

INTERNATIONAL BATON TWIRLING FEDERATION

**WORLD FREESTYLE
& RHYTHMIC TWIRL
CHAMPIONSHIP
& NATIONS CUP**

RULES & REGULATIONS



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APPENDIX

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1.0 AGE DIVISIONS

All ages are from January 1 through to December 31 of the competition year.

FREESTYLE SOLO AND RHYTHMIC TWIRL:	
Junior Women	Female athletes who will be 12 years of age to 17 years of age
Senior Women	Female athletes who will be 18 years of age or older
Junior Men	Male athletes who will be 12 years of age to 17 years of age
Senior Men	Male athletes who will be 18 years of age or older
Note: An athlete may not compete in an age classification outside of his/her age group (i.e. - a junior athlete may not compete in a senior category, nor may a senior athlete compete in a junior category).	

FREESTYLE PAIR:	
Junior Pair	2 members. Athletes who will be 12 years of age to 17 years of age. Both athletes must be Junior age.
Senior Pair	2 members. Athletes who will be 18 years of age or older. Exception: A junior athlete may compete in a senior pair If the pair consists of 1 Junior and 1 Senior, they compete as Senior.
Note: A pair may consist of 2 female athletes, 1 male and 1 female or 2 male athletes. One junior athlete may compete in a senior pair. A Junior athlete may not compete in both the Junior and Senior Pair divisions with a different pair partner at the championship.	

FREESTYLE TEAM:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A team will consist of a minimum of six (6) members and a maximum of eight (8) members and may allocate up to two alternate members. • The team may consist of members of both sexes, if so desired. • World Freestyle Team - Minimum age of members is 12 years. There is no Maximum age limit of team members. • Nations Cup Level A Freestyle Team Junior - Minimum age of members is 12 years. Maximum age of all members is 17 years. • Nations Cup Level A Freestyle Team Senior - Any member is 18 years or older. There is no maximum age limit. Senior teams may include members of junior age.

2.0 ALLOCATION OF ATHLETE ENTRIES PER COUNTRY:

FREESTYLE SOLO & RHYTHMIC TWIRL COMPETITION:

- Each Country may send up to three (3) individual athletes in each division; Junior and Senior, Men and Women, per discipline (i.e.: 3 Freestyle Solo and 3 Rhythmic Twirl).
- The same athlete may not compete in both Rhythmic Twirl and Freestyle Solo.

FREESTYLE PAIR COMPETITION:

- Each Country may send one (1) competing Freestyle Pair per division (Junior/Senior)

FREESTYLE TEAM COMPETITION:

- Each Country may send one (1) competing team (one division)

NATIONS CUP LEVEL A FREESTYLE TEAM COMPETITION:

- Each Country may send one (1) Junior Freestyle Team AND one (1) Senior Freestyle Team for the Nations Cup.

2.1 ALTERNATES/RESERVES

FREESTYLE SOLO & RHYTHMIC TWIRL COMPETITION

Each country may have one (1) alternate for each discipline, for women and men, for each age group/division.

Any replacement must happen up to the evening prior to the start of the first round of competition and must be reported to the competition director immediately to notify tabulation. Failure to report the replacement will result in disqualification. No changes may be made after the competition begins.

FREESTYLE PAIR

- One (1) alternate permitted per pair - Junior and Senior divisions.
- Exception: A mixed pair – (i.e.: one male and female) will be allowed to have two (2) alternates (*one male and one female*) but only one alternate member may be replaced.
- Although a junior athlete may compete in a Senior Pair, alternates for a senior pair must be Senior.
- Only one pair member may be replaced between rounds.
- The pair must report any membership change to the Competition Director who will then inform the IBTF President, Technical & Judges Director, and Tabulation Director prior to the start of the next round. The alternate can replace one pair member between the rounds.

FREESTYLE TEAM

- Teams - there will be NO reserve team/s; however, each country may have alternate members as part of the team. The maximum number of alternates is two (2) per team.
- Teams may not add members to the original number of members after the preliminary round (except if one member did not compete for first aid reasons)
- Teams are allowed to compete with fewer members than the original number of members after the preliminary round if a member is injured or becomes ill.
- The team must report any membership change to the Competition Director who will then inform the IBTF President, Technical & Judges Director, and Tabulation Director prior to the start of the next round. The alternates can replace team members between the rounds.

3.0 COMPETITION ENTRY FEES:

Fees for competition entry will be set and announced annually by the International Baton Twirling Federation Board.

Entry Fees must be paid by all alternates/reserves.

4.0 FREESTYLE SOLO COMPETITION

The athlete will use only one baton. Entry on to the floor is from the judges' left. Starting position may be anywhere on the floor. Exit from the floor must be to the judges' right.

The FREESTYLE SOLO event is the interpretive performance of an athlete to music of their choice, encompassing the 3 twirl modes, all embedded in a program that displays the highest level of achieved technical and artistic skills of the athlete.

GUIDELINES FOR FREESTYLE SOLO:

A Freestyle program should be created following the requests of the Code of Points and it will be judged following the New Judging System.

The 6 (Junior) and 7 (Senior) required elements (Aerials and Rolls) for the Technical score of a Freestyle solo are:

Aerials (One aerial must be horizontal)

- 1 travelling complex
- 1 stationary complex
- 1 pure spin
- Junior: 1 free choice; Senior: 2 free choice

2 Rolls sections:

- 1 Vertical rolls series
- 1 horizontal rolls series

HOW TO DECLARE THE REQUIRED ELEMENTS:

Before the competition the coach will prepare and send a document, called "Fiche", where they will declare the elements that the athlete will present as their required elements in the Freestyle Solo routine.

The fiche will be filled in via an online form provided by the IBTF. The presentation of the fiche must be completed no later than 10 days before the competition. It will not be possible to make changes/edits after the submission deadline.

For each of the **aerials** the coach will provide the:

- Type of Aerials (travelling complex (TC)/stationary complex (SC)/pure spins(S)/Free)
- Description of the type of release and its Base Value, selected from the Aerials "Release Chart"
- Descriptions of each element executed under the toss and their Base Values, selected from the "Body Movements Chart"
- Description of the type of catch and its Base Value, selected from the Aerials "Catches Chart"

The aerials need to be **declared in the same order** they will be executed during the freestyle routine.

For the vertical and horizontal **rolls** series the coach will provide:

- The code and description of the type of entrance and its Base Value, selected from the “Rolls Entrance and Exit Chart”
- The codes and descriptions of the rolls that will contribute to the definition of the Base Value of the roll combination, selected from the “Rolls Chart” (Appendix E)
 - For some vertical rolls combinations, only Two rolls are required to get the roll combination value. If the coach declares three rolls, only the first two will be considered by the technical specialist panel for the validation of the combination, the third one will be discarded.
 - For some horizontal rolls combinations, only one roll is required to determine the roll combination value. If the coach declares two or three rolls, only the first one will be considered by the technical specialist panel for the validation of the combination, the second and third ones will be discarded.
 - For some horizontal rolls combinations, only two rolls are required to determine the roll combination value. If the coach declares three rolls, only the first two will be considered by the technical specialist panel for the validation of the combination, the third one will be discarded
- The code and description of the type of exit and its Base Value, selected from the “Rolls Entrance and Exit Chart”

For each of the required elements the coach will also provide the overall order of execution among the six (Jr) or seven (Sr) elements to facilitate the control of the judges during the execution of the routine.

All detailed instructions are published in the IBTF Judges Manual section on Freestyle Solo. The manual can be purchased on IBTF's TwirLED portal.

The IBTF Judges Manual covers the judging methodologies for all IBTF disciplines.

You must log in to TwirLED at <https://twirled.ibtf-batontwirling.org>. An account is required. To obtain an account, email your request to: education@ibtf-batontwirling.org with your Name, Country and email address.

SCORING:

The individual Freestyle Solo event score is the sum of two sub-scores:

- Technical score
- Program Components score

See ‘Tabulation Rules’ for further information

5.0 RHYTHMIC TWIRL COMPETITION

The athlete will use only one baton. Entry onto the floor is from the judges' left. Starting position may be anywhere on the floor. Exit from the floor must be to the judges' right.

GUIDELINES FOR CONSTRUCTING A RHYTHMIC TWIRL:

This event is the ultimate simultaneous blend of all one baton twirling skills and body/dance disciplines set to music of personal choice, utilizing the full floor. The event focus should be:

- A. Simultaneous blending of baton and body with excellence of technique
- B. Musical interpretation and execution
- C. Representation of the 3 twirl modes (rolls, aerials & contact material) both stationary and moving in an artistically logical program

SCORING:

Placements are determined using the place points ordinal system. See *'Tabulation Rules'*. The Rhythmic Twirl is judged on a one hundred (100) point scale, judged on five (5) captions.

1) Choreography (20 points)

This caption focuses on the composition of the program that reflects the choreographer's design, utilizing baton and body elements simultaneously blended to create a logical and impressive performance, showcasing the athlete's skills in all modes of twirling, combined with movement and dance elements.

2) Content (20 points)

This caption focuses on the variety and difficulty of the baton and body elements demonstrated throughout the program including aerials in both stationary sections and travel complex, contact/connecting material and rolls and unique elements. It also considers the variety and difficulty of the chosen body work used to define the program.

3) Twirl Technique (20 points)

This caption evaluates the technical proficiency and excellence of baton handling created through items such as control, rapidity, follow through, baton pattern and smoothness.

4) Dance Technique (20 points)

This caption evaluates proper technical proficiency of body movements while maintaining balance, style, rhythm, timing and use of musical phrasing during performance. Awareness of turnout, posture, leg and arm lines, toe point, balance and control are some of the key considerations. All forms of dance are acceptable when the proper technique for the chosen style is present.

5) Artistic Presentation / Showmanship (20 points)

This caption focuses on the performance qualities and expression used to convey the artistic theme of the program by the performer. Full body interpretation is the ideal, regardless of the style chosen.

PENALTIES:

Drop	Total Loss of the Baton	1.0 point per drop
Fall	Full loss of body control resulting in a fall	1.0 point per fall
Acrobatics*	None allowed	10.0 point per violation

All other errors including incomplete catches, breaks, slips and off pattern are deductions reflected in the appropriate captions gross score.

***ACROBATICS:**

Acrobatics are **not allowed** in Rhythmic Twirl. They are considered a Content Restriction and are subject to a 10-point penalty per content restriction infraction per judge.

A movement will be considered acrobatic in a baton twirling program when the intent of the movement is for both feet to leave the floor, travel over the head and land on the floor on the opposite side, either one at a time or both feet at the same time. This applies when the move is executed on:

- the hand(s) (e.g., a cartwheel done on the hand(s))
- the arm(s) (e.g., a cartwheel done on the forearm(s))
- the head (e.g., a headstand)
- in the air with the support of another person's body (e.g., a cartwheel done while supporting the body on another person)

Typical examples are front or back walkovers, cartwheels, somersaults etc. Dance oriented floor moves such as fish flops are permitted.

Definition of an Aerial Acrobatic Move

A body movement in which the athlete turns completely over in the air without being supported or touching hands on the floor, Examples:

- In the air without support of the body (e.g., side aerial; back flip; aerial walkover)

NOTE: A horizontal butterfly (where the feet do not go over your head) is not considered an aerial acrobatic move. It is considered a major body movement.

6.0 FREESTYLE PAIR COMPETITION

The pair will use only two batons. Entry onto the floor is from the judges' left. Starting position may be anywhere on the floor. Exit from the floor must be to the judges' right.

The Pair event is a combination of the freestyle and team concept. Pair members are expected to conform not only to the music and to the set standards of correct technique, but also to conform to each other. This includes the maintenance of form and geometric intention through the awareness of position in stationery as well as moving forms. Time must be spent twirling synchronically while displaying variety and difficulty of movement together. A pair is expected to exhibit variety in the exchange work with patterns, planes, levels, ranges paths, modes, releases, catches, body work, number of members involved, number of batons involved (multiple or single), stationary and moving. Often there will be separate responsibilities involved that place a high degree of mental demand on the members which requires them to adapt to varying circumstances with a minimum of visual orientation to the other member.

SCORING FOR FREESTYLE PAIR:

A Pair / Team is judged on a one hundred (100) point scale worth:

30 points for Content

30 points for Precision and Unison

40 points for General Effect

Freestyle Pairs will be judged using the Place Point Ordinal system.
See '*Tabulation Rules*'.

7.0 FREESTYLE TEAM COMPETITION

Each member will use one baton. Entry onto the floor is from the judges' left. Starting position may be anywhere on the floor. Exit from the floor must be to the judges' right.

A Freestyle Team routine will be a mixture of twirling and dance. The general standards of Freestyle Team are the same as Freestyle Solo, with additional responsibilities. Team members are expected to conform not only to the music and to the set standards of correct technique, but also to conform to each other. This includes the maintenance of form and geometric intention through the awareness of position in stationary as well as moving forms. Time must be spent twirling synchronically while displaying variety and difficulty of movement together. A team is expected to exhibit variety in the exchange work with patterns, planes, levels, ranges, paths, modes, releases, catches, body work, number of members involved, number of batons involved (multiple or single), stationary and moving. We not only expect to see a variety of pictures in movement, but also a variety of ways of using space through rotating, growing smaller or larger, moving the form from side to side/front to back/diagonally, changing positions to create new pictures, and using different levels and directions (or planes.) But the logical development of ideas is extremely important when moving the people around the floor. The evolution of one picture into another must appear natural and be smoothly executed. Conceptual excellence is an expected quality in the team event.

SCORING FOR FREESTYLE TEAM:

A Team is judged on a one hundred (100) point scale worth:

30 points for Content

30 points for Precision and Unison

40 points for General Effect

Freestyle Teams will be judged using the Place Point Ordinal system.
See *'Tabulation Rules'*.

7.0 FREESTYLE TEAM COMPETITION

Each member will use one baton. Entry onto the floor is from the judges' left. Starting position may be anywhere on the floor. Exit from the floor must be to the judges' right.

A Freestyle Team routine will be a mixture of twirling and dance. The general standards of Freestyle Team are the same as Freestyle Solo, with additional responsibilities. Team members are expected to conform not only to the music and to the set standards of correct technique, but also to conform to each other. This includes the maintenance of form and geometric intention through the awareness of position in stationary as well as moving forms. Time must be spent twirling synchronically while displaying variety and difficulty of movement together. A team is expected to exhibit variety in the exchange work with patterns, planes, levels, ranges paths, modes, releases, catches, body work, number of members involved, number of batons involved (multiple or single), stationary and moving. We not only expect to see a variety of pictures in movement, but also a variety of ways of using space through rotating, growing smaller or larger, moving the form from side to side/front to back/diagonally, changing positions to create new pictures, and using different levels and directions (or planes.) But the logical development of ideas is extremely important when moving the people around the floor. The evolution of one picture into another must appear natural and be smoothly executed. Conceptual excellence is an expected quality in the team event.

SCORING FOR FREESTYLE TEAM:

A Team is judged on a one hundred (100) point scale worth:

30 points for Content

30 points for Precision and Unison

40 points for General Effect

Freestyle Teams will be judged using the Place Point Ordinal system.
See '*Tabulation Rules*'.

7.1 NATIONS CUP FREESTYLE TEAM COMPETITION

COMPETITION ROUNDS: There will only be a preliminary and final round. The Top 6 Freestyle teams advance to the final.

Nations Cup Team Composition - World Championship Athlete Allowances

A maximum of two athletes competing in Freestyle Team at the World Championships (including alternates), in the same year, may be included in a Country's Level A Nations Cup Freestyle team/s.

This would mean a maximum allowance of only ONE of the following options:

- 2 WC Freestyle Team members or less included in a Country's FS Nations Cup junior team
- 2 WC Freestyle Team members or less included in a Country's FS Nations Cup senior team
- 1 WC Freestyle Team member included in a Country's Nations Cup junior team AND 1 WC Freestyle Team member included in a Country's senior team.

NO athlete may compete in more than one Nations Cup team in the same competition. That is, no athlete may compete in a junior team and in a senior team at Nations Cup in the same year.

The Nations Cup Freestyle Team is limited to A level. The Content Restrictions on the following page apply:

NATIONS CUP FREESTYLE TEAM CONTENT RESTRICTIONS	
Applying to one or all team members	
Acrobatic movements are allowed (considered as major body move)	
CATEGORY	LEVEL A
Spins	1-3 Spins
Aerial Acrobatics (considered major body moves)	Not allowed with or without toss
Stationary Complex & Travelling Complex	Single major body move with 1 spin under the toss
Double Element Tricks	Not Allowed under the toss
Rolls	No restrictions
Contact Material	No restrictions
Clarification: One major body move with one spin is allowed under a toss.	
It is NOT allowable to add minor body moves after the toss or before the catch.	

All other rules are as per section 7.0.

8.0 MUSIC

For all disciplines, the music will be selected and provided by the athlete.
Failure of the music after the performance has started will constitute a restart.

Music for all athletes, pairs, and teams will be submitted electronically with each country's entry form via the IBTF online ShareFile System. Each music file must be labelled correctly, according to the specific guidelines, indicating the athlete, pair, team name, country, category, and division, and should also include the time code. Following the entry deadline, the host country will download all the music files to record the official time and prepare the music files for competition.

If there is any change in a competitor's music prior to the competition, it may be re-submitted no later than 10 days prior to the first day of the competition and a notification must be sent to the host country. All music files must be submitted in MP3 or AAC format – these are both compressed formats.

A 2nd copy of music should be brought to the competition on a flash drive in case of any unforeseen circumstances that would call for the need to replace the original copy.

8.1 TIME LIMITS

The length of the music should not include leeway at the beginning or the end. Timing begins with the first sound or note (whichever comes first) and ends with the last sound or note of the music (whichever comes last). No credit is to be given for anything executed after the sound of music has stopped. This means that if an element is not finished with the music, it will not be judged.

No salute is required. One simple presentation can be executed.
Failure to comply with time limits will result in receiving the undertime / overtime penalty.

FREESTYLE SOLO COMPETITION

Junior: 1:30 minutes minimum to 2:00 minutes maximum
Senior: 2:00 minutes minimum to 2:30 (2 ½) minutes maximum

RHYTHMIC TWIRL COMPETITION

Junior: 1:30 minutes minimum to 2:00 minutes maximum
Senior: 2:00 minutes minimum to 2:30 (2 ½) minutes maximum

FREESTYLE PAIR COMPETITION

Junior: 1:30 minutes minimum to 2:00 minutes maximum
Senior: 2:00 minutes minimum to 2:30 (2 ½) minutes maximum

FREESTYLE TEAM COMPETITION

World: 3:00 minutes minimum to 3:30 minutes maximum
Nations Cup: 3:00 minutes minimum to 3:30 minutes maximum

9.0 COSTUMING

COSTUME INSPECTION

A Costume inspection must take place prior to the beginning of the competition. The host country will determine the costume inspection schedule. All participating athletes/countries must be present for their scheduled check.

Freestyle Solo, Rhythmic Twirl, Pair and Team athletes must check in with the Floor Monitor before each round of competition to check for compliance with their initial costume inspection. (*Appendix A*)

Athletes, pairs, and teams must wear the same costume they wore for costume inspection and use the same baton. If changes are made to the costume/and or baton, a costuming penalty will be assessed. (Athletes are allowed to change a costume due to unforeseen circumstances by requesting a waiver from the IBTF Technical Directors. If the waiver is granted an additional costume inspection would be made)

BATON INSPECTION

Baton inspection will take place during Costume Inspection for each country. Check of the baton should be done by the Floor Monitor, before entering the floor. Batons must conform to the definition of “baton”. See penalty infraction for non-conformance on penalty sheet for equipment violation.

DEFINITION OF A BATON:

A standard baton is a chrome-plated/silver steel shaft with varying size weights on either end. The weights are either pounded or pressure fitted and covered with a white rubber ball (the large end) and a small white rubber tip covering the other end. Various batons have various balance points depending upon size and weight.

Most batons are between 14 to 32 inches (35.5 to 81.5 cm) in length and are either 3/8 inch (10 mm), 5/16 inch (8 mm), or 7/16 inch (11 mm) in diameter. The normal standard baton weighs about 8 ounces (or 227 grams) – the length and diameter do also factor into the weight.

USE OF GRIP TAPE ON BATONS

The use of grip tape is optional. It may be used bearing in mind that this is a sport. Grip tape can cover up to ½ of the shaft, divided equally from the center when measuring only the shaft, not including ball and tip.

Clarification: The outer quarter of each end may not be covered. Grip tape can be applied in solid, striped or spiral fashion. Tape can be of any two color(s), (one color to wrap and other color to mark the center and the end.)

No other attachments may be made to batons, except tape or similar substance used as a visual or handling aid.

For Pair and Team members, grip tape must be the same for uniformity.

COSTUME RULES

All rules for costuming will apply for Freestyle Solo, Rhythmic Twirl, Freestyle Pair, and Freestyle Teams:

Costume:

All athletes (men and women) may wear a costume of their choice bearing in mind this is a sport. Athletes must perform in the same costume they wore during the costume inspection and use the same baton. Within a pair or team, any costume combination is possible, bearing in mind this is a sport. Athletes are not permitted to have a costume that covers the palm of the hands.

No part of the costume can be removed from the body. It has to be worn on the body or attached to the costume.

Footwear and leg wear:

All athletes must wear shoes of their choice, bearing in mind this is a sport.

Shoe soles must meet facility regulations. If painted shoes leave mark/color on the floor, the country will be responsible for any damage. The floor monitor has the right to ask the athlete to change shoes if a potential problem is identified. Socks or tights, of their choice, may be worn bearing in mind this is a sport.

Hair and accessories:

Must be secure by any method, bearing in mind that this is a sport.

Any hair or attached costume accessory may be used but must not cover any part of the face below the eyebrows and must be reasonable, bearing in mind that this is a sport.

Recommendation: Tattoos should be covered, but not mandatory.

Small stud earrings may be worn; No other jewellery or body piercings permitted.

Make up:

Moderate stage make up, to enhance natural facial features, is recommended.

Make-up should be designed bearing in mind this is a sport.

Athletes are not permitted to have any of the following:

- Body or face paint
- Anything stuck to the face or body.
- Anything drawn/stenciled on the face or body.

Other:

- Athletic bandages for injury may be worn.
- Eyeglasses may be worn.
- No sunglasses
- No other jewellery or body piercing
- If any athlete/athletes intentionally disregard the costume or equipment infractions pointed out by the Floor Monitor, then the penalty will automatically be accessed.

COSTUME POLICY THAT APPLIES TO RHYTHMIC TWIRL ONLY:

Costume(s) may not be used as a prop. The artistic expression of the program is reflected in choice of costume design however the costume may not be manipulated in a way that it becomes a prop. A violation of this ruling will result in a one time costume prop penalty of 2.0 from each judges' score.

COSTUME / FOOTWEAR / EQUIPMENT FAILURE - ALL DISCIPLINES

At any IBTF competition, the Technical Director will have the final decision on costume, make-up, hair and accessories.

The Chief Judge, the Technical Director, or the Judges' Director may stop the competition for one of the following reasons:

- If costume failure becomes hazardous, indecent, or embarrassing.
- If a shoelace becomes untied causing footwork to be dangerous
- Loss of footwear causing danger to the athlete slipping and falling
- Loss of ball or tip from the baton shaft
- Baton shaft breaking

The Technical Director must be contacted to handle the situation.

The Technical Director will contact the Host country and competition staff.

The Technical Director may order a restart.

Judging to commence at the beginning.

If any official feels that they have a conflict of interest in ruling on this matter, they should approach the President and ask for assistance in stopping the competition.

10.0 PENALTIES

DROPS - <i>When, unintentionally, the baton leaves the hand of the athlete and simultaneously one end of the shaft (ball and/or tip) touches the floor. If the baton is still in the hand and one end touches the floor, that is NOT a drop.</i> & FALLS - <i>total loss of control that results in unintentional contact of the body with the floor</i> (Drop penalties are taken by penalty judge/s)	
RHYTHMIC TWIRL	1.0 point per drop or fall is deducted from each judge's gross score on a 100 pt. Scale.
FREESTYLE SOLO	<i>0,2 from deducted Total Program Components score** (2% of components score) + specific penalty on fiche aerals and rolls (Refer to the NJS manual)</i>
FREESTYLE PAIR	1.0 point per drop or fall is deducted from each judge's gross score on a 100 pt. Scale.
FREESTYLE TEAM	1.0 point per drop or fall is deducted from each judge's gross score on a 100 pt. Scale.

VIOLATION OF EQUIPMENT: (Penalty taken by penalty judge in consultation with the Technical Director.)	
RHYTHMIC TWIRL	10.0 points deducted from each Judge's gross score.
FREESTYLE SOLO	0.5 point deducted from the total program score.
FREESTYLE PAIR	10.0 points deducted from each Judge's gross score.
FREESTYLE TEAM	10.0 points deducted from each Judge's gross score.

VIOLATION OF COSTUME RULES: (Penalty taken by penalty judge in consultation with the Technical Director.)	
RHYTHMIC TWIRL	2.0 points deducted from each Judge's gross score.
FREESTYLE SOLO	0.5 point deducted from the total program score.
FREESTYLE PAIR	10.0 points deducted from each Judge's gross score.
FREESTYLE TEAM	10.0 points deducted from each Judge's gross score.

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE/ITEMS ON FLOOR: (Penalty taken by penalty judge in consultation with the Technical Director.)	
RHYTHMIC TWIRL	10.0 points deducted from each Judge's gross score.
FREESTYLE SOLO	1.0 point deducted from the total program score.
FREESTYLE PAIR	10.0 points deducted from each Judge's gross score.
FREESTYLE TEAM	10.0 points deducted from each Judge's gross score.

LEAVING THE PERFORMANCE FLOOR: (Penalty taken by penalty judge in consultation with the Technical Director.) Athlete(s) leaving the floor, without motivation before the minimum time has been reached (other than first aid, music and *costume problems)	
FREESTYLE SOLO	Disqualification
FREESTYLE PAIR	5.0 points deducted from each Judge's gross score.
FREESTYLE TEAM	5.0 points deducted from each Judge's gross score.

TIMING PENALTIES: UNDERTIME/OVERTIME	
RHYTHMIC TWIRL	4.0 points deducted from each Judge's gross score.
FREESTYLE SOLO	0.5 point deducted from total program score.
FREESTYLE PAIR	4.0 points deducted from each Judge's gross score.
FREESTYLE TEAM	4.0 points deducted from each Judge's gross score.

11.0 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES APPLICABLE TO ALL ATHLETES:

1. Athletes must report to the Floor Monitor 15 minutes prior to taking the floor for competition, to check the costume and baton.
2. The athlete enters the performance area upon a signal from the announcer to "take the floor for competition".
3. Athletes may not take towels, sweatbands onto the competition floor (or other items).
4. Athletes may wipe their hands or baton on their own person.
5. The use of powder, rosin, chalk or other substances to absorb hand sweat is permitted, as long as there is no visual residue left on the floor which could be dangerous for the following athletes.
6. Powder or other substances in excess should be removed prior to entering the practice area and competition floor.
7. The floor monitor will monitor the application of the rule and otherwise inform the Technical Director and/or Judges Director. If the rosin, powder or liquids used on the hands leave visible traces on the floor, the penalty will be applied as provided for in the IBTF Rules and Regulations.
8. Individuals, Pairs & Team athletes are allowed to do a little short presentation before the music and timing begin.
9. After each program is completed, athletes go to the designated area behind the staging until time to receive the score.
10. The coach may join the athletes at this time to view the scores.
11. Once an athlete, pair, or team has reached the designated area, the next athlete may enter the competition floor to await the signal "music" by the announcer to begin.
12. All athletes must be prepared to perform under spot/television lights if present.
13. Some athletes may be televised, and others may not be. All of the athletes must be prepared.
14. When special lighting is to be used for television, filming or other official purposes, that same lighting MUST be available for the athletes to rehearse under.

11.1 NOT APPEARING - ATHLETE, PAIR, TEAM

Freestyle Solo, Rhythmic Twirl, Freestyle Pair and Team Competition - when a name is announced, if the athlete, pair, or team does not report, then the athlete, pair, or team will be considered late and thus disqualified.

In the discipline that an athlete, pair, or team is a "no show", the next athlete, pair, or team will be given sufficient time in which to report.

In the discipline that a semi-finalist/finalist for any reason cannot compete in the semi-finals/finals, i.e. - sudden injury, illness, or other, the semi-finalist/finalist will have the notification "withdrawn due to medical/emergency reasons" of the official results of that round. The next highest-placed athlete will be allowed to compete in the semi-finals/finals providing it is possible to notify this athlete in time.

11.2 OBSTRUCTION OR UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCE

If an athlete is hindered in his/her performance by an obstruction or unusual circumstance, that athlete may have an opportunity to re-compete at the discretion of the Technical Director and/or Judges Director.

12.0 COMPETITION PROCEDURES

ANNOUNCING THE COMPETITION

LANGUAGES FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- General announcements and introductions are made in English, and the language of the Host Country is optional.
- Judges' marks for the Freestyle Competition will be *displayed electronically, the electronics technician must be aware to stay on pace with the announcer, as to not get ahead or behind.*

ANNOUNCING THE FREESTYLE SOLO & RHYTHMIC TWIRL COMPETITION:

1. When judges are ready, announce the athlete's name and country.
2. Junior and Senior athletes will alternate performances. The Division with the greatest number of athletes will start first and will run alone until it reaches the entry number of the lower division and then alternating performances begin.

This process is for all rounds.

<i>Example: Showing set numbers of lanes alternating, and also if there is a larger division (Example Lane 2) running alone until Set 6, when Lane 1 commences.</i>			
Lane 1		Lane 2	
01		01	
02		02	
03		03	
04		04	
05		05	
06		06	
07		07	
08		08	
09		09	
10		10	
11		11	
12		12	

3. After each program is completed, the athlete will go to the designated area behind the staging to wait for their time to receive scores. Once this athlete has reached the designated area, the Chief announcer will introduce the next athlete on to the competition floor. After this athlete's performance the announcer must wait for the Chief judge to sign when the judges are ready. The announcer will call the waiting athlete back from the designated area by announcing: "Scores will now be displayed for _____ Junior (or Senior) from _____." Athlete stands on the assigned place to receive a score. After display of score is seen, the announcer will say "Thank you."
4. If not alternating, the athlete must wait to be scored.
5. Each athlete's score will be displayed and not read.

ANNOUNCING THE FREESTYLE PAIR & FREESTYLE TEAM COMPETITION:

1. Freestyle Pair and Freestyle Teams are announced as they are about to enter the performance arena. Announce the Last names of each pair member, or the Country for team before they take their starting position. Announcer waits for all athletes to be in position, Announcer says "Athletes ready, Music."
2. **Junior and Senior Pair**, **Junior & Senior Nations Cup Team** alternate performances. This process is for any and all rounds.
3. After each pair program is completed, the athletes will go to the designated area behind the staging to wait for their time to receive scores. Once the pair has reached the designated area, the Chief announcer will introduce the next pair onto the competition floor. After this pair's performance, the announcer must wait for the Chief judge to sign when the judges are ready. The announcer will call the waiting pair back to receive their scores by announcing, "The score please for Junior Pair (or Senior Pair) from ____." Athletes stand in the assigned place to receive their score. After the display of the score is seen, the announcer will say, "Thank you."
4. When each Pair is scored, announce the next Pair to take the floor for competition. (If not alternating, the pair must wait to be scored.)
5. **World Freestyle Teams** do not alternate performances. Announce the name (country) of each before they take their starting position.
6. Teams should wait backstage after their performance. The announcer must wait for the Chief judge to sign when judges are ready. The announcer will call the waiting team back from the designated area by announcing: "The score please for the team from ____". Athletes stand in the assigned place to receive the score. After the display of the score is seen, the announcer will say "Thank you."
7. Make sure all judges are ready before announcing the name of the next performance.

12.1 ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Finalists will perform in reverse order of placement.

ORDER OF COMPETITION FOR THE WORLD FINALS

1. Rhythmic Twirl
Junior Women and Senior Women (alternating)
Junior Men and Senior Men (alternating)
2. Freestyle Solo
Junior Women and Senior Women (alternating)
Junior Men and Senior Men (alternating)
3. Freestyle Pair
Junior and Senior (alternating)
4. Freestyle Team

ORDER OF COMPETITION FOR THE NATIONS CUP FINALS

1. Freestyle Team
Junior and Senior (alternating)

13.0 ROUNDS AND SEEDING

13.1 NUMBER OF ROUNDS

FREESTYLE SOLO & RHYTHMIC TWIRL

- 0 - 15 competitors: there will be two rounds of competition (NO semi-final round); the top 6 athletes from the preliminary round will advance to the final round
- 16 to 30 competitors: there will be three rounds of competition (a semi-final round will take place); the top 12 athletes from the preliminary round will advance to the semi-final round; the top 6 athletes from the semi-final round will advance to the final round.
- 31 to 45 competitors: there will be three rounds of competition (a semi-final round will take place); the top 20 athletes from the preliminary round will advance to the semi-final round; the top 10 athletes from the semi-final round will advance to the final round.
- 46 to 60 competitors: there will be three rounds of competition (a semi-final round will take place); the top 30 athletes from the preliminary round will

advance to the semi-final round; the top 10 athletes from the semi-final round will advance to the final round.

- 61 to 75 competitors: there will be three rounds of competition (a semi-final round will take place); the top 35 athletes from the preliminary round will advance to the semi-final round; the top 10 athletes from the semi-final round will advance to the final round.

FREESTYLE PAIR, FREESTYLE TEAM & NATIONS CUP TEAM

There will be no semi-final round for the Freestyle Pair or Freestyle Teams, only a preliminary and final round.

The top 6 Freestyle Pairs and Freestyle teams advance to the Finals.

13.2 SEEDING PROCEDURES

FREESTYLE SOLO AND RHYTHMIC TWIRL

The seeding process will be followed.

The order of appearance of sub-groups is created after the preliminary round from lowest to highest.

Preliminary Round

- (1) A random draw will determine the order of performance.

Semi-Finals

- (1) To determine the placement for seeding use the Net Preliminary Score
- (2) The seeding process will be followed. Order of appearance sub-groups are created after the preliminary from lowest to highest.
- (3) The placements will be divided into 3 equal Groups (e.g., 15=5+5+5) or when there is an unequal number in the SUB-GROUPS (e.g., 20=7+7+6) the top seed GROUP is the GROUP that will use the lesser number for the Semi-Final.
- (4) A random draw within each sub-group will determine the order of performance in Semi-Finals and will be in reverse of placement within each sub-group.
- (5) The lowest placed sub-group will perform first.

Finals

The order of performance in Finals will be in reverse of semi-final placement.

14.0 SCORING AND TABULATION PROCEDURES

14.1 RHYTHMIC TWIRL, FREESTYLE PAIR AND FREESTYLE TEAM:

Scores are based on a 100-point scale.

Judges will use the Place Point Ordinal Scoring System for judging Rhythmic Twirl, Freestyle Pair, and Freestyle Team.

DETERMINATION OF PLACEMENT

Placement is determined by place points (not the scores) received. The following steps will be utilized.

Any majority of firsts will determine first-place only. If there is not a majority of firsts, revert to the lowest total PLACE POINTS (adding up the places each athlete received. The lowest number of place points determine all other placements.

All ties remain unbroken except for the first place in the final.

To break a tie in final for the first place:

Step #1 – When there is not a majority of firsts and there is a TIE in the place points, revert back to the total net score from all judges. The highest total net score breaks the tie (minus the high and low score removed) determines the higher placement.

Step #2 – If Step #1 has been followed and a TIE remains, use the following procedure:

- Use the preliminary round placement and follow the same procedure to break the TIE and determine the winner.

1. Any majority of firsts in the Preliminary Round determines first place.

2. If there was not a majority of firsts in the Preliminary Round, revert to the lowest total place points in the Preliminary Round.

3. If a tie still remains, use the Preliminary Round Total Net Score (removing the high and low Net Score if there are 5 or more judges)

a. * If a tie still remains, calculate the Final Round Total Net Score (including all judges) for the tied competitors. The greatest Final Round Total Net Score determines first place.

b. If a tie still remains, calculate the Preliminary Round Total Net Score (including all judges) for the tied competitors. The greatest Preliminary Round Total Score determines first place.

c. If a tie still remains, the tie is not broken and multiple first place awards are recognized.

**Note: If there is ONLY one round of competition, point a. above is used to break a tie (ie. the steps involving a 'Preliminary Round' are ignored).*

b) *If there is tie for first place, use the preliminary round placement and follow the same procedure to break the tie and determine the winner.*

** 5 or more judges normally serve on the panel.*

14.2 FREESTYLE SOLO:

The Freestyle Solo event score is the sum of two sub-scores:

- Technical score
- Program Components scores

TECHNICAL SCORE

The technical score (TS) of a freestyle is the average between the technical score of the required Aerials and Technical score of the two (2) required Rolls Series.

$$\text{FS TS} = (\text{Aerials TS} + \text{Rolls TS}) / 2$$

The technical score of Aerials is the average of the Technical scores of the required aerials.

$$\text{Junior: Aerials TS} = (\text{Aerial1 TS} + \text{Aerial2 TS} + \text{Aerial3 TS} + \text{Aerial4 TS}) / 4$$

$$\text{Senior: Aerials TS} = (\text{Aerial1 TS} + \text{Aerial2 TS} + \text{Aerial3 TS} + \text{Aerial4 TS} + \text{Aerial5 TS}) / 5$$

The technical score of one Aerial is the sum of the Base Value of the aerial (WHAT) plus its Grade of Execution (GOE) score (HOW) and the penalty for drop/fall (if any).

$$\text{Aerial TS} = \text{Aerial BV} + \text{Aerial GOE} - \text{Aerial Drop/Fall penalty}$$

The technical score for Rolls is the average of the Technical scores of the two required rolls series.

$$\text{Rolls TS} = (\text{Vertical rolls series TS} + \text{Horizontal rolls series TS}) / 2$$

The technical score of a rolls series is the sum of the Base Value of the roll series (WHAT) plus its Grade of Execution (GOE) score (HOW) and the penalty for drops (if any).

$$\text{Roll series TS} = \text{Roll series BV} + \text{Rolls series GOE} - \text{Roll series drop penalty}$$

PROGRAM COMPONENTS SCORE

Program components are awarded points on a scale from 0 to 10 (with increments of 0.5) for five program components to grade the overall artistic presentation.

Maximum score: 10 points (Average of the 5 Program Components captions).

The 5 components are (each caption worth 10 points):

- Contact Material/Twirling skill: the range, depth, and variety of contact material is assessed in this caption. See chart below for further details

- Transitions: the variety and intricate foot and bodywork linking all elements, including Entrances and Exits of the technical elements. See chart below for further details.
- Performance execution: this is the ACCURACY and PRECISION of the execution of the choreography. CLARITY of execution is the major focus.
- Choreography / Composition: the appropriate arrangement of all the elements with corresponding transitions, the program PLAN.
- Interpretation: The personal and creative translation of the music to the athlete's movement on the competition floor. Emotional projection is a key focus

Component scores are assessed through a "Build Up" format, acknowledging an athlete's achievement within the 5 levels (ranges) of proficiency. These are "positive" points of achievement with no "Minus" or "Plus" points used like they are in assessing technical elements of aerials and rolls.

The Program Components Score will be the average of the Final scores of each Program Components Caption minus the penalties for Drops and Non-Choreographic Aerials.

Total Program Components Score =

$$[(\text{Final Score "Contact Material/Twirling Skills"} + \text{Final Score "Transitions"} + \text{Final Score "Performance Execution"} + \text{Final Score "Choreography/Composition"} + \text{Final Score "Interpretation"}) / 5] - \text{Drop Penalty} - \text{Non-Choreographic Aerials Penalty}$$

The minimum score for the Total Program Components Score is 0

The Final score of each Program Components Caption will be the average of the scores assigned for that caption by all the Components Judges Panel, removing the highest and lowest score if the number of judges of the Components Judges Panel is higher than three.

Final Score "Contact material/twirling skills":

If number of judges is higher than three remove highest and lowest score from judges

$$(\text{Judge1 "Contact material/twirling skills" score} + \text{Judge 2 "Contact material/twirling skills" score} + \dots + \text{JudgeN "Contact material/twirling skills" score}) / (\text{Number of judges of the Components Judges Panel} - 2^*)$$

Final Score "Transitions":

If number of judges is higher than three remove highest and lowest score from judges

$$(\text{Judge1 "Transitions" score} + \text{Judge 2 "Transitions" score} + \dots + \text{JudgeN "Transitions" score}) / (\text{Number of judges of the Components Judges Panel} - 2^*)$$

Final Score "Performance Execution":

If number of judges is higher than three remove highest and lowest score from judges

$$(\text{Judge1 "Performance Execution" score} + \text{Judge 2 "Performance Execution" score} + \dots + \text{JudgeN "Performance Execution" score}) / (\text{Number of judges of the Components Judges Panel} - 2^*)$$

Final Score “Choreography/Composition”:

If number of judges is higher than three remove highest and lowest score from judges
 (Judge1 “Choreography/Composition” score + Judge 2 “Choreography/Composition”
 +...JudgeN “Choreography/Composition” score)/(Number of judges of the Components
 Judges Panel – 2*)

Final Score “Interpretation”:

If number of judges is higher than three remove highest and lowest score from judges
 (Judge1 “Interpretation” score + Judge 2 “Interpretation” +...JudgeN “Interpretation”
 score)/(Number of judges of the Components Judges Panel – 2*)

* Only if number of judges of Components Judges Panel is higher than three

TOTAL FREESTYLE SOLO PROGRAM SCORE

Total Program Score = Total Technical Merit Score + Total Program Components Score –
 Illegal items/substance penalty – Undertime/overtime penalty – Violation of the equipment
 penalty – Violation of costume penalty

The minimum Total Program Score is 0.

DETERMINATION OF PLACEMENT

In each round, for each athlete the Total Program Score will be determined.
 Athletes will be placed based on the value of total program score in descending order.

In the semi-final and final only the total program score of that round will be taken into
 consideration for the determination of the athlete placement. Preliminary scores and
 Semi-final scores will not be considered.

All ties remain unbroken except for the first place in the final.

To break a tie in the final for the first place:

Step 1) The Total Program Score of the Semifinal round will be used to break the tie.

Step 2) If the tie will remain then the Total Program Score of the Preliminary round will be
 used to break the tie.

14.3 DISPLAY OF SCORES

FREESTYLE SOLO:

ORDER	NAME	COUNTRY	TM Score	COMP SCORE	OTHER PEN.	PROG SCORE	RANKING
1	COMPETITOR 1	COUNTRY ISO 3-letters	5.1400	3.500	0	8.6400	4
2	COMPETITOR 2	COUNTRY ISO 3-letters	5.5520	4.000	0	9.5520	1
3	COMPETITOR 3	COUNTRY ISO 3-letters	5.0900	4.000	0	9.090	2
4	COMPETITOR 4	COUNTRY ISO 3-letters	0.0835	2.500	0	2.5835	5
5	COMPETITOR 5	COUNTRY ISO 3-letters	5.0900	2.300	0.5	8.590	3

ALL OTHER DISCIPLINES:

Rhythmic Twirl, Freestyle Pair and Freestyle Teams Place Point judging will be displayed digitally as following:

NAME	COUNTRY	TOTAL NET SCORE	JUDGE 1 PLACE	JUDGE 2 PLACE	JUDGE 3 PLACE	JUDGE 4 PLACE	JUDGE 5 PLACE	JUDGE 6 PLACE	JUDGE 7 PLACE	TOTAL PLACE POINTS	FINAL PLACE	TIES
COMPETITOR 1	COUNTRY	253.5	2	2	1	1	2	4	1	13	2	
COMPETITOR 2	COUNTRY	242.7	5	4	2	5	4	5	5	30	5	
COMPETITOR 3	COUNTRY	241	4	5	4	4	5	1	4	27	4	
COMPETITOR 4	COUNTRY	252	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21	3	
COMPETITOR 5	COUNTRY	261.5	1	1	5	1	1	2	2	13	1	

1. This is a running display board that begins with the first competitor (athlete, pair or team) in the division. It will display the total average score from all judges and the placement from each judge. The display board then continues to add the name of the next competitor (s) after the judges have scored the second competitor and then each competitor(s) following the scoring of the performance as the competition progresses. NOTE: Competitor number one would have first places from every judge across the board because there were no other performances to score before that.

Following the scoring of the second competitor(s), the ranking begins. One of the first two competitors will then be ranked in first and one will be ranked in second depending the number of place points that each received. This process will continue until all (for example 30 competitors) have competed and all placements have been displayed.

2. The display shows the name of the athlete, pair or team and country: It displays the place points of each judge. This display example utilizes 7 scoring judges and a tie for first place which is broken by total numerical score.

14.4 AVAILABILITY OF SCORES, RESULTS, AND NEXT ROUND ORDERS OF APPEARANCE

All official result files including the Summary Sheets of Judges' Scores and the Recap Sheets will be made available at the end of each round in a shared secured file or password protected area of the website to be viewed by the following designated list of officials: The IBTF Technical Director(s), IBTF Judges Director(s), IBTF President, and the Technical Advisors or appointed technical person of each federation.

The Technical Advisors or appointed officials each have 30 minutes to review the results and report any errors that might be found before the results are posted to the website.

The IBTF Technical Director(s) or Chief of Tabulation will notify the officials when the time limit for the review is completed and the official results may then be posted to the website.

This protocol allows the officials time to review the results and to correct any mistakes that could possibly have been made. The scores and results are NOT official until they are posted on the website.

Following approval and release of the results: The official results will also be posted in the venue, as well as the website. The results should be posted in an area that is accessible to the coaches and athletes in the practice area, as well as posted in an area that is accessible to the public. This will include the order of appearance for the next round of competition.

15.0 PROTESTS/APPEALS

Judges' decisions are considered final, and their scores cannot be appealed.

Penalties incorrectly assessed for drops and/or content restrictions may be challenged ONLY if the appeal is submitted to the technical director within the 30 minutes following the last competitor in the division.

An appeal must be submitted by an official delegate of the Federation (for example: Technical Advisor, or President). Appeal of an incorrectly assessed drop penalty or content restriction involves the Technical Director and Judge's Directors' ability to review an officially sanctioned video which clearly displays the error.

In order to appeal a penalty, a representative from the affected federation must do so by completing the appeal form (*Appendix B*) within 30 minutes of completion of the last athlete's performance in the division. The completed forms must be given to the IBTF Technical or Judges Director who will review a recording of the performance or will appoint an appropriate-qualified substitute. A fee of 100 USD (or equivalent value in host country's currency) must be submitted with the form which is returned should the appeal result in a change of score, otherwise this fee is retained by the IBTF. Payment may be submitted by cash, credit card or PayPal.

It should be noted that two judges are to be used to assess drop penalties for Teams. If the number of drops assessed differs between the two judges the average number is taken and will be rounded up to the next whole number.

For example: Penalty Judge # 1 assesses 4 drops.
 Penalty Judge # 2 assesses 3 drops.

The drop penalty will be 4.

In an effort to help correct penalties incorrectly assessed in error in a timely manner, the penalties will be displayed immediately following the performance.

It should also be noted that incorrectly assessed penalties "missed" may not be appealed, just penalties taken in error.

All tabulated results are considered final 48 hours after the close of the competition. Errors in tabulation or score calculation identified within the immediate timeframe of the competition are to be reported to the competition organizers, who will investigate and correct immediately as necessary.

15.1 POLICY/PROTOCOL FOR CORRECTING MISTAKES MADE IN ANNOUNCING AND AWARDING OF WRONG ATHLETE:

To officially correct an error, the following procedure should be implemented:

- Have all competitors in the category/age division who placed in the division report to the competition director with their medallions.
- Explain the error to the competitors, award ceremony coordinator, and announcer.
- Schedule, as quickly as possible, a public corrected awards presentation of the division.
- An official picture of the corrected final placement is taken for historical documentation.
- In the discipline all competitors who cannot be reached or present for a publicly corrected awards presentation for the division, the process stated below will take place:
 - The corrected placements will be officially announced.
 - The official photographer will need to “photoshop” the official picture with the athletes standing in their proper final placement.

15.2 APPEALS COMMITTEE REGARDING TABULATION:

The Appeals Committee shall be directed by the President of the Federation.

The President shall appoint two (2) members of the elected Executive of the Federation, one of which may be the Vice President.

15.3 RULES OF ENGAGEMENT REGARDING A REVIEW OF PENALTIES

1. IF the Penalty Judge is certain about the penalties, he/she will display the penalty amount after the routine is done.
2. IF the Penalty Judge is initially uncertain but becomes certain after reviewing the video on their iPad, he/she will flash the penalty amount after the routine is done (basically, the same as 1 but with a brief delay, which is essentially the same time the other judges need to determine their score.
3. IF the Penalty Judge is initially uncertain and cannot reach a decision in the time available before the next set, he/she will flash a RED card instead of a penalty amount. This tells the athlete & coach & audience that a decision is pending and will require a review once the division has finished.

If a review was required (for Item 3 or because a coach submits an appeal):

Following completion of the review the Technical Director will inform the coach of the result, either in person if the coach is available or by email. Once all reviews are complete and all coaches are notified, and after the appeals window closes, the results will be posted. Once the results are posted, no more reviews can be received.

16.0 OFFICIAL PRACTICE SESSIONS

All countries may pay for an Official Practice Session on the main competition floor. The Official Practice Session is optional and must be requested with entry.

16.1 WARM-UP PERIOD

PRACTICE AREA *An area designated for practice.*

There should preferably be an area large enough to accommodate a reasonable number of athletes in a safe environment.

If a practice area cannot be provided, the host country must organize a free one-hour practice session before the competition for any athlete who is competing on that day and one hour following the competition for any athlete who is competing on the following day.

WARM UP AREA *An area designated for the preparation of athletes immediately before they compete.*

There must be a designated warm-up area for the athletes which is large enough for 6 athletes, 6 pairs or 2 teams to prepare for competition in a 5-minute time period.

16.2 WARM-UP PROCEDURE

General rules:

- The open floor in the morning is restricted to athletes who are competing that day.
- During the official warm up only the announced athletes can be on the floor.

WARM UP PROCEDURE FOR FREESTYLE SOLO AND RHYTHMIC TWIRL PRELIMINARIES

A random draw will determine the preliminary order of appearance.

The order of appearance will be divided into three (3) equal Groups (e.g., 30=10+10+10) or when there is an unequal number in the SUB-GROUPS (e.g., 32=11+11+10).

The smaller group is the last one warming up.

- WARM UP SENIOR FIRST SUB-GROUP 4 MINUTES
- WARM UP JUNIOR FIRST SUB-GROUP 4 MINUTES
- COMPETITION
- WARM UP SENIOR SECOND SUB-GROUP 4 MINUTES
- WARM UP JUNIOR SECOND SUB-GROUP 4 MINUTES
- COMPETITION
- WARM UP SENIOR THIRD SUB-GROUP 4 MINUTES
- WARM UP JUNIOR THIRD SUB-GROUP 4 MINUTE

If the Men's Divisions are more than 20 (21) in one category, the group will be divided in three (3) sub-groups (same as Women). If not, they will warm up before the competition (4 minutes Senior and 4 minutes Junior).

WARM UP FOR FREESTYLE SOLO AND RHYTHMIC TWIRL SEMIFINALS

After preliminaries, the seeding process will be followed.

The placements will be divided into 3 equal Groups (e.g. 15=5+5+5) or when there is an unequal number in the SUB-GROUPS (e.g. 20=7+7+6) the top seed GROUP is the GROUP that will use the lesser number.

The sub-groups will warm up lowest to highest.

A random draw within each sub-group will determine the order of warm up and performance. The lowest placed sub-group will perform first.

If the Men's Divisions are more than 20 (21) in one category, the group will be divided in three (3) sub-groups (same as Women). If not, they will warm up before the competition (4 minutes Senior and 4 minutes Junior). Men will compete following the seeding.

WARMUP PROCEDURE FOR FREESTYLE PAIR AND TEAM PRELIMINARIES

FREESTYLE PAIR

All Pair Warm-ups will be held before the competition.

The Pairs will be divided by order of appearance. Up to 16 Pairs in one category, the pairs will be divided into 2 groups. If there are more than 16 or more the pairs will be divided into 3 groups. Each group of pairs will warm up for four (4) minutes.

FREESTYLE TEAM

All Team Warm-ups will be held before the competition. Each team will be given three (3) minutes to warm up in the middle of the competition floor. No other teams will be allowed on the floor or outside of the boundaries. The rotation will follow the order of appearance.

WARM-UP & COMPETITION PROCEDURE FOR FINALS:

There will be warm up periods for the final disciplines prior to the start of each category of competition for Rhythmic Twirl, Freestyle Solo, Freestyle Pair and FreeStyle Team.

The first “official” set of Rhythm Twirl warmups will be done before the competition day begins.

WARM UP	Rhythmic Twirl = 10 Junior Women/ 10 Senior Women
	4 Minutes Each Age Group (8 Minutes Total Before Category Begins)
COMPETITION	Junior and Senior Women Rhythmic Twirl
WARM UP	Rhythmic Twirl = 6 or 10 Junior Men/ 6 Or 10 Senior Men
	4 Minutes Each Age Group (8 Minutes Total Before Category Begins)
COMPETITION	Junior and Senior Men Rhythmic Twirl
WARM UP	Freestyle Solo 10 Junior Women/ 10 Senior Women
	4 Minutes Each Age Group (8 minutes total before category begins)
COMPETITION	Junior and Senior Women Freestyle Solo
WARM UP	Freestyle Solo = 6 Or 10 Junior Men/ 6 Or 10 Senior Men
	4 Minutes Each Age Group (8 Minutes Total Before Category Begins)
COMPETITION	Junior and Senior Men Freestyle Solo
WARM UP	Freestyle Pair = 6 Junior/Senior
	4 Minutes Each Group (8 Minutes Total Before Category Begins)
COMPETITION	Junior and Senior Men Freestyle Pair
WARM UP	Freestyle Team = 6 Teams
	3 Minutes Each Team (30 Minutes Total Before Category Begins)
COMPETITION	Freestyle Team

16.3 OPEN FLOOR PRACTICE

The open floor practice sessions following the competition are open only for people who are competing the next day and must follow the order of appearance for the next competition. The time will be equally divided by the competition director.

17.0 PARTICIPATING COUNTRY EXPECTATIONS

17.1 STAY TO PLAY POLICY

For all IBTF events/disciplines, all countries official delegation members (athletes, coaches and judges) are required to stay in the designated lodging options provided by the host country when the host country stipulates it is a condition of event sponsorship.

Penalty - Participants who do not comply with the policy shall be denied badge holder rights. The IBTF has the right to deny entry.

However, should there be circumstances where a participant is unable to stay in a host hotel, having made every effort to comply, then it shall apply to the IBTF for an exemption from this penalty, which exemption shall not be unreasonably denied.

Reasons for Exemption will be addressed and considered by the Host Country and the IBTF Executive Board.

17.2 SPORTSMANSHIP / CODE OF ETHICS

The IBTF believes in the development and promotion of good sportsmanship during competition.

Demonstrations of unsportsmanlike conduct and/or unethical behavior will not be tolerated at the competition. (This includes unsportsmanlike behavior through social media). All penalties will be in proportion to the behavioral display.

Federations, individual athletes, group competitors and spectators causing problems and disturbances are subject to the following treatment:

- Suspension
- Disqualification from future competitions (Time proportional to behavior)
- Retraction of placement and awards

The Discipline Committee shall be Directed by the Vice President, Executive Committee of the International Baton Twirling Federation, and other appointed IBTF Disciplinary Commission Members, as needed.

18.0 HOST COUNTRY EXPECTATIONS

18.1 LIABILITY INSURANCE

Host Country is responsible for the following insurance coverage for all activities prior to and during all IBTF Competitions:

- ☐ Accident Insurance (per person) - Death, Invalid
- ☐ General Liability Insurance

18.2 EVENT PROMOTION

All event information (website, marketing, social media, email communications...) must be released by the official IBTF accounts prior to Host Country promotion.

Prior, during and post event coverage / promotion is to be provided by the official IBTF Marketing and Communications Team.

The Host Country is required to collaborate with the IBTF M&C Team on all publicly released information.

19.0 FACILITIES & EVENT SETUP

The World Freestyle Championship will be held indoors in a gymnasium or auditorium. In selecting the competition site and facility, special consideration must be given to the need to provide certain services and conditions. These services and conditions should be in accordance with the following standards and requirements:

19.1 COMPETITION ARENA

CEILING HEIGHT

The ceiling height is to be a minimum of 13 meters for the entire competition area.

FLOOR SIZE & TYPE

Floor boundaries (15 m x 28 m minimum; 49.21 ft x 91.68 ft minimum).
(full basketball floor depending on location of competition)

It is recommended to provide floor markings. Suggest carpeting around the perimeter of the competition floor.

If the floor is not marked, it should be marked front/back and left/right centers on the carpet using vertical and horizontal lines – in case a basketball court is not used.

The boundaries will not be strictly interpreted as boundaries per se, but as the size of the floor that is available to the athletes. Should an athlete step on or across the lines, the judges will each determine individually, whether or not this is cause for lowering the score, based on the athlete's floor pattern and use of the space.

The composition of the floor shall be of wood, concrete or any other substance that is smooth, level and free from any obstruction or hazard that may in any way hinder the contestants' performances. It is important that the floor not be too slippery and/or sticky.

LIGHTING

The lighting should be adequate, however, not too intense or directed so as not to create a glare or otherwise hinder the vision of the athletes.

The athletes should have an opportunity to rehearse under the same lighting condition as the competition.

19.2 OTHER DESIGNATED AREAS REQUIRED

Scoring Area

Presentation Stage/Space where athletes (and their coaches - *optional*) gather to receive their scores after their performance.

Awards Area

A special area to display the awards, risers and methods for displaying flags of winning countries' athletes. If the host country is displaying its country's logo/name, etc., then the IBTF's name and logo must appear as well.

Judges Room

For judges to be able to relax and have meals and snacks provided.

Tabulation Room

A room with adequate space, access to sufficient air conditioning, internet and power outlets for the Tabulation team to work. The Tabulation room should be next to the Judges room/s and within reasonable distance to the competition floor.

Photography Area

For people other than Press and Official Photographers who wish to take pictures during awards.

Press Room

For IBTF Marketing & Communications Team, sports reporters and/or media relations people to work.

Dressing Rooms

There must be a sufficient number of rooms for the athletes to change costumes and to provide isolation and privacy for the contestants and coaches.

Different dressing rooms for women and men must be provided.

The dressing rooms should be convenient in that the users would have swift and easy accessibility to the performing area.

19.3 SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

JUDGES

Judges must be seated at tables in 2 or 4 rows; all rows elevated during the judging of IBTF Rhythm Twirl, Freestyle Solo, Freestyle Pair and Freestyle Team competition, in the exact center front of the competition floor.

This section may be in the "stands" but must be clearly designated as the "Judges Area" and must be positioned away from any spectator traffic so that no person or object may pass between the judges' line of vision and the competition floor.

Two panels of judges will be utilized. After the drawing of judge's seating, the judges maintain that position throughout the competition for those divisions.

ATHLETES AND COACHES

The Host Country may elect to assign a designated athletes and/or coaches area for use throughout the event.

During a performance, the athlete/s coach may be permitted to view the routine in a designated seat/area. Coaches should be mindful that their presence on/near the competition floor should not interrupt, distract or overshadow the athlete/s in any way.

IBTF OFFICIALS & DIGNITARIES

A specially designated area of the stands shall be provided for these officials to view the competition. The Technical Director(s), Judges Director(s), or official representative (appointed by the Technical Director) must be available at all times during the competition. They shall be seated in a designated area, with access to all aspects of the competition.

SPECTATORS

There should be adequate seating capacity within the venue for viewing the competition. Ticketing for the event is at the discretion of the Host Country.

20.0 AWARDS

20.1 IBTF PARTICIPANT BADGES

The IBTF is responsible for providing each athlete with an athlete's participant badge. Badge to indicate: World Freestyle & Rhythmic Twirl Championship; city and country where Championship held; year WORLD Championship held. These should be inserted in the "country" package to be given along with credential badges and preordered programs to the official representative at the time of Registration.

20.2 PLACEMENT & SPECIAL AWARDS

IBTF Medallions, Plaques and Special Awards will be provided by the IBTF.

20.3 CERTIFICATES

The IBTF will be responsible for supplying the template to the host country to print the IBTF placement certificates. The IBTF Tabulation team and host country will be responsible for completing certificates.

COACH

"Coach Recognition Certificate" will be presented to all official delegate coaches who are listed in the official registration of the country. These should also be inserted in the "country" package to be given at the time of Registration.

JUDGE

"Judge Recognition Certificate" will be presented by the IBTF President and IBTF Judges' Directors to all official delegate judges who are listed in the official registration of the country.

20.4 WORLD CUP

This is awarded to the country whose World Championship athletes, pairs and team earn the highest number of accumulated place points. They will receive the "IBTF WORLD CUP" provided by IBTF.

Second through sixth (2nd through 6th) place will also receive an appropriate award, organised by the Host Country.

If there is a tie for 1st place, both countries will share the award for six (6) months. The IBTF will pay for the shipping costs to transport the IBTF WORLD CUP to the other country. The country that has the award for the final six (6) months will be responsible for returning the award and both countries will receive a replacement plaque as an award.

WORLD CUP - POINT VALUE AND TABULATION PROCEDURE:

Tabulation will add the number of finalists (when applicable) and the remainder of the competitors from the preliminary round in order from highest score. The countries' scores and final placement are also pulled in. Using the number entered, "World Cup" points are awarded in reverse order. Example: if there are 22 competitors, the competitor who took first place would receive 22 points and the competitor in 22nd place would receive 1 point. Ties: If 2 competitors tied for first place, they should both receive 22 points and the competitor in third place should get 20 points.

If a competitor becomes ill or injured, he/she should still be counted in this process as they will still receive a point. If a competitor is disqualified along the way, she/he should not be included in the number used as they will not receive any points.

Freestyle Pairs and Freestyle Teams are also included in the World Cup tabulation. It is configured the same as the individual disciplines.

21.0 CEREMONIES

21.1 ATHLETES' PROTOCOL FOR DRESS

Opening Ceremony	Country Tracksuits or Warm-Ups
Awards Ceremony	Costumes
Closing Ceremony	Country Tracksuits or Warm-Ups

21.2 OPENING CEREMONIES

To be held the evening prior to the start of the competition. The opening ceremonies should be conducted in an efficient and limited amount of time.

RUNNING ORDER

1. Parade of Nations - Athlete's Only

Countries will enter the floor in alphabetical order following the English language. The board bearer/carrier bearing the countries name will lead, followed by the National Flag, carried by a member of the delegation and then the delegation.

All National Flags must be of the same size and carried on the same size flagpole. All National Flags have the same seniority.

The Host Country will enter last and take centre floor position. The Country name will be announced only.

The staging may be done in any of the following, determined by the number of participating countries and size of contingency:

- A. Block formation B. Formation by rows C. Arc formation by rows

2. Playing of the National Anthems

While the National Anthem (*a short, 30 second version*) of each country is being played, the National Flag of this country should be lifted and then dipped straight ahead. Once the anthem has finished, the flag should be lowered and the flag bearer/carrier will take the flag to the holding unit that will be in use for the duration of the competition and place the flag in the required spot.

The Flag bearer/carrier should then return to stand with his/her country's team.

The host countries flag should be placed in the center of any display unit during the competition with all the other National Flags being placed in alphabetical order on the left of the host countries flag and the next flag placed on the right of the host country and alternating until all flags are in place.

No flag should be placed on the floor, but the pole may rest on the floor.

3. Entry of the IBTF flag

The Official (Full Logo) IBTF Flag is carried in and passes in view of attendees before being hoisted to a place of prominence in the arena. The flag bearers will be the gold medalists of the previous World Baton Twirling Technical Championships (if in attendance), organised by the Event Coordinator & IBTF President. In the event no/insufficient medalists are in attendance, previous World Freestyle Championship winners to be used at the discretion of the Event Coordinator & IBTF President.

4. Welcome Speeches and Introductions

- Host country's World Representative and/or Country's President
- Any visiting dignitary (i.e., City official, Sponsor, etc.)
- "Athlete's Creed" read by the designated athlete (*Appendix C*)
- "Judges' Oath" read by the designated Judge (*Appendix C*)
- Return and Presentation of World Cup: The World Cup is carried in by the reigning World Champion Country and should be placed at the front of the Center of the floor, received by the IBTF President
- IBTF President Speech, concluding with declaring the opening of the competition

5. Entertainment (*Optional*)

Entertainment may be provided but is not necessary.

21.3 MEDAL/AWARDS CEREMONIES

The Awards Podium Steps are to be centered on the competition floor, approximately 10-12 steps in front of the centre (center) point. (The steps are not to be positioned at the very edge of the floor OR in front of the floor.)

PROTOCOL FOR PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

1. Introduction and Seating of All VIP's & Officials

All VIP's and Officials who are presenting awards should be seated in front of the floor. Prior to the beginning of the Awards Presentation, the list of Presenters should be introduced.

2. Awards Presentation Order

1. Awards for Junior Women and Junior Men Rhythmic Twirl and Freestyle Solo
2. Awards for Senior Women and Senior Men Rhythmic Twirl and Freestyle Solo
3. Awards for Junior and Senior Freestyle Pair
4. Awards for the Freestyle Team

Note: Awards procedure for Nations Cup team to be determined.

3. Awards Presentation Process

All results to be announced in reverse order of placement.

Freestyle Solo and Rhythmic Twirl

1. The announcer will introduce the Semi-finalists.
2. All semi-finalists will enter and be presented with their certificates
3. The announcer will then thank the semi-finalists and ask them to leave the floor
4. All six or ten finalists are announced. As their names are announced, winners will take their places on specially marked risers to receive their awards.
5. The host country will hoist the country flag of the top three athletes (or display the flags electronically) and the anthem will be played for the Gold Medalist.

Freestyle Pair and Freestyle Team

1. The announcer will introduce the finalists.
2. All six finalists are announced. As their names are announced, winners will take their places on specially marked risers to receive their awards.
3. The host country will hoist the country flag of the top three athletes (or display the flags electronically) and the anthem will be played for the Gold Medalist.

4. IBTF Representatives Presenting

- Gold, silver and bronze IBTF medallions, plus certificates will be presented by IBTF Board members.
- 4th, 5th & 6th place awards will be presented by an IBTF Board member or by an official delegate appointed by the President & host country.
- 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th Certificates (if required) will be presented by an IBTF Board member or by an official delegate appointed by the President & host country.
- Three (3) Board Members will assist with presenting IBTF medallions & Certificates to Teams.
- Awards presenters are based upon attending country's official representatives/presidents and special dignitaries in attendance.

5. Medal Presentation

- Presenters should line up on the edge of the floor, in front of the awards podium
- Medal Presentation Bearers carrying the medals & all other gifts/awards on pillows or trays should stand directly beside the designated Presenter to their right side.
- Athletes Names are to be read in order of placement from 6th place to 1st place.
- Presenters then step forward and present the medals & any other gift/awards to all of the winners at the same time and then exit the floor.
- The IBTF will assist the host country with versions of every country's National anthem to be played at Opening Ceremonies and for all Medal Ceremonies.
- A Flag Raising Apparatus is to be displayed in clear view of all, to raise the flags of the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medallists. (or displayed the flags electronically)

21.4 CLOSING CEREMONIES

The Executive Board, Sponsors, Honoured Guests, VIPs, Delegation officials and IBTF judges will be seated prior to the commencement of the Closing Ceremony. The Closing Ceremony should be conducted in an efficient and limited amount of time.

RUNNING ORDER

1. Parade of Nations - Athlete's Only

Countries will enter the floor just as the Opening Ceremony. The staging may be done in any of the following, determined by the number of participating countries and size of contingency:

- A. Block formation B. Formation by rows C. Arc formation by rows

At the closing ceremony the flags should be placed back in the holding unit when the announcer calls for the flags to be retired to the display unit and only removed once the audience has left the arena. This is a mark of respect for the National Flags.

Note: It is probable that the announcer will be instructed to ask all athletes to sit, if so the Name Board Carriers may place their board on the floor.

2. Closing Speeches and Presentations

- Coaches Appreciation
- Judges Certificates of Appreciation Presentation
- Special Awards Presentation
- Athletes Commission Recognition
- Speeches by Dignitaries
- Host Country World Representative and/or President
- Recognition of Event Staff
- Any visiting dignitary (i.e., City official, Sponsor, etc.)

3. WORLD CUP Presentation

The WORLD CUP Award should be displayed in prominent view at the Awards and Closing Ceremony. The IBTF President will present the WORLD Cup to the winning country.

- The top 6 countries will be announced, 6th through 1st place.
- Following the announcement, the Host Country will hoist the country flag (or display the flags electronically) of the top three countries.
- The anthem will be played for the 1st place winner.

4. Tossing of the “Friendship Baton”

Host country designates an athlete from their country to toss the Friendship baton to a designated athlete from the next host country.

5. Presentation of the IBTF Flag

After the lowering of the IBTF Flag, The Host Country presents it to the IBTF President who in turn awards the flag to the next hosting country of the World Championship.

The current Host Country must make arrangements with the next host country as to how the IBTF flags (banners) are to be given to the new host country. The next host country to take them immediately following the closing ceremonies, or current host country to ship the IBTF flags (banners) at the expense of the next host country.

Should the IBTF flag or the World Champion Country Award be lost, it will be the responsibility of the previous Host Country to purchase those items at their expense.

6. IBTF President Speech, concluding with declaring the closing of the competition

21.5 COLLECTION OF RESULTS

Immediately following the closing ceremonies, a representative from each country will report to the tabulation area to pick up the results for their country's athletes. Judges and other official competition personnel may also pick up their results at this time and the results will be posted online for all.