

We are off!

Given your hard work and focus on both internalizing the system and bringing your authentic self to your judging, we have received very positive feedback from last weekend. A world team shared, *"I thought their commentary was so thorough. They were engaged in both programs. They were polite and professional while offering great feedback. And that's not to say that their feedback didn't offer critique or criticism. I just felt it was very well balanced. Even the critique conversations were just so beneficial."* Listening to many of the files across the weekend, we share that opinion. Great job everyone!

As we go into week two, you may still experience shows of varying completeness or with sections so new that performers are giving us just a snapshot of what the designer envisioned. The keys to handling this are ever the same:

- Remain grounded in the system, your process, and being with the teams for their performance.
- Cover the caption, emphasizing the repertoire, design, and vocabulary through the lens of achievement and in consideration of the class standard.
- Really, just judge the shows and be the mirror of reality in the moment.

Instructional staff want and need to have as much of this information as early as possible in the season, so our honest and authentic impressions and analyses are critical.

One logistical item for you at the regionals is that it is a requirement in our service for the teams to receive a commentary file of some sort. Please check your electronics to ensure you have a recording. If the contest administrator or lead judge asks you to make a brief recap summary, please do that so the teams have a file. Note: the new AI tool in competition suite can be of use here. After you complete your notes and score, before going to the next team, you could check the AI summary to ensure there was a file. We have found this is an easy way to know things are on track.

Please let us know anything you need.

Sam & William