

Competition Placement Guidelines

KickStart Country Events

To ensure fair competition and help dancers place themselves appropriately, these guidelines are designed to assist competitors in selecting the right division for couples competitions at KickStart Country events. Placement should be based on skill, experience, and participation in dance training and competitions.

By adhering to these guidelines, dancers can ensure they compete at a level that aligns with their skill and experience, fostering a positive and competitive environment for all.

[Take this quiz to see your recommended placement](#)

Disclaimer: These guidelines are not absolute, prescriptive, or definitive. They are intended as helpful recommendations to assist with self-placement and should not be viewed as rigid or final rules.

Divisions -

1. [Beginner/Novice](#)
 2. [Intermediate](#)
 3. [Advanced](#)
 4. [Professional Level](#)
 5. [Rhinestone \(50+\) Line Dance Division](#)
 6. [Showdown](#)
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SELF-PLACEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Competitors can take into consideration the following when evaluating where to place themselves.

1. **Competition History:**
 - **Bar Competitions:** Frequency of advancing to finals or placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.
 - **Workshop Competitions:** Consistency in reaching finals or podium finishes at competitions that follow a workshop with a Pro, where the judges are chosen and have a degree of judges training and dance skill

- **Small-to-Medium Event Competitions:** Consistency in reaching finals or podium finishes (e.g., Country Dance Party Tour, Dance XL, Shoreline, Country Swing, Forever Country Dance Fest).
 - **Large Event Competitions:** Success in finals or top placements at high-profile events (e.g., The Edge, Nashville Dance Fest, Northwest Dance Fest, YESSS).
2. **Training and Skill Development:**
- **Group Lessons:** Frequency of attendance and participation.
 - **Workshops:** Frequency of engaging in specialized training to enhance skills.
 - **Private Lessons:** Consistent frequency of lessons and one-on-one coaching for personalized feedback and improvement.
3. **Years of Experience:**
- The number of years dancing does **not** necessarily dictate skill level.
 - Advancement depends on demonstrated improvement through active training, constructive feedback, and competition experience. Simply participating in training or competitions is not enough—progress in technique, execution, and overall dance ability must be evident over time.
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PLACEMENT GUIDELINES

Below are general guidelines to help you determine the most suitable division, building on the principles outlined in the previous section.

Beginner/Novice

- New to competitions or with minimal training.
- Participate in local / bar competitions without regular top placements or making finals

Intermediate

- Dancers consistently making finals or placing in bar competitions and small events in beg/intermediate.
- Regularly taking group lessons and workshops.
- Beginning to invest in private lessons for advanced skill development.

Advanced

- Competitors frequently placing in the top 3 at medium-sized events or reaching finals at large events in inter/adv divisions.
- Regular and intensive training, including group lessons, workshops, and private coaching.
- Demonstrates polished technique and strong understanding of dance fundamentals.

Professional

- Reserved for high-level dancers who demonstrate exceptional skill, technique, and performance ability. This division includes:
 - **Instructors:** Individuals actively teaching the relevant dance style at a high standard of quality. Teaching alone does not qualify for Professional Level; the dancer must also exhibit competitive-level execution of the style.
 - **Paid Professionals:** Those compensated for teaching or performing, provided their skills are competitive with other dancers at the highest levels.
 - **High-Level Competitors:** Dancers with consistent top placements at large events in advanced+ categories and have proven mastery of the dance style.
 - This division is for individuals who exemplify professionalism in both their teaching and dancing abilities, ensuring they set a strong example within the competitive community.

Rhinestone Line Dance Division

- This division is specifically designed for dancers aged 50 and older, providing a supportive and empowering space to showcase their skills and passion for line dancing.

Partner Showdown and Team Showdown Divisions

- These are open divisions, welcoming dancers of all levels to participate. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned pro, these divisions focus on creativity, performance, and connection, providing an inclusive platform for dancers to showcase their unique styles and teamwork.