

Ballet Difficulty

2026 Edition

	0 - 5 Points	6 - 10 Points	11 - 15 Points	16 - 20 Points	21 - 25 Points
Revolutions	2 or less Revolutions	3 Complete Revolutions			
	Note: Minimum expectations are 3 revolutions				
Handle Hold	Handle/Seat	Rope held with heel, toe or seat hold with minimum expectation of at least two different holds.			
	Note: Difficulty increases as # of skiers increase. To get full difficulty credit, handles in heel hold must be at the heel. Legs at the same angle.				
Arm Bracing	1 Arm Braced	1 Pass Unbraced	2 Passes Unbraced	2 Passes Fully Unbraced	
	Note: Fully unbraced = at least 180 degrees of the show course				
Arm/Leg Routine	Either staggered or combination of staggered and unison movements		Movements in unison incorporating more moves (2 arms used in routine) for both unbraced passes		
	Note: Enhancing variables: Intricate routines, continuous moves in unison throughout routine, props, quick clean transitions between holds.				
Toe Turns in Ballet Circle		All 2 - 9 Skiers Staggered toe turns	All 10 + Skiers Staggered toe turns	All 8 - 14 Skiers Toe turns in unison	All 15 + Skiers Toe turns in unison
	Note: Toe turn scores are based on being done in a circle pattern. Straight Line Toe Turns / Assisted / Every Other Move down one category.				
	Note: ****Flip Turns move up one category from toe turns.				
Skiing Leg	On different legs	All skiers are skiing on the same leg			
Starts	2 - 10 Skiers	11 - 15 Skiers	16 - 20 Skiers	21 - 25 Skiers	26+ Skiers
	Note: Difficulty level is based on the number of skiers starting together and make the dock start				
Landings	2 - 10 Skiers	11 - 15 Skiers	16 - 20 Skiers	21 - 25 Skiers	26+ Skiers
	Note: A broken landing will affect difficulty points based on how bad it was broken.				
Number of Skiers	2 - 10 Skiers	11 - 15 Skiers	16 - 20 Skiers	21 - 25 Skiers	26+ Skiers
Different types of starts	Beach start		Braced or Unbraced Dock Start	Toe start	
	*****Starts listed in order of relative difficulty only*****				

* This difficulty matrix is to be used as a tool and resource when scoring the difficulty category of a given ballet act. The matrix is NOT intended to be used when scoring the categories of flow, execution, or spectator appeal.

***Knee holds in ballet are discouraged.**

3/7/2026

** If Minimum Expectations on Revolutions or Handle Hold are not met, difficulty score will be 50% of calculated score