

# Ceroc & Modern Jive Dance Company

## Breach of Rules Policy

### MODERN JIVE AND WEST COAST SWING



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#### SECTION A:

##### COMPETITOR ERRORS AND VIOLATIONS

1. A breach of the event rules will result in penalties decided by the judges in accordance with the severity of the breach and based on the policy below.
2. A breach may be due to an ERROR – defined as an apparent unintentional breach of the rules. Examples of errors include (but are not limited to): a slip or trip, a loss of balance or a momentary loss of composure. Each error shall be penalized at the discretion of the judge observing the error.
3. A more severe breach may be due to a VIOLATION – defined as a serious and apparent intentional breach of these rules. Examples of violations include (but are not limited to):
  - unpleasant facial expressions at the draw of a particular partner
  - violent or unpleasant actions or remarks directed to another competitor or a judge
  - dancing whilst under the influence of excessive alcohol that could cause danger or offence
  - inclusion of prohibited choreography, such as a lift in a DWAS/Jack & Jill or any manoeuvre or 'trick' that endangers a partner, other competitors, or spectators
  - a dance containing less than the required percentage of recognizable Modern Jive/West Coast Swing content
4. The relevant penalty for a violation will be applied after the scores have been tallied for that round/final. Judges may consider the violation when determining their scores. The penalty for a severe violation may include disqualification. The penalty for an error or a minor violation in the early rounds will warrant a warning.

#### SECTION B:

##### IDENTIFYING A BREACH OF RULES

5. Two Event Officials must report the incident that they consider to be a violation to the Head Judge. Event Officials are defined as any member of the judging panel (not necessarily judging at the time) and the Event Director.
6. The Head Judge will review the situation with the Officials who reported the incident and together they will decide (by majority vote if necessary) to either take relevant action in accordance with the procedures listed below, or, in the case of a borderline offence they may request the involvement of the rest of the Judging Panel in determining whether there was a clear breach of rules before deciding (by majority vote) on the course of action.
7. **The Head Judge has authority to invoke the Breach of Rules Policy in cases where he/she has noticed an incident even if less than two other Event Officials have noticed and reported it.**

## SECTION C:

### **BREACH OF RULES PRIOR TO FINALS – ACTION AND PENALTIES**

8. The Head Judge will firstly inform the offending couple\* that they have been identified as breaching the rules and will inform them of the implications of further breaches and of any applicable penalty.
9. If this is their **first violation** in the competition that day, the penalty will be a **warning**.
10. **If the couple breached the rules in a previous round of the same category in the competition that day AND** were given a warning, if they reoffend in a subsequent round they will as a minimum receive a second warning and may incur the penalty of **disqualification**.
11. \*In Dance With A Stranger and Jack & Jill rounds (not finals) where leaders and followers are judged independently, followers will not be penalised for a violation performed by their leader and vice versa.

## SECTION D:

### **BREACH OF RULES DURING FINALS – ACTION AND PENALTIES**

12. The Head Judge will firstly inform the offending couple that they have been identified as breaching the rules and will inform them of the penalty they have incurred.
13. The couple\* will be **marked down ONE rank** in the Final if it is **their first offence of that nature** in the competition that day.
14. If the couple\* has **received a prior warning for the same or similar offence**, the couple will incur the penalty of being marked down **THREE ranks** in the Final.
15. If the couple\* has **received more than one warning of any nature** in the competition that day, and commits a violation in the final, the couple will incur the penalty of **disqualification**.
16. In the very unlikely event that a competitor displays numerous blatant breaches of the rules that are unsafe or not in the spirit of competition (as decided by the Head Judge) the judges reserve the right, by a minimum 2/3 majority vote, to disqualify the offending competitor/s immediately at any stage of the competition.
17. \*In Dance With A Stranger and Jack & Jill Finals, the penalty applies to both members of the partnership even if the prior violations were performed by only one half of that partnership.

## SECTION E:

### **VOTING PROCEDURE**

18. Where decisions need to be put to a vote from the entire judging panel of that heat/final, the Head Judge and the reporting Officials will avoid mentioning the couple's names and will simply speak about the incident.
19. Officials who did not witness the incident may choose to abstain from voting.
20. The Head Judge will not vote unless they were part of the judging panel for that heat/final. However in cases of indecision or a tied vote, the Head Judge will make the final decision.

## SECTION F

### **COMMUNICATION POLICY**

21. If a violation or error occurs, the Head Judge will notify the couple concerned of their warning or other penalty as soon as practically possible before the next round.
22. In the case of a violation, whilst we do not want to cause any embarrassment to competitors who have breached the rules, it is only fair to other competitors that they are informed of any penalty or disqualification imposed, and the specific category of the competition in which this occurred. Informing everyone immediately will also

help educate the other competitors that the judges are prepared to enforce the rules of this competition and thereby act as an incentive to reading the rules and as a deterrent to flouting them.

23. To achieve the above, the MC will announce that there was a penalty in the form of a warning, a loss of rank (in the finals) or a disqualification, and will mention the category of the competition in which the breach occurred. The MC may mention the reason for the breach. The MC will NOT mention competitor names.

## SECTION G

### APPLICATION OF POLICY TO CHOREOGRAPHED ROUTINES

24. In categories where the competitors choose their own music and create their own choreography, we would like to provide additional clarification.
25. The rules state that routine entries must have a minimum 70% Modern Jive (on Saturday) or 80% West Coast Swing (on Sunday) content. If a judge considers a routine to have less than that, they will either mark that routine down or in worst case request a disqualification in accordance with the guidelines below.
26. **Disqualification:** Judges may only request a disqualification if the routine is clearly not the dance style of that day's competition. For example if a West Coast Swing team entered the Modern Jive competition, or vice versa, or if any other dance style (eg Salsa, Ballet, Zouk, Ballroom, etc) was entered on either of the two days.
27. If at least two judges (or one Head Judge) request the same disqualification, a judges meeting will be held (BEFORE the scores are tallied) during which all judges of that category will be given the opportunity to review video footage of the performance if necessary, and a vote will be taken as to whether the disqualification requests are justified and will be actioned. In the case of a tie in the voting process, the Head Judge will have the casting vote. In case the request for disqualification is not approved during the voting process, the judge must still have ranked the routine on their score sheet, and that ranking must be last.
28. **Marking Down:** If a judge feels that the routine is essentially the dance style of that day of the competition, but contains less than the required percentage (reasons for which might include - but aren't limited to - excessive breakaway dancing, music choice that does not invite the timing of the required dance style, incorporation of another dance style into the choreography exceeding the allowable percentage), then they will **rank the routine last**, and will alert the Head Judge to the lack of required content as the reason for doing so. After the event, the Head Judge and/or Event Director will inform the competitors concerned that their routine was highlighted as having less than the required % content - no judges names will be mentioned, but the number of judges will be disclosed.
29. If a judge feels that multiple routines break the % Content Rule, the judge will rank those routines against each other at the bottom end of the scale, taking into account the approximate percentage content and the quality of the performance.
30. In the unlikely event that the number of routines deemed by at least two judges (or one Head Judge) to be breaking the % Content Rule means that any of them would be awarded 1st, 2nd or 3rd place (eg, four routines are entered and two of them break the rule), a judges meeting will be called to assess whether the offending routines will be awarded a medal or not. The same voting process and video review opportunity as above will take place to make this decision.

*This policy is current at May 2017 and applicable to the CMJ Championships event only.  
Breach of Rules policies may differ at other events.*