

The BDC has specific rules regarding what Amateurs are permitted to do and not do while keeping their Amateur status. This guide is designed as an overview, but we would recommend you read the actual BDC rules for yourself. Copies of BDC rules are available from the BDC Secretary:

www.british-dance-council.org/web%20pages/Publications.html

Rule 16 – “Loss of Amateur Status”

Doing any of the following will risk your Amateur status

- Accepting cash in return for the use of your name as a dancer in an advert
- Declaring yourself to be Professional
- Passing a teaching entrance exam in any of the Ballroom branches of an examining teacher association
- Acting as a teacher of dancing with or without a fee – this is the one to be aware of. If you want to coach you must join EADA’s Amateur Coaching Scheme – then you can do so within its parameters
- Organising dances for personal profit
- Participating in a Professional competition
- Acting as an MC and calling the sets (this refers to Sequence dancing)
- Adjudicating at a dance competition

A list of things that are permitted are given on page 2. Remember the Amateur Coaching Scheme allows you to teach while keeping your Amateur Status. More information is in the “About us” section of our website.

What to do if you are turning Professional?

As soon as an Amateur turns Professional they should advise EADA of their decision via the Membership Secretary on membership@eada.org.uk so that their current membership can be assigned to Associate for the remainder of the year and their Amateur IDSF licence can be de-activated.

Returning to Amateur Status:

Should any professional wish to return to Amateur Status their case is put forward to a Reinstatement Committee consisting of members of the EADA Council and BDC Representatives. Those wishing to return to Amateur status must complete an application form and pay the administration fee. Each case is examined on an individual basis and will depend on the amount of teaching, qualifications and standard of competing while a Professional. There is an appeals procedure.

BDC Rule 19 - "Conditions that do not affect Amateur Status"

The following are permitted as an Amateur:

- Entering competitions where monetary prizes are available.
- Assisting a Professional with "matters not directly connected with the technique of dance". i.e. you can make the teas and coffees, take the money at the door and put on recorded music. So even helping at your dance school and partnering in the beginners class is not allowed. In order to be able to assist your teacher you must join the <EADA Amateur Coaching Scheme>
- Acting as secretary for the ballroom manager
- Taking charge at occasional private club or subscription dance, however for a sequence dance you are not allowed to call the sets or lead a dance (i.e. you are not permitted to demonstrate the first sequence prior to other couples joining you on the floor).
- Hold shares in a company which just happens to organise dances as part of other activities is permitted, however if you can gain an advantage that other amateurs would not have then you may be in breach of regulations and you should refer to the BDC
- Taking part in a film or on stage as long as you comply with BDC Rule 12 (see below)
- Giving demonstrations providing you inform EADA, you do not advertise yourself as available for demonstrations and you ensure any advertising contains the word Amateur. See our guide to demonstrations.
- Taking part in an Amateur Dramatic or Operatic Society stage show
- Voting in a competition judged by ballot or popular vote – (so it's OK to text Strictly Come Dancing!)
- Passing an elementary or higher exam in some branch other than Ballroom as part of your education does not infringe upon your amateur status unless you teach any kind of dance.

Rule 12 – Amateurs on Film, Television and Stage

Amateurs are permitted to participate in productions for film, TV or the stage and get paid reasonable expenses, provided you obtain permission before hand. Contact Colin on dems@eada.org.uk You are also allowed to appear as part of a crowd scene. Formation teams are not permitted to receive expenses; instead an adequate payment should be made to the trainer of the team to cover expenses and his/her fee.

If you have any questions contact the President on president@eada.org.uk
More information about the Coaching Scheme can be obtained from coaching@eada.org.uk

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