

# DANCE n' PLAY: 2024 WCS Competition Rules

Please read the following descriptions of the competitions carefully. Competitors may be placed out-of-the-ranking if a violation occurs.

\* Note\* All competitors MUST have a valid 3-day pass to compete. Minimum number of 5 Entries in any division otherwise division MAY be cancelled at the discretion of the Event coordinator. Time slots set aside for competition that are cancelled will become social dance time.

These rules are for the WCS competitions. Rules for the PNW Stampede hosted country competitions will be available at the event.

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## JACK & JILL and STRICTLY SWING

If competitors do not meet a division's qualifications as stated in this document and checked against the World Swing Dance Council Competitor Registry, they may petition to be accepted into a specific category. **It is highly recommended each competitor review their points on the Jack and Jill Competitor's Point Registry at [www.worldsdc.com](http://www.worldsdc.com) before the convention.**

Our Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight 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. Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected in advance by our Competition DJ.

To enter our Jack & Jill divisions, you must be at least 13 years old. (If you are under 18, you **must** have your parent or guardian's consent, and you should be comfortable social dancing with adults on a regular basis).

**Jack & Jill** — At least 90% recognizable swing patterns are required. If there is a preliminary, contestants will dance in groups with several different partners; they will progress individually in the preliminaries and place as a couple in the finals.

**West Coast Swing Jack & Jill competitions.** There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division. We use the [World Swing Dance Council Points Registry](#) to determine eligibility for each WCS division. Please see WSDC rules for eligibility.

**WSDC Newcomer Jack & Jill** If not enough newcomers we will give the option to compete in Novice.

**WSDC Novice Jack & Jill**

**WSDC Intermediate Jack & Jill**

**WSDC Masters Jack & Jill**

**WSDC Advance Jack & Jill**

**WSDC All-Star/Champion Jack & Jill**

**High/Low J&J** (2 Competitions, 1 with High Leads, 1 with High Follows) This competition is set up (High = Adv, All-Star, Champion) (Low =Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate). If numbers are off balance, we will convert this contest to an All-American.

**Open Challenge Jack & Jill.** (non-WSDC) This competition is for everyone. Open to any level competitor. Any lead can draw any follow. If enough competitors enter, we will have a prelim and final. If prelims are held, the partners will stay together in prelims AND finals. *In the finals there will be "Challenges" the partners must perform while dancing. Dancing is still the most important criteria but how they work the challenge into the dance will be graded on creativity/entertainment and accomplishment.*

## STRICTLY SWING

### Strictly Swing Open

- **Open Strictly** – Only 1 Advance person or higher per couple allowed.
- At least 90% recognizable swing patterns are required.
- Competitors are free to choose their partner of any gender and role. Dancers compete at the level they have achieved in the role they are dancing in (e.g. An adv. Lead can compete as an Intermediate follow assuming they have no points as a follow)
- Competitors must maintain the role of leader or follower that they start as throughout the entire division. Changing roles while dancing will be considered a violation.
- Costumes are not allowed; coordinating attire is permissible.
- Judges will be looking for the type of clothes worn to go out dancing on a weekend evening.
- Couples may dance in heats or spotlight depending on the number of couples entered. Discretion of CJ and Contest Coordinator.

**Music for the Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing competitions.** Our Competition DJ will select all music in advance for our Jack & Jill, and Strictly Swing competitions. Music for finals spotlight dances will be approximately the same length of time for each couple. The event reserves the right to provide a choice of music to spotlighted couples (Choices may be Blues, Contemporary, 60's, Rock or Slow, TBD). The exact time of fade out is left to the DJ's discretion to maximize the effectiveness of the music. If the judges need more time to determine their callbacks or final placements, the Chief Judge may request that additional music be played.

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In ALL competitions, Lifts, acrobatics, aerials are not allowed. Partners must stay in contact at all times (Challenge JnJ excepted), *except* on free spins, turns, and small breakaways. Flea hops, bunny hops, heel kicks, flying Lindy and adaptations to other swing styles, small jumps over a partner's leg, social drops and leveraged slides are all allowed; otherwise, both dancers must keep one foot on the floor at all times. No routines or choreographed moves are allowed. Recognizable shag patterns are allowed. Dancing must be strictly lead and follow.

### **Judging Criteria**

- TIMING** - Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Timing extends to much finer distinctions than a single beat. It includes fractionally ahead or behind the beat, as well as matching the syncopated "swing" of the music.
  - TEAMWORK** - Swing is a connected, partner dance. The demonstration of this connection and the appearance of lead/follow or action/reaction between the partners is an expected part of any competition. One partner ignoring or outdancing the other or jeopardizing the safety of the other (or other Competitors), indicates poor teamwork.
  - TECHNIQUE** - How well the Competitors execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. This includes control of balance and weight, foot placement, bodylines, and spins.
  - CHOREOGRAPHY** - The selection and order of movements and transitions executed during a dance comprises choreography. Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and its phrasing, as well as variety and contrast.
  - PRESENTATION** - To create an atmosphere of excitement by inviting and generating interest in a performance is the desired effect of good presentation. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, a good show is not a substitute for good dancing.
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## *Definitions*

### **Aerial.**

An aerial is a move in which one dancer is lifted with the assistance of his/her partner and the head and torso is in a position higher than the waist of the supporting partner. **Aerials are prohibited in all competitions except Showcase.**

### **Lift.**

A lift is any intentional maneuver lasting longer than a full beat of music where the feet of one dancer are clearly off the floor and the partner supports the weight. This definition shall not include any of the following common syncopations or patterns: "flea hops"; "bunny hops"; "heel clicks"; "Flying Lindy" (and its obvious adaptations to other swing styles); "jumps" by competitors over the leg of the partners and leveraged slides. **Lifts are prohibited in all competitions.**

### **Submitting a petition to change divisions.**

In competitions with more than one division, it is our goal to encourage you to compete with your peers in the correct division. If you are unclear about which division is right for you, check with our Competition Coordinator, Chief Judge, or Contestant Representative before you register.

If you feel uncomfortable competing in the division for which you qualify, you may submit a petition to compete in a different division. Write a brief explanation of the reason(s) for your request on the back of the entry form and submit it with your entry fee before the contest registration deadline.

Our Competition Coordinator (or another competition official designated by our Competition Coordinator) will review your petition (in consultation with the Chief Judge) and approve or deny your request. Our Competition Coordinator will notify you as soon as possible (no later than the contestant meeting) of the decision. **You should attend the contestant meeting** or be prepared to compete in the original division if your petition is denied.

### **Our verification of your eligibility**

We will do our best to verify that you are eligible for the competitions you enter by checking the **WSDC Points Registry** (and other sources of information, if applicable). In some cases (for example, if you submit a petition or do not have the required WSDC points), we may reassign you to a different division. (ultimately it is the competitor's responsibility to make sure they are registered in the right division and entered their correct WSDC number)

If you have concerns that other contestants are entered in an incorrect division or are ineligible, please inform our Competition Coordinator, Chief Judge, Assistant CJ, or Contestant Representative privately, as soon as possible. We will investigate and take appropriate action, if necessary.

If we determine before or during a competition that you have registered for the wrong division or are not eligible, we will reassign you to the correct division (if possible) or allow you to withdraw. If we discover your error after the finals, we will drop you out of awards. If we made the error and assigned you incorrectly, no penalty will be applied.

### **Contestant Meetings/Contests**

Dance and Play will not be holding a Contestants meeting. **You are responsible for checking off your name on the posted rosters per division to confirm you are correctly registered.** You are responsible for knowing all rules for the divisions you dance in. All rules can be clarified by talking with the Chief Judge, or Assistant CJ. All Petitions will be communicated prior to the start of the competition by one of the competition team members. No petitions will be accepted after registration for a competition closes. Rosters will be posted, and divisions will run, based on those rosters.