

BUDAFEST

Competition Rules (2017)

BUDAFEST COMPETITION RULES

Competition Organizer

Final decision on any matter pertaining to these competitions rests solely with the organizer(s) of BudaFest.

General Competition Requirements

Each competition is open to all competitors in good standing who:

1. hold a full weekend ticket and pay all associated registrations fees;
2. register by the official entry deadlines(s) as outlined in the weekend schedule;
3. pay the require entry fee(s) and complete any required entry forms.
4. meet all other specific entry requirements as outlined in these rules.

Contest Requirements:

1. Entries: All contest must have a minimum of five (5) entries to be a valid contest.
2. Judges: There will be a minimum of seven (7) Judges for all competitions.
3. Scoring System: Contests are scored by computer using relative placement. Contestants will be judged in the preliminaries, quarter-finals and/or semi-finals as an individual and as a couple in any finals.

Role/Gender Requirements:

Liberty is open to persons of any gender dancing either lead or follow, as they prefer, and we encourage you to register in whichever role you would like to when dancing. However, each competitor may enter one skilled division as either a Leader or Follower, within their respective skill level division.

Appropriate Behavior and Dress Code:

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. Competitors should check with the Organizer or Chief Judge in advance if they have any questions.

Competitors are encouraged not to wear jeans or "too casual" attire for competitions. Please dress in appropriate attire; if you have a clothing issue, please contact the chief judge for prior approval.

Responsibilities of Competitors

1. 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. 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 addressed Organizer or the Chief Judge.
3. Competitors should be present in the ballroom at least 15 minutes prior to the start of their competition marshalling.
4. Any cancellation by a competitor or couple after the registration deadline will result in the loss of the entry fee.

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5. 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 Division Reclassification

The (WSDC) World Swing Dance Council Points Registry is used to determine eligibility for the West Coast Swing Jack & Jill skill levels. Current WSDC points information is available online at www.swingdancecouncil.com for anyone to look up which division they have qualified for.

Competitors are expected to honor this system when registering. Breach of this honor system will lead to disqualification of the competitor.

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. Petitions for reclassification will be reviewed by 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

However, the Organizer reserves the right to make any changes in schedule/format deemed necessary for any competition.

DIVISION RULES

JACK & JILL DIVISIONS

Competitors enter as an individual and dance with a randomly chosen partner. The DJ picks the music. Leaders and followers are randomly paired and there will be several partner changes during the preliminary and semi-final rounds. Competitors are scored individually on timing, technique and teamwork in the preliminary heats. Those scoring the highest will be called back later to dance in a final round. In the final, individuals are randomly paired, then scored as a couple. The DJ picks the music. Music tempo and style will vary. All songs will be appropriate for the dance division entered.

Each competitor may enter one skilled division as either a Leader or Follower, within their respective skill level division.

Division Qualifications:

Newcomer: A beginner or competitor that has never competed and has no points. However, if the competitor has previously competed in a novice level competition, the competitor is strongly encouraged to enter the novice division.

Novice: Competitors must stay in Novice until they have earned at least 15 points in Novice.

Intermediate: Competitors must have earned at least 15 points in Novice; and less than 30 points in Intermediate.

Advanced: Competitors must have earned at least 30 points or more in Intermediate.

All Star: Competitors must have earned at least 45 points in Advanced.

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Sophisticated: For competitors who are at least 35 years old by the end of the event. Competitors may also dance in a skill level Jack & Jill (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, **All-Star**)

STRICTLY SWING DIVISIONS:

Sign up with your partner. We pick the music. Different skill levels are offered. Each is a separate contest. Couples will dance in heats for several short songs. Judges will evaluate the couples based on their demonstration of good social dancing skills, timing, technique, connection, lead and follow, presentation and showmanship. Strictly Swing division is not meant for long and extended pre-choreographed phrases.

Strictly Swing contests are offered.

Novice and Open: For these divisions a couple must enter the highest skill level either of them qualifies for based on WSDC points (If either partner qualifies for intermediate or a higher WSDC level, then the couple must enter the Open division).

Specific:

1. Contestants must be least fourteen (16) years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion.
3. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits are acceptable and encouraged.
4. This division will be danced in heats for preliminaries and semi-finals (if needed).
5. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
6. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
7. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
8. Lifts are not allowed.
9. The same partners may not dance together in a Strictly Swing contest and a choreography contest.
10. You may lead at one level and follow at the next higher or lower level.
11. You may not enter 2 levels dancing the same role.
12. You may not enter the same level dancing both roles.

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.

General:

1. Contestants must be 18 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
3. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the Event's discretion. There is no minimum number of entries.
4. Guidelines for expected swing content are: at 80% in Classic. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
5. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
6. A competitor representative must be present at the draw order meeting. If the couple does not officially draw, the draw order will be last place.
7. Competitors must submit their music to the DJ at least 4 hours prior to the start of the contest. The earlier the better, preferably on the previous day.

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Specific:

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 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 break-a-ways, and recoveries.
7. Break-away in Classic Division to be no more than 8 beats or music.
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.
10. Props are not allowed.
11. A couple must dance in the order drawn unless changed and approved by the chief judge.

Restarts

A contestant may request a restart in special cases, such as:

Our DJ plays the wrong music for your routine; sound system fails; shoe breaks, costume malfunction/or loss of a vital piece of clothing; lights go out in ballroom during the performance; the Chief Judge calls a restart if the CJ believes it is fair and in the best interest of the contestants and the competition.

If competitor completes their routine but believe that they should be allowed to restart due to special circumstance they **MUST** make their request to the CJ prior to leaving the floor.

1. If the CJ approves the restart the competitors may elect to perform the routine again with the previous performance scores voided.
2. If the request is denied by the CJ then the performance that was danced will count in the competition.

If competitor requests a restart before the end of your performance and stops dancing:

1. If the CJ approves the restart, competitors will be allowed to restart and the previous performance scores will be voided.
2. A competitor may not request a restart because they are dissatisfied with their performance, partner, music or fails to remember part of the routine.
3. Decisions of CJ are final.
4. If a restart is granted the competitor will be allowed to restart after the next couple in dance order.

Judging Criteria:

Swing Content:

1. In all divisions, the amount of Swing content that is required or allowed will be evaluated by each judge. A judge will mark his score sheet as follows:

- a. Swing Warning - If a judge feels there may not be enough Swing content in a routine, they will mark their sheet with an SW and their score will not reflect a lower score.
- b. Swing Violation – If a judge feels there isn't enough Swing content in a routine, they will mark their sheet with an SV and their score will reflect a lower score.

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Judges:

1. Judges will be scoring the performances according to the above criteria.
2. Performances reviewed by the Review Panel will be final.
3. Judges decisions are final. In the unlikely case of ties in scores, the system is designed in compliance with the relative placement scoring system as defined by the World Swing Dance Council.
4. Deductions or demotions for violations of rules are applied by the Chief Judge from indications and observations of the judges.

Referee:

1. The organizers have hired a referee to check routines to make sure they adhere to the rules for that division. The referee's job is to identify infractions in a routine, which can include:
 - a. the length of routine
 - b. costuming requirements
 - c. move restrictions
 - d. move requirements
 - e. length of breakaways
 - f. the use of an unapproved prop.
2. The Referee will sit with the judging panel for all Classic Division.
3. The procedure for the Referee:
 - a. If the Referee flags a routine, he will review the routine a second time.
 - b. If he concludes there still may be an infraction, he will submit the performance to the Review
 - c. If he concludes there is NOT an infraction after the second viewing, it will not be submitted to the Review Panel.
4. If it is a length of time infraction, it does not need to go the Review Panel. It can be verified with the Chief Judge. If there is a length of time infraction (too short or too long), it will be considered a Violation.
5. The Referee does not judge Swing content on the performance.

Review Panel:

1. The Review Panel will consist of the Chief Judge and two other judges. There are a total of three votes. The Chief Judge will select the Review Panel.
2. The Referee will present the case, but does not have a vote.
3. The performance in question will be reviewed by the Review Panel. There will be a short discussion and then a vote. Majority rules.
4. If the Review Panel votes there is an infraction, they then will decide whether an error or a violation will be imposed.
5. Any performance may be reviewed by the Review Panel. This process is to insure that the rules, as written, are adhered to.

Errors and Violations:

1. Pass – The performance was reviewed and passed. No action is taken.
2. An Error – An error is a minor and apparently unintentional breaking of the rules. It is a mistake. If the review panel agrees it is an error, no action will be taken. It will be assumed the error was reflected in the Judges' score.
3. Violation – A violation is a breach of the rules. Violations submitted by the referee or any of the judges will be reviewed by a review panel. If the violation is Passed by the Review Panel no action will be taken. If the Violation fails the review panel, the couple may be awarded last place and disqualified from winning any prize money. The severity of violation is at the discretion for the chief judge; the chief judge may consult with the judging panel for violation penalties.