

## World's Largest Steppers Contest Rules

1. No dancing on knees or on the floor.
2. No props. A prop is defined as any foreign object or substance used by a contestant to enhance their performance. Taking one's suit jacket off during the contest is not considered a prop.
2. One foot must remain on the floor at all times. Both feet leaving the floor at any point of a participant's contest performance will result in the couple's disqualification except in Original New, Trio, and Intermediate Categories.
3. Participants must have on respectful attire that covers all private body parts and under garments. If any private body part or undergarment is exposed, the couple will be disqualified. (Note: Ballerina dresses with appropriate undergarments are acceptable).
4. No changing partners after the preliminary qualifying round. The qualifying couple must dance together in the finals.
5. There are no age criteria for any category. Every contest category is open to all ages.
6. All contest music must be submitted by the specified deadline. If the contest music is not submitted by the deadline, contestants will be required to dance to the DJ's selection.
7. Unsportsmanlike conduct will be examined on a case-by-case basis and could result in being banned from future World's Largest Steppers Contest participation.

### **Note:**

- \* In the event of a tie, the purse will be split, and each couple will get one trophy.
- \* Both feet are allowed off the floor in the Original New Skool and Trio Category.

Judging Criteria (Originality, Synchronization, Footwork, Appearance, Showmanship)

**Synchronization:** Two partners dancing with one another in time. Points will be deducted for the following execution areas.

- A. Missing hands
- B. Slips, falls, or missed dips and drops
- C. One partner out dancing the other partner

**Footwork:** Moving both feet in a rhythmic pattern that looks effortless and fancy. Feet movements should coordinate with upper body movements and turns. Points will be deducted from couples who:

- A. Fail to execute footwork while dancing.
- B. Move feet in an awkward manner that detracts from the effortless movements that are characteristic of the dance.

**Showmanship/Creativity:** Showmanship consists of movements, both impromptu and choreographed, that are executed in the context of the dance and present with flair and dramatic presentation. Depending on the category, showmanship could consist of fancy turns, dips, drops, and routines or style, body movement and swagger. Showmanship is category specific; make sure to pay attention to the criteria of each category before integrating showmanship or routines into your dance performance. Points will be deducted from couples who:

- A. Miss partner cues or rehearsed steps.
- B. Dance without flair, energy, or creative moves.

- C. Fail to engage the audience in their dance.
- D. Fail to keep their head up while dancing.

**Appearance:** Couples should be dressed from head to toe in fancy contest attire. Attire should be coordinated in color but custom-tailored suits are not a requirement. Contest apparel should be appropriate, consistent with the rules, and should not detract from the performance by being overly revealing. Judges should not deduct points from contestants because of differing fashion opinions. However, distracting apparel will be decided at the judge's discretion. Points will be deducted from couples who:

1. Fail to coordinate their attire.
2. Have wardrobe malfunctions that don't violate the rules.

**Originality:** The foundation of the dance should be Steppin' and all movements should be executed in time within the basic pattern of the dance. Originality is not creativity and the two should not be confused. Points will be deducted from couples who:

A. Deviate from the basic pattern of Steppin' and begin executing another dance form (e.g. Salsa, Ballrooming, Jitterbug, Tap, etc.). Note: Routine movements will be accepted, so long as they are executed within the basic pattern and time of the dance.

## **Category Breakdown**

### *Master's Category*

The Master's Category is designed for Steppers who have previously placed either 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in an Original Category. Both partners have to have placed in the World's Largest Steppers Contest previously to be eligible for this category. Both Original New and Old Skool dancers are welcome in this year's Master's Contest. The Judges for this category will consist of 5 Original Old Skool judges and 5 Original New Skool judges. All Master's Category contestants must walk for the first minute of their performance. Master's Category participants are not eligible to compete in any additional categories.

### *Original Old Skool Category*

Original Steppers should be masters of all the basic elements of the dance. Emphasis in this category will be placed on fancy footwork, pulling the female dance partner in close while Steppin, and over all style and rhythm. Turns are accepted but dips and drops will result in deductions in this category. Timing, Style, Footwork, Close Dancing, and Slow Bopping are all elements of original style dancing. Routine's will be frowned upon in the Original Category. The Original Category will be judged by dancers with 25 Years of experience or more, so structure your dance accordingly.

### *Original New Skool Category*

While this category shares many of the same elements as the Original Category, the Original New Skool category differs with respect to the emphasis placed on Turns, Dips, and Drops. While dips and drops are not required or preferred over creative dancing in the Original New Skool Category, they will not be frowned upon. Routines are also acceptable in this category, as long as the basic pattern of Steppin' exists. The New Skool Original category will be judged by Steppers who began dancing after 1995, so plan your dance accordingly.

### *Trio Category*

The Trio Category is executed with 3 partners dancing together in unison. Coordination, rhythm, timing, and creativity are important elements of the Trio. While the lead in a Trio dance can change, the basis of this dance is for the lead dancer to keep his or her partners continuously involved in the dance. Limited routines will be accepted in this category. Turns, dips, and drops are also allowed in this category. The judges for this category will be Original New Skool judges so plan your dance accordingly.

### *Intermediate Category*

The Intermediate Category is designed for Steppers with 7 years of dancing or less. Since some Steppers advance much faster than others, dancers can choose to compete in one of the Original Categories if they choose. This category will be judged on the Original New Skool criteria by Original New Skool judges so plan your dance accordingly.

### *Beginners*

Beginners should have less than 2 year and ½ years of total dance time. Beginners are judged on the Old Skool Original rules. The judges for this category will be the Original Old Skool judges, so plan your dance accordingly.

Emphasis For Beginners Will Be Placed On

1. Timing and coordination
2. Synchronization with partner
3. Mastering basic turns and basic footwork
4. The initial development and/or foundation of a unique style