

NSW Ceroc Modern Jive Dance Championships

Scoring System



The scoring program used for the NSW Ceroc Modern Jive Dance Championships utilises a 'combined ranking' system.

Typically there are 6 couples in every heat, semi, or final. Let's say there are 7 judges judging. Each of the 7 judges will provide a rank for each couple from 1 to 6. Judges are not permitted to enter the same rank for 2 couples. If a judge wishes to enter scores for each couple they may do so, but the scoring system converts these back to a rank in order to calculate the overall ranking between the six couples.

There may be more than 7 judges, but there will always be an odd number to minimise the risk of ties. Also, to stop any bias judging from the system, the best and worst ranking for each couple is not included in the calculations.

The ordinal value of the rank from each judge is summed to produce an overall total score. For example, a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 1st, and 3rd becomes $1 + 2 + 3 + 1 + 3 = 10$. The couple with the lowest score is considered the best couple.

As mentioned, having an odd number of judges prevents most of the ties. When two couples stand out from the rest there will be an uneven number of 1st places allocated between the two couples.

However this does not eliminate all ties. For example, this does not address the occurrences of 2nd and 4th (Score = 6) versus 1st and 5th (Score = 6) as well as 3rd and 3rd (Also score = 6). With the combined rankings system the ordinals of the judges rankings are also multiplied together to resolve this.

Rankings	Sum	Product	Overall Ranking
1 st and 5 th	6	$1 \times 5 = 5$	1 st
2 nd and 4 th	6	$2 \times 4 = 8$	2 nd
3 rd and 3 rd	6	$3 \times 3 = 9$	3 rd

Table 1. How the Total Product is generated.

As you can see from the table above using the product of the rankings is similar in logic to a 'Relative Placement'* system where the 1st and 2nd places are given a higher priority than the 5th and 4th scorings. The products shown in the table above must further be multiplied by the rankings from the other judges as per the example below.

Couple #	J 1	J 2	J 3	J 4	J 5	Sum	Product	Rank
1	1	1	3	2	3	10	18	1
2	6	5	4	1	2	18	240	4
3	2	4	1	5	5	17	200	2
4	4	2	5	6	6	23	1440	6
5	5	6	2	3	4	20	720	5
6	3	3	6	4	1	17	216	3

Table 2. A typical result sheet (assumes 2 judges scores have already been taken out)

On the rare occasion, there is still a chance that a tie can occur, as demonstrated in the table below, where typically there are three fairly evenly matched couples.

Couple #	J 1	J 2	J 3	J 4	J 5	J 6	J 7	Low	Hi	Sum	Product	Rank
1	1	1	3	2	3	1	3	1	3	10	18	1
2	3	3	2	1	1	2	2	1	3	10	24	=2
3	2	2	1	3	2	4	1	1	4	10	24	=2
4	4	4	5	4	5	3	6	3	6	22	1,600	4
5	5	6	4	5	6	5	4	4	6	25	3,000	5
6	6	5	6	6	4	6	5	4	6	28	5,400	6

Table 3. The rare occasion of the tie. (Note: Eliminated scores are shown both in the high and low columns and are also the boxes with lines through the judge's ranking.)

In this scenario, there is a three way tie based on the Score (Sum) alone. Couple #1 is ranked 1st because their product total is lower than the other two. As described above, this is because they got one more 1st place compared to couples #2 and #3. But couples #2 and #3 have the same product total as well. The system does not resolve this automatically. Instead the Scoring Manager will use the following rules to break the deadlock.

- The best and worst rankings for each of the tying couples will be included in the Score and Product to see if the deadlock can be broken.
- Next, the couple with the lowest score in the previous round will be ranked better.
- If this is a first round heat where only two couples are meant to progress to the next round, then both will progress and there will be an additional couple on the floor in the subsequent round.

In the case above, applying the first rule sees Couple #3 take third place, with their ranking of 4th by Judge 6 (J 6) now being included in their result.

If you have any other questions please see the Scoring Manager on the night.

* The Relative Placement Scoring System is used extensively on the US Swing Dance competition circuit.