



Ontario DanceSport

MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1. Membership is open to all persons who are interested or active in DanceSport within the confines of eligibility required by the Association's Bylaws as follows.
 - 6.1.1. MEMBERS -All athletes who are 16 years of age or over.
 - 6.1.2. JUNIORS - All athletes who are under 16 years of age but over 12 years of age. Juniors shall not have voting powers.
 - 6.1.3. JUVENILES - All athletes who are under 12 years of age. Juveniles shall not have voting powers.
- 6.2. Application for Membership shall be in writing to the Membership Director of the Association. The applicant shall be nominated by a member whose signature shall appear on the application form. The Membership Director will study each application and will recommend to the Executive Committee for or against acceptance of the application. The Executive Committee, by a three-quarter majority vote of Committee members present, may refuse membership.
- 6.3. Upon admission to the Association, members must abide by the Bylaws and Rules of the Association and at all times conduct themselves at dances and social functions in a manner which will not be prejudicial to the interests of the Association.
- 6.4. Continuation of membership shall be contingent upon a member abiding by the purpose of the Association. In the event of a member's conduct being prejudicial to the interest of the Association, the Executive Committee, by a three-quarter majority vote, shall have the right to expel the member subject to the confirmation of a two-third majority vote at the next General Meeting.
- 6.5. If, at any time, members wish to resign from the Association, they shall give notice in writing of such intention to the Membership Committee or the Executive Committee. The resignation shall be presented and acted upon in the same manner as prescribed for joining the Association.
- 6.6. Membership in ODS will include registration of competing athletes.
- 6.7. All dues, fees and subscriptions will be directed by the Executive Committee and shown in the Treasurer's Report. Any changes to these rates must be approved by the membership and published on the website one calendar month prior to the effective date.
- 6.8. All Membership fees are due on the 1st of January of each year. Fees submitted after the end of February will be increased by a penalty determined by the Executive.
- 6.9. All members who have failed to pay their fees within 40 days of the date on which they become payable shall be declared to be in arrears.
- 6.10. Any member whose fees are overdue for ninety days shall be considered to have allowed their membership to have terminated.



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6.11. No cancellation or refund of the dues shall be made if a member resigns.

1.0 APPLICATION

- 1.1 These competition rules will apply to all Ontario athletes irrespective of category and grade and will cover International Standard and Latin-American style dancing, North American Style Smooth and Rhythm DanceSport competitions. Athletes from other jurisdictions are expected to also abide by these rules when competing in Ontario.

2.0 DEFINITION OF AN AMATEUR ATHLETE

- 2.1 Amateur status will be deemed lost if a DanceSport athlete:
- a) Sells or converts into money a prize won for dancing.
 - b) Receives expenses from ODS, CDS or other Association for dancing in a competition over and above that for travel, accommodation and a meal allowance as duly authorized by the Executive.
 - c) Participates in a dancing competition for which a cash or money voucher prize is offered, unless the Executive grants permission and a trust fund set up for this purpose by ODS.
 - d) Accepts remuneration in cash or kind for the use of their name or performance as a dancer in an advertisement.
 - e) Declares himself/herself to be a professional dancer by advertisement or otherwise.
 - f) Takes an entrance examination to any of the professional ballroom dancing bodies or Associations.
 - g) Acts or assists as a teacher of ballroom dancing except as provided for under CDS rule 8.3. (See Appendix 1 for details)
 - h) Acts as an organizer, or promoter, directly or indirectly, of any DanceSport event that is non charity in nature
 - i) Participates in a competition or team match, which is limited to professionals only.
- 2.2 An athlete can present a demonstration of DanceSport at an event but prior permission of the Executive is required. All monies paid to the couple must be placed in their trust account held by the treasurer. An administrative fee as set from time to time by the ODS Executive will be charged against the trust account.
- 2.3 An athlete can accept a prize in the form of a travel voucher towards the cost of travelling to a DanceSport event.
- 2.4 Athletes may dance in mixed professional-amateur (Pro-Am) competitions provided the amateur athlete accepts no prize money.

3.0 LICENSING OF COMPETITORS



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- 3.1.1. Residents of Ontario must be members of ODS to compete in sanctioned DanceSport competitions in Ontario.
 - 3.1.2 Definition of a couple: A couple consists of a male and a female partner.
 - 3.1.3 To compete outside Ontario, ODS members must pay an additional fee to ODS in order to be placed on the National Registry of Athlete Dancers (CRAD) maintained by CDS. This fee is an integral part of the annual ODS fee.
 - 3.2 Athletes from outside Ontario within Canada must be members of their Regional Association and listed on the National Register (CRAD) in order to compete in Ontario.
 - 3.3 Competitors from outside Canada must be members of the appropriate amateur body having jurisdiction where they reside, in order to compete in Ontario.
 - 3.4 In order for athletes to compete, they must be a member of ODS or other recognized amateur association for at least 2 weeks prior to the event. Application for ODS membership will be in writing on the appropriate form supplied by ODS, and must be completed in full and signed by the applicant.
 - 3.5 All competitors must show their current membership card when obtaining their competitor numbers at a competition.
 - 3.6 Couples made up of dancers residing in different Provinces must make specific arrangements:
 - a) Each athlete obtains membership in the Province where they reside.
 - b) Each dancer then informs both Provincial Associations concerned about the mixed membership within the partnership and in which Province the partnership intends to compete for championship purposes.
 - c) This partnership will then only be permitted to compete in Closed Provincial championship events in the Province selected and can only become champions in that Province.
 - 3.6.1 **International Partnerships** (from the CDS Rule Book Rule 7(4))

In Canadian Closed Championships or Regional Association Closed Championships, one member of a partnership must be a Canadian Citizen.
The second member if not a Canadian citizen:

 - a) must satisfy the Board that under Canadian law s/he is permitted to travel out of and into Canada.
 - b) must satisfy the Board that s/he has elected in writing his or her intention to compete in DanceSport for Canada only during the calendar year prior to the said Championship.

And
 - c) He/she has not represented another country in a DanceSport competition during the 8 months prior to the said Championships except when the competitor has received consent in writing to the change in representation from each of the two relevant WDSF Members, and then the competitor may immediately represent Canada.
 - d) A competitor having represented one country in any WDSF Championship or any WDSF Cup is not permitted to represent another country in any WDSF Championship or WDSF Cup competition until a period of 12 months has elapsed since the last representation. Therefore



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would not be eligible to compete in the Canadian Closed Championships or its qualifiers until the one year has elapsed.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT the Board may in its absolute discretion require such proof either before or after such Championships as it deems fit and necessary when considering whether such second member has complied to its satisfaction with any part of this sub rule 7(4) This rule will also apply to the Ontario Closed Championship.

3.7 At the Championship level, athletes cannot compete with more than one partner in the same discipline (Standard, Latin, Rhythm, & Smooth) at an event. An event covers multi day competitions. (Means that a person can have a different partner for Standard & Latin)

3.8 Athletes will not be eligible for ODS financial funding if:

- athletes have gone against the Rules of ODS and/or CDS , or
- athletes resigned from ODS membership, or
- athletes joined another Canadian DanceSport Association and does not represent ODS, or
- athletes does not compete in the current Ontario Closed and does not represent Ontario in the current CCC

These athletes may be re-admitted to ODS on the condition that they agree to abide by all ODS/CDS Rules. Financial funding for these athletes may be provided after a minimum of 1 year re-admission to ODS on the condition that they abide by all ODS/CDS Rules and compete in the current Ontario Closed and represent Ontario in the current CCC.

4.0 COMPETITION GRADES

NOTE: 1) All bylaws, which refer to beginner(s) and novice(s) grades, shall have the word "beginner(s)" deleted, and bronze and silver categories inserted and all reference to novice(s) grade shall be replaced by gold category. (This will apply if you are transferring your wins over to the medal system or if competing outside the province, where they do not use the medal categories.)

4.1 Six grades of competition are provided for amateur youth and adult dancers, which in ascending order are:

New comers	-	which consist of any 1 or 2 dance out of 5
Pre-Bronze	-	which consist of any 2 dances out of 5
Bronze	-	which consist of any 3 dances out of 5
Silver	-	which consist of any 3 dances out of 5
Gold	-	which consist of any 4 dances out of 5
Pre-Championship	-	which consist of any 4 dances out of 5
Championship	-	which consist of any 4 or 5 dances out of 5

4.1.1 Six grades of competition are also provided for Juveniles and Juniors. The syllabus will be the same as in adult categories.

Dancing up rules will apply the same as in adult categories.

Graduation will be as follows: When you graduate to Junior or Youth, you will keep the same category, but do not have to count wins earned in the same category. Example: If you are a junior gold and have two (2) junior gold wins, you would graduate to youth gold but with **no** gold wins.

4.2 The normal entry level for competitors is Newcomer. However, athletes may enter at any level.



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- 4.3 The lowest level at which the rules permit a couple to compete is called their minimum level. An Ontario competitor's minimum level is determined by ODS, which has jurisdiction over this matter for its members, no matter where they may be competing. This however, does not preclude jurisdictions elsewhere from refusing to accept a competitor's minimum level under the rules it applies and requiring them to compete at a different grade.
- 4.4 A partnership must compete at the highest minimum level of either athlete.
- 4.5 Dancers taking up residence in Ontario must compete at least at the same minimum level for which they were qualified under the rules of the association that had jurisdiction in the area they previously resided in.
- 4.6 ODS reserves the right to refuse to accept the minimum level claimed by competitors from outside Ontario and requiring that they compete at a different grade at Ontario events.
- 4.7 It will not be necessary for a competitor to hold or to have passed the equivalent of any medal, test or certificate to participate in these grades.
- 4.8 If a competitor does not dance all of the dances in his/her event then he/she will be disqualified.
- 5.0 GRADUATION THROUGH THE GRADES**
- 5.1 You will graduate to the next level after 3 wins.
- 5.2 When competitors are disqualified from competing at a given minimum level by any rule, the next higher grade becomes the competitor's new minimum level.
- 5.3 Competitors can decide to graduate from any minimum level if they wish and at any time by notifying the Membership Chairperson.
- 5.4 For the application of the above graduation rules, the following apply:
- 5.4.1 A win must be in a competition with an entry of at least 6 couples in order to count towards graduation.
- 5.4.2 Wins gained anywhere count towards an Ontario competitor's graduation providing they meet the requirements of 5.4.1 and 5.4.2. Competitors are honour bound to report to the Membership chairman within 30 days, any wins that affect their minimum level.
- 5.4.2.1 Wins in competitions restricted to the students of a particular studio, club or school will not count towards a competitor's graduation.
- 5.4.2.2 If you compete outside the province, your wins in the category you compete in, will count, no matter how many dances they had in that category. (e.g. Quebec has only 3 dances in pre-championship and will be using blocks of 2 dance silver categories. The USA has 2 dance novice events but it uses gold syllabus, therefore it is considered a gold win)
- 5.4.3 Graduation from one grade to the next will apply to members as individuals, not as couples.
- 5.4.5. **Exceptions**



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- 5.4.5.1 A competitor who has danced in the first round of a competition shall, if selected to go forward, be entitled to compete in subsequent rounds held on a later date even if in the meantime, the competitor has graduated as a result of another competition

6.0 DANCING UP IN GRADE

- 6.1 Competitors may dance in a competition at only the next level up from their lowest level of competition. Example: from silver to gold, but not from Silver to Pre-Championship. This rule applies in Ontario. When dancing outside the province, the rules of that province or country prevail. Couples are permitted to dance more than one level up from their Ontario level provided it is within the rules of that jurisdiction. Any wins will be counted towards your Ontario graduation.
- 6.2 If there is a competition at an event in a competitor's minimum level, the competitors must enter that competition before they are permitted to dance up in a higher grade. If there is no competition in the competitor's minimum level, then they may dance up at the higher grade. For the application of this rule, dancing in a competition restricted to Seniors I, II, III, and IV will be considered as dancing at the Adult grade.
- 6.3 Any partnership that wins in a higher category that had at least 6 couples in the event must graduate immediately, irrespective of the number of wins gained at the lower level. This particular win will get counted as one of the 3 wins at the new grade level.

7.0 AGE CATEGORIES

- 7.1 Competitors will compete in the following age categories:
Age restrictions (effective January 1, 2014):

Juvenile I:	reach 9th birthday or less in the calendar year
Juvenile II:	reach 10th or 11th birthday in the calendar year
Junior I:	reach 12th or 13th birthday in the calendar year
Junior II:	reach 14th or 15th birthday in the calendar year
Youth:	reach 16th, 17th or 18th birthday in the calendar year
Under 21:	reach 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th or 20th birthday in the calendar year
Adult:	reach 19th birthday or more in the calendar year
Senior I:	One partner must have reached his or her 35th birthday in the calendar year and the other partner must have reached his or her 30th birthday in the calendar year.
Senior II:	One partner must have reached his or her 45th birthday in the calendar year and the other partner must have reached his or her 40th birthday in the calendar year.
Senior III:	One partner must have reached his or her 55th birthday in the calendar year and the other partner must have reached his or her 50th birthday in the calendar year.
Senior IV:	One partner must have reached his or her 65th birthday or more in the calendar year. The other partner must have reached her or his 60th birthday or more in the calendar year.
Senior V	both partners must reach their 70 th birthday or more in the calendar year.



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Putting two age-groups together, such as Juvenile I and II as well as Junior I and II in one class, is optional. Juvenile II are permitted to compete in Junior I events except at Championship level at CCC Qualifier & CCC. Junior II couples are allowed to compete in all Youth events. Youth couples are allowed to participate in adult competitions. In all age groups one partner of a couple can belong to a younger age-group, except in Senior I, Senior II, Senior III or Senior IV.

In all age sections one partner of a couple can be younger, except in Seniors.

NOTE: There will no longer be average age calculation to determine age eligibility. A couple's age restriction will depend on the oldest member of the partnership