

General Rules

Note 1: *Our Chief Judge for 2010 is Doug Rousar. If you have questions for Doug prior to our event and/or would like to Petition for an exception to a particular rule, you are welcome to contact Doug directly at: drousar@spotlightdanceandarts.com; cell, 920-279-0222.*

Note 2: *Rules are subject to change. We will try not to make any changes after March 1, 2010, but reserve our right to do so.*

1. **PURCHASE OF WEEKEND PASS.** All contestants must have a three-day weekend pass in order to compete in any and all competition divisions.
2. **AGE RESTRICTIONS.** All contestants must be at least 18 years of age as of March 14, 2010, to compete in Classic and Showcase divisions. You must meet age requirements for other divisions as specified in the rules for those divisions.
3. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE & WAIVER.** All contestants must register for each competition by the posted deadline time/date and sign the Waiver to be eligible to compete. Competitors who are under 18 years old must have their parent or legal guardian sign their Waiver form.
4. **WSDC EVENT.** The Chicago Classic is a World Swing Dance Council event, and as such, we will abide by the Rules specified by the WSDC. If contestants don't meet the WSDC eligibility requirements for a specific division, they will be allowed to petition before the event or at the event. *If you wish to petition before the event, please contact Nancy Tuzzolino, Event Director for a Petition Form; ntuzz2@aol.com; cell, 312-953-3336.* Petitions will be reviewed by the Chief Judge who will make the final decision as to which level the contestant may compete. The Chief Judge's decision will be final.
5. **CONTEST CATEGORIES.** Contestants who compete in a "Classic" competition category, may only dance in one division within this category. "Classic" includes: Classic and Classic-Rising Star. Contestants who compete in a "Showcase" competition category may only compete in one division within this category. "Showcase" divisions include: Showcase, Masters, Young America and Young Adult. Competitors can compete in both Classic and Showcase categories provided they have a different partner for each category AND a different routine for each category (different music and different choreography), and meet the eligibility requirements for each of the divisions in which they compete.
6. **SINGLE ENTRY PER DIVISION.** Competitors may enter each division only once. In divisions with multiple levels (i.e., Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, etc.), competitors may only enter one level of that competition. (*Note: The only exception is Masters J&J. Competitors may dance in this division and their WSDC J&J level.*)
7. **MANDATORY COMPETITORS MEETINGS.** All contestants will be required to attend their respective Competitors Meeting. For couples divisions, only one representative from the partnership need be present for the **Mandatory**

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- Competitors Meeting. If a contestant cannot attend their respective Competitors Meeting, they must contact the Chief Judge **BEFORE** the meeting. It is within the Chief Judge's discretion as to whether or not the contestant will still be allowed to dance in the competition. The Chief Judge's decision will be final.
8. **BIB NUMBERS.** Contestants for Strictly Swing and Jack & Jills will be given a bib number. This bib number must be worn for all Prelims, Semis and Finals (if needed). Bring your bib number with you to the Competitors Meeting. There will be a **\$10.00 charge** to replace a lost bib number.
 9. **SWING COMPETITION.** The Chicago Classic is a *Swing competition*, with a focus on West Coast Swing. However, all other forms of Swing (e.g., Lindy, Carolina Shag, East Coast Swing, etc.) are welcome in the "routine" competitions, including: Classic, Classic-Rising Star, Showcase, Masters, Young America, and Young Adult. The percentage of required Swing content is specified in the rules for each competition division. Please refer to the rules for the specific division in which you will be competing.
 10. **ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**
 - a. We will make every effort to conduct all competitions in accordance with these rules. However, The Chicago Classic reserves the right to make any changes we deem necessary for any competition. We will do our best not to make any changes to the rules after March 1, 2010, for the current year's event.
 - b. We reserve the right to cancel any competition which does not have the specified minimum number of entrants.
 - c. We reserve the right to re-classify competitors should we determine that that they do not meet the eligibility guidelines for the division in which they originally registered.
 11. **NO REFUNDS.** No refunds will be issued for the three-day weekend pass, one-day pass or competition fees. All sales are final. **Note:** *If a competition is cancelled because entries do not meet the specified minimum number of entries, refunds will be made to all the competitors who registered in the cancelled division. Refunds will be mailed to competitors by April 15, 2010.*
 12. **RELATIVE PLACEMENT SYSTEM.** The Chicago Classic will use Relative Placement for scoring all competitions.
 13. **COSTUMES.** Some divisions may require competitors to wear costumes. For The Chicago Classic, costumes are considered attire that has been modified or altered in a noticeable way. It is attire that would not be considered customary or standard for a Strictly Swing competition or for social dancing. **Note:** *If you have concerns or questions about this, please contact our Chief Judge **BEFORE** the event.*
 14. **DEFINITION OF "PROFESSIONAL" (for Pro-Am divisions).** A competitor who qualifies as Advanced level or higher by WSDC standards, may dance as a "Professional" in the Pro-Am divisions. If a dancer competes as a "Professional" in the Pro-Am divisions, he/she must compete at an Advanced level or higher in the Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing divisions, as well.
 15. **VIDEOTAPING, PHOTOGRAPHS.** Only the Event's hired videographer (2010: Global Dance TV) will be allowed to videotape competitions, workshops,

exhibitions and social dancing in the main ballroom during the weekend. No other persons are authorized to videotape or photograph in the ballroom at any time during the weekend. Violators will be dealt with by the Event Directors and the appropriate action will be taken to stop the unauthorized activity.

Swing Content—Definition

Because The Chicago Classic is a SWING dance competition, the Judges expect to see Swing content in all competitions. Specific guidelines for Swing content are defined under the rules for each division. The statement that our Judges will use to identify the presence of Swing content is as follows:

“Swing is an American Rhythm Dance that is identified primarily by 6-beat and 8-beat patterns that incorporate a wide variety of rhythms. Six-beat patterns include, but are not limited to: side passes, push-break, open-to-closed, and closed-to-open position patterns. Eight-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 rhythm breaks may be incorporated to phrase the music, to extend a pattern, and/or accent breaks.”

This statement will be used only to identify the presence of Swing content in a performance. It is not intended to be a full definition of Swing, nor will it be used to evaluate the quality of the performance. Each Judge will evaluate the presence of Swing content, which will be one of the criteria to determine a final score.

Behavior and Conduct

1. Competitors should conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times, on and off the competition floor. Competitors who do not observe this rule will receive a Violation and could be disqualified altogether from a competition by the Chief Judge.
2. Exciting performances are encouraged, but not at the expense of good taste and appropriateness.
3. Comedy routines (for example, where partners dance poorly on purpose) are not allowed.
4. The use of any props in a routine must be approved by the Chief Judge **BEFORE** the competition. If not approved, the couple may risk receiving a Violation on their performance.
5. Please keep in mind that dancers of all ages will be present at the event and that all performances will be recorded. Any action that the Judges deem as inappropriate (such as inappropriate touching or stimulating sexual behavior) will earn a Violation. Check with the Event Director and Chief Judge if you have any questions regarding the appropriateness of choreography or competition attire.

6. Competitors must use appropriate channels to communicate concerns or grievances. Please share your feedback with the Event Director or Chief Judge. You are not allowed to pressure, challenge or argue with our Judges. If you harass or verbally abuse a Judge or other competition staff member, you could be disqualified and possibly banned from competing at The Chicago Classic in the future.

Requesting a Re-Start

1. Competitors in “routine” divisions may request a re-start only in special cases, such as:
Shoe breaks
Costume mal-function/loss of vital piece of clothing
DJ plays the wrong music (or uses incorrect pitch control)
Sound system fails during performance
Lights go out in the ballroom
2. Competitors must stop their routine at the moment the problem happens in order to request a re-start. The Chief Judge must approve the request.
3. Competitors may not request a re-start because they are dissatisfied with their performance, partner, music, or because they forgot part of their routine.
4. The Chief Judge may call for a re-start if he believes it is fair and in the best interest of the competitors.

Errors, Violations, Disqualifications

If competitors fail to follow the Rules as stated herein, the Judges may assess a penalty against them. Unless specifically defined elsewhere in the Rules, the levels of severity and associated penalties are as follows:

1. **Error.** This is a minor and apparently *unintentional* breach of the Rules. Errors may be penalized (or not) at the discretion of each Judge observing the Error. The Judge will take into account the severity of the Error and will consider this when evaluating the overall performance and placing the couple. Examples of errors include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Brief and unintended loss of contact with a partner (where the Rules require contact)
 - b. Loss of balance
 - c. Momentary loss of composure
 - d. Accidental loss of foot contact with the floor that results in an unintentional lift
2. **Violation.** This is an *intentional* breach of the Rules. Judges may assign Violations at their discretion; they will be instructed to place the couple where

they would normally place them had the perceived Violation not occurred. Examples of Violations include, but are not limited to:

- a. Unsportsmanlike conduct: Making a face or rude comment before, during or after their performance; behaving disrespectfully toward a partner, another competitor, spectator or Judge.
- b. Costume violation
- c. Competing while intoxicated or under the influence of mood-altering drugs (which noticeably effects the performance and is obvious to the Judges and audience)
- d. Use of prohibited choreography (which violates the stated Rules of that division)
- e. Performing a “trick” that endangers a partner, other competitors, spectators or Judges.
- f. Failure to include the percentage of recognizable swing content that is required for that division.
- g. Failure to meet the time requirements specified for that division. If the time is LESS than five (5) seconds over or under the time limit, no penalty will be applied. If the time violation is MORE than five (5) seconds over or under the time limit, a Violation will be assigned.

3. Violations and How they Effect Placement.

- a. If **more than half of all** the Judges mark a Violation against a couple, the couple’s final placement will be dropped by the Chief Judge. Depending on the type, magnitude and number of Violations during the performance, the Chief Judge has the authority to drop the couple’s placement to appropriately reflect the severity and/or frequency of the Violation(s). The Chief Judge can drop the couple’s placement anywhere from one placement up to a full “**DQ**” (**Disqualification**) which will result in “**no placement**” for the couple.
- b. The Chief Judge may elect to call a special meeting of all Judges to discuss Violations that occurred during a couple’s performance if he believes that the Judges input would be critical in determining a fair placement for that couple. (*Note: This meeting is **NOT** required.*)
- c. **All decisions of the Chief Judge are FINAL.** No appeals will be allowed.

Posting Competition Results

Final contest results will be posted at the event in a room to be chosen by the Event Directors. Results will not be posted and made available for viewing until AFTER the Awards Ceremony on the last day of the event. Competitors and non-competitors will be allowed to view the posted results. **PHOTOGRAPHING OR VIDEOTAPING POSTED RESULTS IS PROHIBITED.** Competitors may **not** have a copy of the posted results, but may write down results as they desire. Competitors will have 45

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minutes following Awards to view posted results. After that time, results will be removed.

Classic

1. Recognizable Swing content must be present in at least 80% of the performance as required by NASDE.
2. Competitors must be at least 18 years of age on or before March 14, 2010.
3. Competitors who dance in this division may not dance in any other division within the “Classic” Category. They may dance in the “Showcase” Category provided they have a different partner AND a different routine (different music and different choreography). They may also dance in the Strictly Swing division, provided they have a different partner than in the Classic division.
4. This is a couples competition. A couple must consist of one male Leader and one female Follower.
5. Costumes are required (*see General Rules, #13 for definition of Costumes*).
6. Competitors select their own music.
7. Choreographed routines are required.
8. Routines must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes in length, including any formal entrance and exit.
9. Time and judging start from the first moment of the performance (with or without music). Partners may make separate entrances but must join together within the first 32 beats of music.
10. Once the partners make contact, they must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns and short breakaways and recoveries. Break of contact followed by side-by-side choreography will result in a penalty and drop in placement. Break-aways must be immediately followed by an effort to reestablish physical contact (8 beat maximum separation).
11. “In the air” partner weight support moves (i.e., lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are **not** allowed.
12. “On the ground” support moves (e.g., drops, slides and splits) are allowed, but not required. At most, five (5) on the ground weight support moves are allowed.
13. Music must be supplied on a CD and turned in at the Mandatory Competitors Meeting. It is strongly recommended that you have a back-up CD of your music in the ballroom for your competition, just in case. It is the responsibility of the competitors to pick up their CD from the DJ following the competition. Any CDs not reclaimed at the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.
14. Order of dance will be drawn at the Mandatory Contestants Meeting.
15. Minimum number of entries is five (5) couples.

Classic-Rising Star

1. This division is designed for competitors who are new to couples competition and have not previously competed at the “Open” level in a Classic or Showcase division.
2. Competitors who dance in this division may not dance in any other division within the “Classic” or “Showcase” Categories. They may dance in the Strictly Swing division, provided they have a different partner than in the Classic-Rising Star division.
3. Competitors must be at least 18 years of age on or before March 14, 2010.
4. Recognizable Swing content must be present in at least 80% of the performance.
5. This is a couples competition. A couple must consist of one male Leader and one female Follower.
6. Costumes are required (*see General Rules, #13 for definition of Costumes*).
7. Competitors select their own music.
8. Choreographed routines are required.
9. Routines must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes including any formal entrance and exit.
10. Time and judging start from the first moment of the performance (with or without music). Partners may make separate entrances but must join together within the first 32 beats of music.
11. Once the partners make contact, they must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns and short breakaways and recoveries. Break of contact followed by side-by-side choreography will result in a penalty and drop in placement. Break-aways must be immediately followed by an effort to reestablish physical contact (8 beat maximum separation).
12. “In the air” partner weight support moves (i.e., lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are **not** allowed. “On the ground” support moves (e.g., drops, slides, splits) are allowed, but not required.
13. Music must be supplied on a CD and turned in at the Mandatory Competitors Meeting. It is strongly recommended that you have a back-up CD of your music in the ballroom for your competition, just in case. It is the responsibility of the competitors to pick up their CD from the DJ following the competition. Any CDs not reclaimed at the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.
14. Order of dance will be drawn at the Mandatory Contestants Meeting.
15. Minimum number of entries is three (3) couples.

Masters (50+)

1. Competitors in this division must be at least 50 years of age (both partners) by March 14, 2010.
2. Competitors who dance in this division may not dance in any other division within the “Showcase” Category. They may dance in the Classic division provided they have a different partner AND a different routine (different music

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- and different choreography). They may also dance in the Strictly Swing division, provided they have a different partner than in the Masters division.
3. Recognizable Swing content must be present in at least 60% of the performance.
 4. This is a couples competition. A couple must consist of one male Leader and one female Follower.
 5. Costumes are required (*see General Rules, #13 for definition of Costumes*).
 6. Competitors select their music.
 7. Choreographed routines are required.
 8. Routines must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes including any formal entrance and exit.
 9. Time and judging start from the first moment of the performance (with or without music). Partners may make separate entrances but must join together within the first 32 beats of music.
 10. Once the partners make contact, they must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns and short breakaways and recoveries.
 11. “In the air” partner weight support moves (i.e., lifts, aerials), acrobatic maneuvers and “on the ground” support moves (such as drops) are allowed, but not required. At most five (5) of either of these types of moves are allowed.
 12. Music must be supplied on a CD and turned in at the Mandatory Competitors Meeting. It is strongly recommended that you have a back-up CD of your music in the ballroom for your competition, just in case. It is the responsibility of the competitors to pick up their CD from the DJ following the competition. Any CDs not reclaimed at the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.
 13. Order of dance will be drawn at the Mandatory Contestants Meeting.
 14. Minimum number of entries is three (3) couples.

Showcase

1. Competitors who dance in this division may not dance in any other division within the “Showcase” Category. They may dance in the Classic division provided they have a different partner AND a different routine (different music and different choreography). They may also dance in the Strictly Swing division, provided they have a different partner than in the Showcase division.
2. Recognizable Swing content must be present in at least 60% of the performance as required by NASDE.
3. Competitors must be at least 18 years of age on or before March 14, 2010.
4. This is a couples competition. A couple must consist of one male Leader and one female Follower.
5. Costumes are required (*see General Rules, #13 for definition of Costumes*).
6. Competitors select their own music.
7. Choreographed routines are required.
8. Routines must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes including any formal entrance and exit.
9. Time and judging start from the first moment of the performance (with or without music). Partners may make separate entrances but must join together within the first 32 beats of music.

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10. Once the partners make contact, they must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, acrobatic maneuvers, short breakaways and recoveries.
11. “In the air” partner weight support moves (i.e., lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are allowed.
 - a. Moves must be at knee level or above.
 - b. At least one (1) move must place one partner above the waist of the other.
 - c. The routine must contain at least three (3) in the air partner weight support moves.
 - d. There is no maximum to the number of in the air moves allowed. However, in the air moves do not count towards meeting the 60% recognizable Swing content rule.
12. “On the ground” support moves (e.g., drops, slides, splits) are allowed but not required.
13. Music must be supplied on a CD and turned in at the Mandatory Competitors Meeting. It is strongly recommended that you have a back-up CD of your music in the ballroom for your competition, just in case. It is the responsibility of the competitors to pick up their CD from the DJ following the competition. Any CDs not reclaimed at the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.
14. Order of dance will be drawn at the Mandatory Contestants Meeting.
15. Minimum number of entries is three (3) couples.

Jack & Jill

General Rules & Guidelines

1. Jack & Jill competition highlights social dance skills and “choreography on the fly”.
2. Competitors enter as individuals and will be randomly assigned partners. They will dance to music that is selected in advance by our qualified DJ staff.
3. “In the air” weight supported moves, such as lifts, aerials and acrobatic moves are **not** allowed. “On the ground” support moves (e.g., drops, slides, and spreads) are allowed to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on the social dance floor.
4. Once the partners make contact, they must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns and short breakaways and recoveries. Break of contact followed by side-by-side choreography will result in a penalty and drop in placement. Break-aways must be immediately followed by an effort to reestablish physical contact (8 beat maximum separation).
5. Recognizable Swing content must be present in at least 80% of the performance.
6. Costumes are not allowed, but dramatic, tasteful dance clothing is encouraged. No denim or other jeans!
7. Depending on the number of entries in each division, there will be a Preliminary and/or Semi-final round prior to the Finals.

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8. Prelims and Semis will be danced in a heated format. Finals may or may not be danced in a heated format. This will be left to the discretion of the Event Directors and Chief Judge.
9. Male competitors must dance as Leaders; female competitors must dance as Followers.
10. **AGE REQUIREMENTS.** Contestants must be at least 16 years or older to compete in any adult Jack & Jill division. If a contestant is under 16 years old, they may petition to compete in the Jack & Jill. They must have the signed consent of their legal guardian or parent to compete. Petitions will be reviewed by the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge's decision will be final.
11. **ELIGIBILITY & PETITIONS.** All entries will be reviewed by the Chief Judge to check for eligibility for the Jack & Jill divisions. If a competitor does not meet the eligibility requirements for a particular division, he/she will be notified by the Chief Judge *BEFORE* the competition. Competitors can elect to dance in the division for which they qualify or Petition to compete in the division they believe is more appropriate for them. The Chief Judge will review all Petitions and will make his/her decision as fair and appropriate. If the competitor does not agree with the Chief Judge's final decision, and decides not to dance, his/her entry fee for the competition will be refunded. All decisions by the Chief Judge are final.
12. ***The Chicago Classic is a World Swing Dance Council member and as such, we uphold the WSDC rules with regard to our competition rules and standards.***
13. Minimum of five (5) couples required for each Jack & Jill division.

Newcomer Jack & Jill

This division is intended for dancers who have never competed before, or have been competing less than two (2) years and have **no Novice Jack & Jill points** in the WSDC Registry.

Novice Jack & Jill

Competitors with **fewer than 20 Novice WSDC points should compete in this division.** Competitors with 20 or more points may continue to dance in the Novice division until they have a 1st place at a WSDC dance event. Competitors with 20 or more Novice points and a 1st place at a WSDC dance event must dance in the Intermediate division.

Intermediate Jack & Jill

Competitors with **20 or more Novice WSDC points, but fewer than 25 Intermediate points** should dance in this division. Competitors with 25 or more Intermediate points may continue to dance in this division until they have a 1st place in Intermediate. Competitors with 25 or more Intermediate points and a 1st place in Intermediate must dance in the Advanced division.

Advanced

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Competitors with **25 or more Intermediate WSDC points** may dance in this division, even if they have not received a 1st place in an Intermediate competition. Competitors who have *any* Advanced J&J points should, but are not required to, compete in this division. Competitors with 40 or more Advanced points and a 1st place at a WSDC event must dance in the All Star division.

All Star

Competitors with **40 or more Advanced WSDC points** may dance in this division. Competitors who have placed 1st – 3rd in a Champions or Invitational J&J in the last three (3) years at a WSDC dance event must dance in the Champions division.

Masters

Competitors in this division must be 50 or older by March 14, 2010. *Competitors who compete in Masters J&J may also compete in their designated WSDC Jack & Jill level.* Although it is not required, it is **strongly recommended that competitors have 25 or more Intermediate WSDC points** to compete in this division.

Champions

Competitors who have **placed 1st – 3rd in a Champions or Invitational J&J in the last three (3) years** at a WSDC swing dance event may dance in the Champions division. Competitors who have earned points (but no top three placements) in a PRO, Champions, Invitational or Teachers J&J division may, but are not required to, dance in this division.

Strictly Swing-Adv/All Star/Champion

1. Strictly Swing competition highlights social dance skills and “choreography on the fly”.
2. At least one partner must be at the *Advanced level or above* to compete in this division.
3. If a contestant dances in another couples division at this event, they may not dance with any of their competitive partners in Strictly Swing.
4. Contestants must be at least 16 years or older by March 14, 2010, to compete in this division.
5. Competitors enter as couples—one male Leader, one female Follower.
6. Couples will dance to music that is selected in advance by our qualified DJ staff.
7. “In the air” weight supported moves, such as lifts, aeriels and acrobatic moves are **not** allowed. “On the ground” support moves (e.g., drops, slides, and spreads) are allowed to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on the social dance floor.
8. Once the partners make contact, they must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns and short breakaways and recoveries. Break of contact followed by side-by-side choreography will result in a penalty and drop in placement. Break-

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- aways must be immediately followed by an effort to reestablish physical contact (8 beat maximum separation).
9. Recognizable Swing content must be present in at least 80% of the performance.
 10. Costumes are **not** allowed although couples are encouraged to wear complimentary apparel. No denim or other jeans!
 11. Depending on the number of entries in each division, there will be a Semi-final round prior to the Finals.
 12. Semis will be danced in a heated format. Finals may or may not be danced in a heated format. This will be left to the discretion of the Event Directors and Chief Judge.
 13. Minimum of five (5) couples required for this division.

Strictly Swing-Intermediate

1. Strictly Swing competition highlights social dance skills and choreography “on the fly”.
2. At least one partner must be at the Intermediate level.
3. If a contestant dances in another couples division at this event, they may **not** dance with any of their competitive partners in Strictly Swing.
4. Contestants must be at least 16 years or older by March 14, 2010, to compete in this division.
5. Competitors enter as couples—one male Leader, one female Follower. Couples will dance to music that is selected in advance by our qualified DJ staff.
6. “In the air” weight supported moves, such as lifts, aerials and acrobatic moves are **not** allowed. “On the ground” support moves (e.g., drops, slides, and spreads) are allowed to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on the social dance floor.
7. Once the partners make contact, they must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns and short breakaways and recoveries. Break of contact followed by side-by-side choreography will result in a penalty and drop in placement. Breakaways must be immediately followed by an effort to reestablish physical contact (8 beat maximum separation).
8. Recognizable Swing content must be present in at least 80% of the performance.
9. Costumes are **not** allowed although couples are encouraged to wear complimentary apparel. No denim or other jeans!
10. Depending on the number of entries in each division, there will be a Semi-final round prior to the Finals.
11. Semis will be danced in a heated format. Finals may or may not be danced in a heated format. This will be left to the discretion of the Event Directors and Chief Judge.
12. Minimum of five (5) couples required for this division.

Strictly Swing-Novice

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1. Strictly Swing competition highlights social dance skills and choreography “on the fly”.
2. Both partners must be at the Newcomer or Novice level. If one partner is at the Intermediate division or higher, the couple must compete in the Strictly Swing level that is appropriate to the higher level dancer in the partnership.
3. If a contestant dances in another couples division at this event, they may not dance with any of their competitive partners in Strictly Swing.
4. Contestants must be at least 16 years or older by March 14, 2010, to compete in this division.
5. Competitors enter as couples—one male Leader, one female Follower. Couples will dance to music that is selected in advance by our qualified DJ staff.
6. “In the air” weight supported moves, such as lifts, aerials and acrobatic moves are not allowed. “On the ground” support moves (e.g., drops, slides, and spreads) are allowed to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on the social dance floor.
7. Once the partners make contact, they must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns and short breakaways and recoveries. Break of contact followed by side-by-side choreography will result in a penalty and drop in placement. Breakaways must be immediately followed by an effort to reestablish physical contact (8 beat maximum separation).
8. Recognizable Swing content must be present in at least 80% of the performance.
9. Costumes are not allowed although couples are encouraged to wear complimentary apparel. No denim or other jeans!
10. Depending on the number of entries in each division, there will be a Semi-final round prior to the Finals.
11. Semis will be danced in a heated format. Finals may or may not be danced in a heated format. This will be left to the discretion of the Event Directors and Chief Judge.
12. Minimum of five (5) couples required for this division.

Pro-Am Strictly Swing

1. Choreography is not allowed.
2. A couple must consist of one “Professional” and one “Amateur”. *See the General Rules, #14 for Definition of Professional.*
3. Competitors in this division must be at least 16 years of age by March 14, 2010.
4. Professionals may partner with a student of the same gender (i.e., male Lead with male Follower or female Lead with female Follower).
5. Two levels of Pro-Ams will be offered: Novice and Intermediate/Advanced.
6. To distinguish the Pros from the Ams on the dance floor, we strongly recommend that Pros wear all black and the Ams wear a shirt color other than black. Also, the Am should wear the Bib number.
7. Once the partners make contact, they must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns and short breakaways and recoveries. Break of contact followed by side-by-side choreography will result in a penalty and drop in placement. Break-

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- aways must be immediately followed by an effort to reestablish physical contact (8 beat maximum separation).
8. “In the air” partner weight support moves (i.e., lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are **not** allowed.
 9. “On the ground” support moves (e.g., drops, slides, splits) are allowed but are not required.
 10. Recognizable Swing content must be present in at least 90% of the performance.
 11. Professionals may compete with up to five (5) Amateurs in Novice AND five (5) Amateurs in Intermediate/Advanced.
 12. Competitors will compete in a heated format.
 13. This will be a Finals competition.
 14. Minimum of five (5) couples required for Novice and five (5) couples for Inter/Advanced.

Pro-Am Swing Routine

1. A couple must consist of one “Professional” and one “Amateur”. *See the General Rules, #14 for Definition of Professional.*
2. Competitors in this division must be at least 16 years of age by March 14, 2010.
3. Professionals may partner with a student of the same gender (i.e., male Lead with male Follower or female Lead with female Follower).
4. Recognizable Swing content must be present in at least 80% of the performance as required by NASDE.
5. Competitors who dance in this division may dance in the Classic Rising Star division or a “Showcase” category division, provided they have a different partner AND a different routine (different music and different choreography). They may also dance in the Strictly Swing division, provided they have another partner.
6. This is a couples competition. A couple must consist of one male Leader and one female Follower.
7. Costumes are required (*see General Rules, #13 for definition of Costumes*).
8. Competitors select their own music.
9. Choreographed routines are required.
10. Routines must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes in length, including any formal entrance and exit.
11. Time and judging start from the first moment of the performance (with or without music). Partners may make separate entrances but must join together within the first 32 beats of music.
12. Once the partners make contact, they must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns and short breakaways and recoveries. Break of contact followed by side-by-side choreography will result in a penalty and drop in placement. Break-aways must be immediately followed by an effort to reestablish physical contact (8 beat maximum separation).
13. “In the air” partner weight support moves (i.e., lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are **not** allowed.

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14. “On the ground” support moves (e.g., drops, slides and splits) are allowed, but not required. At most, five (5) on the ground weight support moves are allowed.
15. Music must be supplied on a CD and turned in at the Mandatory Competitors Meeting. It is strongly recommended that you have a back-up CD of your music in the ballroom for your competition, just in case. It is the responsibility of the competitors to pick up their CD from the DJ following the competition. Any CDs not reclaimed at the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.
16. Order of dance will be drawn at the Mandatory Contestants Meeting.
17. Minimum number of entries is three (3) couples.

Young America (8-12)

1. Competitors must be 8 to 12 years old on or before March 14, 2010.
2. If partners have competed previously but one partner is older than 12 years, that couple may petition the Chief Judge for an exception to the age restrictions rule. The intent of this rule is to allow partners who have formed a partnership and advanced their dancing together to continue to compete together in this division.
3. Recognizable Swing content must be present in at least 60% of the performance.
4. This is a couples competition. A couple must consist of one male Leader and one female Follower.
5. Costumes are required and must be in good taste and appropriate to this age group (*see General Rules, #13 for definition of Costumes*).
6. Competitors select their own music.
7. Choreographed routines are required.
8. Routines must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes including any formal entrance and exit.
9. Time and judging start from the first moment of the performance (with or without music). Partners may make separate entrances but must join together within the first 32 beats of music.
10. “In the air” partner weight support moves are allowed, but one partner’s torso may not rise above the other partner’s shoulders.
11. “On the ground” support moves (e.g., drops, slides, splits) are allowed but not required.
12. Music must be supplied on a CD and turned in at the Mandatory Competitors Meeting. It is strongly recommended that you have a back-up CD of your music in the ballroom for your competition, just in case. It is the responsibility of the competitors to pick up their CD from the DJ following the competition. Any CDs not reclaimed at the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.
13. Order of dance will be drawn at the Mandatory Competitors Meeting.
14. Minimum number of entries is three (3) couples.

Young Adult (13-17)

1. Competitors must be 13 to 17 years old on or before March 15, 2010.
2. If partners have competed previously but one partner is older than 17 years, the couple may petition the Chief Judge for an exception to the age restrictions rule. The intent of this rule is to allow partners who have formed a partnership and advanced their dancing together to continue to compete together in this division.
3. Recognizable Swing content must be present in at least 60% of the performance.
4. This is a couples competition. A couple must consist of one male Leader and one female Follower.
5. Costumes are required and must be in good taste and appropriate to this age group (*see General Rules, #13 for definition of Costumes*).
6. Competitors select their own music.
7. Choreographed routines are required.
8. Routines must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes including any formal entrance and exit.
9. Time and judging start from the first moment of the performance (with or without music). Partners may make separate entrances but must join together within the first 32 beats of music.
11. "In the air" partner weight support moves are allowed, but one partner's torso may not rise above the other partner's shoulders.
12. "On the ground" support moves (e.g., drops, slides, splits) are allowed but not required.
13. Music must be supplied on a CD and turned in at the Mandatory Competitors Meeting. It is strongly recommended that you have a back-up CD of your music in the ballroom for your competition, just in case. It is the responsibility of the competitors to pick up their CD from the DJ following the competition. Any CDs not reclaimed at the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.
14. Order of dance will be drawn at the Mandatory Competitors Meeting.
15. Minimum number of entries is three (3) couples.