



2009 COMPETITION RULES

GENERAL RULES

1. Dancers must have a weekend ticket to compete in any division.
2. This is a swing dance event. "Swing" includes Push, Whip, West and East Coast Swing, Lindy, Carolina Shag, Jitterbug, Jamaica, Bop, and D.C. Hand Dancing.
3. Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing are limited to West Coast Swing/Push/Whip. All other divisions are open to all forms of swing.
4. All divisions are for male leaders and female followers (exceptions may apply if there is a shortage of leaders in the Strictly Swing division).
5. Dancers may compete in all four dance divisions: Jack & Jill, Strictly Swing, Pro-am and Classic. Dancers may enter only one level of each division. Dancers may enter each division only once per contest. Dancers must compete with a different partner in each division they enter.
6. Dancers must be 18 years of age by the end of the event to dance in any division except Classic. Dancers must be 35 years of age by the end of the event to dance in Sophisticated Strictly Swing.
7. Penalties for infractions will be determined by the chief judge. Penalties may be reduction in placement up to and including disqualification. No refunds will be given to competitors after their performance.
8. We may cancel any division for which fewer than three entries are received. Contestants will receive a refund of their competitor fee for that division.
9. **Eligibility**
 - a. Competitors should choose levels appropriate to their skill and dance styles. We reserve the right to move competitors to more appropriate levels or to reject entries inappropriate for any of our divisions. For questions prior to the event, e-mail Donna Woods at SwingDanceAmerica1@yahoo.com.
 - b. The following are not eligible to compete in the Novice Classic, Novice Jack & Jill, or Novice Strictly Swing divisions: anyone who has (i) danced in "Open Class" competition at a multi-club association-sponsored state or regional competition or equivalent (ii) danced as the "Pro" in any swing competition Pro/Am division, (iii) won any NASDE division at any NASDE competition.
10. **Clothing and behavior**
 - a. In choosing attire, please remember there will be children in the audience. Competitors are encouraged to contact one of our contest coordinators in advance for guidance in particular situations.

- b. Competitors should conduct themselves maturely and display sportsmanship. Contestants displaying poor behavior may be disqualified from competition with no refund or ejected from the event.

MANDATORY DANCERS' MEETINGS AND DEADLINES FOR WAIVERS AND ENTRY FEES

Friday Competitions: Friday competitors must submit waivers and entry fees at the front desk by 7:30 PM Friday. The competitors' meeting is at 8:00 PM for all Friday divisions. **The meeting is mandatory** unless specific arrangements are made in advance with the chief judge, Mike Topel.

Saturday Competitions: Saturday competitors must sign waivers and entry fees at the front desk by 11:00 AM Saturday. The competitors' meeting is at Noon. **The meeting is mandatory** unless specific arrangements are made in advance with the chief judge, Mike Topel.

COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS

Strictly Swing Division

1. Levels larger than 12 entries will be danced in a preliminary round. The chief judge will determine the dance format in each round (all-skate, heat, or spotlight). The chief judge will determine the number of call-backs to finals, if a preliminary round is run.
2. Couples must demonstrate a minimum of 90 percent swing content in Strictly Swing.
3. No lifts or aerials. Partner-supported drops are allowed (safely executed) in Advanced only.
4. Costumes are not allowed, but matching dress/clothing are encouraged.

Jack & Jill Division

1. There are no limits to the number of entries. Levels that are unmatched in gender will be danced in a preliminary round to create a balanced final. Levels larger than 12 entries will be danced in a preliminary round. In the preliminary round(s), competitors will be judged individually by gender.
2. All leaders will be male and all followers will be female.
3. Competitors will dance West Coast Swing/Push/Whip.
4. The chief judge will determine the number of leaders and followers to be called back for the final round in each level, where they will draw for partners and be judged as a couple.
5. The chief judge will determine the dance format in each round (all-skate, heat, or spotlight).
6. Couples must demonstrate a minimum of 90 percent swing content in Jack & Jill.
7. No lifts or aerials. Partner-supported drops are allowed (safely executed) in Advanced only.
8. Costumes are not allowed.

Jack & Jill Level Eligibility Guidelines

These Guidelines are meant to help you decide which Jack & Jill level is most appropriate for you. The Guidelines are based on the World Swing Dance Council's ("WSDC") point system and the recommendations on its website. Even though the WSDC's approach is widely recognized, Jack & Jill level eligibility guidelines still vary considerably from one event to the next. Therefore, our Guidelines will not be applied as absolutes - they are intended to help, not to dictate. These Guidelines also will be available for review at the Jack & Jill sign-up table at the event.

You may request an exception to these Guidelines if you believe they will place you in an inappropriate level. Such requests should be made as soon as possible. Prior to the event, you may submit questions concerning these Guidelines to Donna Woods (donnaewoods@yahoo.com). During the event, you should contact the chief judge (Mike Topel).

We reserve the right (on our own initiative) to assign a dancer to a different level other than the one suggested by these Guidelines in order to avoid an inappropriate assignment.

Novice

Generally, this level will be appropriate for you if:

1. you are proficient in the basics of West Coast Swing/Push/Whip dancing, **and**
2. you do not normally compete in Intermediate or higher level Jack & Jill divisions at events reporting points in the WSDC registry, and you have not earned Intermediate or higher level WSDC points.

Generally, you **may** compete in this Novice division until you have both won a WSDC Novice Jack & Jill division **and** earned 20 or more WSDC Novice points at events reporting points in the WSDC registry.

Intermediate

Generally, this level will be appropriate for you if:

1. you have earned 20 or more Novice WSDC points including a win in Novice, and are ready to compete at this level or you have earned Intermediate level WSDC points and typically compete at the Intermediate Jack & Jill level at events reporting points in the WSDC registry, **and**
2. you do not typically compete in Advanced or higher level Jack & Jill levels at events reporting points in the WSDC registry and have not earned Advanced or higher level WSDC points

Generally, you **may** compete in this Intermediate level until you have both won an Intermediate Jack & Jill division at an event reporting points in the WSDC registry **and** earned 40 Intermediate level WSDC points.

Advanced

Generally, this level will be appropriate for you if you typically compete in Advanced or higher level Jack & Jill divisions at events reporting points in the WSDC registry, and you have earned Advanced or higher level WSDC points. You **may** compete in this level if you have accumulated 20 or more Intermediate level WSDC points and are ready to compete at this level.

All-Stars

All-Stars are Advanced dancers with a minimum of 40 advanced points, including a win.

Classic Divisions

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. For additional rules regarding Classic swing, refer to NASDE's website: <http://www.nasde.com/NASDERules.php3>

Two levels of Classic:

Classic A (Open): This division is for Advanced or higher dancers, or any couple who have significant West Coast Swing routine experience.

Classic B (Novice) also called Rising Star Division: This division is for couples who do not have significant West Coast Swing routine experience or have not danced in an "Open" or Professional division in Classic. Some events refer to this as "Rising Star."

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.
2. Costumes are required. The chief judge will determine if a costume is appropriate (whether the costume is dressy enough or if it is vulgar).
3. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
4. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music.
5. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.
6. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight-support moves.
7. At most, five partner weight-support moves are permitted.
8. Couples must demonstrate a minimum of 80 percent swing content.
9. All contestants **must** provide a CD with their name, track number, pitch/speed, and starting position clearly labeled.

Recommendation: BRING AT LEAST TWO (2) CD'S WITH YOUR MUSIC TO THE EVENT – JUST IN CASE ONE HAS A SKIP, OR ONE GETS BROKEN, ETC.