

MEMO

TO: Executive Producers, Dancing with the Stars
FROM: Team #1111111
DATE: February 2, 2026
SUBJECT: Recommendations on Voting System Design

Dear Executive Producers,

After analyzing all 34 seasons, we present key findings and recommendations for combining judge scores and fan votes.

Key Findings**1. Scoring Method Comparison:**

- **Percentage-based:** Keeps fan-favorites competitive even with lower technical scores
- **Rank-based:** Amplifies small gaps, reducing fan influence by 13%

2. Bottom-2 Mechanism: Reduces upsets from 42% to 8%, preventing outcomes like Bobby Bones (S27).

3. Celebrity Type: Athletes get 13% more fan votes but 0.15 points lower judge scores — fans and judges value different qualities.

4. Professional Partner: Pro dancers account for 18.5% of judge score variance but only 7% of fan vote variance.



Figure: Dynamic weight system

Recommendations

1. **Keep Percentage-Based Scoring** — Maintains voting suspense and fan engagement.
2. **Use Dynamic Judge Weights** — Judges' influence grows through the season:

Stage	Judge Weight	Metric	Improvement
Early (Wk 1–4)	20%	Upsets	-17%
Mid (Wk 5–8)	35%	Engagement	+22%
Late (Wk 9+)	60%	Fairness	96%

3. **Keep Bottom-2 from Week 7** — Creates drama while preventing anomalies.
4. **Consider Vote Credits** — Multiple votes for one contestant cost more credits, discouraging mass voting.

Bottom Line

Our system increases engagement by **22%** while ensuring finals reward true talent. This prevents future controversies while keeping DWTS exciting.

Yours sincerely, Team #1111111