



2025 RULE UPDATES FOR THE IBTF NATIONS CUP-WORLD BATON TWIRLING CHAMPIONSHIP

IBTF Eligibility Rule Policies Updated for 2025:

1. Athletes who have competed at the World Championship level (including team members) in any IBTF discipline, may not compete at Nations Cup B Level.

Examples:

- Allowed: Level B Solo and Level A Artistic Twirl
- Not Allowed: Level B Solo and World Championship Artistic Twirl

2. At the 2025 Nations Cup and World Championship, athletes (including team members) may enter any particular discipline only once.

This prevents athletes from entering, for example:

- Level B and A solo
- Level A and World solo
- Two different Level B Duets,
- Two different B Twirl Teams,
- Level A and World Twirl Team
- etc.

3. Once an athlete has entered Level A in any particular individual/duet/pair discipline, they may not enter level B in that discipline again in any future IBTF competition.

Once an athlete has entered the World Championship in any particular individual/duet/pair discipline, they may not enter level A in that discipline again in any future IBTF competition.

4. **Mandatory Advancement Rule:** For all individual/duet/pair disciplines of A and B levels, athletes may not enter the same level of that discipline again, if they are awarded a placement as follows:

1. 1st place (only) if there are 5 or fewer in the division;
2. 1st-3rd place, if there are 6-10 in the division;
3. 1st-5th place, if there are 11-20 in the division;
4. 1st-10th place, if there are more than 20 in the division;

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## **Artistic Team is transforming to DanceTwirl Team and will replace Artistic Team as a new discipline with a new concept summary:**

### ***DanceTwirl Team Concept Summary:***

**A DanceTwirl Team** is a group whose performance should be rewarded for the development of staging, the blended baton and dance combinations performed in a seamless and artistic composition reflecting the musical soundtrack. The DanceTwirl Team should vary from a traditional Twirl Team or Freestyle Team in that if the baton was removed, the choreography, progression, and body movements would still make sense as a complete routine.

One would not expect to see a contact or roll section without attributing dance and movement. Twirling/rolling in place without intricate movement would not be relevant to a DanceTwirl Team. Aerial or stationary complex tricks will have an entrance and exit in the dance mode. These aerial movements would be musical and receive credit only if they are executed with proper baton and body technique and staged in an artistic manner.

One would not expect to see an extended multiple baton section in a DanceTwirl Team unless bodywork and/or movement around the floor is incorporated and is musically inspired. Additionally, neither the choreographer nor the judging panel should deem it mandatory that a multiple baton section be incorporated into a DanceTwirl Team.

There can be a fourth mode of twirling used in a DanceTwirl Team which is the use of the “dead stick.” This is an artistic shaping of the baton to the body that develops lines, brings out the character of the music and movement, and complements and enhances the choreography. Different and creative ways of holding the baton/s can amplify the bodywork and delivery of the choreographer's vision by providing movement from the dead stick back to fluid baton movement.

The judge's role in the evaluation should be to recognize and reward creative choreography in all genres of dance, such as: ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, modern, and lyrical. The judging panel should reward the choreographer/athletes for a creative, challenging, and difficult movement that is performed technically clean and value the production even if they are unfamiliar with or dislike a certain style. A popular style or look of a routine should not inherently have more value.

### ***Philosophy Statement:***

For coaches, choreographers, and judges, this transformation will enforce proper criteria of the discipline to clearly distinguish between TWIRL TEAMS, FREESTYLE TEAMS and DANCETWIRL TEAMS by not having to include traditional elements that are both typical and expected in the Twirl Team and Freestyle Team disciplines. An example of this would be using standard spin tricks in the DanceTwirl Team that do not incorporate some form of dance either on the entrance or exit or within the spin itself. Choreographers should be rewarded for utilizing interesting dance moves under tosses as well as dance throughout the performance.

### ***DanceTwirl Team Content Restrictions:***

Coaches must utilize age classification as well as the Content Restrictions for DanceTwirl Team to guide them in entering the correct classification. The penalty for exceeding the content restriction is 2.0 points per infraction (deducted from the total score of each judge).

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Age Divisions for 2025 World Baton Twirling Championship updated:

Junior age division: 12-17 years of age

Senior age division: 18 years of age & over

There will no longer be a youth or an adult division in the World Championship.

Age Divisions for 2025 Nations Cup:

Youth age division: 12-14 years of age

Junior age division: 15-17 years of age

Senior age division: 18-21 years of age

Adult age division: 22 years of age & over

Twirl Team, DanceTwirl Team, Artistic Group, & Twirling Corps are one age division only.

Age eligibility as of December 31, 2025.

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## **Nations Cup B Level Disciplines for 2025:**

The Nations Cup B Level will offer the disciplines of Solo, 2 Baton, Artistic Twirl, Duet, Twirl Team, and DanceTwirl Team. (Note: 3 Baton, Strut and Artistic Pair are not offered at B Level.)

## **Nations Cup A Level Disciplines for 2025:**

The Nations Cup A Level will offer the disciplines of Solo, 2 Baton, 3 Baton, X Strut, Artistic Twirl, Artistic Pair, Duet, Twirl Team and DanceTwirl Team .

## **World Championship Level Disciplines for 2025:**

The World Championship Level will offer the disciplines of Solo, 2 Baton, 3 Baton, X Strut, Artistic Twirl, Artistic Pair, Duet, Twirl Team, DanceTwirl Team, Artistic Group and Twirling Corps.

## 2025 ATHLETE ALLOTMENT PER COUNTRY:

IBTF is reducing the athlete allotment per country from 6 (per discipline / per level / per age group) to 4 in both Nations Cup and World. (This is per country – not per federation. There will be no dual federations in 2025.)

- 4 Athletes in Individual Disciplines per country in Nations Cup and World
- 4 Duets & Artistic Pairs per country per country in Nations Cup and World
- 2 Twirl Teams, DanceTwirl Teams in Nations Cup
- 1 Twirl Team, DanceTwirl Team, Artistic Group, and Twirling Corps in World

## TIME LIMITS TO DISCIPLINES UPDATED:

| Discipline                     | Time Limit   |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Solo                           | 2:00 minutes |
| 2 Baton *                      | 1:30 minutes |
| 3 Baton                        | 1:30 minutes |
| Artistic Twirl & Artistic Pair | 1:45 minutes |
| Duet                           | 2:00 minutes |
| X Strut *                      | 1:45 minutes |
| Twirl Team                     | 3:00 minutes |

The following disciplines are performed to own choice music, with the following time limits:

| Discipline       | Time Limit                        |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DanceTwirl Team* | 2:00-3:00 minutes max (no leeway) |
| Twirling Corps * | 3:30 minutes max (no leeway)      |
| Artistic Group   | 3:00-3:30 mins max (no leeway)    |

Denotes updated time limits \*

IBTF World Baton Twirling Championship and Nations Cup music will be downloadable on the IBTF website when available.

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NUMBER OF ROUNDS

(2025 NATIONS CUP & WORLD BATON TWIRLING CHAMPIONSHIPS)

For Solo, 2-Baton, 3-Baton, X-Strut, Artistic Twirl, Duet & Artistic Pair:

The rounds and advancement procedure varies, depending on the number of athletes entered in the Division as of the Entry Closing Date.

Divisions are categorized as ‘Small’, ‘Medium’, or ‘Large’, based on the athlete count in that division.

- Athlete additions after the Entry Closing Date are not allowed.
- Withdrawals from the competition after the Entry Closing Date do not alter the determination of a Division’s status as ‘Small’, ‘Medium’, or ‘Large’.

The number of rounds of competition for each Division will be shown in the set system prepared and distributed to each country after the Entry Closing Date.

All disciplines and all age divisions will have a Preliminary and Final Round of competition. 'Medium' and 'Large' Divisions will also have a Semi-Final round of competition.

The Final Round for all divisions will normally have up to 10 athletes. The exception to that is when there are multiple athletes tied for the final qualifying position – in this case the actual size of a Final Round division will be larger than 10 athletes.

In all cases, only the Top 10 athletes from the Final Round will receive awards.

For Twirl Team, DanceTwirl Team, Artistic Group & Twirling Corps:

All disciplines and divisions will have two rounds of competition. They begin with a Preliminary Round and end with a Final Round. The number of entrants that advance from the Preliminary Round to the Final Round varies, depending on the number of teams/groups/corps entered in the Division as of the Entry Closing Date.

1. For divisions of 20 or less, the top 6 teams, Artistic Groups or Twirling Corps move to the Finals.
2. For divisions of 21 or more, the top 10 move to the Finals.

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### **Costume Rule Updated:**

There should be no restrictions on costume choice for any of the disciplines, bearing in mind this is a sport. The costumes should be respectful of a sporting image and the safety of the performing athlete and other competitors must be taken into consideration when choosing costuming to perform in.

### **Baton Rule Updated:**

The color of grip tape on baton is free.

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IBTF will award Five-Year Recognition Certificates

IBTF will present 5 years certificates for athletes who have competed in any discipline at a world championship in increments of 5 years (only).

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### **Appeals for Review – Time Shortened**

Appeals for review must be presented within the 30 minutes after the competition of the last athlete in the category.

## **Entry Deadline 2025**

There will be two deadlines for the 2025 entry. April 1<sup>st</sup>, and May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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The 2025 IBTF Rule Book for the Nations Cup and World Baton Twirling Championship will be available on the IBTF Website in early January.

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Look for more update information and rules for the Majorette World Championship (about Baton Corps) in the near future.