



GENERAL COMPETITOR RULES

WEEKEND PASS:

1. All competitors are required to purchase a full weekend pass and register to each division.
2. Competitors must register using our online registration process. Registration opens on September 1st 2022, pass fees increase on May 10th 2023.
3. A division can be determined closed based on number of entries or lack of entries by August 1st 2023.

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 one Jack and Jill level division.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETITORS:

1. All competitors are responsible for reading and understanding the rules prior to the BZWD weekend.

Brazilian Zouk World Champs



2. All routine competitors must submit their music by August 1st to info@brazilianzoukworldchampionships.com
3. Competitors meeting will be held on August 18th at the main ballroom, time to be decided.
4. Jack and Jill divisions – both the leader and follower are required to wear their assigned bib numbers for prelims, semis and finals.
5. The cost of bib number replacement is \$15
6. Do not remove your wristbands for the Jack and Jill and Strictly divisions.
7. Routine competitors can remove their wristband in the green room minutes before competition start and receive a new one once division is finished.
8. After the Awards Ceremony on Sunday at 6pm, BZWC will be posting the results.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

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

JUDGING CRITERIA

TIMING (20%):

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

Brazilian Zouk World Champs



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).

BZDC competitors **must** accent the downbeat (Lamba timing is not permitted, and constitutes an error in timing). However, competitors are

permitted to dance Lamba 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.

Brazilian Zouk World Champs



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. Centering (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

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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 cambres (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)

Brazilian Zouk World Champs



DIFFICULTY (10%):

Competitors begin the dance with 0% score for difficulty. Difficulty refers to the level of technical or musical difficulty in the dance. Movements such as advanced turn patterns, counter balances, continuous spins and one leg spins with or without head movements will increase the level of difficulty in the dance. All levels are judged the same way with regards to difficulty.

In Order to get credit for any of these, the movements must be successfully executed.

The choreography is the couple or teams interpretation of the music.

Routine must flow easily from one movement to the next

Good choreography should contain clever turn patterns

A few creative tricks will help with your score.

Competitors should creatively demonstrate lifts and tricks, and also smooth transitions

All choreography should be musical, and dancers should show a good usage of the space itself

Originality

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

How professional and polished did the couple appear

How did they project to the audience and capture their attention Contestants will show etiquette during the competition by refraining from distracting others while competing couple is dancing

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

ROUTINE COMPETITOR RULES

Brazilian Zouk World Champs



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. Contestants must be 18 years or older
4. **Competitors may also dance in Strictly or Showcase with a different dance partner.**
5. **Competitors may also dance in Teams with the same partner.**
6. Dance costumes are required.
7. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join within 16 beats of music.
8. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.

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

Brazilian Zouk World Champs



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 32 beats of music.
10. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.

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

Brazilian Zouk World Champs



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. Lifts are allowed.
4. Contestants must be 18 years or older.
5. Minimum of 3 couples or 6 competitors.
6. **Competitors may also dance in Showcase or Originals with the same dance partner.**
7. **Competitors may also dance in Strictly with a different dance partner.**
8. Dance costumes are required.
9. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join within 32 beats of music.
10. Performance time is a minimum of 3 minutes and maximum of 4 minutes.

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

Brazilian Zouk World Champs



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 32 beats of music.
10. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.

Brazilian Zouk World Champs



Props are not allowed in any division and shoes are compulsory. Competitors are allowed to wear foathong, 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.

Props are not allowed in any division and shoes are compulsory. Competitors are allowed to wear foathong, 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.

Brazilian Zouk World Champs



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.

Brazilian Zouk World Champs



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.