

WDSF Presidium Operating Policy

Re: GENERAL RULES FOR THE

STAGE DANCESPORT DISCIPLINES (Performing Arts)

GENERAL RULES FOR THE STAGE DANCESPORT DISCIPLINES (Performing Arts)

Rule L.1 (Membership)

- 1.1. Each athlete in a WDSF Competition must be a Member of, or formally affiliated with, a WDSF Member body representing a country.
- 1.2. All athletes in all WDSF Competitions must be identified by a WDSF ID Card/E-Card.

Rule L.2 (General)

2.1. The general rules in this chapter will apply to the following Stage DanceSport disciplines:

2.1.1. Jazz Dance

Jazz Dance discipline is recognizable for its specific isolations, body contractions and jazz stretches, and characteristic technique elements.

Jazz Dance technique includes isolations, lay outs, turns, kicks, jumps, pas du bourrée, jazz walks, floor work as some of the typical movements.

Jazz dance form stemmed from early African Folk Dances that were done by slaves brought to America from Africa, West Indies, Cuba, Panama and Haiti.

This discipline may be danced using many different styles and tempos, using themes based on Afro-Cuban, Oriental, Spanish or other national themes.

2.1.2. Contemporary Dance

Contemporary dance is a free style of dance where the dancer uses research and movement quality to create their own steps, which contrasts with the structured steps of ballet focusing on the contract and release of the body, and the unpredictable changes in rhythm, speed, and direction. It also employs floor work, fall and recovery, and improvisation characteristics. Contemporary dance styles should incorporate balance, control and extensions moves. It uses the entire body, all possible body movements, creating new shapes, bringing new compositions.

Contemporary performance shall consist of modern dance techniques and current trends. It shall correspond with the age and movement skills of the respective athletes. The storyline, theme, idea or concept must be in good taste with the applicable age category.

2.1.3. Showdance Stage

Showdance Stage discipline use elements of technique from Stage DanceSport (2.1.1 Jazz., 2.1.2 Contemporary). Elements from other dances may be used to enrich and complete the choreography, with respect to the character of Showdance Stage. The Showdance contestant emphasizes the story with movement, choreography, costume, expression (personal interpretation), and can also use scenography and props where conveys a clear message by elaborating on a motive, emotion, story, idea or message must be authentic.

The character of Stage Dancesport disciplines must be clearly recognizable (Refer to 2.1.1 Jazz., 2.1.2 Contemporary)

Acrobatics and lifts are allowed.

2.1.4. Tap Dance

Tap is a form of dance characterized by the creation of sound by hitting (step) shoes on the floor as a special form of using percussion.

The sound is produced by tap shoes that have metal parts on the toes and heels. All types of taps can be used in this style: rhythm, hoofing, buck & wing, waltz clog, military, precision kick line, Latin and musical theatre.

Rule L.3 (General)

On WDSF Open World Championships and WDSF Open Continental Championships in Stage DanceSport Disciplines all athletes of the highest competitive category of a WDSF Member Body are eligible to participate. Athlete's application for entry may only be made by the relevant WDSF Member body.

Rule L.4 (Stage DanceSport Form)

All Stage DanceSport disciplines have only Stage DanceSport form which are shown in next table:

STAGE DANCESPORT DISCIPLINES	STAGE DANCESPORT FORM						
	Solo female	Solo male	Duo * (any combination of 2 athletes)	Trio (any combination of 3 athletes)	Small team (4-12 athletes)	Big team (13-24 athletes)	Mega team (25 or more athletes)
Jazz Dance	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Contemporary Dance	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Showdance Stage	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Tap Dance	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

* A duo was a combination of two athletes performing together without a dance posture specific to Latin or standard dances.

Rule L.5 (Age Restrictions for Solo, Duo and Trio)

5.1. The following age restrictions are mandatory in WDSF Competitions for Solo's, Duo's and Trio's.

AGE CATEGORIES	The athlete is turning, in the calendar year:
Juvenile I	reach 9th birthday or less in the calendar year
Juvenile II	reach 10th and 11st birthday in the calendar year
Junior I	reach 12nd and 13th birthday in the calendar year
Junior II	reach 14th and 15th birthday in the calendar year
Youth	reach 16th, 17th and 18th birthday in the calendar year
Adult	reach 19th birthday or more in the calendar year
Senior	reach 30th or more in the calendar year

5.2. Age restrictions for Solo in all Stage DanceSport disciplines see Rule L.5.1 (Age Restrictions).

5.3. Age restrictions for Duo in all Stage DanceSport disciplines see Rule L.5.1 (Age Restrictions). Duo will be determined by the oldest athlete.

5.4. Age restrictions for Trio in all Stage DanceSport disciplines see Rule L.5.1 (Age Restrictions) Trio will be determined by the oldest athlete.

5.5. All age groups are allowed to compete in one older age category on the WDSF Open competitions, except Senior age group which can compete in Adult age category.

5.6. At WDSF Open competitions Junior I and Junior II can compete together, and the organizer of the competitions determines it.

Rule L.6 (Age Restrictions for Small and Big team)

6.1. The following age restrictions are mandatory in WDSF Competitions for Small and Big teams.

AGE CATEGORIES	The members of team are turning, in the calendar year:
Juvenile	reach 8 th ,9 th , 10 th and 11 th birthday in the calendar year
Junior	reach 12 th ,13 th , 14 th and 15 th birthday in the calendar year
Adult	reach 16 th - 29 th birthday in the calendar year
Senior	reach 30 th or more in the calendar year

6.2. All age categories are allowed to compete in one older age category on the WDSF Open competitions, except Senior age group which can compete in Adult age category.

6.3. Each Team may include athletes who belongs to an adjacent older age-category without changing their age-category with following restrictions:

- 6.3.1. Teams of 4 to 7 members: 2 athletes may be older, except Senior Category.
- 6.3.2. Teams of 8 to 12 members: 3 athletes may be older, except Senior Category.
- 6.3.3. Teams of 13 to 20 members: 4 athletes may be older, except Senior Category.
- 6.3.4. Teams of 21 to 24 members: 5 athletes may be older, except Senior Category.

6.4. Definition of age category for team is 51% members of one age category, rest of members can be one age category younger or older (see Rule L 6.2).

6.5. Mega team does not have age restrictions.

Rule L.7 (Competition setup)

7.1. In Stage DanceSport disciplines for Solo, Duo and Trio, depending on the number of athletes at the competition, at the discretion of the Chairperson, eliminations will occur according to the table below:

- Up to 8 participants: Direct final
- Up to 16 participants: Semi-final and then a Final
- From 17 to 32 participants: Quarter-final, Semi-final and then a Final
- Over 32 participants: 1st round, Quarter-final, Semi-final and then Final

7.2. In Stage DanceSport disciplines for Small, Big or Mega team, depending on the number of teams at the competition, at the discretion of the Chairperson of Adjudicators eliminations will occur according to the table below:

- Up to 6 teams: Direct final
- Up to 12 teams: Semi-final and Final
- Over 12 teams: Quarter-final, Semi-final and Final

Rule L.8 (Music and application for competition)

8.1. All athletes in these Stage DanceSport disciplines dance to their own music.

8.2. The music must be in harmony with the format, category, and Stage DanceSport discipline.

8.3. The duration of the music (performance) in accordance with the competition format:

STAGE DANCESPORT FORM	THE DURATION OF MUSIC
Solo, Duo, Trio	1:30 - 2:00 minutes
Small Team	2:00 - 3:00 minutes
Big Team	2:00 - 3:30 minutes
Mega Team	4:00 - 8:00 minutes

8.4. The duration of music must be respected (8.3.), if the athlete's/team's music cue is not in accordance with duration displayed in 8.3., DJ must cut the music after limit.

8.5. Athletes are not allowed to change music during the same competition.

8.6. The time required for setting up props and scenography will not be counted.

8.7. The music must be sent to the organizer at least one week before the start of the competition in AIFF, WAV or mp3 format.

8.8. In Tap Dance the music mix may contain a maximum of 30 (thirty) seconds of silence. Silence must not be incorporated at the beginning and end of the mix.

8.9. The Team leader of the athletes/teams must have a copy of the music on CD or USB at the competition and be able to provide it to the DJ in it is needed.

8.10. The music must be completely appropriate for the age category of the contestants (explicit lyrics are prohibited)

8.11. Live music is not allowed.

8.1. If the music is interrupted for a justified reason, the athlete has the right to repeat the performance. The decision on re-performance is made by the Chairperson.

8.13. Each application for competition must contain following data:

- team name and country,
- choreography title,
- name of athlete/duo/trio/team.

Rule L.8 Dress regulations, Dance Shoes and Make-up

Rule L.8.1. Dress regulations

8.1.1. In all competitions granted under these Rules, athletes shall dress or costume according to the **WDSF Dress Regulations**.

8.1.2. The choice of dress and/or costume for man and woman should suit and complement the theme of the performance, but the most important thing is that they should be appropriate for the specific age category.

8.1.3. Male dancers are allowed to dance bare-chested in Adult and Senior age category only.

8.1.4. Personal jewellery is prohibited.

8.1.5. Religious, political decorations and accessories are not allowed, except in Showdance Stage disciplines in which their symbolism is historically connected to the concept or theme of the choreography and does not have offensive character.

8.1.6. Athlete's may be required to change their costume or accessory if the Chairperson believes that the costume or accessory is not in accordance with these rules.

8.1.7. If there is damage to the costume or a part of the costume, it must be reported to the Chairperson. The replacement may be allowed at sole discretion of the Chairperson.

8.1.8. Athletes are not allowed to change costumes within one competition.

8.1.9. Athletes can take part in the prize presentation in their competition dress.

Rule L.8.2. Dance Shoes

STAGE DANCESPORT DISCIPLINES	AGE CATEGORY	Barefoot	Socks	Ballet flats	Jazz shoes	<i>Foot glove</i>	Tap shoes
		Showdance Stage	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Contemporary dance	ALL	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO
Jazz dance		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Tap dance		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES

8.2.1. In Showdance Stage, athletes may use another dance footwear that is not listed in table above.

8.2.2. It is not allowed to use shoes that are not listed in table.

Rule L.8.3. Make up

8.3.1. Make-up has to be age and gender appropriate, and it must suit the discipline in which it is used. Make-up and costume may never be offensive to the public or other athletes.

8.3.2. All age categories can apply make-up.

Rule L.9. Dance floor, Backstage and Lighting of the dance floor

Rule L.9.1. Dance floor

STAGE DANCESPORT FORM	MINIMUM DIMENSION OF DANCE FLOOR
Solo, Duo, Trio, Small team	10 meters x 14 meters
Big team, Mega team	12 meters x 18 meters

9.1.1. As a rule, the dance floor for Stage DanceSport discipline should be a high-quality ballet floor or some other sports floor, and not parquet or some slippery surface. Ballet floor is made of sheet vinyl.

9.1.2. Tap Dance requires a special wooden or parquet panels (maple or oak) dance floor that is appropriate for Tap Dancing and producing the percussive sound of tapping.

9.1.3. The organizer is obliged to provide a space for props and scenography next to the stage or backstage.

Rule L.9.2. Lighting of dance floor

9.2.1. In general, the lighting must fully cover the dance floor. Technical parameters for stage lighting may not be changed.

9.2.2. Front lights should be 90% white. Competitions may need additional lighting and lighting effects, thereby enhancing the scene.

Rule L.10. Props, Scenography, Lip sync

10.1. **PROPS** can be typical accessories (e.g., flowers, umbrella, chair) but also parts of the competition dress (e.g., scarf, cape, gloves, hat, cap) if used by the athletes as independent objects during their performance.

Props that can damage the dance floor or make it unsafe for athletes will not be allowed (example: water, paint). It is not allowed to use fire on the dance floor, nor to use animals.

After the performance, the dance floor must remain clean, as it was before the performance.

The use of electrical devices is allowed, but they must be powered by a battery.

Athletes can only use the stage material that they bring and take away from the dance floor, which means that persons who are not registered as athletes of the same starting number may not help in any way during the performance of the choreography.

Athletes who use any of the above, as well as fire effects, will be disqualified, while the home club of a athletes who disobeys the ban will be fined by the disciplinary committee based on the report of the Chairperson.

10.2. **SCENOGRAPHY** is used for making the atmosphere on dance floor for performance of athlete. Scenography that can damage the dance floor or make it unsafe for athletes will not be allowed.

10.3. **LIP SYNC** is pretending to be singing the song, when in fact it is just moving the lips.

Stage DanceSport disciplines can use the scenography, props and use lip Sync at the competitions defined in the next table.

STAGE DANCESPORT DISCIPLINE	SCENOGRAPHY	PROPS	LIP SYNC
Showdance Stage	YES	YES	YES
Contemporary Dance	YES		NO
Jazz Dance	NO		YES
Tap Dance	YES		NO

10.4. The time for setting up props and scenography is limited in next table.

STAGE DANCESPORT FORM	ENTRANCE	EXIT
Solo, Duo, Trio	20 seconds	20 seconds
Small and Big Team	30 seconds	30 seconds
Mega Team	5 minutes	5 minutes

10.5. The help of assistants/coaches for setting up props and scenography is allowed only in the age category Preschool. The time starts to be measured when the athlete, assistant or coach enters the stage.

10.6. It is not allowed to change the props and scenography during the same competition.

Rule L.11. Acrobatic Elements

11.1. Stage DanceSport disciplines can use:

- Acrobatic elements
- Limited acrobatic elements

ACROBATIC ELEMENTS are defined as elements in which the body rotates freely in space around the sagittal or frontal axis (example: somersault).

LIMITED ACROBATIC ELEMENTS are elements in which at least one part of the body is in contact with the floor when performing an acrobatic movement (example: easy backwards).

11.2. Acrobatic elements and limited acrobatic elements in Stage DanceSport disciplines:

STAGE DANCESPORT DISCIPLINES	ACROBATIC ELEMENTS	LIMITED ACROBATIC ELEMENTS
Jazz Dance	NO	YES
Contemporary Dance	YES	YES
Showdance Stage	YES	YES
Tap Dance	YES	YES

11.3. The Acrobatic and Limited Acrobatic elements for age categories are allowed.

Rule L.12. Lifts

12.1. **LIFTS** are defined as a movement or a figure in which both legs of one dancer are above floor, with the help of the other dancer/s. Lifts are forbidden in the Preschool and Juvenile I age category. Exception: Jumps in one hand-hold are not considered as a lift.

12.2. Lifts are allowed in all Stage DanceSport disciplines.

12.3. The lifts for age categories are allowed.

Rule L.13. Replacement of Athletes

13.1. In case of extraordinary circumstances (example: injuries, unforeseen situations) athletes in teams can be replaced.

13.2. Before allowing certain athletes to be substituted, the Chairperson of the competition must be notified.

13.3. The maximum number of substitute athletes is 2 in the same team.

13.4. Substitution is not allowed in the Solo, Duo and Trio form.

Rule L.14. Rehearsals on WDSF Open Competition / WDSF Continental or World Championship

14.1. For age categories Solo, Duo and Trio rehearsal is allowed on the stage every time the Chairperson makes a warm up in the competition and informs everyone present that the above-mentioned categories can rehearse.

14.2. For the Small and Big Team, specific rehearsals are held on stage before the start of the

competition itself. The stage rehearsal lasts 1 minute for each team, according to a specific schedule made by the competition organizer. The stage rehearsal for the teams is without music.

14.3. For World and Continental Championship a Chairperson must be appointed. The Chairperson must attend rehearsals and warn any team breaching the Rules. If the Rules are breached during the competition, the Chairperson may disqualify the team(s).

14.4. Organizers must grant each team an opportunity to conduct a full non-public rehearsal on the proposed competition floor, at a reasonably convenient time, for a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 15 minutes rehearsal time, to test the competition floor.

14.5. All teams – or a representative of the team – have to be present at the beginning of the rehearsals for the draw of order of performance.

14.6. All members of the team should be present a minimum of 15 minutes before they start their rehearsal.

Rule L.15. Rules for Adjudication
--

15.1. A minimum of seven (7) WDSF Adjudicators for Stage DanceSport Disciplines shall officiate at WDSF Open World Championships and WDSF Open Continental Championships.

15.2. A minimum of five (5) WDSF Adjudicators for Stage DanceSport Disciplines shall officiate at WDSF Open competition.

15.3. Judge must have a valid WDSF member license for Stage Dancesport.

15.4. The panel of judges must be the same during all rounds of the competition.

ROUNDS	DESCRIPTION
Qualifying rounds	The judge gives marks 1-10 according to the judging criteria and at the end "x" to the athletes / Teams who pass to the next round
½ final	The judge gives marks 1-10 according to the judging criteria and at the end "x" to the athletes / Teams who pass to the next round
The final	Judges give marks 1-10 according to judging criteria and give the places for athletes / Teams

15.7. Judges use the same computer rulebook by which they score values in accordance with the rules defined in the judging table (3D or 4D).

The four components/criteria for judging Stage DanceSport Disciplines are defined in table.

STAGE DANCESPORT DISCIPLINES	Technique	Choreography and Music (Composition)	Performance (ex. Image)	Show	Sum
Jazz Dance	10	10	10		30
Contemporary Dance	10	10	10		30
Showdance Stage	10	10	10	10	40
Tap Dance	10	10	10		30

15.8. In the qualifications, Small, Big teams and Mega teams are judged from an elevated position.

15.9. In case of equal points for two athletes or teams, the passage to the next round, or the final placement, will be awarded to the athletes or teams that have higher points from the scoring table.

Rule L.16 (Grades of competition)

16.1. Stage DanceSport athletes may participate in the following WDSF competitions.

16.2. WDSF Open World Championships and WDSF Open Continental Championships

16.1.1. Adult, Youth, Junior II and Senior

a) Types of competition

Open World Championships and WDSF Open Continental Championships are held in all Stage Dancesport forms for:

- aa) Jazz Dance
- ab) Contemporary Dance
- ac) Showdance Stage
- ad) Tap Dance

b) Invitations:

Invitations must be sent to all WDSF Member bodies.

c) Eligibility

All athletes of the highest competitive category of a WDSF Member body are eligible to participate, but athlete's application for entry may only be made by the relevant WDSF Member body.

d) Reimbursement of expenses:

No travel expenses, no hotel accommodation. Reimbursement of WDSF Chairpersons and WDSF Adjudicators shall be made by the Organizer according to Rule B 5 and Appendix.

16.2. WDSF World Ranking Tournaments

a) WDSF Open

WDSF will conduct a series of WDSF Open Competitions in Stage DanceSport Disciplines with points for the WDSF World Ranking List, as authorized by the Presidium.

The competition organizer must indicate in the bidding form the dance styles and format of the competition.

L.17. Special Rules for Jazz Dance

Jazz Dance is defined by Rule L.4 (Stage DanceSport Form)

Jazz Dance is defined by Rule L.5 (Age Restrictions for Solo, Duo and Trio)

Jazz Dance is defined by Rule L.6 (Age Restrictions for Small and Big team)

Jazz Dance is defined by Rule L.7 (Competition setup)

Jazz Dance is defined by Rule L.8 (Dress regulations, Dance Shoes and Make-up)

Jazz Dance is defined by Rule L.10.(Props, Scenography, Lip sync)

Jazz Dance is defined by Rule L.11. (Acrobatic Elements)

Jazz Dance is defined by Rule L.12. (Lifts)

Acrobatics:

Gymnastic diagonals are not allowed in the choreographies (multiple continuous elements, running from corner to corner).

The entire choreography must be in accordance with jazz technique (jumps, turns, isolations...).

Jazz movements must dominate. Modern "floorwork" can be used, but it must not dominate the choreography. Other dance styles can be included in jazz choreography, but they must not dominate the choreography.

L.18. Special Rules for Contemporary Dance
--

Contemporary Dance is defined by Rule L.4 (Stage DanceSport Form)

Contemporary Dance is defined by Rule L.5 (Age Restrictions for Solo, Duo and Trio)

Contemporary Dance is defined by Rule L.6 (Age Restrictions for Small and Big team)

Contemporary Dance is defined by Rule L.7 (Competition setup)

Contemporary Dance is defined by Rule L.8 (Dress regulations, Dance Shoes and Make-up)

Contemporary Dance is defined by Rule L.10.(Props, Scenography, Lip sync)

Contemporary Dance is defined by Rule L.11. (Acrobatic Elements)

Contemporary Dance is defined by Rule L.12. (Lifts)

Acrobatics:

Gymnastics diagonals (multiple continuous elements, running from corner to corner) are not allowed in the choreography.

The choreographer/coach must adapt choreography to the age of the dancers and to a theme they can understand. The choreographer/coach must avoid topics that the athletes does not understand. Clothing must be in accordance with the theme.

L.19. Special Rules for Showdance Stage

Showdance Stage is defined by Rule L.4 (Stage DanceSport Form)

Showdance Stage is defined by Rule L.5 (Age Restrictions for Solo, Duo and Trio)

Showdance Stage is defined by Rule L.6 (Age Restrictions for Small and Big team)

Showdance Stage is defined by Rule L.7 (Competition setup)

Showdance Stage is defined by Rule L.8 (Dress regulations, Dance Shoes and Make-up)

Showdance Stage is defined by Rule L.10.(Props, Scenography, Lip sync)

Showdance Stage is defined by Rule L.11. (Acrobatic Elements)

Showdance Stage is defined by Rule L.12. (Lifts)

Acrobatics:

Gymnastics diagonals (multiple continuous elements, running from corner to corner) are not allowed in the choreography.

Acrobatic movements will not improve the dancers final score but can decrease it if not performed correctly.

L.19.1. Special Rules for Mega team Showdance Stage

Mega Team Showdance Stage (ex. Production) is a dance form that has no age restrictions, restrictions on support and acrobatics, music selection...

The goal is to show complex choreography through the techniques of ballet, contemporary dance, and jazz dance.

It is possible to combine the mentioned techniques.

Athletes can only enter and exit the dance floor during the choreography.

Lifts:

Lifts are defined as a movement or figure in which both legs of one athlete are off the floor with the help of another dancer/s. The lifts must be performed safely and carefully integrated into the choreography.

Acrobatics:

Acrobatics are allowed only if the acrobatic element fit into the choreography. Acrobatic elements such as a side aerial, somersaults, flips, etc. are allowed. Gymnastics diagonals (multiple continuous elements, running from corner to corner) are not allowed in the choreography.

Acrobatic and limited acrobatic elements are allowed.

L.20. Special Rules for Tap Dance

Tap Dance is defined by Rule L.4 (Stage DanceSport Form)

Tap Dance is defined by Rule L.5 (Age Restrictions for Solo, Duo and Trio)

Tap Dance is defined by Rule L.6 (Age Restrictions for Small and Big team)

Tap Dance is defined by Rule L.7 (Competition setup)

Tap Dance is defined by Rule L.8 (Dress regulations, Dance Shoes, and Make-up)

Tap Dance is defined by Rule L.10.(Props, Scenography, Lip sync)

Tap Dance is defined by Rule L.11. (Acrobatic Elements)

Tap Dance is defined by Rule L.12. (Lifts)

Acrobatics:

Acrobatics can be an integral part of the choreography and are allowed, but they do not increase the judge's score. If they are performed technically incorrectly, they can lower the technical impression in the judge's evaluation.

Jingle and double taps or double clagues are not allowed.

Recorded or reproduced tap shoes are not allowed. Personal microphones on athlete's legs to amplify the tap sound are not allowed.

The sound of the athlete's taping and the music must be clearly audible to the athletes, the audience and the judges.

For health reasons, working on pointe for more than one bar of music on one or both feet are prohibited in the children's category.

No more than one beat and no weight bearing pointe work at any time. This is stated strictly to clarify the rule already in effect.

It is the duty of the organizer to ensure an adequate floor, microphones, and speakers, in order to make this possible.

Rule L.21 (Competition Numbers)

21.1. Athletes don't wear Competition numbers on competition dress.

21.2. Organizer will announce or make the competition number visible on the main competition screen.

Rule L.22 (Health and Welfare of Athletes)
--

22.1. There must be a break of at least 20 minutes between the rounds of a competition.

For all WDSF World and Continental Championships the break between Semi-Final and Final is of 30 minutes.

22.2. Finals for Juveniles, Juniors

22.2.1. All Finals and prize presentations for Juvenile athletes must be concluded before 21:00 (9:00 P.M.)

22.2.2. All Finals and prize presentations for Junior I athletes must be concluded before 22:00 (10:00 P.M.)

22.2.3. All Finals and prize presentations for Junior II athletes must be concluded before 23:00 (11:00 P.M.)