



Milwaukee's Largest Steppin Competition Rules

Milwaukee Steppers & Ballroomers United host a steppin competition every year that also doubles as a qualifier for the World's Largest Steppin Contest (WLS), hosted by the Majestic Gents. Because it is a qualifier our rules coincide with the current rules for the WLS, with minor adjustments. These are the rules from the World's Largest Steppin Contest with changes in the areas of:

- A. Music submission; Couples are allowed to submit music by August 4th. The music needs to have a medium or slow tempo song with one upbeat song. Each song needs to be 1 minute and 30 seconds in length. If your mix does not meet these criteria your music may be remixed by the DJ or you may forfeit your submission. If you are from out-of-town you will be allowed to submit your music the night of the event (please be there by 8:00PM to submit your music).
 - WLS Contest Rule #7
- B. The Original Category will be judged by guest, experienced Steppers and Instructors recognized by the Steppin community at large.
 - WLS Contest "Original Category" definition

2010 Official Contest Rules

1. No dancing on knees or on the floor.
2. No props. A prop is defined as any foreign object or substance used by a contestant to enhance their performance. Taking one's suit jacket off during the contest is not considered a prop.
2. One foot must remain on the floor at all times. Both feet leaving the floor at any point of a participant's contest performance will result in the couple's disqualification.
3. Participants must have on respectful attire that covers all private body parts and under garments. If any private body part or undergarment is exposed, the couple will be disqualified. (Note: Ballerina dresses with appropriate undergarments are acceptable).
4. No changing partners after the preliminary qualifying round. The qualifying couple must dance together in the finals.
5. There are no age criteria for any category. Every contest category is open to all ages.
6. All contest music must be submitted by the specified deadline. If the contest music is not submitted by the deadline, contests will be required to dance to the DJ's selection.
7. Couples are allowed to submit music by August 4th. The music needs to have a medium or slow tempo song with one upbeat song. Each song needs to be 1 minute and 30 seconds in length. If your mix does not meet these criteria your music may be remixed by the DJ or you may forfeit your submission.

JUDGING CRITERIA (Originality, Synchronization, Footwork, Appearance, and Showmanship)

Synchronization: Two partners dancing with one another in time. Points will be deducted for the following execution areas.

- A. Missing hands
- B. Slips, falls, or missed dips and drops
- C. One partner out dancing the other partner

Footwork: Moving both feet in a rhythmic pattern that looks effortless and fancy. Feet movements should coordinate with upper body movements and turns. Points will be deducted from couples who:

- A. Fail to execute footwork while dancing.
- B. Move feet in an awkward manner that detracts from the effortless movements that are characteristic of the dance

Showmanship/Creativity: Showmanship consists of movements, both impromptu and choreographed, that is executed in the context of the dance and present with flair and dramatic presentation. Depending on the category, showmanship could consist of fancy turns, dips, drops, and routines or style, body movement and swagger. Showmanship is category specific; make sure to pay attention to the criteria of each category before integrating showmanship or routines into your dance performance. Points will be deducted from couples who:

- A. Miss partner cues or rehearsed steps.
- B. Dance without flair, energy, or creative moves.
- C. Fail to engage the audience in their dance.
- D. Fail to keep their head up while dancing.

Appearance: Couples should be dressed from head to toe in fancy contest attire. Attire should be coordinated in color but custom-tailored suits are not a requirement. Contest apparel should be appropriate, consistent with the rules, and should not detract from the performance by being overly revealing. Judges should not deduct points from contestants because of differing fashion opinions. However, distracting apparel will be decided at the judge's discretion. Points will be deducted from couples who:

1. Fail to coordinate their attire.
2. Have wardrobe malfunctions that don't violate the rules.

Originality: The foundation of the dance should be Steppin' and all movements should be executed in time within the basic pattern of the dance. Originality is not creativity and the two should not be confused. Points will be deducted from couples who:

Deviate from the basic pattern of Steppin' and begin executing another dance form (e.g. Salsa, Ballrooming, Jitterbug, Tap, etc.). Note: Routine movements will be accepted, so long as they are executed within the basic pattern and time of the dance.

Original New Skool Category

While this category shares many of the same elements as the Original Category, the Original New Skool category differs with respect to the emphasis placed on Turns, Dips, and Drops. While dips and drops are not required or preferred over creative dancing in the Original New Skool Category, they will not be frowned upon. Routines are also acceptable in this category, as long as the basic pattern of Steppin' exists. The New Skool Original category will be judged by Steppers who began dancing after 1995, so plan your dance accordingly.

Beginners

Following a 2 month period to learn the basic steps, Beginners should have less than 1 year and 2 months of total dance time. Beginners must be entered into the World's Largest Steppers Contest by an instructor who can validate their dancing experience (i.e. length of time dancing).

Emphasis For Beginners Will Be Placed On

1. Timing and coordination
2. Synchronization with partner
3. Mastering basic turns and basic footwork
4. The initial development and/or foundation of a unique style