

## **JUDGING OBJECTIVITY ANALYSIS WITH JUDGING COMPONENT “TECHNICAL QUALITIES” IN STANDARD SPORT DANCE “ENGLISH WALTZ”**

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### **Abstract**

*Depending on the level and the stage of the appropriate competition, elaborated criteria that represent the basic requirements and parameters for assessing the technical and artistic indicators of the dance performance are used in detail. The application of the Absolute Judging System (AJS) 3.0 to assess the performance of DanceSport Couples (DSC) should contribute to improvement of the following characteristics: greater objectivity; transparency; better understanding by the audience and the media; providing guidance for athletes and coaches; improving the performance of the dancers. Judges have a key influence on the final result, both objectively and subjectively. The subjective factor is often a blow to the professional field. Three components are the main ones that make it work: dance judges have become both coaches and judges, opening up the possibility of favouring your own couples; realistically insufficient assessment time; lack of answers and analysis to DSCs as feedback. This research on the quality of judging using the AJS 3.0, “Technical Qualities” judging component for the Standard Sport Dance, “English Waltz”, as well as the consistency of judges in knowing and applying this criteria and its indicators, should lead to suppression of bias, inconsistency and subjectivism as factors of poor quality of judging in DanceSport.*

**Key Words:** *DanceSport, Judging, Component, Objectivity, Technical, Qualities*

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### **Introduction**

Since 1929, English Waltz, Tango, Slowfox, Quickstep and Blues are danced in the Standard Dance group. The same year, France, Germany, the Scandinavian countries and Belgium took over the English style. Alex Moore took the most care of spreading the style. A crucial event for this group of dances was the reception of the Viennese Waltz choreographed by the German dance teacher Paul Krebs. In 1954, all technical details of the Standard Sport Dances were completed. Guy Howard had the most credit for it.

According to the WDSF (World DanceSport Federation) competition rulebook, there are five dances in the Standard DanceSport Group (SSD): English Waltz (EW), Tango (T), Viennese Waltz (VW), Slowfox (SF) and Quickstep (QS). Their main feature is natural and dynamic movement, rhythmic change of sequences with great precision in movement and fast reactions, as well as the so-called "floating weightless state". The starting point is the natural movement inherent in the specific SSD, which requires great control of energy consumption with as little effort as possible. The dance is composed of a series of dance figures and images, which are made in motion through space and choreographically structured so that the DSCs can display as much of their dancing skills and qualities as possible. The dances abound with distinctive poses and dance positions, a special movement technique and "fusion of the dancers into one". That lightness is the one that constantly creates the illusion of "floating".

SSDs are a very challenging, complex and difficult sport because of their technique and movement. There is a high degree of coordination between two bodies that produce simultaneous multidimensional spatial time actions on all parts of the body, including internal emotional dimensions. High classes of DSCs look "inseparable" and acts as an individual. Such a high level of harmony between the two bodies requires exceptional psychophysical readiness, harmony, concentration and aesthetic perfection.

## Material

The main purpose of this research is to analyze the objectivity of the English Waltz judging in the SSD group, according to the Absolute Judging System (AJS) 3.0.

English Waltz as the first representative of the Standard DanceSport Discipline got its name from the country of origin. In the fella it is known as the "Queen" of the dances. Since it is danced to light and sentimental music, as well as the structure of rhythmic movements, it became one of the most harmonious dances in the SSD group. The leading action is called "Waltz Pendulum Action" which can be compared to the movement of the bell tab. EW must have a good swing up and down, balanced with the necessary spatial movement. His sentimental and romantic dance character is reflected in the slow, soft and rounded movements, smooth swings and continuous spatially progressive spins that rule the DanceSport Podium without any breaking of the body. As with all other SSDs, the support leg is very important, and for the Waltz moment at the beginning of the leg lift is crucial. Lowering the support leg requires typical tension and control in the feet. It is danced as the first dance of the Sport Dance Competitions (SDC) in SSD. Here are some of the basic features of EW:

- Beat: 3/4;
- Tempo: 28 – 32 beats / minute;
- Accent: On the first beat;
- Rise and Fall: Start raising at the end of the first beat, continuing to raise on the second and third beat and falling at the end of the third.
- Dynamics: Well-balanced continuous flow, weight and spatial – temporal movement.

## Methods

### *Sample of competition and respondents*

The research was conducted on a sample of 24 DSCs in the SSD–EW discipline. The parameters of the DSCs and SDC sample are given in the following table:

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Class of SDC:                    | WDSF World Open Standard;         |
| - Age group:                       | Adult;                            |
| - Age range:                       | 19 – 35 years of age;             |
| - Number of DSCs:                  | 61 from 38 countries;             |
| - Number of DSCs (sample):         | 24 from 17 countries (1/4 final); |
| - Class of DSCs (sample):          | High (7.00 – 10.00);              |
| - Number of Adjudicators (sample): | 12 from 12 countries.             |

### *Sample variable*

The criterion variable in this research for estimating the success of SSD-EW performance is Technical Qualities (TQ). This criterion has the following sub-criteria:

- |                |                        |   |
|----------------|------------------------|---|
| - Posture;     | - Foot Skills;         | - Rise and Fall;                            |
| - Dance Holds; | - Body Actions;        | - Swing;                                    |
| - Center;      | - Drive Actions;       | - Pivot, Pivoting Action, Continuous Spins; |
| - Balance;     | - Preparation to Move; | - Skilled Figures.                          |

### *Program and procedure for evaluating success rate of SSD–AV performance*

For the DSCs sample, the success rate of the SSD–EW performance according to the TQ criterion was determined by 6 out of 12 WDSF licensed judges from 6 countries: Germany, Bulgaria, Croatia, Netherlands, Montenegro and Austria. Chairperson was from Russia who does not judge but cares of the complete implementation of the WDSF competition rules. According to WDSF rules, licensed adjudicators must meet the following requirements:

- To have passed for a adjudicator's license for judging according to AJS 3.0;
- To be determined on the judge's list of the specific match by WDSF;
- To have an active license for AJS 3.0 at the time of the competition.

The assessment was performed according to the subjective and objective assessment of the judges for the specific criterion for evaluating the dance performance of the specific DSC. The evaluation scale is from 1 - 10 with the possibility of evaluation with a range of 0.25:

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Very Poor; | 6. Above Average; |
| 2. Poor;      | 7. Good;          |
| 3. Weak;      | 8. Very Good;     |
| 4. Fair;      | 9. Superior;      |
| 5. Average;   | 10. Outstanding.  |

Performance Assessment Standards (PAS) define the actions that describe the expected ways and skills needed to perform them. What judges perceive when evaluating according to AJS 3.0 using a specific criterion are Indicative Qualities (IQs). They are a detailed description of the indicative indicators that result from the successful execution of technically correct dance actions and expressions. PAS and their IQ are defined and described by the Dance Sports Academy (DSA) as an authorized WDSF professional body for grades 6, 8 and 10. When evaluating decimals (ex. 7.25; 7.50; 7.75), judges use the technique listed in the following table:

Rating	Achieved PAS and IOs + percentage coefficient
6.5	Achieved PAS and IOs required for 6 and up to 25% of PAS and IOs required for 8
7.0	Achieved PAS and IOs required for 6 and up to 50% of PAS and IOs required for 8
7.5	Achieved PAS and IOs required for 6 and up to 75% of PAS and IOs required for 8
8.5	Achieved PAS and IOs required for 8 and up to 25% of PAS and IOs required for 10
9.0	Achieved PAS and IOs required for 8 and up to 50% of PAS and IOs required for 10
9.5	Achieved PAS and IOs required for 8 and up to 75% of PAS and IOs required for 10

Possible technical errors in SSD-EW performance that refer to the TQ criterion, are manifested through deviations in terms of sub-criteria that in detail describe the complete action that DSC should implement at a given moment:

- *Posture*: General posture of the two dancers, as well as the dynamic posture - the position of the body and all of its parts during all movements;
- *Dance Holds*: The contact points, handholds and the way these move in relation to the couple;
- *Center*: The Lady's center (pelvis-Abdomen) in contact with the center of the man;
- *Balance*: The conditions of stability (indicating the capacity of equilibrium) of the two dancers both in static positions and dynamic movement;
- *Foot Skills*: The way in which the feet are both moved and placed on the floor, and the alignment and shaping of the feet and ankles;
- *Body Actions*: The movements made by the Hips and Upper Body during actions and in isolation;
- *Drive Actions*: Skill in coordinating the activation of the overbalancing of the body, bending of the knee and the leg movement;
- *Preparation to Move*: Ability to effectively utilize Coronal, Sagittal and Transverse planes in movement;
- *Rise and Fall*: Ability to create Rise and Fall with the correct technical actions;
- *Swing*: Ability to create Swing actions with the use of body weight and by combining preparatory actions and Drive actions;
- *Pivot, Pivoting Action, Continuous Spins*: Ability to perform the above actions with the correct technique, speed and musicality;
- *Skilled Figures*: Abilities in executing figures with high degree of difficulties that require additional demanding skills.

#### Data processing methods

In order to obtain relevant scientific information, the obtained data is processed with an appropriate and compatible statistical programming system. The factor method was used to analyze the judging assessment objectivity and to determine the metric characteristics for estimating SSD-EW dance performance for each DSC.

**Results**

From the analysis of the basic central and dispersion parameters of judges' evaluations (Table 1) it can be seen that the values of the arithmetic means are approximately identical and tend towards the average evaluations. Also, the standard deviations of all judges in assessing the criteria for evaluating dance performance have been equated.

Table 1: Descriptive statistical parameters

	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Range	Variance	Std.Dev.	Coef.Var.	Standard	Skewness	Kurtosis
SUD_1_TQ	8,4479	7,2500	9,5000	2,2500	0,2499	0,4999	5,9173	0,1020	-0,3637	0,9093
SUD_2_TQ	8,2083	7,0000	9,2500	2,2500	0,3514	0,5928	<b>7,2223</b>	0,1210	-0,4881	-0,2976
SUD_3_TQ	8,3333	7,2500	9,2500	2,0000	0,1884	0,4341	5,2087	0,0886	-0,0201	0,7682
SUD_4_TQ	8,4479	7,7500	9,2500	1,5000	0,1847	0,4297	5,0868	0,0877	0,0158	-0,4556
SUD_5_TQ	8,4063	7,2500	9,5000	2,2500	0,2327	0,4824	5,7382	0,0985	-0,1678	0,7294
SUD_6_TQ	8,1667	7,2500	9,0000	1,7500	0,2047	0,4524	5,5402	0,0924	-0,1262	-0,6221
SUD_AVE_TQ	8,3351	7,7500	9,2917	1,5417	0,1394	0,3734	4,4797	0,0762	0,5840	0,2872

Kolmogorov – Smyrna test (Table 2) indicates that all judges' assessments of the selected Technical Qualities (TQ) variable are normally distributed.

Table 2

	N	max D	K-S
SUD_1_TQ	24	0,208	p > .20
SUD_2_TQ	24	0,189	p > .20
SUD_3_TQ	24	0,180	p > .20
SUD_4_TQ	24	0,173	p > .20
SUD_5_TQ	24	0,123	p > .20
SUD_6_TQ	24	0,144	p > .20
SUD_AVE_TQ	24	0,125	p > .20

Pearson's correlation (Table 3) between judges generally ranges from very low to quite high. A very low correlation between the mean scores of the Technical Features (TQ) variable was found between the first and fifth judge ( $r = 0,385$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ), the second and fifth judge ( $r = 0,385$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ). ) and the third and sixth judge ( $r = 0.369$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ).

Table 3: Inter-correlation

	SUD_1_TQ	SUD_2_TQ	SUD_3_TQ	SUD_4_TQ	SUD_5_TQ	SUD_6_TQ
SUD_1_TQ	1,000	,598	,497	,746	<b>,385</b>	,425
SUD_2_TQ	,598	1,000	,479	,567	<b>,385</b>	,523
SUD_3_TQ	,497	,479	1,000	,607	,519	<b>,369</b>
SUD_4_TQ	,746	,567	,607	1,000	,618	,634
SUD_5_TQ	,385	,385	,519	,618	1,000	,486
SUD_6_TQ	,425	,523	,369	,634	,486	1,000

The first main components are isolated by the analysis of the inter-correlation matrices (Table 4). From the projection of the average marks of the judges of the first main component it can be seen that all six judges have relatively high projections with the first main component of the variable. The highest projection of the first major component of the variable is shown by the fourth judge. The total variability of the judging of all six judges in this variable is explained by the first main component with 60.55%. The remaining

percentage can probably be explained by the specific way of assessing and the mistakes that are made during the judging, as well as the impact of the environment, that is the atmosphere that prevails during the judging process. Despite all the results, the reliability indices are relatively high.

Table 4

TQ	H <sub>i</sub>
SUD 1	0,792
SUD 2	0,761
SUD 3	0,741
SUD 4	<b>0,905</b>
SUD 5	0,721
SUD 6	0,734
$\lambda$	3,633
$\lambda\%$	60,548

The variability of the judging reliability is estimated based on Kronbah alfe- $\alpha$  and ICC coefficient, and the mean correlation between the scores ( $r$ ) was shown. The values of Kronbah alfe -  $\alpha$  coefficient in the variable Technical Qualities (TQ) are 0.868, the value of ICC coefficient is 0.862, while the average correlation ( $r = 0.522$ ).

	$r$	ICC	$\alpha$
TQ	0,522	0,862	0,868

## Discussion

The relatively small differences between the judges' marks when using the Criteria for Technical Qualities of the 1/4 final DSCs when performing SSD-EW show that the judges perceived their presentation with a high degree of objective interpretation of the evaluation scale according to pre-defined PAS and IQ.

The inclusion of half of the panel of judges for evaluation of two out of four criteria among which is the criterion that is the subject of this paper which is one of the essential changes in the judging with the previous system 2.0 where the panel of judges was divided into 4 groups of 3 judges shows that it leads to a reduction in the differences between the judges through the expressed average and an algorithm that in its code annuls the extreme values which casts their influence on the final result.

If we take into account the large number of sub-criteria and indicative qualities that describe the standard used as a variable in this paper, then we can safely explain the relatively high coefficient of objectivity of the trial because the technical part with its accuracy and detailed description guarantees that. Certainly starting from the fact of the good educational readiness of the panel of judges, their many years of experience and ability for quick and sharp perception.

On the other hand, it can be a double-edged sword if you take into account the relatively short time for estimating the technical part of the dance performance where in about one and a half minute the judge is required to make a final decision.

Regardless of the high professionalism of the judges, it should be borne in mind that the influenza from the previous system of comparative method is still present to some extent. However, it takes time for the "pure" mental transformation of judges who have such experience in their careers.

At DSCs, which was taken as a sample in this paper, there was a participation of 11 DSCs from the first 50 places on the world ranking list for SSD. Given the fact that they are all placed in the semi-final (12 DSCs), it can be concluded that they have shown continuous top performance in this match or the adjudicators in a subjective approach assess them as a pass in the next round regardless of the fact that some of those DSCs may not deserve it. For this reason, maybe the right solution is to not allow the judges to have any possibility to look at the competition lists of the DSCs before the competition.

**Conclusions**

It can be concluded that the objectivity of the judging with the TQ criterion of the dance performance EW using AJS 3.0 has a high coefficient of objectivity in the given circumstances.

The dose of subjectivism is not excluded, which, taking into account the rank of the competition, the class of DSCs and the quality of the panel of judges, is minimized.

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