

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 an Event Pass (Workshop Pass, Party Pass, All Star Pass) and pay all associated registrations fees;
2. Register by the official entry deadlines(s) as outlined in the weekend schedule;
3. Pay the required 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 three (3) Judges per role for all prelims competitions and a minimum of five (5) Judges for all competition finals.
3. Scoring System: Contests are scored by computer using relative placement.
4. Contestants will be judged in the preliminaries, quarter-finals and/or semi-finals as an individual in Jack & Jill competitions and as a couple in any finals.

Role/Gender Requirements:

Persons of any gender can chose to dance either lead or follow, as they prefer. We encourage you to register in whichever role you would like to when dancing.

Non-dominant Role Competing and Tracking:

1. Competitors may compete in a maximum of two (2) skill level WSDC Jack and Jill competitions, once in their primary role and once in their secondary role (previously, competitors had to choose to compete in only one role for the skill level J&J).
2. Competitors must maintain their role, either as a Leader or Follower, throughout the contest - switching roles during your dances is not allowed for more than 8 beats of music.
3. Competitors will be awarded points as either a leader or follower. Those points will be tracked separately in the WSDC Points Registry for advancement to the next skill level.
4. Competitors qualify for their dance level based on either their Leader or Follower points, whichever is higher.
5. *Competitors must dance **one (1) level down** in their secondary role, with the following clarifications:*
 - a) *Competitors with points in both their primary and secondary roles at the same skill level must select only one (1) role to compete in (either their primary or secondary role) for that event's skill level contest.*
 - b) *Competitors who choose to dance at a higher level in their primary role must dance one level down in their secondary role (e.g., Competitor has 39 points in Intermediate as a Leader and is allowed to dance in Advanced. They may choose to dance in Intermediate as Leader and in Novice as Follower OR in Advanced as Leader and in Intermediate as Follower.)*
 - c) *Competitors who are Novice in their primary role may choose to dance in either Novice or Newcomer in their secondary role. If they choose to dance in Novice in their secondary role, they may not compete twice in the same skill level.*
 - d) *Competitors are not permitted to dance both roles in the same 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, 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.

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Competition Rules (2024)

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 marshaling 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 to the Organizer or the Chief Judge.
3. Competitors should be present in the ballroom or in the marshaling area at least **10 minutes prior** to the start of their competition marshaling. Failure to arrive at your scheduled marshaling times may lead to disqualification.
4. Any cancellation or disqualification by a competitor or couple after the registration deadline will result in the loss of the entry fee.
5. Competitors must demonstrate good sporting conduct at all times, both on and off the dance 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.worldsdc.com for anyone to look up which division they have qualified for.

Competitors who wish to dance one level “up” or “down” (i.e., in a higher or lower division than their points would allow) **must submit a formal petition** to the Chief Judge or they will not receive points if they reach the final or a placement.

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

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, quarter-final, or 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.

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Eligibility

Our Jack & Jill competitions are open to anyone who knows the basic West Coast Swing (WCS) patterns, such as:

- Starter step
- Basic throw-out
- Sugar push
- Underarm turn
- Left side pass
- Right side pass
- Rolling side pass
- Tuck
- Whip

Jack & Jill contests offered:

1. Newcomer
2. Novice
3. Intermediate
4. Sophisticated (age 35+)
5. Master (age 50+)
6. Advanced
7. All-Star
8. Champion

Division Qualifications:

Leveled WSDC West Coast Swing Jack & Jill divisions

The World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Points Registry determines eligibility for these leveled West Coast Swing Jack & Jill contests. Look up your level here: www.worldsdc.com.

Competitors are responsible for entering only contests they qualify for. If you haven't earned any WSDC points you can choose to start in Newcomer or Novice.

Champions Jack & Jill

This division is intended for the top champion-level competitors. You may enter this division at BudaFest if any of the following apply:

- You have earned 150 or more All-Stars points; or
- You have earned 1 or more Champions Jack & Jill points; or
- You have won the All-star Jack & Jill division at BudaFest in the past 5 years (2019-); or
- You have won the Open Strictly division at BudaFest in the past 5 years (2019-); or
- You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.

All Stars who qualify are not required to compete in Champions.

Sophisticated Jack & Jill

This WSDC division is intended for competitors who are at least 35 years old. It is open to all skill levels, but you should know the basic West Coast Swing (WCS) patterns. (See above for a list.)

If you enter this division, you may also enter a WSDC Jack & Jill skill level division (Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars, Champions or even Masters) in your primary or secondary role(s).

Masters Jack & Jill

This WSDC division is intended for competitors who are at least 50 years old. It is open to all skill levels, but you should know the basic West Coast Swing (WCS) patterns. (See above for a list.)

If you enter this division, you may also enter a WSDC Jack & Jill skill level division (Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars, Champions or even Sophisticated) in your primary or secondary role(s).

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SPECIFIC RULES FOR JACK & JILLS DIVISIONS:

1. Contestants must be at least sixteen (16) years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Music will be selected by our DJ staff; length of music and number of songs per heat is at the promoter's discretion.
3. This division will be danced in heats for preliminaries, quarter-finals, and semi-finals (if needed).
4. Lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed. Support moves, such as drops, slides, and splits are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor. The only exception to this rule is that lifts are allowed (but not required) in the Champions J&J Division.
5. You may not enter 2 levels dancing the same role.
6. You may not enter the same level dancing both roles.
7. You may not change roles during the Jack & Jill contest for more than eight (8) beats of music.

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 offered:

1. Novice / Intermediate
2. 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 Advanced or a higher WSDC level, then the couple must enter the Open division).

SPECIFIC RULES FOR STRICTLY SWING DIVISIONS:

1. Contestants must be at least sixteen (16) years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Music will be selected by our DJ staff; length of music and number of songs per heat 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. Lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed. Support moves, such as drops, slides, and splits are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
8. The same partners may not dance together in a Strictly Swing contest and a choreography contest.
9. You may lead at one level and follow at the next higher or lower level. You may never dance in a division if are overqualified in your selected role.
10. You may not enter 2 different levels dancing the same role.
11. You may not enter the same level dancing both roles.
12. You may not change roles during the Strictly Swing contest for more than eight (8) beats of music.

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.