

## Competition Rules

### What is considered an AMATEUR COUPLE?

An Amateur couple is considered to be a couple where both participants are Amateur Dancers. An Amateur Dancer is a person for which dancing is recreational and who has not received financial gain from teaching and/or performing.

Special note: If you are part of a professional performance team, but have never received financial compensation for teaching, assisting or performing, you have the right to compete as an Amateur dancer.

### Objective

The objective of this competition is for the competitors (couples), to showcase their interpretation of Bachata music through their dance representation without emphasizing on tricks or dips. In other words, the tricks should not be the most important part of your routine.

### PRELIMINARY ROUNDS- Location & Time TBA

- There is no placement structure in the preliminary round. Only qualifying competitors advancing to the finals will be announced.
- Preliminary warm up rounds for all divisions are 1.5 - 2.0 minutes and competitors will dance to the DJ's pre selected music. There is no routine or choreography required for the warm up round.
- Each couple will then perform their freestyle (non-choreographed routine) one by one to a song selected by the DJ (all couples will dance to the same song one-by-one).
- Performing a choreographed routine will result in immediate disqualification from the competition.
- You must compete throughout the competition with your original partner, you may not change partners once qualified.
- Absolutely no props allowed.
- Out-of-town couples may compete on Finals night.
- Limit of 4 tricks (maximum).

Please refer to "Trick" definition later in this document.

## Competition Rules

**FINALS** - 2012 Toronto Salsa Festival - Estonian House – Friday, April 6, 2012

- ROUTINE OR CHOREOGRAPHY REQUIRED
- All contestants must check in by 4:00pm sharp and submit music
- All contestants in the Bachata Couples category will dance together to a warm-up song chosen by the DJ (not exceeding 1:30 minutes). Each couple will then present their choreographed routine using their choice of music. Routine must be no longer than 2:00 minutes in length.
- Song chosen for the finals must be 90% Bachata = max 12 seconds of non-Bachata content
- Only CD's will be accepted and must be clearly labeled with participants' names and category. There must be ONE SINGLE TRACK on the CD!
- Costumes will contribute to the overall presentation score, and are highly suggested. Absolutely no jeans or street-wear allowed for the Final Competition.

There will be a panel of 4-6 local and international judges. All of whom have several years of experience teaching, performing and/or competing.

### JUDGING CRITERIA

Choreographed routines will be judged by the following criteria:

A. TIMING 20 %

Was the correct rhythm maintained throughout the routine? Were syncopations deliberate and within the acceptable deviations of timing for the dance?

B. TECHNIQUE 20 %

Was the technique reflected through balance, placement and lines? Partners must reflect adequate Latin/Bachata Motion and 'Isolations' as designated by the dance style. Movement should appear to be effortless. These are all reflections of good dance technique.

C. DIFFICULTY 10 %

What was the level of skill used in the turns used in the routine? Were there single footed and multiple turns incorporated? Were spins performed by both dancers equally or only one? How intricate were the shines? Were there any movements in the choreography requiring exceptional balance, flexibility or strength? Were all movements attempted successfully executed?

D. CONNECTION & PARTNERING SKILLS 10%

How well did the couple work together as a team? Was there an actual Lead/Follow relationship established? How synchronized was the team during side-by-side movement, shines or turn patterns?

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### E. CHOREOGRAPHY 10%

How well put together was the performance? Did the routine flow easily from one movement to the next?  
How musical was it? Did the routine reflect the music chosen?

### F. ORIGINALITY 10%

Was there something clever or new that was part of the routine?

### G. APPEARANCE 10%

Costumes are important, including make-up, accessories, shoes, etc. No Jeans allowed as costumes. Points will be deducted. Suggestions: tasteful, colorful professional costumes. Ladies: If wearing skirts or dresses please wear proper dance leggings / tights / fishnets. Gentlemen: socks with costumes when wearing long pants and shoes are suggested.

### I. SHOWMANSHIP 10%

How professional and polished did the couple appear to be? Did they project to the audience and capture their attention?

### ADDITIONAL RULES & TIPS FOR COMPETITORS

- There will be absolutely no props allowed.
- There will be a maximum of four (4) dips, lifts or tricks allowed.

### TRICKS, LIFTS, DIPS AND DROPS:

Lifts, Cartwheels or Any Similar Lifts or Tricks are permitted. Lifts are defined as any assisted movement whereby any partner is carried off the floor. Whether the feet are 2 inches off the floor or 10 feet, this type of assisted movement will still be considered a lift or trick.

Tricks and trick combinations are expected to remain within the confines of Bachata timing and/or musicality of the routine.

### TRICK COMBINATIONS - MULTIPLE POSITIONS:

Trick Combinations are allowed but no more than 4 Total Positions may be achieved in any combination. However, there cannot be any stops during the combinations. Positions must consistently flow from one to the next, with no stops. If there is a stop, each position will be counted as a separate trick, and will count toward the 4 trick limit. No trick or trick combination can last more than two 8-counts (4 measures).

### TURNS AND CONTINUOUS TURNS:

All turns and preparations for turns must maintain basic timing. Multiple/Continuous turns such as Stationary Multiple Turns, Touch and Go or 'Pot Stirrer/Corkscrew' style turns cannot last longer than two 8-counts (4 measures).

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### **STOPS /FREEZES:**

Dancers cannot maintain an extended Stop or Freeze position for more than one 8-count (2 measures).  
Extended Stops or Freezes cannot happen more than two times in the routine

### **CONTENT AND CHOREOGRAPHY:**

Routines must ideally reflect the following

- Turn Patterns (which will be judged on level of difficulty and/or originality)
- Open Shines, Footwork, Floor-Craft (proper usage of the stage space)
- Tricks or Trick Combinations appropriate for this division.
- Routines should show Originality, or something unique to showcase the couple

### **SHINES/FOOTWORK:**

Shines or separation from partner must not exceed 30 seconds.

### **POINTS DEDUCTIONS:**

- Deviation from min and max routine time (5 points )
- Additional tricks (5 points per incident)
- Music (non-Bachata) (5 points for every 30 seconds of music)
- Separation from partner longer than 30 seconds (5 points)

\* All decisions are final and are to be determined by the Head Judge

To register in to compete in this division, please visit [www.TorontoSalsaFest.com](http://www.TorontoSalsaFest.com)

For further inquiries pertaining to competition rules above please contact Head Judge Paula Videla of Dance To Live Studio via e-mail only [info@dancetolivestudio.com](mailto:info@dancetolivestudio.com)