

KDC 2026 COMPETITION LEVELS & CLASSIFICATION REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 1 — PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the KDC Competition Levels & Classification System is to establish a clear, fair and internationally understandable structure for the classification of competitors participating in the Kalamata Dance Cup.

The system is designed to:

- a. Provide appropriate competitive opportunities for dancers at different stages of development.
- b. Promote fair and meaningful competition between competitors of comparable experience and demonstrated competitive standard.
- c. Encourage the natural progression of competitors through the KDC competitive pathway.
- d. Prevent competitors from entering divisions below their established competitive standard.
- e. Provide a unified classification structure applicable across the dance disciplines and competition formats included in the KDC programme.

1.2 Scope

Unless otherwise specified in the individual discipline regulations, the KDC Competition Levels & Classification System may apply to:

- DanceSport
- Ballroom
- Latin American
- Solo competitions
- Couples
- Duo competitions

- Ballet
- Contemporary Dance
- Urban Dance
- Groups
- Formations
- Other disciplines included in the official KDC programme

The Organising Committee may establish discipline-specific requirements where the nature of a particular discipline requires additional or modified classification criteria.

ARTICLE 2 — OFFICIAL KDC COMPETITION LEVELS

The official KDC Competition Levels are:



2.1 RISING STARS

Development Competition Level



2.2 PERFORMANCE (Pre-Championship)

Established Competitive Level



2.3 CHAMPIONSHIP

Highest Amateur Competition Level



2.4 PROFESSIONAL

Professional Competition Division

The **Rising Stars, Performance and Championship Levels** constitute the KDC Amateur Competitive Pathway.

The **Professional Division** is a separate competition division and is not considered a compulsory progression level within the amateur pathway.

ARTICLE 3 — RISING STARS LEVEL

3.1 Definition

The **Rising Stars Level** is the entry and development competition level within the KDC competitive pathway.

It is intended for competitors who are developing their technical, artistic and competitive experience.

3.2 Eligibility

The Rising Stars Level is generally suitable for competitors who:

- a. Have limited competitive experience.
 - b. Are participating in organised competition for the first time or are at an early stage of their competitive development.
 - c. Are developing their technical and artistic foundations.
 - d. Participate primarily at recreational, school, local or development competition level.
 - e. Do not have a significant record of achievement at National Championship, International Championship or equivalent high-performance competition level.
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3.3 Rising Stars Restrictions

Competitors shall not normally be eligible for the Rising Stars Level when they have an established competitive record demonstrating a significantly higher competitive standard.

The following competitors may be considered ineligible:

- a. Current or recent officially recognised National Champions in the same or closely related discipline and relevant age category.
 - b. Competitors with established success at recognised international Championship-level events.
 - c. Competitors with a consistent record of participation or success in Elite, Championship, Premier or equivalent high-performance divisions.
 - d. Registered or recognised Professional competitors.
 - e. Competitors whose documented competitive history clearly demonstrates that the Rising Stars Level is below their established competitive standard.
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ARTICLE 4 — PERFORMANCE LEVEL

4.1 Definition

The **Performance Level** is the established competitive level within the KDC Amateur Competitive Pathway.

It is intended for competitors who have progressed beyond the development stage and possess established competitive experience, technical ability and performance maturity.

4.2 Eligibility

The Performance Level is generally suitable for competitors who:

- a. Have regular competition experience.
- b. Have progressed beyond the Rising Stars development stage.

- c. Participate in regional, national, open or international competitions.
 - d. Demonstrate established technical and artistic ability.
 - e. Possess sufficient competitive experience to participate successfully against established competitors.
 - f. Do not have a competitive record that clearly requires classification within the Championship Level.
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4.3 Performance Level Restrictions

Competitors shall not deliberately enter the Performance Level when their established competitive record clearly demonstrates Championship-level status.

The following competitors may be subject to mandatory review or reclassification:

- a. Current or recent National Champions.
 - b. Established finalists or medal winners at recognised international Championship-level competitions.
 - c. Competitors with a consistent record of participation and success in Championship or equivalent Elite-level divisions.
 - d. Competitors whose documented achievements demonstrate a competitive standard clearly above the Performance Level.
 - e. Professional competitors.
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ARTICLE 5 — CHAMPIONSHIP LEVEL

5.1 Definition

The **Championship Level** represents the highest Amateur competition level within the KDC Competition System.

It is intended for highly experienced and high-performing amateur competitors.

5.2 Eligibility

The Championship Level is open to competitors including:

- a. National Champions.
 - b. National finalists.
 - c. International competitors.
 - d. Highly experienced competitive dancers.
 - e. Competitors with established high-performance records.
 - f. Competitors who have progressed beyond the Performance Level.
 - g. Competitors entering directly at Championship standard.
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5.3 Direct Entry

Competitors are not required to progress sequentially through the KDC levels.

A competitor whose competitive experience and demonstrated standard are appropriate for the Championship Level may enter the Championship Division directly.

Previous participation in Rising Stars or Performance shall not be required.

ARTICLE 6 — PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

6.1 Definition

The **Professional Division** is a separate competition division for recognised professional-level competitors.

It operates independently from the KDC Amateur Competitive Pathway.

6.2 Eligibility

The Professional Division may include:

- a. Recognised Professional competitors.
 - b. Professional dance partnerships.
 - c. Dance teachers competing at Professional level.
 - d. Registered Professional Division competitors.
 - e. Professional performers where the relevant discipline regulations permit their participation.
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6.3 Amateur and Professional Status

A competitor classified as Professional shall not enter an Amateur division unless specifically authorised by the applicable KDC discipline regulations.

The Organising Committee reserves the right to determine Professional status where a competitor's status is unclear or disputed.

ARTICLE 7 — COMPETITOR CLASSIFICATION PRINCIPLE

7.1 Accurate Classification

Every competitor is responsible for selecting the competition level that accurately reflects their current competitive experience, competitive history and demonstrated standard.

Competitors shall not intentionally select a lower competition level for the purpose of obtaining an unfair competitive advantage.

7.2 Competitive History

Classification may take into consideration:

- a. Previous competition participation.
 - b. Competition results.
 - c. Championship titles.
 - d. National and international rankings.
 - e. Finals and medal placements.
 - f. Previous competition levels.
 - g. Technical and performance standard.
 - h. Other documented evidence relevant to the competitor's established competitive status.
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ARTICLE 8 — PROHIBITION OF DOWNWARD CLASSIFICATION

8.1 General Rule

A competitor shall not enter a competition level below their established competitive standard.

The deliberate selection of an inappropriate lower level may be considered a violation of the KDC Competition Regulations.

8.2 Classification Review

Where there is reasonable evidence that a competitor has entered an inappropriate level, the KDC Organising Committee may review the competitor's classification.

The Committee may consider:

- Official competition records.
 - Published results.
 - Rankings.
 - Championship titles.
 - Previous competitive classifications.
 - Federation or organisation records.
 - Other reliable evidence.
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ARTICLE 9 — KDC RIGHT OF REVIEW AND RECLASSIFICATION

9.1 Organising Committee Authority

The KDC Organising Committee reserves the right to review the classification of any competitor before or during the competition.

9.2 Reclassification

Where a competitor's declared level is considered inconsistent with their documented competitive history or demonstrated standard, KDC may:

- a. Confirm the original classification.
 - b. Request additional information or documentation.
 - c. Reclassify the competitor to a more appropriate level.
 - d. Transfer the entry to another available category.
 - e. Refuse an entry where appropriate classification cannot reasonably be established.
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9.3 Notification

Where practical, competitors or their authorised representatives shall be informed of a classification decision before the start of the relevant competition.

ARTICLE 10 — PROGRESSION THROUGH THE KDC PATHWAY

The normal KDC Amateur Competitive Pathway is:

RISING STARS → PERFORMANCE → CHAMPIONSHIP

Progression through the pathway is encouraged but shall not be based exclusively on the number of years of training.

Classification and progression shall primarily consider demonstrated competitive experience and competitive achievement.

ARTICLE 11 — PROMOTION FROM RISING STARS

11.1 General Principle

Competitors should progress from Rising Stars to Performance when their competitive development and established results demonstrate that they have moved beyond the development stage.

11.2 Promotion Criteria

Promotion may be considered appropriate where a competitor:

- a. Achieves repeated victories in Rising Stars competitions.
- b. Achieves consistent podium placements.
- c. Demonstrates a sustained competitive standard above the Rising Stars Level.
- d. Has accumulated significant competition experience.
- e. Has achieved results indicating readiness for the Performance Level.

11.3 Mandatory Promotion

The KDC Organising Committee may require a competitor to progress from Rising Stars to Performance where the competitor has:

- a. Won the same or equivalent Rising Stars category on two recognised occasions;
or
- b. Demonstrated a consistent record of podium-level achievement indicating that the Rising Stars Level is no longer appropriate.

The competitive quality and recognition of previous events may be considered when applying this rule.

ARTICLE 12 — PROMOTION FROM PERFORMANCE

12.1 General Principle

Competitors should progress from Performance to Championship when their competitive record and demonstrated standard establish them as Championship-level competitors.

12.2 Promotion Criteria

Promotion may be appropriate where a competitor:

- a. Achieves repeated victories at Performance Level.
- b. Demonstrates consistent podium-level results.
- c. Achieves significant National or International competition success.
- d. Demonstrates sustained Championship-level technical and performance ability.
- e. Has an established competitive record indicating that the Performance Level is no longer appropriate.

12.3 Mandatory Promotion

The KDC Organising Committee may require a competitor to progress to the Championship Level where the competitor has:

- a. Won the same or equivalent Performance category on two recognised occasions;
or
 - b. Achieved a competitive record clearly demonstrating Championship-level status.
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ARTICLE 13 — CLASSIFICATION OF SOLO COMPETITORS

Solo competitors shall normally be classified according to their individual competitive history and demonstrated standard.

Previous competitive results in the relevant discipline may be considered when determining eligibility.

Where a Solo competitor participates in multiple dance disciplines, classification may be determined separately where the disciplines have substantially different competitive requirements.

ARTICLE 14 — CLASSIFICATION OF DUOS AND COUPLES

14.1 General Principle

For Duo and Couple competitions, the classification shall normally reflect the higher established competitive standard of either competitor.

14.2 Purpose

This principle is intended to prevent a highly experienced competitor from entering a lower division by partnering with a less experienced competitor.

14.3 Review

KDC may review the competitive history of both members when determining the appropriate competition level.

ARTICLE 15 — CLASSIFICATION OF GROUPS AND FORMATIONS

Groups and Formations shall be classified according to their overall demonstrated competitive standard.

The following factors may be considered:

- a. Previous competition history.
- b. Previous results.
- c. Competitive experience of the group.
- d. Standard of the majority of participating members.
- e. Technical and artistic complexity.
- f. Established competitive level.
- g. Other relevant evidence.

The KDC Organising Committee reserves the right to reclassify a Group or Formation where the declared level is clearly inconsistent with its demonstrated competitive standard.

ARTICLE 16 — SELF-DECLARATION AT REGISTRATION

During registration, competitors shall select their intended competition level.

By completing the registration, the competitor or authorised representative confirms that:

The selected competition level accurately reflects the competitor's current competitive experience and established standard.

The competitor further acknowledges that:

KDC reserves the right to review competitive history and reclassify an entry where the declared level is considered inappropriate.

ARTICLE 17 — FALSE OR MISLEADING CLASSIFICATION

The submission of false, incomplete or intentionally misleading information concerning competitive history or competition level may result in:

- a. Reclassification.
- b. Transfer to another division.
- c. Removal from the relevant competition category.
- d. Disqualification.
- e. Withdrawal of awards or titles where appropriate.

The final action shall be determined by the KDC Organising Committee in accordance with the circumstances of the case.

ARTICLE 18 — DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

Certain disciplines may require additional classification requirements.

Where applicable, individual discipline regulations may establish:

- Specific eligibility criteria.
- Age-related requirements.
- Technical requirements.
- Programme requirements.
- Previous competition restrictions.
- Qualification procedures.
- Additional promotion criteria.

Such requirements shall supplement these general KDC Competition Levels & Classification Regulations.

Where a conflict exists between these General Regulations and officially published discipline-specific regulations, the discipline-specific regulation shall apply to that discipline.

ARTICLE 19 — FINAL AUTHORITY

The KDC Organising Committee retains final authority regarding:

- Competitor classification.
- Eligibility.
- Reclassification.
- Interpretation of these regulations.
- Resolution of classification disputes.

All decisions shall be made in the interests of fair competition and the integrity of the Kalamata Dance Cup.

ARTICLE 20 — OFFICIAL KDC COMPETITIVE PATHWAY

The official KDC Competition Structure is:



RISING STARS

Development Competition Level



PERFORMANCE

Established Competitive Level



CHAMPIONSHIP

Highest Amateur Competition Level



PROFESSIONAL

Separate Professional Competition Division

OFFICIAL KDC PRINCIPLE

Every competitor should compete at the level that honestly reflects their demonstrated competitive experience and established standard.

The purpose of classification is not to restrict opportunity, but to protect fairness, encourage development and create meaningful competition for every participant.