

Latin Competition: National competition rules and regulations

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1. Definitions:

1.1. **Choreography competition:**

Defined as a competition where all competitors dance one at the time in front of the jury where they present a choreography on a music of their choice in a style of dance that they have selected.

1.2. **Social dance/Heat competition:**

Defined as a competition where all partners or couples dance together on the stage or on the floor to show us their social dance skills to a specific genre of music depending on the heat they register (such as salsa, bachata, merengue or chachacha).

Why joining heats: <http://socialdancecommunity.com/3-reasons-why-heats-are-great-for-social-dancers/>

1.3. **Amateur:**

Defined as a student or person who does not make a living as a Dance Instructor, Performer, Dance Competitor or Dance Adjudicator and who never receives financial compensation for these activities. This division is also open to any dancer who has never competed before.

Note: any amateur can choose to go in semi-pro or pro division at their own risks.

1.4. **Semi-Pro:**

Defined as a person who receives financial compensation as a Dance Instructor, Performer, Dance Competitor or Dance Adjudicator, but who does these activities on a part time basis and makes the majority of their income in another profession.

Note: any semi-pro can choose to go to the pro division at their own risks but cannot compete in the amateur division

1.5. **Professional:**

Defined as a person who receives financial compensation as a Dance Instructor, Performer, Dance Competitor or Dance Adjudicator, and who makes the majority or entirety of their income from these activities.

Note: pro's cannot compete in the amateur or semi-pro division

1.6. **Pro-Am:**

Defined as one Professional Dancer (Instructor) dancing with one Amateur Dancer (Student) to form a partnership, or a group of Amateur and Professional dancers performing together to form a team.

For couples: The amateur is the one being judged & scored and not the professional. (not valid for teams)

The Professional dancer must wear black clothing/costume.

1.7. Couple category:

Defined as a category where all couples are made of 1 leader & 1 follower. Couple divisions are divided into 4 sub categories (Am, Semi-Pro, Pro & Pro-Am) This divisions consist of +- 80% partner work – 20% shines Couples will have to demonstrate a prepared routine on a music of their choice.

1.8. Team category:

Defined as a category where all dancers can be professional, semi-pro, or amateur or a combination of the three. A team must consist of a minimum of 2 couples. No maximum number of dancers. The team will be judged as a whole. This divisions consist of +- 80% partner work – 20% shines.

1.9. Shines Team category:

Defined as a category where all dancers can be professional, semi-pro, or amateur or a combination of the three. A team must consist of a minimum of 3 dancers. No maximum number of dancers. The team will be judged as a whole. This divisions should be 100% shines.

1.10. Solo shines category:

Will be divided in men solo and women solo. Competitors need to dance their selected dance style (min 80%) and can use 20% of others dance styles such as Rumba, Orishas, Hip Hop, Ballroom, Ballet, Contemporary to name a few

1.11. Duo shines category:

Defined as a division where all dancers can be professional, semi-pro, or amateur or a combination of the three. The 2 dancers can be male, female or a mix.

1.12. Acrobatic category:

Defined as a category where all dancers can make use of as much Acrobatic moves (lifts, tricks,...) as they want as long as more than 50% of the dance can be recognized as their dance style they decide to compete in. (salsa, bachata, etc...)

Note: this division will not concur in our competition this year. If you would like this to happen at our next edition, message us.

1.13. Same Sex category:

Defined as an all Male or all Female Partnership or Team.

Note: this division will not concur in our competition this year. If you would like this to happen at our next edition, message us.

1.14. Teen Division:

Defined as a couple whose partners are between 13-17 years of age.

Note: this division will not concur in our competition this year. If you would like this to happen at our next edition, message us.

1.15. Pre-Teen Division:

Defined as a couple whose partners are 12 years of age and under.

Note: this division will not concur in our competition this year. If you would like this to happen at our next edition, message us.

1.16. International Division

A division made for dancers not residing in country where the competition is held. (see general rules)

1.17. Competition vs Show: A "Competition" is an organized gathering of Athletes, officials and spectators for the purpose of holding competitive events.

A competitor's goal is to be the best version of himself, an inspiration, a champion for people to recognize. Competitors are not there to perform a theatrical representation of a story. In this competition emotion and expression are evaluated but comedy is not recommended. If your competition piece loses its competitive look, it will be considered as a show and you will automatically lose 10 % of the final score.

1.18. Tricks, Dips, Drops, Leverage Moves, Flares:

A trick is defined as any movement that requires the support of the other partner to maintain. This is regardless of whether the feet remain on the floor or not.

1.19. Lifts

A dance lift is a sequence of acrobatic movements in which one dancer lifts and holds their dance partner above the floor. In some cases the dance partner may actually be propelled into the air.

2. General Rules:

2.1. Can I join the National Latin Competition?

2.1.1. National resident: Yes, you can join and have a chance of winning the title of Champion

Note: As long as 50% of the team/couple/duo is residing in country where the competition is held, there is no issue.

2.1.2. International dancers: (more than 50% of the dancers are from abroad)
Yes, you can also join our International Division

2.2. Couple divisions:

A 1 couple partnership can be designated as one male and one female partner, both male or both female.

For same sex couples: the role of leader and follower has to be obvious during the routine and clothing needs to be different to help judging scoring procedure.

All partnerships must maintain their role as leader & follower during the entire routine. The only exceptions to switch roles will be allowed for tricks or to create a surprise effect.

2.3. Time for Choreography's:

All solo, duo & couple routines (ProAm, Amateur or Professional) should be no less than 1.5 minutes and no more than 2.5 minutes long. This includes optional entrance and/or exit music. These Time Limits apply for all choreographic routines in all Styles of Dance.

All team routines (ProAm, Amateur or Professional) should be no less than 2 minutes and no more than 3 minutes long. This includes optional entrance and/or exit music.

All competitors will have no more than 20 seconds to get into place for performance. Any choreography prior to the beginning of the music will be counted toward the overall timing of the performance. Likewise, dancers will have a maximum of 20 seconds at the conclusion of the performance to exit the floor.

2.4. Time for Social dance/heat division:

Each competitor will dance 3-5 rounds. Every round will be +- 1min long (1full song for musicality purposes). The organization or DJ will be selecting the music. Every song will have a different vibe to see how you adapt to each song. The technical criteria of this division is listed in section 6.0

2.5. Props are not allowed. A prop is defined as any item that is not part of their regular costume worn by the dancers, and that is not attached to the dancer or their costume for the full duration of their routine.

2.6. Acrobatics: Acrobatics/tricks are allowed when one foot remains on the floor at all times. If both feet of either partner leave the floor via the assistance of the other partner, it will be considered a lift. Max 3 lifts are allowed. If more are executed, then dancers will automatically

lose 10% of the final score. (Jumping while doing shines will be allowed in all divisions)

The divisions excused from this rule are All Professional divisions. These divisions can use lifts/tricks however they please as long as the majority of the routine consist of actual dancing.

The division where all tricks are forbidden is the social division.

- 2.7. **Team Divisions:** All levels are allowed in this category. If this division contains too many teams, they will be divided in sub divisions such as: Amateur, Pro-am and professional.

Amateur Teams must consist of All Amateur/Student Dancers. Pro-Am Teams can have a maximum of 50% Professionals.

- 2.8. **Music Format:** Music must be emailed to our head DJ in **mp3** format. Please bring a backup USB drive with your music to the competition. All music must be send 1 month prior to the event. Competitors will be contacted by email as a reminder.

- 2.9. **Continuous spins/Multiple turns:** Competitors are allowed a maximum of 8 Bars/32 Beats/4 Counts of 8 are allowed for continuous turns/spins. More than this will result in a penalty of 10% off the final score.

- 2.10. **Costumes:**

- Choreography competition: Costumes & dance shoes are required. All costumes should be in good taste with all private parts covered by non-transparent material.
- Social dance competition: Costumes are not needed. No points will be gained or deducted. Keep in mind feet and hands need to be visible for the judges. Latin dance shoes are recommended but not mandatory.

- 2.11. **Refunds:** A Doctor's note disclosing the competitor's injury must be provided for a refund. If there are fewer than 3 entries in any division, the competition reserves the right to cancel or combine that division. If a division is cancelled, the entry fee will be refunded. If a division is combined, entry fee will apply to the combined division

- 2.12. **Prizes:**

Pro divisions: in order to receive prize money and or trophies for that division:

- There must be a minimum of 5 competitors in your division. If not, then only ranking will be given. Encourage other dancers to join.
- The top 3 dancers need to reach a minimum scoring of 80/100.

Prizes are mentioned on the website.

- 2.13. **Judging criteria:**

In our competition every competitor will be judged differently according to their status whether amateur, semi-pro or professional and the division

they enter. We believe that the score of each division & the dancer's level should be evaluated differently.

For example: there will be more points (to win or lose) on Technique for a professional than for a beginner.

- 2.14. **Finals:** all competitors will compete on Saturday afternoon. If there are more than 12 Athletes/division: timeslots, quarter-finals & semi-finals will be added (earlier during the day or even the day before).

Note: This is subject to change and is up to the discretion of the head judge and the competition managers and may be modified due to time constraints.

- 2.15. **Pro-Am Special:** For this edition we are offering all professional instructors a free entrance in our pro-am divisions. This means the student/amateur will have to purchase only 1 competitor pass instead of 2. If the professional dancer wants to compete in other divisions, then purchasing the competitors pass will be necessary.

Note: In this category each instructor can dance with a total of 3 students max in the social division and with max of 5 students in the choreographic division.

- 2.16. **Respecting dance styles:** In order to respect the dance styles, minimum 70% of the choreography must be of the selected style. Max 30% of other dance styles can be added in total.

For example:

- a Salsa On1 dancer can add Flamenco or Orishas movements but the majority of the choreography must be recognized as Salsa On1
- A traditional bachata dancer can add ballet or hip hop movements but the majority of the choreography must be recognized as traditional bachata

2.17. **International Division:**

To promote diversity and inclusivity in our competition, we are proud to introduce the International Division. This division is specifically designed to welcome dancers from around the world to participate in our National competition.

Scoring:

During the scoring process, each dancer in the International Division will be evaluated alongside their peers from around the world. Additionally, a separate scoring sheet will be used exclusively for dancers competing in the National division. This means that there will be two sets of scores:

- **Combined Scoring Sheet:** This sheet will display the scores of all dancers, including those from the International Division and the National Division. It provides a comprehensive overview of the competition, allowing judges and participants to see how each dancer ranks among all participants.

- National Division Scoring Sheet: This sheet will only include scores from dancers competing in the National Division. It allows for a focused evaluation of dancers within the national context, providing a clear comparison among national competitors.

3. General Criteria

Criteria for Amateur & Pro-Am Couple Showcase:

1. **Technique:**
 - Amateur: 20%
 - Pro-Am: 20%
2. **Timing/Synchronisation:** 20%
3. **Musicality:** 10%
4. **Difficulty:** 10%
5. **Choreography:** 20%
6. **Overall Presentation:** 20%

Criteria for Semi-Professionals Couple Showcase:

1. **Technique:** 25%
2. **Timing/Synchronisation:** 20%
3. **Musicality:** 15%
4. **Difficulty:** 15%
5. **Choreography:** 15%
6. **Overall Presentation:** 10%

Criteria for Professionals Couple Showcase:

1. **Technique:** 30%
2. **Timing/Synchronisation:** 20%
3. **Musicality:** 15%
4. **Difficulty:** 20%
5. **Choreography:** 10%
6. **Overall Presentation:** 5%

Criteria for Choreography Teams:

1. **Technique:** 15%
2. **Timing/Synchronisation:** 30%
3. **Musicality:** 15%
4. **Difficulty:** 15%
5. **Choreography:** 20%
6. **Overall Presentation:** 5%

Criteria for Choreography Solo:

1. **Technique:** 20%
2. **Timing/Synchronisation:** 20%
3. **Musicality:** 20%
4. **Difficulty:** 10%
5. **Choreography:** 15%
6. **Overall Presentation:** 15%

Criteria for Beginners Social Dance :

1. **Technique:** 20%
2. **Difficulty:** 5%
3. **Creativity:** 20%
4. **Body Movement, Coordination/Styling:** 15%
5. **Musicality:** 10%
6. **Timing:** 30%

Criteria for Intermediates Social Dance:

1. **Technique:** 20%
2. **Difficulty:** 10%
3. **Creativity:** 10%
4. **Body Movement, Coordination/Styling:** 10%
5. **Musicality:** 20%
6. **Timing:** 30%

Criteria for Advanced Social Dance:

1. **Technique:** 20%
2. **Difficulty:** 15%
3. **Creativity:** 15%
4. **Body Movement, Coordination/Styling:** 10%
5. **Musicality:** 20%
6. **Timing:** 20%

4. Criteria Choreography Amateur & Pro-Am:

Scoring of our competition will be based upon the following criteria, and will be weighted in the scoring room in the following manner:

- 4.1. **20% Technique:** Technique is reflected through balance, placement and line. This refers also to general technique for partner dance, where the movement is “grounded”, and there is clarity of proper weight changes from foot to foot. Technique and/or body styling that is specific to Each Dance style. Movement should appear to be both clear and effortless. **Connection:** to look & feel like partners are dancing together.

4.2. **20% Timing/Synchronisation:**

Salsa: Recognized Salsa Timing is designated for this competition as 1-2-3, 5-6-7. Competitors can choose to break ON 1 or ON 2. The direction of the break step can be either to the front or the back, as long as the timing of the break is consistently maintained (either 1 and 5, or 2 and 6).

Bachata: Recognized Bachata Timing is designated for this competition as 1-2-3-4, 5-6-7-8. Competitors can choose to break ON any count.

All styles must **maintain consistency** for the duration of the routine. The majority of the routine should show a recognizable timing (salsa, bachata, chachacha, etc...)

- 4.3. **10% Musicality:** Couples will demonstrate their ability to creatively work with the timing of their individual music. This can be done in a variety of ways, including patterns, footwork, “hits”, tricks, etc..

- 4.4. **10% Difficulty:** Reflected by difficulty of patterns, turns, intricacy of shine movements, and level of tricks, dips, drops and flares.

Examples: The amount of spins are done on both feet or on a one foot. How intricate were the shines? In the cabaret division, what was the difficulty of the lift-work? Was it properly executed? How about jumps, kicks, **extensions**? Are there any movements requiring exceptional balance, flexibility or strength? In order to get credit for any of these, the technique/movement must be successfully executed.

- 4.5. **20% Choreography:** Being original is the main factor. Do you look like everyone else or does your routine stand out from the rest? How do you interpret the music? Good choreography should contain clever turn patterns and shines. Couples should show a **very good usage of the space** itself.

- 4.6. **20% Overall Presentation:** costuming, hair, make-up. Do you look like our next champion? Showmanship, and do you show respect to other competitors. **Confidence**, energy, emotion and expression are a must, **connection** with the judges.

5. Criteria Choreography Semi-Professionals:

Scoring of our competition will be based upon the following criteria, and will be weighted in the scoring room in the following manner:

- 5.1. **25% Technique:** Technique is reflected through balance, placement and line. This refers also to general technique for partner dance, where the movement is “grounded”, and there is clarity of **proper weight changes** from foot to foot. Technique and/or body styling that is specific to Each Dance. Movement should appear to be both clear and effortless.
Connection: to look & feel like partners are dancing together.
- 5.2. **20% Timing/Synchronisation:**
Salsa: Recognized Salsa Timing is designated for this competition as 1-2-3, 5-6-7. Competitors can choose to break ON 1 or ON 2. The direction of the break step can be either to the front or the back, as long as the timing of the break is consistently maintained (either 1 and 5, or 2 and 6).
Bachata: Recognized Bachata Timing is designated for this competition as 1-2-3-4, 5-6-7-8. Competitors can choose to break ON any count.
All styles must **maintain consistency** for the duration of the routine. The majority of the routine should show a recognizable timing (salsa, bachata, chachacha, etc...)
- 5.3. **15% Musicality:** Couples will demonstrate their ability to creatively work with the timing of their individual music. This can be done in a variety of ways, including patterns, footwork, “hits”, tricks, etc..
- 5.4. **15% Difficulty:** Reflected by **difficulty** of patterns, turns, intricacy of shine movements, and level of tricks, dips, drops and flares.
Examples: The amount of spins are done on both feet or on a one foot. How intricate were the shines? In the cabaret division, what was the difficulty of the lift-work? Was it properly executed? How about jumps, kicks, **extensions**? Are there any movements requiring exceptional balance, flexibility or strength? In order to get credit for any of these, the technique/movement must be successfully executed.
- 5.5. **15% Choreography:** Being original is the main factor. Do you look like everyone else or does your routine stands out from the rest? How do you **interpret** the music? Good choreography should contain clever turn patterns and shines. Couples should show **a good usage of the space** itself.
- 5.6. **10% Overall Presentation:** costuming, hair, make-up. Do you look like our next champion? **Showmanship**, and do you show respect to other competitors. Confidence, energy, emotion and expression are a must, connection with the judges.

5. Criteria Choreography Professionals:

Scoring of our competition will be based upon the following criteria, and will be weighted in the scoring room in the following manner:

5.1. **30% Technique:** Technique is reflected through balance, placement and line. This refers also to general technique for partner dance, where the movement is “grounded”, and there is clarity of proper weight changes from foot to foot. Technique and/or body styling that is specific to Each Dance. Movement should appear to be both clear and effortless. Connection: to look & feel like partners are dancing together.

5.2. 20% Timing/Synchronisation:

Salsa: Recognized Salsa Timing is designated for this competition as 1-2-3, 5-6-7. Competitors can choose to break ON 1 or ON 2. The direction of the break step can be either to the front or the back, as long as the timing of the break is consistently maintained (either 1 and 5, or 2 and 6).

Bachata: Recognized Bachata Timing is designated for this competition as 1-2-3-4, 5-6-7-8. Competitors can choose to break ON any count.

All styles must **maintain consistency** for the duration of the routine. The majority of the routine should show a recognizable timing (salsa, bachata, chachacha, etc...)

5.3. **15% Musicality:** Couples will demonstrate their ability to creatively work with the timing of their individual music. This can be done in a variety of ways, including patterns, footwork, “hits”, tricks, etc..

5.4. **20% Difficulty:** Reflected by difficulty of patterns, turns, intricacy of shine movements, and level of tricks, dips, drops and flares.

Examples: The amount of spins are done on both feet or on a one foot. How intricate were the shines? In the cabaret division, what was the difficulty of the lift-work? Was it properly executed? How about jumps, kicks, extensions? Are there any movements requiring exceptional balance, flexibility or strength? In order to get credit for any of these, the technique/movement must be successfully executed.

5.5. **10% Choreography:** Being original is the main factor. Do you look like everyone else or does your routine stands out from the rest? How do you interpret the music? Good choreography should contain clever turn patterns and shines. Couples should show a good usage of the space itself.

5.6. **5% Overall Presentation:** costuming, hair, make-up. Do you look like our next champion? Showmanship, and do you show respect to other competitors. Confidence, energy, emotion and expression are a must, connection with the judges.

6. Criteria Social dance/Heat Division

6.1. **Beginner: Level 1 - Level 2**

This Level is for the first-time competitor and/or beginner level dancer. This level is comprised of basic foundation elements. Must maintain connection at all times (i.e.. no shines). no traveling across the room, no double turns or multiple spins allowed. No consecutive 1 1/2 turns

Guideline: these will usually be students who have been dancing for less than a year and/or have never competed in a social dance/heated competition before.

6.2. **Intermediate: Level 3 – Level 4**

This level adds everything that most dancers at a nightclub are doing. The Intermediate level adds rhythmic diversity with syncopations and more body movement and styling. Intermediate level patterns allowed including double turns, syncopations and shines. Multiple spins are not allowed (i.e. more than a double).

Guideline: these will usually be students who have been dancing at least 1-2 years, may or may not have competed before

6.3. **Advanced: Level 5 & up (incl. pro's)**

The Advanced level is for the more serious competitor. A dancer should be proficient in intermediate level material before advancing to the advanced level. The advanced level goes beyond good social dancing and is designed for dancers with strong technical skills, timing, musical interpretation and partnering skills. Anything goes – partner work, multiple spins, traveling, shines, intricate hand changes in patterns, multiple touch and go spot turns, etc. Must still be lead follow but styling and musicality can be incorporated. No dips, lifts or tricks allowed.

Guideline: will usually be students who have been dancing at least 2 years or may have competed before or been on a student performance team or amateur team.

NOTE:

- All Couples may consist of 2 amateurs, or a pro-am (pro-pro in the advanced category only)
 - pro-am's: female instructor may lead a female student & male instructor may follow. Instructors must wear black clothing.
 - All Contestants may dance up to two levels (their own level, plus one level up).
- Scoring of the Social dance/heat division in our competition will be based upon the following criteria, and will be weighted in the scoring room in the following manner:

6.4. **Technique: (20% everyone)**

- Connection: to look & feel like partners are dancing together.
- If you are dancing Salsa On1 or On2, does the follower stay on their line of dance

- Is there a lead a follow call and response (the leader indicates/prepare the follower for the next action and the follower follows successfully)

6.5. Difficulty (Beginner: 5% - Intermediate: 10% - Advanced 15%)

- Beginners: can you dance without too many basics steps in between each pattern
- Intermediate & Advanced: Are your patterns & shines basic or complex? (change of directions, controlled multiple spins, hand changes, level changes, hand tosses,...)
- Not executing your moves properly will make you lose points in the technique criteria.

6.6. Creativity (Beginner: 20% - Intermediate: 10% - Advanced 15%)

- **Beginners:** Memory: how well do you know your patterns and can you play with them.
- **Intermediate:** Do you look like different than other dancers

6.7. Body movement, coordination/styling (Beginner: 15% - Intermediate: 10% - Advanced 10%)

- Is there a natural chest & hip action during the dance?
- The body movements are just being used in the basic step or throughout the entire dance?
- Does the leader give enough space to the follower so they can move and coordinate freely their arms?
- Does the leader/follower make use of a part of their body in a certain to create an effect or look differently?
- Expression will be added in this category: most basic for beginners is smiling.
- **Beginner:** Are you Relaxed

6.8. Musicality: (Beginner: 10% - Intermediate: 20% - Advanced 20%)

- **Beginner:** How playful can you be musically? (we are not talking about making judges/crowd laugh)
- **Intermediate:** Are you being musical without physical connection, in your partner work or both?
- **Intermediate:** Do you adapt your dancing on the structural section of the song (for ex intro - middle - end section)
- **Intermediate:** Do you adapt your dancing depending of the style of music that is being played.
- **Advanced:** Do you keep your timing or can you slow down and accelerate your patterns (mastering Timing is a must to not loose points in that criteria)
- **Advanced:** How well do you master rhythm (not just in 1 instrument but all instruments) can you dance to them?

6.9. Timing: (Beginner: 30% - Intermediate: 30% - Advanced 20%)

- See "General rules"

7. Criteria Choreography Teams:

Scoring of our competition will be based upon the following criteria, and will be weighted in the scoring room in the following manner:

7.1. 15% Technique: Technique is reflected through balance, placement and line. This refers also to general technique for partner dance, where the movement is “grounded”, and there is clarity of proper weight changes from foot to foot. Technique and/or body styling that is specific to Each Dance. Movement should appear to be both clear and effortless. Connection: to look & feel like partners are dancing together.

7.2. 30% Timing/Synchronisation:

Salsa: Recognized Salsa Timing is designated for this competition as 1-2-3, 5-6-7. Competitors can choose to break ON 1 or ON 2. The direction of the break step can be either to the front or the back, as long as the timing of the break is consistently maintained (either 1 and 5, or 2 and 6).

Bachata: Recognized Bachata Timing is designated for this competition as 1-2-3-4, 5-6-7-8. Competitors can choose to break ON any count. All styles must **maintain consistency** for the duration of the routine. The majority of the routine should show a recognizable timing (salsa, bachata, chachacha, etc...)

7.3. 15% Musicality: Couples will demonstrate their ability to creatively work with the timing of their individual music. This can be done in a variety of ways, including patterns, footwork, “hits”, tricks, etc..

7.4. 15% Difficulty: Reflected by difficulty of patterns, turns, intricacy of shine movements, and level of tricks, dips, drops and flares.

Examples: The amount of spins is done on both feet or on a one foot. How intricate were the shines? In the cabaret division, what was the difficulty of the lift-work? Was it properly executed? How about jumps, kicks, extensions? Are there any movements requiring exceptional balance, flexibility or strength? In order to get credit for any of these, the technique/movement must be successfully executed.

7.5. 20% Choreography: Being original is the main factor. Do you look like everyone else or does your routine stand out from the rest? How do you interpret the music? Good choreography should contain clever turn patterns and shines. Couples should show a good usage of the space itself.

7.6. 5% Overall Presentation: costuming, hair, make-up. Do you look like our next champion? Showmanship, and do you show respect to other competitors. Confidence, energy, emotion and expression are a must, connection with the judges.

8. Criteria Choreography Solo:

Scoring of our competition will be based upon the following criteria, and will be weighted in the scoring room in the following manner:

8.1. 20% Technique: Technique is reflected through balance, placement and line. This refers also to general technique for partner dance, where the movement is “grounded”, and there is clarity of proper weight changes from foot to foot. Technique and/or body styling that is specific to Each Dance. Movement should appear to be both clear and effortless.

8.2. 20% Timing/Synchronisation:

Salsa: Recognized Salsa Timing is designated for this competition as 1-2-3, 5-6-7. Competitors can choose to break ON 1 or ON 2. The direction of the break step can be either to the front or the back, as long as the timing of the break is consistently maintained (either 1 and 5, or 2 and 6).

Bachata: Recognized Bachata Timing is designated for this competition as 1-2-3-4, 5-6-7-8. Competitors can choose to break ON any count.

All styles must **maintain consistency** for the duration of the routine. The majority of the routine should show a recognizable timing (salsa, bachata, chachacha, etc...)

8.3. 20% Musicality: Soloists will demonstrate their ability to creatively work with the timing of their individual music. This can be done in a variety of ways, including footwork, arm work, body movement, “hits”, tricks, etc..

8.4. 15% Difficulty: Reflected by difficulty of turns, intricacy of shines, movements, & coordination of the body and the level of tricks. Examples: The amount of spins are done on both feet or on a one foot, on the floor or in the air. How intricate were the shines? How about jumps, kicks, extensions? Are there any movements requiring exceptional balance, flexibility or strength? In order to get credit for any of these, the technique/movement must be successfully executed.

8.5. 15% Choreography: Being original is the main factor. Do you look like everyone else or does your routine stands out from the rest? How do you interpret the music? Good choreography should contain clever shines. Dancers should show a good usage of the space itself.

8.6. 10% Overall Presentation: costuming, hair, make-up. Do you look like our next champion? Showmanship, and do you show respect to other competitors. Confidence, energy, emotion and expression are a must, connection with the judges.

9. Code Of Conduct and Ethics

- 9.1. Every participant and official in the Latin Competition is responsible for contributing to the integrity of the sport and to help foster a fair and level playing field for Athletes.
- 9.2. It is the responsibility of all Athletes and officials of the Competition to be thoroughly familiar with the Competition Rules and Policies, to comply with them in full, and to exemplify the highest standards of fairness, ethical behaviour and genuine good sportsmanship in their relations with others.
- 9.3. Any Athlete in violation of said rules and policies is subject to disqualification.

10. Competitor's Responsibilities

- 10.1. While on the premises of a competition, Athletes shall conduct themselves in a civil and sportsmanlike manner. Athletes shall not harass or challenge a judge about the markings of that judge before, during, or after the event.
- 10.2. Athletes are responsible for being in attendance and **ready to compete thirty minutes prior** to the scheduled time for the event(s) entered and for checking in with the registrar (if any).
- 10.3. Athletes are responsible for being in attendance for the rewards ceremony at the end of the competition in order to receive their prizes. The athlete missing the ceremony will be considered as abandoning the competition.
- 10.4. Athletes are responsible for dancing only in those divisions and classification categories for which they are eligible under these rules. Dancing below one's minimum classification category constitutes grounds for disciplinary action. (for ex: an advanced dancer competing in a beginner division)
- 10.5. Athletes are responsible to bring safety pins to attach their numbers during the competition
- 10.6. Competitors will need to purchase a floor fee in order to participate to the qualifications and a competitor's pass during the finals

11. Rules for Competition Officials

The following is a description of the responsibilities for each official at all Latin Competitions.

11.1. All Officials

No Competition Officials shall:

- 11.1.1. Discriminate against any Athlete on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin.
- 11.1.2. Give coaching to any competitor during the entire period of time commencing on the day of the first competitive session and concluding with the end of the last session exclusive of Lectures, Seminars, or Workshops scheduled by the organizer and open to all competitors.
- 11.1.3. Create any appearance of impropriety by engaging in conversations with competitors or their coaches until after the completion of the competition.
- 11.1.4. Discuss the performance of a competitor with any individual except the chairman of judges until after the completion of the competition.

11.2. Chairman of Judges

- 11.2.1. The Chairman of Judges shall be responsible for determining the *maximum* number of athletes per heat or round which can be accommodated on the floor and by the adjudicating panel without impairing the quality of the dancing or the safety of the dance athletes as well as the number of rounds after consultation with the organizer.
- 11.2.2. The maximum number of couples permitted per heat in open events shall not exceed Ten (10).
- 11.2.3. The Chairman of Judges shall ensure that the round is split into heats as required when the number of Amateur Athletes competing at one time would cause the quality of the dancing or their safety to be impaired.
- 11.2.4. The Chairman of Judges shall be responsible to ensure that the music and tempi is adequate for the category of the competitor
- 11.2.5. The Chairman of Judges is responsible for the proper implementation of the scoring system to include the following:
 - I. Instructing judges on the points of evaluation and the scoring system.
 - II. Correct interpretation of the marks after each heat and verification that they have been correctly transcribed.
 - III. Referring any scorecard requiring correction to the adjudicator concerned.

- 11.2.6. The Chairman of Judges shall be responsible for excusing any judge from officiating when he or she feels that the judge's sound judgment may be impaired.
- 11.2.7. The Chairman of Judges shall have the authority to disqualify any Athlete or Team deemed to have violated any of the rules for competitors during the competition.
- 11.2.8. In all matters relating to the conduct of the competition, questions on judges' markings, and changes in program scheduling, the Chairman's decision shall be final.

11.3. **Judges**

- 11.3.1. Judges shall make independent evaluations and markings without consultation or discussion of Amateur Athletes' performance(s) with other judges, spectators, coaches, and other Athletes until after the final round of the category.
- 11.3.2. During the adjudication process, judges of the round shall not move around to enhance their perspective of the Athletes
- 11.3.3. Judges shall mark Athletes solely on their performance in the dance that is being adjudicated at the time. No consideration of titles, reputation, previous performances in other events, preceding rounds, or preceding dances are admissible.
- 11.3.4. Judges shall make and comment a scorecard for each heat of which they are an adjudicator.
- 11.3.5. Judges will not be allowed to clap, encourage or show any emotion towards the competitors when competing to avoid any misinterpretation of favouritism from others.

12. **Final tips:**

<https://www.arthurmurraylive.com/blog/31-things-dance-judges-want>