

# BRKN THRU: The B.R.E.A.K. Judging System Guide

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## For Youth Competitors

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## Welcome to BRKN THRU!

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This guide will help you understand exactly how you'll be judged in the BRKN THRU competition. The B.R.E.A.K. System is designed to be fair and thorough - instead of one judge trying to score everything, **five expert judges** each focus on one specific area of your performance.

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## THE FIVE CATEGORIES

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### **B - BASICS**

**What's Being Judged:** Foundation and Technique - **Toprock** - Your standing dance moves - **Footwork** - Your floor work and stepping patterns - **Freezes** - Your holds and power positions

**How to Win:** Show mastery of breaking fundamentals. Clean, controlled, and well-executed basics will win this category.

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### **R - RISK**

**What's Being Judged:** Difficulty and Power - **Power Moves** - Windmills, flares, headspins, etc. - **Difficulty** - How hard are your moves to execute? - **Dynamics** - Explosive, athletic movements

**How to Win:** Take chances! Attempt harder moves with more power. The competitor who pushes their limits wins.

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### **E - EXECUTION**

**What's Being Judged:** Cleanliness and Control - **Control** - How well you handle your moves - **Cleanliness** - Smooth, precise execution - **Mistakes** - Fewer crashes = better score

**How to Win:** Focus on clean execution. If you crash (completely lose control), you automatically lose this category for that round.

**Special Rule:** If both dancers make the same amount of mistakes, whoever won RISK also wins EXECUTION.

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## A - ARTISTRY

**What's Being Judged:** Creativity and Musicality - **Musicality** - Dancing to the beat and rhythm  
- **Originality** - Unique style and moves - **Concepts** - Creative themes and ideas

**How to Win:** Show your personality! Be creative, dance to the music, and bring original concepts to your performance.

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## K - KNOCKOUT

**What's Being Judged:** Battle Strategy and Intensity - **Attack** - Are you going after your opponent? - **Intensity** - How much energy and passion? - **Strategy** - Smart battle choices and responses

**How to Win:** Battle with purpose! Respond to your opponent, show intensity, and make strategic moves that attack their weaknesses.

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## HOW THE JUDGING WORKS

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### The Process

1. **Five Judges** - Each judge focuses on only ONE category
2. **After Each Round** - Every judge picks a winner (Red or Blue) for their category
3. **No Ties** - Someone must win each category (except EXECUTION has special tie rules)
4. **Comparative** - Judges compare both dancers directly

### Important Rules

- **Specialists Judge Each Area** - You're evaluated by experts in each category
  - **Every Round Counts** - Each judge picks a winner after every single round
  - **No Ties Allowed** - Except in EXECUTION (see special rule above)
  - **Strategy Matters** - Understanding these categories helps you plan your approach
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## STRATEGY TIPS FOR COMPETITORS

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### Play to Your Strengths

- **Strong in Power?** Focus on winning RISK
- **Great Foundation?** Make sure you win BASICS
- **Creative Dancer?** Emphasize ARTISTRY
- **Battle Warrior?** Dominate KNOCKOUT

### Round Planning

- **Plan Your Rounds** - Think about which categories you want to target
- **Balance Your Performance** - Don't ignore any category completely
- **Adapt to Your Opponent** - Adjust your strategy based on their style

### ⚠ Common Mistakes to Avoid

- **Crashing in EXECUTION** - This costs you the category automatically
- **Ignoring the Music** - ARTISTRY judges musicality heavily
- **Not Battling** - You need intensity and strategy for KNOCKOUT
- **Sloppy Basics** - Even power moves need good foundation

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## WHAT EACH JUDGE IS LOOKING FOR

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### BASICS Judge Wants to See:

- Clean toprock with good rhythm
- Controlled footwork patterns
- Stable, well-held freezes
- Proper technique and form

### RISK Judge Wants to See:

- Challenging power moves
- Athletic, explosive movements
- Moves that push your limits
- Dynamic energy and power

## **EXECUTION Judge Wants to See:**

- No crashes or major mistakes
- Smooth, controlled movement
- Clean landings and transitions
- Precise execution of all moves

## **ARTISTRY Judge Wants to See:**

- Dancing that matches the music
- Original moves and concepts
- Creative use of space and levels
- Personal style and expression

## **KNOCKOUT Judge Wants to See:**

- Direct responses to your opponent
  - High energy and intensity
  - Strategic move choices
  - Confident, aggressive battling
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## **FINAL REMINDERS**

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### **Do:**

- Understand your strengths and weaknesses
- Practice clean execution of your moves
- Listen to the music and dance to it
- Battle with intensity and strategy
- Take calculated risks

### **Don't:**

- Attempt moves you can't control
  - Ignore any category completely
  - Dance without responding to the music
  - Battle without strategy or intensity
  - Give up if you make a mistake
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## REMEMBER

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This system is designed to be **fair** and **transparent**. Each judge is an expert in their specific area, so you know exactly what they're looking for. Use this knowledge to:

- **Prepare strategically** for each category
  - **Showcase your strengths** while working on weaknesses
  - **Battle intelligently** with purpose and intensity
  - **Have fun** while competing at your highest level
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### **Good luck at BRKN THRU!**

Now get out there and show what you've got in all five categories!

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For more information about BRKN THRU, visit the competition officials or reach out to the event organizers.