

Dance Gold[®] System 2.0

A new judging system
for Dance Sport



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DANCE GOLD SYSTEM

The DANCE GOLD system is a new method of judging and conducting Sports Dance competitions, that is in principle applicable to all sports having a strong artistic component and in which judges are required to make a qualitative evaluation.

DANCE GOLD system is particularly suitable for the evaluation of couples dancing and provides for a complete redefinition of Sports Dance competition in order to emphasize the "sporty" aspect.

Currently the evaluation of dance sport competitions is based on the skating method. In this method the judges evaluate the ranking of the final stage after a selection of the couples in the elimination rounds. The method, despite the undoubted merits that characterized it, has some well-known limitations including the subjectivity of the criteria adopted to select the couples in the early stages and to evaluate them in the final. The use of the verb "select" is not accidental; in fact in the early stages of the competition the judges do not express evaluations of merit but simply "indicate" the couple for the

next round. The application of this method, in an activity so complex, with a so high technical level, and strong emotional impact as the modern Dance Sport, results in a complete loss of meaning of the judgement. What did the judges who elected a couple for the next round consider?

Why did another judge not select the same couple?

In most cases these questions remain unanswered, generating misunderstandings and dissatisfaction among athletes and, at the same time, frustration for the judges who, in most cases, cannot fully express their skills. The DANCE GOLD method is based on an analysis of what happens in other sports, including tennis, alpine skiing, boxing and skating. It provides a totally new method for judging Sports Dance competitions and a new way of conducting them.

BASIC CRITERIA

The assumptions underlying the DANCE GOLD system are as follows:

- Offer evaluation criteria as objective as possible.
- Be easily understood by public and athletes.
- Highlight the technical and sport skills of the judges.
- Make competitions more appealing to the public.
- Provide a comprehensive assessment of the couple in the competition.

THE METHOD

The method foresees that the judges should provide a numerical evaluation of different parameters related to the performance of the athletes in the competition.

- The athletes dance in heats, as in the current system.
- Each judge must evaluate only ONE parameter during the competition.
- Each judge is asked to evaluate a particular SUBJECT of the competition.
- Each parameter is evaluated with a different multiplier coefficient, displayed in Table 1.
- The evaluation is expressed in tenths, with the possibility of intermediate values.
- The highest and lowest values are eliminated from the calculation of the total score, using the coefficient average as multiplier coefficient.
- The values of the judgment are absolute (Table 3). In this way the couples can evaluate the progression of their preparation. It is also possible to evaluate couples of different classes and categories during the same competition.

Table 1. Parameters, and relative coefficients

JUDGE	SUBJECT	PARAMETER		MULTIPLIER
Judge 1	Athlet M (Male)	PBC/M	Posture, Balance, Coordination	1,000
Judge 2		QTM/M	Quality of Movement	1,200
Judge 3		MM/M	Movement to Music	1,325
Judge 4		IPC/M	Choreography and Presentation	0,800
Judge 5		EP/M	Energy, performance	0,675
Judge 6	Athlet F (Female)	PBC/F	Posture, Balance, Coordination	1,000
Judge 7		QTM/F	Quality of Movement	1,200
Judge 8		MM/F	Movement to Music	1,325
Judge 9		IPC/F	Choreography and Presentation	0,800
Judge 10		EP/F	Energy, performance	0,675
Judge 11	Couple	AQT/C	Partnering Skills	1,325
Judge 12		TS/C	Timing, Synchronization	1,000
Judge 13		RER/C	Relativity, Esthetics	0,675
			Total	13,00

Table 2. Evaluation scale

10	9,5	9	8,5	8
7,5	7	6,5	6	5,5
5	4,5	4	3,5	3
2,5	2	1,5	1	

Table 3. Objectification of judgment and evaluation

Read the Evaluator Manual

Thanks to the Dance Gold System 2.0 keyboard, it is possible to identify the exact evaluation to give according to the belonging class of the competitive unit. Therefore: the whole scores for the pre-competitive classes; the possibility to add half scores for the base competitive classes ; and the possibility to add the quarter score for the high competitive classes; this allows not to give inappropriate evaluations.

The explanation of the judging evaluations is published on the Evaluator manual, score by score, with the explanation of each score. The **NC** button is for couples who, for any reasons leave or do not enter the dancefloor. "NC" stands for "Not classifiable".

CONDUCT THE COMPETITION WITH DANCE GOLD SYSTEM

1. The 13 judges are aware of their parameter at the start of the competition, upon receiving the paper sheet or a portable electronic device.
2. The parameter to be judged foresees a multiplier coefficient.

3. The competition takes place in two heats. In the first all the couples dance in randomly composed heats (as is currently the case).
4. DANCE GOLD SYSTEM will draw up the temporary ranking based on 11 useful evaluations for each dancing couple.
5. In the second run ALL the couples dance in final mode starting, from the last classified until reaching the finale, which will include the couples best evaluated in the first heat.
6. In the second heat the 13 judges will evaluate a different parameter with respect to the first one (Table 4)
7. The final result will be obtained from the sum of the scores of the two heats.
8. The 3 best couples will be awarded.

Table 4. Parameters for the two rounds (M = Male; F = Female; C = Couple)

	First round			Second round			
A	EP/M	Energy, performance	0,700	MM/F	Movement to Music	1,300	2
B	EP/F	Energy, performance	0,700	AQT/C	Partnering Skills	1,300	2
C	RER/C	Relativity, Esthetics	0,700	MM/M	Movement to Music	1,300	2
D	TS/C	Timing, Synchronization.	1,000	PBC/M	Posture, Balance, Coordination	1,000	2
E	IPC/M	Choreography and Presentation	0,800	QTM/F	Quality of Movement	1,200	2
F	IPC/F	Choreography and Presentation	0,800	QTM/M	Quality of Movement	1,200	2
G	PBC/M	Posture, Balance, Coordination	1,000	PBC/F	Posture, Balance, Coordination	1,000	2
H	PBC/F	Posture, Balance, Coordination	1,000	TS/C	Timing, Synchronization	1,000	2
I	QTM/F	Quality of Movement	1,200	IPC/M	Choreography and Presentation	0,800	2
L	QTM/M	Quality of Movement	1,200	IPC/F	Choreography and Presentation	0,800	2
M	MM/M	Movement to Music	1,300	RER/C	Relativity, Esthetics	0,700	2
N	MM/F	Movement to Music	1,300	EP/M	Energy, performance	0,700	2
O	AQT/C	Partnering Skills	1,300	EP/F	Energy, performance	0,700	2
		Total	13,00		Total	13,0	26,0

The assignment of the judgment parameters in the two heats foresees that:

Each judge will be evaluating 2 parameters. The sum of the relative coefficients is a constant, so that all the judges have the same weight in numerical terms.

The competition times foreseen by the DANCE GOLD system do not differ much from the current method,

despite the much more accurate evaluation that the judge must produce. Starting from the assumption of providing each judge with 12 seconds for each couple on the dance floor, 1'40" for each dance would imply having 8 heat couples on the dance floor. Actually, the most interesting solution would be having 12-couple heats with dances lasting 2'30". By lengthening the song's duration there would be several interesting effects: greater attention to the technical aspects of the performance as compared to the gymnastic ones; highlighting of the differences between the athletes on the dance floor; general slowing down of choreographies, that would thus be easier to judge. In any case, a competition judged with the DANCE GOLD system would be 20% longer than the present ones, but this value would in the long run be reduced, since the judgment method is absolute and it will always be possible to saturate the heats making small classes and different categories dance together.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The GOLD method has several advantages for all the actors of Sports Dance:

The athlete feels evaluated in detail, and not just selected with a cross. An analytical judgment is expressed on his/her performance, and this judgment accompanies and guides him in the continuation of his/her activity. All the athletes dance twice, so as not to discourage couples from traveling in case, as in the current system, they are eliminated in the first round. During the second heat even the athletes who obtained the lowest scores in the first one find themselves at the top of the ranking, until they are surpassed by the sum of the scores of the best couples.

Finally, the judge can fully express his/her technical abilities by analyzing and, for once, evaluating specific aspects of the sports performance. The focus on a single parameter and, above all, on a single subject on the dance floor, eliminates the ambiguity of selection/evaluation typical of the skating system. The problem of impartial judgment is not dealt with in a persecutory manner towards the judge, nor with systems based on chance, but through the "social" control over the work of the judge, which becomes transparent for everyone.

The public witnesses a competition with an easily understandable and, above all appealing progression; the use of systems to display judgments and rankings in real time would make competitions enjoyable even for non-experts and make them decidedly much more attractive for TV programs than the current system.

The role of the technician/coach has not been discussed so far, but even this figure would find its place in the conduct of the competition. As in other disciplines, technicians/coaches/trainers would be assigned an official role in the competition with the possibility of establishing themselves on the dance floor, giving technical indications or simply representing, in a transparent way, the athletes and the competing companies.

Copyright "Dance Gold System"

Dance Gold System is a method of judgment and evaluation for disciplines in which the performative activity is supported by a musical rhythm or when, in any case, there is an aesthetic and stylistic component to be highlighted. Dance Gold System is the only system that envisions the evaluation of a specific parameter and/or object of judgment by the single member of the jury.

Any method of judgment that requires every single member of the jury to evaluate different parameters and/or subjects during the execution is to be considered "Dance Gold System".

Davide Gabusi

Industrial Expert, FIDS Technician, Trainer, Examiner, Judge and National and International Competition Director, National Sports Director and Technical Coordinator, international Coordinator for some Nations, former organizer of sporting events. He has always been involved in Sports Dance.

He has trained and still coaches some of the most important athletes on the international scene. In 2011, after a careful analysis of what happens in other sports, he developed the DANCE GOLD system which is briefly described here.

**Leonardo Orazi**

Engineer and university researcher, international class competitor of Latin American dances, he currently competes for the San Marino Sports Dance Federation. He assisted Davide Gabusi in developing the mathematical aspects of the GOLD system.



UPDATES VERSION 2.0

Table. Marking scale

10	9,75	9,5	9,25	NC
9	8,75	8,5	8,25	8
7,5	7	6,5	6	5,5
5	4	3	2	1

The 1.0 version did not include these making scale and the button NC (Not classifiable) misses .

See below:

Table. Marking scale

10	9,5	9	8,5	8
7,5	7	6,5	6	5,5
5	4,5	4	3,5	3
2,5	2	1,5	1	0

AGGIORNAMENTO DELLA VERSIONE 3.0

Version 3.0 includes the dynamic ranking.

A projector, monitor or led wall, the classification is updated during the competition in real time. Judges, by entering their evaluations, cannot understand the value of the given score because it is multiplied for the multiplier. This allows the public to see the variations and the judges impartial, because they are not able to understand who and what is given by his/her judging colleagues and all the competitive units on the dance floor.