

Palm Springs Winter Break Choreography Contest FAQs

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

Q: What if a contestant can't attend the event to teach their winning dance?

A: We know events are expensive and most people have day jobs that would require vacation time to get to the event, and not everyone can afford one or both of those. If a winner cannot attend the event to fulfill their teaching slot, then one of our flockstars will step up to teach the winner's dance at the event. Not being sure of making it to the event should not discourage anyone from entering. If a winner cannot attend, then their prize of a free pass to PSWB can be transferred to another person. The lodging part of the compensation will not be transferred.

Q: Why aren't the instructional videos supposed to be teaching the choreography entry?

A: Nothing is perfect. But how much apple flavor does an orange have? To allow our judges to compare apples to apples, two basic, well-known dances were selected as the instructional video dances for the choreography contest. Both selected instructional video dances have opportunities during the teach for contestants to clearly explain, demonstrate, count, and call the steps. These dances also have ample room for contestants to add their own flavor to the instruction. 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.

Q: Why the required declaration of accepting compensation or not?

A: I added the choreography contest to PSWB 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 do 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 the winners have 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. 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: Our esteemed judges will be announced along with the winners in December. (Feel free to bribe EVERYONE you think might be judging, just in case.) Judges in previous years were John Robinson, Simon Ward, Michael Barr, Michele Burton, Terri Slemmons, Jamie Marshall, Kerry Maus, Rhoda Lai, Derek Steele, Jill Babinec, and Bracken Heidenreich.

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: 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: How can you 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 - kinda like how top athletes watch film to improve their game. 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.

Q: Will we get comments from the judges?

A: Judges are given the opportunity, and encouraged, to make comments on their scoring sheets. Some judges are very expressive; some judges leave their scoring to strictly the numbers. Any comments received will be passed along to the appropriate contestant.

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).