

Breach of Rules Policy



SECTION A: COMPETITOR ERRORS AND VIOLATIONS

1. A breach of the event rules will result in penalties decided by the judges in accordance with the severity of the breach and based on the policy below.
2. A breach may be due to an ERROR – defined as an apparent unintentional breach of the rules. Examples of errors include (but are not limited to): a slip or trip, a loss of balance or a momentary loss of composure. Each error shall be penalized at the discretion of the judge observing the error.
3. A more severe breach may be due to a VIOLATION – defined as a serious and apparent intentional breach of these rules. Examples of violations include (but are not limited to):
 - unpleasant facial expressions at the draw of a particular partner
 - violent or unpleasant actions or remarks directed to another competitor or a judge
 - dancing whilst under the influence of excessive alcohol or other substance that could cause danger or offence
 - inclusion of prohibited choreography, such as an aerial in DWAS or any manoeuvre or 'trick' that endangers a partner, other competitors, or spectators
4. The relevant penalty for a violation will be applied after the scores have been tallied for that round/final. Judges may consider the violation when determining their scores. The penalty for a severe violation may include disqualification. The penalty for an error or a minor violation in the early rounds will warrant a warning.

SECTION B: IDENTIFYING A BREACH OF RULES

5. Two Event Officials must report the incident that they consider to be a violation to the Head Judge. Event Officials are defined as any member of the judging panel (not necessarily judging at the time) and the Event Director.
6. The Head Judge will review the situation with the Officials who reported the incident and together they will decide (by majority vote if necessary) to either take relevant action in accordance with the procedures listed below, or, in the case of a borderline offence they may request the involvement of the rest of the Judging Panel in determining whether there was a clear breach of rules before deciding (by majority vote) on the course of action.
7. **The Head Judge has authority to invoke the Breach of Rules Policy in cases where they notice an incident even if less than two other Event Officials have noticed and reported it.**

SECTION C: BREACH OF RULES PRIOR TO FINALS – ACTION AND PENALTIES

8. The Head Judge will firstly inform the offending couple* that they have been identified as breaching the rules and will inform them of the implications of further breaches and of any applicable penalty.
9. If this is their **first violation** in the competition, the penalty will be a **warning** unless it is considered severe enough for disqualification.
10. **If the competitor breached the rules in a previous round of the same category AND were given a warning, if they reoffend in a subsequent round they will as a minimum receive a second warning and may incur the penalty of disqualification.**
11. *In Dance With A Stranger where leaders and followers are judged independently, followers will not be penalised for a violation performed by their leader and vice versa.

SECTION D: BREACH OF RULES DURING FINALS – ACTION AND PENALTIES

12. The Head Judge will firstly inform the offending couple that they have been identified as breaching the rules and will inform them of the penalty they have incurred.

13. The couple* will be **marked down ONE rank** in the Final if it is **their first offence of that nature** in the competition.
14. If the couple* has **received a prior warning for the same or similar offence**, the couple will incur the penalty of being marked down **THREE ranks** in the Final.
15. If the couple* has **received more than one warning of any nature** and commits a violation in the final, the couple will incur the penalty of **disqualification**.
16. In the very unlikely event that a competitor displays numerous blatant breaches of the rules that are unsafe or not in the spirit of competition (as decided by the Head Judge or Event Director) the judges reserve the right, by a minimum 2/3 majority vote, to disqualify the offending competitor/s immediately at any stage of the competition.
17. *In Dance With A Stranger where leaders and followers are judged independently, followers will not be penalised for a violation performed by their leader and vice versa. If Dance With A Stranger Finals are judged as a partnership, the penalty applies to both members of the partnership even if the prior violations were performed by only one half of that partnership.

SECTION E: VOTING PROCEDURE

18. Where decisions need to be put to a vote from the entire judging panel of that heat/final, the Head Judge and the reporting Officials will avoid mentioning competitor names and will simply speak about the incident (where possible).
19. Officials who did not witness the incident may choose to abstain from voting.
20. The Head Judge will not vote unless they were part of the judging panel for that heat/final. However in cases of indecision or a tied vote, the Head Judge will make the final decision.

SECTION F: COMMUNICATION POLICY

21. If a violation or error occurs, the Head Judge will notify the couple concerned of their warning or other penalty as soon as practically possible before the next round.
22. In the case of a violation, whilst we do not want to cause any embarrassment to competitors who have breached the rules, it is only fair to other competitors that they are informed of any penalty or disqualification imposed, and the specific category of the competition in which this occurred. Informing everyone immediately will also help educate the other competitors that the judges are prepared to enforce the rules of this competition and thereby act as an incentive to reading the rules and as a deterrent to flouting them.
23. To achieve the above, the MC will announce that there was a penalty in the form of a warning, a loss of rank (in the finals) or a disqualification, and will mention the category of the competition in which the breach occurred. The MC may mention the reason for the breach. The MC will NOT mention competitor names.

SECTION G: APPLICATION OF POLICY TO SHOWCASE AND TEAMS

24. Judges will only report a routine for disqualification if they feel it is clearly identifiable as a different dance style to Modern Jive and therefore not appropriate for entry in a Modern Jive competition.
25. Minimum two judges must report a disqualification in order for action to be taken and the Head Judge will make a final decision on whether action is warranted.
26. Any routine that is considered by a judge to be essentially a Modern Jive routine but not demonstrating the listed fundamentals the **majority** of the time, will simply be scored lower than other routines by that judge. Judges are asked to flag on their score sheets whether this was their deciding factor, and if so, competitors will be advised of such by the Event Director after the event (with judges remaining anonymous).
27. On calculation of the overall scores from the entire judging panel, if a routine has a final result of 1st, 2nd or 3rd place yet was also flagged by minimum two of the judging panel (or the Head Judge), a review will be conducted and the Head Judge, in consultation with the Event Director, will make a final decision on whether any action is warranted. The maximum penalty will be a downgrade of final placing to a non podium placing.

*This policy is current at March 2025 and applicable to the Australian Ceroc Dance Championships.
Breach of Rules policies may differ at other events.*