



Competition Rules

General Information

- This is a swing dance event.
- Dancers may compete in multiple divisions, but in only one skill level per division unless you are a Pro in a Pro-Am division.
- **Competitors are encouraged to dance in the appropriate skill level division, according to their current WSDC points.** Petitions are allowed up or down, one level only. All competitors who would like to petition should fill out the petition form posted on the website and e-mail it to catrinel@swingapaloozaevent.com. All petitions will be reviewed at the event by a panel of at least 3 Pros (including the chief judge). Decisions will be announced individually. Swingapalooza Event Directors reserve the right to move entries to more appropriate divisions or to reject entries inappropriate for any of our divisions.
- Competitors are encouraged to contact the Chief Judge for guidance in particular situations.
- *All Jack & Jill Divisions will follow WSDC rules.*

Definitions

- “Points” – Points listed in the World Swing Dance Council Competitors Registry.
- “Swing” – 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, 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 extension rhythm breaks may be incorporated to extend a pattern, to phrase the music, and/or to accent breaks. In addition, Push and Whip styles derived from Texas are included in this definition. While many patterns have the same timing regarding weight changes, the styling of the Texas forms normally includes a double resistance exhibited on the last two beats of virtually every pattern. Furthermore, a delay on the first two beats (known as a Hitch Step) occurs during the Follower’s movement forward at the beginning of most, if not all, patterns.
- “WSDC” – The World Swing Dance Council. (www.swingdancecouncil.com)

General Competition Requirements

General Eligibility

Each competition is open to all competitors in good standing who

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

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 (18) must have a parent or guardian sign any required forms.

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 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. Dress to impress when you compete! **NO JEANS**, caps, or skimpy/offensive/inappropriate clothing will be allowed on the competition floor. Comedy routines and props are not allowed. Competitors should check with the Chief Judge in advance if they have questions regarding the acceptability of their routine or competition attire.

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DIVISION RULES

Pro-Am Strictly Swing Division: (Non-Routine)

General

1. Amateurs may enter only one skill level (Novice or Intermediate) with one Pro.
 - a. Novice: You must qualify as a “novice” level dancer according to WSDC points; however, amateurs with no WSDC points are also eligible to dance as a “Novice”. In addition, you must have never danced in a Non-Pro, Intermediate, Open or higher Class category, in Classic, Showcase, Strictly Swing/Just Dance style or equivalent categories, or as a Pro in a Pro-Am, in any style of dance.
 - b. Intermediate: You must qualify as an “intermediate” level dancer according to WSDC points. In addition, you must have never danced in Classic, Showcase or as a Pro in a Pro-Am.
2. Advanced level dancers or higher may compete as a “Pro” in this division.
3. Each professional shall have no more than 5 Amateurs in each Division Level. (5 Novice and 5 Intermediate)

Specific

1. Couples will dance for approximately 90 seconds to music chosen by the Head DJ.
2. Expected swing content is at least 90% recognizable swing. It is Head Judge’s discretion to determine whether the swing content requirement has been met.
3. Costumes are not allowed; however, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable
4. This division will be danced in heats.
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. At most three (3) partner weight support moves are permitted.

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.

Format

Competitors enter as couples 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 may either be danced in a heated format or a spotlight format.

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Competition Rules

General

1. Each competitor may enter only one skill level: Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Pro (AllStar & above). Competitors may not dance in any division lower than their WSDC points.
 - a. Novice: You must have never danced in a Non-Pro, Intermediate, Open or higher Class category, in Classic, Showcase, Strictly Swing/Just Dance style or equivalent categories, or as a Pro in a Pro-Am, in any style of dance.
 - b. Intermediate: You must qualify as an “intermediate” level dancer according to WSDC points. In addition, you must have never danced in Classic, Showcase or as a Pro in a Pro-Am.
2. Expected swing content is at least 90% recognizable swing. It is at the head judge’s discretion to determine whether the swing content requirement has been met.

Specific

1. Costumes are not allowed; however, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable
2. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
3. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-aways, and recoveries.
4. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves. At most three (3) partner weight support moves are permitted.

Jack and Jill Division:

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 may either be danced in a heated format or a spotlight format.

General

1. Each competitor may enter only one skill level according to their WSDC points (Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Star, Champions)
2. Competitors with no Novice points may enter the Newcomer JJ Division.
3. Competitors at least 50 years of age by the first day of the event may also enter the Master Division.
4. Competitors younger than 18 years of age by the first day of the event may also enter the Junior JJ Division.
5. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-aways, and recoveries.
6. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves. At most three (3) partner weight support moves are permitted.

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Mixed Pro-Am Routine Division:

Format

Competitors enter as couples (1 professional and 1 amateur) and dance to their own music in a spotlight format.

General

This is a Pro-Am Swing Routine Division. As such, recognizable Swing content as described above must be present in 80% of the performance.

1. Each amateur may enter only one skill level (Novice or Open).
2. Costumes are required.

Specific

1. "In the air" moves, partner weight support moves, such as, lifts, aerials, or acrobatics are allowed, but not required and that does not count toward 80% recognizable swing content requirement.
2. "On the ground" support moves (such as drops, slides, and spreads) are allowed, but not required.
3. Side-by-side patterns, and breaks in contact are allowed.
4. Routines must be a minimum of two (2) minutes and a maximum of three (3) minutes in length.
5. Choreographed entrances-to and exits-from the dance floor are permitted, but not required, in choreographed routines. Timing and judging will begin from the first movement of the performance, with or without music or sound. If a choreographed entrance and/or exit are used, it will be included in the judging and timing requirements.
6. A restart will be allowed only if the music system falters or an unforeseen catastrophe occurs. Events such as a broken dress strap, untied shoelace, unhappy with the dancing, etc.....does not warrant a restart.

Routine Music

1. A one-track CD copy of your music or thumb-drive music file must be submitted to the Head DJ on Friday prior to opening ceremonies. No other media (i.e., iPhones) will be accepted.
2. Each CD/file should be clearly labeled with the couples' names and division.
3. The **competitor** is responsible for checking with the Head DJ to ensure it plays properly on the sound system.
4. Your music may be reclaimed at the DJ booth after your competition. Music not claimed will be discarded at the conclusion of the event.
5. It is highly recommended to have an extra copy of your music in the ballroom in case there is a problem with your original CD/file in the DJ booth.

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Rising Star Routine Division:

Format

Competitors enter as couples and dance to their own music in a spotlight format.

General

1. This is a Swing Routine Division. As such, recognizable Swing content as described above must be present in 80% of the performance.
2. This Division is open to Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Star, and Rising Star competitors. You must have not placed in the top 5 at a national competition in NASDE Showcase or Classic routine divisions in the last 5 years.
3. This division is NOT open to all levels.
4. Costumes are required.

Specific

1. "In the air" moves, partner weight support moves, such as, lifts, aerials, or acrobatics are allowed, but not required and that does not count toward 80% recognizable swing content requirement.
2. "On the ground" support moves (such as drops, slides, and spreads) are allowed, but not required.
3. Side-by-side patterns, and breaks in contact are allowed.
4. Routines must be a minimum of two (2) minutes and a maximum of three (3) minutes in length.
5. Choreographed entrances-to and exits-from the dance floor are permitted, but not required, in choreographed routines. Timing and judging will begin from the first movement of the performance, with or without music or sound. If a choreographed entrance and/or exit are used, it will be included in the judging and timing requirements.
6. A restart will be allowed only if the music system falters or an unforeseen catastrophe occurs. Events such as a broken dress strap, untied shoelace, unhappy with the dancing, etc.....does not warrant a restart.

Routine Music

1. A one-track CD copy of your music or thumb-drive music file must be submitted to the Head DJ on Friday prior to opening ceremonies. No other media (i.e., iPhones) will be accepted.
2. Each CD/file should be clearly labeled with the couples' names and division.
3. The **competitor** is responsible for checking with the Head DJ to ensure it plays properly on the sound system.
4. Your music may be reclaimed at the DJ booth after your competition. Music not claimed will be discarded at the conclusion of the event.
5. It is highly recommended to have an extra copy of your music in the ballroom in case there is a problem with your original CD/file in the DJ booth.