

## **2026 ARIZONA 2-STEP STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES**

- The couple has a leader and a follower (any gender can lead or follow). Neither partner in the couple has taught for money in any dance style, in the past 10 years. Neither partner in the couple has won 1<sup>st</sup> place in any previous Arizona State Arizona 2-Step contest.
- The contest is Arizona 2-Step, not Half-Time or Swing. No drops or lifts are allowed. A drop or lift is any move where one partner supports the body weight of the other partner, or gives the appearance that one partner is supporting the body weight of the other. If the couple interferes with another couple on the floor they may be penalized. Each leader must wear a cowboy hat and western boots and western attire to the finals. Each follower must wear western boots and western attire to the finals.
- Qualifiers will be held around the state, leading up to the finals at the Arizona Dance Classic on July 31st, 2026. First and second place winners of each qualifier will be announced, with the first place couple each receiving a General 3-day pass to the Arizona Dance Classic (this pass may be upgraded to the Sun Pass or the Saguaro Pass). The second place couple will take the place of the first place couple in the finals, in the event the first place couple is unable to attend the finals (in which case the first place couple forfeits the passes and they are given to the second place couple). The winners are not eligible to enter any other qualifiers as they have already won a spot in the finals.
- The qualifiers will be judged by a minimum of three judges not entering the contest. They will select and announce a first and second place winner. The qualifier can have all dancers on the floor at the same time, or be split into smaller heats according to the floor size. The finals held at the Arizona Dance Classic will have a minimum of five judges.
- Prize money and trophies will be awarded at the finals.