



The Brazilian Zouk World Championships

MISSION STATEMENT

The Brazilian Zouk World Championships is dedicated to celebrating the rich cultural and artistic expression of Brazilian Zouk dance on a global platform. Our mission is to foster unity, creativity, and excellence within the Zouk community by providing a prestigious stage for dancers of all backgrounds and skill levels to showcase their passion and talent.

Through our annual championship event, we aim to promote the growth and development of Brazilian Zouk dance, encouraging innovation, collaboration, and mutual respect among participants. We strive to create an atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual support, where dancers can learn, inspire, and be inspired, pushing the boundaries of their artistry while honouring its roots.

We are committed to upholding the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and fairness in all aspects of our competitors.

Our ultimate goal is to elevate Zouk to new heights of recognition and appreciation worldwide, fostering a global community bound by the joy of dance and the spirit of collaboration. Through our dedication to excellence and inclusivity, we aspire to inspire, empower, and unite dancers around the world in the pursuit of artistic excellence and cultural exchange.



GENERAL COMPETITOR RULES

WEEKEND PASS:

1. All competitors are required to purchase a competitors ticket and register to each division.
2. Competitors must register using our online registration process.
3. A division can be determined closed based on number of entries or lack of entries by August 1st of each year.

DIVISION RESTRICTIONS:

1. Couple consists of one leader and one follower.
2. **A competitor may not dance in the same division twice, even with a different partner.**
3. **Competitors may compete in Originals, Showtime, Strictly, but with a different partner and a different routine.**
4. Any competitor may dance in two Jack and Jill level divisions in a different role.



RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETITORS:

1. **General rules: All competitors are responsible for reading and understanding the rules prior to The Worlds' weekend.**
2. Brazilian Zouk Dance Council competitors rules and guidance: All competitors are responsible for reading and understanding the rules prior to The World's weekend.
3. Choreography song submission: All routine competitors must submit their music by August 1st to info@brazilianzoukworldchampionships.com
4. Attending Competitors meeting: Competitors meeting will be held on Friday at the main ballroom (Ballroom A), time to be defined close to the event weekend.
5. Jack and Jill divisions: both the leader and follower are required to wear their assigned bib numbers for prelims, semis and finals.
6. Strictly Zouk: Only the leader is required to wear a bib number for prelims, semis and finals.
7. The cost of bib number replacement is \$15.
8. Do not remove your wristbands for the Jack and Jill and Strictly divisions.
9. Routine competitors can remove their wristband in the ballroom B minutes before competition start and receive a new one once division is finished. It is compulsory to bring the old wristband to receive the new one.



10. Demonstrate good sportsmanship conduct at all times. This includes treating your partner, other competitors, competition managers, spectators, event staff and volunteers, and the event itself with respect. Demonstrating a poor attitude by behaving in ways that our competition director, head judge, judging panel, or other competition officials find it inappropriate or disrespectful may result in a disqualification.
11. Awards: Sunday at 6pm.
12. Sunday awards theme will be Gala (dress to impress).
13. After the Awards Ceremony on Sunday, The Worlds' will be posting the results.

PRACTICE TIMES:

We aim to provide as much practice time as possible throughout the event. Please read the following details carefully:

- **Ballroom A (Main Ballroom):**
Priority is given to divisions competing on the same day. Practice time for other competitors will be allocated in designated time slots.
- **Ballroom B:**
Available for practice when not in use for workshops or other scheduled activities.
- **Competitors Ballroom (Dedicated Practice Space):**
Open for practice and private lessons during the following hours:
 - **Friday:** 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
 - **Saturday & Sunday:** 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- **Practice Guidelines:**
 - Competitors from non-competing divisions will be given specific time blocks.
 - Please line up near the DJ booth; access will be granted in order of arrival.



- Dancers may practice more than once per day, as time allows.
- Refer to the full event schedule for detailed practice and rotation times.

DANCE ORDER:

1. **Jack and Jill:** Prelims and semis will rotate partnerships and will be danced in heated format. The order of the Leader lineup and the order of the follower lineup is determined by the competitors' randomly assigned Bib number. Finals may or may not be danced in heated format. For JnJ finals, the final round pairings will be randomized by using cards.
2. **Strictly Zouk:** Prelims and Semis will be danced in heated format. Finals may or may not be danced in heated format.
3. **Routines:** Competitors will draw their competition order during the competitors meeting. **The champions of the previous year will be competing last by default.**

RESTART:

You may request a restart if something happens during your dance that could impact safety, such as:

1. Technical problems – factors outside your control, such as: lights in the ballroom go out; flooring is faulty or damaged; music suddenly stops; or our DJ plays the wrong music for your dance.
2. Costume malfunctions – your shoe breaks or becomes unfastened or untied; your costume tears or breaks; or you lose a piece of clothing that could endanger other dancers or expose a part of your body that would not normally be exposed in a public setting.
3. You may NOT request a restart if you are dissatisfied with your dance order, performance, partner, music, or because you fail to remember part of your routine.



4. For your own safety, **you also will not be allowed to restart if you are injured during your dance.**
5. You must request a restart prior to your departure from the floor, and our Head judge must approve your request. Our head judge may also call for a restart without a request from you if our Head judge believes it is fair to all and in your best interest.
6. If our head judge allows a restart, your previous scores will be voided.
7. The restart will begin at the Head judge's discretion depending on whether it is a Showtime or Originals routine. They will not automatically perform last, if possible. If the Head judge denies your request for a restart, or you decline an offer to restart, your prior performance will be scored.

Props:

A prop is anything used in the routine that is outside of the costume and is used to help tell a story.

1. Hats, jackets, capes, sunglasses, and other reasonable dance clothing items are considered costumes and may be worn in all divisions. However, clothing or items may NOT be discarded, nor switched from one partner to another.
2. Throughout the duration from when the music commences until the completion of all songs in your heat or finals, it is strictly prohibited to remove or move any clothing or costume items (including hats, jackets, hair band and others).
3. Adjusting your clothes or costumes to prevent the exposure of private parts is not classified as the use of a prop.
4. If you are concerned if something might be considered a prop, you must ask prior to competing.
5. Microphones and/or headsets are not permitted during any routine.



JUDGING CRITERIA

The relative placement system will be used to judge all Worlds' competitions.

TIMING (20%):

Timing as a judging category is defined as the relationship between the dancers and the music. Timing includes:

- Dancing on-time
- Musicality
- Musical interpretation (how the dancer hears and applies the song)

Dancers begin the competition with the full 20% for timing.

Beyond the basic 20% of the score allotted for timing, BZDC recognizes that timing also affects the judging of all other categories. Therefore, judges should also be lowering scores for technique, teamwork, difficulty, and showmanship when elements in those categories are not danced on time. The approach for this is discussed under each of those headers.

Dancing on-time

Brazilian Zouk can be danced to any 4/4 time signature music. The pulse is on the **downbeat** (1, 3, 5, 7), when counting the 8 beats in 2 measures (dancers count).

Competitors **must** accent the downbeat (Dancing on the upbeat timing is not permitted, and constitutes an error in timing). Competitors are permitted to add Lambada movements as long as they have the pulse on the downbeat.



TECHNIQUE (40%):

Competitors begin the dance with a 0% score for technique. Judges add to the score as the competitors display appropriate technique. Keep in mind that poor teamwork and timing should reduce the amount of credit given for technique, as this is considered improper technique.

Technique can be divided into two types: Individual and Partnership.

Individual technique

Individual technique is how a competitor uses his or her own body. It includes:

1. Footwork (how the competitor places and uses the feet)
 1. Body Lines (how the competitor places and controls their free hand or foot)
 2. Posture (how the competitor stands and holds their body)
 3. Balance (whether the competitor is stable, including entering, maintaining, and exiting turns)
 4. Quality of Movement (Body movement in Zouk movements)
 5. Ability to dance on time

Partnership technique

1. The ability to not take their partner off balance
2. Lead / Follow (the action and reaction between partners to create a Zouk flow and dance on time)



3. Body Leading/Following (the ability of leaders to use their body to lead, and ability of followers to express through their body while following without breaking connection)

Brazilian Zouk Content

1. Brazilian Zouk foundational movements, including Basic, Lateral, Simple turns, Soltinho, Lunges, Elastic with contraction, Bonus or boomerang, and lo – lo (and variations on these basics, according to level).
2. Proper use of head movements and cambrés (according to competitor's level)
3. Proper use of body waves, isolations, and other body manipulations (according to competitor's level)
4. Proper use of pre-movement and preparations (according to competitor's level).
5. Proper use of turns and spins, including horizontal and vertical axis turns (according to competitor's level).

TEAM WORK (20%):

Competitors begin the dance with 20% score for Teamwork. Connection is judged the same way at all levels.

Teamwork is divided into three components:

1. Partnership technique (Partner centering | connection | lead/follow)
2. Partner communication (Compatible musical interpretation | partner awareness)



3. Partner compatibility (Compatible musical interpretation | adjusting personal styles to compliment the partnership | adjusting to a partner's limitations or strengths)

DIFFICULTY (10%):

All competitors begin with a **0% score for difficulty**, which increases based on the level of technical and musical challenge demonstrated throughout the routine.

Movements such as **advanced turn patterns, counterbalances, continuous spins, and one-leg spins** (with or without head movements) contribute to a higher difficulty score — but **only if they are executed successfully**.

Difficulty is evaluated equally across all levels.

Choreography reflects the dancers' interpretation of the music. Strong choreography should:

- Flow seamlessly from one movement to the next
- Include creative and well-structured turn patterns
- Feature clever use of **tricks and lifts**, presented with originality and musicality
- Demonstrate **smooth transitions** between all elements
- Make effective use of stage space
- Be both musical and unique in presentation

Remember: quality execution, creativity, and musical interpretation are key to a high score.

APPEARANCE / ARTISTIC / COSTUMES & DANCE ETIQUETTE (10%):



Judges will evaluate how **professional, polished, and confident** the couple appears on stage. This includes their **ability to project to the audience**, maintain strong presence, and **capture attention throughout the performance**.

All contestants are expected to demonstrate proper **competition etiquette**, including **respecting other performers** by avoiding any behavior that may distract from a couple currently competing.

Props are not allowed in any division and shoes are compulsory.

ROUTINE DIVISIONS RULES

Original Division

1. Must have 80% Brazilian Zouk content (recognizable syllabus, timing/ rhythm, body movement). It is at the discretion of the judges to determine that the Zouk content has been met.
2. Drops, leans, circular and linear movements and other partner weight support moves are allowed as long as both partners keep at least one foot on the floor.
3. **Lifts are not permitted in this category.** A lift is defined as any movement where one partner has both feet off the ground while their weight is intentionally supported by the other. Performing a lift will result in **disqualification** from the category.



4. Accidental lifts (when both feet of one of the partners leave the ground another weight is unintentionally supported for more than 1 second) could be considerate a Zouk Violation 1*.
5. Contestants must be 18 years or older.
6. **Competitors may also dance in Strictly or Showtime with a different dance partner.**
7. **Competitors may also dance in Teams with the same partner.**
8. Dance costumes are required.
9. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join within 16 beats of music.
10. Separate moments during the performance are permitted but must not exceed 16 beats of music.
11. A couple must remain in their designated roles throughout the entire performance with an allowable exception of (1) 8-beat maximum of role switching
12. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.
13. **The song must have a 4/4 time signature.** Other time signatures can be incorporated into the routine when performing a different dance style, as long as the competitor adheres to the required percentage of Brazilian Zouk for the division.



Props are not allowed in any division and shoes are compulsory. Competitors are allowed to wear footlong, Jazz or Ballet shoes.

Showtime Division

1. Must have 60% Brazilian Zouk content (recognizable syllabus, timing/ rhythm, body movement). It is at the discretion of the judges to determine that the Zouk content has been met.
2. Drops, leans, circular and linear movements and other partner weight support moves are allowed.
3. There is a minimum of 3 lifts.
4. There is no lift maximum.
5. Contestants must be 18 years or older
6. **Competitors may also dance in Strictly or Originals with a different dance partner.**
7. **Competitors may also dance in Teams with the same partner.**
8. Dance costumes are required.
9. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join within 16 beats of music.



10. Separate moments during the performance are permitted but must not exceed 16 beats of music.
11. A couple must remain in their designated roles throughout the entire performance with an allowable exception of (1) 8-beat maximum of role switching
12. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.
13. **The song must have a 4/4 time signature. Other time signatures can be incorporated into the routine when performing a different dance style, as long as the competitor adheres to the required percentage of Brazilian Zouk for the division.**

Props are not allowed in any division and shoes are compulsory. Competitors are allowed to wear footthong, Jazz or Ballet shoes.

Team Division

1. Must have 60% Brazilian Zouk content (recognizable syllabus, timing/ rhythm, body movement). It is at the discretion of the judges to determine that the Zouk content has been met.
2. Drops, leans, circular and linear movements and other partner weight support moves are allowed.
3. Break aways, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are allowed, but not required.



4. A dancer can only dance in 1 team.
5. Lifts are allowed.
6. Contestants must be 18 years or older.
7. Minimum of 3 couples or 6 competitors.
8. **Competitors may also dance in Showtime or Originals with the same dance partner.**
9. **Competitors may also dance in Strictly with a different dance partner.**
10. Dance costumes are required.
11. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join within 16 beats of music.
12. Separate moments during the performance are permitted but must not exceed 16 beats of music.
13. A couple must remain in their designated roles throughout the entire performance with an allowable exception of (1) 8-beat maximum of role switching
14. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 4 minutes.
15. **The song must have a 4/4 time signature. Other time signatures can be incorporated into the routine when performing a different dance style, as long as the competitor adheres to the required percentage of Brazilian Zouk for the division.**



Props are not allowed in any division and shoes are compulsory. Competitors are allowed to wear footthong, Jazz or Ballet shoes.

Amateur Rising/Stars

1. Must have 60% Brazilian Zouk content (recognizable syllabus, timing/ rhythm, body movement). It is at the discretion of the judges to determine that the Zouk content has been met.
2. Drops, leans, circular and linear movements and other partner weight support moves are allowed.
3. Lifts are allowed but not mandatory.
4. There is no lift minimum or maximum.
5. Contestants must be 18 years or older
6. **Competitors may also dance in Teams with the same dance partner.**
7. **Competitors may also dance in Pro/Am with a different dance partner.**
8. Dance costumes are required.
9. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join within 16 beats of music.
10. Separate moments during the performance are permitted but must not exceed 16 beats of music.



11. A couple must remain in their designated roles throughout the entire performance with an allowable exception of (1) 8-beat maximum of role switching
12. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.
13. **The song must have a 4/4 time signature. Other time signatures can be incorporated into the routine when performing a different dance style, as long as the competitor adheres to the required percentage of Brazilian Zouk for the division.**

Props are not allowed in any division and shoes are compulsory. Competitors are allowed to wear footthong, Jazz or Ballet shoes.

Solo Division

1. Must have 70% Brazilian Zouk content (recognizable syllabus, timing/ rhythm, body movement). It is at the discretion of the judges to determine that the Zouk content has been met.
2. Movements on the floor, jumps, circular and linear movements are allowed.
3. Contestants must be 18 years or older
4. Dance costumes are required.
5. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.



6. **The song must have a 4/4 time signature. Other time signatures can be incorporated into the routine when performing a different dance style, as long as the competitor adheres to the required percentage of Brazilian Zouk for the division.**

Props are not allowed in any division and shoes are compulsory. Competitors are allowed to wear footthong, Jazz or Ballet shoes.

Pro/Am

1. It is defined as a professional dancer (teacher) dancing with an amateur dancer (student).
2. Must have 70% Brazilian Zouk content (recognizable syllabus, timing/ rhythm, body movement). It is at the discretion of the judges to determine that the Zouk content has been met.
3. Drops, leans, circular and linear movements and other partner weight support moves are allowed.
4. Lifts are allowed but not mandatory.
5. There is no lift minimum or maximum.
6. Contestants must be 18 years or older
7. **Competitors may also dance in Teams with the same dance partner.**
8. **Competitors may also dance in Pro/Am with a different dance partner.**
9. Dance costumes are required.



10. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join within 16 beats of music.
11. Separate moments during the performance are permitted but must not exceed 16 beats of music.
12. A couple must remain in their designated roles throughout the entire performance with an allowable exception of (1) 8-beat maximum of role switching
13. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.
14. **The song must have a 4/4 time signature. Other time signatures can be incorporated into the routine when performing a different dance style, as long as the competitor adheres to the required percentage of Brazilian Zouk for the division.**

Props are not allowed in any division and shoes are compulsory. Competitors are allowed to wear footthong, Jazz or Ballet shoes.

Strictly Zouk

1. This division is designed to highlight social Brazilian Zouk dancing skills.
2. Drops, leans, circular/linear movements, splits and other partner weight support moves are allowed.
3. Lifts are not allowed.



4. Contestants must be 18 years or older
5. Competitors may also dance in Teams, Showcase or Originals with a different dance partner.
6. Dance costumes are NOT PERMITTED.
7. A minimum of 5 entries is required to run this division to be awarded.
8. Your competition clothing should be able to catch a judge's attention, provide you with freedom of movement, and be something you feel confident in. You should also try to wear something that allows judges to see your lines and technique. However, there are some rules and guidelines regarding what is considered appropriate clothing for competitions.
9. Clothing is expected to cover private areas (butt, groin, and breasts) at all times. Men must wear shirts. Judges are allowed to lower the Presentation score if parts/all of these areas are shown, but it will not disqualify you.
10. Competitors are encouraged to "dress up" (for example, classic or trendy jeans/pants/shorts, skirts with booty shorts, dresses or tops that securely cover the chest for women).
11. We suggest that you not wear bodysuits or other gym wear, cargo shorts, sweatpants, etc. While bodysuits are a popular clothing choice in some areas and can be very intricate or sexy, they are still considered gym wear.
12. Please note that this is a guideline - not a rule; you will not be judged on this. We want competitions to reflect professionalism - which is what this guideline is aimed to achieve.



Props are not allowed in any division and shoes are compulsory.

Violation Criteria for Brazilian Zouk World Championships

The evaluation of Zouk content falls under the purview of each judge. Any infractions or warnings concerning Zouk Content are reflected either in the respective judge's score or explicitly noted on their individual score sheets. A ZVW (Zouk Violation Warning) signifies point deduction, while a ZV (Zouk Violation) indicates that the judge has downgraded their placement by 1, 2, or 3 positions for Zouk Content within their individual score. Judges are expected to adhere to the following criteria when assigning a ZV:

ORIGINALS:

Below 80%: At the judge's discretion, they may choose to issue a ZVW, which results in point deduction, or a ZV1, indicating a single drop in placement.

Below 70%: Judges must issue a ZV2, indicating a two-place drop in their individual score.

Below 60%: Judges are required to issue a ZV3, signifying a three-place drop in their individual score.

SHOWTIME:

At the judge's discretion, they may choose to issue a ZVW, which results in point deduction.

Below 60%: Judges must issue a ZV1, indicating a single drop in their individual score.

Below 50%: Judges are mandated to issue a ZV2, indicating a two-place drop in their individual score.

RISING STAR AMATEUR:

At the judge's discretion, they may choose to issue a ZVW, which results in point deduction.



Below 60%: Judges must issue a ZV1, indicating a single drop in their individual score.

Below 50%: Judges are mandated to issue a ZV2, indicating a two-place drop in their individual score.

TEAMS:

At the judge's discretion, they may choose to issue a ZVW, which results in point deduction.

Below 60%: Judges must issue a ZV1, indicating a single drop in their individual score.

Below 50%: Judges are mandated to issue a ZV2, indicating a two-place drop in their individual score.

SOLO:

At the judge's discretion, they may choose to issue a ZVW, which results in point deduction.

Below 70%: At the judge's discretion, they may choose to issue a ZVW, which results in no deduction in score, or a ZV1, indicating a single drop in placement.

Below 60%: Judges must issue a ZV2, indicating a two-place drop in their individual score.

Below 50%: Judges are required to issue a ZV3, signifying a three-place drop in their individual score.

RISING PRO/AM:

At the judge's discretion, they may choose to issue a ZVW, which results in point deduction.

Below 70%: Judges must issue a ZV1, indicating a single drop in their individual score.

Below 60%: Judges are mandated to issue a ZV2, indicating a two-place drop in their individual score.

Below 50%: Judges are required to issue a ZV3, signifying a three-place drop in their individual score.