



## **Australian Board of Highland Dancing Inc. (ABHDI)**

under the auspices of the

Royal Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing (RSOBHD)

ABHDI Rules and Regulations Annexure

to be read in conjunction with

RSOBHD Constitution and Rules

Effective 1 January 2025

THIS ABHDI HANDBOOK IS TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO STATE and REGIONAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIES TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ORGANISERS, JUDGES AND HIGHLAND DANCING TEACHERS.

### **ABHDI ADOPTION OF RSOBHD RULES**

- ◆ **ABHDI will adhere to RSOBHD technique.**
- ◆ **RSOBHD Constitutional change will be automatically adopted by ABHDI.**
- ◆ **Where a delay exists in the relaying of information and/or application of administration, in regard to competition or technical changes, a starting date to suit the ABHDI will be applied.**
- ◆ **RSOBHD Propositions referring to events/conditions in Europe and/or finance items for RSOBHD etc. which do not apply to ABHDI, will not be adopted.**
- ◆ **ABHDI may adopt a similar rule, if necessary, to suit local conditions but not in opposition to RSOBHD rules.**

## Table of Contents

CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	2
RULES FOR CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS CHAMPIONSHIP OF AUSTRALIA. ....	5
RULES FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP.....	9
PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS.....	11
COMPETITIONS OTHER THAN CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	12
SCOTTISH NATIONAL DANCE PREMIERSHIPS.....	17
PRE-PREMIER COMPETITION.....	17
TITLES.....	17
AWARDING OF PRIZES.....	18
REGISTRATION OF HIGHLAND DANCERS AND CARD SYSTEM.....	18
SCRUTINEERING FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS, SCOTTISH NATIONAL DANCE PREMIERSHIPS AND TITLES.....	19
GUIDELINES FOR REGISTRARS.....	20
JUDGES.....	21
ALTERATIONS TO RULES.....	24
CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION.....	24
RSOBHD DELEGATE.....	24
RSOBHD JUDGES TEST.....	24
DRESS CODE.....	26
PROTEST RULE.....	27
CODE OF ETHICS.....	27
SOCIAL MEDIA.....	27

## ABHDI Rules and Regulations Annexure

to be read in conjunction with  
RSOBHD Constitution and Rules

### CHAMPIONSHIPS

All rules pertaining to the conduct of Championships are found in the RSOBHD Constitution and Rules and must be referred to in the first instance.

#### PROCEDURE TO REGISTER AND CONDUCT CHAMPIONSHIPS IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Board of Highland Dancing Inc holds the sole authority to grant Championships in Australia. The procedure to be followed to register Championships is as follows.

1.
  - a) All Australian Highland Dancing Championships to be held for the period January 1 to December 31 (both days inclusive) in any one year must be registered with the ABHDI Secretary not later than 31<sup>st</sup> August of the previous year.
  - b) The Championship Organiser must apply to the Secretary of the State/Regional Committee for a Championship Registration form. This form, when completed, must be returned with the necessary fee and draft copy of the syllabus/schedule to the State/Regional Committee Secretary who will forward the completed Championship Application form to the Secretary of the ABHDI together with the State/Regional Committee's recommendations that the draft copy meets all necessary requirements.
  - c) The final draft of the syllabus/schedule, that is the draft prior to printing, must be forwarded to the State/Regional Committee Secretary and/or Registrar at least ninety (90) days prior to printing, so that it can be approved and a copy forwarded to the ABHDI Secretary by the State/Regional Committee at least one month prior to the date of the competition.
  - d) Competition Organisers to include in their syllabus/schedules, on State/Regional Committee websites or displayed at competition:
    - i) "Any rules pertaining to competition or Championship, released by RSOBHD or ABHDI from the time of printing this syllabus/schedule to the date of the competition or Championship, will be adhered to."
    - ii) Any change to rules should be announced prior to the commencement of the Championship or competition.
  - e) Registration number, Championship Rules and Step Sheet will be included in the ABHDI Championship package;
    - i) Registration number must be shown on all syllabi/schedules.
    - ii) Championship rules and step sheet should either be included in all Championship syllabi/schedules without alteration or displayed in a prominent place at the Championship concerned without alteration. These will be available via the ABHDI and/or State/Regional Committee websites.
    - iii) Championship rules and step sheet will be forwarded by email and hard copy to State/Regional Committee Secretaries for on-forwarding to Championship Organisers in the format nominated on the application form.
  - f) **PROMOTER OF CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
Promoter of Championship cannot be an individual.

- g) **CHANGE TO TITLE, DATE AND/OR PROMOTER**  
A change to the original title, date period and/or promoter than originally approved by the Board will not be accepted as an automatic renewal application. State/Regional Committee Secretaries must advise the Board in writing, of any requested changes to original application details. Such requests will be dealt with at Board level in the correct manner. A covering letter stating the reason for a change of date must be included with the application.
- h) Championship syllabi/schedules circulated with other than application details approved by the Board could result in cancellation of future Championships.
- i) Where circulation of a syllabus/schedule or flyer is considered necessary in order to advertise preparation details with regard to travel, accommodation bookings etc, then such document should state the words: - "Proposed Championship" - subject to ABHDI approval or similar.
2. Only the exact title, as registered, is allowed to be used for publicity purposes and only that title will appear on certificates.
  3. Only one registered Open Championship is available for any one Association per annum.
  4. Championships by any one promoter may be held after a period of eight months, provided they are held in another calendar year.
  5. ABHDI will forward carbonised judging sheets to the Organiser through the State/Regional Committee concerned; it is mandatory throughout Australia that uniform carbonised sheets as supplied by ABHDI are utilised by Judges.
  6. Promoters must display in a prominent position a readable sized notice stating "This Championship is registered under RSOBHD rules as adopted by ABHDI" and quote the ABHDI registration number.
  7. Where more than one title is issued to a promoter and these separate Championships are conducted within a short period of time at the same venue or in close proximity, different Judges must be used so that no section is judged twice by the same combination of judges.
  8. The ABHDI Championship report form A & B duly completed. Part A is to be completed electronically and forwarded by the organiser to the relevant State or Regional Committee electronically ensuring correct spelling and details of placegetters. Part B is to be signed by judges, allowing for comments by judges and organisers. The Scrutineering Statement should be signed by the championship scrutineers and kept by the organiser. Part A & B, together with scrutineering sheets and Judges marks be forwarded to the State/Regional Committee for onward transmission to the ABHDI within **ten days** of conducting championships. The promoters should retain for their records a copy of scrutineering sheets on the eventuality of the originals going astray.
  9. The ABHDI issues 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> championship certificates directly to recipients annually with the exception of then of Champion of Champions Championship of Australia and the Australian Championship, where 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> certificates are issued.
  10. Should an Organiser find that a large number of entries are received for an applied age group and is satisfied that the age group may be split evenly, then the Organiser may apply to the ABHDI Executive, through the

State/Regional Committee Secretary, (at a later date after the championship has been approved) for permission to divide this age group and pay the fee if required.

11. Organisers may arrange Championships so that the same dance from each Championship age group may be danced consecutively (i.e. all the Flings, etc.) but shall not be interspersed with any other event or general section dances.

#### 12. RECOVERY TIME

Competition Organisers who are conducting Championships are reminded to include recovery time (20 minutes) when programming their competitions. Championship Organisers are encouraged to conduct concurrent Championships to allow competitors sufficient recovery time.

The 20 minutes recovery time refers to the time a dancer completes his/her first dance and commences his/her next dance. It should also be noted that a Competition Organiser has the right to call dancers to the marshalling area prior to the completion of the 20 minute timeframe to ensure the competition runs smoothly.

#### 13. SELECTION OF JUDGES

A Judge cannot judge at the same Championship for more than three (3) years in succession.

#### 14. MUSIC

At all ABHDI Championships, it is recommended that part of the music be played at the commencement of each dance, for each section of a Championship and where different tempos are required, part of each tempo should be played.

#### 15. RESTRICTIONS

No restrictions can be placed on dancers entering a Championship, except in the case of a Closed Championship restricted either by birth/residence, with the exception of the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia.

#### 16. CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

All applicants for any Closed Championship covering any combination of local government areas within a combination of State/Region must obtain the written agreement from all State and/or Regional Committees concerned and forward such written agreement through the applicant's State/Regional Committee to the ABHDI with their application.

17. Closed Championship applications granted by ABHDI in any one year have no precedence unlike Open Championships, over any applications received in following years, the ABHDI, after any necessary enquiries, treating each case on its own merit.

18. When a championship age group is cancelled due to insufficient entries it must not be called a Premiership but maybe converted to a Title, Aggregate or Sections. The winner cannot be recognised or announced as a champion and should not receive or be presented with the Championship trophies or sashes. NOTE: Please be aware of the RSOBHD constitution and rules on amalgamating age groups.

19. Should any point not be covered in the foregoing procedures of conducting Championships, State/Regional Committee Secretaries should refer to the ABHDI whose decision shall be final.

20. Organisers must list at the time of registration/approval/minimum of three months before competition the judge/s who will be officiating at the competition so that dancers will not be inconvenienced by the outlay of money and time only to find on arrival that they are unable to compete, due to the ethical impossibility

of their judged by the Judge/s who could have taught or coached them in the three-month period. State/Regional Committee Secretaries must seek compliance when syllabi/schedules are received from Organisers for registration/approval/minimum of three months before competition.

## **RULES FOR CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS CHAMPIONSHIP OF AUSTRALIA.**

1. The official name to be “Champion of Champions Championship of Australia”.
2. **REGISTRATION FEE**  
The ABHDI is responsible for the registration fee for the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia.
3. Proposed rotation of dates for this event (to be applied for by the relevant State/Regional Committee) are: 2024 - Victoria, 2026 - South Queensland, 2028 – New South Wales - 2030 Tasmania, 2032 – South Australia, 2034 Far North Queensland, 2036 Victoria.
4. Prior to advertising or any other preparation being made for conducting the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia an interested State/Regional Committee must first apply in writing to the ABHDI for the provisional approval.

Where circulation of a syllabus/schedule or flyer is considered necessary in order to advertise preparation details with regard to travel, accommodation bookings etc, then such document should state the words: - “Proposed Championship” - subject to ABHDI approval or similar.

5. Champion of Champions Championship merchandise can only be sold by the new organiser after close of event.
6. The Champion of Champions Championship of Australia to be held whenever possible in conjunction with the Australian Pipe Band Championships.
7. **2 DAY EVENT**  
If the Organisers choose to conduct a 2 day event, then the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia must be held on the second day of the competition/s and be scheduled during the AM Session while the dancers are fresh.
8. **PLANNING AND TIMING OF CHAMPIONSHIP**  
The Champion of Champions Championship of Australia should be given the prestige it deserves and importance as the main event in the programme. The organising committee to schedule the programme to fit within a realistic time frame, taking into account the daylight hours, transport and rest and recreation for the participating dancers, Judges and organising committee.

The Champion of Champions Championship of Australia should be scheduled so that no other highland dancing events are taking place at the same time. If the Organiser is programming a 2 day event then the first day’s programme should be contained during a period that will allow the participants ample recovery time and to have adequate rest between each day. The number of hours of attendance for dancers in the 1st day should be carefully considered when programming so dancers can do their optimum best on the 2nd day.

The Saturday event Championship age groups should be considered carefully by the Organiser and the ABHDI as the submission is well in advance of the event, and entries are always large. It would be better to hold

more Championships than plan for heats and finals, or for the Organiser to split age groups if entries are large.

Adequate weather protection should be provided for Judges and competitors. This would include over the marshalling areas, taking both the rain and the sun into consideration.

9. Whenever possible, a representative of ABHDI or delegated official to be in attendance at Champion of Champions Championship of Australia.

The organising committee will not be responsible for travel expenses, accommodation or other expenses incurred by the ABHDI Representative in representing the ABHDI at the event.

One month prior to the event the ABHDI Executive is to notify the Organisers the name of the representative who will be in attendance at the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia.

Notification to be made in writing to the ABHDI Representative of his/her duties during the event to allow for some preparation.

An opportunity is to be provided for the ABHDI Representative to make a short speech at a suitable time during the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia event.

The ABHDI Representative is to present the ABHDI Championship Sashes, the ABHDI Australian Champion Award Medals and the ABHDI Teacher Award to the recipients during the presentation ceremony.

10. That to be eligible to enter the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia, a dancer must have been successful in gaining 1st, 2nd or 3rd placing in a registered ABHDI or RSOBHD Championship.
11. Competitors entering the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia must produce documented proof that they have won a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize in a previous registered ABHDI or RSOBHD Championship.
12. Competitors to be requested to enclose either a stamped addressed envelope for return of receipt of entry, or email address supplied for email advice of entries received.
13. A Championship (Closed or Open) may not be held in Australia on the same weekend (i.e. the Saturday or Sunday) as the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia unless incorporated with the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia at the same venue.
14. SELECTION OF JUDGES  
A Judge cannot judge for more than three successive Champion of Champions events.
15. Where more than one title is issued to a promoter and these separate Championships are conducted within a short period of time at the same venue or in close proximity, different Judges must be used so that no section is judged twice by the same combination of Judges.
16. JUDGES AND PIPERS  
The Judges and Pipers are to be introduced to the audience prior to the commencement of the competition each day.

Adequate breaks and provision of refreshments are to be provided to the Judges and Pipers throughout the day by the organising committee.



A detailed documented itinerary for Judges and Pipers should be organised. These details should clearly set out all travel arrangements both International and Interstate. Also included should be all accommodation details, the local transport arrangements to appointments for Judges, meal allowance or supply (per diem) and any other expenses that may be incurred by these officials while being employed or contracted for the position of judging or piping in relation to the event that includes the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia.

An agreement is to be made with Judge/Piper clearly setting out the responsibilities and monetary (in \$ Australian Dollars) limitations of the Organiser and the Judge/Piper, with regard to expenses and any other arrangements.

## 17. PRIZES

Continuity and quality of prizes from one competition organiser to the next is to be consistent.

Only prizes as listed in the ABHDI Rules and Regulations Annexure to be presented.

Ensure that ABHDI is awarded full credit for its sponsorships in the Syllabus/Schedule, the Program and at the presentation.

Individual Dance prizes

Prizes for placings in each Championship dance 1st - 6th:

Money and/or medal to be awarded to competitors being placed 1st - 6th in each Championship dance.

Overall prizes

The value of gifts and/or prize money for placings 1-6 overall from 2018 be:

7-11 Years:	\$300, \$250, \$200, \$150, \$100, \$50
12-15 Years:	\$400, \$300, \$250, \$200, \$150, \$100
16 Years and Over:	\$500, \$400, \$350, \$300, \$250, \$150

Championship Certificates

Certificates are to be awarded for placings 1st - 6th overall in all three Championship age groups.

Teachers Prizes:

- i) The ABHDI provide \$100.00 to be presented on the day to the Teacher of the Winner of each of the three age groups of the 'Champion of Champions Championship of Australia'.
- ii) That the Teacher of the Winner of the 16 Years and Over Champion of Champions Championship of Australia be presented with the OzScot Australia Perpetual Trophy.

Sashes

ABHDI will provide the Champion of Champions Championships of Australia 1st - 6th place sashes.

WIDTH - approx. 13 cm, with gold writing and gold fringe

COLOURS - 1st place - blue, 2nd place - red, 3rd place - green,  
4th place - yellow, 5th place - mauve, 6th place - white.  
Removal gate sticker to denote year

WORDING - AUSTRALIAN BOARD OF HIGHLAND DANCING INC.

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS CHAMPIONSHIP OF AUSTRALIA

(place) (age group)

## Perpetual Trophies

The following Perpetual Trophies are provided:

- a) Overall placings 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> in each Championship
- b) The Frank Cleves Trophy for Highest placed Australian Dancer in each Championship
- c) The Ozscot Australia Trophy for the Teacher of the winner of the 16 years & over championship
- d) The Julie Appleton-Seymour Memorial Trophy for the Studio with the overall highest points

Should any damage be incurred to a Champion of Champions Championship of Australia Perpetual Trophy whilst stored by the ABHDI, the cost of such damage will be payable by the ABHDI.

Organiser to contact former trophy holders to ensure that the trophies are returned to the Organiser by the 1st February in the year of holding the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia Championships.

A copy of a condition report signed by both parties will be given to the recipient on the day of the competition. Each Perpetual Trophy will also include a note to the recipient stating: "You are responsible for the safekeeping and maintenance of this trophy and it must be returned to the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia organising committee in the same condition as it was received together with the protective carrier provided. A label has been attached to the base of each trophy stating its cleaning instructions and maintenance."

Should any damage occur to the Perpetual Trophy, (excluding reasonable deterioration from age) the recipient will be liable for the cost of repair to the trophy.

The consumption of any alcoholic substance from a Champion of Champions Championship of Australia Perpetual Trophy is not allowed.

## 18. SPECIAL AWARD

This to be named "Australian Champion of Champions" and presented as follows:

- i) Special Award for Highest Placed Australian dancer in Champion of Champions Championship of Australia
- ii) This refers to all three sections
- iii) This award would also be presented should the overall winner be an Australian, this dancer receiving both awards
- iv) This award to be included as a special ABHDI award in the syllabus/schedule and program, expense to be borne by ABHDI.
- v) The medals are to be stored at a bank safe custody facility in the State/Territory where the ABHDI is domiciled.
- vi) The Frank Cleves Perpetual Trophies for the Australian Champion of Champions as donated by Margaret Reichelt should be listed in Syllabus/Schedule and Program.

- vii) Qualification for the Special Award and Frank Cleves Perpetual Trophies would be as per RSOBHD rule covering qualification by birth or by residency - "competitor must qualify by birth or by having been resident in Australia for six months immediately prior to the event".

#### 19. PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY AND PRESENTATION

The prize giving ceremony is to be conducted in a prominent position for the public to view. The presentations should be held at a time when the majority of public are still in attendance. If presentations are late in the day, adequate lighting for photographs should be available for this major event in a dancer's career. The stages and/or venue setting should not be dismantled while the presentations are being held.

That the names and addresses of the winners of the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia be forwarded to the ABHDI so that the whereabouts of the ABHDI Perpetual Trophies be known and that a form be compiled and sent with the Procedure of Conducting Championships to the Organisers of the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia to be returned to the ABHDI signed by recipient of the trophy.

20. To ensure safe keeping of the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia Perpetual Trophies, all trophies will be presented at the prize giving ceremony of the competition but said trophies must remain in Australia at all times.

21. All Perpetual Trophies won by dancers/teacher residing outwith Australia must be engraved with the winners names and country, by the State/Regional Committee conducting the Championships and then promptly returned to the Secretary of the ABHDI for safe keeping until the following Championships are held.

Engraving cost of Perpetual Trophies won by Australian competitors and held by ABHDI will be payable by ABHDI.

22. When Champion of Champions Championship of Australia is held in conjunction with a Pipe Band Championship, if possible, arrangements should be made for the winners of each Champion of Champions Championship of Australia to march off the ground in front of the winning Australasian Pipe Band.

23. Photographs of the winners of each Champion of Champions Championship of Australia should be supplied to the ABHDI to be included in the ABHDI Photo Album.

24. A report from the organising State/Regional Committee of Champion of Champions Championship of Australia to be submitted to the ABHDI.

25. No public relations stalls or hospitality areas of any kind belonging to overseas Examining Bodies will be permitted at the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia.

### **RULES FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP.**

1. The official name to be "The Australian Championship".
2. The Australian Championship is open to only those dancers either born in Australia or who have been resident in Australia for at least 6 months immediately prior to the event (refer to RSOBHD Constitution and Rules page 18 3. Open and Closed Championships a) and b) )
3. Registration Fee -The ABHDI is responsible for the registration fee for the Australian Championship.

4. To be held annually in conjunction with an existing Championship- initially in conjunction with a National Championship: Australian Commonwealth Championship, Grand Australasian (Open) Championships and International Championship of Australia.
5. Prior to advertising or any other preparation being made for conducting the Australian Championship the relevant Organiser through their State/Regional Committee must first apply in writing to the ABHDI for the provisional approval. Where circulation of a syllabus/schedule or flyer is considered necessary in order to advertise preparation details with regard to travel, accommodation bookings etc, then such document should state the words: - "Proposed Championship" - subject to ABHDI approval or similar.
6. Planning and Timing of Championship -The Australian Championship should be given the prestige it deserves. The organising committee to schedule the programme to fit within a realistic time frame, taking into account transport and rest and recreation for the participating dancers, Judges and organising committee. The Australian Championship should be scheduled so that no other highland dancing sections are taking place at the same time at the event. Adequate weather protection should be provided for Judges and competitors. This would include over the marshalling areas, taking both the rain and the sun into consideration.
7. A Championship (Closed or Open) may not be held in Australia on the same weekend (i.e. the Saturday or Sunday) as the Australian Championship unless incorporated with the Australian Championship.
8. Whenever possible, a representative of ABHDI or delegated official to be in attendance at the Australian Championship, and such representative will be responsible for their own expenses.
9. Where more than one title is issued to a promoter and these separate Championships are conducted within a short period of time at the same venue or in close proximity, different Judges must be used so that no section is judged twice by the same combination of Judges.
10. Judges and Pipers -The Judges and if using Pipers are to be introduced to the audience prior to the commencement of the championship. Adequate breaks and provision of refreshments are to be provided to the Judges and Pipers throughout the Australian Championships by the organising committee. An agreement is to be made between the Organiser and Judge/Piper clearly setting out the responsibilities of and monetary (in \$ Australian Dollars) payment to the Judge/Piper, with regard to expenses and any other arrangements.
11. Prizes -Overall trophies, sashes and medals to be the same for each age group. Only prizes as listed in the ABHDI Rules and Regulations Annexure to be presented. The sponsors are to be awarded full credit in the program, in promotional material and at the event.  
 Individual Dance prizes - Medals for placings in each Championship dance 1st - 6th  
 Overall prizes - Perpetual Trophies and sashes provided for placings 1st - 6th.  
 ABHDI Championship Certificates -Certificates are to be awarded for placings 1st - 6th overall in all Championship age groups
12. Return of Trophies – An ABHDI Form to be sent with the Procedure of Conducting Championships to the Organisers of the Australian Championship. This form to include: the condition of the trophy, directions for safe-keeping and maintenance of the trophy, directions for returning the trophy to the next organiser,

contact details of the recipient, signature of assigned person from organising committee and parents of recipient and/or dancer 18 and over. Any other detail considered necessary to be updated when needed.

A copy of the form to be returned to the ABHDI.

A photo (front and back) of the trophy to be kept for forwarding to ABHDI and next organiser.

Each Perpetual Trophy will also include a note to the recipient stating: "You are responsible for the safekeeping and maintenance of this trophy and it must be returned to the Australian Championship organising committee in the same condition as it was received together with the protective carrier provided. A label has been attached stating its cleaning instructions and maintenance."

Next organiser to contact trophy holders to ensure that the trophies are returned to the Organiser one month prior to the event or on the day of the event if attending. Should any damage occur to the Perpetual Trophy, the recipient will be liable for the cost of repair to the trophy.

13. Prize Giving Ceremony and Presentation - The prize giving ceremony is to be conducted in a prominent position for the public to view. The presentations should be held at a time when the majority of public are still in attendance. If presentations are late in the day, adequate lighting for photographs should be available for this major event in a dancer's career. The stages and/or venue setting should not be dismantled while the presentations are being held.
14. Photographs (digital format) of the winners of each Australian Championship should be supplied to the ABHDI for uploading to the ABHDI website.
15. No public relations stalls or hospitality areas of any kind belonging to overseas Examining Bodies will be permitted at the Australian Championship.
16. A report, including financial details, from the organising committee of the Australian Championship to be submitted to the ABHDI through the relevant State/Regional Committee for the next ABHDI meeting.
17. The winners' names and addresses will be forwarded to the ABHDI for the purpose of contacting trophy winners if necessary.

## **PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS**

These events are organised on a similar basis to Championships.

Refer to RSOBHD Constitution and Rules.

1. A competitor may enter both the Championship and Pre-Championship provided neither have been won prior to the event.
2. Pre-Championship dances will be the same as for a Championship, set steps will not be required and the Reel does not have to be the same as the Championship Reel.
3. The number of steps danced in each of the four dances in a Pre-Championship event to be determined by the Organisers of the competition.
4. The name of winners of Pre-Championships must be forwarded to the ABHDI with the Championship forms for the purpose of keeping a record of names if required at a future date.

5. This record of names will be circulated to State/Regional Committees for onforwarding to the relevant Championship Organisers prior to holding these Pre-Championships.
6. Pre-Championship scrutineering sheets to be returned with Championship scrutineering sheets to ABHDI Secretary.
7. In a Pre-Championship each dance should be scrutineered to six placings or more if entries allow. There is no requirement to have six overall places.
8. In the situation where a Championship and Pre-Championship are being held at the same venue over a 2-day period, the State/Regional registration number allocated for the first day must be utilised for the Pre-Championship event on the following day. A second State/Regional registration number would be issued for further competition events on the second day.

## COMPETITIONS OTHER THAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. All highland dancing competitions in Australia be registered with the Competition Registrar or Secretary of the appropriate State/Regional Committee.
2. All competition applications to be made to the Competition Registrar or Secretary of appropriate State/Regional Committee. Carbonised judging sheets are available through the State/Regional Committee concerned at a set cost.
3. It is compulsory for all competitions to put registration numbers on all programs for the protection of dancers and Judges so they will know if it is a registered competition they are travelling to or taking part in locally. Suggestion - that State/Regional Committees show initials of State/Region.
4. Organisers of ABHDI competitions must display, in a prominent position, at each venue, a readily readable sized notice stating "This competition is registered under RSOBHD rules as adopted by ABHDI" and quote the ABHDI registered number for Championships and the relevant State/Regional Committee registered number for non-Championship competitions.
5. All Organisers be instructed to have proposed syllabi/schedules in to State/Regional Committees within a "set" time, designated by your Committee, before the date of competition.
6. Syllabi/Schedules for competitions should list the Primary dance as "Pas de Basques and High Cuts." No reference to quantity of Pas de Basques and High Cuts should be included in this dance. No swords should be used in "Pas de Basques" or "Pas de Basques and High Cuts."
7. Any changes to a program should be:
  - a) Notified to all competitors concerned either prior to the competition being held if proposed changes are known at that time, **or**
  - b) Announced at the start of the competition.
8. Competition Organisers to include into their Syllabi/Schedules:

"Any rules pertaining to competition or Championship, released by RSOBHD or ABHDI from the time of printing this syllabus/schedule to the date of the competition or Championship, will be adhered to."

Any change to rules should be announced prior to the commencement of the Championship or competition.

#### 9. ENQUIRIES

Teachers, interested parties or any other unauthorised person must not communicate with Judges during a competition. All enquiries to the official table.

#### 10. JUDGES NAMES

a) All competitions run under RSOBHD rules must be judged by an Adjudicator from the current RSOBHD/ABHDI Panel of Judges Listing.

b) Organisers must list at the time of registration/approval/minimum of three months before competition the judge/s who will be officiating at the competition so that dancers will not be inconvenienced by the outlay of money and time only to find on arrival that they are unable to compete, due to the ethical impossibility of their judged by the Judge/s who could have taught or coached them in the three-month period. State/Regional Committee Secretaries must seek compliance when syllabi/schedules are received from Organisers for registration/approval/minimum of three months before competition.

#### 11. STEPS TO BE DANCED AT COMPETITIONS

The number of steps to be danced at a competition should be decided by the Organiser. Organiser also has the right to set steps for any section events, Pre-Championships or Titles but must take into consideration the age/category of the competitor. A set method in any step cannot be specified, however an organiser can state "as per current Scottish National Dance Premiership steps".

12. At all Pre-Premier competitions an Intermediate section must be included in syllabi/schedules. It is not permissible for Intermediate level to repeat a dance.

Where two State/Regional registration numbers are allocated over a 2-day period, Pre-Premier dancers can be offered their full quota of dances on each day. Registration cards would be stamped on each day where relevant.

#### 13. ELECTRONIC RECORDING EQUIPMENT

a) There are no restrictions on the usage of electronic equipment, provided permission is obtained from the Organisers and Judges and it does not interfere with the smooth organisation of the competition/Championships or in any way restricts the view of the Judge/s.

b) Judges and Organisers should bear in mind that the Judge's decision is final and cannot be subjected to an electronic recording replay.

#### c) ELECTRONIC RECORDING AT COMPETITIONS

It was agreed, after discussion that at an indoor competition an electronic recording may be taken for personal use only, provided the Judge(s)/Organiser had no objection. At an outdoor competition, provided it is for personal use and not for personal gain, the Board would have no objection. It should be noted that electronic recording taken without permission for commercial gain is strictly forbidden.

#### 14. DANCES ALLOWED AT A COMPETITION

(See RSOBHD Constitution & Rules Book - Section B - Regulations and Rules, IV Competitions other than Championships)

#### 15. REELS

a) Reel of Tulloch

Organisers should note that when competitors are to be marshalled, either the lowest or highest number may enter the stage first as long as the lowest number is on the Judges left.

	B	D
	102	104
A	C	
101	103	

b) Dancers must “fill in” if requested by the organiser.

If a competitor fails to fill in unless for a medical reason the Organiser has the right to enforce Rule 1g) D-Judges, RSOBHD Rules and Regulations, which reads: “During the course of a competition the comportment and behaviour of the competitors may come under the jurisdiction of the Judges, not only whilst dancing, but also when entering or leaving the platform and whilst waiting for the dance to start. Any unseemly behaviour on the part of a competitor or any misdemeanour likely to upset the decorum of the proceedings may be penalised by the Judges and could lead to disqualification. A full report of any such conduct on the part of a competitor must be submitted by the Judge to the Organiser. In serious cases, the Judge should also provide a report of any such conduct on the part of the competitor to the Organiser and to the RSOBHD. This ruling to be included in all syllabi/schedules.

c) If only one (1) dancer entered for a Reel, it was agreed that it would be at the Organiser’s discretion whether this event be held or cancelled.

## 16. SWORDS

a) Swords may be adjusted by competitor without seeking permission from Judges provided he/she does not give himself/herself an unfair advantage.

b) Sword and scabbard can be used for Premier and Pre-Premier sections. RSOBHD recommends that flat swords be used for Primary sections.

c) Where the number of Swords on the stage exceeds the number of competitors, where practical, the dancers must position themselves as follows, unless directed otherwise by the Adjudicator:

i) if one dancer remaining - sword on Judges left

ii) if two dancers remaining - sword on Judges left and then next position.

d) Swords should not be shifted or removed from the stage until the section is completed.

## 17. IRISH JIG

Where the Irish Jig is listed on an entry form for competition the steps required must be stated e.g. 2 and 2 finishing steps, 3 and 1 finishing step, 3 and 2 finishing steps, 4 and 2 finishing steps. It is up to the Organiser to decide the number of steps and finishing steps required. Entry forms should not state e.g. 4 steps or 5 steps.

## BROADSWORD

A Choreographed Broadsword can have any number of dancers. In a Traditional Broadsword complete steps must be danced, and a dancer cannot stand still for a whole step.

## 18. DUO AND TEAM EVENTS – (PREMIER DANCERS ONLY)



- a) Team sections are treated as for individual sections.
- b) Scotch Measure cannot be danced as a duo in competitions.

#### 19. PREMIER CLASSIFICATION.

- a) Restricted sections.  
Competition Organisers may offer restricted dances in Premier.
- b) If a dancer enters as Premier Restricted and Premier in the same competition, it is up to the Competition Organiser to determine if they retain the status of Premier Restricted throughout the whole competition. This rule must be clearly stated in the syllabus/schedule.

#### 20. CHOREOGRAPHY

All choreography rules are covered under RSOBHD Constitution and Rules.

Dancers cards should not be stamped as Premier and Pre-Premier dancers may compete in the same group.

#### 21. THE ORGANISATION OF TWO OR MORE SEPARATE COMPETITIONS

Where more than one competition is registered in the one day at the one venue, competitors must abide by the 8 dance rule.

#### 22. THE ORGANISATION OF TWO CONSECUTIVE COMPETITIONS

Where an Organiser has been granted the registration of two competitions on one weekend, such competitions must be complete in their own right.

Competitions must conform to the following:

- a) Totally separate syllabi/schedules issued.
- b) Aggregates cannot cover more than one competition.
- c) The age and level of competitors must apply at the date of the particular competition.
- d) If an Organiser runs two registered competitions with two competition numbers on one weekend then there should be two sets of rules, but if only one competition number then only one set of rules is needed. Unless Organisers make these competitions totally separate, the syllabi/schedules will not be approved.
  - i) If one competition is held over two days, the dancer may retain status for both days.
  - ii) When a Pre-Premier event is held over two days, one registration number, the dances must be different and not a repeat of the previous day.

#### 23. CLOSED COMPETITIONS

Closed competitions can only be held on the basis of residence in a Local Government area or a combination of Local Government areas and only one such competition be held in any one calendar year involving a particular area.

#### 24. AGE GROUPING

- a) The Board recommends that the age for competitors be that as on the day of the competition.
- b) Advertised Age Grouping
  - i) If a Competition Organiser advertises levels (Pre-Premier categories, e.g. Beginners, Novice etc) as “any age” they may, on finding they have sufficient entries within a level, split them into suitable age groupings but otherwise where insufficient entries are received an “all age” competition within that level would be held.
  - ii) If age groups are advertised there must be a disclaimer on the syllabus/schedule to cover changing of ages due to entries – eg ages to be decided on entries. If advertising age groups without disclaimer, Competition Organisers must stay with the age groups advertised. Competition Organisers are encouraged to always add disclaimer in the syllabus/schedule.
- c) Amalgamated Age Grouping  
There is no restriction on Premier age groups, except in Championships where the break point is Under 16 Years. 16 Years and Under Championships are not permissible.

A competitor must dance within his/her own age group and the Organiser should refuse an entry for a higher age group i.e. a 15 year old competitor cannot compete in the 17 Years and Under group when a 15 Years and Under group is available.

**NOTE: Please be aware of the RSOBHD constitution and rules on amalgamating age groups.**

## 25. COMPETITOR NUMBERS

- a) ABHDI rules that competitors must wear a number on their costume whilst being adjudicated. Organisers are responsible for suitable numbers being provided. Judges are not permitted to penalise should these numbers fall off.
- b) The competitor with the lowest number must be on the left of the Judge.
- c) Competitors’ numbers commence at 100.
- d) Dancers should have numbers pinned on for presentation of prizes as the dancers are still in dancing outfits for the prizes.

## 26. STAGES

- a) Organisers should ensure that the stage is satisfactory.
- b) Ajax or similar substances cannot be used on stages to prevent dancers slipping.
- c) Once a dancer is on the floor in front of the Judge he/she should be ready to dance and any preparations should be done in the line-up. (e.g. should a dancer bring a water bottle onto the platform area, spray the floor, then discard the bottle to the side). The Judge should use his/her discretion and pay particular attention as to the suitability of the floor as a whole.

## SCOTTISH NATIONAL DANCE PREMIERSHIPS

All rules pertaining to the conduct of Scottish National Dance Premierhips are found in the RSOBHD Constitution and Rules and must be referred to in the first instance.

The ABHDI issues 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> certificates directly to the recipients annually.

### PROCEDURE TO REGISTER AND CONDUCT SCOTTISH NATIONAL DANCE PREMIERSHIPS IN AUSTRALIA

Any Organiser in Australia wishing to conduct a Scottish National Dance Premiership must apply through their respective State/Regional Committee to the ABHDI.

## PRE-PREMIER COMPETITION

### 1. COMPETITION SECTIONS - PRE PREMIER CLASSIFICATION

In reference to Primary dancers executing Pas de Basques and High Cuts, they are permitted to use any Sword Introduction and to dance:

- a) 6 pas de basques and 4 high cuts **or**
- b) 5 pas de basques, assemble, disassemble then high cuts.

### 2. COMPETITOR STATUS AND AUTOMATIC ADVANCE

- a) Status of competitor on closing date of competition. If dancers move up into another status in the meantime at another competition, they need to notify Organisers of the competition already entered for, of the change in their status.
- b) The classification of a dancer is to be taken as at the date of the competition.

## TITLES

- 1. Each State/Regional Committee are responsible for setting guidelines for the conduct of Titles in its own area, with the proviso that such guidelines must require adherence of the Scrutineering System as set out in the RSOBHD Constitution and Rules.
- 2. Scrutineering must be taken to the number of individual prizes awarded.
- 3. The number of overall prizes awarded is at the discretion of the Organiser but must not exceed the number of individual prizes awarded.
- 4. Throughout Australia, scrutineering sheets for Titles must be displayed at competition venue.
- 5. Titles for Pre-Premier and Premier classification are not to use the terms Junior, Intermediate and Senior when referring to age groupings.

## **AWARDING OF PRIZES**

### **1. PRESENTATION OF PRIZES**

- a) For Championship presentation dancers must wear kilt. In competitions other than Championships dancers should be dressed in Kilt/National costume.
- b) If a dancer has to leave a competition before presentation ceremony because of travel arrangements, the trophy may be taken before presentation occurs.
- c) If souvenir of the day is to be presented to any competitors, it is recommended that such souvenir or memento is not presented on stage.
- d) Where an award is not available on the day of the event, then the Organiser must provide such to the recipient within the following 3 months.

### **2. MOST PROMISING DANCER OR SIMILAR AWARD**

- a) Awarding of a Most Promising Dancer or similar award is allowable, but should be at the discretion of the Judge/s.
- b) Most Promising Dancer Award or similar award may be awarded in Pre-Premier and/or Premier levels with the stipulation that categories are not mixed. For example, can be awarded in a Beginners category only or a Novice category only etc.
- c) A dancer's card must not be stamped for an award for the Most Promising Dancer or similar award as this is not a dance competition.
- d) Best Dressed Dancer Awards must only be awarded to Premier dancers.
- e) If a first, second or third prize is awarded in a Pre-Premier competition, it must be accepted by the competitor and the card stamped accordingly.

### **3. AGGREGATE AND OVERALL AWARDS**

Aggregate and overall trophies may be awarded at the discretion of the Competition Organiser. If awarding aggregates the RSOBHD scrutineering system must be adhered to.

- a) Where a trophy of any description covers a single dance, overall or combined awards, then ADVANCE notice must be provided by the Organiser giving details of how the award will be decided. It is preferred that these details be publicly displayed on the day of the competition.
- b) The method to be used in awarding the trophy should be shown on the program. Aggregate points are awarded only where prizes are given.

## **REGISTRATION OF HIGHLAND DANCERS AND CARD SYSTEM**

- 1. All Australian dancers must be registered with the State/Regional Committee in which they are domiciled.

2. Pre-Premier dancers (including Primary standard) to receive Levels Procedure form pertaining to RSOBHD/ABHDI Pre-Premier Registration Scheme, such form to be signed acknowledging full understanding of the Registration Scheme prior to changing category.
3. PREMIER and PRE-PREMIER (including Primary standard) overseas dancers are not to register with an Australian State/Regional Committee of Highland Dancing if currently registered in a country in which the RSOBHD Premier and Pre-Premier Registration Scheme is in operation.
4. The dancer's registration number must appear on the entry form to be eligible to enter competition.

#### **REGISTRATION CARDS**

1. The Registrar and/or nominated personnel (18 Years & Over) at Highland Dancing competitions are the only persons authorised to record on the registration card. Unauthorised alterations to this card will automatically render it void.
2. The cards are marked with date of competition, competition number and initials of authorised personnel (18 Years & Over).
3. If a Highly Commended certificate or card is awarded for 1st, 2nd or 3rd place, the registration card must be marked.
4. Faxed/emailed copies of registration cards are not acceptable.
5. Premier cards must have the 'Valid to' date completed on back of registration cards, ie '31<sup>st</sup> December of the current year'.
6. Change of Level (Classification)  
Where a dancer is competing at two (2) separate competitions (different competition numbers) held on two (2) consecutive days, the following procedure is adhered to:

Dancers who have completed their section and wish to advance to the next section should present their original card to the Organiser, who will fill in the dancer's details on the Temporary Card.

The dancer may use the Temporary Card for 14 days from the date of issue and must return the Temporary Card and the original card to the relevant Registration Unit along with the appropriate application form, fee and photographs etc.

The Organiser should keep a record of the Temporary Card issued and return the "tear off" slip to the relevant Registration Unit within 14 days from the date of issue.

#### **SCRUTINEERING FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS, SCOTTISH NATIONAL DANCE PREMIERSHIPS AND TITLES**

1. The scrutineering system as set in RSOBHD Constitution & Rules is to be strictly adhered to at all competitions held in Australia.
2. Only the ABHDI approved computer-generated electronic scrutineering systems will be used in Australia i.e. Mark McKeon Scrutineering System and the Highland Scrutineer.

Where it is necessary for two sets of independent scrutineering sheets to be produced then any combination of manual and/or computer-generated scrutineering sheets will be accepted.

3. A meeting of scrutineers should be held annually by State/Regional Committees.

Scrutineers who have not attended such meeting and been issued with a certificate within a period of two years will not be eligible to officiate at competitions where the scrutineering system, as set out in the RSOBHD Constitution & Rules is in use.

4. If Organisers use an ineligible scrutineer/s at a competition, an explanation in writing must be made to the relevant State/Regional Committee and such explanation or failure to make such explanation will be taken into account in deciding on the registration of future competitions for that Organiser.
5. State/Regional Committees are required to record the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all persons who attend an official Scrutineering Session organised by their State/Regional Committee and such information is to be forwarded to the ABHDI.
6. A standard certificate of verification of attendance at a Scrutineering Session with name of person attending, date of attendance and signed by State/Regional Committee Secretary or authorised personnel as appointed by State/Regional Committee will be issued on the day to all participants who successfully complete a scrutineering seminar.
7. Parents should not scrutineer any Championship, Scottish National Dance Premiership, Pre-Championship or Titles in which their child is competing.
8. Judges' marks are only available for scrutineering purposes and must not be given out to competitors, parents, teachers or general enquiries. The scrutineer should not contact the Judge re marking, (except where a mark is illegible.)
9. Organisers of Championships to be responsible for the provision of a suitable work location to enable scrutineers to retain concentration without undue interruptions.

## **GUIDELINES FOR REGISTRARS**

1. When a dancer advances to a higher category they must send their card to the Dancer Registrar in their area to have it marked as void.
2. All Australian dancers must be registered with the State/Regional Committee annually in which they are domiciled. Registration Cards must be returned on an annual basis for registration.
3. Registrars are to ensure that they notify relevant Dancer Registrars of the results of Pre-Premier interstate/inter region dancers competing in their State or Region within 14 days of the competition. Details to include: Competitors name, Classification, and Result (if placed 1st/2nd/3rd).
4. When Pre-Premier overseas competitors gain places in competitions held in Australia, Registrars do not forward the result to an overseas registration unit. These results must be forwarded to the ABHDI Secretary. Competition organisers must ensure that the card is signed.
5. State/Regional Committee Dancer Registrars must not correspond directly with RSOBHD. All correspondence must be through the ABHDI Secretary.
6. Registration Cards: If the first stamp on the card has no date, then there is no commencing date. 'Beginners', 'Novice' and 'Intermediate' must have the Registration Card date stamped.

7. Pre-Premier dancers travelling overseas require a letter issued to them advising what they are required to do if it is necessary to change levels. Procedure is that if required the dancer would be issued with a Temporary Card which is valid for 14 days, this Temporary Card would be returned to the relevant Registration Unit together with their original card, on their return from overseas.

However, if it is likely that the dancer will be competing outwith the timeframe of the Temporary Card they should take with them two (2) signed photos and a registration form signed by their Teacher in order that a new Registration Card can be issued.

## JUDGES

### 1. CODE OF ETHICS

- a) Judging pupils of fellow teachers of the same dancing establishment is not allowed.
- b) Judges for that particular competition/Championship cannot participate in any part of the organisation of that particular competition/Championships on that day.
- c) Where a Judge has connection with a school, the question of adjudicating the pupils of that school is left to the integrity of the Judge concerned. If a Judge shows bias of any kind at a competition, the promoters or Association concerned should take the matter up with their State/Regional Committee for further guidance.
- d) A Judge cannot judge the teacher of his/her own children.
- e) Judges may not judge dancers they have taught in the previous three (3) months.
- f) A Judge may dance in a display with competitive dancers.
- g) It is agreed that on a point of ethics re a Judge not adjudicating competitors it is easier for the competitor to stand down than the Judge.

### 2. JUDGING

- a) Only registered Judges whose name appears on the current List of Judges who are affiliated with the ABHDI and/or RSOBHD can be used at a registered competition.
- b) Judges have the authority not to give a prize if the dancing is of a very poor standard - RSOBHD Extract 5/8/79 P2 which confirms RSOBHD Minutes 24/9/78 that prizes are awarded at the discretion of the Judge whose decision is final.
- c) Judges must only adjudicate one level age group at one time.
- d) Judges are reminded that when only one prize is given it must be a first prize.
- e) JUDGES PROCEDURE
  - Always sign sheets
  - Always initial alterations
  - Always have six clear places in a Championship
  - Marks if broken can be  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  and written as a fraction or a decimal e.g. 72  $\frac{1}{4}$  or 72.25 or 72  $\frac{1}{2}$  or 72.5 or 72  $\frac{3}{4}$  or 72.75 (RSOBHD minutes no 440)

- Marking sheets should be handed to the steward before Judges leave their seats and they cannot be altered thereafter, unless to correct any error of detail discovered by the scrutineer
- Technical comments only should be made
- Reason should be given for disqualification
- The number 7 should not be crossed when judging as this can be confused when scrutineering with the number '4'.

f) Written criticisms cannot be given.

g) JUDGING BEST DRESSED

Judges to be discouraged from judging Best Dressed event. Only Premier dancers can enter a Best Dressed competition.

h) If Judges are available, they should wait for the presentation of prizes and acknowledge the winners. Organisers should accept the fact that it is part of the Judge/s working day and should be paid accordingly.

i) Judges must retain their status as shown on the List of Judges affiliated with the ABHDI/RSOBHD.

j) ATTENDANCE

Judges should attend a Judges Meeting for the full session and sign the book reflecting this.

k) JUDGING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Judges must ensure that when adjudicating at Championships they complete and sign the ABHDI Championship Report Form. Judges are to note that any comments, good or bad, may be put on this form.

l) JUDGES FEES

Current ABHDI recommended adjudication fee, including meal breaks and presentation periods be \$35.00 (Thirty five dollars) per hour, with a minimum of \$175.00 (One hundred and seventy fifty dollars) per day plus all reasonable expenses incurred thereto.

m) PIPERS' TEMPO

In a case where a piper is either erratic with timing or tempo, ABHDI suggests that Judges should quietly approach the piper/s concerned and seek correction.

A piper does not have to play the same tune for the whole section.

n) Mobile phones to be turned off while judging.

o) RE-DANCE

Depending on the circumstances, ultimately it is the Judge's choice on whether a re-dance is required and when the judging would recommence.

### 3. PANEL OF JUDGES

a) ABHDI will maintain a List of Judges who have passed an examination set by the Board and who are, in the opinion of the Board, fit persons to adjudicate at Highland Dancing competitions. The Board is defined as either the RSOBHD or ABHDI.

b) Judges residing in Australia must register and be currently financial with ABHDI.



c) Judges who have been advised by RSOBHD that they have passed the RSOBHD Judges Test are permitted to judge in Australia once they have registered with ABHDI and are financial with the ABHDI.

d) RESIGNATION

Prior to resigning from the List of Judges affiliated with the ABHDI, a Judge must pay all outstanding fees.

Judges who resign from the World Wide Panel after March 2001 will also be resigning from the ABHDI Panel of Judges.

e) HONORARY JUDGE

'Honorary Judge' means a judge who has resigned from Judges Panel after 25 years and has accepted this position.

As a recognition and acknowledgment of their contribution to highland dancing, a judge on the ABHDI Judges Panel for more than 25 years, who has advised the Board that they are unable to continue as an active Judge, may at the Board's discretion, be placed on a List of Honorary Judges of the ABHDI Judges Panel.

An Honorary Judge may attend the ABHDI meeting as an observer, but has no voting power and may, on request receive all minutes and notices electronically at no cost. An administration fee as prescribed by ABHDI will be charged for hard copies.

A profile of the Judge may be submitted to the ABHDI to provide a record of their attributes.

f) JUDGES PANELS REQUIREMENTS

i) All Judges are to ensure that the following documents are in the hands of the ABHDI Secretary by 31st October or their names will not appear on the lists of Judges eligible to adjudicate: -

- Proof of current Examining Body membership;
- Completed CPD;
- Renewal Form;
- Code of Ethics and Conduct.

ii) Worldwide Judges should notify RSOBHD direct if any corrections need to be made to the World Wide Judges Panel List.

iii) Judges who are listed on the World Wide Panel of Judges are eligible to adjudicate at Championships and all other competitions worldwide.

g) CHANGES TO LIST OF JUDGES

Judges wishing to transfer to a different section of the List of Judges affiliated with the ABHDI or World Wide Judges Panel must notify the ABHDI Secretary of the change before accepting judging appointment in the new category.

#### 4. WORKSHOPS

a) At Workshops conducted for Judges and Teachers it is preferable to use only non-competitive dancers who must be 16 Years and Over.

b) If a Judge teaches students at the Workshop then the Judge cannot judge a student in that Workshop for three (3) months following that Workshop. Dancers who sit in on lessons during the Workshop but do

not take part, must also come under the three (3) month rule. This rule however does not apply to any non-competing Judge who observes and/or dances at a Workshop if permitted.

- c) Attendance at an ABHDI workshop conducted by a member of the RSOBHD Technical Panel is strictly for registered ABHDI and/or RSOBHD Judges and Teacher members 18 Years and Over of Associations affiliated to the ABHDI.
- d) Before conducting a Workshop, the ABHDI recommends that a Judge should announce where he/she will be adjudicating in the next three months.

## **ALTERATIONS TO RULES**

Rules other than the Constitution, pertaining to organisational matters of the ABHDI may be altered, rescinded or added to only if passed by a majority vote which comprises not less than three-quarters of vote entitlements of Delegates/Proxies to the ABHDI present at the General meeting of the ABHDI where such a proposal was made.

## **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

A Certificate of Appreciation may be awarded to a person at the discretion of the ABHDI at a General Meeting in recognition of his/her outstanding service to Highland Dancing administration in Australia either as a Delegate, from a State/Regional Committee, or as an Office Bearer of the ABHDI over a period of not less than 10 accumulative years of active service retrospective from the inception of the ABHDI.

There may be circumstances where people would consider service rather than years to be relevant. If a State/Regional Committee believes that someone should be nominated for this award because of exceptional service, this should be submitted with a letter detailing the exceptional circumstances.

## **RSOBHD DELEGATE**

Resolved that the ABHDI delegates to the RSOBHD be directed to vote as a bloc (ie all delegates shall vote in the same manner) in relation to all matters as follows:

- a) in relation to propositions and on any other matter where a direction has been given by the ABHDI, in accordance with the direction given by the ABHDI;
- b) in relation to any matter where no direction has been given by the ABHDI, in accordance with the majority view of the delegates. Where the delegates cannot reach a majority view, all delegates should abstain from voting.

## **RSOBHD JUDGES TEST**

1. Applicants must advise the ABHDI Secretary through their State/Regional Committee of their intention to sit the Judges Test overseas.
2. Candidates for the Judges Test should hold the results of a Members'/Teachers Examination before making application to take the Test. A candidate must have first passed a Membership/Teachers examination with

an Examining Body and have that membership confirmed before applying to take the RSOBHD Judges' Examination.

Australian Highland Dancing Teachers' examinations approved:

- National Dancing Association of Australia Inc.
- Queensland Scottish Dancing Association
- Scottish Dancing Association of Australia
- Victorian Scottish Dancing Association

3. The Judges exam shall be held at a venue to be determined by the ABHDI, subject to agreement of the RSOBHD.

4. RSOBHD FEES

A fee for RSOBHD Overseas Judges Test is determined by RSOBHD at their Annual General Meeting.

If a candidate cancels within three months of the test date 50% of the fee will be forfeited. If a candidate cancels within one month of the test date then the fee will be forfeited.

5. NOTIFICATION TO CANDIDATES

Forms, fees and documents from prospective candidates to be forwarded to the ABHDI Secretary for onforwarding to RSOBHD office.

RSOBHD Director of Administration will notify each candidate direct the time for the examination and the venue.

6. CODE OF ETHICS

- a) The Examiners, Invigilators and Dancers will in no way be related to, or have Highland Dancing connection with any of the candidates.
- b) The candidate may not be related to, or have any Highland Dance connection with any of the Examiners, dancers or the officials in attendance.
- c) The official Examiners and the officials in attendance are not permitted to correspond or discuss the examination content with any candidate prior to, during or following the examination.
- d) All aspects of the examination will be treated in strictest confidence by the RSOBHD Secretary, official Examiners and officials in attendance.
- e) The ABHDI will not accept any correspondence regarding the result of this examination.

7. CRITERIA

See RSOBHD Leaflet and RSOBHD Constitution and Rules Book.

8. CATERING:

Organiser to notify the candidates if lunch will be provided on the day/s of the examination.

9. DRESS:

Candidates will require suitable attire for demonstration work. Candidates participating in the RSOBHD Judges Test are expected to be well groomed and attired as follows in a manner befitting this examination and the position they hope to attain.

- a) Male candidates - Kilt and appropriate hose or tartan trews or tailored slacks, appropriate business or sports shirt - in the Oral segment (Part 2)
- b) Female candidates - Kilt or Aboyne skirt and appropriate blouse. Aboyne skirt must be worn in the Oral segment (Part 2)
- c) All candidates - All candidates must wear Highland pumps in the Oral segment (Part 2).

#### 10. MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

Any candidate producing a medical certificate must produce this to RSOBHD and also forward a copy to ABHDI prior to the test and not on the day of the test.

#### 11. RSOBHD FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The RSOBHD will pay for the overseas Invigilator's accommodation and sustenance, economy airfare, local Invigilators' fees for the mock examination and hall hire.

#### 12. NOTIFICATION OF RESULT

Candidates will be advised, in writing, by the Administrator of the Board (RSOBHD), the result of the examination. Candidates who fail the test will be informed of their percentage in each 'failed' section. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the result of the examination.

Successful candidates should be familiar with RSOBHD Constitution and Rules Book - Section VII - RSOBHD Panel of Judges.

RSOBHD Judges in Australia must be registered with the ABHDI for their name to be placed on the ABHDI Panel of Judges list.

## DRESS CODE

#### 1. COSTUMES

Correct Highland dress, Dress for National Dances, Dress for Sailors' Hornpipe and Dress for Irish Jig attire as recommended by RSOBHD to be worn by competitors for RSOBHD registered competitions.

#### 2. REMOVAL OF JACKET

In extreme conditions, Judges may use their discretion in permitting the competitor to remove his/her jacket and/or hat.

#### 3. WEARING OF MAKEUP

The ABHDI recommend that at highland and national competitions dancers do not wear glitter or theatrical makeup e.g., false eyelashes.

#### 4. DRESSING ROOMS

The ABHDI direct that dancers use dressing rooms to change costumes and dress fully, appropriately and respectfully (i.e. not exposing their bras or crop tops) when in public at competitions. The ABHDI recommend that Teachers and Competition Organisers advise the dancers to dress appropriately and modestly.

#### 5. WEARING OF MEDICAL TIGHTS

If a dancer is wearing medical tights for a medical reason, a certificate must be supplied. Stewards should notify Judges when medical tights are worn or bike shorts for religious reasons.

## 6. JEWELLERY

Wearing of Jewellery is not allowed with the exception of wearing a medical alert bracelet. No penalty is to be imposed for the wearing of these bracelets. Stewards should notify Judges when bracelets are worn.

It is permissible to wear a wedding ring.

## PROTEST RULE

This Rule must appear on all Syllabi/Schedules

Any complaint made by an individual against the organisation or adjudication of an event must be made in writing giving the Complainant's full name and address, and shall be lodged with the Organiser if possible on the day of the event and certainly not later than 48 hours after the event. Such a complaint to be accompanied by a set fee as determined by the ABHDI which is refundable if protest is upheld.

## CODE OF ETHICS

### 1. TEACHERS :-

Prior to signing new Dancer registration forms or renewal forms, any Teacher registering competitive dancers is to sign the Teachers Code of Ethics and forward it to the Secretary of their State/Regional Committee.

State/Region Committees are responsible for confirming that no dancers are registered to a teacher who has not signed and returned the document.

### 2. DANCERS:-

Parent, Guardian, Dancer 16 years of age & over are to sign the Dancer Code of Ethics prior to requesting the Teacher to sign the registration form. State/Regional Committee to retain the signed Code of Ethics forms in the event of a complaint for a period of 7 years.

### 3. ORGANISERS :-

All competition Organisers (including Championship and Scottish National Dance Premiership Organisers) are to sign the Organisers Code of Ethics when renewing their Competitions each year. State/Regional Committee to retain the signed Code of Ethics forms in the event of a complaint for a period of 7 years.

### 4. JUDGES

All Judges resident in Australia will be required to sign the Code of Ethics when submitting their renewal documentation. Judges on the worldwide panel will also have to sign the RSOBHD Code of Ethics and submit both documents.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

1. States/Regional Committees, Examining Bodies, Championship Organisers, & Associations may contact the ABHDI's Senior Vice President (Email [fyffes@bigpond.net.au](mailto:fyffes@bigpond.net.au)) with items of interest for the ABHDI Facebook or Instagram pages.
2. The ABHDI Executive reserves the right to determine what is posted on the ABHDI Social media sites. Permission must be given from all those appearing in photographs.

## REVISION/MODIFICATION HISTORY

Version updated	Summary of changes	Meeting approved	Date updated
1 Jan 2025	Championships. 20 judge's names. Competitions other than Championships10.b Judges names.	GM 183	1/12/24
1 Jan 2025	Judging. l) Judges Fees	AGM 181	1/1/25