

As you may be aware there is a different set of age range rules for Ballroom & Latin EADA National Ranking Events (NREs), also known as "chart" events, compared to the ordinary BDC run Sunday Circuit Events. If you plan to dance in an IDSF competition, their rules are slightly different again.

Sequence: If you are a Sequence dancer then you just look at the BDC rules for age lower down on this page, even for chart rated events.

The difference between chart events and other events:

Basically Chart events use the year of birth and all the other competitions use your actual age. This means you can find yourself dancing "Youth" in chart rated events and Junior in championships - the age groups may have the same name, but they are different categories. Competing in one does not alter your status in the other.

Sunday circuit (BDC comps)

This is all the comps at Beginner, Novice, Intermediate, Pre-champ and Championship level:

- **Juvenile** - Under 12
- **Junior** - 12 to under 16
- **Youth** - Over 16 to under 19
- **Under 21** - Over 16 to Under 21
- **Adult** - Over 16 (no upper limit)
- **Senior** - Over 35
- **Over 50** - Over 50
- **Over 60** - Over 60

You may well find yourself dancing with someone who is a slightly different age. In this case one of you may have to go up early. For Juvenile, Junior, Youth and Under 21, you can't enter if either people in the partnership are older than the upper age limit - for Senior and above, neither of you can be younger than the lower age limit.

Going up to a higher age group early:

Under the BDC rules you can apply to the membership secretary to dance Junior with a 12-15 year old whilst you are under 12. Once you have danced in the higher age range you cannot normally go back to Juvenile. Permission from EADA will need to be granted before you can do so, so please don't take the decision lightly. To seek permission contact Vicepresident@eada.org.uk

Under the BDC rules once you are 14 or 15 and as long as your partner is over 16 you can apply to dance Adult (in other words, Youth, Under 21 and Adult). However once you have competed as an adult you can never compete again as a Junior, so please think very carefully before making this decision.

The Senior age groups are a lower limit so you cannot move up to these categories early.

EADA membership:

EADA membership follows these BDC age groups, so if you dance Adult, then you need adult membership. It does not follow Chart age rules, so for example you can dance in a Youth chart rated event, but remain a Junior member until you turn 16.

Age rules for National Ranking Events

These age rules ONLY apply to Chart competitions. The basic difference is that in most cases the age category is defined by the year of birth, not birthdays. So for example if you are going to be 16 later this year, from January 1st you are defined as "Youth" for chart events.

- **Juvenile** - under 12
- **Junior** - From the start of the year you turn 12 to the start of the year you turn 16
- **Youth** - from start of the year you turn 16 to start of the year you turn 19
- **Adult** - Over 16 (note not the start of the year but your birthday)
- **Senior I** - Start of the year you turn 35
- **Senior II** - Start of the year you turn 45
- **Senior III** - Start of the year you turn 55 and one half of the partnership must be in the start of the year you turn 45

Again, you may find yourself dancing with someone who is a slightly different age. In this case one of you may have dance in a higher age category.

Going up to a higher age group early:

Again, you need to apply to go up early to Junior and should contact the Membership Secretary membership@eada.org.uk if you wish to do so. If you are going to be 12 this year, but not yet had your 12th birthday, you can automatically chose to go up to Junior. However once you have danced in a Junior NRE, even if you split you cannot subsequently go back down to dance in a Juvenile NRE.

If you are over 14 and want to dance in a Youth NRE, your partner must be in the Youth age bracket and if you split you cannot then dance back in a Junior NSC. So again, it is really important that you consider very carefully before going up early.

Again for Adults, you have to be over 14, and your partner over 16 and you are not permitted to dance Junior NREs again once you have competed in an Adult NRE. Senior I, II & III - Both partners have to be over the lower age limit.

IDSF Age groups

The latest information can be found on the IDSF website:

www.idsf.net/index.tpl?id=48

and is linked from our "information for international competitors" section of the website

AGE GROUP	BDC COMPS	NATIONAL RANKING EVENTS
JUVENILE	Under 12 (both partners)	Under 12 (both partners)
JUNIOR	Over 12 — Under 16 Partner can be under 12, requires permission from EADA	Reaches 12 this year—reaches 15 this year Partner can be over 10 and younger than 15 this year, requires permission from EADA
YOUTH	Over 16—Under 19 Partner can be over 14, requires permission from EADA	Reaches 16 this year — reaches 18 this year Partner can be over 14, requires permission from EADA
UNDER 21	Over 16—Under 21 Partner can be over 14 and under 21, requires permission from EADA	
ADULT	Over 16 Can be over 14, requires permission from EADA	Over 16 Can be over 14, requires permission from EADA
SENIOR	Over 35 (both partners)	
SENIOR I		Reaches at least 35 this year (both partners)
OVER 50	Over 50 (both partners)	
SENIOR II		Reaches 45 this year at least (both partners)
OVER 60	Over 60 (both partners)	
SENIOR III		Reaches at least 55 this year and partner must be at least 45 this year

If you are at all unsure then please ask us for clarification, we would so much rather you asked us than danced in the wrong age range. Please contact the Membership Secretary on membership@eada.org.uk

Helpful examples

Example 1 Richard & Julie

Richard & Julie dance together; Richard will be 16 in November - Julie will be 14 in March

For all BDC comps , (non-chart rated comps) from 1st January and until Richard is 16 they will dance Junior, once he is 16, then they dance Adult (as Julie will be 14 and can apply to dance up to Adult)

From 1 January until Julie is 14 in March, they are unable to dance NREs . They are stuck outside the NRE age groups. From her birthday they can dance Youth NRE. When Richard turns 16 in November they can also dance Amateur NREs.

They dance a Youth NRE and in July they split. Julie must find a partner who will be at least 16 this year if she wants to dance in charts, as she can not dance in Junior charts having once danced in the adult chart section, and one of the partnership must be turning 16 this year to do Youth. Julie now gets a new partner and dances with George who will be 16 in October.

Julie is only 14 and George is 15 but will be 16 this year, so they can now dance Youth NREs and after his birthday they can also dance Amateur NREs. Both their ages still permit them to dance Junior non chart rated events until he turns 16, as long as neither have danced in an Adult BDC comp before.

In November Julie & George dance a Youth (adult) non-chart comp, and then they split. Julie has now danced as an Adult and cannot ever go back to Junior and so would need to find a partner over 16 in order to continue to dance. This is why it is so important to be absolutely sure before you go up to adult!

Example 2 Chris & Jane

Chris will be 12 in July, Jane will be 11 in August

From today until Chris is 12 they have a choice, they can elect to dance Junior NRE's or they can continue to dance Junior NREs. As soon as Chris is 12 he has to dance Junior. Jane has the option of staying with him and dancing up or getting a new partner. These are the only dancers who do have a choice of age groups and should Chris & Jane want to dance Junior prior to him being 12 they must ask permission from EADA first. Once they have danced a Junior NRE they cannot subsequently dance Juvenile NREs.

For non chart events, they have to wait until Chris is 12 before dancing Junior.

Example 3 Jack & Jill

Jack & Jill are a little older, in fact they are both Over 45 this year. They are actually quite lucky in that they can dance their age range – Senior II, but can also dance Senior 1 and if they feel fit enough Amateur. We probably wouldn't recommend dance all of them on the same day, but you are allowed to if you wish.

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