



USA Dance DanceSport Council
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Invigilation at USA Dance Competitions

In its continued efforts to give every athlete the same advantages and opportunities in competition, USA Dance has taken a special interest in invigilating sanctioned closed syllabus events. Invigilation is being watchful or observant of athletes dancing figures out of category, timing, or position thereby gaining an advantage over the competitors in their field. With the understanding that Invigilation begins with the instructor or coach providing choreography for a specific level of competition, such as Bronze, Silver, or Gold, the responsibility remains with the athlete, therefore this document is being sent to all amateur competitors and professional members of USA Dance.

Based upon the Invigilation Forms collected from USA Dance Nationals and the various NQE's the following general statements can be made:

- Start in the appropriate hold and position for the syllabus figure being danced. No choreographed entrances are allowed in any of the dance categories.
- All figures must be danced with the appropriate timing.
- All figures must be danced with the appropriate hold and position.
- All figures must be danced using precedes and follows outlined in the manuals.
- The rule of thumb should be "When in doubt....leave it out!"

For the International Standard and Latin dances, USA Dance only recognizes the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance "The Ballroom Technique", for Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, and Quickstep; and the "Latin American Cha Cha Cha", "Latin American Samba", "Latin American Rumba", "Latin American Paso Doble", and "Latin American Jive" manuals. The precedes, follows, timing, hold and positions, may be found in these manuals. These manuals and DVD's may be purchased at www.usistd.org.

The American Smooth and Rhythm present more of a challenge in that there are many dance organizations that have their own unique figures for the American Style dances. USA Dance has tried to incorporate the most common figures used throughout the various schools. However, each school has figures that are not allowed and covered by the Restrictions listed in the Appendix 8 of the USA DanceSport Rulebook.

Common Syllabus Violations according to the Dance and Level

The following are the most common syllabus infractions according to the Invigilation Forms collected from USA Dance Nationals and various National Qualifying Events.

International Cha Cha Cha

Bronze Level Violations

Slip Chasses, Hip Twist Chasses, and Ronde Chasses danced by the man at the Bronze Level was the most reported violation. All three of these Cha Cha Cha Chasse alternatives are only allowed at the Silver Level or above. The only alternative to the Compact Chasse at the Bronze Level is on 3-5 of Alemana and Hockety Stick, Man may dance a small step to side LF, transfer weight to RF, and close LF to RF (Count '4 and 1'). (This may be found on page 10 of the ISTD Latin American Cha Cha Cha manual.)

Open Hip Twist is a Silver Level figure and cannot be danced at the Bronze Level. This was also reported in the International Rumba, and was second in the most violations reported.

Silver Level Violations

Syncopated Basic, dancing a Basic Movement in place using the timing of 4&1, 2&3, 4&1. This is not allowed at any syllabus level.

Continuous Lock, dancing a lock step using the timing of 2&3&4&1 is not allowed in any syllabus level.

Side by Side Position, on the same foot is only allowed at Gold level.

Gold Level Violations

Cuban Breaks, the man cannot hold in place without dancing while leading Lady to dance Cuban Breaks. This is not allowed at any syllabus level.

Runaway Chasse, according to the technique book, the Runaway Chasse is something the Lady dances going into Fan Position only. (This may be found on page 13 of the ISTD Latin American Cha Cha Cha manual.) The name Runaway Chasse was used by the majority of the Invigilators to describe the couple dancing continuous lock steps in Tandem Position using the timing 2&3&4&1 or any other syncopated timing. This is not allowed at any syllabus level.

Lady's Underarm on 4&1 to New York, is not allowed in the International Syllabus, unless it is used in a Hip Twist Spiral starting from a Closed Position. This is a common figure in the American Rhythm, with the couple dancing a Cross Body Lead into a Lady's underarm turn. In the International Cha Cha Cha Syllabus, a Fan Variation is allowed in Silver or above, a similar figure to the Cross Body Lead, however the Lady is not allowed to dance an Underarm Turn on 4&1.

International Rumba

Bronze Level Violations

Open Hip Twist and Curl, are Silver Level figures and cannot be danced at the Bronze Level. The figure Fan may be danced from a Closed or Open Position however the Lady dances left forward, right foot back having turned 1/4 left, left foot back into Fan Position.

Aida and Rope Spinning are Silver Level figures and not allowed at the Bronze Level.

Silver Level Violations

Opening Outs using the timing of 2&3 4&1 are not allowed at any syllabus level.

Sliding Doors and Fencing are Gold Level figures and not allowed in Silver.

Aida, man is not allowed to spiral with the lady as an entry. Another common violation was lady's underarm turn as an immediate exit. The three Silver exits are listed on page 87 of the Latin American Rumba Manual.

Gold Level Violations

Sliding Doors had the third highest syllabus infractions. The lady may not dance an underarm turn during the Sliding Door action. Only Side or Back Cucarachas may be danced during the figure. The figure must be danced within hold. Solo work is not allowed at syllabus level.

Same Foot Figures, are not allowed at syllabus level. There are no foot changes for the man allowed at the syllabus level.

International Samba

Bronze Level Violations

Hesitation Volta is a Gold Level figure and not allowed in the Bronze Syllabus.

Corta Jaca at the Bronze Level may only be danced with the man's right foot forward for SQQQQQQ. Only at the Silver Level or above may the couple dance both actions for SQQQQQQ SQQQQQQ.

Plait and Rolling Off the Arm are Silver Level figures and may not be danced at the Bronze Level.

Silver Level Violations

Reverse Turns - Leading the lady to dance an underarm turn during a Reverse Turn may not be danced at any syllabus level.

Samba Locks, 3 Step Turns, Cruzados Walks and Locks, are allowed only at Gold Level.

Gold Level Violations

Reverse Rolls with a right to right hand hold above the heads or in Shadow Position are not allowed at any syllabus level.

Promenade to Counter Promenade Runs may not be danced with right hand to right hand holds. Lady is not allowed to dance an underarm turn during the figure. A Three Step Turn may be used as an exit only for the figure.

Grapevines or Zig Zags are not allowed in the Samba Syllabus.

Continuous Locks may not be danced in the Samba Syllabus.

International Jive

Bronze Level Violations

Hip Bump must be danced with hold. No open work is allowed at the Syllabus level.

Mooch precedes do NOT include lady's underarm turn using right to right hand hold. The Mooch must be danced with hold and using the timing in the Latin American Jive manual.

Tap on the Shoulder is not a figure in the International Jive. This is an American Rhythm Swing figure that is often confused with the Gold Level Jive figure referred to as Chugging. (Chugging discussed in the Gold Level Violations.)

Silver Level Violations

Simple Spin - the man may not spin with the Lady during the Simple Spin at any level of syllabus. This violation was

Flicks & Break is a Gold level figure and may not be danced in Silver or Bronze.

Chicken Walks is a Gold level figure and may not be danced in Silver or Bronze.

Toe Heel Swivels is a Gold level figure and may not be danced in Silver or Bronze.

Gold Level Violations

Chugging – this is a Jive figure that turns to the left. This is often confused with an American Rhythm figure that rotates to the right. See Tap on the Shoulder in the Jive Bronze Violations.

International Waltz

Bronze Level Violations

Back Lock is the only recognized locking action at the Bronze Level. The Back Lock refers to the man's lock while moving backwards. The man is not allowed to dance a forward lock in any of the International Waltz levels.

Silver Level Violations

Weaves using the chasses or locks are not allowed at any syllabus level.

Turning Lock to the Right is a Gold Level figure.

Gold Level Violations

Side Locks may not be used at any syllabus level of Waltz.

International Tango

Bronze Level Violations

Four Step Change is a Silver Level figure.

Silver Level Violations

Chasses are not allowed at the Bronze or Silver Level in International Tango.

Gold Level Violations

Continuous Viennese Crosses – are not allowed at any syllabus level in International Tango.
Locks are not allowed at any syllabus level in International Tango.

International Foxtrot

Silver Level Violations

Double Reverse Spin – is not a syllabus figure in Foxtrot.

Progressive Chasse to the Right – is not a syllabus figure in Foxtrot.

Curved Feather - is a Gold syllabus figure and not allowed in Silver or Bronze.

Gold Level Violations

Extended Weave – is not a syllabus figure.

Hover Cross Variations– are not allowed. The figure must be danced as stated in The Ballroom Technique manual.

International Quickstep

Bronze Level Violations

Four Quick Run – is a Silver level figure.

Silver Level Violations

Double Locks – The Forward Lock may follow a Forward Lock, but you must dance the proper timing of SQQS. Dancing locks with alternative timing is not allowed at any syllabus level.

American Rhythm Cha Cha

Bronze Level Violations

Double Rock Back – a double rock back action occurring on 2 3 4 1 would not be allowed. This is addressed under Restrictions – Partners must use basic Cha Cha timing; and No guapacha or other timing changes allowed.

Man's Underarm Turn – is not listed as an approved figure and therefore would be considered original choreography.

American Rhythm East Coast Swing

Bronze Level Violations

High Kicking Action – is not allowed. Under Restrictions it lists no hopping, skipping, or jumping actions are allowed; and both feet must remain close to the floor at all times.

Cuddle Danced with a Fake – is not allowed. Under Restrictions it lists no foot changes or fakes, partners must always remain on the opposite foot.

Silver Level Violations

Throwaway with Lady's Jump – is not allowed. Under restrictions it lists no jumps.

American Smooth Waltz

Bronze Level Violations

Apart Turns – are not allowed. Under restrictions it lists Partners may not completely separate.

Twinkles using Continuity Style- are not allowed. Under restrictions it lists no continuity style in Bronze Waltz, feet must be closed on three except on allowed figures.

Develope's – are not allowed. Under restrictions it lists no picture lines or figures.

American Smooth Foxtrot

Bronze Level Violations

Twinkles using Continuity Style- are not allowed. Under restrictions it lists no continuity style in Bronze Waltz, feet must be closed on three except on allowed figures.

Chasse from Promenade turning back to Closed Position – is not allowed. The Chasse must end in Promenade Position.

Gold Level Violations

More than 8 bars of music danced in Open Position- Under restrictions it says no more than 8 measures of music may be danced in Open, Side by Side, or Shadow Position, before returning to a Promenade or

Closed Dance Position for at least 2 measures of music.



Submitted by Wayne Crowder

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