

Final decision on any matter pertaining to these competitions rests solely with the Organizer.

## **GENERAL COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS**

**General Eligibility.** Each competition is open to all competitors in good standing who:

- hold a full weekend package ticket;
- register by the official entry deadline(s) (see the weekend schedule);
- pay the required entry fee(s) and complete any required entry forms, including signed waivers; and
- meet all other specific entry requirements as outlined in these rules.

### **Multiple Registrations**

Each eligible competitor may choose to enter one Jack & Jill level, one Strictly Swing level. Masters Jack & Jill dancers may also compete in the appropriate Jack & Jill level division. Competitors may compete in both Classic and Showcase, so long as they have different partners per division. Competitors may compete in both Classic and Showcase, so long as they have different partners per division. Any Classic or Showcase contestant who also enters Strictly Swing must compete with a different partner in each division.

### **Waiver Forms**

Each contestant must sign the appropriate waiver form. No contestant will be permitted to compete without a signed waiver form. All contestants under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian sign any required forms. All dancers under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian in the ballroom with them at all times.

### **Age Requirements**

Outlined in the specific qualification for each division. Competitors under the age of 14 are not allowed to compete at this event.

### **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.

### **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 competition. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules whether they have read them or not. Questions about the rules should be asked in advance to the Organizer or the Chief Judge.

3. **Being Prepared to Compete.** Competitors should be present in the ballroom at least 10 minutes prior to the start of their competition. Competitors are responsible for their bib numbers. 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 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, swingouts, 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.

## **DIVISION RULES**

### **PRO-AM DIVISION**

#### **General**

1. Amateurs may enter in one Division Level: Novice, Intermediate or Advanced.
2. Each professional shall have no more than 3 Amateurs in each Division Level (Novice, Intermediate & Advanced).

3. It is the Organizer's goal to encourage Pro/Am competitions as a learning tool for the Amateurs, and requires that a prior Student/Teacher relationship exists between the competitors. This is defined as at least 1 hour of private instruction in the previous 6 months.

### **Specific**

1. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion. Music will be chosen by the Organizer.
2. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable.
3. This division will be danced in heats.
4. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
5. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
6. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
7. At most, 5 partner weight support moves are permitted.

### **JACK & JILL DIVISION**

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. A bit of "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. Depending on the number of entries, preliminary and semi-final rounds may be held and will be danced in a heated format. Finals will be danced in spotlight format. Each division must have at least 5 leaders and 5 followers. There is no maximum number of competitors.

### **General**

Each competitor may enter only one skill level Jack & Jill competition (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Champions) Competitors at least 50 years of age may also enter the Masters Division. Competitors must be at least 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.

Competitors can register as either a leader or follower.

### **Division 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 Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to the appropriate classification using the honor 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 (see "Petitions"). All reasonable petitions will be approved.

### **Novice:**

- Competitors with fewer than 15 novice points should dance in this division.
- Competitors with 16 or more novice points AND a win in novice 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 AND a win in intermediate must dance in a higher division.

**Masters:**

- For competitors who are at least 50 years old by the end of the event.
- Masters competitors may also dance in a skill level Jack & Jill (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced or Champions).

**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.
- Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational Jack & Jill or Strictly Swing held at a qualifying major event (see definitions) must dance in a higher division.

**All-Stars:**

- Competitors with 45 or more advance points should dance in this division.
- Competitors with fewer than 45 advance points who have any All-Star points may, but are not required to, dance in this division.
- Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational Jack & Jill or Strictly Swing held at a qualifying major events (see definitions) must dance in a higher division.

**Champions:**

- Competitors may, but are not required to, dance in this division if they have any earned Professional (PRO), Champions (CHMP), Invitational (INV) or Teachers (TCH) points.
- Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational J&J or Strictly Swing held at qualifying major event (see definitions) must dance in this division.

**STRICTLY SWING DIVISION**

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. Choreography "on the fly" 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

Guidelines for expected swing content are 90% in Strictly Swing. It is at the judge's discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.

Each competitor may enter only one skill level based on Jack & Jill World Swing Dance Council competition rules (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Star, Champions). Each competitor at least 50 years of age may also enter the Master's Division but must do so with a different partner. Each competitor at least 35 years of age may also enter the Sophisticated Division but must do so with a different partner. 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.

Competitors can register as either a leader or follower.

## Specific

1. Contestants must be at least 14 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 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 Jack & Jill.
5. This division will be danced in heats for preliminaries and semi-finals (if needed).
6. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, 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.
10. Contestants may switch roles between skill-leveled and age-defined levels.

## Division Qualifications

It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to a fair and appropriate classification using the honor system. If you do not feel comfortable dancing where these qualifications place you, please petition (see "Petitions.")

**Generational Strictly Swing** Partners must have at least 20 years age difference between them. Because this is an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement you may also enter another Strictly Swing contest at the appropriate skill level if you wish. Multiple entries must be performed with a different partner.

**Novice + Intermediate Divisions** Open to all Novice and Intermediate level dancers.

**Sophisticated (35+):** Both partners must be 35 years of age or older. Because this is an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement you may also enter another Strictly Swing contest at the appropriate skill level if you wish. Multiple entries must be performed with a different partner.

**Masters (50+):** Both partners must be 50 years of age or older. Because this is an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement you may also enter another Strictly Swing contest at the appropriate skill level if you wish. Multiple entries must be performed with a different partner.

**Advanced and All-Star Divisions** Open to Advanced and All-Star dancers.

- If an All-Star dancer has place in either a Jack & Jill champions division or Strictly Swing Champions division, they need to enter the Champions division.

### **Champions**

- Competitors may, but are not required to, dance in this division if they have any earned Professional (PRO), Champions (CHMP), Invitational (INV) or Teachers (TCH) points.
- Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational Jack & Jill held at qualifying major event (see definitions) must dance in this division.

## **PRO-AM STRICTLY SWING DIVISION**

### **General**

1. Students enter with their teacher. This division is designed to highlight social dancing skills at a performance level with an emphasis on lead/follow technique.
2. For this contest, amateurs are defined as anyone who does not teach dancing on a regular, ongoing basis or earn a significant amount of income teaching or performing. A professional is defined as someone who earns a significant amount of income teaching or performing dance. Anyone who has previously competed in open or professional level competition must be considered a Pro for this purpose.
3. Only the student is evaluated. Different skill levels and 1 age-defined divisions are offered for both Leader and Follower roles. Each skill level and role is a separate contest.
4. Each professional shall have no more than 3 entries in each Division offered.
5. It is the Organizer's goal to encourage Pro/Am competitions as a learning tool for the students and requires that a prior Student/Teacher relationship exists between the competitors.

### **Specific**

1. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion. Music will be chosen by the Organizer.
2. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits are acceptable.
3. This division will be danced in heats.
4. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.
5. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed, no choreographed entrances or exits.
6. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.

### **Division Qualifications**

It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to a fair and appropriate classification using the honor system. If you do not feel comfortable dancing within these qualifications, please petition (see "Petitions").

### **Novice**

This division is for students with less than 3 years total dance experience and limited previous competition success. Students are expected to perform solid basics. Limited variations are allowed but not required. No leans, drops, or breakaways are allowed. All material should be recognizable as familiar, common "leadable" social patterns.

### **Intermediate**

This division is for students with significant prior competition and or dance experience. Students are expected to perform clean basics with variations and musicality. Judges will consider musical interpretation, showmanship, and creativity.

### **Masters**

Students aged 50 and over regardless of previous dance or competition experience. Because this is an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement you may also enter other ProAm contests if you wish.

## **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 16 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the Event's discretion. There is no minimum number of entries.
3. 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.
4. An individual is not permitted to dance more than once within the same division.

### **Specific**

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. (remove - The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the chief judge) - this is already covered/addressed with #4. Time and judging starts at the first movement of performance with or without music.
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. Breakaway 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.

### **SHOWCASE DIVISION**

Swing dancing that allows choreography with flair toward lifts and other partner weight support moves.

#### **General**

1. Contestants must be 16 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the Event's discretion. There is no minimum number of entries.
3. Guidelines for expected swing content are: at 60% in Showcase. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
4. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.

#### **Specific**

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. (remove - The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the chief judge) - this is already covered/addressed with #4. Time and judging starts at the first movement of performance with or without music.
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.
6. Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted.
7. At least three partner weight support moves are required with the partner at knee level or above.
8. At least one partner weight support move is required with the partner above the waist.
9. There are no lift maximums.

### **RISING STAR TOUR DIVISION**

Please refer to the following link for Rising Star Tour rules: <http://freepdfhosting.com/c34c74e5f4.pdf>