



Line Dance New Zealand (LDNZ)
Competition Rules

VERSION

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www.linedance.nz | competitions@linedance.nz

Linedance NZ (LDNZ) Competition Rules

Terminology

Basic Line Dance

A nominated Line Dance that must be completed as per the Step Sheet without variation or presentation. Designed for novice or less experienced dancers, but open to all.

Standard Line Dance

A Line Dance performed with all competitors moving on the same foot, in the same direction at the same time.

Freestyle (Set Dance)

A freestyle routine based on the nominated dance, limited to one song. Formation changes, mirror image, cannon effects, etc. may be used after completing one Vanilla Wall.

Freestyle (Open)

Open age category allowing showmanship for up to 5 minutes. Multiple songs allowed. Formation changes, mirror image, cannon effects etc. permitted. No Vanilla Walls required.

Vanilla Wall

One wall of the nominated dance completed exactly as per the step sheet with no variations. Includes arms, hat and skirt work.

Solo

Single competitor only.

Duo

Two competitors only.

Team

Three or more dancers, team sections depending on event maybe split into 'Small Team' and 'Large Team' categories. Small team is three to nine and Large Team is Ten to Twenty Five competitors.

Pro

At least five years competition experience. Instructors are classified as Pro.

Am / Novice

Competitor who has never entered a competition, has never received a medal, or has received a medal in fewer than three competitions with more than three competitors.

Prop

Any item not worn as clothing, footwear or headwear, or removed/changed during the routine.

Event Director

Responsible for organising the event and overseeing competition, judges, scorers and rules.

Head Judge

Responsible for managing competition, judges, scorers and rules alongside the Event Director.

Athletic Movements

Movement where both feet leave the ground (e.g. flips, splits, rolls).

Choreography

A standard line dance choreographed by a competitor to interpret chosen music.

Waltz

Must reflect 3/4 timing and rise and fall.

General Rules

1. Minimum of three competitors per section. If fewer, competitors will be contacted.
2. Formation must remain consistent for the duration of performance.
3. Introductions are permitted where music allows.
4. Judging begins at music start and ends at music finish or when competitors leave the floor.
5. Choreography must be family-appropriate. No crude or suggestive movements.
6. Competitors may compete once only per section.
7. Team members may be removed on the day but not added without Event Director and Head Judge approval.
8. Each team/club may use a piece of music only once in the competition.
9. Age determined at date of competition.
10. Competitors must be ready when called. Two calls maximum before disqualification.
11. No props permitted.
12. Competitors must remain in costume for medal photos.
13. Solo sections ranked. No score sheets provided.
14. Mixed age Small Teams must include dancers from at least two age categories.

General Information

1. Competitors dance at their own risk.
 2. All competitors/guardians must complete Conditions of Entry before competing.
 3. Sections may be added or removed based on entries.
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Costumes

Costumes may reflect music genre.

Allowed attire examples:

1. Males: shirt, vest, trousers or jeans
2. Females: dress, shirt, top, trousers, skirt, jeans, pants suit
3. Both: country boots, hats, caps, street shoes

Rules:

1. Costumes must be appropriate and suitable length.
 2. Cowboy hats are optional.
 3. If one team member wears a modesty skirt, all must.
 4. Hats and skirts used in routine are not props.
 5. Dropped clothing must be picked up immediately.
 6. No strapless clothing or bare midriff. Backless/cutout outfits require bodysuit.
 7. Country boots required for Country music (except Open Instructor/Class Team).
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Music

1. Basic section music provided.
 2. Standard and Freestyle music due to Event Director by stated deadline.
 3. Submit via USB, Cloud Service and labelled:
Section Number – Team Name – Competitor Names – Track Name
 4. Time limits:
 - Basic / Standard / Freestyle - Solos: max 3 minutes
 - Freestyle - Duos: max 4 minutes
 - Freestyle - Open Teams: max 5 minutes
 5. Standard = one track only (cut/extended allowed).
 6. Freestyle may use multiple songs in one track.
 7. No offensive music.
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Solo Sections

1. Solo tracks used in full where possible and scheduling.
 2. All solo competitors on floor simultaneously. Heats/finals may apply.
 3. Standard Solo:
 - Styling allowed from Wall 1
 - Footwork must follow step sheet exactly.
 4. Open Freestyle Solo:
 - One Vanilla Wall required before freestyle.
 - Must maintain flow and direction of original dance.
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Duo Sections

1. Duo tracks used in full where possible and scheduling.
 2. On set Duo dances with venue with large floor capacity floor slips may be done.
 3. Set dance Basic/Standard — no footwork variation. Styling allowed from Wall 1.
 4. Any age pairing allowed.
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Team Freestyle – Set Dance

1. First wall must be Vanilla.
 2. Freestyle variations allowed afterwards (canons, contra, mirror image, formation changes).
 3. Teams may be required to share the floor and maintain dance flow on split.
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Team Freestyle – Open Section

1. Open age.
 2. Up to 5 minutes.
 3. Own choreography.
 4. Existing line dances permitted.
 5. Freestyle variations allowed.
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LDNZ Open Freestyle Solo Event

(Knockout Format)

Minimum 3 dancers, maximum 9.

Three consecutive dances (2 minutes each).

Knockout Format

Dance 1

9 dancers → 3 eliminated → 6 proceed

Dance 2

6 dancers → 3 eliminated → 3 proceed

Dance 3

Final 3 → Gold, Silver, Bronze determined.

Numbers may be adjusted based on entries.

Additional Rules

- Open age freestyle event.
- Competitors must know all three dances.
- One Vanilla Wall required before freestyle variations.
- Judged on content, presentation, execution and entertainment.
- Costume reveals allowed between dances (removal only).
- No adding costume items or leaving floor.

Notes

- These current rules are in draft/beta and may have minor adjustments up to three months prior to the competition. Please make sure you have the latest rules and check regularly for updates.
- Any questions need to be in writing send to competitions@linedance.nz
- Head Judges say is final.