



DANCE JAM PRODUCTIONS CONTEST RULES

updated January 25, 2023

General Rules For All Participants

- **Conduct** All participants must abide by the DJP code of conduct at all times including in performance.
- **Health & Safety** All participants agree to follow the current policy requirements.
- **Supervision** A chaperone (age 21 or older) is required to attend with each participant under the age of 18. The chaperone will be responsible for supervising the participant(s) throughout the event, on and off site.
- **Disclaimer** The event staff reserves the right to remove the event or disqualify from competition any person (or persons) who present(s) potential harm, danger or disruption to themselves or anyone around them.
- **Your wristband ticket must be worn at all times.** Do not remove it.
- **Seating is open and shared for everyone.** Look for the table with your region or group name posted. You may not sit on the carpet or stand anywhere that blocks the view of others seated behind you. You may not "hold" shared seating by parking your stuff there. Anyone who wants a front row seat is invited to sit on the edge of the dance floor during performances.
"Sit in a chair or sit on the dance floor - Not on the carpet and don't block the doors"
- **Video recording and photography is welcome during all contests.** Video recording is only restricted during routines and spotlight performances. No tripods or extension cords allowed in the ballroom. Good Internet etiquette requires that you get permission before publishing identifiable videos of others.
- **Outside food**, beverages and pets are not allowed in the meeting rooms per hotel policy.
- **Contest Refunds** Entries may be withdrawn, and a refund issued through registration up to 1 hour prior to the session entry deadline. Withdrawals or scratches made after that time will not be refunded.
- **No bare feet.** Wax, powder or any other foreign substance may not be used on dance shoes or dance floors.
- **Soliciting** or sales of any product or service within the event areas requires advance permission of the event management.

General Contest Rules

All participants agree to:

- Read, know and follow all contest rules. Ask questions in advance.
- Register and pay the contest entry fee prior to the published deadlines.
- Pick up your competitor number prior to the scheduled entry deadline your first contest division.
- Respect contest staff, your partner, fellow competitors, and the audience.
- Exhibit good sportsmanship.
- Refrain from using vulgar or offensive gestures, costumes or song lyrics.
- Choreography competitors may have their wristband temporarily removed prior to a performance by the contest staff in the ballroom ONLY. Do not remove it yourself.
- You must check in with the competitor coordinators in the staging area 15 minutes prior to the start of each round of each contest. If you do not check in you will be scratched and forfeit your entry fee.
- All contestants must be at least 15 years old.
- An individual may not enter the same contest twice.
- Contests with fewer than 5 entries may be cancelled or the prize money reduced at the organizers' discretion. Entry fees for cancelled contests will be refunded.
- Entering a contest indicates consent to unrestricted use of your name and likeness in photos and videos to appear in future promotions on the internet.
- Complete scores from all contest rounds are available through the event website after the last day of the competition.

*Not all divisions in these rules are offered at every competition.

Strictly Swing Contests Sign up with your partner. We pick the music. Different skill levels are offered. Each is a separate contest. Couples will dance in heats for several short songs. If more than 15 couples enter a division there will be a preliminary contest followed by a final round. Judges will evaluate the couples based on their demonstration of good social dancing skills, timing, technique, connection, lead and follow, presentation and showmanship.

- Matching costumes and props are not allowed. Coordinating attire is acceptable.
- Strictly Swing partners may not dance together in more than one Strictly Swing contest or in any choreography contest.
- You may enter more than one Strictly Swing contest by
 - Entering an age division
 - "Dancing up" with a partner of a higher level
 - "Dancing down one level" in your non-dominant (lower points) role, as WSDC rules allow for JJ OR "dancing down two levels" (one level farther than JJ rules allow) only if you have no WSDC points and no significant previous competitive placements in your non-dominant role at any level.

Strictly Swing divisions

- **Skill divisions** [Newcomer-Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Allstar]: A couple's Strictly Swing skill division is determined by their WSDC Jack & Jill levels. If partners in this contest qualify for different WSDC Jack & Jill levels, the couple must enter Strictly Swing at the higher skill level.
- **Allstar**: If either partner has 45 or more advanced level point or any recent Allstar, Champion or Invitational WSDC points they must compete in this division.
- **Champion**: You may dance in this division if either partner has earned 150+ Allstar points or any Champions points. You must dance in Champions if either partner has more than 20 champions points. Champions division competitors may switch roles within the dance at any time as desired.
- **Age divisions** [Sophisticated, Masters]: These contests have an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement. Sophisticated (35+): Both partners must be 35 years of age or older. Masters (50+): Both partners must be 50 years of age or older.
- **Bridge The Gap**: In this division, dancers must be at least 20 years apart in age. Advanced, All-Stars and Champions may not compete together as a couple in this division but may enter with a partner from a lower division. For this division only: there is no minimum age to enter, and role switching within the dance is allowed. You may also enter a Strictly Swing contest at the appropriate skill level.
- **Switch** (non-leveled) - Lead, Follow, Switch. Couples must show role switching skills within the partnership. Anyone with lead, follow, and role-switching skills can enter, from Newcomer to Champions.
- **Hello MADjam Strictly**: Partners must live at least 750 miles apart. Champion dancers may only enter with a Newcomer partner. Allstar dancers may only enter with a Newcomer or Novice partner. Advanced dancers may only enter with a Newcomer, Novice or Intermediate partner. Levels are determined by primary WSDC level; there is no 'dancing down' for this contest. If you don't compete at all you (no WSDC number) can enter with whomever you'd like, of any level.

Choreography Contests Bring your partner, your costumes, your music and your dance routine. It's all about the show! Routines are danced in a solo format. Dance order is chosen at random before the floor trial.

- Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins and judging starts at the first dance movement of the performance, with or without music.
- You must provide your music to the contest DJ at the floor trial for your event. It must be a single file, clearly labeled on a USB thumb drive. Alternately, you may email the file to dave@dancejamproductions.com at least 24hrs in advance. If you need your music's tempo altered, started in the middle of the track or an early fade out you must make those edits in advance.
- Restarts will only be allowed in cases of:
 1. Music malfunction/Technical problem.
 2. Wardrobe/Costume malfunction.
 3. Head Judge stops the performance.

CLASSIC (NASDE) Swing routines emphasizing the foundation of swing dancing and swing movement. 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. Additional NASDE tour rules apply: <https://nasde.net/nasde-rules/>

- Contestants must be 18 years or older by the end of the event.
- A competitive couple must consist of one leader and one follower who remain in their designed roles throughout the entire routine with an allowable exception of an 8 count maximum of role switching.
- Must include 75% swing content. It is at the Judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met. Any violation or warning regarding Swing Content will be reflected in the individual judge's score or so noted on their individual score sheets.
- Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music.
- Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-aways, and recoveries which may not be more than 8 beats of music.
- Both partners must keep at least one foot on the floor during weight-support moves.
- A maximum of seven (7) partner weight-support moves are permitted.

SHOWCASE (NASDE) Swing routines with lifts and partner weight-support moves. Additional NASDE tour rules apply: <https://nasde.net/nasde-rules/>

- Contestants must be 18 years or older by the end of the event.
- A competitive couple must consist of one leader and one follower who remain in their designed roles throughout the entire routine with an allowable exception of an 8 count maximum of role switching.
- Must include 60% swing content. It is at the Judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met. Any violation or warning regarding Swing Content will be reflected in the individual judge's score or so noted on their individual score sheets.
- Separate entrances are permitted.
- Break-aways and side-by-side patterns are permitted.
- A minimum of three (3) lifts total are required, with at least one above the partner's waist. No lift maximum.

Rising Star (NASDE) This single division is for couples that have limited experience with choreography competition and do not yet want to compete against professionals. You may not enter Rising Star and Classic or Showcase at the same event. Additional NASDE tour rules apply: <https://nasde.net/nasde-rules/>

ProAm Spotlight – Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose. See “student” and “professional” definitions under ProAm Contests for eligibility requirements.

Team - At least 4 couples performing a choreographed swing routine.

ProAm Strictly - Students enter with their teacher. Amateurs are defined as anyone who does not teach West Coast Swing on a regular, ongoing basis. A professional is defined as someone who earns a significant amount of income teaching or performing West Coast Swing. Anyone who has previously competed in open or professional level West Coast Swing competition must be considered a Pro for this purpose.

ProAm Strictly - Student/teacher couples dance together. Only the amateur is evaluated. Couples dance in heats with multiple couples on the floor for two songs of about 1½ minutes each. Students will be assessed on skills within the role they entered.

- All patterns should be lead/follow. No choreographed sequences. No lifts
- Each pro is limited to a maximum of 5 entries per ProAm Strictly division.

(2) West Coast Swing ProAm Strictly contests are offered. Students are encouraged to enter at their WSDC JJ level or follow guidance of their teacher. Students may choose to enter a second ProAm Strictly in the opposite role at the same level or one level down.

- Newcomer/Novice

- Intermediate

See also ProAm Spotlight under “Choreography Contest.”

Jack & Jill Contests Jack & Jill contests allow individuals to enter without a partner and demonstrate skills in spontaneous dancing with a variety of partners. There is an inherent “luck of the draw” factor involved. Leaders and followers are randomly paired. There will be several partner changes during the preliminary and semi-final rounds. Competitors are scored individually on timing, technique and teamwork in preliminary heats. Those scoring the highest will be called back to dance in the next round. In the final round, individuals are randomly paired, then scored together as a couple. The DJ picks the music. Tempo and style will vary. All songs will be appropriate for the dance division entered. There are divisions for different skill levels (WSDC), divisions with age requirements and divisions open to all. Onsite registration for all Jack & Jills is limited. There are strict entry deadlines. Significant cash prizes are awarded to winners in Novice and above in amounts based on the total of entries.

- Masters-Novice, Twisted All American are not WSDC divisions.
- You must be at least 15 years old.

Leveled WSDC West Coast Swing Jack & Jill divisions- The World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Points Registry determines eligibility for these leveled West Coast Swing Jack & Jill contests. Look up your level here: www.worldsdc.com. Competitors are responsible for entering only contests they qualify for. If you haven’t earned any WSDC points you should start in newcomer. You may enter more than one skill level if you dance different roles.

WSDC Skill Level Divisions

- **Newcomer** - This where you start! First time competitors and those with no prior competition success should dance in Newcomer. To enter you must be competent with the basics of social dancing. You may continue to dance in Newcomer until you have earned 10 newcomer points.
- **Novice** - For competitors with some prior experience or competition success. Competitors with 30 or more Novice points must move up to intermediate.
- **Intermediate** - Requires previous competition success in the Novice division. You must have at least 16 Novice points to dance in Intermediate. Competitors with 45 or more Intermediate points must move up to Advanced.
- **Advanced** - Requires previous competition success in the Intermediate division. You must have at least 30 Intermediate points. Competitors with 60 or more Advanced points earned within the last 3 years must move up to AllStar.
- **AllStar** - Requires at least 45 Advanced or higher level points OR 3 AllStar points earned in the previous 36 months.
- **Champion** - You may dance in this division if you have 150+ Allstar points or any Champions points. You must dance in Champions if you have more than 20 Champions points.
- **Invitational** - This contest includes only dancers invited by the event organizers.

A competitor with exceptional circumstances may submit a formal petition for a level change. Petitions must be submitted no less than 48 hours before the competition begins. Dancing in the wrong division without a successful prior petition may incur disqualification. Petitions can be submitted for one skill level up or one skill level down only. Questions should be directed to dave@dancejamproductions.com.

Additional Divisions.

- **Sophisticated (35+)** - This division is for competitors age 35 and over.
- **Masters WSDC (50+)** - This division is for competitors age 50 and over.
- **Masters** divisions are for competitors age 50 and over. There are two divisions:
Masters-Novice for Newcomer and Novice competitors only.
Masters-Open (WSDC) Anyone age 50 or over may enter. Intermediate through Champion competitors may only dance in Masters-Open.
- **All In** – Anyone from Newcomer to Champion can enter this inexpensive everybody-in contest. We'll randomly assign you a partner to dance with for at least three songs, or more if you make it to finals together. To mix

things up even more, there's a twist: Allstars & Champions must enter in the role they don't usually compete in. If you can dance West Coast Swing enough to have fun and be fun to dance with, we want you to join us in this contest! Have fun, make a friend, maybe even win a t-shirt. It's low stress, friendly, dance-together fun.

ProAm Jack & Jill – Enter as an individual. Dance with at least three randomly chosen professional or Allstar partners. The DJ picks the music. Jack & Jill contests allow individuals to enter without a partner and demonstrate skills in spontaneous dancing.

(2) West Coast Swing ProAm Jack & Jill contest levels are offered. Students should use WSDC JJ rules (see above) to determine which level to enter. Students may choose to enter a second ProAm JJ in their nondominant role at the same level or one level down. Contestants will be assessed on skills within the role they entered

- Newcomer/Novice
- Intermediate

Definitions

- Breakaway - A set of symmetric or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple who intentionally break contact (except for spins and turns), which is not a clearly leadable derivative of a recognizable swing pattern.
- Costumes - Attire that in the opinion of the judges is specifically designed or selected for couples competition and would not generally be worn for social dancing.
- Drop - Movement in which either partner's head and torso go below knee level of the other partner.
- Entrance - Pre-choreographed segment of a performance, where competitors formally enter the floor and prepare to dance. Acknowledging your partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an entrance.
- Exit - Pre-choreographed segment of a performance, where competitors leave the floor. Acknowledging your partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an exit.
- Lifts - Any movement lasting longer than a full beat of music where the feet of one partner are clearly off the floor and the other partner supports the lifted partner's weight.
- Props - Throw away skirts, shirts, scarfs, etc are considered props in this context and are not allowed. Anything other than what would be considered acceptable clothing.
- Routine - Any segment, which, in the opinion of the judges, consists of prearranged choreography including symmetric or complementary movements or footwork.
- Swing Content - Recognizable West Coast Swing elements.

Relative Placement Scoring This system used to determine winners in final rounds. It was adapted from the figure skating system and is now widely used at major dance competitions. It minimizes the impact of a rogue judge's mark and recognizes the most consistently scored entry. An equal numerical value is assigned to each Judge's raw scores, so that each Judge has an equal vote in the final outcome.

For additional info contact dave@dancejamproductions.com

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