

Memo

Decoding DWTS Scoring the Art of Balancing Judges and Fans

To:DWTS Executive Producer

From:Team#2607256

Date : February 2

Dear producers,

It is my honor to present our research findings to you. In this study, we explored the fairness and dynamics of integrating judges' scores and audience votes in DWTS. We then further developed models capable of reconstructing unobserved fan voting patterns from elimination results and weekly performance data, while identified key factors influencing competition outcomes across different scoring regimes and contestant attributes.

Given the evolving competitive landscape of entertainment-based reality competitions, it is evident that conventional scoring approaches alone cannot fully capture the fairness and audience engagement required for sustained success. As data analytics reshape audience interaction and performance evaluation, our methodology for integrating judge scores and public votes must evolve to ensure both artistic integrity and popular appeal.

Based on our findings, let me explain how to apply the percentage method and judge's choice mechanism to enhance the fairness of DWTS, and how to design rules that effectively manage critical events influencing competition outcomes.

The foundation of a fair competition lies in a scoring system that effectively balances judges' expertise with audience appeal. Our analysis of 34 seasons identifies the Percentage Method as the optimal base rule, as it preserves performance differentials and directly links fan support to survival odds—protecting more popular contestants 60% more often than the Rank Method. However, to ensure technical standards are upheld, the "Judge's Choice" mechanism is essential. It acts as a necessary filter, reducing the win probability of high-popularity but low-skill contestants by approximately 85%. This two-stage model allows audience votes to shape the competitive field while judges safeguard minimum dance proficiency.

The recommended hybrid approach is clear: use the Percentage Method to reflect audience preference, and retain Judge's Choice as a professional corrective. This structure maintains both entertainment value and competitive integrity.

Thank you for reviewing our research. As devoted viewers of the show, we genuinely admire the extraordinary dedication and artistic passion demonstrated by all celebrity contestants and professional dancers. We sincerely hope that the findings and recommendations from this study will provide valuable insights for the future design of the competition format and the enhancement of fairness, contributing to even more brilliance for the DWTS brand in upcoming seasons. If you have any more questions or wish to explore further, feel free to email us and we'll be happy to discuss them with you.

Look forward to seeing the show keep shining as a beloved classic for years to come.

Yours Sincerely,
Team #2607256