



World Swing Dance Council

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Date: December 7, 2019

To: WSDC

Re: **CALLBACK SCORING UPDATE**

We have been informed of a scoring irregularity that has occurred at many events / with several scoring systems, regarding tabulating Callback Scoring. That tabulation results in competitors with two 'Alternate' scores placing higher than a single 'Yes' score, which is in error.

Judges are asked to provide a specific number of 'Yes' scores (typically equal to or slightly more than the anticipated number of actual callbacks to the next round). In order to break the inevitable ties, Judges are also asked to provide some 'Alternate' scores. Judges are to focus on their 'firm' 'Yes' scores, and the 'Yes' scores receive the most weight. 'Alternate' scores should be thought of as the "top of the 'No' scores" instead of "just below / bottom of the 'Yes' scores".

As such, proper Callback Scoring's intention is, "It takes *more* than two 'Alternate' scores (but less than a full three 'Alternate' scores – approximately slightly more than 2-1/3 'Alternate' scores) to outweigh one 'Yes' score. Therefore, it takes (3) "Alt" scores to outweigh (1) solid "Yes" score; (5) "Alt" scores to outweigh (2) solid "Yes" scores; and (7) 'Alt' scores to outweigh (3) solid "Yes" scores.

It is helpful to think of three 'Alternate' scores as creating the equivalent of a 'Yes +' (greater in value than a yes) with some 'residual value' to also add onto an 'Alternate' (if any) to create the equivalent of an "Alt +" score. To continue the concept, an 'Alternate 1' is more of a step above an 'Alternate 2' score than an 'Alternate 2' score is above an 'Alternate 3' score. Thus, an 'Alt 1 / Alt 3' combination scores higher than an 'Alt 2 / Alt 2' combination.

This concept can be calculated in scoring systems by assigning the following numeric values to the five possible scores that can/should be given:

'Yes': 10 pts 'Alt 1': 4.5 pts 'Alt 2': 4.3 pts 'Alt 1': 4.2 pts 'No': 0 points.

With five judges with five possible scores to allocate (Yes / Alt 1 / Alt 2 / Alt 3 / No), there are 126 combinations (with 7 judges: 2527 combinations; with nine judges: 15,129 combinations!). Please see the following "Quick Reference" page for the ranking of scoring combinations for 3, 4 and 5 judges. For consistency between events (and for the mathematics to work), scoring systems should not utilize more than three (3) levels of Alternates. If a Chief Judges desires more Alternates in a large contest, they can ask for more than one of each or all levels or Alternates; or, for small contests, they may only ask for one or two Alternates total.

The World Swing Dance Council
(WSDC) is a service organization designed to promote swing dancing and to further communication. The WSDC provides information and record keeping services for those in the Swing Dance community.

The updated Callback Scoring valuations are effective January 1, 2020.