



RULE BOOK

COMPETITION GUIDELINES 2026

PREPARED BY:
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1. ABOUT DTROCK

DTROCK Dancing is honored and blessed to be based in South Texas, specifically the Rio Grande Valley. We honor and preserve the rich history and traditions of Country and Tejano music and dance, while fostering a vibrant and inclusive environment for all.

DTROCK dancing is more than just a dance class or school. DTROCK has set the standard and risen above since 2017. We were the first to provide traditional dance styles such as progressive two step, triple two, polka, waltz, and more to the Rio Grande Valley. We were the first to influence other bigger dance schools that don't focus on Country or Tejano dancing. Our company hosts a variety of events such as weekly classes, prestigious events, and community outreaches. Our company has roots in music and education providing the background of music theory and history to our students. More background and history can be found on our website or social media pages.

This rulebook has been created to ensure consistency, clarity and fairness in our competitions, and we encourage all participants to review and adhere to these guidelines to ensure a positive experience for everyone involved.



2. GENERAL RULES

Age Requirements:

All competitors must be at least 18 years of age to compete, as the Grand Finals are held at a venue with an 18+ entry policy. Some qualifying events may require competitors to be 21+, in accordance with individual venue rules.

Registration:

Registrations must be completed by the designated deadlines with all required details and full payment. All fees are non-refundable.

Code of Conduct:

Respectful behavior is mandatory. Harassment, unsportsmanlike conduct, vulgar or inappropriate costumes, and unprofessional appearance may result in disqualification.

Safety Regulations:

Competitors must follow all safety guidelines and adhere to officials' instructions. Acrobatic moves are prohibited for safety.

Communication:

Participants are responsible for checking their emails/messages and social media accounts regularly for event updates and important communications.

Event Changes:

Organizers reserve the right to modify schedules or rules if necessary. Any significant changes will be communicated to participants in advance.

Liability Waiver:

Every competitor is required to sign a liability waiver that acknowledges the associated risks and releases event organizers from any claims. Additionally, participants must confirm that they have read and accepted the terms outlined in the rule book.

Eligibility:

Competitors must be amateurs. Competitors must not be paid instructors or host classes of their own. This competition is for students only, no professionals allowed. This is to ensure fairness to all due to one division.

Attendance:

Competitors are required to attend all meetings and briefings prior to the event to ensure understanding of the rules and schedule.

3. DANCE ATTIRE GUIDELINES

General Attire for All Divisions:

Competitors should wear dance attire that reflects a country & western style while ensuring safety, comfort, and adherence to the Code of Conduct. Please dress to impress and ensure your outfit is neat and presentable. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in disqualification or impact your progression in the competition.

Men's Attire:

Shirts: Button-up shirts, short-sleeve shirts, and t-shirts are permitted, provided they do not feature any logos or branding.

Bottoms: Jeans, pants, or shorts are all appropriate choices.

Women's Attire:

Tops: Blouses, fitted tops, or tank tops in lively prints or colors, ensuring they are free from any logos or branding.

Bottoms: Skirts, dresses, shorts, jeans or tailored pants that offer ease of movement.

Hats: Baseball hats are not permitted if they have logos or branding on them. Cowboy hats are acceptable as part of competition attire, provided they do not have logos or excessive branding.

Footwear: Cowboy boots are mandatory for all competitors. Failure to wear cowboy boots will result in disqualification.

No Props or Loose Items: Props of any kind that could be carried or held during the performance are strictly prohibited. Additionally, any items that may become loose or cause a hazard to other competitors are not allowed. Competitors must ensure that their costumes are secure and will not interfere with their performance or that of others.

Note: Bring all questions or concerns to the Competitors' Meeting before the competition starts.

4. LINE DANCE RULES

The Line Dance Division is coed. Judging focuses on technical skill, individual expression, and overall performance quality, including accuracy to the official choreography, presentation, and adherence to costume and safety guidelines.

1. Step Sheets: Competitors must perform dances using the official step sheets provided. Choreography must be performed exactly as written.

Personal styling (arms, body, or head movements) is encouraged as long as it does not change the structure or intent of the dance.

2.Freestyle and Variations: After completing two walls of the basic choreography to demonstrate proficiency, dancers may incorporate freestyle elements. Freestyle allows for creative modifications, such as replacing a grapevine to the right with a turn to the right, adding moments that showcase individuality. These additions should enhance the performance while maintaining the flow and direction of the original line dance.

3.Performance Requirements: Competitors must perform the routine as written, with accurate footwork, timing, and rhythm. While freestyle elements are encouraged, the routine should flow smoothly, with a strong connection to the music from start to finish.

4.Performance Duration: Each performance will have a minimum time limit of 2 minutes. Judges may want additional time for specific rounds if necessary.

5.Designated Dance Area: Dancers must remain within their designated performance area at all times. Care should be taken to avoid interference with other dancers, ensuring a safe and smooth performance for all participants.

6.Performance Rules: Acrobatic and Gymnastic Movements To preserve safety, integrity, and the traditional style of country line dancing, the following apply:

7.General Rule: Acrobatic or gymnastic movements are strictly prohibited, including in intros or endings. Prohibited Movements Splits (jazz, front, or side). Any movement where both legs rise above waist height. Flips, handstands, or dives. Sitting or lying on the floor. Permitted Movements All moves must be safe, controlled, and stylistically appropriate. Jumps and kicks are allowed but must be controlled. Knee spins and knee movements are permitted.

8.Competitors' Meeting and Responsibilities: Competitors should attend the meeting to review rules and ask questions. Participants must know all choreography, costume, and registration requirements, and be ready for performance rounds. Any issues or disputes must be reported immediately to the Event Director. All Event Director and Judge decisions are final.

5. JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges will evaluate the following aspects during the competition:

Technical Execution:

Precision and Accuracy: Competitors will be assessed on how accurately they perform the steps as outlined in the step sheet, concentrating on footwork, Style & Rhythm, timing, and transitions.

Timing: Staying in sync with the music is essential. Dancers must maintain the beat and rhythm throughout their performance.

Floorcraft: Judges will also examine the competitors' ability to remain within their designated performance area, ensuring they are aware of their surroundings and other dancers.

Presentation:

Confidence and Stage Presence: Judges will look for dancers who exude confidence through their strong and energetic performances that engage the audience.

Attire: Competitors will be evaluated on their attire as part of the overall presentation they bring to the dance floor.

Musicality: Competitors should express their interpretation of the music through their movements, aligning their tempo, mood, and phrasing with appropriate actions.

Expression: Dancers must emotionally connect with the music, using facial expressions, body language, and gestures to enhance their performance.

Creativity and Styling:

Originality: Judges will evaluate how well competitors inject creative styling into their routines, including musicality, unique variations, personal flair, and the ability to make the dance their own while preserving the choreography's & integrity.

Flow: The routine should exhibit a smooth, seamless progression from start to finish, with judges assessing the effectiveness of transitions between different sections of the dance.

6. FINALS RULES

To earn a place in the Finals, competitors must secure a top placement in prelims. This competitive framework ensures that only the most skilled, prepared, and dedicated dancers advance to the finals, celebrating their exceptional performances and commitment to the art of dance. The qualification process highlights the rigor and prestige of the Finals, guaranteeing a high standard of competition.

Once a competitor successfully qualifies, their commitment to participating in the Finals is expected. Should a qualified competitor choose not to attend, their position will be automatically forfeited. Notification of such a decision must be submitted to DTROCK as soon as possible and no later than 30 minutes before the Finals. If this is to happen please call or text 956-491-3189.

In the event of a forfeiture, the vacated spot will be offered to an alternate competitor, typically the individual who placed next in the corresponding highest points. This ensures that no opportunity for competition is wasted and that the Finals remain a showcase of the best talent. The process of selecting an alternate reflects the commitment of DTROCK to maintaining fairness, inclusivity, and a seamless competitive experience for all participants. By implementing these policies, DTROCK ensures that the Finals remain a prestigious and equitable event that rewards skill, dedication, and sportsmanship. Competitors are encouraged to plan carefully and communicate promptly to honor their commitment to the competition and the country dance community.

7. CONCLUSION

Thank you for following the DTROCK dancing competition rules. These guidelines are designed to ensure fair competition, safety, and creativity, providing a structured and enjoyable experience for all participants.

By adhering to these rules, we promote a sense of camaraderie among dancers and help preserve the integrity of the dance form. This creates an environment where everyone can express themselves freely while respecting their fellow competitors, contributing to the rich tradition of country dancing.

We encourage all participants to embrace the excitement and joy of these events. Whether you're an experienced dancer or new to the scene, these rules provide a solid foundation to help you focus on your performance and fully enjoy the experience. We invite you to continue exploring the vibrant world of country dance, where music, movement, and community come together.

Let's celebrate our shared passion and keep the spirit of country dancing alive, making each event memorable for all. Thank you for your dedication, and we look forward to seeing you on the dance floor!

Oscar Olivarez
Owner of DTROCK dancing