

# Swingapalooza Competition Rules

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## General Information

- This is a swing dance event.
- All divisions are for male leaders and female followers.
- Dancers may compete in multiple divisions, but only one level per division unless you are a Pro in a Pro-Am division or also competing in a Sophisticated division.
- The Swingapalooza Event Directors (Organizers) 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 a WCS instructor in advance for guidance in particular situations.
- *All Strictly Swing Divisions will follow AANCE rules in addition to those listed below.*
- *All Jack & Jill Divisions will follow WSDC rules.*

## Definitions

- “AANCE” – The Americas Amateur National Championship Events. ([www.aance.com](http://www.aance.com))
- “NASDE” – The National Association of Swing Dance Events. ([www.nasde.net](http://www.nasde.net))
- “Points” – Points listed in the World Swing Dance Council Competitors Registry.
- “Swing” – Defined by NASDE Statement of Swing, with the inclusion of Push and Whip styles derived from Texas. 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](http://www.swingdancecouncil.com))

## General Competition Requirements

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

1. hold a full weekend ticket;
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;
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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## 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 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.

## 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 a Rising Star, Open or higher Class category, in Classic, Showcase, Strictly Swing/Just Dance style or equivalent categories, 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.

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## ***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.

## ***General***

1. Each competitor may enter only one skill level (Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced).
  - 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 have never danced in a Rising Star, Open or higher Class category, in Classic, Showcase, Strictly Swing/Just Dance style or equivalent categories, 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:**

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 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. (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Star/Champions)
2. Competitors at least 40 years of age by the first day of the event may also enter the Sophisticated Division.
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.

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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 Intermediate/Advanced).
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 must be submitted to the Head DJ on Friday prior to opening ceremonies. No other media (iPhones, tapes, etc.) will be accepted. Likewise, CDs containing multiple songs will not be accepted.
2. If a competitor is performing in more than one competition, music for each routine must be submitted on a separate CD.
3. Each CD should be clearly labeled with the couples’ names, “Pro-Am Routine”, and either “Novice” or “Int/Adv” to designate the competition level.
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 in the DJ booth.
6. The competitor is responsible for checking with the Head DJ to ensure the CD plays properly on the sound system.

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## JUDGING

Judging panels will be selected from a cross-section of experienced judges and accomplished dancers. Scores will be posted after the awards ceremonies. Contestants agree to abide by the decision of the judges. Judges will have the freedom to judge the overall performance of the dancers based upon the following criteria:

1. **Presentation & Musical Interpretation:** Dancing with confidence and charisma, creating interest in the performance, regardless of the style, responding to the music by taking the dance beyond a mere combination of patterns. Patterns should blend well and follow from one pattern to the next. Judges should reward pattern variation (versatility, no excessive repetition of patterns). Performance should appear to be spontaneous. Lifts, drops and aerials are not allowed (except for Pro-Am routine divisions). Talking, chewing gum or excessive singing with the music are not part of an attractive performance and will not be evaluated favorably. **Make it SWING!**
2. **Teamwork & Connection:** An appropriate and confident lead combined with response without fault or hesitation; the attractive give-and-take of a couple dancing as a balanced partnership. **He LEADS.....She FOLLOWS!**
3. **Technique:** The command of the fundamental elements of dance; the evident ease and clean execution of the performance (especially of more difficult elements). Judges shall reward moves and patterns to the extent they are executed cleanly and with apparent ease. The following are examples of what judges may look for in common types of movements:
  - *Spins* -- A person executing a spin should enter and exit the spin with proper posture, good balance, and appropriate foot and arm placement, should maintain proper timing and balance during the spin, and should come to a secure conclusion.
  - *Footwork patterns* -- Footwork patterns and show steps may be exaggerated but should maintain proper timing and should be appropriate to the music.

### **Make it CLEAN!**

4. **Timing & Rhythm:** The appropriate matching of body motions and footwork to the beat and rhythm of the music. When timing errors do occur, judges should note how quickly the dancers are able to recover from them. Intentional variations in basic timing and rhythm (e.g., syncopating, holding beats, and rushing rhythms) are commendable parts of a well-executed dance when they are appropriate to the music and, therefore, should be rewarded as such by the judges. **Stay ON BEAT!**