtaining their recognised judging licence at the time of the competition.

8.3.c Judging

- 8.3.c.i The judging by the adjudicators shall be based on international standards and the additional guidance provided in the Code of Conduct (See Appendix 2).
- 8.3.c.ii The adjudicators shall comply with any instructions given by the Competition Management.
- 8.3.c.iii Lifts -- adjudicators observing any dancers performing lifts shall mark 'D' next to the competitors' number and inform the General Chairperson.
- 8.3.c.iv The General Chairperson shall inform the couple of the marking for the purposes of rule 8.3.c.iii in any rounds before the final.
- 8.3.c.v If the infringement of rule 6.3.c is repeated by the same couple in a subsequent round which is not a final, and is reported by the majority of adjudicators, the couple shall be disqualified.
- 8.3.c.vi In a final, if a lift is reported by a majority of the adjudicators, whether or not previous infringement has been reported in relation to the couple concerned, that couple shall be placed last in that dance by the General Chairperson.
- 8.3.c.vii All 'D' marks and disqualifications must be noted on the Scrutineering sheet and results.
- 8.3.c.viii The General Chairperson's decision shall be final.

8.3.d Actions inconsistent with the role of adjudicator

- 8.3.d.i Adjudicators shall not compete at equality competitions.
- 8.3.d.ii Adjudicators may apply to EEDA for re-instatement as a competitor. A six-month break must be observed between adjudicating and participating as a competitor. No adjudicating activity at equality dance competitions is allowed during this period.
- 8.3.d.iii Competitors may apply to EEDA for re-instatement as an adjudicator. An 18-month break must be observed between participating as a competitor and adjudicating. No dance competitor activity at equality competitions is allowed during this period.
- 8.3.d.iv Adjudicators shall not judge in competitions where their life partner or close family relatives are participants (see Appendix 2 rule 3(a)).

Rule 9. Competition procedure

9.1 Before the competition

- 9.1.a The Competition Organiser shall, as far as possible, provide practice times within the timetable for each competition category. A short additional warm-up is recommended for classes B and A in the dances which are performed neither in the Classification rounds nor in classes D or C.
- 9.1.b Each couple shall report to the competition desk at least 20 minutes before the published start time of their competition category to confirm registration and to receive their competition number.
- 9.1.c The Competition Management shall draw up the heats for the General Look and the Classification Round(s) which shall be displayed either after all couples registered in the competition category have arrived or 20 minutes before the published start time.

9.2 Order of Events

- 9.2.a For each category, the competition rounds shall be held in the following order:
 - i. General Look
 - ii. First classification round
 - iii. Second classification round (optional)
 - iv. First Round (optional)
 - v. Following Rounds (optional)
 - vi. Semi-final (optional)
 - vii. Final
- 9.2.b The number of Rounds (including semi-finals) is dependent on the number of couples in a Class.
- 9.2.c General Look and Classification Rounds are omitted for categories where there are no Classes. (e.g. 10-dance competitions).
- 9.2.d Starter Class: it is recommended that couples in this class have a warm-up round as they do not dance General Look or Classification rounds. They join the competition from iv to vi as above.
- 9.2.e All Rounds, except the final, may be danced in more than one heat.
- 9.2.f The Competition Management may run a Round of one competition category in between Rounds of a different competition category.
- 9.2.f The Competition Management shall not run a heat of one competition category in between heats of a different competition category. NB: alternating finals of the same Class level are not heats.
- 9.2.g The competitors' duty to dance is covered in rule 2.11.

9.3. The General Look

Before the classification rounds begin, it is recommended to start with a General Look. In this round the adjudicators do not judge, but have the opportunity to form an overall impression.

- 9.3.a. Heats: As far as practicable, couples that have registered as D class must not be placed in the same heat(s) as couples that have registered as A class. This will generate two types of heats (D-C-B and C-B-A) in most cases. The order of heats is not mandatory.
- 9.3.b There will be a separate Heat for the Starter Class
- 9.3.c Announcement of heats: there shall be no announcement, before or during the round, that shall identify a heat as a D-C-B heat or a C-B-A heat.
- 9.3.d Sequence of heats: there shall be separate heats for each dance. The first heat of the first classification round shall not start until the General Look has concluded. The second dance heat shall only begin after all couples have danced their first dance.

9.4 First Classification Round

- 9.4.a Purpose: in equality dancesport competitions, the class in which a couple competes is not fixed; therefore, it is necessary to hold one or two classification rounds before the elimination rounds and finals. The purpose of the classification rounds is to allocate all couples of similar proficiency into the same class. Starter couples do not participate in the Classification.
- 9.4.b Couples should be classified based on how their performance aligns with the class definitions in Rule 4 and not on how their performance compares to the performance of the other couples they are competing against.
- 9.4.c The aim of classification is not to have an equal number of couples in each class.
- 9.4.d Classification may result in some classes having no couples.
- 9.4.e For the organisation of Heats in this stage see rule 9.3. Couples may be allocated to different heats for different dances, provided 9.3.a is still followed, so that the adjudicators see different combinations of couples on the floor at the same time. This mixing of couples is especially important if there is no second classification round.
- 9.4.f Judging: the couples shall be classified by the adjudicators without regard to self-assessment (Rule 6) or former results.
- 9.4.g The adjudicators will award marks to every couple in each as follows:
 - 1 point if the adjudicator believes the couple should dance in A Class,
 - 3 points if the adjudicator believes the couple should dance in B Class,
 - 5 points if the adjudicator believes the couple should dance in C Class,
 - 7 points if the adjudicator believes the couple should dance in D Class.
- 9.4.h Calculation: The points of the individual couples from all dances and all adjudicators shall be added together and the couples ranked based on this score. The provisional classes for any second classification round shall follow from the scores obtained in the first classification. Please see Appendix 3 for further information as to how couples should be allocated to classes based on their classification scores.
- 9.4.i Couples shall be classified separately for each competition category.

9.5 Second Classification Round (optional)

- 9.5.a Purpose: The aim of the Second Classification round is to review the results of the first classification round.
- 9.5.b Heats: the couples shall be classified into heats which represent levels A-D. The number of heats in the second classification round shall depend on the number of couples per provisional class.
- 9.5.c Judging: The adjudicators at this stage shall watch the couples in the provisional class and shall indicate whether any couple/s should be allocated to the class immediately above or immediately below the class to which the couple has been provisionally allocated. If the adjudicators are satisfied that no couple should be moved up or down; they shall not write down anything on their cards for this round.
- 9.5.d Calculation: a couple shall be moved up or down a class only if the majority of their marks across all dances indicates that such a change should be made.
- Example: 2 dances 5 adjudicators
 - Marks for Couple A:
 - Waltz: 4 up 1 no mark
 - Quickstep: 2 up 3 no mark
 - Result: Couple A is moved up because the majority of marks over all dances is six out of ten for moving up.

9.6 Elimination rounds (optional)

- 9.6.a The elimination rounds shall begin at the conclusion of the classification rounds.
- 9.6.b All couples graded into one of the classes (A-B-C-D) as well as the couples registered as Starters will be listed in the overall result.
- 9.6.c Couples that withdraw before the elimination rounds start shall not be disqualified and shall still appear on the overall result sheet.
- 9.6.d Where the number of couples per class is seven or fewer, elimination rounds are not danced and the General Chairperson may choose between the following options:
- the couples may be required to dance a presentation round without judging instead of a competition round;
 - the couples may dance no competition round but a double final;
 - the couples may pass directly from the classification rounds to the finals.
- 9.6.e Couples that fail to dance one or more dances during an elimination round, shall receive no marks in those dances.
- 9.6.f Purpose of First and Following rounds: these shall be held when there are more than 12 Couples in a Class. Elimination Rounds shall be held to reduce the number of Couples until there are between 7 and 13 for a Semi Final. A maximum of 50% of the couples may be eliminated in a single round.
- 9.6.g Heats: The Competition Management shall determine the number of Heats. Each dance shall, preferably, have different couples in different heats.

- 9.6.h Judging: In general, all rounds held after the classification rounds follow the rules of national and international mainstream dancesport organisations. The adjudicators shall recall the number of couples required for the next round either placing a cross next to the number or writing the number itself on their marking sheet, as requested by the General Chairperson.
- 9.6.i Calculation: The marks for all dances of a couple must be added together. These totals will be used to determine who dances in the next round (Cross System).

9.7 Finals

- 9.7.a Two finals of different dance styles and dance-gender category may be danced concurrently such that the dances of these finals are presented alternately (e.g. Men's Latin Cha-Cha-Cha, Women's Standard Waltz, Men's Latin Samba, Women's Standard Tango etc).
- 9.7.b Preferably, six couples shall participate in the finals, but if the number of couples that qualify is over/under six, the General Chairperson shall determine the total number of couples.
- 9.7.c Judging: Adjudicators shall place couples 1 for the first, 2 for the second, etc. Open judging is possible for the finals of all classes. This may take place after each dance or at the end of the Final.
- 9.7.d Couples that fail to dance one or more dances during a final, shall be placed last in those dances.
- 9.7.e If couple withdraws before a final, they will be placed in the last position in all dances of the final.
- 9.7.f Calculation: During the finals the "skating system" must be employed (rank qualification by majority classification). Should there be a tie for the first place, another final may be danced at the General Chairperson's discretion.
- 9.7.g For a combined competition there is no final. Instead, the couple with the lowest numerical ranking (1 for 1st place, 2 for 2nd place, etc.) for Standard and Latin combined, shall be announced the winner, regardless of class. (See Appendix 1 for more details).

Rule 10. Results and Presentation

10.1 Upgrading of a winning couple

The Competition organiser may, at their discretion, invite the winning couple of any class to compete in the competition of the next higher class held on that day. A 15-minute break should be allowed before the First Round of the class above is danced.

10.2 Awards Ceremony

10.2.a Couples shall wear their dance outfits at the presentation of awards.

10.2.b Where a competition provides for the upgrading of a winning couple in accordance with rule 10.1 the awards ceremony shall be held as soon as possible after the final.

10.2.c Apart from as stated in rule 10.3.b, in all other circumstances the Competition Organisers shall decide when to hold the awards ceremony.

10.3 Awarding Championship title

10.3.a A championship title shall be awarded to the couples performing best in their respective Category, regardless of class.

10.3.b The categories for which an EEDA Championship title is to be awarded shall be determined by the EEDA Board and published in advance of the start of the competition at which the titles are to be awarded.

10.3.c When no separate Men's and Women's categories are danced, the highest ranked Men's couple and highest ranked Women's couple in an Open-Gender category will be awarded a Championship title, thus treating the final as three competitions: Men's, Women's and Open-Gender.

10.4 Results

10.4.a The Competition Management shall make the results available for publication as soon as practicably possible after the conclusion of the awards ceremony.

10.4.b The detailed results shall be published on the internet as soon as possible after the competition.

10.4.c If for any technical reason it is not possible to publish the results, the Competition Organisers shall publicly state that the results shall be available to the competitors upon request.

APPENDIX 1 – CALCULATION OF COMBINED SCORES

The result of a combined competition category is calculated using the marks of all those couples who competed in both standard ballroom and Latin in the same competition and category (e.g. senior women).

The couples are arranged in order for each of standard ballroom and Latin. All the A couples are ranked first based on the position in the A final, then A semi-final and then other elimination rounds. They are followed by the B couples, then the C couples.

The top ranked couple receives one point, the second two points, and so on to give a score for each of standard ballroom and Latin.

The scores for standard and Latin are then added together to give the combined score. The couple with the lowest combined score takes first place and so on down to the couple with the highest combined score.

Where two couples have the same combined score, the following rules are applied in order to settle the tie break.

RULE A

Where two couples have the same score, but were placed in different classes, the couple placed in the higher class will be ranked higher in the combined result. This may be calculated as follows:

A couple receives one Rule A point for dancing in Class A, two points for Class B and so on. The Rule A points for standard and Latin are added together and the couple with the lower score is ranked above the couple with the higher score.

Where a couple is given the option to dance up and chooses to do so, the highest class in which they dance is taken for the purposes of Rule A.

RULE B

Where couples have the same combined score and the same Rule A score, the scores of the individual dances are considered. The place achieved by each couple in each dance is aggregated to give the Rule B score. The couple with the lower Rule B score is placed more highly.

Where two tied couples have competed in different Classes, the application of rule B may not produce a clear result, the General Chairperson may decide to award a tie or may apply any other reasonable method to determine the final result.

APPENDIX 2 - ADJUDICATOR'S CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Introduction

- 1.a This Code of Conduct is intended to provide a framework of standards, conduct and ethics for adjudicators of equality dance competitions. It should be seen as an aid to the new adjudicator and a reminder to the experienced one.
- 1.b Equality competitions originated with the Gay and Lesbian community wishing to express themselves through competitive Ballroom and Latin dancing. Over the years it developed initially to embrace the term same- sex and latterly to the term equality dancing to indicate inclusion of all dancers, regardless of their sex, gender or sexual orientation.
- 1.c With the development of equality dancesport competitions, the emphasis has been placed on the quality of performance and a more flexible interpretation of aesthetics as befits a sport in the twenty-first century.
- 1.d The rules and standards set out in this Code are intended to assist adjudicators to conduct themselves in accordance with the appropriate standards. This shall enable them to gain the confidence of their peers, as well as the confidence of the competitors they are judging, competition organisers, sports administration bodies including EGLSF, FGG and GLISA, the sports media and the general public.
- 1.e The Code cannot anticipate all possible situations in which adjudicators may be called upon to exercise their judgement. It is the responsibility of each adjudicator to consider the intent and purpose of the Code and not just its literal interpretation.
- 1.f Adjudicator should conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner, to ensure all competitors are judged on their merits free from any bias or coercion.
- 1.g It is the adjudicators' responsibility to familiarise themselves with the Code and any documents available from the EEDA website regarding the evaluation and aesthetics of equality competitions.
- 1.h The Code applies to all adjudicators officiating at competitions under the EEDCR.
- 1.i The Code may be amended from time to time by the board of EEDA.

2. Conflict of Interest

An adjudicator must adhere to the rules set out in this Code, and shall withdraw from the panel if any potential Conflict of Interest arises.

3. Rules for Adjudicators

- 3.a An adjudicator shall not judge any event, and shall withdraw from the panel, where any person competing in that competition is a member of their immediate or extended family, including de facto relationships, or where they have a personal relationship to any competitor in the competition which makes it inappropriate for them to serve as an adjudicator.
- 3.a.i For greater clarity, the words "immediate and extended family" include anyone to whom that judge is related by blood or marriage, to the degree of first cousin or closer, or by an adoption order, or with whom the judge lives or cohabits.

- 3.b An adjudicator shall not judge in any event and shall withdraw from the panel, if they know or believes that their physical or mental condition does not allow them to perform the job properly.
- 3.c Adjudicators must not allow their decisions to be influenced by the acceptance of gifts in any form.
- 3.d An adjudicator shall not make any false representation in respect of their accreditation level or experience and in relation to their adjudicator's licence.
- 3.e An adjudicator will act only as an adjudicator throughout the day/days of the whole event and in no other capacity.
- 3.f An adjudicator shall not coach, teach, or give any advice in person or by any other means to any participating couple during the whole event at which they are judging, whether Ballroom or Latin.
- 3.g An adjudicator shall not threaten to mark a couple in a particular way, nor intimidate them in any manner.
- 3.h An adjudicator shall refrain from expressing any bias in respect of any couple they may judge in any competition.
- 3.i An adjudicator shall not seek by any means to improperly influence, or to intimidate, another adjudicator.
- 3.j An adjudicator who is not a member of the judging panel for an event, shall not discuss with any adjudicator who is a member of the judging panel for that event the merits of the performance of a competitor in that event or any previous performances or results, before the completion of the event.
- 3.k An adjudicator shall not discuss a competitor's performance with the competitor before the end of the event in which they are judging.
- 3.l An adjudicator shall not seek to influence the outcome of a competition other than by marking all couples in the competition on their merits.
- 3.m An adjudicator when appointed to judge an event held under the EEDCR shall judge strictly in accordance with EEDA's rules and policies on judging.
- 3.n If an adjudicator converses with fellow adjudicators, spectators, competitors or coaches during an event, they may not discuss the performance of any couple they are judging or any of their previous performances or results, until after the end of the event.

4. General Behaviour of Adjudicators

Adjudicators shall comply with the following rules of conduct so as to uphold the highest standards of behaviour:

- 4.a An adjudicator's behaviour both on and off the dance floor must be consistent with the principles of sporting conduct. An adjudicator must not behave in a questionable or unseemly manner in public or at any Dance Sport related function or occasion where members of the public (including competitors, spectators and the media) are present in any capacity.
- 4.b An adjudicator must be consistent, objective and neutral in their decisions. Biased judging undermines the whole basis of competition.

- 4.c An adjudicator must not publicly question their fellow adjudicators' judgement, honesty or good faith.
- 4.d Where an adjudicator is permitted by the Code to judge the couples they coach or have coached in the past, the adjudicator should not allow this relationship to influence their judgement.
- 4.e An adjudicator must maintain and develop their judging skills by keeping themselves informed on developments in technique and style, and any changes in EEDA's rules and policies on judging.
- 4.f Where judging responsibilities have been assigned to an adjudicator for a competition, regardless of the status of that competition, the adjudicator shall not consume any alcoholic beverage or recreational drugs before and during any period of the event, until the end of the event.
- 4.g It is a basic requirement of the adjudicator's licence that any adjudicator engaged to judge at a competition shall:
 - 4.g.i Arrive on time at the venue in reasonable physical and mental condition.
 - 4.g.ii Report their presence to the organiser and General Chairperson of Adjudicators.
 - 4.g.iii Ascertain the timetable of the competitions.
 - 4.g.iv Be available to adjudicate as scheduled.
- 4.h During the conduct of a competition, the adjudicators on the judging panel shall:
 - 4.h.i Stand apart from one another and at such locations that they do not interfere with the competitors.
 - 4.h.ii Move to whatever position is required to see all of the couples.
 - 4.h.iii Judge independently and not compare notes with the other adjudicators.
 - 4.h.iv Where paper scoring systems are used, mark and sign their score cards in ink, including their code letter, and initial each and every alteration they makes to the score card. Where electronic scoring systems are being used, the adjudicators should record their score electronically on the device provide by the scrutineers and as directed by the General Chairperson.
 - 4.h.v Not make any attempt to become familiar with names, numbers and nationalities of the participants by using the official programme and with any intermediate results or marks of other fellow adjudicators of the competition before the end of the competition.
 - 4.h.vi Follow any instruction given by the General Chairperson.
 - 4.h.vii Be concentrated on judging only and not have any communication with the audience, fellow adjudicators or couples and not do anything that might distract him/her (mobile phone, camera...).

5. Complaints about Adjudicators during a Competition

- 5.a During a competition, the General Chairperson is authorized and under a duty to observe the compliance with the Code by all the adjudicators.
- 5.b Any complaints regarding the breach of the Code during the competition, should be made to the official Competition Desk who shall report it to the General Chairperson.
- 5.c If the General Chairperson has reason to believe that there has been a breach of the Code by an adjudicator on the panel of which s/he is General Chairperson, then they are empowered and under a duty to notify such adjudicator of the complaint against them, hear their reply, and then take appropriate action immediately according to the provisions of the Code.
- 5.d The General Chairperson shall have the power to reprimand or replace the adjudicator by an appropriate substitute for the remainder of the competition.
- 5.e The General Chairperson shall document any incident or observation of alleged or suspected misconduct by an adjudicator, and any reprimand or replacement of an adjudicator, and include it or them in a competition report to the EEDA Board who shall decide whether there is any need to initiate a further investigation.

6. Other Complaints about Adjudicators

Any other complaints about an alleged breach of the Code after the results of the competition have been announced must be submitted to the EEDA Board in writing.

A complaint shall not be considered unless the following lodgement criteria are met:

- 6.a The complaint is made in writing signed by the complainant and lodged with a Member of the board of EEDA within 21 (twenty one) days of the date of the alleged breach together with any supporting documents.
- 6.b The complainant(s) shall agree, in writing, to give evidence and to take all steps in their power to require persons with knowledge of the matter of the complaint to be cross-examined on that evidence.
- 6.c The EEDA Board shall consider any complaint made under this section. If the lodgement criteria are not met, the EEDA Board shall write to the complainant advising that this is the case. In all cases the decision of the Board shall be final.
- 6.d The adjudicator shall be notified in writing or email of the complaint against them before such complaint is to be considered by the Board.
- 6.e The adjudicator has a right to defend their case in writing or email.
- 6.f If the adjudicator fails to supply their comments without reasonable excuse, the complaint shall be heard and dealt with by the Board according to its absolute discretion and its decision shall be final, provided always that it shall give written reasons for its decision.

APPENDIX 3 – DETERMINING CLASSES FROM THE RESULTS OF THE CLASSIFICATION ROUNDS

EXAMPLE OF CLASS ASSIGNMENT BASED ON FOUR CLASSES AND 7 JUDGES

Rule 1: Adjudicators award each couple a mark for each dance in the first classification round as follows:

- 1 point if the adjudicator believes the couple should dance in A Class,
- 3 points if the adjudicator believes the couple should dance in B Class,
- 5 points if the adjudicator believes the couple should dance in C Class,
- 7 points if the adjudicator believes the couple should dance in D Class.

Rule 2: The points awarded to a couple for all dances in the classification round are added together.

Rule 3: Based on the total points achieved, the couples are to be assigned to starting classes.

Rule 4: Where there are 7 judges, a couple should initially be assigned to a class using the following “Two-third ranges”:

- Class A: 21–35 points
- Class B: 49–77 points
- Class C: 91–119 points
- Class D: 133–147 points

Calculation example:

The “two-third range” for starting class B (with 7 judges) is derived as follows:

- If all judges awarded a “3” in every dance: $7 \text{ judges} \times 3 \text{ dances} \times 3 \text{ points} = 63 \text{ points}$

- If 2/3 give “3” and 1/3 give “1”: 49 points (lower bound)

- If 2/3 give “3” and 1/3 give “5”: 77 points (upper bound)

Thus, the 2/3 range for class B is 49–77 points.

Rule 5: Couples outside the 2/3 ranges are in the following transition ranges:

- A/B transition – 50 to 36 points
- B/C transition – 92 to 78 points
- C/D transition – 120 to 132 points

Rule 6: Couples in the transition ranges should be allocated to classes as follows:

Looking at the gap between a couple’s score and that of the couples immediately above and below them, they would generally be allocated to the same class as the couple with the closest score. For example, taking three couples ranked next to each other as follows:

- Couple XX – Score 29 – A Class
- Couple YY – Score 45 – Transition
- Couple ZZ – Score 50 – B Class

In this case, couple YY would be expected to be allocated to Class B as being closer in score to the top B couple than the bottom A couple.

Rule 7: The outcomes from Rule 6 should however be reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with the marks of the majority of the judges.

For example, assume couple YY received the following marks to give them their score of 45:

Judge	W	T	QS	TOTAL
A	1	1	1	3
B	3	3	5	11
C	1	1	1	3
D	1	1	1	3
E	1	1	1	3
F	3	3	5	11
G	3	3	5	11
TOTAL	13	13	19	45

Although Couple YY's score of 45 is closer to the top B class couple than the bottom A class couple, Couple YY was placed in Class A in the majority of dances, receiving 12 marks of 1 point and 9 marks of 3 or 5 points.

In this case, it may be more appropriate to place Couple YY into A class to align with the views of the majority of judges.

Rule 8: The allocation of couples should be based on the scores achieved and not to target a particular number of couples in any one class.

Rule 9: The ultimate decision rests with the Chair of Adjudicators who may use their discretion in applying these rules to achieve what they believe to be the fairest outcome. Where there is significant doubt as to the fairest outcome, a second classification round should be held.