

Judges recalling couples

Judges are told by the Chairman how many they need to recall and how many heats there will be to choose them from; so when the compere says "12 from two" they are asking the judges to mark 12 couples to come back, from two heats. They don't need to bring back an equal number from each heat, but they do have to recall the exact number the chairman asks for. More couples might be recalled if there are couples with the same number of recalls. For example, if the compere asks for 12 couples and 9 couples have enough marks back, and then 4 couples all have the same number; the chairman then has the choice to include them all which would make for 13 in the semi, or exclude them all which would make a 9 couple semi, it is at his discretion.

The final

In the final, the judges have to place each couple, and can't tie two couples for the same place. At the end of the dance, the scrutineer will gather up the judges' score-cards to work out the placings.

The winners are the couple with the **majority** of 1st places then next comes couple with the majority of 1st and 2nd, and so on.

Here's an example (only three couples are shown in the grid but please assume there are results for 6 couples and that the ones not shown don't affect the outcome of the higher places)

couple a	1	1	1	1	3	6	5
couple b	2	2	3	4	2	1	1
couple c	3	3	2	2	1	3	2

There are seven judges and so a couple would need 4 or more judges to place them first to have the majority. couple A has 4 firsts and therefore A is placed 1st. B has a total of five 1st + 2nds has only four so couple B gets second place, and C has seven 3rd place and above, so comes third.

But life isn't always that simple. Sometimes no one couple gets the majority of firsts like this:

couple a	1	1	1	4	2	2	5
couple b	3	3	3	2	1	1	1
couple c	4	4	4	1	3	3	2

Here, both A and B have three 1st places, so then you move to the most number of 1st and 2nd, in this example, A has FIVE 1st & 2nd, B has Four, and C has two, so A wins.

Sometimes the number of firsts and seconds (or whatever position you are deciding) is also tied like this.

couple a	1	1	1	1	6	6	6
couple b	2	2	3	3	1	1	3
couple c	3	3	4	2	2	2	1

In this example, A has four 1sts no one can beat that so A wins. B has four 1st and 2nds, but then again so does C. if this happens you add up the scores of 2nd and higher, so

B gets $2+2+1+1 = 6$

C gets $2+2+2+1 = 7$

so B gets second place , and C gets third.

Now here's something to remember...in this example, 2nd and 3rd place from the couples with the most 2nds and above, so the NEXT position will be from the couple with the most 3rd and above, even though your looking for the fourth placed couple.

So lets look at a scorecard (just using 5 judges)

A has more 1sts than anyone so is placed 1st.

Both B and C have three 1st + 2nd, but if you add up the scores you get the numbers in the brackets, so B comes second and C gets third

we have another tie between D and E for most thirds and above, and again the total is put in the brackets and D pips E to the fourth place slot.

						1sts	2nds	3rd	4th	5th	6th	place
A	1	1	1	5	5	3						1
B	2	2	5	1	4	1	3(5)					2
C	5	5	2	2	2	-	3(6)					3
D	3	3	4	6	1	1	1	3(7)				4
E	4	4	3	3	3	-	-	3(9)				5
F	6	6	6	4	6	-	-	-	1	1	5	6

However if the number of 2nd and above is tied, and after adding up, there is still a tie.

couple a	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
couple b	2	2	1	4	3	4	4
couple c	4	1	2	2	4	5	6
couple d	3	3	3	3	5	6	3

Couple A has won because they have the most 1sts. Now, both couples B and C have three 2nd and above, - more than anyone else, so one of these two will be second place. Adding their points, they both have the same total (2+2+1 = 5).

So now you have to go to the next level down to separate these two couples, So the 1sts, 2nds and 3rds. (couple D is not in the running for second or third even though they have a whole bunch of threes,) In this case couple B has one more than C, so B gets second place and C third. D gets 4th place.

This can be taken further:

couple a	1	3	1	3	1	1	1
couple b	3	1	2	2	3	2	4
couple c	2	2	3	1	2	4	3

Couple A have the most 1sts, so they win. B and C have the same scores all the way down. There is no way to separate these couples on this dance so the result would be a tie .

So next we move on to calculating the final summary if the event involves more than one dance.

Calculating the Final summary

The scrutineer takes the positions for each dance and awards points, 1 for first place, 2 for second 3 for third and so on. Then, to work out the over- all winner, you simply add up the points , the couple with the fewest points wins.

	W	T	F	Q	Total	Result
couple a	1	1	2	2	6	1
couple b	2	2	1	3	8	2
couple c	3	3	3	1	10	3

As you can see, couple a won Waltz and Tango, came second in Foxtrot and Quickstep, so scored $1+1+2+2 = 6$ and that's the lowest score, so A wins. Couple B's score comes to 8, so they get second and C come third with 10 points. Positions for 4th 5th & 6th are worked out the same way.

However if this calculation results in a tie for a position Rule 10 is enforced.

	W	T	F	Q	Total	Result
couple a	1	1	2	3	7	1
couple b	2	2	1	2	7	2
couple c	3	3	3	1	10	3

In this example, both A and B have the same total of points. The winner is the one who has actually won the most dances. A has won 2, B just the 1 so A wins.

If two tie for a lower place such as 2nd, this follows a similar process as was used in placing the individual dances. The couple with the most second and above gets the higher position, if that doesn't divide it, then they add the scores for second and above and decide that way. Obviously this applies to all placings not just to second.

It is possible that more than one couple have the same score in the final summary:

	W	T	F	Q	Total	Result
couple a	2	2	4	2	10	1
couple b	1	1	5	6	13	2
couple c	6	3	3	1	13	3
couple d	4	4	1	4	13	4
couple e	3	5	2	3	13	5
couple f	5	6	6	5	22	6

Couple A wins because they have the lowest score even though they didn't actually win a dance, but there over all score is lower than any one else's. Couple F are obviously 6th with the highest total, but the others have the same total.

To start you look who has the most 2nd or higher - that's couple B with two first places. For 3rd place, you look at third and higher. C has three, as does E, so now they add these up. C has 3+ 3+1=7, and E has 3+2+3=8 so C gets third.

Now you may have thought that that would make E fourth, but no. To decide who is fourth, they count fourth and higher placings and couple D is therefore 4th.

However, sometimes given all that the result is still tied and Rule 11 is enforced.

If you have two couples who are still tied, you go back to the score sheets for the individual dances and treat them as one large scorecard.

So, if there is a tie for first place, you count the number of individual 1st places they got for each dance, the one with the majority (more than half) wins. If that doesn't decide it you do the same as you would if it didn't decide a single dance. If the tie is for second, you look at the individual scorecards and count the seconds and above. Tie for third, count the thirds & above and so on. So you need to know what position your tied before you start the count.

If there is a still a tie at this stage the result is tied.

A summary of the rules

(adapted from BDC rulebook and an A-Z of scrutineering for Ballroom Dancing by E Grassby)

Rule 1) In all rounds each judge must vote for the number of couples as requested by the Chairman of Adjudicators

Rule 2) In the Final round the judge shall place all of the competing couples in order of merit in each dance

Rule 3) In the Final round the judge shall mark his first couple 1st, his second 2nd , his third 3rd and so on in each dance

Rule 4) A judge must not tie couples for any place in the final of any dance

Rule 5) The winner of a particular dance is the couple who is placed first by an absolute majority of the judges; second is the couple who placed second or higher by an absolute majority; third is the couple who placed third or higher by an absolute majority and so on.

Rule 6) If more than one couple have majority for the same position the couple with the largest majority shall be allocated the position under review and the couple with the next highest majority the following position.

Rule 7a) If more than one couple share the same majority: To segregate these couples add together the marks involved in the majorities. The advantage goes to the couple with the smaller total as their final place marks are higher

Rule 7b) If couples share the same majority and the same total continue through the place columns until there is a couple with a majority that is different—the couple with the higher majority has the advantage

Rule 8) If no couple receive a majority for the position under review, proceed to the next placings column and if necessary the next until a majority is found

Rules 9 –11 are concerned with multiple –dance competitions

Rule 9) bring forward the position achieved in each dance by each couple onto a new chart and add the positions together. The lowest total is first.

Rule 10a) If two or more couples have the same total on the final summary a majority is not required, instead first place is awarded to the couple who has won the most number of dances

Rule 10b) If couples who have tied on the summary have also obtained the same number of place marks for the position under review, add together the place marks concerned and award the position to the couple with the lowest total.

Rule 10c) It is possible for more than two couples to tie on the final summary, apply rules 10a and 10b to work through and find the highest placed couple

Rule 10d) There will be a tie under rule 10 if either (i) the tied couples have won the same number of dances or have the same number of place marks with the same totals for the position under review or (ii) the tied couples do not have any place marks for the position under review

Rule 10e) Place marks in the summary involving a fraction should be considered as the next highest whole number.

Rule 11) This is used when a tie still exists after applying Rules 9 and 10. The majority verdict is used again to consider the couples who have tied. Refer back to the individual dance marks, amalgamate all the dances together and treat them as one. Calculations start from the position that is available. Count the majority of that placing and higher (as with a one-dance) I.e. if one couple has a majority for that placing and higher award it; if neither has, move on to the next placing. If both couples receive a majority, the higher majority will take precedence. If they have the same majority, the individual marks constituting the majority must be totalled and the lower total will take the position. If after working through all the place marks the majorities and totals remain the same the result is a tie. The organiser can decide to have a "dance-off" if they wish.

For more information buy a copy of the paper by Arthur Dawson from the BDC or "The A-Z of scrutineering ballroom dancing" (2004) by Estelle Grassby.

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