

DanceRites



Judging Criteria & Scoring

Artwork: Wanita Lowe



DanceRites Judges

The five DanceRites judges will consist of respected First Nations dance and songline custodians, professional choreographers and dance practitioners.

DanceRites Performances

Groups will perform on a 12-metre diameter sand circle. Please keep this in mind when preparing competition content.

Cultural Dance and Song Cycle

Heats: Saturday 24 October

Finals: Sunday 25 October

All groups must participate in the Cultural Dance and Song Cycle category, representing their community through local storytelling, dance, song and language.

Timing

- Each Cultural Dance and Song Cycle presentation must run between 5 and 8 minutes in duration, including introductions and acknowledgements.
- Any performance exceeding 8 minutes will incur a deduction of 1 point for every 30 seconds over time. Performances exceeding 10 minutes will be disqualified.

Music

- Music may be live or pre-recorded.
- All music must be an original composition from the Country, Nation, or Clan represented by the group.
- Written permission must be obtained from the composer/songwriter and/or appropriate cultural authority prior to use.



Judging of performances in the Heats

- The five judges will submit their individual scores for each participating dance group during the Heats
- After all performances in the Heats, the judges will have a group discussion to determine the finalists. Judges will combine the individual scores and discuss the rankings and the merits of each dance group in relation to each element of the criteria.
- The eight highest scoring groups from the Cultural Dance and Song Cycle Heats on Saturday will progress to the finals on Sunday.

Finals performances

- The finals performance must run between 5 and 8 minutes, including introductions and acknowledgements.
- Finalists may present either their full Cultural Dance and Song Cycle or selected elements they consider strongest from their Heats performance.
- No new dances, music, instruments, or costumes may be introduced in the Finals.

After competing in the Finals, one winner and one Runner Up will be determined from the top eight dance groups. The winners will be announced

at the Awards Ceremony.

Judging Criteria & Scoring

The Cultural Dance and Song Cycle performances (both Heats and Finals) will be judged out of a total 50 points on the following criteria:

- Storytelling: 10 points
- Style and Technique: 20 points
- Song and Language: 10 points
- Costume, regalia and skin markings (such as paint up): 10 points

Wild Card Dance

Sunday 25 October

This category can explore any dance style. This dance gives each group the opportunity to show off their style and techniques and to wow the audience. This presentation must be different from the Cultural Dance and Song Cycle.

Timing

- Each Wild Card entry can be a maximum of 3 minutes, including introductions & acknowledgements by the dance groups.
- 1 point will be deducted for 30 seconds over time.



- Performances that exceed 5 minutes will be disqualified.
- There is no minimum length requirement, and performances of less than 3 minutes will be accepted.

Music

- Music may be live or pre-recorded.
- For pre-recorded music, written permission must be obtained from the composer/songwriter and/or appropriate cultural authority prior to use.

Judging

- The five judges will submit their individual scores for each participating dance group.
- After all performances, the judges will have a group discussion on the performances, individual scores and rankings, and the merits of each dance group in relation to each element of the criteria.

One winner of the Wild Card category will be decided on Sunday, immediately following the performances. The winner will be announced at the Awards Ceremony, after the Cultural Dance and Song Cycle Finals have concluded.

Judging Criteria & Scoring

The Wild Card performance will be judged out of a total 50 points on the following criteria:

- Creativity: 10 points
- Style and Technique: 20 points
- Music: 10 points
- Costume, regalia and skin markings (such as paint up): 10 points

Rites of Passage Awards

Additionally, there will be two Rites of Passage awards to recognise dance groups who have made significant contributions to the revitalisation and continuation of cultural knowledge and practices across the generations.

These awards will not be scored, they will be determined by the unanimous decision of the five judges after viewing all dance groups over the two days of competition. The winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony.