

RULES
HONKY TONK
CONTESTS



2019



NORMATIVA CONCURSOS HONKY TONK – Enero 2019

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0. Misión of the Honky Tonk Series

The “Honky Tonk Series” circuit has been formed and constituted to:

- Protect and promote the Line Dance and the Country Dance, in all its varieties as an artistic, leisure and contest form.
- Establish, improve and ensure the highest ethical and professional levels; putting the general interest before the private one.
- Facilitate collaboration between Pro's and mutual respect for all trends.

The Directors of the events that include “Honky Tonk Series” contests have decided to use the rules of the LDA totally and without alteration. These allow the L.D.A. to review, evaluate and advise these events with “Honky Tonk Series” contest, to ensure the continuity and quality of the competitions in the events, and the improvement of the experience for the contestants in them.

Notification for events other than the Line Dance Association´s

The laws protect the printing, duplication and partial or total use of the rules of the LDA.

If you decide to use these rules, the choreographies and / or scoring format, you must obtain the written permission of the president of the LDA. Said permission must appear in the files of the LDA. If permission is granted for the use of these standards, they must be used without alteration.

An LDA Observer or a Contest Coordinator will be required to be present to answer any questions about them, or to advise contestants on the correct interpretation and application of the Honky Tonk Series Rules of the LDA.



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A. What is the “Honky Tonk Series”

They are social contests of country dance, line dance, couples and groups. They are not competitions.

Participants are not valued by comparison between them by establishing a ranking from the first to the last. Each participant is valued for its intrinsic quality by granting each member of the Jury a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal to each participant.

At one extreme, this implies that a group of participants could receive all a Gold medal, or all a Bronze medal.

Events meet these characteristics:

- Jury: Minimum three Instructors, Monitors or Coaches.
- Contest Coordinator is the organizer himself or someone appointed by him.
- Dance floor of any type of material
- Official scoring program, or manual skating scoring.

B. Who is allowed to compete?

B.1. Any person, who at most participates in the category "social, starter or similar" in competitions of other organizations, can participate in a Honky Tonk test, whatever the division. All you have to do is register for the contest and meet the conditions of the organizer. Therefore we recommend to all interested parties to always consult with the organizers. People who act as monitors or instructors of line dance, whether qualified or not, they cannot participate in the individual category.

B.2. The contestants implicitly agree that their personal data is automatically incorporated into the file registered with the Data Protection Agency, for use in relation to their participation in competitions. In any case, by enrolling in a contest approved by the LDA, dancers agree to have their data incorporated into their file. According to LORTAD, to modify or cancel your data you should contact the LDA secretary.

B.3. Division Changes

- Each event will ensure that the level of participants, especially the new ones, corresponds to what is expected in these divisions. In the event that a person manifestly has a much higher level than expected, or has evolved too much for the division of Honky Tonk, the interested party and his “teacher” will be informed and may be suggested to enter the world of competitions and not in the contests.
- Linedancers of the Newcomer categories entering from the world of competition of the age group from Silver (included), who have spent two or more years without competing, are allowed to request their return to Honky Tonk; as long as its expressiveness corresponds to a Honky Tonk linedancer, and not to a competition linedancer.



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C. Divisions of the Honky Tonk Contests.

People can participate in any of the following divisions, in several or all of them.

Honky Tonk AB

Only for participants who have been dancing for less than a year. There is only one category with three dances. The music is "Americana type" country or not. One or more "instructors" can be placed on the dance floor to dance the choreographies and serve as a guide. In this category you cannot be more than one season. In the case of participants of the age groups: Primary, Gold and Platinum; those who wish to remain in this division for more than one season, they may request it to the Line Dance Association. The LDA may or may not approve each application .

Honky Tonk Line Dance

Aimed at line dancers of social dance that at most participate in the category "social, starter or similar" in competitions of other organizations. They cannot participate in this division, people who exercise as "instructors", or line dance monitors. Nor can participate dancers with experience in competition; or in paid line dance exhibitions or other types of dance such as: Funky, Ballroom or Sports Dance, etc. ...

There are 2 types of different categories

- **Honky Country:** where the music used must be country.
- **Honky FreeStyle:** where the music used must be non-country.

A contestant may choose to apply to one or both categories, since they are classified separately.

ProAline and ProAline AB Groups

- There are two groups of ProAline:Ñ
 - ProAline AB: For contestants of Honky AB level (competing in Honky AB or not)
 - ProAline: For contestants of Honky Tonk level (competing in Honky Tonk or not)
- It is a social contest in which the instructor (Pro) accompanies his pupils (Ams) to the dancefloor as a guide. ProAline consists on an instructor's pupils going to the dancefloor with him to line dance. The groups of ProAline must consist of 6 to 8 pupils. The groups of ProAline AB consist of 4 to 8 pupils
- If an instructor teaches in different places he can choose whether he wants to group their pupils under a single club name or, alternately, if he prefers each group to go to the dancefloor independently. A group can have two instructors but only one of them can accompany the group to the dancefloor. An Instructor may have more than one group.
- There in one age group: Open Age (all ages)
- The dances used in ProAline are the same of the Honky Tonk division, but each organizer will choose three between the six dances of the categories Honky Tonk Country and Honky Tonk FreeStyle, and will publish them in the "Information Sheet" of the event.
- The dances used in ProAline AB are the same three of the Honky Tonk AB division
- The instructor accompanies his/her group/s every time, but his performance doesn't rate, only that of his pupils.
- The pupils can only be dancers who either have never competed or are Honky Tonk Line Dance contestants.
- How the ProAline Contest works:
 - Two or more teams go on track together. They dance the three Honky Tonk dances proposed, one after another without leaving the dance floor
 - Each member of the jury values each group, awarding for each dance the medal that each ProAline deserves



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Partner

This division is for couples. A couple can consist of a boy and a girl or two girls; There will be a limited number of choreographies, of a simple nature that will be applied to different music. Only one age group: Open, that is, it is open to all ages

The choreographies of couples will be based on the most common country rhythms: Two Step, West Coast Swing, East Coast Swing, Polka or Triple Two Step.

Choreography

The Honky Tonk Series Choreography Contests, in addition to their intrinsic valuation, are used to present choreography candidates to the choreography selection for the Honky Tonk and Honky AB divisions of the following season.

- There are three categories:
 - o Country: These are choreographies to phrased country music songs, that is, whose musical phrases are uniform, 32, 48, or 64 counts. They can include Restarts. A song is considered to be Country, if the US Country Music Association (CMA) has rated the artist as such.
 - o FreeStyle: These are choreographies for all kinds of phrased songs (except to country music), that is, whose musical phrases are uniform, 32, 48, or 64 counts. They can include Restarts.
 - o ABC / Tag. These are choreographies for all kinds of songs including country music. Whose common characteristic is that the choreography itself is formed by different parts, according to the different musical phrases of the song. Or choreographies that contain one or more Tags.
- For each of the categories there are two levels:
 - o Beginner-Newcomer
 - o Novice - Intermediate
- It is not essential that it be unpublished, but during the season it can only be presented twice. Choreographies registered for competitions in the previous season cannot be presented.
- A person can present choreographies in one, two or in the three categories mentioned. But only one choreography can be presented per category.
- There is no maximum number of participants being able to present the choreography, the choreographer can present the choreography alone or accompanied
- If the choreographer does not dance in the presentation of his choreography, he must be present in the room.
- Music must correspond to the category in which you have registered.
- In the event that two choreographers present the same song, the first one registered will have preference and the second choreographer will be notified immediately to change it.



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- The jurors will value the choreography itself, the steps, the adaptation to the music, and the possibility of success in the line dance and country dance community, but not the quality of the performance. The choreographies do not compete with each other

Inscription

- Registration, the dance sheet (in pdf format), and the song (in mp3 format) must be sent in advance to the organizer's email 1 week in advance

If they do not arrive on time, in the indicated format and with proper identification, the registration of the choreography cannot be taken into account. Both pdf and mp3 files must be named with the following structure: Type of Choreography - Your name - Choreography Name

D. Age categories

Grupo de Edad*	
Primary (0-9) (*)	Open (25-34)
Junior (0-12)	Crystal (35-44)
Teenage (13-15)	Silver (45 -59)
Young Adult (16-24)	Gold (60 -69)
	Platino (70 +)

- Participants must compete in the category that corresponds to their age as it is on September 1st, before the beginning of the season on January 1st
- Any exception, case or conflict due to the age of the participant will have to be notified to LDA, for its study

E. Dances: Honky Tonk , ProAline, ProAline AB and Partner

- All dances will change on January 1st .
- The dances are the same for both men and women
- For Honky AB there will be three dances of difficulty "Beginner" with different musical styles. The three dances will be danced in a row without the participants leaving the dance floor.
- For the Honky Tonk division there will be six dances throughout the year: 3 to country music for the Honky Tonk Country category, and 3 to music of other styles for the Honky Tonk FreeStyle category:

The three dances will be danced in a row without the participants leaving the track.

- For ProAline there will be three Honky Tonk Country or FreeStyle dances in a combination chosen by Event Director
- For ProAline AB they will be the same dances as for Honky AB
- For partner dance divisions, there will be two choreographies of any of the following rhythms: Two Step, West Coast Swing, East Coast Swing, Polka or Triple Two Step.
- The choreographies chosen for each season will be published on the web www.linedance-association.com



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- The duration of each dance will be between 1.5 and two minutes (until the end of the musical phrase).
- Participants must perform the total number of dances chosen for their division and category by the organizer.

F . Competition Clothing

Clothing for these divisions must follow this rule: **Keep It Simple!** And regarding decoration: **When you hesitate, leave it as it is!** If the participant prefers more elaborate clothing, he/she can be promoted to a higher division, where more creative clothing is not only accepted but encouraged.

Clothing standards for Honky Tonk Line Dance, Honky Tonk AB and ProAline social contests:

The costumes are free in these Contests, although it will be appreciated that the participants dress with a country appearance in Honky Tonk Country, but in Honky Tonk FreeStyle, the costumes should not be country, but more in line with the type of music.

The use of accessories (props) in any of the two divisions is not authorized (Objects that are not part of the wardrobe itself)

Clothing standards for Partner:

The contestants must present themselves as a couple, so their clothing must be clearly coordinated or visually complementary, showing the desire to be seen as a couple.

Hats

It's not mandatory. But if you take it in Honky Tonk Country, ProAline Country, or Partner, Hats must always be cowboy-style, which implies that it must have a 3-1/4" brim (8 cm at least).

The hat can be worn when dancing, taking it off and spinning it ... etc, but without its fall to the dance floor causing prejudice to any dancer (in case of accidental fall, it must be picked up)



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G.- The Organization of the Honky Tonk Contests

The approval of an official event “Honky Tonk Contest”

The L.D.A. It is not intended to be a hegemonic entity within the Line Dance, but only to be an entity that works for the expansion of the Line Dance in a general way, and all the organizers must participate in the principles on which the L.D.A. is based.

Honky Tonk Contests are nothing more than a tool for this, and their approval is based on the following points:

- To obtain the approval of a contest, it must be requested in writing, using the form provided by the LDA. The form provided will indicate among other points:
 - Title of the contest
 - Organizing entity and your personal data
 - Place and date of celebration
 - Track dimensions
 - Other possible competitions scheduled specifying the different specialties, age group, category.
 - Contest Coordinator, Scrutineer and members of the Jury
 - Possible cash prizes and any other information that is considered of interest.
- The LDA will respond in writing regarding the approval or denial of the event. If the date should be changed, alternative dates will be communicated for the organizer's election.

General Aspects of the Competition

- The organizer will have to count with the participation of the following team of collaborators
 - Competition Coordinator
 - Panel of Jurors
 - Scrutineer
 - Dancefloor Coordinator
 - Disc-jockey
 - Master of Ceremony
- The minimum length of each dance is 1'5 minutes.
- The Contest Coordinator is in charge of the Timetable of the competition, both of its total length and of its satisfactory completion. For that purpose he must work with the Scrutineer to prepare it and then with the master of ceremony and the rest of his dancefloor team for its completion.
- In case the number of participants exceeds 75 people, the timetable can be badly affected, for that reason the organizers will have to choose one out of the following possibilities:
 - Use two dancefloors and two panels of judges.
 - Celebrate the competition during the whole day



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Definition of the functions of the organizing team

Contest Coordinator

• The Contest Coordinator will be in charge of the competition and he will have to follow the specification of these regulations closely. He will have to tend to the needs of the judges. He will have the scrutiny team under his supervision and he will solve all the incidents that may take place during the competition. His responsibilities will be:

- a) Controlling the tempo and length of the music.
- b) Making sure that the category and group of the participants are adequate to their level within the competition.
- c) Controlling the fulfillment of the stipulated rules about participants' clothing. Determining the distribution of the dancers or couples after every qualifying round.
- d) Ensuring that the dancers and couples are dancing in their corresponding dance.
- e) Giving instructions to the judges concerning the number of dancers or couples whom they have to choose in every qualifying round and their distribution, as well as determining the final number of dancers or couples who get to the next round.
- f) Warning the dancers or couples who have been penalized by a judge, as well as informing the rest of the jury and carrying out, if necessary, the corresponding disqualifications.
- g) Admonishing participants who don't behave properly and, if necessary, expel them from the competition.
- h) Deciding on any eventuality that may arise in the course of the competition, as well as receiving the complaints from the assistants if there were any, and transmit them to whom they concern: Event Organizer or Secretary of the Asociación Española de Line Dance y Baile Country®.

Jury Members

- The Jury Members will be at least three
- During the contest, jurors who observe any violation of the established rules, can request a break and hold a "conference" of the Jury members together with the contest coordinator, in order to determine if the offender should be penalized. It will be the Contest Coordinator, chosen by the organization, who will inform the dancer or partner in question.

Scrutineer

The scrutiny team must be accredited by the LDA

The scrutiny team is responsible for recounting the votes and ratings of the judges and for applying the Skating system. It is also his responsibility to inform the Contest Coordinator and the Observer of the Association about disqualified or penalized participants, as well as about any irregularity he might have noticed in voting or rating by the judges.



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H. WHAT DO JUDGES JUDGE?

Although a judge is always a judge and the main parameter is always the same (“be as neutral as humanly possible”), we are all human and that is why we need some rules and criteria for judging.

General criteria

1.- Contestants must always follow the dance sheet’s description, no variations are accepted, although adaptations for impossibility to carry out a specific step (e.g. replacing steps in case the participant suffers dizziness) are allowed.

2.- Jurors will give priority to body language in their valuation.. Contestants must prove they have fun following the rhythm of the music; the dancer’s body language must show feeling, fun, sadness, happiness, romanticism, etc. Of course, this is determined by body movement, but body movement cannot be exaggerated to the point of going beyond the necessary moves.

Following the dance’s specific motion and foot technique are not the main criteria for judges. The most important aspect for the contestants to take care of is that of expressing feeling through their moves in a way that coheres with the music that is being played.

3.-Jurors must determine whether the dancer’s movement and expression is natural and fun or, on the contrary, whether some moves seem to carefully studied and unnatural, thus hinting at overperformance with regard to usual body movement in free dance; it could be caused by “training” certain specific movements and would lead to ranking in the last position. The simple idea is: dance having fun to the fullest as you would at a party, but not as in a competition exhibiting above others.

4.- In ProAline, The participation of the group will be valued under the same premises as in Honky Tonk; Although the application of technique is not valued, the cohesion of the group will be assessed as a demonstration of a team (synchronization, presentation). Choreography variations are not allowed.

5.- Penalties

Our circuit has no defined penalties as such, however, there are several reasons why the Jury of the panel can request a “conference” from the Contest Coordinator to decide jointly whether or not the participant should be penalized (with a put below, with the last place or disqualification) Here are some of the reasons that could be the cause of "conference penalty":

- The execution of vulgar or bad taste movements
- Falling an object, (hat or part of the apparel) and not picking it up from the dance floor, causing the safety of a dancer
- Use of sunglasses, gloves, or other accessories that prevent the correct display of expressiveness

Specific criteria in Partner:

1.- Contestants must always follow the dance sdescription explicitly during the first two walls; afterwards, variations are accepted, but they should not be too extensive, having to return to the original choreography, so that it can be recognized. Any variation that may interfere with another couple may be penalized.

2.- The application of the motions will be taken into account properly, a good body expression, adequate technique and a knowledge as a couple of lead and follow.

3.- If a couple advanced faster and had to overtake another slower, it would do so from the inside, but only if it was absolutely necessary.