

AN OVERVIEW OF NAIDF SCORING

- Placement: Turn-out, foot placement; one foot in front of the other w/ turnout & crossover.
- Execution: Did the dancer do what they were supposed to do? Did s/he dance two (or three) full steps on both right and left feet? Did the dancer make a face when a mistake is made, alerting the judge to the mistake? Is the dancer executing their steps and the movements correctly?
- Technique: A dancer's technical skills (difficulty, ability to perform the skills), including turnout & posture. Arms relaxed yet straight, hands relaxed and at the dancer's sides. Is the dancer bobbing, weaving, struggling, hanging on for dear life, or dancing fluidly? Did s/he move smoothly from movement to movement? Do the movements flow from the dancer?
- Timing: Is the dancer on time to the music? Are things happening when they are supposed to be? Does what the dancer is doing make sense in terms of the music, the tempo, the steps? Is s/he dancing with or against the music?
- Presentation: Showmanship: happy faces, relaxed/poised bodies, enthusiasm, enjoyment, coordination, grace. Is the dancer's costume and hair neat? Do socks stay up? Does the dancer use the entire stage to showcase their dancing to its full potential without crowding the front or deliberately blocking other dancers?

BEGINNER/ ADVANCED BEGINNER: dancers must put one foot behind the other while dancing, hit all of the beats in each step, shift their weight between feet appropriately, keep their arms at their sides and relatively still, be up off their heels, keep their balance while dancing, and keep time with the music.

INTERMEDIATE: dancers must put one foot behind the other while dancing, turn their toes out (or, conversely, turn their heels in), hit all of the beats in each step, shift their weight between feet appropriately, point their toe tightly, never show the bottom of their feet, keep their arms at their sides and still (in a relaxed and natural manner), be up on their toes, keep their balance while dancing, keep time with the music, be enthusiastic (or at least not unhappy), dance with confidence, dance fluidly and not make faces indicating mistakes.

NOVICE: Feet must be turned out; placement is mandatory; cuts go to the hip; lifts go at least to the hip or higher, with the toe pointed; when bringing the foot from the back to the front the butt is kicked with the toe pointed (unless physically impossible or not part of the choreography); every beat of every step must be articulated; arms are relaxed, natural and motionless; dancers are fluid, confident and poised; balance is effortless and nearly perfect; every beat in every treble is audible; dancers are up on toes and heels are never dropped unless part of a step; the face, the shoulders and the body are always facing the same direction; legs and feet are together and remain so during rocks; trebles are smooth and flow with the music; timing is nearly perfect.

PRIZEWINNER: In soft shoe look for increasing tightness, sharpness and sparkle, and a confidence that shines from within. Hard shoe must move to the level of competency of soft shoe. Timing must be excellent, placement and turn out consistent, and the execution must be smooth and flowing, with each and every treble, toe, drum roll, rock, and movement clearly articulated and working with the music.

JR CHAMPION: In this level, dancers are polishing their skills and perfecting every move.

SR CHAMPION: These dancers are expected to be ready to compete at the World level, to perform on any stage, and to be flawless and have stage presence at all times.