



USA Dance

DanceSport Athletes

Step by Step Guide

to the

Proficiency Point System



You've read the 2008-2009 USA Dance DanceSport Rulebook, and you have questions about the new proficiency point system. Here's the step-by-step guide to help you figure out what points you will earn for a given event, how those points will accumulate across age categories and proficiency levels, and when you need to move up in proficiency level.

The new system is designed to address a number of different situations which arise frequently in the unique climate of amateur dancing in the US. Because of the vast geographical distances which our athletes must travel in order to compete and the financial commitment it takes to compete, it seemed necessary to give an adequate reflection of when athletes must move up the proficiency ladder without prohibiting them from competing in multiple proficiency levels at a single competition. Because of the difficulties in finding partners at the same level of experience and expertise within a reasonable geographical distance, allowances needed to be made to allow athletes of differing proficiency levels to dance in partnership effectively and fairly. Additionally, a point-in system as used in Europe, is often cited as an incentive for youth athletes. This new proficiency point system can be used by coaches as a 'point-in' system within their own training facilities. Finally, the proficiency point system will be the basis for a USA Dance National Ranking system.

In order to explain how points accrue from a single competition, we will present a single example with multiple steps. Each step will be explained verbally and illustrated by a chart. The blank chart for an **individual athlete** and a **single competitive event** would look like this:

Member:	Partner:								
Age Eligible:									
Comp:	Date:								
Event:									
Age:									
Proficiency:									
Final Place:	# of Entrants:								
	<i>PT 1</i>	<i>PT 2</i>	<i>JR 1</i>	<i>JR 2</i>	<i>YTH</i>	<i>AD</i>	<i>SR 1</i>	<i>SR 2</i>	<i>SR 3</i>
Bronze									
Silver									
Gold									
Novice									
PreChamp									
Champ									

This chart is for an **Adult** competitor. The Youth age categories are grayed-out since an Adult competitor can never dance in them regardless of proficiency level eligibility.

We start by entering the competitor, competition and event information. In this example, let's say that Henry & Eliza are entered in the Covent Garden Star Ball on November 12, 2008. They are dancing the Senior I American Smooth PreChampionship. Henry is age eligible for Senior II. Remember that points accrue to individual athletes, so each member of a partnership would have his/her own chart of points for each event.

Member:	Henry Higgins		Partner:	Eliza Dolittle					
Age Eligible:	Senior II								
Comp:	Covent Garden Star Ball			Date:	November 12, 2008				
Event:	American Smooth								
Age:	Senior I								
Proficiency:	PreChampionship								
Final Place:	# of Entrants:								
	<i>PT 1</i>	<i>PT 2</i>	<i>JR 1</i>	<i>JR 2</i>	<i>YTH</i>	<i>AD</i>	<i>SR 1</i>	<i>SR 2</i>	<i>SR 3</i>
Bronze									
Silver									
Gold									
Novice									
PreChamp									
Champ									

This chart is now ready to be filled in with the points which Henry has earned by virtue of his placement in this particular single event. This is not the total of the points which he may have had at this proficiency level before attending this competition. That total would be maintained on a separate chart within the USA Dance Proficiency Point database. The points which Henry earns at this event would be added to the total he had on his chart for American Smooth within the database.

- **Proficiency points are based on your final placement in an event relative to the number of couples who actually danced in that event.**

For simplicity's sake, let's say that this Senior I American Smooth PreChamp event is a straight final. Henry & Eliza dance the event and finish 3rd out of 6 couples. To determine how many proficiency points Henry has earned for this performance, subtract 3 (his final placement) from 6 (the number of couples who danced). The result, 3, is the number of points he has earned in the Senior I Smooth PreChampionship. This is entered into the chart in the box where the column labeled Senior I and the row labeled PreChamp intersect.

Member: Henry Higgins		Partner: Eliza Dolittle							
Age Eligible: Senior I									
Comp: Covent Garden Star Ball		Date: November 12, 2008							
Event: American Smooth									
Age: Senior I									
Proficiency: PreChampionship									
Final Place: 3rd		# of Entrants: 6							
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze									
Silver									
Gold									
Novice									
PreChamp							3		
Champ									

Notice that the final placement and the number of entrants have also been filled in to the appropriate spaces in the chart. The number of entrants is the number of couples who actually took the floor to dance the event. Scratches do not count toward your placement points.

- **Proficiency points earned in one proficiency level and age category will also accrue in the same proficiency level at all higher age categories.**

The points which Henry earned by dancing the Senior I American Smooth PreChampionship will also accumulate in every higher age category. So he also earns 3 points in each of the Senior II and Senior III Smooth PreChampionship levels. These points are now entered into the chart in boxes where the columns labeled Senior II and Senior III and in the row labeled PreChampionship intersect.

Member: Henry Higgins		Partner: Eliza Dolittle							
Age Eligible: Senior I									
Comp: Covent Garden Star Ball		Date: November 12, 2008							
Event: American Smooth									
Age: Senior I									
Proficiency: PreChamp									
Final Place: 3		# of Entrants: 6							
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze									
Silver									
Gold									
Novice									
PreChamp							3	3	3
Champ									

- **Proficiency points earned in one proficiency level and age category will also accrue in the next lower proficiency level at all lower age categories.**

Proficiency points will also accumulate in all lower age categories, but at the next lower proficiency level than the proficiency level of the event danced. So by virtue of his placement in the Senior I PreChamp Smooth, Henry earns 3 points in the **Adult Novice** American Smooth. Technically he would also earn 3 points in the Youth, Junior II, Junior I, Preteen II and Preteen I American Smooth Novice as well, but because he will never be age eligible for those levels, tracking those points is unnecessary. These points are entered into the chart in the box where the column labeled Adult and the row labeled Novice intersect.

Member: Henry Higgins		Partner: Eliza Dolittle							
Age Eligible: Senior I									
Comp: Covent Garden Star Ball		Date: November 12, 2008							
Event: American Smooth									
Age: Senior I									
Proficiency: PreChamp									
Final Place: 3		# of Entrants: 6							
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze									
Silver									
Gold									
Novice						3			
PreChamp							3	3	3
Champ									

- **Proficiency points earned in one proficiency level and age category will also accrue AT DOUBLE THE RATE EARNED in all lower proficiency levels in the same age category danced.**

In the same age category in which you danced, in every proficiency level lower than the one in which you danced, you will earn double points. For finishing 3rd in the Senior I American Smooth PreChampionship, Henry will also accumulate **6** proficiency points in each of the Gold, Silver and Bronze Senior I American Smooth proficiency levels. These points are entered into the chart in the column labeled Senior I and in each of the columns representing a lower proficiency levels than that of the event we're tracking.

Member: Henry Higgins		Partner: Eliza Dolittle							
Age Eligible: Senior I									
Comp: Covent Garden Star Ball		Date: November 12, 2008							
Event: American Smooth									
Age: Senior I									
Proficiency: PreChamp									
Final Place: 3		# of Entrants: 6							
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze							6		
Silver							6		
Gold							6		
Novice						3	6		
PreChamp							3	3	3
Champ									

- **Proficiency points earned in one proficiency level and age category will also accrue at double the rate earned in all lower proficiency levels in ALL HIGHER AGE CATEGORIES.**

In all higher age categories than the one in which you danced, at every proficiency level lower than the one you danced, you will also earn double points. So, for finishing 3rd in the Senior I American Smooth PreChampionship, Henry will also accumulate **6** proficiency points in the Senior II Novice Smooth, the Senior II Gold Smooth, the Senior II Silver Smooth, the Senior II Bronze Smooth, the Senior III Novice Smooth, the Senior III Gold Smooth, the Senior III Silver Smooth, and the Senior III Bronze Smooth. These points are entered into the chart under the Senior II and Senior III age categories in each appropriate proficiency level.

Member: Henry Higgins		Partner: Eliza Dolittle							
Age Eligible: Senior I									
Comp: Covent Garden Star Ball		Date: November 12, 2008							
Event: American Smooth									
Age: Senior I									
Proficiency: PreChamp									
Final Place: 3		# of Entrants: 6							
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze							6	6	6
Silver							6	6	6
Gold							6	6	6
Novice						3	6	6	6
PreChamp							3	3	3
Champ									

- **Proficiency points earned in one proficiency level and age category will also accrue in all lower age categories and in all proficiency levels 2 or more levels lower than the one danced or lower, at double the earned rate.**

In all age categories lower than the one in which you danced, but for which you are still eligible, points will accrue at double the earned rate in all proficiency levels 2 or more levels below the one which you danced. So Henry also earns 6 points in the Adult Gold Smooth, the Adult Silver Smooth, and the Adult Bronze Smooth proficiency levels. Those points are entered under the Adult age category in the appropriate age categories..

Member: Henry Higgins		Partner: Eliza Dolittle							
Age Eligible: Senior I									
Comp: Covent Garden Star Ball		Date: November 12, 2008							
Event: American Smooth									
Age: Senior I									
Proficiency: PreChamp									
Final Place: 3		# of Entrants: 6							
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						6	6	6	6
Silver						6	6	6	6
Gold						6	6	6	6
Novice						3	6	6	6
PreChamp							3	3	3
Champ									

All the points which Henry has earned for placing 3rd out of 6 couples in the Senior I American Smooth PreChampionship at the 2008 Covent Garden Star Ball are now properly recorded in this chart. The boxes which remain empty are those age category/proficiency level combinations for which Henry did not earn any points by virtue of this event.

Let's do another quick example. Now that the methodology is clear, we will enter all the data into the proficiency point chart in one step.

Skye Masterson and Sarah Young are Senior II age eligible dancers. They dance a Senior I Standard Championship event which begins with a 13 couple semi-final round, finishing in 4th place. The completed proficiency point chart for Sarah from this event would be:

Member: Sarah Young		Partner: Skye Masterson							
Age Eligible: Senior II									
Comp: Hernando's Danceaway		Date: September 20, 2008							
Event: International Std									
Age: Senior I									
Proficiency: Champ									
Final Place: 4		# of Entrants: 13							
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						18	18	18	18
Silver						18	18	18	18
Gold						18	18	18	18
Novice						18	18	18	18
PreChamp						9	18	18	18
Champ							9	9	9

It's more exciting to dance in events with more than a semi-final. The new proficiency point system rewards the achievement of advancing through rounds without forcing competitors to move up in proficiency level simply because they danced well in a single large event.

- ***In events with a quarter-final or more, an athlete will earn a point for every round he/she advances, up to but not including, the semi-final.***

When an event begins with a quarter-final or more, you will earn one point for each round you advance up to the semi-final.

In this next example, Nathan and Adelaide dance a Senior II Novice Standard event which starts with 5 rounds, and they advance 2 rounds to the quarter-final. They each earn 2 points in the Senior II Novice Standard -- one for advancing from the first round to the second and one for advancing from the second to the quarter. These points accrue across age categories and proficiency levels as outline above. Nathan's proficiency point chart for this event looks like this:

Member:	Nathan Detroit		Partner: Adelaide Detroit						
Age Eligible:	Senior II								
Comp:	Hernando's Danceaway		Date:		September 20, 2008				
Event:	International Std								
Age:	Senior II								
Proficiency:	Novice								
Final Place:	Quarter-final		# of Entrants:		5 rds				
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						4	4	4	4
Silver						4	4	4	4
Gold						2	2	4	4
Novice								2	2
PreChamp									
Champ									

If Nathan and Adelaide made it to the final of this same event, placing 1st out of 12 couples in the semi-final, each would earn placement points -- (# couples in the semi – N&A's final place) plus 1 point for each round up to the quarter-final or, in this example, (12-1)+2 = 13. Nathan and Adelaide would each earn 13 points for winning the Senior II Novice Standard. These points would also accrue in lower proficiency levels and across age categories as previously described. The completed Proficiency Point Chart for this event would be:

Member:	Nathan Detroit				Partner:	Adelaide Detroit			
Age Eligible:	Senior II								
Comp:	Hernando's Danceaway				Date:	September 20, 2008			
Event:	International Std								
Age:	Senior II								
Proficiency:	Novice								
Final Place:	Quarter-final				# of Entrants:	5 rds			
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						26	26	26	26
Silver						26	26	26	26
Gold						13	13	26	26
Novice								13	13
PreChamp									
Champ									

- ***A partnership is eligible to dance in a proficiency level in which the sum of the partners' individual points is less than 300.***

You and your partner are eligible to dance in any proficiency level and age category combination for which the sum of your points and your partner's points is less than 300, *provided you are both age eligible for that category.*

For example, below is an athlete's point chart for Curly. This chart tracks only his International Latin total proficiency points. Curly dances primarily at PreChamp although he is still eligible for Novice. He currently has 60 PreChamp points and 120 Novice, 240 Gold, 300 Silver and 300 Bronze points in Adult Latin.

Member:	Curly				Partner:				
Age Eligible:	Adult								
Event:	International Latin								
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						300	300	300	300
Silver						300	300	300	300
Gold						240	240	240	240
Novice						120	120	120	120
PreChamp						60	60	60	60
Champ						5	5	5	5

When Curly's partnership dissolves, he forms a new one with Laurie, who is currently a Gold Latin Dancer. She's got 180 points in Gold, but only 90 in Novice when she and Curly get together. Her International Latin chart at the beginning of their partnership is:

Member: Laurie		Partner:							
Age Eligible: Adult									
Event: International Latin									
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						300	300	300	300
Silver						240	240	240	240
Gold						180	180	180	180
Novice						90	90	90	90
PreChamp						0	0	0	0
Champ						0	0	0	0

Together Curly and Laurie have 320 points in Gold Latin, so they are not eligible to dance Gold. They have 210 points in Novice, so despite Curly dancing below what he considers his level to be, they **are** eligible to dance in Novice. The partnership's beginning International Latin proficiency point chart is:

Member: Curly		Partner: Laurie							
Age Eligible: Adult									
Event: International Latin									
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						300	300	300	300
Silver						300	300	300	300
Gold						300	300	300	300
Novice						210	210	210	210
PreChamp						60	60	60	60
Champ						5	5	5	5

- ***Your individual proficiency level is the highest level in which you have accumulated 150 points or more.***

Since points are attributed to you as an individual, your personal proficiency level would be no lower than the highest proficiency level in which you currently have 150 points or more in a particular age category. You are individually allowed to earn up to 300 points in a particular age category and proficiency level before you are no longer eligible for that level at all and must dance up.

It is possible to have different proficiency levels in different styles, and to have different proficiency levels in different age categories within a particular style.

You may dance any proficiency level above your personal proficiency level at any time in accordance with the specific rules for that competition. You may only dance below your personal proficiency level if your partnership is eligible for the lower proficiency level, or if you are dancing as the higher level participant in a mixed-proficiency event.

- **Once you accrue 150 points in a particular proficiency level, any points you earn at that level will be doubled.**

Curly and Laurie dance 4 Novice level Latin competitions and each earn 36 Adult Novice Latin points. Curly individually now has 156 Adult Novice Latin Points, Laurie has 116 points, and the partnership has 272 Adult Novice Latin. The partnership is still eligible for Novice Latin, but because Curly individually has over 150 points, any points he earns by competing in an Adult Novice Latin event will be doubled. Laurie has now pointed out of Gold because, since she started with more than 150 points in that level, everything she's earned in the partnership with Curly has been doubled for her at Gold and below. Here are their individual and their partnership International Latin point charts after these 4 events:

Member: Curly		Partner:							
Age Eligible: Adult									
Event: International Latin									
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						300	300	300	300
Silver						300	300	300	300
Gold						300	300	300	300
Novice						156	156	156	156
PreChamp						60	60	60	60
Champ						5	5	5	5

Member: Laurie		Partner:							
Age Eligible: Adult									
Event: International Latin									
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						300	300	300	300
Silver						300	300	300	300
Gold						300	300	300	300
Novice						126	126	126	126
PreChamp						0	0	0	0
Champ						0	0	0	0

Member: Curly		Partner: Laurie							
Age Eligible: Adult									
Event: International Latin									
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						300	300	300	300
Silver						300	300	300	300
Gold						300	300	300	300
Novice						282	282	282	282
PreChamp						60	60	60	60
Champ						5	5	5	5

If at their next Adult Novice Latin competition they place 2nd out of 7 couples, Laurie would earn 5 points in Adult Novice Latin, but Curly would earn 10. The doubling is in effect across the entire proficiency point chart.

Member: Curly		Partner: Laurie							
Age Eligible: Adult									
Comp: Cowhand's Ball		Date: July 15, 2008							
Event: International Latin									
Age: Adult									
Proficiency: Novice									
Final Place: 2nd		# of Entrants: 7							
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						20	20	20	20
Silver						20	20	20	20
Gold						20	20	20	20
Novice						10	10	10	10
PreChamp									
Champ									

Member: Laurie		Partner: Curly							
Age Eligible: Adult									
Comp: Cowhand's Ball		Date: July 15, 2008							
Event: International Latin									
Age: Adult									
Proficiency: Novice									
Final Place: 2nd		# of Entrants: 7							
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						10	10	10	10
Silver						10	10	10	10
Gold						10	10	10	10
Novice						5	5	5	5
PreChamp									
Champ									

After dancing at the Cowhand's Ball, Curly and Laurie have accumulated an additional 15 points in Adult Novice Latin; the partnership now has a total of 297 Adult Novice Latin points. Their latest International Latin point charts show this:

Member: Curly		Partner:							
Age Eligible: Adult									
Event: International Latin									
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						300	300	300	300
Silver						300	300	300	300
Gold						300	300	300	300
Novice						166	166	166	166
PreChamp						60	60	60	60
Champ						5	5	5	5

Member: Laurie		Partner:							
Age Eligible: Adult									
Event: International Latin									
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						300	300	300	300
Silver						300	300	300	300
Gold						300	300	300	300
Novice						131	131	131	131
PreChamp						0	0	0	0
Champ						0	0	0	0

Member: Curly		Partner: Laurie							
Age Eligible: Adult									
Event: International Latin									
	PT 1	PT 2	JR 1	JR 2	YTH	AD	SR 1	SR 2	SR 3
Bronze						300	300	300	300
Silver						300	300	300	300
Gold						300	300	300	300
Novice						297	297	297	297
PreChamp						60	60	60	60
Champ						5	5	5	5

- ***A partnership must move up in proficiency level once the sum of the individual partners' points is 300 or more in a proficiency level/age category combination.***

- ***An individual must move up in proficiency level once his or her individual points total 300 or more at a particular proficiency level/age category combination.***

When your individual points total 300 or more, you cannot dance at that age/style/level any longer in any partnership, regardless of your partner's eligibility.

- ***USA Dance will maintain a database of your points, and make records available online.***

USA Dance will track your points, and a public record of them will be available online. Proficiency points will not be considered confidential, and all records will be accessible by you, organizers and your fellow competitors. Your competition entries, particularly for National Qualifying Events and the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships, will be checked for proficiency level eligibility. Knowingly entering below your level is grounds for disciplinary action. Therefore, you should make every effort to track your own points. If your records disagree with ours, you can ask that your proficiency level be reviewed by contacting the National Registrar.

- ***You may apply for a change in proficiency level at any time.***

If for some reason, you feel that you need to move down in proficiency level, you may apply to reduce your proficiency level by contacting the National Registrar. Such reductions must be for compelling reasons and will be subject to case-by-case consideration by the USA Dance DanceSport Council. Since you are always free to dance above your recorded proficiency level, you do not need to petition to raise your proficiency level.

- ***Points will accrue from USA Dance DanceSport sanctioned competitions, NDCA sanctioned amateur events, and from all IDSF or IDSF affiliate sanctioned events.***

USA Dance will award proficiency points from all sanctioned USA Dance DanceSport competitions, including YCN competitions; from all NDCA sanctioned Amateur Multi-Dance Events, awarding the points in the age, level and style most approximate to the one actually danced; and from all IDSF or IDSF-affiliate sanctioned events. Student/Student events danced as single dance events at the same time as Pro/Am events at NDCA sanctioned competitions will not earn points.

The number of points allowed before a partnership must move up in proficiency level will be re-examined annually to ensure that a fair competitive environment for all our athletes is maintained.

If you have any questions, contact the National Registrar for clarification.

For easy reference, a table of proficiency points/final placement is included:

# Couples	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Placement														
14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	4	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	5	4	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
4	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-	-	-
3	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-	-
2	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-
1	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-