

CUO Event Specific Rules and Policies

Event Specifics

Please always check which sections are running at each event before booking, as not every section will be offered at every competition.

CUO reserves the right to merge, split, amend or remove sections where needed to ensure the smooth running of the event.

Age Percentage Policy

To ensure fair and accurate categorisation in our team and group competitions, CUO uses the following age percentage guidelines.

75% Within Age Category

At least 75% of the team or group must fall within the designated age category for that competition.

This ensures that the main composition of the team aligns with the correct age category.

Up to 25% Above Age

Teams may include up to 25% of dancers who are above the age category.

This allows some flexibility for dancers who may have just aged out of a section but are still part of the same team.

Rounding Up Numbers

When calculating age percentages, any fractional numbers are rounded up.

This ensures a clear and transparent decision when confirming whether a team is eligible for a specific age category.

Sideline Intervention Policy

To ensure a fair and unbiased competition environment, CUO does not allow anyone to intervene, prompt or coach from the sidelines once the music has started, unless explicit permission has been given by the event organisers.

This includes teachers, parents, assistants or any other person supporting from the side of the performance area.

Failure to follow this policy may result in a **3-point deduction per adjudicator**.

This policy ensures that all dancers have an equal opportunity to perform independently and rely on their own training, preparation and performance skills.

Dance School / Educational Institution Representation Policy

All dancers must be affiliated with the same dance school or educational institution that is attending the event.

This ensures that teams, groups and partner sections are made up of dancers who train and rehearse together under the same school or organisation.

If a dancer attends multiple dance schools or educational institutions that are all attending the same event, the parent or guardian must choose which school or institution the dancer will represent for that specific event.

A dancer may not represent more than one school at the same event.

This policy promotes fairness, unity and team identity, while ensuring that dancers compete under one clear school affiliation.

Fair Competition Policy

CUO maintains a strong stance against category fixing and unfair entry placement.

Dance schools are responsible for ensuring that their dancers, teams, Freestyle Duo/Duets and Set Duets are entered into the correct ability level based on:

- Previous results
- Competition experience
- Dance experience
- Training level
- Ability level
- Results from CUO and other competitions

Dancers should not be entered into lower ability categories solely for the purpose of winning.

CUO reserves the right to move teams, soloists, Freestyle Duo/Duets or Set Duets into a higher ability section if we believe they have been entered incorrectly.

This helps maintain a fair and balanced competition environment where dancers are challenged appropriately and judged against others of a similar standard.

Age-Up Policy

If a team ages up and moves into a higher age category, they are not automatically permitted to drop an ability level.

If the team has placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their current ability level, they must remain in that ability level or move up if the progression rules require it.

Ageing up does not automatically allow a team to move down an ability level or stay in the same ability level if they are required to move up.

For soloists, if a dancer ages up and moves into a higher age category, they may be permitted to drop down one ability level, provided they have never placed in the ability category they were previously entered in.

No dancer, team, Freestyle Duo/Duet or Set Duet may move down to Intro once they have moved up.

This policy helps maintain fairness and ensures dancers continue to compete at an appropriate level based on their previous achievements.

Team Changes Policy

CUO understands that team members may change and dancers may move around. To ensure fair competition while allowing for team changes, CUO uses a **50:50 rule**.

If **50% or more of a winning team** is made up of new members at the next event, and those new dancers are of the same ability level or below, the team may remain in the ability level they were previously in.

If less than 50% of the team has changed, the team must follow the normal progression rules and move up if required.

Example:

If a team of 10 dancers places 1st in Beginner, but by the next event the team has lost 5 members and gained 5 new Beginner-level dancers, they may remain in Beginner at the next event.

However, if the team only gained 4 new dancers, this would be less than 50%, so the team would need to follow the normal progression rules.

Winners and Progression

If a team places **1st out of 3 or more teams in total**, they must move up to the next ability level at the next event they attend.

For example, if a Beginner team places 1st against two other teams, making three teams in total, they must move up to Intermediate at their next event.

This applies to CUO events and other competitions.

This progression rule helps ensure fair competition and encourages dancers and teams to continue developing.

Ability Progression Reminder

Intro

Intro is for brand new dancers, teams or sections with no previous competition experience in that style.

Teams may only enter Intro once. Once a team has performed in Intro at a CUO event, they must enter Beginner at their next competition.

No dancer, team, Freestyle Duo/Duet or Set Duet may move back down to Intro once they have moved up.

Beginner

Beginner is for dancers, teams and sections with limited competition experience.

A team must move up if they:

- Place 1st out of 3 or more teams in total; or
- Place 2nd or 3rd three times accumulatively where there were 5 or more teams in the section.

A soloist must move up if they:

- Place 1st out of 3 or more dancers in total; or
- Place 2nd–5th three times accumulatively where there were 5 or more dancers in the section.

Intermediate

Intermediate is for dancers, teams and sections who have entered numerous competitions, placed or won at Beginner level, or are ready for a higher competitive standard.

Student teachers and trainers must dance in Intermediate or higher.

Advanced

Advanced is for dancers, teams and sections who have won or placed at Intermediate level.

Advanced, qualified, professional dancers and teachers must dance in Advanced.

Strict Access Restriction Policy

For the smooth operation and integrity of the competition, no one is permitted to approach the main event table during the competition.

This includes the area where the host, DJ, adjudicators and scrutineers are working.

No unauthorised person is permitted to enter the staging area or performance area unless instructed by CUO staff.

This policy is in place for the following reasons:

Operational Efficiency

The main event table is a working area for event staff. Restricting access allows the host, DJ, adjudicators and scrutineers to carry out their roles without interruption.

Unbiased Judging Process

Adjudicators require a focused and controlled environment in order to judge fairly. Preventing unauthorised access helps protect the judging process from outside influence.

Safety and Security

Restricting access to the staging and event table areas helps protect dancers, staff, equipment and the smooth running of the event.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation in respecting these boundaries.

Communication Protocol Before, During and After the Competition

To ensure clear and efficient communication, all questions or concerns from dancers, parents or families should be directed to their dance teacher.

Dance teachers act as the main point of contact between their school and the CUO event team.

This allows information to be managed clearly and helps avoid disruption during the event.

Due to the size and pace of CUO events, direct communication between parents, students or family members and the event coordinators may not always be possible during the competition.

Where possible, all questions should be raised through the attending dance teacher, who can then contact the event coordinator or CUO team.

This helps us provide accurate information while keeping the event running smoothly.

Sportsmanship Policy

CUO upholds a strict policy on sportsmanship.

All participants, teachers, parents and attendees are expected to treat others with respect, fairness and kindness.

Bad sportsmanship will not be tolerated and may result in deductions, disqualification, removal from the event or suspension from future CUO competitions.

CUO also has a zero-tolerance policy for bullying towards:

- CUO staff
- Event staff
- Adjudicators
- Teachers
- Dancers
- Parents
- Other attendees

We expect all attendees to show positive behaviour, respectful body language and good sportsmanship throughout the event.

Social Media Interaction Policy

CUO encourages positive and respectful communication both in person and online.

All participants, teachers, parents and attendees are expected to follow this policy when interacting on social media.

Positive Engagement

We encourage participants and attendees to use social media positively by celebrating achievements, sharing supportive content and encouraging others.

Respectful Communication

All online communication should remain respectful and polite.

Negative, unfriendly, abusive or inappropriate messages, comments or posts will not be tolerated.

Responsible Online Behaviour

Participants and attendees should be mindful of the impact their posts and comments may have on others.

They must not engage in cyberbullying, spreading rumours, harassment or any behaviour that may harm the reputation, confidence or wellbeing of others.

Reporting Concerns

If any participant, teacher, parent or attendee experiences or sees inappropriate online behaviour connected to a CUO event, they should report it to CUO.

CUO takes these matters seriously and will address concerns where appropriate.

Rules Violation Policy

Any rule violations brought to the attention of CUO will be reviewed and addressed.

The decision of the contest coordinators is final.

Where a rule is clearly stated, there may be no grounds for appeal.

It is the responsibility of all teachers, principals and schools to read, understand and follow the rules before entering the competition.

CUO reserves the right to apply deductions, move entries, disqualify entries or refuse future entries where rules have been breached.

Reduced Judging Panel Policy

At CUO, our priority is to ensure a smooth, fair and enjoyable competition experience for all participants.

However, unforeseen circumstances can happen, such as a judge falling ill or being unable to attend.

In this situation, CUO has a contingency plan in place to allow the competition to continue fairly and efficiently.

1. Reduced Judge Panel

If one judge is unable to attend, the competition may proceed with a two-judge panel.

This panel will consist of the remaining qualified and experienced judges.

2. Scoring and Judging

The judging process will be adjusted to work with the two-judge format.

Each judge's score will carry equal weight, ensuring the absence of a third judge does not unfairly affect the competition.

3. Callbacks and Finals

The procedure for callbacks and finals will remain the same where possible.

CUO's scrutineering system is designed to be adaptable to different judging formats.

A reduced judging panel may result in different numbers of dancers being called back, depending on scoring and section sizes.

4. Transparency and Fairness

CUO is committed to transparency and fairness.

Our scrutineering system and judges are able to work within a two-judge format while maintaining the integrity of the results.

5. Communication

If a judging panel change is required, CUO will inform participants and dance teachers as soon as possible through appropriate communication channels, which may include the website, social media or teacher updates.

6. Feedback and Support

CUO welcomes appropriate feedback and questions regarding this contingency plan.

Our team will support schools and teachers where possible to ensure a positive experience for all involved.

Final Note

These event-specific rules should be read alongside CUO's full Ability Level Rules.

Where there is any uncertainty, CUO reserves the right to make a final decision based on fairness, safety, event operations and the integrity of the competition.