

RULES
HONKY TONK &
LINE DANCE
SERIES



2022



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mision of the Honky Tonk & Line Dance Series

HOW DO THE “HONKY TONK & LINE DANCE SERIES” AND THE “LINE DANCE ASSOCIATION FINALS” WORK.

RULES HONY TONK CONTESTS

A.- What is the Honky Tonk?

B.- Who is allowed to compete?

C.- Divisions

Types of Divisions

Individual Honky Tonk

ProAline Groups

Partner

D. Age Categories

E. Dances

F.- Competition Clothing

RULES SPOTLIGHT CHOREOGRAPHIES

RULES LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS

1.- Divisional Information

2.- Solo Rules Summary

3.- Duos Ages + Rules Summary

4 – Quads Ages + Rules Summary

5 – Country Classic Teams Ages + Rules Summary

6 – Teams Ages + Rules Summary

7.- Costumes & Footwear – All Divisions

8.- General Rules – All Divisions

THE ORGANIZATION OF “HONKY TONK & LINE DANCE SERIES”

WHAT DOES THE JURY CONSIDER IN HONKY TONK?

WHAT DO THE JUDGES JUDGE IN THE LINE DANCE COMPETITION?



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

The “Honky Tonk & Line Dance Series” circuit has been formed and constituted to:

- *Protect and promote the Line Dance and the Country Dance, in all its varieties as an artistic, leisure and contest form.*
- *Establish, improve and ensure the highest ethical and professional levels; putting the general interest before the private one.*
- *Facilitate collaboration between Pros and mutual respect for all trends.*

The Directors of the events that include “Honky Tonk & Line Dance Series” contests have decided to use the rules of the LDA totally and without alteration. These allow the L.D.A. to review, evaluate and advise these events with “Honky Tonk & Line Dance Series” contest, to ensure the continuity and quality of the competitions in the events, and the improvement of the experience for the contestants in them.

Notification for events other than the Line Dance Association’s

The laws protect the printing, duplication and partial or total use of the rules of the LDA.

If you decide to use these rules, the choreographies and / or scoring format, you must obtain the written permission of the president of the LDA. Said permission must appear in the files of the LDA. If permission is granted for the use of these standards, they must be used without alteration.

An LDA Observer or a Contest Coordinator will be required to be present to answer any questions about them, or to advise contestants on the correct interpretation and application of the Honky Tonk & Line Dance Series Rules of the LDA.



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

HOW DO THE “HONKY TONK & LINE DANCE SERIES” AND THE “LINE DANCE ASSOCIATION FINALS” WORK

The Honky Tonk & Line Dance Series is comprised of events that include three Divisions: “Honky Tonk Contests”, “Spotlight Choreographies Presentations” and “Line Dance Competitions”.

Honky Tonk Contests are social country dance, line dance, couples and group contests. They are not competitions. Each participant is valued for her/his intrinsic quality in terms of knowledge of the choreography and their naturalness when dancing, awarding each member of the Jury a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal to each participant. At one extreme, this implies that a group of participants could all receive a Gold medal, or all, a Bronze medal.

The Spotlight Choreographies presentations, in addition to their intrinsic assessment, serves to present choreographies that are candidates for the selection of choreographies for the Honky Tonk Country, Honky Tonk Freestyle and Honky AB categories for the following season.

Line Dance Competitions are country, line dance and group dance competitions. Each participant is valued for her/his intrinsic technical quality, corporal expression, musicality, dramatic force, etc..., awarding each member of the Jury a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal to each participant. At one extreme, this implies that a group of participants could all receive a Gold medal, or all, a Bronze medal.

How does it Work?

The season begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st. Your age on December 31 determines which division you will dance in during the season.

Contestants in Honky AB (except Junior / Gold / Platinum), must upgrade to Honky Tonk in the following season, according to their progression.

Contestants in Honky Tonk Country and / or FreeStyle, may stay in this category, unless by proposal of the jury, the LDA Commission considers that the level of the dancer exceeds the social level and demonstrates a mastery of superior technique that promotes to participate in Competition

Dancers in Line Dance competitions will only need to move to a higher level division in the following competition year if they have won three or more competitions where there are 3 or more competitors dancing, or if they have won the Line Dance Association Finals *, or a European Title * or a World Title *, from any of the existing Country and / or Linedance organizations.

Honky Tonk & Line Dance Series Events

There are basically three types of Honky Tonk & Line Dance Series events:

Americana Dancing Festivals. They are events whose name is property of the Line Dance Association. They must follow all the indications set by the association, both in the organization and in the activities it offers. They can be franchised to an organizer or promoter of events.

Affiliated events. These are events that include contests and / or competitions under the Honky Tonk rules. They must include the Honky Tonk logo in all their advertising. The remaining activities developed in the event are entirely the responsibility of the owner. They can not include competitions or contests of another organization without the corresponding authorization in writing.

Spotlight Choreographies LIVE ON LINE Events, These are events exclusively online and for the presentation of choreographies, where choreographers from all over the world can present their choreographies to choose to enter the selection of choreographies for the following season.

All three types of events are qualifiers for the “Line Dance Association Finals”.



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

The Line Dance Association Finals

There is a Line Dance Association Finals for each division: Honky Tonk, Line Dance, and Spotlight Choreographies. In Spain they will be called **Line Dance Association Spanish Finals**.

For **Spotlight Choreographies**, it will be held on October as the dances for the following season must be published in that month. The finalists will be able to participate in person, or connect online live. There is no ranking from first to last. There are medals following the usual criteria of the LDA, and it will be announced there which of the choreographies presented have been selected for the following season.

For **Honky Tonk and Line Dance**

Participants are evaluated by comparison with each other, establishing a classification from first to last. Consequently, the title of (P.Ej) **Line Dance Association Spanish Champion** will be awarded for each division (Honky Tonk and Line Dance) and for each level and age category.

There must be a minimum of three participants per level category, age and gender. If this were not the case, participants of different categories would be grouped together to reach this minimum.

The events that host the Line Dance Association Finals will be:

- For the **Spotlight Choreographies** there are two options: An exclusive event for this purpose on October; and alternatively, to host them in an existing event that will be held in October. In this second case, said event will not be able to offer the normal “Spotlight Choreographies” division, since it would host the final.
- For **Honky Tonk and Line Dance** there are two options:
 - An exclusive event for this purpose on December.
 - Host them in an existing event, which could be the last of the season or the first of the following season

How to Qualify for the Line Dance Association Finals

For **Honky Tonk and for Line Dance**

Dancers must contest or compete in a minimum of 2 contests or competitions during the season to qualify for the “Line Dance Association Finals” in Individual, Partner, Duo, Quad or Teams. And they must have achieved at least one Gold in each of the dances in the category where they want to participate, among all the contests and competitions where they have participated during the season.

Consequently, a record of the competitors will be organized with the medals obtained by dance in each event, which will be public through www.linedance-association.com

If a dancer has failed to qualify for the Linedance Association Finals due to health problems or other reasons, they may request a waiver. However, dancers must show that they were unable to attend the qualifying event and, where appropriate, provide medical evidence. The dancers should also have registered for the qualifying event for which they require a waiver. Waivers must be requested in writing. The decision of the Line Dance Association will be final.



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

Classifications and combined divisions

If there are not a sufficient number of competitors in the “Line Dance Association Finals”, LDA reserves the right to move the heats to a final of 5, instead of 7. If there are not enough entries in the age divisions, the categories of age at the discretion of LDA

For Spotlight Choreographies

The choreographies must have been presented (and consequently registered) in one of the events, in person or online, that qualify for the “Line Dance Association Finals”,

The LDA Pros commission will choose, from among all those presented during the season, the finalist dances classified to participate in the “Line Dance Association Finals”, to choose the dances of the contests Honky AB, Honky Tonk Country and Honky Tonk FreeStyle of the following season.

HONKY TONK CONTESTS

A. What is the “Honky Tonk”

They are social contests of country dance, line dance, couples and groups. They are not competitions. Participants are not valued by comparison between them by establishing a ranking from the first to the last. Each participant is valued for its intrinsic quality by granting each member of the Jury a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal to each participant.

At one extreme, this implies that a group of participants could receive all a Gold medal, or all a Bronze medal.

Events meet these characteristics:

- Jury: Minimum three Instructors, Monitors or Coaches.
- Contest Coordinator is the organizer himself or someone appointed by him.
- Dance floor of any type of material
- Official scoring program, or manual skating scoring.

B. Who is allowed to compete?

B.1. Any person, who at most participates in the category "social, starter or similar" in competitions of other organizations, can participate in a Honky Tonk contest, whatever the division. All you have to do is register for the contest and meet the conditions of the organizer. Therefore we recommend to all interested parties to always consult with the organizers. People who act as monitors or instructors of line dance, whether qualified or not, they cannot participate in the individual category.

B.2. The contestants implicitly agree that their personal data is automatically incorporated into the file registered with the Data Protection Agency, for use in relation to their participation in competitions. In any case, by enrolling in a contest approved by the LDA, dancers agree to have their data incorporated into their file. According to LORTAD, to modify or cancel your data you should contact the LDA secretary.

B.3. Division Changes

• Each event will ensure that the level of participants, especially the new ones, corresponds to what is expected in these divisions. In the event that a person manifestly has a much higher level than expected, or has evolved too much for the division of Honky Tonk, the interested party and his/her “teacher” will be informed and may be suggested to enter the world of competitions and not in the contests.



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

- Linedancers of the Newcomer categories entering from the world of competition of the age group from Silver (included), who have spent two or more years without competing, are allowed to request their return to Honky Tonk; as long as its expressiveness corresponds to a Honky Tonk linedancer, and not to a competition linedancer.

C. Categories of the Honky Tonk Contests.

People can participate in any of the following categories, in several or all of them.

Honky Tonk AB:

Only for participants who have been dancing for less than a year. There is only one category with three dances. The music is "Americana type" country or not. One or more "instructors" can be placed on the dance floor to dance the choreographies and serve as a guide. In this category you cannot be more than one season. In the case of participants of the age groups: Primary, Gold and Platinum; those who wish to remain in this division for more than one season, they may request it to the Line Dance Association. The LDA may or may not approve each application .

Honky Tonk Line Dance:

Aimed at line dancers of social dance that at most participate in the category "social, starter or similar" in competitions of other organizations. They cannot participate in this division, people who exercise as "instructors", or line dance monitors. Nor can participate dancers with experience in competition; or in paid line dance exhibitions or other types of dance such as: Funky, Ballroom or Sports Dance, etc. ...

There are 2 types of different categories

- **Honky Tonk Country:** where the music used must be country.
- **Honky Tonk FreeStyle:** where the music used must be non-country.

A contestant may choose to apply to one or both categories, since they are classified separately.

ProAline, ProAline AB Groups

- There are two groups of ProAline:
 - ProAline AB: For contestants of Honky AB level (competing in Honky AB or not)
 - ProAline: For contestants of Honky Tonk level (competing in Honky Tonk or not)
- It is a social contest in which the instructor (Pro) accompanies his pupils (Ams) to the dancefloor as a guide. ProAline consists on an instructor's pupils going to the dancefloor with him to line dance. The groups of ProAline must consist of 6 to 10 pupils. The groups of ProAline AB consist of 4 to 10 pupils
- If an instructor teaches in different places he can choose whether he wants to group their pupils under a single club name or, alternately, if he prefers each group to go to the dancefloor independently. A group can have two instructors but only one of them can accompany the group to the dancefloor. An Instructor may have more than one group.
- There in one age group: Open Age (all ages)
- The dances used in ProAline are the same of the Honky Tonk division, but each organizer will choose three between the six dances of the categories Honky Tonk Country and Honky Tonk FreeStyle, and will publish them in the "Information Sheet" of the event.
- The dances used in ProAline AB are the same three of the Honky Tonk AB division
- The instructor accompanies his/her group/s every time, but his performance doesn't rate, only that of his pupils.
- The pupils can only be dancers who either have never competed or are Honky Tonk Line Dance contestants.
- How the ProAline Contest works:



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

- Two or more teams go on track together. They dance the three Honky Tonk dances proposed, one after another without leaving the dance floor
- Each member of the jury values each group, awarding for each dance the medal that each ProAline deserves

Partner

This division is for couples. A couple can consist of a boy and a girl or two girls; There will be a limited number of choreographies, of a simple nature that will be applied to different music. Only one age group: Open, that is, it is open to all ages

The choreographies of couples will be based on the most common country rhythms: Two Step, West Coast Swing, East Coast Swing, Polka or Triple Two Step.

D. Age categories

Grupo de Edad*	
Primary (0-9) (*)	Open (25-34)
Junior (0-12)	Crystal (35-44)
Teenage (13-15)	Silver (45 -59)
Young Adult (16-24)	Gold (60 -69)
	Platinum (70 +)

- Contestants are required to participate throughout the season in the age category corresponding to their age on December 31 of the current year.
- Any exception, case or conflict due to the age of the participant will have to be notified to LDA, for its study

E. Dances: Honky Tonk , ProAline, ProAline AB and Partner

- All dances will change on January 1st .
- The dances are the same for both men and women
- For Honky AB there will be three dances of difficulty "Beginner" with different musical styles. The three dances will be danced in a row without the participants leaving the dance floor.
- For the Honky Tonk division there will be six dances throughout the year: 3 to country music for the Honky Tonk Country category, and 3 to music of other styles for the Honky Tonk FreeStyle category:

The three dances will be danced in a row without the participants leaving the dance floor.

- For ProAline there will be three Honky Tonk Country or FreeStyle dances in a combination chosen by Event Director
- For ProAline AB they will be the same dances as for Honky AB



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

- For partner dance divisions, there will be two choreographies of any of the following rhythms: Two Step, West Coast Swing, East Coast Swing, Polka or Triple Two Step.
- The choreographies chosen for each season will be published on the web www.linedance-association.com
- The duration of each dance will be between 1.5 and two minutes (until the end of the musical phrase).
- Participants must perform the total number of dances chosen for their division and category by the organizer.

F . Competition Clothing

Clothing for these divisions must follow this rule: **Keep It Simple!** And regarding decoration: **When you hesitate, leave it as it is!** If the participant prefers more elaborate clothing, he/she can be promoted to a higher division, where more creative clothing is not only accepted but encouraged.

Clothing standards for Honky Tonk Line Dance, Honky Tonk AB and ProAline social contests:

The costumes are free in these Contests, although it will be appreciated that the participants dress with a country appearance in Honky Tonk Country, but in Honky Tonk FreeStyle, the costumes should not be country, but more in line with the type of music.

The use of accessories (props) in any of the two divisions is not authorized (Objects that are not part of the wardrobe itself)

Clothing standards for Partner:

The contestants must present themselves as a couple, so their clothing must be clearly coordinated or visually complementary, showing the desire to be seen as a couple.

Hats

It's not mandatory. But if you take it in Honky Tonk Country, ProAline Country, or Partner, Hats must always be cowboy-style, which implies that it must have a 3-1/4" brim (8 cm at least).

The hat can be worn when dancing, taking it off and spinning it ... etc, but without its fall to the dance floor causing prejudice to any dancer (in case of accidental fall, it must be picked up).

SPOTLIGHT CHOREOGRAPHIES

Presentations

The Honky Tonk Series "Spotlight Choreographies", in addition to their intrinsic valuation, are used to present choreography candidates to the choreography selection for the Honky Tonk and Honky AB divisions of the following season.

- There are four categories:
 - o **16 Counts.** These are choreographies of 16 counts for the Honky AB division to all kinds of songs including country music, whose musical phrases are uniform, 32, 48, or 64 counts.
 - o **Country:** These are choreographies to phrased country music songs, that is, whose musical phrases are uniform, 32, 48, or 64 counts. They can include Restarts. A song is



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

considered to be Country, if the US Country Music Association (CMA) has rated the artist as such.

o **FreeStyle:** These are choreographies for all kinds of phrased songs (except to country music), that is, whose musical phrases are uniform, 32, 48, or 64 counts. They can include Restarts.

o **ABC / Tag.** These are choreographies to all kinds of songs including country music. Whose common characteristic is that the choreography itself is formed by different parts, according to the different musical phrases of the song. Or choreographies that contain one or more Tags.

- For the Country, FreeStyle and ABC categories there are two levels:
 - o Beginner-Newcomer
 - o Novice - Intermediate
- It is not essential that it be unpublished, but during the season it can only be presented twice. Choreographies registered for competitions in the previous season cannot be presented.
- A person can present choreographies in one, two or in the four categories mentioned. But only one choreography can be presented per category.
- There is no maximum number of participants being able to present the choreography, the choreographer can present the choreography alone or accompanied
- If the choreographer does not dance in the presentation of his/her choreography, he/she must be present in the room.
- Music must correspond to the category in which you have registered.
- In the event that two choreographers present the same song, the first one registered will have preference and the second choreographer will be notified immediately to change it.
- The jurors will value the choreography itself, the steps, the adaptation to the music, and the possibility of success in the line dance and country dance community, but not the quality of the performance. The choreographies do not compete with each other

Registration

- Registration, the dance sheet (in pdf format), and the song (in mp3 format) must be sent in advance to the organizer's email 1 week in advance

If they do not arrive on time, in the indicated format and with proper identification, the registration of the choreography cannot be taken into account. Both pdf and mp3 files must be named with the following structure: **Type of Choreography - Your name - Choreography Name**



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS

1.- Divisional Information

Solo Ages

Age categories	
Primary (0-9) (*)	Open (25-34)
Junior (0-12)	Crystal (35-44)
Teenage (13-15)	Silver (45 -59)
Young Adult (16-24)	Gold (60 -69)
	Platinum (70 +)

DIVISIONS

Newcomer

This division is recommended for beginner dancers or dancers who have never competed before. The standard in this division is not necessarily determined by the length of time the dancer has been dancing, but by their ability. Variations are not permitted in this division. The official step sheet must be strictly adhered to. Dance teachers of any form of dance may not compete at this level. Dancers who compete in Novice or above at any other organisation may not enter at this level. If dancers are deemed to be too advanced for this division, they may be asked to move up a division, at the discretion of the LDA.

Novice

This division is recommended for dancers who have been dancing in competition for over 1 year, or who have some previous dance experience. Emphasis in this division is on correct vanilla footwork and technique. Variations are allowed in this division.

Intermediate

This division is recommended for dancers who have been Dancing in competition for more than 2-3 years, or who have three or more years of other dance training. Dance teachers who are new to competition are recommended to begin in this division.

Advanced

This division is recommended for experienced and accomplished dancers who have been competing for over 3 years, or who have an extensive dance background. A high level of technique and performance is expected at this level.

2.- Solo Rules Summary

Male and Female competitors will dance in separate or combined heats. If there are not sufficient entries, age groups and/or male & female divisions may be combined. Dancers will NOT be counted in, apart from Newcomer. Dancers must dance all dances offered in their division at any event they attend in order for the event to be classed as a qualifying event. Dancers will need to dance all specified dances to qualify for placing.



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

V & V Rule - Vanilla & Variation:

Dancers must dance the first TWO walls as vanilla (unless specified on the official stepsheet). You may use your hands, arms, head and body, but you cannot change any of the steps, they must be performed exactly as the official step description issued. You will be penalised if the official step sheet is not strictly adhered to. On the third, fifth and all following ODD walls you may introduce variations. Variations must flow in the same direction of movement as the Vanilla. On the fourth, sixth and all following EVEN Walls you must dance vanilla with styling (*unless indicated otherwise on the official step sheet).

Exceptions to the V&V Rule as follows:

Newcomer: Variations are not permitted at all in this division. Newcomer dancers must dance the dance exactly as written – no variations are allowed.

Vanilla Patterns:

All vanilla patterns must be performed exactly as written on the official step descriptions, available from www.linedance-association.com. Dancers must keep to the basic footwork and direction of the dance. No additional turns or variations may be added. Hand/arm/skirt/hat work and body styling/movement is allowed. Competitors will be disqualified if they include their own version of the dance during the vanilla walls. If a dancer leaves the floor for any reason, he/she may be disqualified from that dance; under the rules of the scoring system, this means they would be ineligible for an overall placement.

3.- Duos Ages + Rules Summary

Junior: Age 0-12; Teenage: Age 13-17; Open: Age 18+; Senior: Age 45+

* If two dancers competing together fall into different age groups, add together the dancers' ages and divide by 2. Whichever age category this age falls into is the age division in which the duo should dance. Duos are two individuals, males, females or mixed, dancing in any non-joined pattern. Hands or bodies may briefly touch but dancers cannot join to execute any movement. A set piece of music will be pre-released to which Duos should choreograph their own routine. Several Duos will compete on the floor at the same time; therefore, dance floor etiquette must be followed. Dancers should start dancing when they choose; they will not be counted in.

4.- Quads Ages + Rules Summary

Open Age Division

*If the dancers competing together fall into different age groups, add together the dancers ages and divide by 4. Whichever age category this age falls into is the age division in which the Quad should dance. Quads are four individuals, males, females or mixed, dancing in any non-joined pattern. Hands or bodies may briefly touch but dancers cannot join to execute any movement. A set piece of music will be pre-released to which all Quads should choreograph their own routine. Several Quads will compete on the floor at the same time; therefore dance floor etiquette must be followed. Dancers should start dancing when they choose; they will not be counted in. No competitor may dance in more than one Quad Line Dance Team at an event.

5.- Country Classic Team Ages + Rules Summary

Open Age Division

There must be a minimum of 5 dancers in this team division; there is no maximum limit on the amount of dancers in the team. Dancers may be any combination of ages.

Line dance rules apply in this division.

A line dance will be selected which teams must perform. Dancers will be required to dance the first two walls as vanilla, then may perform the 3rd, 5th and all odd numbered walls as variations. Variations do not need to flow in the direction of the vanilla steps. Teams are permitted to change formation within the variation walls, but must stay in formation for all vanilla walls. Introductions and endings are permitted in this division.



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

Country classic teams will compete separately; there will not be more than one team competing on the floor at a time.

All dances selected in this division will be to country music.

6.- Team Ages + Rules Summary

Standard Team; Cabaret Team

Open Age Divisions Teams must consist of at least SIX members for each routine and involves individual dancers dancing any combination of dances. They may touch and join to create a formation, or initiate a turn or movement. Teams may include sequences from a line dance, partner dance or from couples dance styles. Lifts, drops and weight bearing moves are not permitted in Standard Teams, but are allowed in Cabaret Teams.

* **Standard Teams:** Music must be a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 minutes in length. Time starts with the first notes of the music and ends with the last notes. Any introduction or exit music **MUST** be included in the time allowance. Exceeding the time limits will result in a lower final placement. At least 50% of the music used for standard teams must be country (i.e. appeared in the country charts, or performed by a recognised country artist or group).

Acted themes, pantomime or comedy performances of any kind are not allowed in the standard teams.

* **Cabaret Teams:** Music must be a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 10 minutes in length. Time starts with the first notes of the music and ends with the last notes. Any introduction or exit music **MUST** be included in the time allowance. Exceeding the time limits will result in a lower final placement. Any style of music is allowed in the cabaret division. Cabaret teams must be family friendly. Any teams that present a performance that is not suitable for an audience of all ages may be penalized.

Teams may use any dance style or combination of dance styles appropriately presented with a theme and may use any music. Props are allowed. Cabaret/themed costumes are allowed. Audio/verbal sounds are allowed. Acrobatic moves are permitted, and therefore a disclaimer must be signed by the Team Captain/Organiser.

Acted themes, pantomime or comedy performances of any kind are allowed in the Cabaret section.

TEAM MUSIC must be provided on a memory stick to the DJ at the start of the competition. Alternatively, it can be emailed in advance of the event to webmaster@linedance-association.com. A back up copy must be available if required. Delays of a teams' performance due to music unavailability may result in the team being disqualified.

The order in which teams dance will be selected by the Event Director in a random and impartial fashion.

7.- Costumes & Footwear – All Divisions

General

Male: You must wear a shirt, top or shirt & waistcoat, trousers or jeans. You must wear a cowboy hat when the dance is to country music (i.e. appeared in the country charts, or performed by a recognised country artist or group), however, for non-country music; the cowboy hat is optional - please see individual step sheet for classification. If the cowboy hat is dropped during the course of the dance, and not retrieved at the earliest opportunity, you will be penalised.

Female: You must wear a) dress or b) shirt, top, leotard or blouse c) trousers, shorts, skirt, jeans, cat suit. You must wear dance pants with skirts and dresses. Dance tights must be worn. A cowboy hat is optional.



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

Costume Restrictions

Tops/Leotards: Strapless tops are not allowed. Bare midriffs are not allowed. At no point should a costume top ride up to expose a bare midriff. If flesh/see through material is used to excess to represent bare flesh, this may be penalized, at the discretion of the judges.

Skirts/Trousers: When standing still, NO part of the leg should be shown more than 4"/10cm above the centre of the knee. Length is measured from the middle of the knee vertically to the hem of the skirt/trouser leg, at all angles. Handkerchief hems and split skirts are measured from the shortest point. Tearaway skirts are not permitted, except in all team divisions. Sheer skirts/trousers which are see through more than 4" above the knee are not permitted.

All Dancers, All Divisions, Male and Female: Any costume that may give cause for embarrassment to competitors, judges or spectators, is not allowed.

Costumes must be worn for Awards Ceremonies.

Footwear

For all dances done to country music (i.e. appeared in the country charts, or performed by a recognised country artist or group), competitors must wear dance boots. For dances done to non-country music, dance shoes may be worn.

If the music is Country and the dance style being danced is definitely WCS or Street, then other appropriate footwear may be worn.

Primary, Junior, Teen and all Male dancers must not wear dance shoes with more than 1.5"/3.75 cm heel. All other dancers must not wear shoes with more than a 3" /7.5cm heel.

Trainers may be worn for dances that are classified as Street (even if the music is Country)

Shorter ankle boots or lace up shoes may be worn in the Gold Divisions, or by petition if a competitor has any health problems that may prevent them from wearing boots.

*** Team Cabaret division is exempt from costume regulations, although any costume, which is a cause of embarrassment to judges/spectators, will be penalised.**

* All Divisions – costumes and footwear. If you are unsure of the legality of any aspect of your costume or footwear, please check at the competitor's meeting or with the head judge before you compete.

(Please note: Team Cabaret is exempt from Acrobatic Rules restrictions)

All dancers must obey dance floor etiquette. If you are executing a move and by doing so cause interference with another competitor, you will not be recalled to the next heat or placed in a final. The offended competitor will not be affected. This also means that variations should flow in the direction of the dance.

Props are not permitted (except in Team Cabaret).

Vulgar or crude movements are not allowed. Movements beyond the point of flirtation, humour or comedy, will result in the dancer not being recalled to the next heat or placed in a final.



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

8.- General Rules – All Divisions

Gum Chewing is not allowed.

Audio/Verbal sound/Singing is not allowed (except in Team Cabaret). Lipsynching is allowed.

Talking - Competitors must not talk to other competitors, judges or the audience while dancing on the floor in competition. You risk not being recalled to the next heat or placed in a final.

Acrobatic moves are not allowed at any point during the dance (this also includes the introduction and 'end poses'). These moves are defined as follows:

- * Any move where both legs are above waist height of the competitor
- * Any move where the competitor's weight is on one or both hands
- * Any move where a competitor sits or lies on the floor. Splits are not permitted in any divisions, except in Advanced. If splits are performed in any other division the competitor/s will be penalised. Advanced competitors may use 2 beats of music exempt from Acrobatic Rule Restrictions to recover from the splits.

Kicks are allowed; however, kicks must not interfere with, or endanger, any other dancer on the floor

General Information

Competition Ethics: Competitors MUST NOT question or consult the Judges about the competition during the event.

Competitors' Meeting: It is each competitor's responsibility to attend the Competitors Meeting if one is called during the event. For teams, at least one team member should attend.

Competitors' Responsibilities: It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure they are fully up-to-date with the rules relating to their division. This includes official step descriptions and costume regulations. Competitors should make themselves aware of competitors' registration and meetings. All competitors must be in the competitor's area 15 minutes before they are required to dance. Each competitor's number will be called twice and if the competitor is not on the floor ready to dance, they may be disqualified from the dance.

All teams must be ready to perform at the assigned time; delays may result in a lower placement.

All competitors are expected to behave in a professional and proper manner. Anyone acting in an unethical or unprofessional way may be disqualified from the event. If competitors do not abide by the published rules they will be disqualified. Improper behaviour, competition enquiries, protests or disputes must immediately be brought to the attention of the Event Director. All decisions of the Event Director, Contest Co-Ordinator, Judges and Scrutineers are final.

Competitors may ask judges for feedback directly after the awards for that competition (at the individual judge's discretion). Competitors may not contact judges for feedback after the event is over.

Judges: During the competition, judges/officials privy to competition scoring or results must not, under any circumstances or by any means, convey such information to the public or to a competitor. Judges & officials are not restricted from socialising at an event except whilst judging or carrying out official duties.

Judges Meetings: The reason for calling a judges' meeting and the result will only be conveyed to the dancers involved if necessary. If the Head Judge feels that a statement is required, then it will be made in general terms only and for the benefit/guidance of all competitors.



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

Junior/Teenage Competitors: Competitors aged under 16 must be accompanied by an adult who is held accountable for their conduct at all times. It is the adult's responsibility to convey all the information, step descriptions, dress rules, etc., to the dancer in their care.

Preliminary Heats: Preliminary heats are used to eliminate dancers in order to get to a final. Scores from prelims will only be used to decide final placings if scores from the finals themselves are tied. There may be occasions when another heat is required because of a tie resulting from the judges' marks.

Solos/Duos/Quads: The scores of all dances will be added together and the overall highest scoring dancers will move forward to the next heat/final. Heats will be held in all divisions with eight or more dancers. A percentage of the dancers in each heat will be recalled to dance again in the next heat until a maximum of seven competitors, or as many competitors as the Head Judge deems necessary, remain.

Teams: Preliminary heats must be held in all competitions with eight or more competitors in a division, unless otherwise deemed by the Head Judge. A percentage of the teams will be recalled to dance again in the next heat until a maximum of seven teams remain.

Scoring Analysis: A scoring analysis of your performance is available. Request this from the registration staff or Scrutineer. In the event of there being excessive numbers of requests for scores, they will be available online after the competition.

Scrutineers: Events are not sanctioned unless they are scrutinised by Licensed Adjudicators

Step Descriptions: The Event Director must issue a step description for each dance offered at the Event. Competitors are required to dance to this sheet only and must request the step descriptions from the Event Director or download from the website www.linedance-association.com. A step description from any other source is Not Valid for the purposes of the competition.



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

The Organization of the Honky Tonk & Line Dance Series

The approval of an official event “Honky Tonk & Line Dance Series”

The L.D.A. It is not intended to be a hegemonic entity within the Line Dance, but only to be an entity that works for the expansion of the Line Dance in a general way, and all the organizers must participate in the principles on which the L.D.A. is based.

Honky Tonk Contests are nothing more than a tool for this, and their approval is based on the following points:

- To obtain the approval of a contest, it must be requested in writing, using the form provided by the LDA. The form provided will indicate among other points:
 - Title of the contest
 - Organizing entity and your personal data
 - Place and date of celebration
 - Track dimensions
 - Other possible competitions scheduled specifying the different specialties, age group, category.
 - Contest Coordinator, Scrutineer and members of the Jury
 - Possible cash prizes and any other information that is considered of interest.
- The LDA will respond in writing regarding the approval or denial of the event. If the date should be changed, alternative dates will be communicated for the organizer's election.

General Aspects of the Competition

- The organizer will have to count with the participation of the following team of collaborators
 - Competition Coordinator
 - Panel of Jurors
 - Scrutineer
 - Dancefloor Coordinator
 - Disc-jockey
 - Master of Ceremony
- The minimum length of each dance is 1'5 minutes.
- The Contest Coordinator is in charge of the Timetable of the competition, both of its total length and of its satisfactory completion. For that purpose he must work with the Scrutineer to prepare it and then with the master of ceremony and the rest of his dancefloor team for its completion.
- In case the number of participants exceeds 75 people, the timetable can be badly affected, for that reason the organizers will have to choose one out of the following possibilities:
 - Use two dancefloors and two panels of judges.
 - Celebrate the competition during the whole day



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

Definition of the functions of the organizing team

Contest Coordinator

• The Contest Coordinator will be in charge of the competition and he will have to follow the specification of these regulations closely. He will have to tend to the needs of the judges. He will have the scrutiny team under his supervision and he will solve all the incidents that may take place during the competition. His responsibilities will be:

- a) Controlling the tempo and length of the music.
- b) Making sure that the category and group of the participants are adequate to their level within the competition.
- c) Controlling the fulfillment of the stipulated rules about participants' clothing. Determining the distribution of the dancers or couples after every qualifying round.
- d) Ensuring that the dancers and couples are dancing in their corresponding dance.
- e) Giving instructions to the judges concerning the number of dancers or couples whom they have to choose in every qualifying round and their distribution, as well as determining the final number of dancers or couples who get to the next round.
- f) Warning the dancers or couples who have been penalized by a judge, as well as informing the rest of the jury and carrying out, if necessary, the corresponding disqualifications.
- g) Admonishing participants who don't behave properly and, if necessary, expel them from the competition.
- h) Deciding on any eventuality that may arise in the course of the competition, as well as receiving the complaints from the assistants if there were any, and transmit them to whom they concern: Event Organizer or Secretary of the Asociación Española de Line Dance y Baile Country®.

Jury Members

- The Jury Members will be at least three
- During the contest, jurors who observe any violation of the established rules, can request a break and hold a "conference" of the Jury members together with the contest coordinator, in order to determine if the offender should be penalized. It will be the Contest Coordinator, chosen by the organization, who will inform the dancer or partner in question.

Scrutineer

The scrutiny team must be accredited by the LDA

The scrutiny team is responsible for recounting the votes and ratings of the judges and for applying the Skating system. It is also his responsibility to inform the Contest Coordinator and the Observer of the Association about disqualified or penalized participants, as well as about any irregularity he might have noticed in voting or rating by the judges.



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

What does the Jury consider in Honky Tonk?

Although a judge is always a judge and the main parameter is always the same (“be as neutral as humanly possible”), we are all human and that is why we need some rules and criteria for judging.

General criteria

1.- Contestants must always follow the dance sheet’s description, no variations are accepted, although adaptations for impossibility to carry out a specific step (e.g. replacing steps in case the participant suffers dizziness) are allowed.

2.- Jurors will give priority to body language in their valuation.. Contestants must prove they have fun following the rhythm of the music; the dancer’s body language must show feeling, fun, sadness, happiness, romanticism, etc. Of course, this is determined by body movement, but body movement cannot be exaggerated to the point of going beyond the necessary moves.

Following the dance’s specific motion and foot technique are not the main criteria for judges. The most important aspect for the contestants to take care of is that of expressing feeling through their moves in a way that coheres with the music that is being played.

3.-Jurors must determine whether the dancer’s movement and expression is natural and fun or, on the contrary, whether some moves seem to carefully studied and unnatural, thus hinting at overperformance with regard to usual body movement in free dance; it could be caused by “training” certain specific movements and would lead to ranking in the last position. The simple idea is: dance having fun to the fullest as you would at a party, but not as in a competition exhibiting above others.

4.- In ProAline, The participation of the group will be valued under the same premises as in Honky Tonk; Although the application of technique is not valued, the cohesion of the group will be assessed as a demonstration of a team (synchronization, presentation). Choreography variations are not allowed.

5.- Penalties

Our circuit has no defined penalties as such, however, there are several reasons why the Jury of the panel can request a “conference” from the Contest Coordinator to decide jointly whether or not the participant should be penalized (with a put below, with the last place or disqualification) Here are some of the reasons that could be the cause of "conference penalty":

- The execution of vulgar or bad taste movements
- Falling an object, (hat or part of the apparel) and not picking it up from the dance floor, causing the safety of a dancer
- Use of sunglasses, gloves, or other accessories that prevent the correct display of expressiveness

Specific criteria in Partner:

1.- Contestants must always follow the dance description explicitly during the first two walls; afterwards, variations are accepted, but they should not be too extensive, having to return to the original choreography, so that it can be recognized. Any variation that may interfere with another couple may be penalized.

2.- The application of the motions will be taken into account properly, a good body expression, adequate technique and a knowledge as a couple of lead and follow.

3.- If a couple advanced faster and had to overtake another slower, it would do so from the inside, but only if it was absolutely necessary.



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

JUDGING CRITERIA IN THE LINE DANCE COMPETITION

General criteria in Line Dance

The aspects of dance the judges will focus on are:

- Basic concepts:

Correct execution of the steps according to the choreography

Application of the correct motion, dance character

Tempo, rhythm, appropriate emphasis to each dance

Use of appropriate figures and rhythmic accents for all dances with variations

- Footwork:

Comprising correct foot positioning and the correct use of different foot parts.

Demonstration of balance, weight transfer, body movement, lead & follow in case of couples.

- Spinning technique:

It includes linear concepts of spinning, prep, spot and frame, through different types of turns.

- Posture:

It includes correct posture and allures specific to the category, character and type of dance.

- Style:

It includes dancefloor alignment and movement individually as well as in couple, use of lines, body shapes and the application of presentation techniques to show or Project expression, character and energy during the whole representation.

- Use of the dancefloor:

It is the etiquette and correct use of the dancefloor and the correct use of movement to create patterns on the dancefloor who offer the best use of the floor without intruding into the other competitors' movements, given the prescribed presentations and spatial structures of each dance.

- Floor Power:

Control of the own body, chakra control, balance control, aura control, line control, movement of the arms, naturalness when dancing.

- Musical Interpretation:

It comprises generic knowledge of musical structures and their use for prepared routines or variation, in line and in couple.

- Penalties

Our circuit has no penalties, but there are some reasons why a contestant can be penalized for. The decision is taken by the judges and the Contest Coordinator, to decide if the contestant is position degraded, in last place or disqualified. This are the reasons:

- The execution of vulgar or distasteful movements.

- Make a move (by mistake or a variation) occupying the space of another participant.

- Making inappropriate variations in relation to the motion of the choreography.

- Dancing out of timing without appreciating.

- Dropping an object (hat or costuming part) and not picking it up again, causing a safety hazard for any dancer

Specific criteria in Newcomer:

1.- Contestants must correctly execute steps and follow without exception the step description in the dance heet. No variations are allowed.

2.- A good learning of the basic dance technique will provide the dancer with the correct execution of foot positioning, balance control, domination of the movement from the center and the execution of body moves in a natural way. Moving the arms without control of the center is not a priority and it is not advisable. The judges will give priority to the contestants' foot technique; using the correct positions, Controlling the "center" and "dancing with the body" will be a priority when judging.



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

3.- When judging, judges will give priority to the correct execution of the steps in the choreography and of the motion best suited for each dance; therefore they should know all the choreographies.

4.- Floor Power must never prevail over the correct execution of the steps and the adequate motion.

A dancer who moves naturally across the dancefloor and/or executes pretty moves, but doesn't follow the choreography and/or doesn't apply the suitable motion can never be judged as better than a dancer who does the opposite.

Specific criteria starting from Novice:

1.- Contestants must always follow the description in the dance sheet explicitly during the first Wall; after the first Wall, variations are accepted, but they should not be too extended and should quickly return to the original choreography so that it can be recognized as such.

2.- In this level, contestants must already possess basic knowledge of dance technique, correct foot positioning, balance control and Center.

3.- When judging, judges will give priority to the correct execution of the steps in the choreography and of the motion best suited for each dance; therefore they should know all the choreographies-

4.- They must also judge the quality of the variations were there any, as well as the use of moves suited to the type of dance, the transition between the variation and the "vanille", the correct execution of both, etc.

The execution of variations or lack thereof must not prevail over good technique. A dancer who does many variations but does not demonstrate his control of dance technique can never be judged as better of a dancer who does show good technique even if the latter does not do variations.

5.- Floor Power must never prevail over the correct execution of the steps and the adequate motion.

A dancer who moves naturally across the dancefloor and/or executes pretty moves, but doesn't follow the choreography and/or doesn't apply the suitable motion can never be judged as better than a dancer who does the opposite.

Specific criteria in Intermediate and Advanced:

1.- Contestants must bear in mind that the judges observe them from the moment they go out on the dance floor, so the Intro is also important. Especially at these levels a good interpretation is expected, already since the Intro. Contestants must always follow the description of the dance explicitly. They will be able to make variations. Variations in these levels should enrich the choreographic performance.

They must follow the flow of the dance, be appropriate to the motion, but the original choreography must be recognizable. They must never harm another linedancer on the dance floor

2.- At this level, the use of correct technique, the use of the correct foot positions, balance control, and the Center, and the movement of the arms in synchrony with the body are presupposed and required.

3.- The judges at the time of judging will assess the correct execution of the steps and the application of the appropriate motion to each dance; therefore the judges must know all the choreographies.

4.- They will also assess the quality of the variations, if any, appropriate movements for the type of dance, transition between the variation and the "vanille", correct execution of the same, etc.

The execution or not of variations should not prevail when judging, over a good technique. A dancer who does many variations but does not demonstrate mastery of the foot technique in the execution of the dance, can never be ahead of another who does demonstrate good technique even if he does not do so many variations.

5.- In no case should the "floor power" prevail over the correct execution of the steps, a good technique and / or the execution of the appropriate motion.



HONKY TONK CONTESTS & LINE DANCE COMPETITIONS – January 2021

FINAL NOTICE

By competing at any Line Dance Association sanctioned event, you are agreeing to the following statement

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way at any Line dance Association event, related events and activities, I acknowledge, appreciate and agree that:

- 1) The risk of injury from the activities involved in these dance events can be significant, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist;
- 2) I knowingly and freely assume all such risks, both known and unknown, and assume full responsibility for my participation;
- 3) I willingly agree to comply with the stated instructions and policies and customary terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately;
- 4) I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, hereby release, indemnify and hold Line Dance Association, the Event Organisers, the Company Directors, and their officers, officials, agents and/or employees, other event participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event or activity ("Releases") harmless with respect to any and all injury, disability, death, or loss or damage to person or property, to the fullest extent permitted by law;
- 5) I understand that I could be photographed and videoed at this event and acknowledge that I relinquish all rights to this material. Should I wish not be photographed or videoed then I will withdraw myself from the competition.
- 6) All rights to any photography or videography taken during the competition, social dancing, or shows, at any Line Dance Association event, is the property and copyright of the Line Dance Association. I acknowledge that Line Dance Association can ask me to withdraw any photography or videography from websites and social media and I will do so without hesitation.
- 7) I understand that I am not entitled to a refund on these competition fees for any reason. Any refund that might be offered will be at the sole discretion of Line Dance Association on a case-by-case basis. This does not affect your statutory rights.

I understand, agree and acknowledge that some activities may be of a hazardous nature and/or include physical and/or strenuous activity. Understanding this, I state that I have no medical condition or impairment that might inhibit my safe and active participation in the above listed activity. In addition, I understand that Line Dance Association does not provide medical insurance coverage for activity participants and that any applicable medical insurance must be provided individually by such participants. In the case of injury or medical emergency and in the event participant, or their parent or guardian, cannot respond at the time of the emergency, Line Dance Association has permission to seek, administer, or have administered whatever first aid or emergency medical care deemed necessary for participant's welfare, and it is understood that participant, and not Line Dance Association, shall be responsible for any and all charges for such health care services regardless of whether participant's medical insurance would cover such charges.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT. MY ACCEPTANCE AND SIGNATURE IS GUARANTEED BY CLICKING REGISTRATING FOR THIS COMPETITION.

* Please note - any competition that does not strictly adhere to these rules will not be classed as a Line dance association competition or contest

* Please note - these rules are subject to change at the discretion of Line Dance Association