

COMPETITION RULES

General Competition Requirements

General Eligibility: 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 required entry fee(s) and complete any required entry forms, including signed waivers.
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 five Judges for all competitions.
3. **Scoring System:** Contests are scored by computer and relative placement. Contestants will be judged in the preliminaries and/or semi-finals as an individual and as a couple in any finals.

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 eighteen must have a parent or guardian sign any required forms.

Role/Gender Requirements:

The Chicago Classic 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.

Appropriate Behavior and Dress Code:

It is the desire of the Organizer to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing the 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. Competitors should check with the Organizer or Chief Judge in advance if they have questions regarding the acceptability of their routine/competition attire.

Responsibilities of Competitors

1. **Planning:** Competitors should check the weekend schedule in advance to arrive in time to meet registration deadlines. They should bring appropriate competition attire. They should also plan to be on time for all 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 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 asked and addressed in advance to the Chief Judge or the Organizer.
3. **Being Prepared to Compete:** Competitors should be present in the ballroom at least 15 minutes prior to the start of their competition. Any change in partnership for the couple's competitions may require an additional entry fee as well as a new entry form and waiver.
4. **Demonstrating Good Sporting Conduct:** Competitors must always demonstrate good sporting conduct, 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. If 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 Chief Judge, in consultation with the Organizer, 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/format deemed necessary for any competition.

Definitions:

Points: means points listed in the World Swing Dance Council Competitors Registry.

Swing Content:

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.

** 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, or to 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 that determines a final score **

Division Rules

Jack and Jill Division

You may dance in more than 1 level of Jack & Jill contests! You can compete as both a leader and a follower.

Here are details on how it works:

- Leader and Follower points is tracked separately in the Points Registry.
- Competitors qualify for their dance level based on either their Leader or Follower points, whichever is higher.
- Competitors are allowed to compete in their non-dominant role one level down if they don't qualify in both for the **same** division. No petitions will be approved for dancing more than one level down.
- Competitors will not be permitted to dance both roles in the same division.

Current competitors whose combined points as both a Leader and Follower would have moved them into a higher skill level will be offered a one-time option (to be "grandfathered" into the higher level). Competitors – please contact points@worldsdc.com if any points are/were incorrectly allocated to the wrong role in the system.

General:

Competitors at least 50 years of age may also enter the Masters Division. Competitors must be at least ten (10) years of age.

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. Each division must have at least 5 leaders and 5 followers. There is no maximum number of competitors.

Judging Criteria:

Timing: Timing points are determined by the ability of the dancer to dance on the down beat of the music and to include syncopations that are also on the beats of the music.

Technique: "How Well You Do What You Do": We are looking for good footwork, balance, control, frame, and line and how well turns & spins are executed. Well controlled arms and hands.

Teamwork: The ability of the partners to work together as a team. One person should not be obviously "out dancing" the other. TEAMWORK with action-reaction is essential in good dancing.

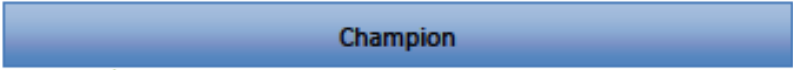

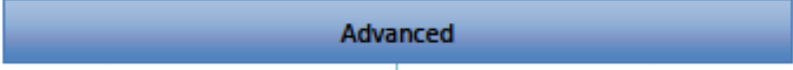
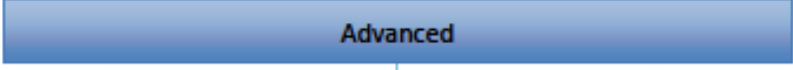
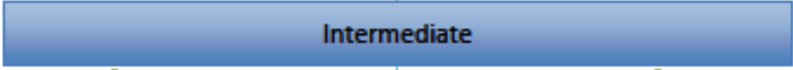
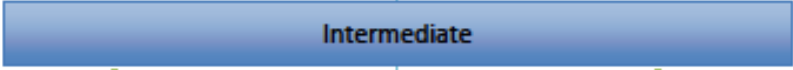
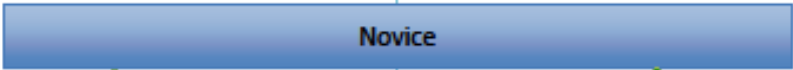
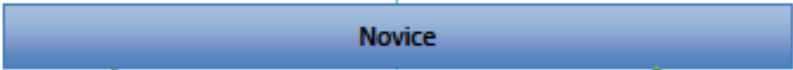


Content: "What You Do": the content is the CHOREOGRAPHY, planned or spontaneous, and musical interpretation through physical movement. Showing variety and contrast will enhance your dance performance.

Showmanship: “How Well You Sell What You Do”: showmanship/presentation is the ability of the dancers to keep the audience’s attention for the entire length of the performance.

Division Qualifications:

Our qualifications for entries promote fairness and competitor enjoyment by grouping dancers of similar ability in the same division. Please see the World Swing Dance Council webpage for more details for the jack and jill division. 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 petitions will be evaluated.

Chart 3: WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart

Skill Level ²	WSDC Category Definitions	Allowed (Dancers are given the <i>option</i> to move to the next skill level)	Required (Dancers are <i>required</i> to move to the next skill level)
Champion	Champions is defined by the event for their highest skill level dancers; however, Events must follow rule 3.2 #10 for all WSDC Champion J&Js.		
All Star	All Stars should be extremely competitive.		
Advanced	Advanced should be very competitive.		
Intermediate	Intermediate dancers are perfecting their competitive dance skills.		
Novice	Novice dancers demonstrate basic dance skills.		
Newcomer ⁴	Newcomers are dancers who are new to competition.		

Age Divisions:

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, or Champions).

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

Strictly Swing Divisions:

Swing dancing 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 if both partners keep at least one foot on the floor.

You may enter more than one Strictly Swing contest. You may dance up a level by dancing with a partner of a higher level. You may also dance down one level in your non-dominant role. You may also enter an age delineated division such as masters. And yet still, you may also enter generational strictly swing. See the generational rules for more information.

General:

The minimum number of entries in each division is five (5). There is no maximum number of entries. 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.

Specific:

1. Contestants must be least ten (10) 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.
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.

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, Intermediate, Advanced, All Star: For these divisions a couple must enter the highest level either partner qualifies for based on the WSDC points they have earned and the WSDC level criteria for Jack & Jill.

Champion: At least one partner must have placed 5th or higher at a NASDE tour event in a Champions, Invitational or Professional level Jack & Jill or Strictly Swing contest within the previous 5 years.

Generational:

- Any dancer may enter this division except for Champions
- Only 1 partner can be Advanced or All Star
- There must be a 20-year age gap between partners (minimum of 20, not 19½)
- 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.

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.

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 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 5 entries in each Division offered.
5. It is the Organizer's goal to encourage Pro/Am competitions as a learning tool for the students.

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 break-a-ways, 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.")

Newcomer: This division is for students with little to no competition experience. 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.

Novice: This level is based on WSDC skill level. 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.

ROUTINE DIVISIONS

Pro-Am Spotlight Routine:

This single division is offered for all styles of Swing: West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Hustle, Shag and Hand Dance or any other style of popular swing dance.

General:

- Each professional shall have no more than 10 total entries (between Novice and Intermediate/Advanced).
- Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose.
- Expected swing content of any style is 70%. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content has been met.
- 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.
- Routine must be at least 2 minutes long and no longer than 3 minutes.
- Couples dance in a solo format.
- Dance order will be chosen at random and posted prior to the division start time.

NASDE Showcase and Classic Divisions:

Classic Division:

- Swing dancing that allows choreography emphasizing the foundation of swing dancing and swing movement. Drops, leans, circular movements and other partner weight support moves are allowed if both partners keep at least one foot on the floor.
- The Chicago Classic is a NASDE Tour Event. Click [here](#) for more information on the NASDE Tour, and the rules we comply with to maintain competitive consistency across the tour.

Showcase Division:

- Swing dancing that allows lifts, as well as other partner weight-support moves.
- The Chicago Classic is a NASDE Tour Event. Click [here](#) for more information on the NASDE Tour, and the rules we comply with to maintain competitive consistency across the tour.

Rising Star

- Rising Star routines represent an opportunity for amateur dancers to gain experience in the routine process with their peers.
- **The Chicago Classic** is a Rising Star Tour event. Click [here](#) for more information on the Rising Star Tour, and the rules that we comply with in order to maintain competitive consistency across the tour.