



## Competition Rules 2016

### Knowing the Rules

All competitors should read these rules carefully prior to participating in the competition. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules whether they have read them or not. The Organiser's decision on all matters is final.

### Eligibility

Each competition is open to all competitors who:

1. hold a weekend pass or a full event pass;
2. register by the official entry deadline[s] as detailed in the event programme;
3. pay the required entry fee[s] and complete the required entry forms;
4. meet all other specific entry requirements as outlined in these rules.

### Multiple Registrations

Each eligible competitor may enter only one skill level Jack & Jill competition (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Star). Competitors at least 35 years of age may also enter the Sophisticated Division. Competitors may compete in both Classic and Strictly, so long as they have different partners per division.

### Appropriate Behavior and Dress Code

It is the desire of the Organizer to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing quality of dancing and good taste. To encourage this balance, any action that the judges believe would make them uncomfortable in a social dance setting (such as wearing inappropriate attire or showing disrespect toward one's partner, other dancers, or the event) is prohibited. Comedy routines and props are not allowed. Competitors should check with the Organizer or Chief Judge in advance if they have questions regarding the acceptability of their routine or competition attire.

### Division Qualifications

It is the organisers aim to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to a fair and appropriate classification using the **honour** system. If you have any doubt please contact the organiser who will give guidance. The organiser's decision is final.

## Responsibilities of Competitors

1. **Planning Ahead.** Competitors should check the weekend schedule in advance in order to arrive in time to meet registration deadlines. They should bring appropriate competition attire. They should also plan ahead so as to be on time for all meetings and competitions. Competitors are responsible for checking at the event for any changes to previously announced schedules, which are always subject to change.
2. **Knowing the Rules.** All competitors should read these rules carefully prior to attending the contestant meeting for their competition. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules whether they have read them or not. Questions about the rules should be asked at the contestant meeting, or addressed in advance to the Organizer or the Chief Judge.
3. **Being Prepared to Compete.** Competitors should be present in the ballroom or at the marshaling area at least 10 minutes prior to the start of their competition. Competitors are responsible for their bib numbers and will be charged a replacement fee if lost. Any change in partnership for the couple's competitions may require an additional entry fee as well as a new entry form and waiver. Any cancellation by a competitor or couple after the registration deadline will result in the loss of the entry fee.
4. **Demonstrating Good Sporting Conduct.** Competitors must demonstrate good sporting conduct at all times, both on and off the competition floor. Competitors may not speak to judges regarding their placements or scores until after the awards have been given. It is bad sportsmanship to badger or argue with judges about placements and scores. Competitors must also refrain from any behavior that the judges deem inappropriate. Failure to adhere to this code of behavior may result in disqualification.

## Petitions for Reclassification

It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to a fair and appropriate classification using the honor system. In the event that competitors feel uncomfortable with their assigned classification, they may petition for reclassification on their entry form by providing a brief, written explanation of the reason(s) for their request. Competitors must submit such petitions at the contest registration desk prior to the earliest registration deadline for the competition(s) in question. Petitions for reclassification will be reviewed by the Organizer, in consultation with the Chief Judge, and contestants will be notified as quickly as possible of the outcome. The Organizer reserves the right to reclassify any contestant for any reason.

## Changes to These Rules

The Organizer will make every effort to conduct all competitions in accordance with these rules. However, the Organizer reserves the right to make any changes in schedule or format deemed necessary for any competition

## Definitions:

"Points" means points listed in the World Swing Dance Council Competitors Registry.

**Swing Content Definition:** To identify the presence of swing the judges will use the following USA NASDE 'Statement of Swing'.

*Swing is an American Rhythm Dance based on a foundation of 6-beat and 8-beat patterns that incorporate a wide variety of rhythms built on 2-beat single, delayed, double, triple, and blank rhythm units. The 6-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, passes, underarm turns, push-breaks, open-to-closed, and closed-to-open position patterns. The 8-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, whips, swing-outs, Lindy circles, and shag pivots. Although they are not part of the foundation of the dance as stated above, 2-beat and 4-beat extension rhythm breaks may be incorporated to extend a pattern, to phrase the music, and/or to accent breaks.*

# Jack & Jill Divisions

The Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight social dance skills in spontaneous swing dancing and the ability to dance well with a variety of partners. Some 'luck of the draw' comes into play as well.

## Format

Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected in advance by the competition DJ. The number of entries in each division will determine the number of rounds that may be held and will be danced in a heated format. ***The Final of the All-Star and Advanced Jack & Jill Divisions will be danced in Spotlight.*** Each competition must have a minimum of 5 leaders and 5 followers. The maximum number of entries will be determined by the organisers.

**WSDC points will be awarded for the All-star, Advanced, Intermediate Novice and Newcomer categories.**

## General

Male competitors must enter as '*leaders*' and female competitors must enter as '*followers*'. Competitors must be at least fourteen (14) years of age. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.

## Qualifications

Our qualifications for entries promote fairness and competitor enjoyment by grouping dancers of similar ability in the same division. Our rules are based on the World Swing Dance Council recommendations. It is the Organiser's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to the appropriate classification using the honour system. If you are not comfortable dancing in the division where these qualifications place you and would like to dance up or down, please petition the organiser. Most reasonable petitions will be approved.

## Newcomer Division

- Open to any dancer 14 years old and above who has been dancing West Coast Swing for less than 18 months prior to the competition.

## Novice

- Competitors with fewer than 15 novice points should dance in this division.
- Competitors with 15 or more novice points must dance in a higher division.

## Intermediate

- Competitors with 15 or more novice points, but fewer than 30 intermediate points should dance in this division.
- Competitors with 30 or more intermediate points must dance in a higher division.
- Competitors with fewer than 15 novice points who have any intermediate points may, but are not required to, dance in this division.

## Advanced

- Competitors with 30 or more intermediate points should dance in this division.
- Competitors with fewer than 30 intermediate points who have any advanced points may, but are not required to, dance in this division.

## All Star

- Competitors with 45 or more advanced points earned within 3 years prior to the event should dance in this division.

## **Rising Star Jack & Jill Division**

This is an all-in one, gender-neutral, skill-capped division.

- Based on the WSDC points system, only Newcomer, Novice and Intermediate dancers may, but are not required to dance in their traditional role.
- Advanced and All-star dancers can only compete in their opposite role.
- Competitors may not enter twice dancing both roles.

### **Format**

Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected in advance by the competition DJ. The number of entries in each division will determine the number of rounds that may be held and will be danced in a heated format. The Final will be danced in Spotlight. The maximum number of entries will be determined by the organisers.

### **General**

Competitors must be at least fourteen (14) years of age. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.

## **Strictly Swing Divisions**

Swing dancing that encourages lead and follow partner dancing at its best. Although swing includes amalgamations and patterns that are familiar to many dancers, the essence of lead and follow must be maintained in and out of these patterns. Strictly Swing Division is not meant for long and extended pre-choreographed phrases. Improvised choreography is the objective. Drops, leans, circular movements and other partner weight support moves are allowed as long as both partners keep at least one foot on the floor.

### **General**

1. Competitors will be one Leader and one Follower.
2. Minimum number of entries will be determined by the organisers.
3. Guidelines for expected swing content are 90% in Strictly Swing. It is at the judge's discretion to determine that the required swing content has been met.
4. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division level.
5. The same partners may not dance together in a Strictly contest and a choreography contest.
6. Non traditional gender roles are welcome in these contests.
7. You may lead at one level and follow at the next higher or lower level.
8. You may not enter the same level dancing both roles.
9. Couples should choose the highest skill level for which they qualify.

### **Specific**

1. Contestants must be least fourteen (14) years or older by the end of the event to participate
2. Length of performance is at the organiser's discretion.
3. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable.
4. The "lead" and "follow" roles are not gender specific. All dancers, regardless of the role they are dancing, must dance in the level they would dance in the JnJ.
5. This division will be danced in heats, semi-finals and final as deemed appropriate by the organiser.
6. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.
7. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
8. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
9. At most, 5 partner weight support moves are permitted.

# Classic Division

Swing dancing that allows choreography with an "on the ground" approach to the dance. Drops, leans, circular movements and other partner weight support moves are allowed as long as both partners keep at least one foot on the floor. NASDE rules apply. If any Event rule conflicts with published NASDE rules, the NASDE rules take precedence

## General

1. Contestants must be 16 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
3. Minimum number of entries will be determined by the organisers.
4. Guidelines for expected swing content are 80% in Classic. It is at the judge's discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
5. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.

## Specific

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3½ minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the chief judge.
2. Competitors select their own music.
3. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
4. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
5. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music.
6. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.
7. Break-away in Classic Division to be no more than 8 beats effective January 1, 2009.
8. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
9. At most five partner weight support moves are permitted.