DANCE JAM PRODUCTIONS CONTEST RULES
updated September 22, 2026
https://dancejamproductions.com/rules/

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

General Rules For All Participants

- Everyone must always abide by the DJP code of conduct 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 from 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. 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- **Contest Refunds** Entries may be withdrawn, and a refund issued through registration up to 1 hour prior to the session entry deadline.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.

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 one or multiple Strictly Swing contests with different partners in each contest by:
  - Entering the same level as your JJ and
  - Entering Sophisticated, Masters, Generational or Switch
  - Dancing up with partner(s) who qualify for higher level(s)
  - Dancing down in your secondary role, as WSDC rules allow for JJ

Strictly Swing divisions (Not all divisions in these rules are offered at every competition)

- **Skill divisions** [Newcomer-Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Allstar, Champion]: A couple's Strictly Swing skill division is determined by the WSDC Jack & Jill levels they enter. If partners in this contest dance in for different WSDC Jack & Jill levels, the couple must enter Strictly Swing at the higher skill level.
- **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. Champions and Allstars are encouraged to enter but you must dance with a partner who is not a Champion or Allstar.
- **Switch** (non-leveled) - Lead, Follow, Switch. Couples must show role switching skills within the partnership. Anyone with lead, follow, and role-switching skills may 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) you can enter with whomever you'd like, of any level. Role switching is allowed in Hello MADjam only if the couple qualifies to dance together in either role.
- **Generational:** Partners must have 20 years or more difference in age. Allstars and Champions may not dance with each other in this contest.
- **Champion/Allstar's Choice** Open to all-star and champion competitors, however there may be only <u>one</u> champion-eligible competitor in each partnership. For the purposes of this competition, "champion-eligible" means 150+ all-star points or 1+ champion points.

ProAm Strictly Swing - Students enter with their teacher. 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.
- Students may enter ProAm Strictly at their WSDC JJ level.
- Students may enter in their secondary role at the same level or one level down.

3 divisions are offered:

- Newcomer/Novice
- Intermediate
- Masters (50+)

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.

- Lifts and drops are allowed but not required.
- You must provide your music to the contest DJ ahead of time or during the floor trial prior to your division. 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. Contest DJs will not speed up or slow down your music.
- Restarts will only be allowed in cases of:
    1. Music malfunction/Technical problem.
    2. Wardrobe/Costume malfunction.
    3. Head Judge stops the performance.

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. Additional Rising Star tour rules apply: https://risingstartour.com . 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.

ProAm Spotlight – Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed West Coast Swing routine to music they choose. Performance time is a minimum of 1.5 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins and judging starts at the first dance movement of the performance, with or without music.

Team - At least 4 couples performing a choreographed West Coast Swing routine.

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. There are strict entry deadlines. Significant cash prizes are awarded to winners in Novice and above in amounts based on the total of entries.

- You must be at least 15 years old.
- Competitors are responsible for entering only contests they qualify for

WSDC Skill Level Divisions are based on previous WSDC competition results, and follow the guidelines listed on chart 3 at www.worldsdc.com/rules/wsdc-points-registry-rules/

First-time Jack & Jill competitors and those with no previous WSDC JJ competition experience should start in Newcomer. To enter Newcomer Jack and Jill, you must be competent with the basics of social dancing and ready to dance with whomever you draw.

If you have previously made finals in a WSDC JJ, you can look up your WSDC competitor number, how many points you have, and what level(s) you are eligible to enter on this site: www.worldsdc.com/registry-points/. You may enter at one skill level as a leader and another skill level as a follower.

Competitors dancing in both roles should register for **adjacent skill levels** (e.g., Advanced Follower and Intermediate Leader), unless they have sufficient exceptional circumstances to merit entering an additional level down as WSDC rules allow.

If a dancer needs to switch levels due to special circumstances in their primary role, they must submit a formal petition.

- To move **up a level**, the petition must be submitted **at least 15 days before** the event.
- To move **down a level**, the petition must be submitted **at least 48 hours before** the event.

Forms are available at www.worldsdc.com/wsdc-forms.
For questions, email dave@dancejamproductions.com.
Dancers who compete in the wrong division without an approved petition will be disqualified.

Skill Level Divisions: Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Allstar, Champion

Additional Divisions (Not all divisions are offered at every competition)

- **Sophisticated WSDC (35+)** - This division is for competitors age 35 and over, Newcomer – Champion.
- **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 –** In this 'Jack & Jill' style dance mixer you'll rotate to three partners. It's for Newcomers to Champions and everyone in between, have magical dances together - but instead of judging we will celebrate dancing with each other AND two lucky people who enter will be chosen randomly to WIN a Dream Pass to YOUR CHOICE of Dance Jam Productions event: MADjam, Swing Fling, or DCSX!

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. Use WSDC JJ rules (see above). Contestants will be assessed on skills within the role they entered. Medals will be awarded to the top placing amateurs.

- Newcomer/Novice (based on WSDC points)

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.

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