

# CRYSTAL CUP

DANCE SPORT 2026

## OFFICIAL RULE BOOK

UPDATED DOCUMENT • VERSION 6.2

*“Where Dance Becomes Brilliance”*

DECEMBER 19 AND 20, 2026 • MEXICO CITY

OFFICIAL ORGANIZER

OLIMPO DANCESPORT MEXICO

## CHAPTER 1. COVER

- **Document Title:** Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026 Official Rule Book.
- **Official Organizer:** Olimpo DanceSport Mexico.
- **Event Dates:** December 19 and 20, 2026
- **Venue:** Mexico City, Mexico.
- **Institutional Motto:** Where Dance Becomes Brilliance.
- **Rule Book Version:** 6.2 (Updated with Showcase categories).

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### CHAPTER 3. WELCOME LETTER

Dear athletes, coaches, adjudicators, officials and members of the ballroom dance community:

It is an honor and a privilege to present the Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026 Official Rule Book. This document is more than a collection of regulations; it is the cornerstone upon which one of the most significant sporting and artistic gatherings in Latin America and on the global stage will be built.

Mexico City is preparing to welcome the elite of ballroom dance on December 19 and 20, 2026. Under the motto "Where Dance Becomes Brilliance," Olimpo DanceSport will be the place where technical excellence, rigorous discipline and the purest artistic expression converge without restriction.

These regulations have been carefully drafted to ensure absolute fairness, operational transparency and legal certainty for every competitor, establishing standards comparable to the world's most demanding circuits while maintaining a distinctive and forward-looking identity.

We trust that this regulatory framework will guide a clean, fair and memorable competition. Welcome to Crystal Cup 2026: the place where effort becomes eternal brilliance.

Sincerely,

**The Organizing Committee**  
Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026

### CHAPTER 4. CRYSTAL CUP PHILOSOPHY

#### Article 4.1. Institutional Mission

The mission of Crystal Cup Dance Sport is to establish a world-class competition in Latin America, offering a competitive platform that raises technical standards, encourages fellowship and recognizes ballroom dance both as a high-performance athletic discipline and as a form of refined artistic expression.

#### Article 4.2. Vision

To become the benchmark tournament for incorruptible impartiality, organizational quality and commitment to the comprehensive development of athletes, establishing a new paradigm in sports-event management.

#### Article 4.3. Fundamental Principles

- **Excellence (Brilliance):** The constant pursuit of technical perfection, choreographic precision and interpretive elegance in every performance on the floor.
- **Transparency:** Open, auditable adjudication and scrutineering processes free from conflicts of interest.
- **Universal Respect:** Promotion of gender equity, inclusion of all ages and absolute sportsmanship among competitors, coaches and adjudicators.

**Technical Note:** *Crystal Cup philosophy is based on the premise that a ballroom athlete is simultaneously a high-performance competitor and a performing artist, and must be evaluated according to criteria that harmonize both dimensions.*

## CHAPTER 5. ORGANIZATION

### Article 5.1. Organizing Committee

The overall organization of Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026 is the exclusive responsibility of Olimpo DanceSport Mexico, which assumes responsibility for the event's logistics, finances, administration and safety.

### Article 5.2. Tournament Operating Structure

To ensure efficient operation, the event is organized into the following functional areas:

| FUNCTIONAL AREA          | PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY                                                           |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| General Management       | Executive coordination and institutional relations (Olimpo DanceSport Mexico).   |
| Chairperson              | Strict control of the floor schedule, timing, heats and athlete discipline.      |
| Scrutineering Office     | Mathematical processing of marks, systems management and publication of results. |
| Medical and Safety Staff | Immediate attention to injuries, access control and civil emergency protocols.   |

## CHAPTER 6. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of interpreting and applying this Rule Book, the following technical and legal definitions are adopted:

- **Article 6.1. Athlete / Couple:** A competitive unit consisting of one male and one female dancer (mixed couple), or an individual competitor (Solo Female / Solo Male), duly registered with the Organizing Committee.
- **Article 6.2. Heat:** A group of athletes or couples competing simultaneously on the dance floor during a specific round.
- **Article 6.3. Callback / Recall:** The action by which an adjudicator selects a couple or competitor to advance to the next round.
- **Article 6.4. Scrutineer:** The technical official responsible for tabulating, calculating and auditing the marks issued by the panel through authorized computer systems.
- **Article 6.5. Floor Craft:** A couple's technical ability to travel smoothly around the floor, avoid collisions and maintain the established line of dance.
- **Article 6.6. Pro-Am:** A competitive teacher-student partnership in which the instructor is not required to hold professional accreditation and dances as a non-professional teacher with an amateur student.
- **Article 6.7. Showcase:** A free-form artistic and interpretive choreographic presentation subject to specific duration, technical-support and movement-repertoire criteria.

## CHAPTER 7. GENERAL REGULATIONS

### Article 7.1. Scope of Application

These regulations govern the conduct, registration, operation and evaluation of all natural and legal persons participating directly or indirectly in Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026. Registration constitutes absolute and unconditional acceptance of the terms contained in this Rule Book.

## Article 7.2. Participant Eligibility

- **No registration or affiliation is required.** Every competitor may participate openly in Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026 without mandatory prior affiliation with any specific federation or association.
- Participant age will be calculated using the current calendar year (2026) and the age reached by the event date.
- The Organizing Committee reserves the right to request official identity documents (passport, birth certificate or government-issued photo identification) at any time to verify category eligibility.

## Article 7.3. Entries and Credentials

- Entries must be submitted exclusively through the official digital channels authorized by the Organizing Committee before the stated deadline.
- No change of partner, category or discipline will be accepted after the official registration platform closes, except with the Chairperson's express authorization in a duly documented force-majeure situation.
- Athlete and coach credentials are personal and non-transferable. Misuse of credentials will result in immediate disqualification of those involved.

## Article 7.4. Preliminary Rounds and Finals

Depending on the number of entries in each category and discipline, the competition may include the following stages:

- **Round 1 / Elimination:** Used when the number of couples exceeds the standard semifinal or final capacity. Adjudicators assess overall technical ability using marks (crosses).
- **Quarter Final:** An intermediate elimination stage.
- **Semi Final:** The stage before the medal round, reducing the field to the standard number of finalists.
- **Final:** The decisive stage in which the best couples or soloists are evaluated by order of merit or analytical scoring systems.

# CHAPTER 8. AGE CATEGORIES

The official age categories authorized for Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026 are structured as follows:

## Article 8.1. Mini

- **Age range:** 6 to 9 years (age reached in 2026).
- **Characteristics:** A developmental category focused on competitive initiation, psychomotor development, musicality and correct execution of the basic technical foundations of ballroom dance.

## Article 8.2. Junior

- **Age range:** 10 to 13 years (age reached in 2026).
- **Characteristics:** A phase of technical consolidation and intermediate athletic development, requiring greater precision in body lines, partner coordination and basic command of the performance space.

## Article 8.3. Youth

- **Age range:** 14 to 17 years (age reached in 2026).
- **Characteristics:** A category of high competitive and physical demand. Advanced technical rigor, choreographic styling, stamina and mature interpretation of the musical character of each dance are evaluated.

### Article 8.4. Adult

- **Age range:** 18 to 35 years (age reached in 2026).
- **Characteristics:** The premier category of maximum athletic, technical and artistic demand, representing the highest performance standard in ballroom dance.

### Article 8.5. Senior

- **Age range:** 36 years and older (age reached in 2026).
- **Characteristics:** A category designed for experienced competitors in which technical refinement, interpretive elegance, superior floor craft and performance maturity are especially valued.

## CHAPTER 9. STYLES AND DISCIPLINES

Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026 offers a diverse program including International Latin, International Standard, American Rhythm, American Smooth, Pro-Am and artistic Showcase performances.

### Article 9.1. International Latin

The Latin program consists of the recognized dances performed with the appropriate technique and divided into the following competitive subdivisions:

- **Open:** An unrestricted division representing Crystal Cup's highest competitive evaluation.
- **Open Rising Stars:** Designed for developing couples and soloists seeking to consolidate their competitive standing before reaching top Open-category podiums.
- **Open Latin Couples:** Traditional mixed-couple competition conducted under internationally recognized standards.
- **Open Solo Female:** Individual female competition emphasizing technical independence, body styling and interpretive strength.
- **Open Solo Male:** Individual male competition evaluating technical virtuosity, physical power and solo stage presence.
- **Ladies Duo:** A division focused on synchronization, technical mirroring and artistic connection between two female performers.
- **Men's Duo:** A division focused on synchronization, technical coordination and artistic connection between two male performers.
- **Closed in each age group (Mandatory Closed Syllabus):** Competition strictly limited to the authorized repertoire, figures and steps described in the Official Closed Syllabus. Its purpose is to rigorously assess technical foundations, precise posture and mastery of fundamental skills according to the corresponding level and age group.

### Article 9.2. International Standard

Standard includes the international dances performed with the required posture, connection, movement and specific technique, in the following divisions:

- **Open:** Open couple competition using free and advanced Standard choreography, evaluated according to the highest technical, musical and artistic standards.
- **Closed in each age group (Mandatory Closed Syllabus):** Competition strictly limited to the authorized repertoire, figures and steps described in the Official Closed Syllabus for the relevant level and age group.

### Article 9.3. American Rhythm

An American style characterized by Latin-rooted rhythms and dynamic interpretation, with the body action, partner connection, musicality and expressive freedom specific to the discipline.

- **Open:** Free choreography without syllabus restriction, allowing advanced figures, variations and choreographic elements specific to American Rhythm.
- **Closed:** Limited exclusively to the authorized figures and steps in the Official American Rhythm Closed Syllabus for the relevant level and age group.

### Article 9.4. American Smooth

An American smooth-dance style combining closed and open positions, continuous travel, expansive lines, musicality and choreographic freedom within a couple.

- **Open:** Free choreography without syllabus restriction, allowing advanced variations, open positions and choreographic elements specific to American Smooth.
- **Closed:** Limited exclusively to the authorized figures and steps in the Official American Smooth Closed Syllabus for the relevant level and age group.

### Article 9.5. Pro-Am (Teacher-Student)

The Pro-Am system consists of one teacher and one student in the following styles:

- **International Latin:** Technical execution of the Latin dances adapted to the pedagogical and competitive Teacher-Student format.
- **International Standard:** Mastery of closed positions, strict frame and the classical elegance of International Standard.
- **American Rhythm:** Execution of the American rhythms with the body action, musicality, connection and character specific to the style.
- **American Smooth:** Execution of the American smooth dances using closed and open positions, movement, lines and choreographic freedom.

### Article 9.6. Showcase

A space for free choreographic and artistic creation, structured into the following participation categories:

- Solo: 1 participant.
- Duo / Trio: 2 to 3 participants.
- Group: 4 to 9 participants.
- Line: 10 to 15 participants.
- Extended Line: 16 to 24 participants.
- Production: 25 or more participants.

## CHAPTER 10. ADJUDICATION SYSTEM

### Article 10.1. Composition of the Adjudicating Panel

- Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026 adjudicating panels will consist exclusively of professionals holding international accreditations.
- An adjudicator is strictly prohibited from evaluating a category in which there is a direct family relationship, a romantic partnership, or in which the adjudicator acts as the athletes' primary coach. Any conflict of interest must be reported before the tournament begins.

## Article 10.2. Numerical Evaluation and Marking Methodology

- In preliminary rounds (Elimination, Quarter Final and Semi Final), the marks or Crosses method will be used. Each adjudicator independently selects the regulatory number of couples that will advance.
- In finals, an adapted order-of-merit evaluation (Skating System) or weighted analytical scoring will be used to ensure mathematical fairness in awarding gold, silver and bronze medals.

## Article 10.3. Integrity and Impartiality

- Adjudicators must issue marks independently. Verbal or gestural communication among panel members during heats is prohibited.
- The Chairperson may suspend or remove any adjudicator whose performance shows anomalous statistical deviations or evident bias, and must immediately inform the Organizing Committee.

# CHAPTER 11. CHAIRPERSON

## Article 11.1. Definition and Supreme Authority on the Floor

The Chairperson is the highest technical and operational authority during competition on the Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026 floor. Decisions concerning the program, floor incidents, immediate penalties and interpretation of competition rules are final during the event.

## Article 11.2. Chairperson's Duties and Powers

- **Timing and Heat Control:** Supervise strict compliance with the official schedule, correct formation of heats and rotation of couples on the floor.
- **Adjudicating Panel Supervision:** Monitor punctuality, concentration and compliance with the adjudicators' ethical code throughout preliminary rounds and finals.
- **Floor Incident Management:** Temporarily stop a competition in the event of a serious accident, accidental multiple collision, audio-system failure or any situation that endangers athlete safety.
- **Application of Regulatory Sanctions:** Order warnings or immediate disqualification for unsportsmanlike conduct, unauthorized attire or failure to comply with official instructions.

***Technical Note:** The Chairperson may order a heat to be repeated (re-dance) when an external force-majeure interruption unfairly affects all or a significant group of competitors on the floor.*

# CHAPTER 12. SCRUTINEERING

## Article 12.1. Scrutineering Office and Official Calculation

The Scrutineering Office is the technical body responsible for the mathematical processing, tabulation, auditing and official publication of the results of every competitive round at Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026.

## Article 12.2. Computer Systems and Auditing

- All calculations will be performed using specialized software approved for ballroom dance, ensuring data encryption and confidentiality of partial adjudicator marks until each stage closes.
- Official Scrutineers must cross-audit physical score sheets, when analog backup is used, against digital records and immediately report any mathematical anomaly or statistical deviation to the Chairperson.

## Article 12.3. Publication of Results

- Detailed results from preliminary rounds and semifinals (Scrutiny Sheets) will be displayed physically on the official information totems at the venue.

## CHAPTER 13. MUSIC

### Article 13.1. Musical Standards and Timing

Performances at Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026 will follow the prescribed timing standards, designed to ensure equal physical demand and correct rhythmic expression:

- **Tempo and Time Signature:** Music will strictly comply with the time signatures and beats per minute (BPM) established by global ballroom regulations for each Latin or specialty dance.
- **Dance Duration - Preliminary Rounds and Semifinals:** Continuous duration of 1:20 to 1:30 minutes per dance.
- **Dance Duration - Finals:** Exactly 1:30 minutes per dance.

### Article 13.2. Music Control, Playback and Grace Period

- Selection and playback of official tournament music is the responsibility of the professional sound team designated by the Organizing Committee.
- For Showcase, competitors must provide high-quality digital audio tracks (WAV or MP3 at 320 kbps) to the sound manager during accreditation and mandatory floor testing. Unverified media are prohibited.
- **Grace Period:** A 15-second grace period is allowed beyond the maximum time for choreographic presentations. After that period, a one-point penalty will be applied for each additional second. Time and classification limits are mandatory.

## CHAPTER 14. DRESS CODE

### Article 14.1. General Presentation Principles

Attire at Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026 must reflect elegance, decorum, athletic suitability and absolute respect for the aesthetic nature of the sport. Any element that could create physical danger for the wearer or other competitors is prohibited.

### Article 14.2. Dress Regulations by Category

- **Mini and Junior:** Costume designs with excessive transparency, highly revealing cuts or heavy makeup are strictly prohibited. Attire must comply with the child and youth decorum guidelines established by the Organizing Committee. High-fashion athletic costumes, securely attached rhinestones, fringe and ornamental elements are permitted, provided they do not shed objects onto the floor that could compromise traction or the safety of other couples or soloists.

## CHAPTER 15. SPORTSMANSHIP

### Article 15.1. Fair Play and Institutional Respect

- Athletes, coaches, adjudicators and delegation members must always conduct themselves with fair play, honesty and mutual respect inside and outside the competition venue.
- Expressions of disapproval toward official decisions and verbal abuse are strictly prohibited.

### Article 15.2. Respectful Communication and Sanctions

**Community and Question-Resolution Note:** We seek to promote an atmosphere of respect and cordiality. Any question, disagreement or request for clarification must be handled kindly and through the established procedure: the dancer or athlete first contacts their coach, and the coach then speaks directly with the competition Chairperson. Direct and constructive communication supports a prompt and respectful solution.

Any attempt to aggressively or disrespectfully interfere with adjudicators, table officials or the Chairperson during competition will be sanctioned under this chapter and may result in permanent removal from the venue.

## CHAPTER 16. PRO-AM

### Article 16.1. Definition and Philosophy

The Pro-Am (Professional-Amateur) category at Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026 promotes the artistic and technical development of amateur dancers (students) through direct guidance and on-floor co-creation with a non-professional instructor (teacher). The instructor is not required to hold professional accreditation. The primary objective is to highlight the student's progress, musicality and interpretive elegance within a framework of strict safety and competitive fairness.

### Article 16.2. Specific Performance Guidelines

- **Teacher's Role:** The teacher may guide, support and structure the student's performance but must refrain from disproportionate displays of individual virtuosity that overshadow the student's visibility or evaluative prominence.
- **Participation Levels:** Pro-Am competitions will be divided by student age and technical experience: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Open, ensuring fair and balanced competition.
- **Authorized Styles:** International Latin, International Standard, American Rhythm and American Smooth, according to the technical catalogues in Chapter 9.

## CHAPTER 17. SHOWCASE

### Article 17.1. Choreographic Creation Criteria

Showcase represents the greatest creative freedom within Crystal Cup 2026, allowing ballroom elements to be combined with contemporary performing arts, theatrical expression or controlled acrobatics.

### Article 17.2. Technical Safety Restrictions on the Floor

- Pyrotechnics, liquids, powders, gels, fire, simulated weapons and any substance or object that alters, soils or endangers the friction and cleanliness of the dance floor are strictly prohibited.
- Extreme lifts or aerial acrobatics are permitted only in Showcase categories whose age level and classification explicitly allow them, under the direct supervision of the Chairperson.

## CHAPTER 18. AWARDS

### Article 18.1. Medal Ceremony Protocol

- All athletes placing in the honors positions in each category and discipline final are invited to attend the official awards ceremony wearing competition attire or approved formal team attire.

### Article 18.2. Crystal Cup Awards and Recognition

- Commemorative crystal trophies will be awarded to first-place winners in Open and group categories.
- Official medals will be awarded to podium finishers, and digital participation certificates will be issued to all finalists.
- Final marks will be released during the days following the event through authorized official platforms.

## CHAPTER 19. PROTESTS AND COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE

### Article 19.1. Hierarchical Communication Procedure for Disputes

Any request for clarification concerning administrative calculation errors, eligibility or floor incidents must follow the established communication channel: the dancer reports the matter to the coach, and the coach submits it formally in writing to the Chairperson or Organizing Committee. The deadline for filing a technical protest is 30 minutes after official publication of the results of the round involved.

### Article 19.2. Deposit and Decision

- Every formal protest must be accompanied by the monetary security deposit established by the Organizing Committee. If the protest is upheld, the full amount will be refunded; otherwise it will become part of the event's sports-development fund.
- The Chairperson's decision on any protest is final, not subject to appeal and immediately binding.

## CHAPTER 20. SAFETY

### Article 20.1. Emergency and First-Aid Protocols

- Olimpo DanceSport Mexico al personnel and a properly equipped first-aid area at the Mexico City venue on December 19 and 20, 2026
- In the event of a serious injury or accident, medical personnel have exclusive authority to determine whether the athlete may continue competing.

## CHAPTER 21. RESPONSIBILITIES

### Article 21.1. Release of Civil and Property Liability

- The Organizing Committee and official sponsors of Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026 assume no legal or financial responsibility for physical injury, material loss, theft or damage to personal equipment suffered by athletes, coaches, adjudicators or spectators before, during or after the event, whether inside or outside the competition venue.
- Each participant voluntarily assumes the risks inherent in high-performance physical and sporting activity.

## CHAPTER 22. IMAGE RIGHTS

### Article 22.1. Grant of Rights Through Registration

- By completing registration for Crystal Cup Dance Sport 2026, athletes, coaches and accompanying persons irrevocably authorize Olimpo DanceSport Mexico and its commercial partners to capture, reproduce, transmit and distribute their image, voice and performances through photography, live streaming, television and official social media, without entitlement to compensation or royalties of any kind.

## CHAPTER 23. APPENDICES

### Appendix A. Technical Specifications for the Dance Floor

- Approved floating wood surface with high impact absorption, treated with regulation anti-slip finish.
- Minimum dimensions of the main dance floor: 8 x 10 meters, free of perimeter obstacles.

## Appendix B. Standard Protest Request Form (Coach-to-Chairperson Procedure)

### OFFICIAL PROTEST REQUEST - CC 2026

Request No.: 000-2026      Time: 00:00 hrs

Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Style: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Requesting Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for the Protest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature Confirming Acceptance of Security-Deposit Rules: \_\_\_\_\_