

# RELATIVE PLACEMENT SCORING SYSTEM

## Introduction

The Relative Placement Scoring system has been devised to provide a fair and accurate method of evaluating the subjective opinions of judges scoring a dance contest. It is based on several years of experimentation and development, and is currently used for virtually all of the major dance contests around the world.

The system incorporates two features that make it uniquely suitable for use in subjective judging situations. Since a dance performance is very difficult to accurately quantify, the judges “score” contestants by ranking the contestants relative to one another. If a couple is the only couple in a division, judges have the option to place the couple other than first, based on division standards. This ensures the selection of winners derives from a consensus of the judges. In this way, one high or low judge is effectively disregarded. This has proven especially useful in avoiding bias or favoritism from a judge.

The system described in these rules is normally used with seven judges. Any number of judges may be employed, although an odd number is best to reduce the possibility of ties. Although seemingly complex, the system consists of a series of simple rules that can be applied either manually or by computer. The use of a computer is advised, both because of the reduced error potential and because it facilitates the use of statistical techniques.

## Rule 1 – Number of Judges.

Each contest shall have five judges.

## Rule 2 – Judging Majority.

A judging majority shall consist of an **absolute** majority.

<u>Number of Judges</u>	<u>Number for Majority</u>
7	4
5	3

Rule 3.0 – Judges’ Placements.

3.1	A judge must give each couple, line dancer, or team a different placement.
3.2	A judge must place all contestants. (Example: If there are three line dancers, then the judge will place one dancer in 1 <sup>st</sup> , one dancer in 2 <sup>nd</sup> , and one dancer in 3 <sup>rd</sup> ).

Note: To make it easier to type these rules, from this point forward, competitors shall be referred to as a “couple.” However, this same system applies to teams and to line dancers as well.

Rule 4.0 – General Guidelines.

4.1	Final places must be awarded to all couples having a majority of placements for the position under review before any of the remaining couples can be considered.
4.2	When a final place has been allocated, draw a line across the remaining place columns for the couple receiving the placement.
4.3	During the placement process, a placement column must never be skipped for the unplaced couples.
4.4	When summing relative placements at a particular level, use only the relative placements that form the majority at that level to create the sum.

Rule 5 – Allocation of Positions – Simple Case.

The winner of a particular contest is the couple who is placed first by an **absolute** majority of the judges. The couple who is placed second or better by an absolute majority of the judges receives second place. The remaining positions are allocated in a similar manner.

Example:

Couple Number	Judges Placements					Total Relative Placements						Final Place
	A	B	C	D	E	1-1	1-2	1-3	1-4	1-5	1-6	
1	1	5	1	1	2	3					?	1
2	2	2	5	4	1	1	3				?	2
3	3	3	3	2	3	-	1	5			?	3
4	4	4	2	3	4	-	1	2	5		?	4
5	5	1	4	5	5	1	1	1	2	5	?	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	5	6

Rule 6 – More Than One Couple Has a Majority for the Same Position

The couple with the largest majority shall be allocated the position under review and the couple with the next largest majority, the following position. This process continues for as many couples as have a majority for the position under review.

Example:

Couple Number	Judges Placements					Total Relative Placements						Final Place
	A	B	C	D	E	1-1	1-2	1-3	1-4	1-5	1-6	
1	1	1	1	4	4	3					?	1
2	2	2	2	1	1	2	4				?	2
3	3	5	5	2	2	-	3				?	3
4	4	3	4	5	3	-	-	2	4		?	4
5	5	4	3	3	5	-	-	2	3		?	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	5	6

Rule 7 – Two or More Couples Have an Equal Majority.

7.1 If such majorities are equal, then the couple with the lowest total sum of the placements that form the majority shall determine the allocation of the position under review.

Couple Number	Judges Placements					Total Relative Placements						Final Place
	A	B	C	D	E	1-1	1-2	1-3	1-4	1-5	1-6	
1	1	1	1	5	5	3					?	1
2	2	2	5	1	4	1	3(5)				?	2
3	5	5	2	2	2	-	3(6)				?	3
4	3	3	4	6	1	1	1	3(7)			?	4
5	4	4	3	3	3	-	-	3(9)			?	5
6	6	6	6	4	6	-	-	1	1	1	5	6

The numbers in parenthesis are the sum of the relative placements at that point.

Tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Couple No. 2:  $1 + 2 + 2 = 5$  (receives 2<sup>nd</sup> place)

Couple No. 3:  $2 + 2 + 2 = 6$  (receives 3<sup>rd</sup> place)

Tie for 4<sup>th</sup> place: Couple No. 4:  $1 + 3 + 3 = 7$  (receives 4<sup>th</sup> place)

Couple No. 5:  $3 + 3 + 3 = 9$  (receives 5<sup>th</sup> place)

7.2 If the numeric sums of placements are equal, the next lower place or places, for only the couples concerned, must be included until a majority is reached.

Couple Number	Judges Placements					Total Relative Placements						Final Place
	A	B	C	D	E	1-1	1-2	1-3	1-4	1-5	1-6	
1	2	1	5	1	1	3					?	1
2	1	2	2	5	5	1	3(5)	3(5)	3(5)		?	2
3	5	6	1	2	2	3	3(5)	3(5)	3(5)		?	3
4	3	3	3	3	6	-	-	4			?	4
5	4	4	4	6	4	-	-	-	4		?	5
6	6	5	6	4	3	-	-	1	2	3	?	6

Note the use of Rule 7.1 where both couples 2 and 3 reached a majority position at the 1-2 level. Both couples have an equal majority and an equal sum of placements. Rule 7.2 states that the next lower position column **FOR ONLY THE COUPLES INVOLVED** will be considered. If, by mistake, all were included in the next evaluation, couple 4 would have received second place in error.

Rule 8 – No Couple Receives a Majority for the Positions Under Review.

If no couple receives a majority of “firsts,” then the winner is the couple that is placed “second or higher” by a majority of the judges. If no couple receives a majority of “second or higher” placings, then the “third and higher” and, if necessary, subsequently lower place columns must be included, subject to Rules 6, 7.1, and 7.2.

Couple Number	Judges Placements					Total Relative Placements						Final Place
	A	B	C	D	E	1-1	1-2	1-3	1-4	1-5	1-6	
1	1	1	3	2	3	2	3				?	1
2	6	5	4	1	1	2	2	2	3(6)		?	2
3	2	4	1	5	5	1	2	2	3(7)		?	3
4	4	2	5	6	2	-	2	2	3(8)		?	4
5	5	6	2	3	4	-	1	2	3(9)		?	5
6	3	3	6	4	6	-	-	2	3(10)		?	6