



OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULEBOOK

**Celebrating Canadian Line Dance
Excellence**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction

2. General Rules

3. Competition Divisions

4. Competition Format

5. Judging Criteria

6. Dance Attire &

Footwear

7. Conclusion



Introduction

True North Line Dance is a Canadian-based competitive line dance circuit designed to showcase technical skill, performance quality, and individuality within the line dance community. True North Line Dance events highlight both Canadian and international choreography while maintaining high standards of professionalism, fairness, and safety.

This rulebook outlines all competition rules, formats, and judging standards applicable across all official True North Line Dance qualifying events. All competitors are expected to review and adhere to these guidelines.



General Rules

Eligibility

- There is no minimum or maximum age to compete.
- Competitors entering the Ruby Division must be 40 years of age or older at the time of the event.
- All competitors must comply with venue-specific policies where applicable.

Registration

- Competitors must complete registration by the posted deadline.
- Entry fees are non-refundable.
- Incomplete or late registrations may result in removal from the competition.

Event Modifications

- The Event Director reserves the right to adjust schedules, divisions, or competition format if necessary.
- Any changes will be communicated through the official True North Line Dance Open Instagram.

Liability & Waiver

- All competitors must sign a liability waiver prior to competing.
- Participation is at the competitor's own risk.

Code of Conduct

- All competitors must conduct themselves in a respectful and professional manner. Unsportsmanlike behavior or inappropriate attire may result in disqualification. All concerns or disputes must be directed to the Event Director, whose decisions, along with those of the judging panel, are final.



Competition Divisions

True North Line Dance offers the following competitive divisions across all qualifying events:

- Novice – Coed
- Intermediate – Coed
- Ruby (40+) – Coed
- Advanced – Men
- Advanced – Women

Competitors are expected to enter divisions appropriate to their skill level. The Event Director reserves the right to reassign competitors if a division placement is deemed inappropriate in order to maintain fair and balanced competition.

Competitors entering the Ruby Division must be 40 years of age or older at the time of the event.



Competition Format

Every division within the True North Line Dance circuit will compete using a standardized multi-round format designed to ensure fairness and consistency across all divisions.

Competition Structure

- Each division will perform a total of four (4) dances.
- Preliminary Round: Two (2) dances
- Final Round: Two (2) dances
- Preliminary round performances will be approximately 1.5–2 minutes in length.
- Final round performances will be completed to the full song.

Canadian Choreography Requirement

- One (1) of the four dances in the Novice, Intermediate, and Ruby divisions will be a Canadian choreography.
- The Canadian choreography may appear in either the preliminary or final round.
- Remaining dances may be choreographed by international choreographers.
- Advanced divisions are exempt from the Canadian choreography requirement.

Dance Announcement & Assignment

- Official dances for each division will be released prior to each qualifying event.
- Dance selections are subject to change at the discretion of the Event Director.
- Any updates or event-specific rule clarifications will be communicated through official True North Line Dance channels.



Competition Format

Preliminary Rounds & Advancement

- If a division receives a high number of entries, it may be divided into multiple preliminary groups.
- All competitors will perform both preliminary dances.
- Preliminary round performances will be approximately 1.5–2 minutes in length.
- Competitors will be evaluated based on their overall preliminary round performance.
- Advancement to the Final Round will be determined by overall preliminary rankings.

Final Round

- Competitors who advance will perform two (2) final dances.
- Final round performances will be completed to the full song.
- Final placements will be determined by overall final-round performance.
- Preliminary scores will not carry over.

Performance Guidelines

- The first two walls of each dance must be performed strictly according to the official step sheet. Personal styling may be added only after the first two walls have been completed, provided the core choreography is not altered.
- Competitors must maintain awareness of spacing and floorcraft throughout each performance.

Prohibited Movements

- Acrobatic or gymnastic movements
- Supporting body weight on hands
- Sitting or lying on the floor during performances (intros excluded).



Judging Criteria

Competitors will be evaluated by a qualified judging panel using the criteria outlined below. Judging criteria will generally be considered in the following order of importance: Timing, Technique, Musicality, and Showmanship.

Timing

- Consistency with the beat and rhythm of the music
- Accuracy of timing throughout the performance
- Ability to remain synchronized with musical phrasing and changes

Technique

- Accuracy and clarity of footwork
- Consistency with the choreography as written
- Control, balance, and precision of movement

Musicality

- Interpretation and expression of the music
- Ability to match movement quality and energy to the song
- Flow and connection between choreography and music

Showmanship

- Confidence, stage presence, and audience engagement
- Professionalism and engagement throughout the performance
- Styling that enhances, but does not alter, the choreography

Judges' scores and decisions are final and binding.



Dance Attire & Footwear

Competitors are expected to present themselves in appropriate attire that is suitable for a professional dance competition.

Footwear

- Any closed-toe shoe is permitted.
- Footwear must be secure and appropriate for dance.
- Open-toe shoes are not permitted.

Attire

- Attire must remain appropriate for a public competition setting at all times.
- Attire should allow freedom of movement and must not pose a safety risk.
- No loose items or props permitted.

The Event Director reserves the right to ask for attire changes or disqualify a competitor if attire is deemed inappropriate.



Conclusion

The True North Line Dance circuit is committed to providing a fair, professional, and enjoyable competitive environment that celebrates line dance and supports both Canadian and international choreography. By participating, competitors agree to uphold the standards outlined in this rulebook and contribute to a respectful and positive dance community.

We look forward to welcoming all competitors and celebrating line dance excellence on the floor.

Spencer Kemp & Mario Carito
Co-owners of True North Line Dance

