

# THE OFFICIAL NEON BOOTS BATTLE LINE DANCE COMPETITION RULES, GUIDELINES & GLOSSARY

The following Rules and Guidelines and must be read in conjunction with each other. They contain 'words with special meaning' as identified in '**bold print**' and are defined for the purpose of this document in the Glossary.

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# 1. GLOSSARY:

<b>Competitor:</b>	One (1) performer per entry per section.
<b>Costume:</b>	May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Males: A shirt, top, vest, trousers, shorts or jeans.</li><li>ii. Females: A dress, shirt, top, leotard, trousers, short, skirt, jeans, cat suit (jumpsuit).</li><li>iii. Both Genders: Country boots, country hat, caps, street shoes.</li></ul>
<b>Event Director:</b>	The person who has organized and who is responsible for the competition in question.
<b>Heat:</b>	A round in a line dance competition where a group of dancers perform and are judged together before advancing to the next stage.
<b>Official Program:</b>	The document produced by the <b>Event Director</b> outlining the following minimum details for the event in question; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Name of <b>Event Director(s)</b>, Organisers and Adjudicators.</li><li>ii. Name and date of event.</li><li>iii. Contact details for the event.</li><li>iv. Timeline and Order of events.</li><li>v. Venue name and Address.</li></ul>
<b>Prop:</b>	An item that is not worn as clothing, footwear or headwear.
<b>Set Dance:</b>	A <b>Standard Line dance</b> which has a written dance sheet and which is selected and provided to <b>Competitors</b> by the <b>Event Director</b> .
<b>Standard Line Dance:</b>	A Line Dance performed with all <b>Competitors</b> moving in lines on the same foot, at the same time, in the same direction in which a step pattern is repeated at least once to any Piece of Music. Tags and bridges do not form a part of the repeating step pattern.
<b>Start Position:</b>	The beginning position on the floor for <b>Competitors</b> , as directed by the Head Judge.
<b>Styling:</b>	A <b>Competitors</b> own choreographed interpretation of the Piece of Music for the performance in question that does not fundamentally alter the <b>Set Dance</b> . This means that choreographed movements of the entire body may be used to add to the performance, so long as the <b>Set Dance</b> is still adhered to.

The following definitions are a guide for competitors to consider when entering the competition:

**NEON STARTER** means:

- i. A **Competitor** who is new to line dance (beginner)
- ii. Or a **Competitor** who has never entered a dance competition/s and placed

**ELECTRIC MASTER** means:

- i. A **Competitor** who is proficient in line dance (advanced)
- ii. Or a **Competitor** who has entered a dance competition/s and placed
- iii. A **Competitor** who regularly attends classes rated higher than beginner as deemed by the Event Director

The above is a guide only and the Competitor may choose which category they enter. **Each competitor may only enter one category. The Event Director or Judge may, at their discretion, advise a Competitor that they are entered in an unsuitable category and will be required to change divisions accordingly. For instance, if you regularly attend the early advanced class for Electric Cowboy and are a proficient dancer you will be included in the Electric Master category. If you require clarification on your division, please contact the Event Director – [info@cherrysteppers.com.au](mailto:info@cherrysteppers.com.au)**

## 2. GUIDELINES:

### 2.1. SUMMARY

The following guidelines provide all **Competitors**:

- Instructions for Registrations
- General information to assist **Competitors** with the interpretation of the Rules
- General information to add to the **Competitors** performance in accordance with the Rules.

### 2.2. REGISTRATIONS

2.2.1. All **Heat** registrations must be submitted to the **Event Director** as per the following;

- i. Via the website [www.cherrysteppers.com.au](http://www.cherrysteppers.com.au)
- ii. In person at the **Heat** event - if there is space on the floor and at the **Event Director** or event staff discretion

2.2.2. Registrations are not considered complete unless registration payment has been made.

2.2.3. Once payment is made registration is considered final. There will be no refund.

2.2.4. If you are unable to compete on your **Heat** date please advise the **Event Director** as soon as possible. If there is the possibility to move your heat date to a later date Event staff will endeavour to make this happen. If they cannot change the date there will be no refund of registration fee.

2.2.5. Substitution of **Competitor** will be allowed with the **Event Director** approval.

2.2.6. **Competitors** may only register for one **Heat**

2.2.7. **Competitors** may only register for one section - **NEON STARTER** or **ELECTRIC MASTER**

### 2.3. GENERAL INFORMATION

2.3.1. For all sections, a minimum of six (6) **Competitors** are required. **Competitors** who enter sections that do not meet this requirement will be allowed to compete in the **Heat** but the number of finalists selected from the **Heat** will be reduced.

2.3.2. The maximum number of **Competitors** (per section) is limited at the discretion of the **Event Director**.

2.3.3. 4 (Four) **Competitors** from each **Heat** will be selected to compete in the **Final** \*subject to 2.3.1

2.3.4. 4 (Four) wildcard entries will also be selected across all 4 **Heats**.

2.3.5. The Piece of Music for the **Set Dance** sections will be provided by the **Event Director**

2.3.6. **Competitors** listed in each heat will compete on the floor at the same time (subject to change as required).

2.3.7. Judging begins from the beginning of the **Piece of Music** or **Track** and continues until the **Piece of Music** or **Track** ceases, or the **Competitors** step off the dance floor – whichever comes first.

## 2.4. LINE DANCE GUIDELINES

- 2.4.1. **Competitors** will dance 2 set dances – Country & Modern – as set by the **Event Director**.
- 2.4.2. Introductions are permissible (including freestyle type choreography) where introductory music allows.
- 2.4.3. **Competitors** are required to perform the **Set Dances** as provided by the **Event Director**. The **Competitors** should perform the dance as written on the official step sheets which are provided for the first 2 walls with no variations. After this point variations are permissible \*see 3.2.1
- 2.4.4. **Styling** is encouraged to be added to the performance according to the music and the style of dance e.g. hats or skirts may be utilized to add to the performance.

## 2.5. NEON STARTER SECTION

- 2.5.1. **Competitors** are required to dance 2 (two) line dances. One Country and One Modern line dance as set by the **Event Director**.
- 2.5.2. It is encouraged that **Competitors** in the **Neon Starter** Section are beginner/new to line dance

## 2.6. ELECTRIC MASTER SECTION

- 2.6.1. **Competitors** are required to dance 2 (two) line dances. One Country and One Modern line dance as set by the **Event Director**.
- 2.6.2. It is encouraged that **Competitors** in the **Electric Master** Section are experienced in line dance

## 2.7. COSTUMES

- 2.7.1. All **Competitors** must remain in competition **Costume** for presentations to be eligible to accept awards.
- 2.7.2. Hats are not compulsory for either male or female **Competitors** for any performance although it is suggested cowboy hats are worn when performing to Country Music.
- 2.7.3. Hats and skirts used during a performance are not considered **Props**.
- 2.7.4. **Costumes** should be appropriate to the music and the dance and enhance the performance.

## 2.8. COMPETITION ETHICS

- 2.8.1. **Competitors** MUST NOT question or consult the Judges about the competition during the event. Please do not approach the judges for feedback after awards. Judges should not be contacted after the event to comment on any previous performance.

# 3. RULES:

## 3.1. GENERAL RULES

- 3.1.1. **Competitors** must be 18+. Age is determined as of the date of the competition. Proof of age is to be provided at the request of the **Event Directors**.  
**Penalty – Disqualification**
- 3.1.2. **Competitors** may compete only once in either the **NEON STARTER** or **ELECTRIC MASTER** section  
**Penalty – Disqualification**
- 3.1.3. **Competitors** must perform the **Set Dance** applicable as provided by the **Event Director**  
**Penalty – Disqualification**
- 3.1.4. **Competitors** must clearly display their **Competitor** number attached to their back throughout the performance.  
**Penalty - Disqualification**
- 3.1.5. **Competitors** must be ready to compete when called as per the published program. **Competitors** are provided with no more than two calls per performance.  
**Penalty – Disqualification**
- 3.1.6. No **Props** allowed.  
**Penalty – Disqualification**

## 3.2. LINE DANCE RULES

- 3.2.1. Freestyle and Variations: After completing two walls of the basic **Standard Line Dance** to demonstrate proficiency, **Competitors** 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.  
**Penalty – Points lost for non-compliance with this rule**
- 3.2.2. **Competitors** must be aware of their personal dance space and not intentionally or carelessly intrude on another dancer's area.  
**Penalty – Points lost for non-compliance with this rule**
- 3.2.3. No crude or inappropriate body movements allowed in the **Styling** of all performances.  
**Penalty – Disqualification**
- 3.2.4. **Competitors** must remain on the floor for the duration of the performance, however dancing onto the floor during the introduction and off the floor as the Piece of Music fades out is allowed.  
**Penalty – Disqualification**

### 3.3. COSTUMES

- 3.3.1. Should any of the **Competitors Costume** be dropped or fall to the floor it should be picked up immediately.  
**Penalty – 1 point per judge for every 4 counts until the piece(s) of the costume is retrieved**
- 3.3.2. A **Competitors Costume** must not be placed on the floor.  
**Penalty – 1 point per judge for every 4 counts until the piece(s) of the costume is retrieved**
- 3.3.3. **Competitors** must wear Country Style Boots when dancing to **Country Music**, other footwear may be worn where appropriate to the music and the choreography.  
**Penalty - 2 points per Judge for each infringement**
- 3.3.4. **Costumes** should not be deemed vulgar or inappropriate.  
**Penalty - Points lost for non-compliance with this rule**
- 3.3.5. Bare feet are not allowed for any performances.  
**Penalty – Points lost for non-compliance with this rule**

## 4. JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges will evaluate the following aspects during the competition:

### 4.1. TECHNICAL EXECUTION:

- 4.1.1. Precision and Accuracy: **Competitors** will be assessed on how accurately they perform the steps as outlined in the step sheet, concentrating on footwork, timing, and transitions
- 4.1.2. Timing: Staying in sync with the music is essential. Dancers must maintain the beat and rhythm throughout their performance.
- 4.1.3. 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.

### 4.2. PRESENTATION:

- 4.2.1. Confidence and Stage Presence: Judges will look for **Competitors** who exude confidence through their strong and energetic performances that engage the audience.
- 4.2.2. Musicality: **Competitors** should express their interpretation of the music through their movements, aligning their tempo, mood, and phrasing with appropriate actions.
- 4.2.3. Expression: **Competitors** must emotionally connect with the music, using facial expressions, body language, and gestures to enhance their performance.

### 4.3. CREATIVITY AND STYLING:

- 4.3.1. Originality: Judges will evaluate how well **Competitors** inject creative **Styling** into their routines, including unique variations, personal flair, and the ability to make the dance their own while preserving the choreography's integrity
- 4.3.2. 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

## 5. DISCLAIMER

By competing at the Neon Boots Battle, you are agreeing to the following statement:

*“We agree to hold the organisers of this event and their agents harmless for all suits, claims or demands of every kind and character arising out of and in conjunction with this event. We hereby authorise the reproduction, sale, copyright, exhibition, broadcast and/or distribution of any event videography and photography without limitation. We understand the physical risks of entering dance competitions and social dancing and assume full responsibility for any injury or personal damages resulting from the event.”*

*\*Where unforeseen circumstances arise, the Event Director has the authority to alter or remove any rule in order to accommodate any request that is fair and/or reasonable.*