



Constitution & Rules

INTRODUCTION

This document contains the rules relating to the organisation and operation of the Recreational Ice Dance League. Explanatory notes are included to clarify the logic and philosophy underlying proposed rules.

- Rule 1** There shall be formed a series of regional leagues of ice skating clubs in the United Kingdom for the purpose of holding inter-club competitions, and promoting opportunities for social and couples ice dancing on a regular basis. It will be called the Recreational Ice Dance League (RIDL).
- Rule 2** The leagues will culminate annually with a National Final event comprising 1 team from each league.
- Rule 3** The RIDL is established and controlled under the authority of the elected RIDL Committee.

LEAGUE SIZE

The organisational logistics of the league depends entirely on the number of teams/clubs participating. Each each regional heat should comprise of between 3 and 5 participating clubs. Depending on the number of clubs in the region, each regional meeting can hold more than 1 heat subject to at least 3 clubs participating in each heat.

All clubs should aim to compete against each other at least 3 times during the season.

NATIONAL RIDL COMMITTEE

- Rule 4**
- i) The AGM will no longer be held each year.
 - ii) The election for officers of the league will be on 30th November each year. Votes will be cast by email to the Hon Secretary by a nominated representative of each member club. One vote for each post for each member club. Votes may be cast before the 30th November. Reminders to be sent from the Secretary directly to club representatives by 9th October each year.
 - iii) Nominations for officers must be received by the Hon Secretary by 9th November each year. The list of candidates for each post will be emailed to the nominated representative of each club and the Regional Representatives no later than 16th November.
 - iv) The result of the election will be advised by email to the Regional Representatives and each member club through their nominated representative.
 - v) The accounts of the RIDL and the Hon Secretary's report will be emailed to the Regional Representatives and the nominated member club representative with the list of candidates for election.
 - vi) The RIDL committee, which is the elected officers and the Regional Representatives, may call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the RIDL by giving a minimum of one months notice by email to the nominated representative of each member club.
 - vii) Two member clubs may petition by email to the Hon Secretary for an Extraordinary General Meeting of the RIDL. The Extraordinary General Meeting must be called within four months of the petition date. Notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting must be sent by email to the Regional Representatives and the nominated representative of each member club.

- viii) The resolutions for consideration at an Extraordinary General Meeting must be included in the notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting. No other business must be transacted at the Extraordinary General Meeting.

That is not to say that only one representative member of a club can be present at an EGM simply that it is one club, one vote. Everyone can take part in discussion.

Rule 5 Replaced by revised rule 4 above.

Rule 6 Each Regional League shall each year elect **one** representative to serve on the National RIDL Committee which shall be responsible for the administration of the National League.

Rule 7 National Committee meetings shall be held as often as is required during the season. Any representative desiring that a meeting be called shall inform the Secretary in writing or email, stating the reason.

Rule 8 At Committee meetings, each representative shall have one vote. The elected Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.

Rule 9 It shall be permissible for a region to authorise the attendance of a deputy at a meeting should the elected representative be unable to attend. The League Secretary shall be informed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

- Rule 10** Each participating club shall subscribe an annual fee as agreed at the AGM.
- Rule 11** RIDL funds shall be used for general administration purposes, and all claims shall be supported wherever possible, by appropriate receipts. Two committee members shall be required to authorise expense payments. RIDL funds may also be used to assist /recompense any event host clubs who can demonstrate with receipts, that a loss has been incurred on ice fees.

REGIONAL RIDL COMMITTEES

- Rule 12** Clubs wishing to participate in the regional RIDL should commit to participation by March 31st of each year, preceding the start of the league year, which is to run from 1st January until 31st December.
- Rule 13** Each club committed to participation in the league shall each year elect up to two representatives to serve on a Committee which shall be responsible for the administration of the Regional League.
- Rule 14** Committee meetings shall be held as often as is required during the season. Any representative desiring that a meeting be called shall inform the Secretary, stating the reason.
- Rule 15** At Committee meetings, each club shall have one vote. The Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.
- Rule 16** It shall be permissible for a club to authorise the attendance of a deputy at a meeting should the clubs elected representative be unable to attend. The League Secretary shall be informed.

CLUB QUALIFICATION

The philosophy underlying RIDL, is to provide an essentially recreational competitive focus around which to maintain interest in social ice dancing. It aims to maximise participation, both in the competition, and in ice dance generally. The fundamental principle in the establishment of rules regarding participation should therefore aim to encourage rather than discourage.

- Rule 17** Teams must enter under the name of a NISA affiliated ice skating club at their rink *.
- * Not applicable for any club without a home rink.

COMPETITOR QUALIFICATION

- Rule 18** Competitors must be a member of any NISA affiliated club at the competing club's home rink. Membership may be full, associate or affiliate according to rules of membership as laid down by the affiliated club concerned.
- Rule 19** Any skater who is qualified by the above, may change club allegiance **within** a regional league not more than once in the course of any season, but such change may only be allowed as a result of significant change in personal circumstances. All changes must be approved by and at the discretion of the regional RIDL organisers prior to their effect.
- Rule 20** A skater may compete for one other club belonging to a different league, but may not represent more than one regional team in the National Finals.

SKATING STANDARDS

Rule 21 Skaters participating in the Junior and Intermediate teams may be of the standards as agreed by each regional committee but are expected to mirror the perceived standard requirements of the national final (appendix A).

Rule 22 There is an open standard for participation in any Senior team.

FORMAT OF THE COMPETITIONS

Rule 23 Junior and Intermediate sections can be combined in regional events.

Rule 24 Each event leg shall involve 3 to 5 competing clubs, and the "season" shall require each club to compete at least 3 event legs.

Rule 25 Club teams at all levels must comprise a minimum of 3 skaters, 1 lady/2 gentlemen or 2 ladies/1 gentlemen).

Rule 26 Clubs will be identified by an identification letter A, B, C, D, or E, and the gentleman in each competing couple must wear a team bib bearing the drawn Team Letter.

Rule 27 The draw for Team Letter should normally be held at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the first competition for each event. All team captains should be present at the draw.

Rule 28 Competition will take the form of head-to-head contests, with two couples from different clubs judged simultaneously.

Rule 29 Each couple must comprise one lady and one gentleman.

Rule 30 At each event leg, at least 2 different dances will be skated, with all competing clubs fielding couples in a "round-robin" on each dance.

5 teams:	Dance 1	Dance 2
1	A v B	A v B
2	C v D	C v D
3	E v A	E v A
4	C v B	C v B
5	D v E	D v E
6	A v C	A v C
7	B v D	B v D
8	E v C	E v C
9	D v A	D v A
10	B v E	B v E

4 teams:	Dance 1	Dance 2
1	A v B	A v B
2	D v C	D v C
3	B v C	B v C
4	A v D	A v D
5	D v B	D v B
6	C v A	C v A

3 teams:	Dance 1	Dance 2
1	A v B	A v B
2	B v C	B v C
3	C v A	C v A

In this way, each club skates once per dance against the other competing clubs present.

ORDER OF SKATING

The "order of skating" randomness is achieved by virtue of the fact that Team Letters are drawn immediately prior to the competition. Since it is almost always the case that different couples are involved in skating first and second dances, there is no need to rotate the order of skating, to do so merely causes greater organisational confusion for the teams.

Rule 31 The order of skating for each dance is fixed and has been worked out such to balance out each team contest and starting end as evenly as possible.

JUDGING

Rule 32 There shall be 3 judges (5 for the national final), who may comprise:

NISA Dance Judges
and/or
Approved Skating Assessors (Ice Dance)
and/or
Maximum of 1 qualified BITA coach
and/or
anyone agreed by all competing team captains (regional events only)

A referee is welcomed but not mandatory.

Rule 33 Judging shall be by majority vote of the team letters from the judges on each head-to-head competition. There shall be 3 possible outcomes:

Win 3 points (e.g. AAA, AAB, AXX, AAXXB... etc)
Draw 2 points (e.g. AXB, XXX, AXXXB... etc)
Lose 1 point

Judges shall use a set of marking cards with the letters A, B, C, D, E representing the Team Identifications, plus an additional card marked X, to be shown in the case of a draw between the 2 couples being marked.

Judges are to display the Team Letter Card for, in their opinion, the winning couple. Thus, if a head-to-head is between teams A and B for example, the following are **some** of the outcomes possible:

Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Team A	Team B
A	A	A	3 points	1 point
A	B	B	1 point	3 points
A	B	X	2 points	2 points
A	X	X	3 points	1 point

Rule 34 Each team will be provided with a 'JOKER' card which they may play on any **one** dance. The couple on whom the JOKER is to be played **MUST** be nominated on the Team List registered with the scorer prior to the team letter draw. A team representative shall bring the JOKER on to the ice prior to the nominated couple's performance, and placed beside the judges to the right or left relative to the couple's starting end (of the rink).

Should the couple win their JOKER contest, they receive **double** points (ie 6 points.) Should they draw, they will receive **level** points (ie 2 points). Should they lose they will receive zero points.

The JOKER can be played in the junior or intermediate sections only and is not used in the national final.

Rule 35 At all competitions a scorer shall be appointed to record the judges scores. The scorer shall be responsible for totalling the points awarded for dance contests, the totals shall then be scrutinised by the referee or most senior judge/assessor.

BONUS POINTS

The league rules allow clubs to field from 3 skaters in each section, ensuring that no club will be unable to compete due to unavailability of skaters, or unequal numbers of men and women. Suppose a club has 6 ladies, but only 3 men. It is perfectly acceptable for each of the 3 men to dance more than once with a different partner, and for 1 or 2 of the women to skate twice.

However, to encourage maximum participation by club skaters, and to discourage clubs from fielding only their top couples in every head-to-head contest, a bonus points system has been devised.

Bonus points do not apply to the senior section or all sections of the national final.

Rule 36 Bonus points are to be awarded to teams fielding 7 or more skaters. 1 point is awarded for every skater in the team over 6.

Rule 37 Team Captains must hand their Team Lists list to the scorer prior to the start of each event competitions. Any changes to the list during the course of the event leg (eg due to injury/withdrawal) must be notified to the scorer as soon as possible after the competition ends. Failure to report a change could result in forfeiture of all points from the event leg concerned.

Rule 38 Combined age points are also awarded to unique couples. A unique couple is defined as one where neither member of the couple skates with another skater where combined age points would also be awarded.

Combined age* over 75 years	1 point
Combined age under 30 years	1 point
Combined age over 100 years	2 points

* Age as at last birthday

Team Captains are required to indicate unique couples and claim combined age bonus points on the Team Lists. All claims will be scrutinised by the scorer, but honesty is presumed. Blatant misrepresentation may be penalised by forfeiture of all points from the event leg concerned.

Rule 39 Bonus points will be totalled with dance points to give an event total for each team.

Rule 40 In the event of any club failing to contest a fixture, the other competing clubs will be awarded 3 points for each scheduled head-to-head against the defaulting club. No points will be awarded to the defaulting club.

SELECTION OF DANCES

Rule 41 Dances are arranged into junior, intermediate and senior sections broadly matching the NISA dance test levels although there can be repeats and overlaps – see appendix B.

Rule 42 Where more than one dance is chosen for a section they should be of different style/character with the easier dance skated first.

Rule 43 All dances on head-to-head contests will be limited to a maximum of 2 circuits (1, 2 or 3 sequences) and must not exceed 1 minute, the time commencing with the start of the music.

WARM UPS

Rule 44 Since all events are planned to commence with social dancing for (usually) 30 minutes or more, formal warm ups in groups are optional for junior and intermediate RIDL competitions. The event dances will likely be played several times during the social dance period however.

After clearing the ice, all competitors involved in the first dance (up to 20 couples) will have one minute, during which the music will be played. Similarly, prior to the second dance, all involved competitors will have another minute during which the second dance will be played.

LEAGUE RESULTS

- Rule 45** It shall be the responsibility of the event host club to submit result sheets to the RIDL within 7 days of the competition taking place.
- Rule 46** League points shall be totalled by the League Secretary and results disseminated to all participating Clubs within 2 weeks of each event.

TROPHIES

There is a case for awarding league trophies in two categories, that for "Overall Champions" and that for "Dance Champions". The smaller clubs with few members will always be at a disadvantage while the team bonus system operates, despite perhaps being strong in a technical sense. It is also true however, that a "strong" club, not only has quality (in the technical sense) but also depth. It is patently not fair for a club to field only their "best" couples, in a determined effort to win every head-to-head, while other clubs are emphasising participation for all.

There must remain an incentive for clubs to maximise their teams, because in so doing, RIDL is providing a motivation for them to increase the popularity of ice dance at their rinks. The age bonus points system also works as a kind of "handicapping" system. Older competitors, for example, are more likely to be of novice standard, less athletic, and consequently less likely to win against seasoned competitors in training for NISA dance tests. By including older and younger dancers in the team, it is clear that a Club is entering into the spirit of RIDL, but are not being doubly penalised as a result.

- Rule 47** At the concluding event in each regional League, there shall be a presentation to the (Regional)League Champions as follows:
- Overall Champions = Combined Dance + Bonus Points
- Dance Champions = Dance Points only
- for each section or combined sections as appropriate

NATIONAL FINAL

- Rule 48** At the conclusion of the annual season a National Final will be held wherever possible at an agreed venue. Each participating region will provide 1 Regional Team to compete, with the team composition as agreed by each regional committee.
- Rule 49** The format of the National Final will be similar to that for a regional league event, subject to the additional rules as detailed in appendix A.

To assist in the running and scoring of the National Final, a computerised system has been devised, tested and approved and can be obtained from the RIDL Committee Secretary. It is in Excel 2003 format.

ORGANISATION

- Rule 50** The committee formed at the National RIDL AGM, shall co-ordinate and communicate the league event programme for the forthcoming season. The intention should be to publish a fixture list as soon as possible each year, detailing, venue, date/time, clubs involved and dances involved. This will facilitate team planning and forward notice for judges.
- Rule 51** Responsibility for the appointment of judges/referee, scorers and stewards for any venue rests with the Committee of the host club at the rink. Paperwork (team lists, scoring sheets and judges marking sheets) will be provided by RIDL.
- Rule 52** (ADVISORY) Charges for participation may vary from venue to venue, depending on the ice fees, the duration of the social, and catering arrangements. A typical target fee would be around £8-£12 for a 3½ hour event, not including buffet.
- Rule 53** 25% of any profit from a National Final would go to the host club.