

IJRU Competition Rules

Competition Manual



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Competition Manual

The Competition Manual (CM) is the central document that describes the logistics of the event as well as which other rule documents apply and how.

EVENT ORGANISER DISCRETION

There are certain details in the IJRU Competition Rules that are left up to the event organiser to decide. This competition manual generally targets the IJRU world championships series, but even so there are details that may be determined by the championship organising committee.

When there is information the event organiser is allowed or expected to change, an informational box with the title "Event Organiser Discretion", like this one, will appear in the rulebook. For these sections the event organiser is expected to publish their adjustments well in advance of the event, such as with the invite to the event.

EVENT ORGANISER DISCRETION

This rulebook specifies several roles and their duties, is up to the event organiser to appoint the Tournament Director and the Appeals Committee.

For these events the [IJRU Judging Manual](#) and [IJRU Technical Manual](#) apply.

*Last updated on **28 Aug 2026***

Divisions

Gender categories

For team events the gender categories are defined as follows

Category	Definition
Female gender	all female
Male gender	all male
Mixed gender	at least one male and one female
Any gender	any combination

Please refer to the current [IJRU gender policy](#) for guidelines on gender categories.

Unless the event organiser has communicated differently, all single-participant events have a female gender category and a male gender category.

Unless the event organiser has communicated differently, all team events except Show Freestyle and DDC events, have a female, male and mixed gender category. In the mixed category, at least one female and one male athlete must compete in each event the team competes in. Failing to fulfil this criterion will disqualify the team from the gender category and if applicable, any overall they participate in with an invalid configuration. Show Freestyle and DDC events are competed in an "any gender" category, with no requirement on the gender of the athletes. In this case, a team may consist of athletes of one gender only or of athletes of different genders.

Age groups

Ages are determined based on the athlete's age as of December 31 in the year of the competition. The competitors will be entered at their age as of this date. Ages will be verified against government issued documents during accreditation.

Category entry number requirements

There must be 4 or more entries from 2 or more sport nationalities in a competition event gender and age category for the competition event to be competed in that gender and age category. If a competition event fails to meet this requirement for a gender and age category, it will be combined or cross-ranked. It is up to the event organiser to decide which method or methods will be used.

NOTE

For the IJRU world championships series, only combining will be used.

As a first step, if the competition has more than one age category the competition event will be combined with the next older age group, if there are no older age groups it will instead be combined into the next younger age group. If there are multiple gender and age categories that does not fulfil the requirement for one competition event, start with the youngest competition event that does not fulfil the requirement.

If the competition event still does not fulfil the requirement after combining age groups, or if the competition only has one age group (such as the Senior Competition in the IJRU world championships series), the competition event will be combined or cross ranked with another gender category in the same age group. If the competition event has already been combined with another age group and the other gender category has not, the competition event is combined or cross ranked with the age group of the other gender category which matches (or if also combined, contains) the oldest original age group in the combined competition event. The preferences of combining or cross-ranking gender categories are, in order:

1. Female → Mixed
2. Mixed → Male
3. Male → Mixed

If it's not possible to create a combined or cross ranked category fulfilling the requirements for a competition event, that competition event will not be competed for the affected gender and age categories.

If a gender category due to withdrawals or other factors no longer fulfils the required number of entries and sport nationalities during a competition, the gender category should be combined or cross ranked.

EVENT ORGANISER DISCRETION

The event organiser needs to decide if combining and/or cross ranking will be used, and in what order.

If both combining and cross ranking are used, it's recommended to first combine any gender categories that do not fulfil the requirements first, and only then use cross ranking if the requirements is still not fulfilled for the combined category. If there's only one category that does not fulfil the requirement it's recommended to use cross-ranking.

The event organiser might also want to update the requirement "4 or more entries from 2 or more sport nationalities" for national events, for example to "4 or more entries from 2 or more clubs"

The event organiser can also choose that combining and/or cross ranking will only happen before the event, and not during the event if a category no longer fulfils the required number of entries and sport nationalities.

Combining entries

Two or more gender categories will be combined and ranked together, and rank will be awarded across all of the competitors in the new combined gender category.

Cross-ranking entries

If one gender category has enough competitors to compete but another one does not, the larger gender category is ranked and awarded as normal, but the smaller gender category is ranked combined against the larger group and only competitors that place against the combined ranked entries will be awarded. The combining to create the cross-rank is done once for the whole category, not once for every entry.

▼ ⓘ EXAMPLE

If the Male gender category has the following results for a Single Rope Speed Sprint Event

Participant	Country	Score
A	Iceland	85
B	Greenland	84

Participant	Country	Score
C	Iceland	76

It needs to be cross-ranked, since it has fewer than 4 entries, despite having 2 countries.

The Mixed gender category it will be cross-ranked against has the following results

Participant	Country	Score	Rank
D	Antarctica	90	1
E	Iceland	83	2
F	Greenland	76	3
G	Madagascar	75	4

They would be combined and ranked to determine the cross-rank for the Male gender category as follows

Category	Participant	Country	Score	Rank
X	D	Antarctica	90	1
M	A	Iceland	85	2
M	B	Greenland	84	3
X	E	Iceland	83	4
X	F	Greenland	76	5
M	C	Iceland	76	5
X	G	Madagascar	75	7

And the following medals would be awarded:

- Mixed
 - **1st:** D - Antarctica
 - **2nd:** E - Iceland
 - **3rd:** F - Greenland
- Male
 - **2nd:** A - Iceland
 - **3rd:** B - Greenland

Team composition

A team competing in a team overall may consist of a maximum of one athlete more than the competition event that requires most athletes in that overall requires. All athletes on the team must compete in at least one of the competition events that make up the overall each.

An athlete may only compete in one overall team per overall type.

For entries into individual competition events the team may consist of the number of athletes the event requires.

All athletes in a team must have the same sport nationality.

EVENT ORGANISER DISCRETION

The requirement for athletes to have the same sport nationality can be waived by the event organiser.

*Last updated on **28 Aug 2026***

The competitions

EVENT ORGANISER DISCRETION

The event organiser must specify what competitions will be competed during the event, listing how the competition is competed and awarded, along with the competition events, their agegroups and gender categories (if different from the defaults specified in [Divisions](#)), as well as any limits on number of entries in each competition event.

For the IJRU world championships series, *at least* the competitions described below must be competed.

Event organisers, including the IJRU world championships series, may add additional competitions and competition events under the following conditions:

- The details for the competition, detailed above, must be submitted to and reviewed by the IJRU Event Approval Committee.
- For National Championships and multi-national competitions (such as Continental Championships and World Championships), rules that differ from this IJRU Competition Rulebook must be reviewed by the IJRU Technical Committees.
- For multi-national competitions, the information must be reviewed and published at least 12 months before the competition.
- For National Championships, the information must be reviewed and published at least 6 months before the competition.

It is not allowed to compete in the same competition event in different competitions of the IJRU World Championships series.

In the competition events and overalls detailed below, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd ranking athletes or teams are awarded. For the senior competition awards for competition events are only awarded after the final round whereas awards for the overalls are awarded after the preliminary round. For the IJRU world championships series the 1st ranking athlete(s) will be awarded the title IJRU World Champion(s) for that competition event. Awards are handed out separately for every age group and gender category combination.

Senior competition

In the IJRU world championships series this competition is referred to as the World Championships (WC).

The senior competition is made up of a two-round structure. Athletes compete in the first round (preliminaries) to determine the Overall competitions and for a spot in the final round (finals).

The top 6 athletes/teams in every competition event in the preliminaries (first round) qualify for the final round.

Any athlete who withdraws ("scratch") from one of these events after deciding to re-compete will be disqualifying themselves from that event, and their qualifying score will not be considered in the results to decide the winner. In the case of a withdrawal, an offer for the athlete or team that finished on 7th place in the preliminary round to compete in the final round instead will be given to their Head Coach, if the withdrawal happens long enough before the start of the competition event in the final round. The 7th place athlete/team will be given a time period determined by the Tournament Director to accept the offer. If they do not, the spot will be left empty in the finals.

***i* NOTE**

The Head Coach of teams or athletes placing 7th in the preliminary should be ready to be called upon on short notice.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranking athlete or team in each competition event and overall will be awarded. Awards are handed out separately for each gender category and age group. The 1st ranking athlete(s) will be awarded the title IJRU World Champion(s) for that competition event or overall.

Awards for overalls are based on the results of the preliminaries. Awards for all other competition events will be based on the results of the finals.

Age groups

Competitors in the Senior Competition must be 16 or older by the designated competition age cut-off date with the following exception:

For team events, at least one member of the group must be 16 or older. The remaining member(s) must be at least 13 or older. Athletes aged 13-15 entering team events in the Senior Competition won't be allowed entry in the same event(s) in the Junior Competition or Open Competition.

NOTE

In the future, the ability for athletes under 16-years of age in the Senior Competition may be reduced or eliminated.

Competition events

Events competed individually

Event Name	Abbreviation	Timing	Athletes	Overall
Single Rope Speed Sprint	SRSS	1×30 seconds	1 athlete	ISR0
Single Rope Speed Endurance	SRSE	1×180 seconds	1 athlete	ISR0
Single Rope Triple Unders	SRTU	No time limit	1 athlete	
Single Rope Individual Freestyle	SRIF	0-75 seconds	1 athlete	ISR0

Events competed in teams

Event Name	Abbreviation	Timing	Athletes	Overall
Single Rope Speed Relay	SRSR	4×30 seconds	4 athletes	TXD0
Single Rope Double Unders Relay	SRDR	2×30 seconds	2 athletes	
Double Dutch Speed Relay	DDSR	4×30 seconds	4 athletes	TXD0
Double Dutch Speed Sprint	DDSS	1×60 seconds	3 athletes	
Single Rope Team Freestyle	SRTF	0-75 seconds	4 athletes	TXD0

Event Name	Abbreviation	Timing	Athletes	Overall
Single Rope Pair Freestyle	SRPF	0-75 seconds	2 athletes	
Double Dutch Pair Freestyle	DDPF	60-75 seconds	4 athletes	TXD0
Double Dutch Single Freestyle	DDSF	60-75 seconds	3 athletes	
Wheel Pair Freestyle	WHPF	0-75 seconds	2 athletes	

Overalls

These are the overalls competed for the senior competition. The same team or athlete must compete in all events that are part of the overall to enter into the overall. The events competed in each overall is specified in the tables above.

- Individual Overall (Single Rope) (ISR0)
- Team Overall (Cross Discipline) (TXD0)

Junior Competition

In the IJRU world championships series this competition is referred to as the Junior World Championships (JWC).

The junior competition is a one-round competition.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranking athlete or team in each competition event and overall will be awarded. Awards are handed out separately for each gender category and age group. The 1st ranking athlete(s) will be awarded the title IJRU Junior World Champion(s) for that competition event or overall.

Age groups

Competitors in the Junior World Championships must be no younger than 12 and younger than 16 by the designated competition age cut-off date.

Competition events

Events competed individually

Event Name	Abbreviation	Timing	Athletes
Single Rope Speed Sprint	SRSS	1×30 seconds	1 athlete
Single Rope Speed Endurance	SRSE	1×180 seconds	1 athlete
Single Rope Individual Freestyle	SRIF	0-75 seconds	1 athlete

Events competed in teams

Event Name	Abbreviation	Timing	Athletes	Overall
Single Rope Speed Relay	SRSR	4×30 seconds	4 athletes	TXD0
Single Rope Double Unders Relay	SRDR	2×30 seconds	2 athletes	
Double Dutch Speed Relay	DDSR	4×30 seconds	4 athletes	TXD0
Double Dutch Speed Sprint	DDSS	1×60 seconds	3 athletes	
Single Rope Team Freestyle	SRTF	0-75 seconds	4 athletes	TXD0
Single Rope Pair Freestyle	SRPF	0-75 seconds	2 athletes	
Double Dutch Pair Freestyle	DDPF	60-75 seconds	4 athletes	TXD0
Double Dutch Single Freestyle	DDSF	60-75 seconds	3 athletes	

Event Name	Abbreviation	Timing	Athletes	Overall
Wheel Pair Freestyle	WHPF	0-75 seconds	2 athletes	

Overalls

These are the overalls competed for the junior competition. The same team or athlete must compete in all events that are part of the overall to enter into the overall. The events competed in each overall is specified in the tables above.

- Individual Overall (Single Rope) (ISR0)
- Team Overall (Cross Discipline) (TXD0)

Show Competition

In the IJRU world championships series this competition is referred to as the Show Competition (SC).

The show competition is a one-round competition.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranking athlete or team in each competition event will be awarded.

Age groups

Competitors in the Show Competition must be no younger than 12 by the designated competition age cut-off date.

Competition events

Event Name	Abbreviation	Timing	Athletes
Show Freestyle	SCTF	0-360 seconds	8-20 athletes

Double Dutch Contest (DDC)

In the IJRU world championships series this competition is referred to as the Double Dutch Contest World (DDCW).

The Junior DDC competition is made up of a one-round structure, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranking team in each competition event will be awarded.

The Senior DDC Speed competition is made up of a two-round structure, teams compete in the first round (preliminaries) for a spot in the second round (finals) where the 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranking team in each competition event will be awarded.

The Senior DDC Performance competition is made up of a three-round structure, teams compete DDC performance in the first round (preliminaries) for a spot in the second round where they compete DDC performance for a spot in the final round (finals) where they compete DDC Freestyle Battle. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the battle round will be awarded.

It is recommended that the top 10 ranking DDC performance teams in the preliminary round qualify for the second round, and the top 4 DDC speed teams in the preliminary round qualify for the finals round.

The top 4 teams of the second round of DDC performance qualify for the final round, the final round will be competed as follows:

- Battle 1: The team with the 1st ranked qualifying score will battle the team with the 4th ranked qualifying score.
- Battle 2: The team with the 2nd ranked qualifying score will battle the team with the 3rd ranked qualifying score.
- Battle 3: The losers of Battle 1 will battle the losers of Battle 2. The winner of this battle is awarded the 3rd place.
- Battle 4: The winners of Battle 1 will battle the winners of Battle 2. The winner of this battle is awarded 1st place, and the losers of this battle is awarded 2nd place.

EVENT ORGANISER DISCRETION

The event organiser may change the number of slots in the second DDC performance round and final DDC Speed round, and impose limitations on the number of slots per country in the final round. If so, this must be communicated.

Age groups

DDC is competed in a Junior and a Senior age group.

Athletes in the Junior age group must be no younger than 12 and younger than 16 by the designated competition age cut-off date.

Athletes in the Senior age group must be no younger than 12 by the designated competition age cut-off date, with at least one athlete in the team being 16 years or older.

For DDC events, the team qualifies for the age category of the oldest athlete of the entry.

Competition events

Event Name	Abbreviation	Timing	Athletes	Age Groups and Rounds
DDC Speed	DDCS	30 seconds	3 athletes	Junior and Senior ¹
DDC Performance	DDCF	0-180 seconds	3 or more athletes	Junior and Senior
DDC Freestyle Battle	DDCB	2-3 "moves" ²	3 or more athletes	Senior

It is possible to compete either one event, or both. However, if an athlete competes in both competition events, they must do so with the same team composition in both events.

Footnotes

1. DDC Speed is referred to as "fastest jumper" in the final round. ↩
2. A "move" is specified as 1 minute or less of DDC Performance. For the first three battles of the DDC finals, each team perform 2 "moves" each per heat in an alternating fashion, for the 4th/final battle of the DDC finals each team performs 3 "moves" each in an alternating fashion. ↩

Processes

Protests and appeals

The competition arrangers will designate an Appeals Committee that will hear and make decisions on protests and appeals (collectively referred to as appeals) within the competition. The Appeals Committee should consist of the Tournament Director (who will chair any Appeals Committee meeting, but will not have voting power) and an odd number of voting members, at least 3. No more than one person from a country can be a member of the Appeals Committee. At least a senior judge, senior skipper and a member of the Technical Committees should be included in this committee. A member of the same country/delegation as the appealing party may not process a protest or appeal, therefore a reserve member must also be appointed in advance. The reserve member has the right to attend and hear all other protests and appeals where the appealing party isn't their country/delegation so as to ensure consistency, but they are not allowed to vote or voice their opinion during these appeals.

The Appeals Committee can hear protests on:

- A scoring error related to data entry or calculation error
- A decision by the Tournament Director or other tournament officials that is unfair or inconsistent with published IJRU rules
- Calls for disqualification of an athlete or team that grossly abuses IJRU competition rules.
- Scores in speed and multiples events only if it has an effect on ranking or pertains to the top ranked entry
 - For speed and multiples events, each delegation is allowed appeals with a deposit set by the organisers, in some cases the organisers may choose to assign each delegation a number of appeals tokens instead.
 - If an appeal is successful, the deposit or appeal token is returned to the delegation; if not, the deposit is not returned and the appeal token is consumed.
 - If appeal tokens are used, delegations may submit more appeals than they have available appeal tokens, if the delegation runs out of appeal tokens before all of their appeals are processed, the processing stops.
 - These appeals will be processed from highest-ranking to lowest-ranking

- If video replay is in use and the organiser has decided the entry will be submitted to video replay, no appeal will be accepted. For the IJRU World Championships Series in particular, this means no appeals will be allowed in the Final round since all entries are automatically recounted using video replay.

Appeals will not be accepted on:

- Other decisions or ratings of judges

EVENT ORGANISER DISCRETION

The event organiser must specify if deposits, appeal tokens, or neither are used and the details for their use, such as how much the deposits are, and how they will be paid. Or how many tokens are available per delegation and what the process for distributing them are.

It is allowed to make appeals on matters or scores pertaining to your own, and/or another delegation.

A delegation may not make an appeal for results if they do not have entries in the competition event, age-, and gender category the appeal relates to.

A successful appeal on speed and multiples scores is one that changes the score of the top ranked entry, or if it changes the rank of another entry. To determine if the ranking would change, the re-counted entry score is compared to the results as they were before any other appeals were successful. A delegation may mark multiple appeals as related, to determine their success, the re-counted scores of related appeals are compared together against the results as they were before any other appeals were successful.

To make an appeal the following process should be used

1. The delegation head coach or designated representative discusses the issue with the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will propose a recommendation (and may consult with the full Appeals Committee, but this is not required). There may only be one designated representative for appeals per delegation, who must speak English or provide a translator.
2. If the designated representative does not agree with this recommendation they will have a set time from the official release of results to submit a written appeal to the full Appeals Committee. The appeal window for each official release of results will be defined and communicated by the Tournament Director with the official release of the results. The window must be at least 15 minutes. The appeal window can be cut short if all delegations sign that they will not be making any appeal before the end of the appeals window.

- i. The appeal must include contact details to the designated representative, and a description of what is being appealed.
 - ii. If an appeal pertains to an entry, the appeal must include the competition event, entry number, and athlete name(s).
 - iii. For appeals of scores, the score believed to be true must be stated.
3. **On protests or appeal of other matters than speed and multiples scores**, the designated representative will present their case to the full Appeals Committee, and the Tournament Director will present the recommendation they made.
4. **On appeal of other matters than speed and multiples scores**, the Appeals Committee will meet in private, discuss the issue and vote on the issue. A majority is required to overturn the original decision of the tournament director. The Appeals Committee is allowed to call additional people who are party to the appeal to ask them questions, such as the coach or athlete a protest is made against.
For appeals on speed and multiples scores, the Tournament Director or someone they appoint will select judges to re-count the video according to the [video replay](#) process, the result of this count will be the appeal outcome.

i NOTE

If video replay is not available for the competition, or has malfunctioned for the entry, the Appeals Committee will ask the designated representative for a video of the entry. This video must be filmed from the coach's box, with a still camera, where the athlete(s) are clearly visible throughout the recording, and the video shows the entire event: from the start of the timing track to the end of the event plus three seconds.

i NOTE

If an entry has already been re-counted due to another appeal or on the request of the Tournament Director the result of the previous recount will be used.

5. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final and will be communicated to the designated representative, it cannot be further appealed.

! EVENT ORGANISER DISCRETION

The event organiser must communicate if video replay will be in use for the event.

Appeals on speed and multiples scores that would change the ranking in medal or qualifiers positions will be handled before the medal ceremony. Other appeals on speed and multiples scores may be handled later, but before the results are published.

If corrections are made after awards are distributed, athletes will not be required to return any incorrectly given awards, but they may choose to do so as a show of sportsmanship.

Substitutions

Substitution of an athlete in an event will be permitted within the following guidelines:

1. The Tournament Director is notified immediately of any substitution.
2. The substitute athlete is not currently competing in the same competition event in any other age or gender category.
3. The substitute athlete's gender and age must fall within the parameters of the competition event in which they are substituting for a freestyle event.¹
4. If substitute athlete is a member of another overall team, the team into which they are substituting an event will not be eligible for an overall placement
5. If a gender or age category change occurs with the substitution, any overall entries for the team in which the substitution is occurring will be nullified.
6. Substitution must be requested by the delegation Head Coach or chosen representative.

For DDC performance, substitution is not allowed. However, in case of an injury or other reason accepted by the Tournament Director the team may be allowed to compete with fewer athletes than originally registered for the entry. This decision will be made by the Tournament Director.

For DDC speed, substitution may be allowed in case of an injury or other reason accepted by the Tournament Director, it is however only allowed to substitute in another athlete from the same performance team as the speed entry. This decision will be made by the Tournament Director.

Injury

If medical staff appointed by the Event Organiser determines that it is too dangerous for an athlete or team to proceed their competition, they will be withdrawn from competition until it's been proven that they are fit to continue competing. If this determination is made during an entry, the athletes are participating in it will be stopped and the athlete(s) will not be offered to recompete at a second time.

Examples of dangerous conditions includes but is not limited to:

- Athletes landing on their head, spraining their joints, dislocation of a joint.

- Other injuries that renders the athlete unable to get up, make them stagger, or otherwise hinder their ability to move normally
- Injuries outside the competition floor that renders the athlete in a state where they're unable to compete, including unsafe levels of available energy or nutrients.

Starting order

The starting order of entries for the first round will be randomly determined separately for each division. In the final round, the starting order is seeded by increasing qualifying score.

For DDC speed in the final round, the teams will be lined up based on their qualifying score in the order 4th, 2nd, 1st, 3rd from stage-right.

The DDC performance finals (freestyle battle) is held in four heats, two teams battle in each heat. For the first two heats the starting order is based on their qualifying scores. For the second two heats the starting order is based on the teams' results in the first two heats. Within the first three heats the team with the lower qualifying performance score will start. In the final heat either team may start, but after 20 seconds if neither team has started the team with the lower qualifying performance score will start.

1. The top 2nd qualifying team meets the top 3rd qualifying team.
2. The top 1st qualifying team meets the top 4th qualifying team.
3. The teams who lost the first and second heat. The winner of this round place 3rd total, the loser places 4th total.
4. The teams who won the first and second heat. The winner of this round place 1st total, the loser places 2nd total.

Withdrawal

If an athlete/team doesn't show up on the competition floor within 1 minute of being called it will be considered a withdrawal from the event. It is the responsibilities of athletes and coaches to follow the competition progress even if the tournament runs ahead of projected schedule.

Footnotes

1. At the discretion of the tournament committee, a change in age or gender division required by a substitute may be permitted if enough prior notice is provided and judging panels can be adjusted for the given entry. [↩](#)

Judges

Judge classes

IJRU certifies two classes of judges: Human Judges, and AI Judges. For both classes there are three levels of certification that allows for judging in different constellations and on different event levels. The policies for achieving a certification level is defined in the policies below, that may change more often than the rulebook comes out, as new training material or information develops:

- [Judge Certification Policy](#)
- [AI Judge Certification Policy](#)

Judge panel configurations

EVENT ORGANISER DISCRETION

The Event Organiser must publish information about the judge panel configurations used in the competition, including required minimum certification levels for Human Judges.

Single Rope freestyle events

Only human judges are accepted.

Min.	Judge	Description
2	D _P	Difficulty - Power and Gymnastics
2	D _M	Difficulty - Multiples
2	D _R	Difficulty - Rope Manipulation
2	P	Presentation

Min.	Judge	Description
1	T	Technical Judge

For definitions and roles of judges see [JM - Judging Single Rope freestyle](#).

Double Dutch freestyle events

Only human judges are accepted.

Min.	Judge	Description
2	D _J	Difficulty - Jumpers
2	D _T	Difficulty - Turners
2	P	Presentation
1	T	Technical Judge

For definitions and roles of judges see [JM - Judging Double Dutch freestyle](#).

Wheel freestyle events

Only human judges are accepted.

Min.	Judge	Description
2	D _A	Difficulty - Athlete A
2	D _B	Difficulty - Athlete B
2	P	Presentation
1	T	Technical Judge

For definitions and roles of judges see [JM - Judging Wheel freestyle](#).

Show freestyle events

Only human judges are accepted.

Min.	Judge	Description
5	D	Difficulty
5	P	Presentation
3	T	Technical Judge

For definitions and roles of judges see [JM - Judging show freestyle](#).

DDC performance events

Only human judges are accepted.

Amount	Judge	Description
2	J	Jumper Judge
2	T	Turner Judge
3	E	Expression Judge
3	S	Staging Judge

For definitions and roles of judges see [JM - Judging DDC freestyle and DDC freestyle battle events](#).

Speed and multiples events

Human or AI Judges are accepted.

When only human judges are used, the following number of judges are required:

Min.	Judge	Description
1	H	Head Judge
2	S	Speed Judge

Video Replay panels are always exclusively staffed by Human Judges.

AI judges can be introduced to the panel as follows:

- **AI at least Level 1**

The AI judge can be used for data collection, and will score all entries. But the scores produced by the AI judge will not be used in the normal scoring calculation. However, if Video Replay would otherwise be needed for the entry, the AI Judge's score can be used to try avoid doing a full Video Replay: If the AI Judge's score has reached the confidence threshold required by its certification, this score is involved as an additional judge for the entry, if that new extended panel results in a valid score, that score is used.

- **AI at least Level 2**

The AI Judge can replace one or more Speed Judges. At least 1 Human Head Judge and 1 Human Speed Judge are still required per panel. the AI judge's score is included as an additional speed judge when calculating the score. If Video Replay is needed for the entry, it will be sent to the replay panel as normal.

- **AI Level 3**

The AI judge can replace all Human Judges, and the AI judge is the only judge at the station. If Video Replay is needed for the entry, it will be sent to the replay panel as normal.

For definitions and roles of judges see [JM - Judging speed and multiples events](#).

Judge nominations

EVENT ORGANISER DISCRETION

The event organiser must publish any requirements for delegations to nominate judges qualifying under the specified minimum certification levels, along with any penalties for not nominating enough qualified judges.

Judges must be at least 15 years of age as of the date of their judge assignment.

EVENT ORGANISER DISCRETION

The event organiser may change the age requirement for judges. Except for the World Championships.

Assignment of judges

Each judge will be assigned by the Event Organiser. Judge assignments will be provided to each delegation prior to the tournament. An NGB may request changes to the assignment, this must be made in communication with the Event Organiser and the NGB should make all efforts to offer suitable replacements from their own delegation.

For international competitions, there should never be more than 2 judges from the same country on a judging panel. There can only be one judge from a country in each judge type (i.e. Presentation, Difficulty etc.) (If insufficient number of judges from different countries are available to achieve this, the Tournament Director can make an exception.)

The same judge types (i.e. difficulty or presentation) should never sit next to each other on a panel.

*Last updated on **28 Aug 2026***

Video replay and recompeting

There are instances when athletes may be eligible for video replay, or even recompeting. This includes:

- Broken Rope
- Invalid speed or multiples scores
- Appeals
- Music or timing track failure
- Interference or sabotage

If a recompete is required, the Tournament Director is responsible for scheduling all opportunities to recompete and in specific instances will need to decide whether or not athletes are eligible to recompete. If athlete(s) are offered to recompete, the athlete(s) should be given a minimum of 10 minutes between attempts (but if the athletes agree to it the break may be shorter). If the athletes accept the offer to recompete, their previous attempt's score is nullified and the score of the second attempt will be their final score. If the offer has been accepted, failure to compete it will be treated as a [withdrawal](#).

If a video replay has occurred, regardless of the reason (such as a failed score validation, a valid or invalid appeal, or at the request of the Tournament Director), the score of the video replay is used.

Broken rope

If an athlete's rope breaks unintentionally during a competition event and the majority of judges agree the rope is broken, the athlete will be given one additional attempt to compete the competition event successfully. However, once an athlete leaves the station, they can no longer claim a broken rope. A broken rope includes but is not limited to:

- Frayed wire
- Rope separating from handle
- Snapped rope
- Broken handle (that impairs its use)

- Any breakage that halts the functionality of the rope.

If a majority of judges agree there is a broken rope, the head judge (in speed) or the floor manager after consulting the judge panel (in freestyle), will notify the Tournament Director immediately.

The Tournament Director will notify the coach or team representative who was present in the coach's box, who will then wait with the Tournament Director until the second attempt has been scheduled. The coach or team representative who was present in the coach's box will be responsible for notifying the athlete(s) about when they will recompete.

If there was no one available in the coach's box, the Tournament Director will notify the coach on record, or delegation Head Coach. The coach will have 5 minutes to decide whether to recompete the competition event.

If they choose not to recompete, they will be given the original judges' scores. The athlete(s) will be given a minimum of 10 minutes between attempts if they choose to recompete and the score of the athlete(s)' second attempt will be their final score.

If the rope breaks again on their second attempt, they will not be given another chance to recompete the competition event, but they may bring an additional (set of) rope(s) into the station for their second attempt to use if their rope breaks again

For Single Rope events one extra rope per athlete is allowed, for Double Dutch and Wheels one extra set of ropes is allowed. For team events, the team only gets 2 attempts regardless of which athlete's rope breaks. This means that one athlete's rope could break in the first attempt and a different athlete's rope could break in the second attempt, but they will still only receive 2 attempts.

Invalid speed and multiples score

If a [valid score](#) cannot be obtained from the judges the Head Judge is instructed to notify the Tournament Director about this to expedite the process of video replay or recompeting, but it is possible it is only noticed later during score review.

Video replay used for the event

The Tournament Director will ensure the entry is recounted off the competition floor by a separate replay judge panel while the tournament continues. The athletes do not receive a second attempt.

i NOTE

When an AI Judge is used as a Level 1 AI Judge, its score may be used instead of sending the entry to the Video Replay panel if it meets the confidence level set out in its Certification.

The replay judge panel is staffed exclusively by Human Judges. The replay judge panel will continue to score the entry until they reach a valid score. This score is used to calculate the final speed score.

If a video recount is needed for a speed or multiples event but it is not possible due to a technical issue such as the camera not recording the entry properly, a file accidentally being deleted, a judge obstructing the view of the camera, or the camera ran out of space or power, the Tournament Director will notify the coach of record and the athlete(s) will be given the option to provide an unobstructed video, or to recompete the competition event. If they chose to do neither, their entry will be disqualified.

If the athlete(s) or coaches obstruct the view of the camera and a recount is not possible, the Tournament Director will notify the coach of record and the athlete(s) will be given the option to provide an unobstructed video, if they do not their entry will be disqualified.

Video replay not used for the event

The Tournament Director will notify the coach or team representative who was present in the coach's box, or the head of delegation/head coach if unavailable, who will then wait with the Tournament Director until a second attempt has been scheduled. The person informed by the Tournament Director will be responsible for notifying the athlete(s) about when they will recompete.

Appeals

If video replay is required as part of an appeal, the Tournament Director will ensure the video of the entry obtained through the appeal process is recounted off the competition floor by a separate replay judge panel while the tournament continues.

The replay judge panel is staffed exclusively by Human Judges. The replay judge panel will continue to score the entry until they reach a valid score. This score is used to calculate the final speed score.

In rare cases, the outcome of an appeal will be an athlete or team being allowed to recompete. The new attempt will be scheduled by the Tournament Director and its timing

will be communicated via the Appeals Process.

Music or timing track failure

If the music fails during a competition event, the athlete(s) should continue the competition event without music. After the competition event, the Tournament Director will consult with the music operator to determine if the issue was caused by the equipment playing the music. If so, the athlete(s) will be given the opportunity to recompete the competition event. If they choose not to recompete, they will be given the original judges' scores.

If the wrong music is played, compared to what the athlete(s) submitted, they should stop their routine within 5 seconds. It is recommended that the athlete(s) sit down to make this clear, but other signals are allowed. If they can provide the correct music within 10 minutes, they will be given the opportunity to recompete the competition event. No recompetes will be given if the athlete(s) have submitted the wrong music.

If a timing track fails during a competition event, the entire heat will be rescheduled and recompeted at a later time. All the scores from the heat where the timing track failed will be discarded and athletes are required to recompete or withdraw from the competition event.

The Tournament Director will notify the coach or team representative who was present in the coach's box, or the head of delegation/head coach if unavailable, who will then wait with the Tournament Director until a second attempt has been scheduled. The person informed by the Tournament Director will be responsible for notifying the athlete(s) about when they will recompete.

Athletes will not be allowed to recompete if they have misinterpreted a timing track or music track. For speed/multiples events that are conducted at the same time as freestyles, athletes are responsible for following the correct soundtrack for their event.

Interference or sabotage

In cases of interference (such as power outages, earthquakes, etc.) the head coach or head of delegation may request a chance to recompete from the Tournament Director who will make a decision on the severity of the interference and offer a recompete if the interference notably and unfairly impacted the athletes' ability to compete.

In cases of sabotage (intentional or otherwise, such as the ropes of another team entering the competition area and stopping the ropes of the competing team) the head coach or head of delegation may request a chance to recompete from the Tournament Director who

will judge the validity of the claim and offer a recompete if the complaint is deemed valid. The Tournament Director will also make a decision on whether or not to disqualify the saboteur, or refer the case to the IJRU Disciplinary Panel.

If the athlete(s) chose not to accept the offer to recompete, they will keep their original score.

*Last updated on **28 Aug 2026***

Standards

Competition area

The competition floor should be a high quality, wooden sprung or cushioned sports floor.

All competition areas must be measured from the outside edge of the boundary.

The boundaries of the competition area will be marked with well-defined lines. The colour of these marks should be a clear contrast from the floor and other pre-existing marks on the floor.

There should be at least a 1-meter margin between each competition field.

Freestyle field

Freestyle fields are 12×12-meter squares.

Show freestyle and DDC performance field

Show freestyle fields will be dependent on the size of the venue, a minimum of 16×24-meters for Show Freestyle is recommended. The available space should be communicated well in advance.

EVENT ORGANISER DISCRETION

The event organiser must communicate the size of the show freestyle field.

Speed and multiples field

Speed and multiples stations are 5×5-meter squares.

Coach's box

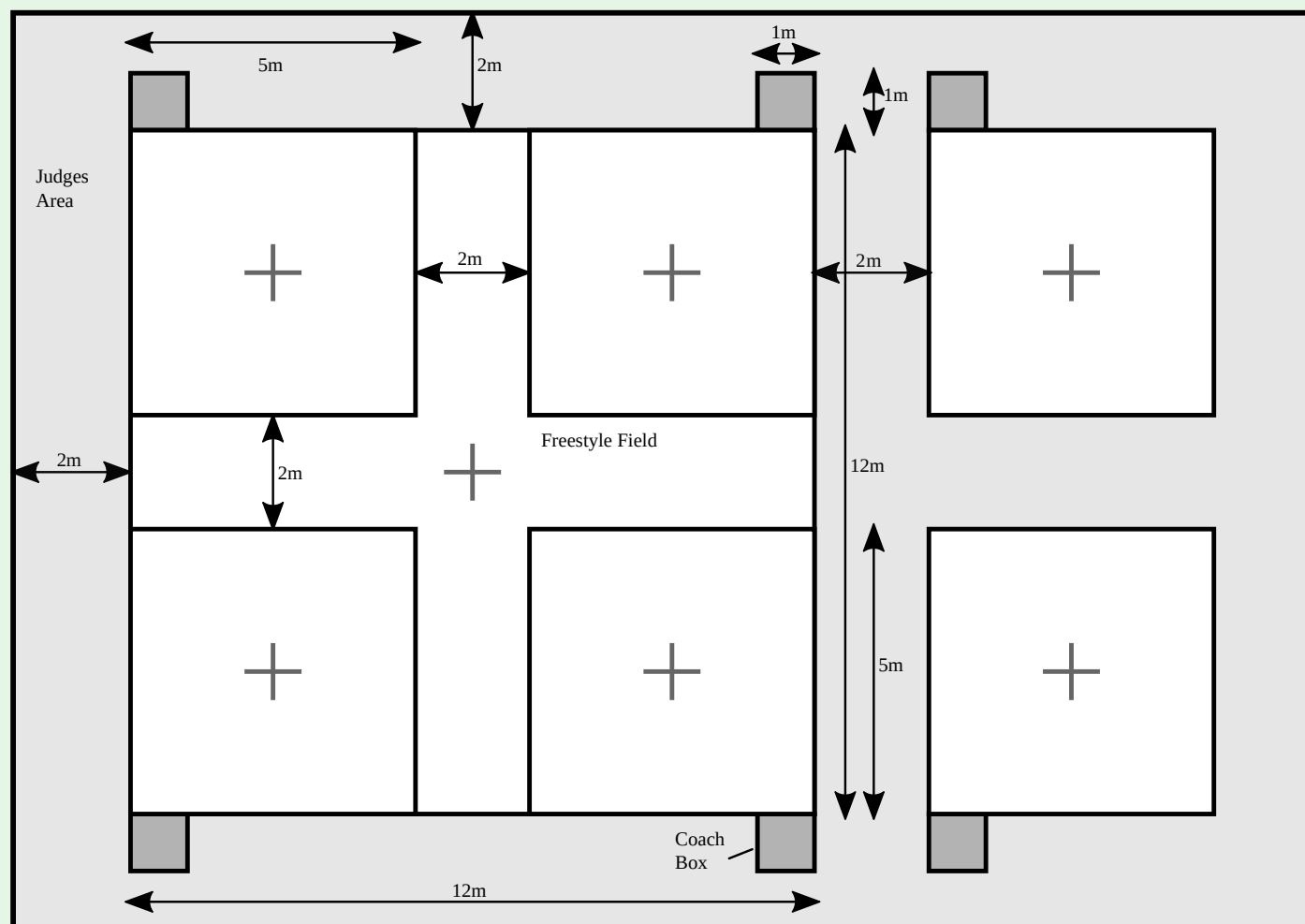
A 1×1-meter coach's box will be placed outside each speed and freestyle field and positioned at one of the corners.

One of the four sides of the coach's box must be a part of the freestyle field or speed field's side.

The coach's box should not block the view of the judges or video-replay cameras.

💡 EXAMPLE

Example with one freestyle field containing four speed fields, this can be extended in all directions. This illustration uses a 2-meter margin between fields, this can be decreased to 1-meter.



Equipment and uniforms

Ropes

Ropes can generally be of any length.

The number of ropes allowed in the competition field is limited in all competition events except show freestyle. For Single Rope and Wheel events the number of ropes must not be greater than the number of athletes in the event. For Double Dutch a maximum of one set of

ropes (2 ropes make a set) is allowed. Exceptions from this rule can be made in case of a recompete as detailed under [Recompeting](#).

For DDC events, only cotton ropes, polyester ropes, beaded ropes, vinyl ropes and wire ropes are allowed. Ropes of any other type of material cannot be used. If a team is unsure they should confirm with the Event Organiser before the event.

Props

Generally, no props or special equipment other than that which is attached to the body during the whole routine may be used to add to the presentation and/or the degree of difficulty of the routine. Jewellery is allowed at the athlete's discretion and at their own risk.

For DDC performance, props such as a ball, a hat, an additional rope, etc. may be allowed, however this must be registered beforehand. Only one type of prop is allowed per entry, but the quantity of props allowed is up to the number of athletes in the entry. The Event Organiser may deny a team's request to use a specific prop, at their own discretion.

Uniform

Supportive athletic shoes must be worn. If an athlete loses a shoe during a routine, no skills will be scored whilst the athlete doesn't wear their shoes.

Costumes must not go against the IJRU [Code of Ethics](#) or [Code of Conduct](#).

Anti-Doping

As IJRU is a signatory of the WADA Code, events must follow the IJRU [Anti-Doping Policy](#) including correct Anti-Doping education, testing protocols, guidelines and the WADA Code.

Music

Music should be no longer than the allowed max time of the competition event it is used for, if it is too long the music will be cut off at the length of the competition event. The time of the music is measured from the start of the audio file, not from the first audible signal.

Music should generally be submitted in advance; however, the athletes should be able to provide a USB or a device with a 3.5mm headphone output with their music in case of a music failure. The ability to test the music before the competition should be provided.

Music must not go against the IJRU [Code of Ethics](#) or [Code of Conduct](#).

 EVENT ORGANISER DISCRETION

The event organiser must communicate when and how music testing will be offered.

The music operator should not stop music before the end of the music file submitted, unless signalled by the Tournament Director or Technical Judge.

*Last updated on **28 Aug 2026***

DDC Prohibited Acts

In DDC a team will be disqualified if the Tournament Director determines that any of the following acts have taken place during any DDC competition event.

General

- Acts which significantly interfere with the event preparation or operation, such as failure to listen to instructions given by event officials etc.
- Acts which were determined to intentionally interfere with other teams.
- Use of ropes of a material that dirties the stage or use of ropes, props, or costumes that damage the floor.
- Acts which go against the [Code of Ethics](#) or [Code of Conduct](#).

Performance and Freestyle battle

- Increasing or changing team members registered compared to qualifier events.
 - Only instances in which the number of team members decreases due to unforeseen circumstances, such as injuries, etc., is a change in team members accepted. In this case, the change must be reported in advance of the start of the event to the Event Organisers.
- Dangerous acrobatic moves, such as a front or back flip with a double rotation in the air.
- If a team member performs an acrobatic move and a majority of the acrobatic judges deem it dangerous due to lack of room for the approach, take-off, flip, or landing, etc., the team member will be disqualified, regardless of their ranking.
- Acts which may injure the spectators. (i.e. throwing or dropping a rope or ball into the spectator's seats)
- Acts which require cleaning the stage after the performance (i.e. use of confetti or water)
- Acts which use fire. (i.e. flames or firecrackers)
- Team member(s) climbing down off or falling of the stage.
- Team member(s) disappearing from the stage (acting area) during the Performance, even as part of the choreography. (Waiting offstage, moving backstage, etc.)
- Use of props for which no request was made or which are prohibited.

Freestyle battle

- Acts which intentionally interfere with other teams.
- Acts which interfere with the opposing team's turn by moving out in front of the "waiting area," whether intentionally or not.
- The team that is doing its move intrudes into the opponent team's "waiting area" and does its move there.

NOTE

During freestyle battle the call to disqualify or not is left up to the judges. Judges can raise their hand prior to judging to request deliberation at which point all judges will discuss the suspected problematic acts and make a decision as to whether or not to disqualify the team. After the decision has been made normal judging will continue.

Speed

- Team members not registered to compete in the Speed event compete in it.
- Acts which intentionally interfere with other teams.

*Last updated on **28 Aug 2026***

Station Cameras

Video camera(s) as required by the AI judge certification must be provided for each speed and multiples station when AI Judges are included in the judge panel configuration.

When no AI Judges are included in the judge panel configuration, the usage of station cameras is at the discretion of the event organiser – if the organiser does not provide cameras, they must communicate either that video replay is not used, or that delegations are themselves required to provide video to do a video replay, or accept the original score.

EVENT ORGANISER DISCRETION

Event Organisers must publish if, and how video replay will be available.

The Head Judge is responsible for showing the athlete(s) where the camera is located in the station.

*Last updated on **28 Aug 2026***