



JUDGING CRITERIA

POLE MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP
2024

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GENERAL JUDGING PROCEDURE

The judging panel for our competition consists of three scoring judges, one feedback judge, and one head judge. The scoring judges are responsible for assigning numerical scores and providing minimal feedback. The feedback judge, on the other hand, does not give numerical scores but offers detailed commentary on the competitors performance. The head judge oversees the judging process, focusing on identifying deductions such as unpermitted moves for the dancer's level and ensuring that the judging process is executed correctly.

Our scoring system allows for point ranges of 1-5, 1-10, 1-15, or 1-20. A score of 1 reflects a performance or element that significantly falls short of expectations, showing minimal technical execution or artistry. A middle score indicates a competent performance with some strengths and areas for improvement. The highest score represents an outstanding performance that excels in all evaluated aspects, demonstrating exceptional technical skill, creativity, and execution.

Feedback will be provided through scorecards, which include detailed commentary from the feedback judge. The judging panel will always include one special guest, alongside professionals with extensive experience in pole dance. All judges will complete virtual training specific to our scoring system to ensure consistency and accuracy.

Tie-breakers are incorporated into the scoring system to resolve close results, although ties are still allowed. Final placements are determined by the total scores, with the top three competitors being awarded first, second, and third places. Each competitor will receive a digital score sheet and detailed feedback following the event, offering a comprehensive overview of their performance and areas for improvement.

POLE SPORT

Main Requirements

Balance of Program (10 points)

Competitors will earn higher points for a well-balanced routine that effectively uses all aspects of the stage and poles. This includes incorporating an equal amount of time on both static and spin poles, as well as integrating floor work. A high-scoring routine will showcase a mix of flexibility, strength, and dynamic movements, with tricks evenly distributed across both poles. Utilizing the full height of the pole and the depth of the stage, while avoiding repetitive movements, adds to the performance's impact. A balanced routine demonstrates versatility and attention to detail, ensuring that no element is favored over another. This thoughtful structure and diverse approach will be rewarded with higher scores.

Difficulty of Individual Moves (10 points - Tie-breaker)

Dancers will gain more points by demonstrating the difficulty of skills and individual moves in their routine. Judges look for competitors who push their limits by incorporating advanced elements appropriate for their level. Higher scores are awarded to those who challenge themselves with complex tricks and transitions, showcasing their technical ability and creativity.

Transitions (10 points)

Transitions are the moments between tricks, including mounts, dismounts, and movements between pole and floor-based tricks. Higher scores are awarded for transitions that are both seamless and innovative. Judges will evaluate the difficulty of transitions, how smoothly they are performed, and their uniqueness.

Flexibility Movements (10 points)

Pole dancers can earn higher scores in their competition routine by incorporating flexibility elements. To score well, the routine should feature a range of flexibility movements, such as splits, straddles, and backbends, performed both on the pole and on the floor. These moves should showcase well-extended lines that are comfortably executed and suitable for the dancer's skill level.

Strength Moves (10 points)

Incorporating strength moves into a pole dance routine is crucial for earning high scores. Competitors should include tricks and transitions that effectively showcase their strength and control. Judges will assess both the difficulty of these moves and their strategic

placement within the routine. Entry-level dancers might use basic climbs, amateurs can demonstrate controlled inverts, semi-pros should include handsprings, and professionals are expected to perform advanced moves like deadlifts and iron X. A routine with a strong emphasis on these elements will impress judges and lead to higher scores.

Dynamic Moves (10 points)

This criterion includes any tricks that require significant force or energy to move the body to, from, or around the pole. To earn higher scores, these powerful elements should be seamlessly integrated into the routine, with each move strategically placed to enhance the overall choreography. Judges will assess both the difficulty and execution of these dynamic tricks, looking for smooth transitions and precise control. Examples vary by skill level: entry-level dancers may perform static chair spins or fan kicks, amateurs could include cast-away moves or static rotative climbs, while semi-pro and professional dancers might execute flips, fongi, or the phoenix.

Technique

Lines and Extensions (10 points)

Pole dancers will achieve higher scores by incorporating well-executed lines and extensions into their routines. Competitors who fully extend their lines, maintain pointed feet, and avoid micro-bending in their movements will receive more points. Judges look for complete extension in all joints, including the arms, legs, and spine, as well as pointed toes unless flexing is used intentionally for stylistic purposes.

Musicality (5 points)

A routine deeply connected to the music highlights the dancer's ability to express the song's rhythm, melody, and emotions. Synchronizing movements with the music's highs, lows, and beats enhances the performance and storytelling. This harmony demonstrates timing, creativity, and attention to detail, making the performance cohesive and impactful. Such musicality reflects refined artistry and a strong connection to the music, leading to higher scores.

Flow and Fluidity (5 points)

Pole dancers will gain more points in their competition routine if they demonstrate strong flow and fluidity. When a routine flows seamlessly, each movement transitions smoothly into the next, creating a cohesive and continuous performance. Fluidity in movement reflects a high level of skill, as it requires the dancer to connect complex tricks, spins, and transitions without breaking the visual and rhythmic flow.

Originality (5 points)

Judges look for unique moves, transitions, and creative concepts that stand out from commonly seen performances. An original routine features inventive tricks, distinct transitions, and a unique theme or concept that sets it apart. A routine that showcases originality will lead to a higher score.

Performance Quality

Confidence (5 points)

Pole dancers will earn more points in their competition routine if they demonstrate strong confidence. Confidence in a routine indicates that the dancer is performing at a level well-suited to their skills, with combos that they have fully mastered. This level of self-assurance allows the audience and judges to focus on the artistry of the performance, without feeling concerned for the dancer's safety.

Stage presence and Audience Connection (5 points)

Performances should captivate the audience from start to finish, avoiding any flat or uninspiring moments. Judges will look for competitors who engage with the audience through eye contact, emotional expression, and dynamic energy. Effective facial and body expressions that align with the routine's theme can enhance the emotional connection and overall impact of the performance. It's important for competitors to bow at the end of their performance, as this final gesture solidifies the connection with the audience. A good connection not only enhances the overall impact but also contributes to higher scores.

Costume and Presentation (5 points)

A well-thought-out costume and polished appearance enhance the performance's visual appeal and reflect the dancer's dedication. A carefully chosen costume that complements the routine's theme, along with neatly styled hair and makeup, demonstrates professionalism and attention to detail. A put-together look exudes confidence and keeps the focus on the performance, reducing distractions. This level of effort contributes to a cohesive, memorable performance, leading to higher scores.

Deductions

Pole dancers may face deductions for issues affecting performance quality and safety, such as slips, falls, or the use of restricted moves. Judges assess these factors to ensure safety and compliance with competition guidelines, applying deductions for any deviations from expected skill levels and rules.

POLE ART

Main Requirements

Balance of Program (10 points)

Competitors will earn higher points for a well-balanced routine that effectively uses all aspects of the stage and poles. This includes incorporating an equal amount of time on both static and spin poles, as well as integrating floor work. A high-scoring routine will showcase a mix of flexibility, strength, and dynamic movements, with tricks evenly distributed across both poles. Utilizing the full height of the pole and the depth of the stage, while avoiding repetitive movements, adds to the performance's impact. A balanced routine demonstrates versatility and attention to detail, ensuring that no element is favored over another. This thoughtful structure and diverse approach will be rewarded with higher scores.

Transitions (10 points)

Transitions are the moments between tricks, including mounts, dismounts, and movements between pole and floor-based tricks. Higher scores are awarded for transitions that are both seamless and innovative. Judges will evaluate the difficulty of transitions, how smoothly they are performed, and their uniqueness.

Difficulty of Individual Moves (10 points)

Dancers will gain more points by demonstrating the difficulty of skills and individual moves in their routine. Judges look for competitors who push their limits by incorporating advanced elements appropriate for their level. Higher scores are awarded to those who challenge themselves with complex tricks and transitions, showcasing their technical ability and creativity.

Technique

Lines and Extensions (10 points)

Pole dancers will achieve higher scores by incorporating well-executed lines and extensions into their routines. Competitors who fully extend their lines, maintain pointed feet, and avoid micro-bending in their movements will receive more points. Judges look for complete extension in all joints, including the arms, legs, and spine, as well as pointed toes unless flexing is used intentionally for stylistic purposes.

Musicality (10 points)

A routine deeply connected to the music highlights the dancer's ability to express the song's rhythm, melody, and emotions. Synchronizing movements with the music's highs, lows, and beats enhances the performance and storytelling. This harmony demonstrates timing, creativity, and attention to detail, making the performance cohesive and impactful. Such musicality reflects refined artistry and a strong connection to the music, leading to higher scores.

Flow and Fluidity (10 points)

Pole dancers will gain more points in their competition routine if they demonstrate strong flow and fluidity. When a routine flows seamlessly, each movement transitions smoothly into the next, creating a cohesive and continuous performance. Fluidity in movement reflects a high level of skill, as it requires the dancer to connect complex tricks, spins, and transitions without breaking the visual and rhythmic flow.

Performance Quality:

Confidence (5 points)

Pole dancers will earn more points in their competition routine if they demonstrate strong confidence. Confidence in a routine indicates that the dancer is performing at a level well-suited to their skills, with combos that they have fully mastered. This level of self-assurance allows the audience and judges to focus on the artistry of the performance, without feeling concerned for the dancer's safety.

Stage Presence and Audience Connection (10 points)

Performances should captivate the audience from start to finish, avoiding any flat or uninspiring moments. Judges will look for competitors who engage with the audience through eye contact, emotional expression, and dynamic energy. Effective facial and body expressions that align with the routine's theme can enhance the emotional connection and overall impact of the performance. It's important for competitors to bow at the end of their performance, as this final gesture solidifies the connection with the audience. A good connection not only enhances the overall impact but also contributes to higher scores.

Artistry:

Costume and Presentation (5 points)

Dancers can earn higher points by carefully selecting costumes and props that enhance the overall theme and visual appeal of their routine. The costume should align with the

theme, character, or story being portrayed, creating a cohesive presentation that stands out. IF props are used, they should be thoughtfully integrated to convey a feeling, idea, or concept. The use of props should be intentional and consistent throughout the performance, contributing to the storytelling.

Clear Expression of Theme/Story (10 points - Tie-breaker)

Competitors will score higher if their routine clearly and consistently expresses a well-developed theme, story, or character throughout the performance. This theme should be integrated into choreography, expressions, and presentation, creating a cohesive and engaging experience for the audience. Judges will look for routines where the theme enhances every aspect of the performance, making it memorable and impactful.

Originality (10 points)

Judges look for unique moves, transitions, and creative concepts that stand out from commonly seen performances. An original routine features inventive tricks, distinct transitions, and a unique theme or concept that sets it apart. A routine that showcases originality will lead to a higher score.

Deductions

Pole dancers may face deductions for issues affecting performance quality and safety, such as slips, falls, or the use of restricted moves. Judges assess these factors to ensure safety and compliance with competition guidelines, applying deductions for any deviations from expected skill levels and rules.

DOUBLES / GROUPS

Main Requirements

Difficulty of Tricks (20 points)

Teams will earn higher points by demonstrating the difficulty of skills and moves in their pole doubles/groups routine. Judges will look for duos/groups who push their limits by incorporating advanced elements that are well-suited for their level. Points are awarded to troupes who challenge themselves with complex tricks and transitions, showcasing not only their technical ability and creativity but also their coordination and teamwork.

Balance of Program (20 points)

Doubles and groups will earn higher points by showcasing a well-balanced routine. Competitors should aim to create a diverse performance that highlights their versatility and coordination. Judges will evaluate the routine based on the even distribution of tricks and transitions, ensuring that all dancers contribute equally and that movements are well-integrated. A well-balanced performance should include a mix of flexibility, strength, and dynamic elements, avoiding repetitive movements and demonstrating thoughtful choreography. Teams that achieve a cohesive and engaging routine will be rewarded with higher scores.

Technical Execution

Synchronicity (15 points - Tie-breaker)

In the pole doubles/groups category, synchronicity is vital for high scores. Judges will assess how well the dancers' movements align, focusing on both the timing accuracy and the closeness of their actions. Effective synchronicity involves integrating moves that require exact timing and mutual interaction, such as synchronized spins or lifts. A well-executed routine will showcase perfect harmony, enhancing the visual impact and fluidity of the performance, and significantly contributing to higher scores.

Transitions (10 points)

Transitions are the moments between tricks, including mounts, dismounts, and movements between pole and floor-based tricks. Higher scores are awarded for transitions that are both seamless and innovative. Judges will evaluate the difficulty of transitions, how smoothly they are performed, and their uniqueness.

Technical Execution (10 points)

Dancers will earn higher scores for demonstrating precise technical execution throughout their routine. Musicality plays a key role, as dancers should synchronize their movements with the music's rhythm, melody, and dynamics, creating a cohesive and expressive performance. Well-executed lines and extensions, with fully extended limbs and pointed toes, reflect a high level of control and refinement. Seamless flow and fluidity in transitions between movements ensure the routine remains continuous and engaging, showcasing the dancer's skill in maintaining

Artistry

Originality (10 points)

Judges look for unique moves, transitions, and creative concepts that stand out from commonly seen performances. An original routine features inventive tricks, distinct transitions, and a unique theme or concept that sets it apart. A routine that showcases originality will lead to a higher score.

Performance Quality (15 points)

Competitors will be judged on the overall quality of their performance, including how well their costume, choreography, stage presence, music expression, and use of props align with and enhance their theme. Costumes and the overall look should be cohesive, complementing the routine's theme, while any props should be thoughtfully integrated to add depth. Effective choreography should flow smoothly and creatively, avoiding predictability while matching the music and tone. Strong stage presence, with engaging eye contact and expression, will heighten the emotional impact. Competitors must bow at the end of their performance. A cohesive and well-executed routine that ties these elements together will result in higher scores.

Deductions:

Pole dancers may face deductions for issues affecting performance quality and safety, such as slips, falls, or the use of restricted moves. Judges assess these factors to ensure safety and compliance with competition guidelines, applying deductions for any deviations from expected skill levels and rules.

AFTER DARK

(RUSSIAN STYLE / LOW FLOW / SHADOWBANNED)

Main Requirements

Balance of Program (10 points)

Competitors will earn higher points for a well-balanced routine that effectively uses all aspects of the stage and poles. This includes incorporating an equal amount of time on both static and spin poles, as well as integrating floor work. A high-scoring routine will showcase a mix of flexibility, strength, and dynamic movements, with tricks evenly distributed across both poles. Utilizing the full height of the pole (except in the Low Flow category) and the depth of the stage, while avoiding repetitive movements, adds to the performance's impact. A balanced routine demonstrates versatility and attention to detail, ensuring that no element is favored over another. This thoughtful structure and diverse approach will be rewarded with higher scores.

Difficulty of Individual Moves (10 points)

Dancers will gain more points by demonstrating the difficulty of skills and individual moves in their routine. Judges look for competitors who push their limits by incorporating advanced elements appropriate for their level. Higher scores are awarded to those who challenge themselves with complex tricks and transitions, showcasing their technical ability and creativity.

Transitions (10 points)

Transitions are the moments between tricks, including mounts, dismounts, and movements between pole and floor-based tricks. Higher scores are awarded for transitions that are both seamless and innovative. Judges will evaluate the difficulty of transitions, how smoothly they are performed, and their uniqueness.

Technical Execution

Lines and Extensions (10 points)

Pole dancers will achieve higher scores by incorporating well-executed lines and extensions into their routines. Competitors who fully extend their lines, maintain pointed feet, and avoid micro-bending in their movements will receive more points. Judges look

for complete extension in all joints, including the arms, legs, and spine, as well as pointed toes unless flexing is used intentionally for stylistic purposes.

Flow and Fluidity (10 points - Tie-breaker)

Pole dancers will gain more points in their competition routine if they demonstrate strong flow and fluidity. When a routine flows seamlessly, each movement transitions smoothly into the next, creating a cohesive and continuous performance. Fluidity in movement reflects a high level of skill, as it requires the dancer to connect complex tricks, spins, and transitions without breaking the visual and rhythmic flow.

Musicality (10 points)

A routine deeply connected to the music highlights the dancer's ability to express the song's rhythm, melody, and emotions. Synchronizing movements with the music's highs, lows, and beats enhances the performance and storytelling. This harmony demonstrates timing, creativity, and attention to detail, making the performance cohesive and impactful. Such musicality reflects refined artistry and a strong connection to the music, leading to higher scores.

Artistry

Originality (5 points)

Judges look for unique moves, transitions, and creative concepts that stand out from commonly seen performances. An original routine features inventive tricks, distinct transitions, and a unique theme or concept that sets it apart. A routine that showcases originality will lead to a higher score.

Expression (10 points)

Competitors will earn higher points by clearly expressing emotion and intent throughout their performance. Expression should be evident in body movements, facial expressions, and the use of props (if applicable). While a detailed character or elaborate story isn't required, a clear theme should still be present and effectively communicated. For example, in the Shadowbanned category, the sexier the theme, the better. A well-executed theme that resonates through the choreography and presentation will make the performance more memorable and impactful. Judges will reward competitors who fully embody their theme, drawing the audience in and leaving a lasting impression. Strong, authentic expression will lead to higher scores.

Performance Quality

Stage presence and Audience Connection (10 points)

Performances should captivate the audience from start to finish, avoiding any flat or uninspiring moments. Judges will look for competitors who engage with the audience through eye contact, emotional expression, and dynamic energy. Effective facial and body expressions that align with the routine's theme can enhance the emotional connection and overall impact of the performance. It's also important for competitors to bow at the end of their performance, as this final gesture solidifies the connection with the audience.

Costume and Presentation (5 points)

A well-thought-out costume and polished appearance enhance the performance's visual appeal and reflect the dancer's dedication. A carefully chosen costume that complements the routine's theme, along with neatly styled hair and makeup, demonstrates professionalism and attention to detail. A put-together look exudes confidence and keeps the focus on the performance, reducing distractions. This level of effort contributes to a cohesive, memorable performance, leading to higher scores.

Confidence (10 points)

Pole dancers will earn more points in their competition routine if they demonstrate strong confidence. Confidence in a routine indicates that the dancer is performing at a level well-suited to their skills, with combos that they have fully mastered. This level of self-assurance allows the audience and judges to focus on the artistry of the performance, without feeling concerned for the dancer's safety. If the performer is wearing heels or platforms, they must demonstrate comfort and confidence in their footwear; any signs of shakiness or instability can undermine the overall impression of confidence.

Deductions

Pole dancers may face deductions for issues affecting performance quality and safety, such as slips, falls, or the use of restricted moves. Judges assess these factors to ensure safety and compliance with competition guidelines, applying deductions for any deviations from expected skill levels and rules.

DEDUCTIONS

Deductions are applied for various performance issues or rule violations as follows:

- Slip or Fall (up to -3 points): 1 point per slip or fall
- Music Violations: -2 points
- Use of Moves Not Suitable for Division: -3 points
- Costume Violations (e.g., wearing a thong in the pole sport category): -2 points
- Other Violations (e.g., vulgar gestures): Determined by the head judge depending on the severity of the violation

For further details on regulations concerning music and other aspects, please refer to our rules and regulations document: [Rules and Regulations](#).



Pole Masters Championship - Pole Sport Divisions

Sample Score Sheet

Judging Criteria

Criteria	Max Points	Score	Judge's Notes
Balance of Program	/10		
Difficulty of individual Moves (tie-breaker)	/10		
Transitions	/10		
Flexibility Movements	/10		
Strength Moves	/10		
Dynamic Moves	/10		

Total:	/60
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Technique

Criteria	Max Points	Score	Judge's Notes
Lines and extensions	/10		
Musicality	/5		
Flow and Fluidity	/5		
Originality	/5		

Total:	/25
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Performance Quality

Criteria	Max Points	Score	Judge's Notes
Confidence	/5		
Stage Presence and Audience Connection	/5		
Costume and Presentation	/5		

Total:	/15
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Deductions

Criteria	Max Points Deducted	Score	Judge's Notes
Slip or Fall	/-3		
Music Violations	/-2		
Restricted Moves	NA		
Costume Violations	/-2		
Other	NA		

Total:	-
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Performance Total:	/100
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Pole Masters Championship - Pole Art Divisions
Sample Score Sheet

Judging Criteria

Criteria	Max Points	Score	Judge's Notes
Balance of Program	/10		
Transitions	/10		
Difficulty of individual Moves	/10		

Total:	/30
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Technique

Criteria	Max Points	Score	Judge's Notes
Lines and extensions	/10		
Musicality	/10		
Flow and Fluidity	/10		

Total:	/30
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Performance Quality

Criteria	Max Points	Score	Judge's Notes
Confidence	/5		
Stage Presence & Audience Connection	/10		

Total:	/15
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Artistry

Criteria	Max Points	Score	Judge's Notes
Costume and Presentation	/5		
Clear Expression of Theme/Story (tie-breaker)	/10		
Originality	/10		

Total:	/25
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Deductions

Criteria	Max Points Deducted	Score	Judge's Notes
Slip or Fall	/-3		
Music Violations	/-2		
Restricted Moves	NA		
Costume Violations	/-2		
Other	NA		

Total:	-
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Performance Total:	/100
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Pole Masters Championship - Pole Doubles / Pole Groups Divisions
Sample Score Sheet

Judging Criteria

Criteria	Max Points	Score	Judge's Notes
Balance of Program	/20		
Difficulty of Tricks	/20		

Total:	/40
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Technique

Criteria	Max Points	Score	Judge's Notes
Synchronicity (tie-breaker)	/15		
Transitions	/10		
Technical Execution	/10		

Total:	/35
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Artistry

Criteria	Max Points	Score	Judge's Notes
Originality	/10		
Performance Quality	/15		

Total:	/25
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Deductions

Criteria	Max Points Deducted	Score	Judge's Notes
Slip or Fall	/-3		
Music Violations	/-2		
Costume Violations	/-2		
Other			

Total:	-
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Performance Total:	/100
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**Pole Masters Championship - After Hours (Russian Style) / Low Flow /
Shadowbanned Divisions
Sample Score Sheet**

Judging Criteria

Criteria	Max Points	Score	Judge's Notes
Balance of Program	/10		
Difficulty of individual Moves	/10		
Transitions	/10		

Total:	/30
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Technique

Criteria	Max Points	Score	Judge's Notes
Lines and extensions	/10		
Flow and Fluidity (tie-breaker)	/10		
Musicality	/10		

Total:	/30
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Artistry

Criteria	Max Points	Score	Judge's Notes
Originality	/5		
Expression	/10		

Total:	/15
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Performance Quality

Criteria	Max Points	Score	Judge's Notes
Stage Presence & Audience Connection	/10		
Costume & Presentation	/5		
Confidence	/10		

Total:	/25
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Deductions

Criteria	Max Points Deducted	Score	Judge's Notes
Slip or Fall	/-3		
Music Violations	/-2		
Restricted Moves	NA		
Costume Violations	/-2		
Other	NA		

Total:	-
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Performance Total:	/100
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