

Palm Springs Winter Break Choreography Contest FAQs

Please read these questions and answers in the most friendly Flamingo squawk possible.

Q: Why the July change to the prizes?

A: Because apparently my brain was not working well enough a few months ago. I added the choreography contest because that is how I got into teaching on the line dance event circuit. I'm trying to pay it forward - I want to give an opportunity for anyone to enter, BUT I did not want winning this contest to disqualify choreographers from entering other contests. The whole idea is to encourage those with a passion for line dance to come out and give it a whirl at teaching on the circuit. I don't think winning an individual contest like this one should exclude entry to other ones, so my brain 3 months ago said the only way to do that is not compensate the winners for teaching their own choreography - keep them amateurs for the other competitions. Then, months passed, I grew older and wiser, and my brain said hey - just give the winners a CHOICE of being compensated or not. If a winner wants to retain their amateur status, then the winner can decline the compensation part of the prize. Duh!

Contestants will now be asked to declare, during their contest entry process, if they will accept compensation as part of their potential winnings or if they will decline compensation in order to keep their amateur status. This declaration will NOT be disclosed to the judges, and this declaration will NOT affect any scoring or ranking to determine the winners.

Q: If a dance has more than 8 count tag, it would be kicked up to the Open division?

A: Yes, that is correct.

Q: If the music breaks indicate that the tag should be done TWICE, for example an instrumental that occurs twice in the song, it would be kicked up to the Open division?

A: Yes, that is also correct. Now, can I think of examples where dances with those such things are still "typically" considered improver level? Sure. But for this choreography contest, that's where the "line" is drawn for fairness (pun possibly intended). :)

Q: How do I put a video online?

A: See the link from Se7en Arrow media on the contest page. (I won't be hosting technology courses, but Kelly & Kellie are super!)

Q: Can I have someone else write the stepsheet?

A: Sure! (But I'm not volunteering.)

Q: What's RPSS?

A: Please read the very in-depth explanation with examples and everything in this link:
<https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Relative-Placement-12-20-20-Rev-5-1-10-1.pdf>
(It's a full-on white paper with diagrams and everything!)

Q: Is there a limit to how many times a stepsheet is resubmitted if it doesn't meet the requirements?

A: No limit. (But don't try my patience - I'm human.)

Q: Who are the judges?

A: For the stepsheet review - it's me (Event Director Bracken Heidenreich). For the demo video and instructional video judging - our esteemed judges will be announced along with the winners in November. (Feel free to bribe EVERYONE you think might be judging, just in case.)

Q: What if the music is blocked in my uploaded video?

A: Refer to Q1. (I'm not teaching y'all technology stuff. Ask your neighborhood tech guru, probably under 18, to help you out. Or, reach out to Se7en Arrow Media with an armful of their favorite things.)

Q: Isn't this a lot of work to enter this contest?

A: Not really. Most dances released these days also post these videos. (Plus, I'm not forcing y'all to enter. What does Kelly say on his radio shows and podcasts... something about you have to do your homework? Or you have to put work in if it's worth it to you?)

Q: Why is there a separate judging of the instructional video?

A: Because the winner gets a teaching spot, and not everyone who choreographs can teach.

Q: You can't judge someone's ability to teach in person based on a video.

A: Nothing is perfect. But with video, the contestants can do their teach video, watch it to see if THEY notice any room for improvement, and then re-do the video until they are happy with it. Those steps alone may help people improve their teaching abilities, regardless of how they place in this contest. (Some analogy here about how top athletes watch film.) Judging the Instructional Video might result in different placings than the demo video scores, and it might not. PSWB is a one-room event, the teaching spots are limited, and we want to make sure the winners of this contest are the best fit (best as is possible with an online contest) for our PSWB dancers.

Have more Questions?

Please send your questions to PSWBcontest@gmail.com.

Any question submitted will be posted, with the response, for all potential contestants to view on the website (www.PalmSpringsWinterBreak.com).