

USLDCC

UNITED STATES LINE DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY CHAMPIONSHIPS

USLDCC.COM

USLDCC COMPETITION RULES 2026 - 2027

USLDCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Jennifer and Jason Cameron
 - Fun in the Sun
 - Florida Line Dance Classic
- Scott Blevins and Jean Garr
 - The Line Dance Marathon

COMPETITION SCHEDULE:

2026 Fun in the Sun (FL) www.jcdanceproductions.com	July 9 – 12, 2026
2026 Biggest Little Iconic Summer Stompdawn (NV) www.nvlinedance.com/bliss	August 13 – 16, 2026
2026 Motor City Classic (MI) www.mcdcevent.com	October 22 – 25, 2006
2026 Florida Line Dance Classic (FL) www.jcdanceproductions.com	December 3 – 6, 2026
2027 The Edge Dance Event (CA) https://www.kickstartcountry.com/theedgedanceevent	March 12 - 14, 2027
2027 Heart of Texas (TX) www.hoheartoftexas.com	April 22 – 25, 2027
CHAMPIONSHIPS: 2027 The Line Dance Marathon (NC) www.thelinedancemarathon.com	June 3 – 6, 2027

The USLDCC competition cycle for 2026 – 2027 will begin with the 2026 Fun in the Sun and end with the 2027 The Line Dance Marathon.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS:

1. The USLDCC is open to any amateur choreographer. Amateur, as defined by the USLDCC, is an individual who has never received any form of compensation (i.e. monies, accommodations, or travel fees) for teaching their own original choreography or co-choreography. This does not include "volunteering" as an instructor at workshops/events or teaching in an individual group or private class.
2. Previous USLDCC overall Champions are excluded from further competitions.
3. Competition entry must be original choreography created during the **twelve (12) months** prior to competition.

4. Choreographer must be present in ballroom and perform. If unable to perform, due to injury or illness, they must have approval from the event director to have a replacement and be present in the ballroom.
5. Follow Rules and Requirements as defined below.

CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

1. The USLDCC is open to any amateur choreographer. Amateur, as defined by the USLDCC, is an individual who has never received any form of compensation (i.e. monies, accommodations, or travel fees) for teaching their own original choreography or co-choreography. This does not include "volunteering" as an instructor at workshops/events or teaching in an individual private class.
2. All choreographers or competitive "unit" (competitive "unit" must be the exact same choreographers) must compete at two (2) USLDCC competitions; AND
3. Must place 1st or 2nd place in any division at any participating event to qualify for the "Championships." Each 1st or 2nd place finish will earn you ONE dance entry into the "Championships" for each placement. Example - If you competed in Newcomer/Novice four times and place 1st twice and 2nd twice, then you can enter FOUR dances in the "Championship." There will "potentially" be 12 dance entries in each division in the "Championship."
4. Championship entry/ies must be a new piece of choreography (not the qualifying piece).
5. Choreographers may or may not use all entries available to them.
6. Follow Rules and Requirements as defined below.

DIVISIONS

USLDCC offers a total of three (3) divisions:

- ❖ Beginner / Improver
- ❖ Intermediate/Advanced
- ❖ Phrased

The following Table of Terms will assist in determining the level of dance.

USLDCC TABLE OF TERMS <i>(Subject to change after further evaluation)</i>		
The following elements may NOT be in a Beginner / Improver dance <i>See attached Description of Terms List</i>		
Arabesque Attitude Boogie Walk Camel Walk Count "a" Develope Jazz Box – Turning 1/2	Mashed Potatoes Monterey Turn (Turning ½ or full) Pencil Turn Platform Spin Port de Bras Progressive Turns Ronde de Jambe (Ronde / Sweep)	Sailor Step - Turning Swivet Three Step Turn Toe/Heel/Cross Swivels Vaudeville (Heel Jacks)

Phrased: A dance with more than one tag of any length **or** with a single tag consisting of more than 16 counts.

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

- Competitors are allowed to enter a maximum of two (2) dances per division at each qualifying event.
- Dance scripts and entry fees are due as specified by each participating event (please check their rules).
- Dance scripts should be submitted in DOC format and on one page (if possible) with a minimum font size of 10.
- Dances cannot be entered again if received qualifying placement (1st or 2nd) at another USLDCC event.
- Music with foul language is **NOT** acceptable and will be disqualified.
- Level of dance must be consistent with guidelines. (See Table of Terms)
- Music must be turned in at the competitor's meeting. Dancers should submit music on a jump drive and bring to the competition.
- Music must be on a jump drive with the following information: Division, Choreographer, Name of Dance, Song & Artist, Number of Walls, Counts, and Level.
- Beginner/Improver and Intermediate/Advance entries will be danced a total of four walls or through the tag or restart, whichever is greater.

- Phrased entries will be danced through four (4) walls, at minimum, or through any additional walls that competitor feels are necessary to convey the entirety of their dance.
- Only the choreography is judged. Invite up to 7 friends to join you! (All dancers must purchase a weekend pass)
- Talking – Competitors must not talk to other competitors, judges, or the audience while dancing or standing on the floor in competition.
- Acrobatic moves are not allowed at any point during the dance (this includes the introduction and end poses. These moves are defined as follows:
 - Any move where both legs are above the waist height of the competitor
 - Any move where the competitor's weight is on one or both hands
 - Any move where a competitor sits or lies on the floor
 - Splits are not permitted.
- Props are not permitted.
- Vulgar or crude movements are not allowed. Movements beyond the point of flirtation, humor, or comedy will result in a dancer being penalized.
- Competitors or competitor's representative must be present at the competitors' meeting.
- Competitors are responsible for ensuring they are fully up to date with the rules relating to their division.
- Competitors must be in competitor's area 15 minutes prior to the start of the competition. Each competitor's number will be called twice and if the competitor is not on the floor ready to dance, they will be disqualified.
- Competitors are expected to behave in a professional-and-proper manner. Anyone acting in an unethical or unprofessional way may be disqualified from the event.
- Competitors who do not abide by the published rules will be disqualified.
- Improper behaviors, competition inquiries, protests, or disputes must immediately be brought to the attention of the event director. All decisions of the USLDCC Board of Directors are final.

FEES

Entry fee of \$15-\$25 per dance.

SCORING

Judging is placed with consideration of the following:

CONTENT

- Variety and originality of dance positions, moves, and dance. Selection of dance maneuvers and combinations of these maneuvers and their relationship to the music.

FLOW/PHRASING/MUSIC FIT

- Flow of steps to include transition to different directions. Steps for the music phrasing, accents, rhythm, and tempo.

DANCE IDENTIFICATION

- Correct identification of dance level and category as written on step sheet.

PLACEMENTS PER DIVISION:

- ❖ All Entries: Top 2

The USLDCC will track participation and placement for each competitor or competitive "unit" (when there is more than one choreographer for the dance). The 1st and 2nd place winners in each division, at each event, are allowed to compete in the "Championships" in that division after they have met the two-event qualification requirement. A 1st or 2nd place win will allow you ONE dance per win. Once a competitor or competitive unit qualifies in a division for the "Championship", they must choreograph a **NEW** dance for each dance and division they have qualified in.

Judges deal in privileged information. We encourage judges socializing with everyone; however, they are not to discuss specific judge's observations or rulings. Judges will not coach, teach, and/or critique dancers they are judging until after the end of the competition. They should interact professionally with competitors and in no case discuss the results of any competition while the event is ongoing. All decisions are considered *final*. Questions on administration and/or execution of the competition should be directed to the event directors in writing.

A scoring analysis of your competition is available by email for a \$5 fee per dance. Request this from the registration staff. Purchased scores will be emailed within 14 days of the end of the event.

ATTIRE:

No hat or boots required. Any type of "dance shoe" is acceptable. Please use common sense with attire. If judges feel attire is not acceptable, a conference will be called, to include event director(s), resulting in the entry being penalized.

SPONSORSHIPS/PRIZES:

2025-2026 Prize Package Event Winner, per Division:

First Place –

- USLDCC Prize of the event's choice

Second Place –

- USLDCC Prize of the event's choice

2027 Championship Prize for Overall Winner

- Trophy
- World Dance Masters in Europe Prize Package
 - Weekend Pass
 - Teaching Spot
 - Shared Accommodations
 - \$1,000 Airfare Allowance

All winning placements calculated to qualify for USLDCC Championships.

If there are co-choreographers of the winning entry, only one prize package is awarded.

DISCLAIMER:

By competing in any USLDCC event, you are agreeing to the following statement:

"We, the competitor, agree to hold the organizers of this event and their agents harmless for all suits, claims, or demands of every kind and character arising out of and in conjunction with this event. We, the competitor, hereby authorize the reproduction, sale, copyright, exhibition, broadcast, and/or distribution of any event videotape and photograph without limitation. We, the competitor, understand the physical risks of entering dance competitions and social dancing and assume full responsibility for any injury or personal damages resulting from the event. In the event that my performance or attendance at the event results in positive media interest, we will credit the United States Line Dance Choreography Championships (USLDCC) at all opportunities."

*Please Note: Any competition that does not strictly adhere to these rules will not be classified as a USLDCC competition.

*Please Note: These rules are subject to change at the discretion of USLDCC.

DESCRIPTION OF TERMS

ARABESQUE - Free leg extended straight back, forward or to the side, parallel to floor, one arm stretched out to front (*an exaggerated pose*)

ATTITUDE - Free leg lifted, knee bent, extended forward or backward (*a pose*)

BOOGIE WALK - Move free leg lifting hip and stepping forward with circular movement, transferring weight to moving leg

CAMEL WALK - *Two beat maneuver* - Stepping forward on first beat, forward foot does a knee pop on second beat while trailing foot slides up and under raised heel of forward foot. Weighted leg does knee pop prior to stepping forward on free leg which has a straight knee. (*May be done to diagonal*)

COUNT "a" - Represents when counting 1/16 beats (*e.g.* - *1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4*)

DEVELOPE - Free leg is brought up so knee is bent waist level and leg extended straight outward, backward or sideward.

JAZZ BOX - Turning ½ - Cross stepping free leg over weighted leg, take weight making ½ turn left or right, stepping back on free leg, stepping free leg beside weighted leg, stepping free leg beside weighted leg.

MASHED POTATOES - Syncopated pattern traveling backwards - Stepping back (often crossing behind other foot) heel turned slightly in and quick swiveling of heel on weighted foot out, repeating on other foot. (*e.g.* - *Step Right back, heel turned slightly left (&). Swivel Right heel to right (1). Step Left back, heel turned slightly to right (&). Swivel Left heel left (2).*)

MONTEREY TURN - 4-count standing step pattern starting with either foot. Unless specified a Monterey turn is always a ½ turn. (*e.g.* - *Right toe touch to right side, on ball of Left turn ½ turn right closing Right to Left with weight. Touch Left toe to left side, closing Left beside Right.*)

PENCIL TURN & PLATFORM SPIN - Stationary turn on one foot with other foot in un-weighted first position. (*Usually completed in one beat of music*)

PORT DE BRAS - Includes position and movement of head in relation with arms or movement of arms into different positions.

PROGRESSIVE TURNS - Pivot turn that performs half a rotation with each step. *Can be chained together to produce a series of half turns, thighs close together.*

RONDE DE JAMBE (RONDE/SWEEP) - Half circles traced with one foot. *Extended foot should never reach higher than knee.*

SAILOR STEP (Turning Sailor Step) - A triple step pattern leaning in opposite direction of crossing foot (weight stays centered over lead foot). (*e.g.* - *Leaning forward left, step Left behind Right (1), side step Right (&), side step Left to original position.*)

SWIVET - Twist heel of one foot and ball of other to side, feet remaining parallel, then twist back to center. (*e.g.* - *On ball of Left and heel of Right, swivel Left heel left and Right toes right. Then return to center. Heel and toes should be moved at approximately 45 degree angle.*)

THREE STEP TURN (Triple Step) - Three steps done to two main beats of music. Usually two quick steps and one slow step. (*e.g.* - *counted as 'quick quick slow', 'one & two', 'three & four', etc.*)

TOE/HEEL/CROSS SWIVELS - Feet together, move heels or toes in given direction putting weight on opposite part of foot.

VAUDEVILLE (Heel Jacks) - A syncopated crossing pattern. (*e.g.* - *Step slight back and left on Left (&). Cross step Right over Left (1). Step slightly left on Left turning body diagonally right (&). Touch Right forward diagonally right (2).*)