



The PDSM Competition

The Sensual Handbook

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1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to The PDSM Competition Handbook! A little bit about us and our Competition before we get into all the details...

About PDSM

PDSM stands for 'Pole Dance Stripper Movement'. We run sex worker-led, sex worker-centered and sex worker-inspired events. PDSM was founded as a direct response to combat the stigma, othering, erasure and glamourisation of strippers in the pole industry. We provide a sex worker-centric platform, uniting the overlapping sex work and pole dance communities. Uplifting sex workers and other marginalised communities is at the heart of our ethos. Anyone who respects our space is welcome in it.

About The PDSM Competition

Our competition is genre-based, rooted in Stripper Style and for soloists.

We offer different genres of dance style as categories instead of traditional levels in order to showcase the variety of Stripper Style.

'Stripper Style' ('SS') can be interpreted as 'in the style of and inspired by strippers'. Our genres reflect some of the most common and popular subdivisions of SS. SS is wide ranging and varies from dancer to dancer and intersects with different cultures. SS is often characterised by its sexual nature.



2. 2024-25 TIMELINE

Plain Text

- 15th April-26th April: Consultation period with judging team.

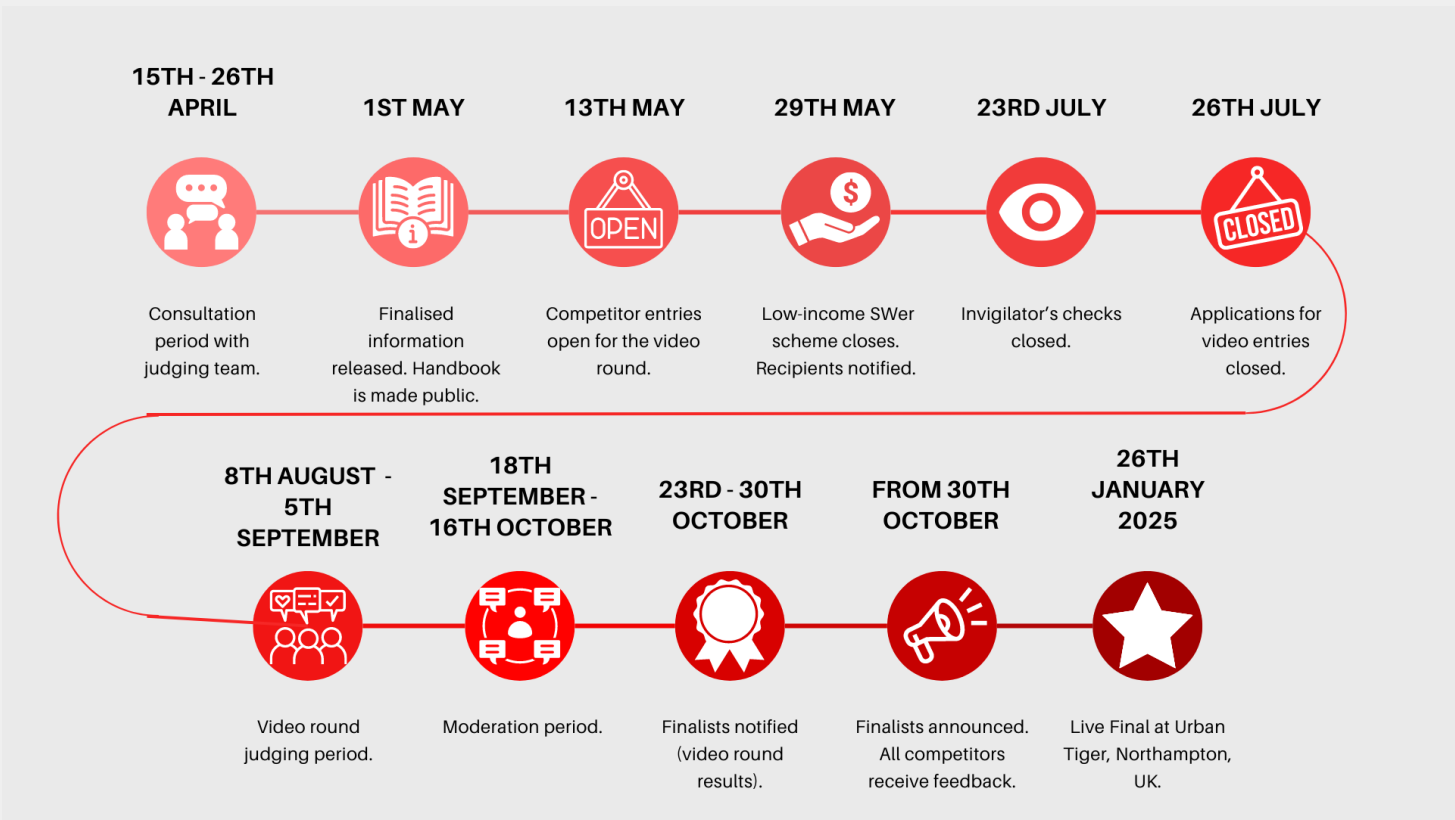
Evaluation & improvement of criteria and mark schemes.

- 1st May: Finalised information released. Handbook is made public.
- 13th May: Competitor entries open for the video round.

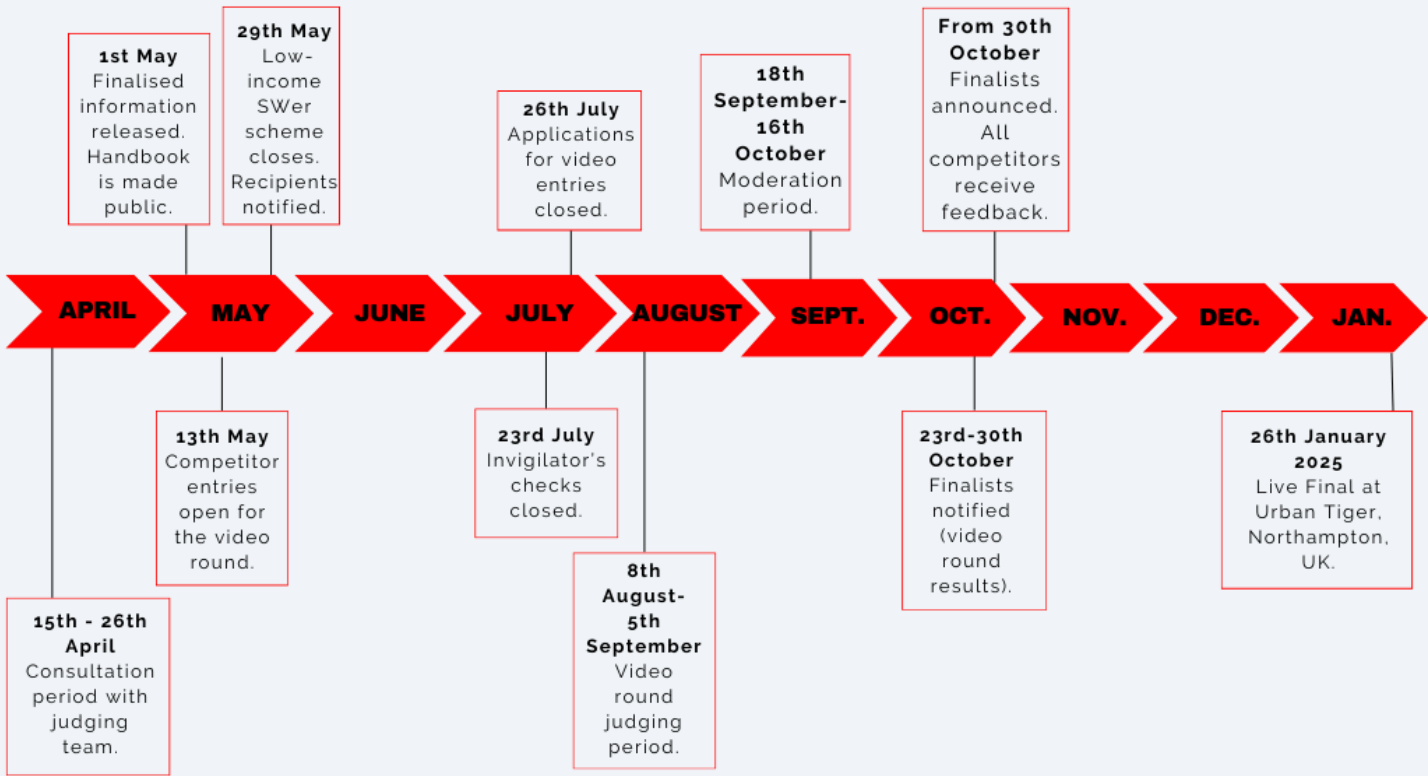
This is when the application forms will become available.

- 29th May: Low-income SWer scheme closes. Recipients notified.
- 23rd July: Invigilator's checks closed.
- 26th July: Applications for video entries closed.
- 8th August-5th September: Video round judging period.
- 18th September-16th October: Moderation period.
- 23rd-30th October: Finalists notified (video round results).
- FROM 30th October: Finalists announced. All competitors receive feedback.
- 26th January 2025: Live Final at Urban Tiger, Northampton, UK.

Flow Chart Representation



Timeline Representation



3. INCLUSION STATEMENT

PDSM believes in working towards being fully inclusive and trying to curate a safe environment for our team, competitors and spectators. We are Sex Worker, LGBTQIA+, plus size, disability, neurodivergent and BIPOC friendly. We hire consultants who are a part of these communities to form a competition that considers the experience of marginalised people.

Our goal is to create a welcoming space for all people and to remain open and accountable within conversations surrounding inclusivity. The comfort and welfare of marginalised communities is of the utmost importance to PDSM, so we aim to hold space for them. As a Sex worker-led organisation we understand that those existing in the intersections of marginalised identities aren't always heard but we aim to always listen and take action to improve PDSM so that the most marginalised members of our communities can feel safe with us.

We have a **zero tolerance policy** for any discriminatory and negative behaviour. Any behaviour like this conducted by any person involved in the competition, either online or in person, will result in disqualification and/or removal from the event and a permanent ban from all PDSM events. Discrimination includes (but is not limited to) racism, sexism, queerphobia, transphobia, whorephobia, xenophobia, ableism, fatphobia, classism and religious discrimination. Negative behaviour can be classified as 'bullying' type behaviours; treating anyone with any level of unkindness is unacceptable. This behaviour may be expressed physically or verbally and will not be tolerated.

Levels

All categories are open to competitors of **any level**. This competition is judged on execution instead of difficulty; so all levels are welcome in all categories. We appreciate everyone has different skill and experience levels in movement and performance, which is why we have included the 'Upcoming Performer' categories for the live final.

Gender Presentations

Stripper Style, as known in the pole industry, is often rooted in femme presentation. As well as welcoming all genders, we wish to welcome all forms of gender expression in competitors' dance style and performance. Different gender presentations will be marked equally.

Sex Worker Inclusion, Non-Sex Workers, Anonymity & Permissions

Sex Workers and non-sex workers are both equally welcome to apply. We believe that as long as the appropriate respect is given, Stripper Style can be shared with everyone. This also gives Strippers who aren't public about their work the chance to compete and can maintain their anonymity. Protecting sex workers' identities is of the utmost importance and we have a **zero tolerance policy** on outing and doxing. Such actions will result in a permanent ban from all PDSM events. We provide the option of not being 'face out' on social media by using fake imagery announcements (e.g. a cartoon picture instead of a real image). Competitors may also opt out of any official PDSM photography or videography at the live event and will be able to personalise permissions when selecting finalist information.

Adjustments for Disabilities & Conditions

We are committed to making this competition as fair as possible. If a competitor has a disability or medical condition which will affect their performance and scores unfairly, competitors will have the option to disclose this on their application form and discuss with the organiser. Adjustments can be made where possible and judges can mark competitors based on their individual abilities.

A few examples of adjustments include (but are not limited to):

- A competitor has a condition where they are unable to extend through their right knee, so judges will not deduct points from the competitor for this in 'Lines and Form'.
- A competitor has traits of neurodivergence where they struggle to emote through facial expressions, so judges will not deduct points from 'Stage Presence'.
- A competitor has ME and requires leniency when it comes to 'Flow and Movement Execution'.

The box on the application form to disclose any information looks like this:

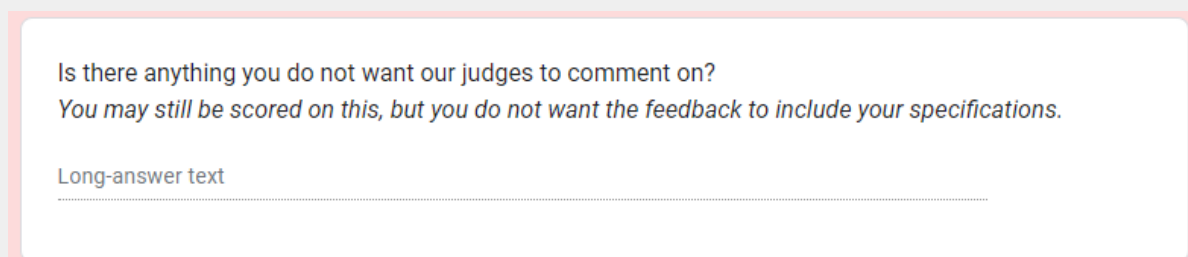
Do you need any adjustments to be made for you during the application process or the video round to due to disability or medical condition?

Feel free to specify: what your condition is; how it affects you; what specific adjustments you need according to our criteria.

Long-answer text

The organiser may ask some follow up questions so that the judging team can be prepared with an individual's condition/s and how this impacts them on the mark schemes.

There will also be the option for competitors to request that, even if they are scored on this element, they do not want feedback on something in particular. The box on the application form to disclose any information looks like this:

A screenshot of a feedback box on an application form. The box has a light pink border. Inside, the text reads: "Is there anything you do not want our judges to comment on?" followed by "You may still be scored on this, but you do not want the feedback to include your specifications." Below this is a label "Long-answer text" and a dotted line for input.

Is there anything you do not want our judges to comment on?
You may still be scored on this, but you do not want the feedback to include your specifications.

Long-answer text
.....

Adjustments and comments will be made clear to the judging and moderating team through a bold box on video round sheets and through highlighted text in the live final.

Affordability and Funding

We understand how expensive competing can be, rendering it inaccessible and disproportionately so to Sex Workers. This is why we have created our Low-Income Sex Worker Scheme, which offers subsidies and grants throughout the competition. More can be found out in section 14.

4. CATEGORIES & DESCRIPTIONS

Sensual

Let your seductive side run wild. The slower, oozing, gooey, teasing, raunchy or slutty elements of Stripper Style. Sensuality to the maximum!

The aim is to create a hypnotic and erotic experience.

2024-25 JUDGES: LAUREN ELISE, ANNIE NORRIS & PRECIOUS.



Upcoming Performers

****These categories are ONLY for live final.
By invitation only****

Dedicated categories for developing Stripper Style movers! For competitors who show great promise and get the chance to compete against other competitors of a similar movement and performance level.

To have the opportunity to compete in these live final categories, competitors must apply to compete in one of the other original categories in the video round (Sensual, Show, Strip Tease or SS Twerk).

Competitors are selected based on a fair ranking system: the top 3 competitors from the lower quartile of overall marks in each category will be invited to compete in each of these categories for the live final. Upcoming Performers will be judged under the same mark scheme as the category they originally applied for. There will be an option to opt out of the Upcoming



categories in the application form if you would rather not be considered / only be considered for the original categories.

2024-25 JUDGES MIRROR THE ORIGINAL CATEGORIES.

What our 'opt out' section looks like on the application form:

Would you like to OPT OUT of the live final Upcoming Performer categories?

This means you will NOT be considered for these categories, even if your ranking says so. We have provided this option as some may not want to know that they were in the lower quartile of rankings.

☐ Yes, I would like to OPT OUT.

5. MARK SCHEMES

The PDSM Competition's mark schemes are composed of the **CORE** mark scheme and a **[CATEGORY]** mark scheme. Every category will be judged on the **CORE** mark scheme. The **[CATEGORY]** mark scheme will change according to each category. Therefore, there will be the following mark schemes: **[SENSUAL]**, **[SHOW]**, **[STRIP TEASE]**, **[SS TWERK]**. All **Upcoming Performer** categories in the live final will mirror the original category's mark scheme.

Each component in each mark scheme is scored out of 10, but may be weighted differently to reflect what is most important in Stripper Style generally or each category individually.

Read this section to see the breakdown of the CORE & [CATEGORY] components.



Diagram of the composition of PDSM mark schemes.

CORE + [CATEGORY] = Complete Mark Scheme for [CATEGORY]

CORE components

Every category will be judged on the CORE mark scheme, which includes:

Presentation

- Lines & Form
- Flow & Movement Execution (double weighted)
- Stage Presence (double weighted)
- Costume ***This is ONLY judged in the live final, NOT the video round***

Composition

- Musicality (x.1.5 weighting)
- Choreography (x1.5 weighting)

[SENSUAL] Components

Style

- Movement Quality (double weighted)
- Performance (triple weighted)

6. SCORING SHEETS

How PDSM's scoring sheets look. This is what the judges will be using for each respective category to judge competitors.

NOTE: Video round sheets look similar, except the component 'Costume' will be omitted and not judged. You can see real life judging sheet examples in Section 9.

Sensual Category

CORE mark scheme + **SENSUAL** mark scheme = **Complete mark scheme** for SENSUAL Category.

	COMPONENT	RAW MARK (OUT OF 10)	WEIGHTING CALCULATIONS	ACTUAL MARK	
SECTION					
CORE					
<i>Presentation</i>	Lines & Form				
	Flow & Movement Execution		X2		
	Stage Presence		X2		
	Costume				
<i>Composition</i>	Musicality		X1.5		
	Choreography		X1.5		
[SENSUAL]					
<i>Style</i>	Movement Quality		X2		
	Performance		X3		
				TOTAL MARK (OUT OF 140)	PERCENTAGE CALCULATION

7. CRITERIA

Here is an outline of what competitors are scored on for each element in CORE components and [CATEGORY] components. These are the guidelines judges will be using to mark competitors. Be aware that the guidelines are not limited to the following explanations and examples.

CORE components

Presentation

- Lines & Form
 - Does the competitor present their most flattering angles and lines? Does the

competitor consider leg and ankle extensions where appropriate, arm shapes and body positioning? Does the competitor consistently have precise lines and form throughout their performance? Are these intentional and purposeful?

■ Example 1: *Does the competitor accentuate their natural shape in a 'Stripper Pole Walk' by doing the following? : arching their back; keeping eyeline and neckline elevated; active sway in the hips; presenting a turned out leg with engaged ankles; use the push & pull off the pole to further exaggerate body shape, relaxed or purposeful hand/arm movements.*

■ Example 2: *Does the competitor reach their optimal shape in a 'Floor Jade' by doing the following? : fully extending through the legs; a horizontal plane with the legs/an angle that suits the competitor; using active splits or 'fake splits' by tilting hips towards the audience to achieve a flat split or oversplit.*

■ Example 3: *In a 'hands on knees' twerking position, does the competitor have the optimal form to get the best twerk they can achieve? For example: is the competitor pushing their hands into the knees? Does the competitor have their legs parted enough for their optimal mobility? Is the competitor in their optimal squat to achieve their best twerk and their most flattering angle/shape?*

- Flow & Movement Execution (double weighted)

- Are the competitor's movements and transitions smooth? Are movements well executed and performed safely? Is there a sense of fluidity? Are movements precise, intentional and purposeful? Is the routine 'polished' without any surplus movements (i.e. shuffles, rejigging positions, regrips and noticeable adjustments)? Does the competitor display control in bodywork (i.e. a demonstration of understanding and successfully executing body isolations and manipulations)?

- Stage Presence (double weighted)

- Does the competitor engage and entertain the audience? Does the competitor send their gaze towards and involve the audience/judges? Does the competitor project their energy outwards? Does the competitor exude confidence and fill the stage with their personality? Does the competitor's attitude shine through in their movement and facial expressions? Are these things cohesive with the tone of the performance? Does the competitor have that 'wow factor' or 'star quality'?

■ **NOTE:** Eye contact or lack of eye contact is not taken into consideration.

- Costume ***ONLY Judged in the live final. NOT video round***

- Does the competitor's outfit fit well (i.e. no accidental slippages or ill-fitting parts of the clothing)? Does the outfit suit the competitor, their style and the mood of their performance? How does the costume reflect the dancer's aesthetic and personality? Does the costume make the competitor stand out? Is the outfit cohesive (i.e. the heels match the clothing or they compliment each other)? Is

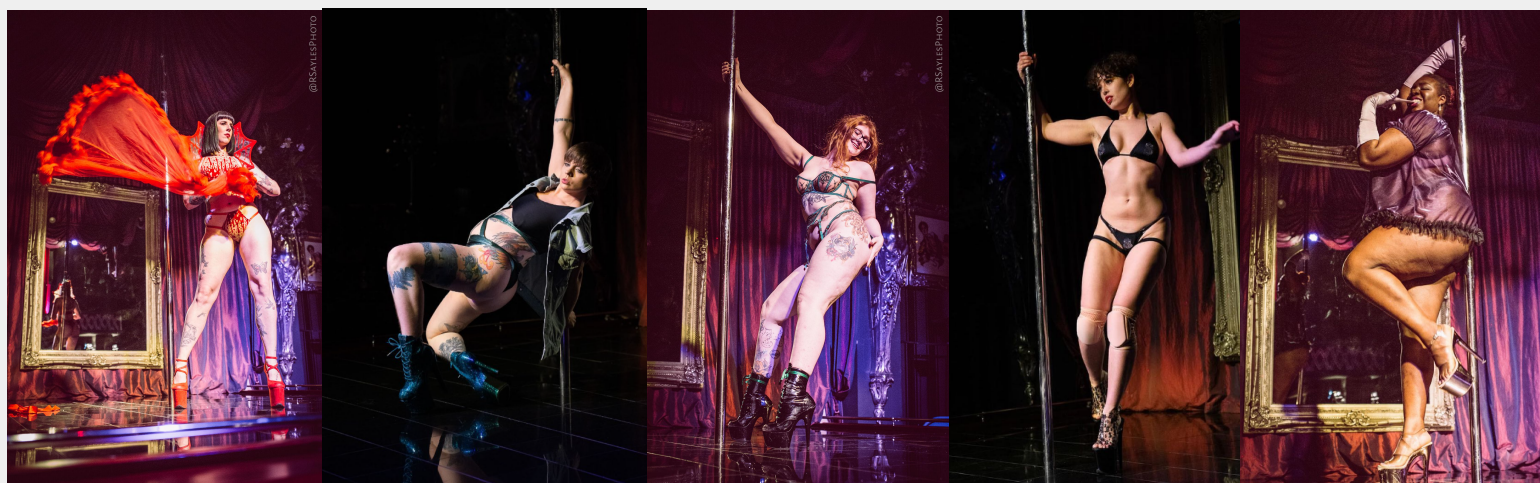
the competitor's costuming full and complete, with a 'head to toe' look, including elements like hair, make-up and nails? Does the competitor's 'look' suit them and match the style of their performance? Has the competitor ensured that no clothing tags are on display? Is the outfit appropriate? Is costuming distinctive to the competitor? Are any props creative and props well utilised? Do any props add to the performance?

■ **NOTE:** Heels are not compulsory. While Stripper Heels are typically a symbol of the culture and the work, they are not the only shoes to be worn by Strippers, nor does it necessarily automatically make a performance Stripper Style. Other footwear (such as trainers, stilettos and barefoot) are also welcome and are a part of Stripper culture too.

■ **NOTE:** Costume is not scored in the video rounds. We know how expensive costuming can be and we feel it is an unnecessary level of added pressure for the video round. While it is not scored, incorporating some kind of costume may help judges visualise your idea better and leave a lasting impression.

■ **NOTE:** With regards to 'authentic' costuming, we mean any kind of outfit that compliments 'stripper style' and matches the competitor's style of sexy. The level of skin on show does not always dictate 'how sexy' a costume is, so we welcome any type of costume showing **any level of skin**.

Examples of costumes which scored highly in the live final 2023:



Composition

- Musicality (x1.5 weighting)
 - Does the music suit the style of the performance and the category? Has the music been used effectively? Does the competitor use the highs and lows of the music in their movement? Has the competitor considered the music's tone and speed in their choreography? Has the competitor used any lyrics effectively? Does the competitor highlight the accents of the music and pick

out specific beats or lines of music (e.g. melody, baseline, specific instrument)? Does the competitor execute the timings to the music well?

- **NOTE:** Musicality has been 'boosted' to a doubling weighting in the SS Twerk category. This is because musicality is an even more emphasised element in this particular style.

- Example 1: *On the lyrics 'I want to go down', the competitor travels to the floor.*

- Example 2: *Competitor uses the song 'Angel' by Massive Attack very effectively with attention paid to the pace, speed and musical layers. They start very slow to begin with when the music is slow and begin to speed up as the piece crescendos and accelerates. They use a haunting flow to accompany the melody. They also highlight the more prominent beats of the baseline and draw attention to some of the staccato beats in their movement.*

- **Choreography (x1.5 weighting)**

- Is there a clear beginning and end? Do all parts of the routine work well together? Is the piece cohesive? Has the competitor considered variation in speed, tone and mood? Has the competitor explored a range of different movements? Has the competitor executed engaging and entertaining elements of pole work, floorwork and transitions? Has the competitor considered using different choreographic devices, such as contrastive movement and movement motifs? Has the whole performance space been well utilised?

- Example 1: *The competitor successfully uses a legwork motif throughout the piece (repeating a leg movement). A theme in their movement which reappears several times in a headstand, standing up with the pole and aerially, giving the piece a cohesive thread of recurring movement with slight differences each time.*

[SENSUAL] Components

Style

- **Movement Quality (double weighted)**

- In line with category description. Is the movement: oozing, gooey, seductive, slinky, teasing, raunchy or dirty? Does the competitor use a variety of different sensual movements? Are there a wide range of sensual movement skills demonstrated? Does the competitor incorporate sensual movements in their pole work and floorwork?

- **NOTE:** Touch is a key part of Sensual Stripper Style. Competitors are welcome to touch themselves suggestively, however genital stimulation and insertion is not permitted.

- Performance (triple weighted)
 - Is the performance sensual? Does the performance make sense in the category's context? Does the competitor consistently display a distinct sensual style?

8. SCORING SYSTEM

Judges will award marks out of 10 based on the above criteria. Each judge will score each competitor in their assigned categories. The judges' scores will be averaged out (using the mean average) to create an overall score for each competitor.

The 'description of demonstration' is essentially how one can qualify a competitor's display of skills in each section based on the types of questions provided in the criteria. Here are the guidelines for how points are awarded for each section:

Points	Description of Demonstration
0	Nothing Worthy of Credit.
1	Extremely Poor. (Multiple major faults noted. Unsafe technique)
2	Very Poor.
3	Poor.
4	Below Average
5	Average.
6	Above Average.
7	Good.
8	Very Good. (Little to no faults)
9	Outstanding.
10	Perfection. Exceptional. (reserved for only the highest demonstration of ability)

We have collected some competitor videos for you so you are able to see a visual representation of examples where top marks have been awarded:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6eriKFxI2bGbksjNwJbXXJPd0K1jjQW>

Judges will be asked to be fair and honest when scoring and to use the full breadth of points where appropriate. Judges are recommended a full 5 minutes of judging time in both the video and live final rounds to ensure quality and precision (this does not include time watching a performance piece).

There will be no joint places. In the event of a tie for placings in the live final, the judges and moderator will re-examine and compare scorings and feedback. They will deliberate until one competitor has been allocated per placing. The same process will occur if there are joint winners in the video rounds to decide who proceeds to the live final.

Decimal Points Guidance

The judges may award decimal points if the competitor's demonstration lies somewhere in between the whole numbers. Judges are encouraged to do this, as certain sections are scaled up due to weightings.

9. JUDGING SHEET EXAMPLES

Here are examples of our judging sheets at work. You can see scoring, weighting calculations and feedback in action. We have chosen examples where there was no change in the moderating process. This is the standard of judging we are delivering to you in both the video rounds and in the live final. These are real examples displayed with permission of the competitors.

A) Sarina: Video round example

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2C4awWr6m6o>

Stage Name	Sarina								
Pronouns	She/her								
Notes and adjustments (if any)									
Video Link	https://youtu.be/2C4awWr6m6o								
Judge 1									
	SECTION	COMPONENT	RAW MARK (OUT OF 10)	WEIGHTING CALCULATIONS	ACTUAL MARK	FEEDBACK			
	CORE					Such a great routine, there's variety in your twerk movements and they don't feel forced, I feel like I wanted a bit more energy from you though. Musicality was great in the first half, just make sure you don't lose the beat as you start to get through the song. I like the way you play with positioning to create more interest rather than doing the same thing in the same position. A couple of moments where you maybe could allow yourself more time to get into the right position - the definition of the movement got a bit lost. Enjoyed the clack in the teddy, if you're able to I'd love to see you make that transition down to the floor more dynamic - it was a little hesitant which threw off the flow of the piece a little. Even if you dropped to your feet first and then from there into the split, if you're worried about landing in the split too heavily?			
	<i>Presentation</i>	Lines & Form	8		8				
		Flow & Movement							
		Execution	6.5	X2	13				
		Stage Presence	6.5	X2	13				
	<i>Composition</i>	Musicality	8.5	X2	17				
		Choreography	8	X1.5	12				
	[SS TWERK]								
	<i>Style</i>	Movement Quality	8.5	X2	17				
		Performance	7.5	X3	22.5				
					TOTAL MARKS	102.5/135	75.93%		

B) Ruby Moon: Live final example

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjyzgEat6bM>

	COMPONENT	RAW MARK (OUT OF 10)	WEIGHTING CALCULATIONS	ACTUAL MARK	MODERATED MARK	Feedback
SECTION						Provocative & deliberate movements. Good use of flexibility. Would have liked you to tease the strip a little more, or slow it down. Creative removal. Would have had even more engagement / connection with the audience. Second half was better as you relaxed. Great heel lick trick, to score higher draw it out more.Slow the move down. Rhythmic Movements in time with music. Entertaining & creative, wide variety of skills shown on floor and pole. Tricks could be a little tighter and neater.
CORE						
Presentation	Lines & Form	8.5			8.5	
	Flow & Movement Execution	8.5	X2		17	
	Stage Presence	9	X2		18	
	Costume	10			10	
Composition	Musicality	9	X1.5		13.5	
	Choreography	9	X1.5		13.5	
[SHOW]						
Style	Tricks	8.5	X3		25.5	
	Performance	9	X3		27	
			TOTAL JUDGED MARKS 133/150	88.67%	TOTAL MODERATED MARKS 133/150	88.67%

10. COMPETITION RULES & REQUIREMENTS

By applying to compete in The PDSM Competition, competitors agree to the following rules. Failure to do so will lead to penalisation or disqualification.

General Rules (Video Round & Live Final)

- Entrants must be 18 or over at the time of entry.
- Categories are only currently open to solo performances.
- Competitors may apply to compete in more than one category.
- Competitors may submit more than one entry per category.
- All competitors are allowed to undress partially or fully. Partial or full nudity is not obligatory, but it is welcome and it is a choice.
- Genital stimulation and insertion are not permitted. Suggestive touching is permitted.
- Timings
 - Performances must be no longer than **4 minutes**. Performances are strongly recommended to be no shorter than **3 minutes**, as you will struggle to fulfill all points on the criteria.
 - Competitors must have at least **1 minute 45 seconds** of pole work in their performance. Pole work qualifies as anything where the competitor is touching the pole in any way, including: tricks, low flow and pole assisted floorwork moves.
- Competitors will be judged on the same criteria for the video round and live final. This is with the exception of 'Costume'. Costume will not be judged in the video round, but will be judged in the live final.
- All the information in this manual regarding criteria and marking is complete; the competitors, judges and moderator receive the exact same information.
- As well as a rigorous application and screening process for judges, there will be a moderator to ensure judges are following The PDSM Competition criteria and upholding to the competition's values at all times. If you have a query about your feedback, we fully encourage you to get in touch.
- Physical interaction
 - Any physical interaction between spectators or 'human props' must be consensual.
 - 'Human props' are allowed, however, they may not assist you with any pole work.
- Bribing or blackmailing judges in any capacity is strictly prohibited.
 - Judges will be required to flag competitors to whom they are connected. This includes: in-person or online students; work colleagues (including freelance work) and relations. This is to inform the moderator to allow them to mediate implicit bias.
- Competitors must be respectful to sex work and sex workers. Please think carefully if choosing a 'theme' and be mindful that it is respectful towards our highly stigmatised workers. Please consult with the organiser if in doubt.

- Competitors' performances must be respectful to other marginalised and stigmatised communities in general. We have a zero tolerance policy of any discriminatory or negative behaviour. Any breaches of this may result in penalisations, disqualification or a permanent ban from all PDSM events.
- Music
 - Music selections must adhere to our inclusion statement.
 - We do not accept any music with language that could be interpreted as a racial slur, unless you are of that race.
 - If you suspect your music may contain a racial slur but are unsure, we would recommend not using that piece of music to be safe.
 - We do not permit music by known abusers such as Chris Brown, P.Diddy etc.
 - Please do your research into the artist/s of your track if you are unsure.
- If you require any reasonable adjustments to be made to the application process, the video round and at the live final due to disability or health condition, we would like to support you. There will be the option to disclose the accommodations you need on the application.
- The performance you submit in the video round and the live final may be the same piece or a different piece.
- You must be available for the live final and able to attend.
- To have the opportunity to compete in the Upcoming Performer categories in the live final, competitors must have applied to compete in one of the 4 other categories in the video round. Competitors are selected mathematically to make this a totally unbiased process. All competitors in each category will be ranked- the top 3 competitors of the lower 25% will make up the Upcoming Performers for each category.

Video Round only

- Competitors will be solely judged on their video submission.
- Each entry costs £50. This will be payable once you have submitted your application form. This fee covers your entry into the video round, detailed feedback from expert judges and, if successful, a place in the live final.
- There will be a limited number of subsidised applications and grants to low-income sex workers. *Details of this can be read in section 14.*
- Our invigilator will scan all video entries for rule breaks. If they find any breaks worthy of penalisation or disqualification, the video will be bounced back and the competitor will be able to attempt to submit another video. The second video will be the final video a competitor can submit, regardless of rule breaks. This system is only available up until 10am on 23rd July. If you submit a video after this point, you will not be able to resubmit a video before the deadline, even if there are rule breaks.
- Failure to resubmit or late entries will be open to immediate disqualification from the Invigilator. If enough elements of the entry are viable, we may still present this to our judging team, however, they may not be able to award you the maximum amount of points for insufficient elements.
- You will only be able to resubmit a video if our invigilator finds rule breaks. Please consider the link you submit as final, unless you are informed otherwise.
- Videos restrictions
 - Videos must be no more than a year old.
 - Videos must be no longer than 4 minutes. If the video is longer, there will be

- no penalisation, however, the judges will not watch beyond the 4 minute mark.
- Videos are **recommended** to be no shorter than 3 minutes, as competitors will struggle to satisfy all elements of the criteria.
- Videos must be filmed as one continuous piece with zero editing, zooming or panning (you may cut the beginning and end of the video to only include your performance).
- Competitors must be well-lit and fully visible at all times.
- Videos must be uploaded to Youtube or Vimeo, set to 'unlisted' or 'public' (**not** 'private') and then submitted via link form. We have additional link guidance [here](#).
- The music in the video must be audible and listenable. Please also check this on a mobile/laptop device.
- Any pole or poles may be used.
- Competitors will not be judged on 'Costume'.
- 5 successful competitors from each category in the video rounds will proceed to the live final for Sensual, Show, Strip Tease and SS Twerk. 3 successful competitors from each category will make up the Upcoming Performer's categories for the live final.

Live Final only

- Stage specifications will be provided to finalists well in advance of the live event. Note that there will be **one brass 50mm static pole**.
- Props
 - Props that could cause a slip hazard are prohibited. Non-slip mat that can easily be cleaned may be allowed at the venue and organiser's discretion.
 - Props that take less than 2 minutes to set up on stage and less than 2 minutes to remove from stage are permitted.
 - If in doubt, please consult the organiser about proposed props.
- Competitors must arrive at the venue a minimum of 2 hours before the event begins.
- Competitors will be given at least 3 minutes each to test the pole and the stage at specified times. There will not be an opportunity for a full run through or tech rehearsal. You will be able to check your music with the DJ. We advise competitors use their time on stage to: mark through their routine, space their routine, test the poles for how spins feel, grippiness and height.
- Competitors will be allocated performance slots. You will be notified of this well in advance of the event.
- There must be no physical interaction with the judges when performing.
- There must be no duplicates of music choices. Song selection is first come first served.
- There are no free tickets/plus ones available to competitors. All chaperones or human props must buy a ticket. There will be an exclusive presale for finalists to ensure essential people can support you.
- Professional photos and videos are an extra service we will endeavour to provide to competitors. There will be the option for you to purchase these post-event.

11. PENALISATIONS, DISQUALIFICATIONS AND MODERATIONS

If any rules or requirements are broken (*listed in section 9*), the competitor will be penalised and points will be deducted. In some cases, the competitor will be disqualified. The Invigilator will oversee any penalties. If there are rule breaks that are not listed and quantified below, it will be at the Organiser's, Invigilator's, Moderator's and Judges' discretion to implement penalisations or disqualifications as they see fit.

The Invigilator for the video round is Autumn Flame.

The Invigilator for the live final is TBD.

The Invigilator will be responsible for detecting the following rule breaks in the video round and live final.

RULE BREAK	PENALISATION	CODE
Human props assisting with pole work	20 point deduction for each assist	A
<i>Less than 1m45s of pole work (there is a 5 second margin of error. Above 1m40s receives zero penalisation). 'Pole work' qualifies as anything where the competitor is in contact with the pole.</i>		
• 1m30s - 1m39s	10 point deduction	T10
• 1m20s -1m29s	20 point deduction	T20
• 1m - 1m19s	50 point deduction	T50
• >1m of pole work	Disqualification	TD

A Note on Timings

The invigilator will err on the lenient side if there is any doubt.

When timings appear to be in between two penalisation brackets, or it is hard to make a reasonable and clear judgement call between two penalisation brackets, competitors will be penalised the lower amount. For example, if it's hard to tell if a competitor only has between 1m29s and 1m30s of pole work, it will be treated as 1m30, thus only 10 points will be deducted. In the live finals, we heavily encourage competitors to record their performance in the instance where we need to check invigilator's penalties. We will attempt to facilitate this, but please ensure as a backup so we can double and triple check our decisions.

Moderation Process

The moderator for the video round is Cutie Whippingham.

The head moderator for the live final is Cutie Whippingham. Her focus will be on score moderation.

The assistant moderator for the live final will be Autumn Flame. Her focus will be on feedback moderation.

It is the moderator's role to oversee and evaluate all of the judge's scoring and feedback in both for the video round and the live final.

The role of the moderator includes (but is not limited to): mediating bias; ensuring the high standards of judging are met; ensuring criteria and scoring systems are being implemented to the high standard of the competition; checking the scores match the feedback; querying and communicating with judges.

The process involves the moderator reviewing the competitor's piece and assessing each judge's scores and feedback. The moderator will also look for trends in judge's scores and feedback. The moderator may additionally cross-compare scores and feedback with other judges.

If any outliers, discrepancies or inconsistencies are found by the moderator, the flagged item is bounced back to the appropriate judge for further explanation and re-evaluation. The two possible outcomes are: the moderator is satisfied with the judge's arguments and maintains the flagged item; or the judge accepts the moderator's flagged item and moderated mark or feedback is provided and updated.

Competitors will only be able to access moderated marks; these are made transparent on score sheets. If competitors wish to see the workings behind the moderation, this can be provided on request.

The process is long and difficult, but essential. This is why we have a whole period for moderating the video rounds. This is also part of why the live final day is long.

12. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Competitors must uphold our inclusion statement: We have a zero tolerance policy for any discriminatory behaviour. Any discriminatory or negative behaviour conducted by any person involved in the competition, either online or in person, will result in disqualification and/or removal from the event and the potential of a permanent ban from all PDSM events. Discrimination includes (but is not limited to) racism, sexism, queerphobia, transphobia, whorephobia, xenophobia, ableism, fatphobia, classism and religious discrimination. Negative behaviour can qualify as 'bullying' type behaviours; treating anyone with any level of unkindness is unacceptable. This behaviour may be expressed physically or verbally and will not be tolerated.
- The application fee is non-refundable.
- PDSM is not liable for any injury or damage sustained by any applicant/competitor during any stage of the competition.
- Competitors are recommended to ensure that they have their own insurance in place to cover personal injury.
- PDSM reserves the right to prevent a competitor from performing if they are judged to not be fit to perform, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- PDSM reserves the right to disqualify any competitor who breaches the rules and regulations of the competition.
- PDSM reserves the right to stop a competitor's performance at any time due to safety concerns or a breach of the rules and regulations.
- PDSM reserves the right to make modifications to the rules, regulations, terms and conditions of the competition. Competitors and judges will be given advance notice in writing of any changes. Changes will take effect from the date of notification.
- The winners of each category will hold the following titles:
 - The PDSM Competition Upcoming Sensual Performer Champion 2025
 - The PDSM Competition Sensual Champion 2025
- Titles will be held until the completion of the subsequent PDSM final event.
- PDSM reserves the right to pursue damages should the title be used in any manner deemed to be damaging to PDSM.
- PDSM are committed to the highest standards of health and safety at all stages of the competition. Part of our commitment to health and safety will be to ensure that all equipment (namely, but not limited to, the poles) is used to manufacturers guidelines.
- PDSM will be using the venue's permanent floor to ceiling pole during the live final and cannot be responsible for any damage to property, injury to persons or third parties during the use of this product. Please note that this is a 50mm strip club pole and is very well-used.
- If any provision of these terms and conditions shall be invalid, void, illegal or unenforceable the validity, existence, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not be affected, prejudiced or impaired.
- PDSM will not be liable for any expenses incurred by the competitor's participation in the competition.
- PDSM will not be liable to any competitor for any loss or expense whether direct or indirect suffered by the competitor resulting from a breach of PDSM terms and conditions.
- In the event of a breach of contract by PDSM, the remedies of the competitor shall be limited to damages not exceeding the price of the application fee.
- PDSM may license or sub-contract all or any part of its rights and obligations without the competitor's consent.
- The failure by PDSM to enforce any provision of these terms and conditions shall not be treated as a waiver of that provision, nor shall it affect PDSM's right to subsequently enforce that provision.
- The law governing all contracts with PDSM is the Law of England. In the case of any dispute, the Courts of England have exclusive Jurisdiction.

13. PRIVACY POLICY

- PDSM is committed to protecting the information about you that we collect, store, and use when you provide it through judge applications, competitor applications, sponsorships and stall holding, ticket purchasing or volunteering purposes.
- We uphold your rights to privacy in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We are compliant with its requirements in respect of the collection, management, and disclosure of your personal information. If you do not wish to provide personal information to us, then you do not have to do so. However, some information is required if you wish to be involved in PDSM in any capacity.

What is your personal information?

- When used in this privacy policy, the term “personal information” has the meaning given to it in the GDPR. In general terms, it is any information that can be used to personally identify you. This may include your name, address, telephone number, email address and profession or occupation. If the information we collect personally identifies you, or you are reasonably identifiable from it, the information will be considered personal information.
- We may also collect some information that is not personal information because it does not identify you or anyone else. Your personal information will not be shared, sold, rented, or disclosed other than as described in this privacy policy.

What information we collect and why?

PDSM may collect the following personal information from you:

- Name;
- Current mailing or residential address;
- Email address;
- Contact telephone number;
- Age or birth date; and
- Profession or occupation.

We collect personal information about you so that we can perform our business activities and functions and to provide the best possible quality of customer service. We collect, hold, use and disclose your personal information for the following purposes:

- To assess if you are eligible to apply as a judge;
- To assess if you are eligible to apply as a competitor;
- To assess if you are eligible for subsidised entry to the competition or stall in the marketplace;
- To know your personal information to contact you in regards to judging, competing, subsidised applications, sponsoring, stall holders spectating or volunteering.

How we collect your personal information

We collect your personal information directly from you unless it is unreasonable or impracticable to do so. When collecting personal information from you, we may collect in ways including:

- Through application forms that you personally complete.
- When purchasing a ticket or sponsorship package.

- During conversations between you and our employees.
- When you ask to be placed on one of our subscription/ mailing lists

Marketing Communications

We may send you direct marketing communications and information about our services that we consider may be of interest to you. These communications may be sent in various forms, including mail, email, Facebook messenger, SMS, Whatsapp, Instagram. At any time you may opt-out of receiving marketing communications from us by contacting us (see the details below) or by using opt-out facilities provided in the marketing communications and we will then ensure that your name is removed from our subscription/ mailing list.

Our employees and the contractors who provide services related to our information systems are obliged to respect the confidentiality of any personal information held by us. Personal information is destroyed or de-identified when no longer needed or when we are no longer required by Law to retain it (whichever is the later).

What rights you have over your data

You can request to receive an exported file of the personal data we hold about you, including any data you have provided to us. You can also request that we erase any personal data we hold about you. This does not include any data we are obliged to keep for administrative, legal, or security purposes.

14. SUBSIDISED APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS

PDSM understands that competing in pole competitions can be incredibly expensive. So, we are delighted to offer at least 4 FREE competitor entries to **low-income sex workers**.

Should any subsidised applicants be successful in moving on to the live final, at least one competitor will receive a minimum of a £50 grant to help towards any competition expenses.

All applicants' identity will be **strictly confidential** throughout the process. Only the PDSM organiser will know who applicants and beneficiaries are. Applicants are welcome to reveal they have benefited from the scheme **after the live final** under their terms if they so wish. We have these measures in place to ensure the following:

- Competitors can choose to remain anonymous.
- Prevent any implicit bias with judging.

The option to apply for free entry and a grant will be on the application form. You will have the chance to support your application by expressing why you are applying for a subsidised entry fee/a grant and how this would benefit you.

The deadline to apply for this scheme is 29th May 2024.

Funding for this scheme will be coming from sponsors.

*Please get in touch with us if you are interested in sponsoring our **Low-Income Sex Worker Scheme** and becoming a '**Sex Worker Champion**'*

15. HOW TO APPLY

- Competitor entries will open at 10am BST on 13th May 2024.
- Competitor entries will close at 10pm BST on 26th July 2024.
- To enter, fill out the application form on our website:
<https://poledancestrippermovement.co.uk/apply-to-compete>
- Upon submitting your application, you must submit your payment immediately using the details provided (unless applying for the grant scheme). You will be contacted via email to confirm your entry and payment. Our bank details are as follows:
 - PDSMUK LTD 040003 27843022
 - For international payments:
PDSMUK LTD
IBAN: GB48MONZ04000327843022
BIC: MONZGB2L (Bank Monzo)
- We have an 'Apply now, Submit later' policy. So you can email your video link separately, but must be submitted **no later than** 10pm BST on 20th July. If you miss the deadline, your entry will no longer be counted.
- We have a very small admin team, so please allow 72 hours for us to get back to you! The invigilating process may take longer than this- if our invigilator finds rule breaks, we will endeavour to contact you as soon as we can. Emails often go to spam, so please keep an eye out for our communications.
- Please carefully read the rules and regulations, category information, terms and conditions and privacy policy before applying. The complete information is in this manual and on the website.