

## DANCE JAM PRODUCTIONS CONTEST RULES 2016

### General Rules For All Participants

- **Liability Release** Everyone must read and sign the release at the time they purchase and receive tickets.
- **Refunds** All ticket sales are final. There are no cash refunds. If you discover you are unable to attend for any reason you may transfer your registration to another dancer at no cost or a request a full credit towards any future Dance Jam Productions event within one calendar year. No credits will be issued for scratched entries.
- **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 any person (or persons) who present(s) potential harm, danger or disruption to themselves or anyone around them while attending the event.
- **Your wristband ticket must be worn at all times.** Do not remove it. You will be charged full price for a replacement. Choreography competitors may have their wristband temporarily removed prior to a performance by the contest staff in the ballroom.
- **Seating is open and shared for everyone except at tables identified by group names.** You may sit in a chair or on the dance floor. 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 the special exhibitions. 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 or beverages are not allowed in the ballroom.** This is a hotel regulation.
- **Workshops begin on the hour.** Doors close 5 minutes after the hour. Late entry is not allowed. . Teachers may elect to allow students to record a short video recap at the class conclusion for personal use.

### General Contest Rules

All participants agree to:

- Read, know and follow all contest rules and the code of conduct. Ask questions in advance.
- Be at least 15 years old (exceptions: Youth ProAm, Juniors Routine and Teams).
- Respect the contest staff, fellow competitors and exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.
- Register and pay the contest entry fee prior to the published deadlines.
- Pick up your competitor number prior to the scheduled closing time for onsite registration.
- Check in with the competitor coordinators in the staging area 15 minutes prior to the start of each round of each contest in which you will be dancing. If you do not check in you will be scratched and forfeit your entry fee.
- Never use vulgar or offensive gestures, costumes or song lyrics.
- Consent to unrestricted use of your name and likeness in photos and videos to appear in future promotions.
- An individual may not enter the same contest twice.
- Complete scores from all final rounds will be posted immediately following each awards presentation. Preliminary and semi final tally sheets are not posted publicly, however you may request a copy for contests in which you participated after the awards have been announced.
- Contests with fewer than 5 entries (couples) may be cancelled or the prize money reduced at the organizers discretion. Entry fees for cancelled contests will be refunded.

**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.
- The same partners may not dance together in a Strictly Swing contest and a choreography contest.
- You may lead at one level and follow at the next higher or lower level.

- You may not enter 2 levels dancing the same role.
- You may not enter the same level dancing both roles.
- A Couple must enter the highest skill level either of them qualifies for based on WSDC points.

**(6) Strictly Swing contests are offered.**

- **Novice, Intermediate, Advanced:** For these divisions a couple must enter the highest level either partner qualifies for based on the WSDC points they have earned and the WSDC level criteria for Jack & Jill.
- **Open:** 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.
- **Sophisticated (35+):** Both partners must be 35 years of age or older. Because this is an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement you may also enter another Strictly Swing contest at the appropriate skill level if you wish.
- **Masters (50+):** Both partners must be 50 years of age or older. Because this is an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement you may also enter another Strictly Swing contest at the appropriate skill level if you wish.

**Choreography Contests** – Bring your partner, 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 and posted prior to the division start time. Your music must be turned in 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 can email the file to [dave@dancejamproductions.com](mailto:dave@dancejamproductions.com) 24hrs in advance. If you need your music’s tempo altered, started in the middle of the track or an early fade out, please have someone edit your music in advance.

- Performance must be at least 2 minutes and no longer than 3½ minutes (3 min max for Classic & Showcase)
- Choreographed entrances are counted towards the time limit.
- Costumes are encouraged. Props are not allowed.
- Lifts, drops, tricks and stunts are allowed but not required.
- There are specific times scheduled for competitor floor trials listed on the schedule.
- You must turn in your music to the DJ at the floor trial for your event.
- Restarts will only be allowed in cases of:
  1. Music malfunction/Technical problem.
  2. Wardrobe/Costume malfunction.
  3. Head Judge stops the couple.

**Rising Star** - This single division includes all styles of Swing: West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Hustle, Shag and Hand Dance or any other style of popular swing dance. It is for couples that have limited experience with choreography and do not yet want to compete against professionals. If either partner has previously placed 5th or higher at a NASDE Classic or Showcase contest they are no longer eligible to compete in Rising Star. If a couple has a total of 10 first place wins together in Rising Star division they must move up to an open level division. You may not enter Rising Star and Classic or Showcase at the same event.

**Open Swing**- This single division includes all styles of Swing: West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Hustle, Shag and Hand Dance or any other style of popular swing dance. If a couple has competed previously in NASDE classic or showcase or is no longer eligible for Rising Star they should dance in this division.

**Masters (50+)** - This single division includes all styles of Swing: West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Hustle, Shag and Hand Dance or any other style of popular swing dance. Winners earn points for the Masters Tour and cash prizes.

**ProAm Spotlight** - This single division is offered for all styles of Swing: West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Hustle, Shag and Hand Dance or any other style of popular swing dance. Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose.

**Juniors (YASDA)** - This single division is offered for couples where both partners are under 18 years old.

- Routines must include at least 75% recognizable swing content.
- Lifts, drops, tricks and stunts are allowed but not required.

If a juniors couple has competed previously but one partner reaches 18 years of age, the couple may petition the organizer in advance for an exception to the age restriction. The intent of this option is to allow competitors who have formed a partnership and advanced their dancing together to continue to compete together in this division. At the organizers discretion the partnership may be allowed to continue to dance in the Juniors division until the youngest turns 18 or the eldest turns 20. An individual 18 or older, while eligible to dance (with a successful petition) is ineligible to receive points towards the year-end YASDA prize. The Juniors division is part of the Young Adult Swing Dance Association Tour. Points are awarded as follows.

Tier 1 1-5 couples 5,4,3,2,1,0

Tier 2 6-10 couples 7,6,5,4,3 (6-10=1 pt)

Tier 3 11-15 couples 9,8,7,6,5(6-15=2 pt)

Tier 4 16-20 couples 11,10,9,8,7 (6-20=3 pt)

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

**ProAm Contests** - Students enter with their teacher. For this contest, amateurs are defined as anyone who does not teach dancing on a regular, ongoing basis or earn a significant amount of income teaching or performing. A professional is defined as someone who earns a significant amount of income teaching or performing dance. Anyone who has previously competed in open or professional level competition must be considered a Pro for this purpose. Couples entering ProAm divisions must have a prior student/teacher relationship. Only the amateur is evaluated. Different skill levels and 2 age-defined divisions are offered for both Leader and Follower roles. Each skill level and role is a separate contest.

All students will receive a customized plaque with a medal award. Placements 1st through 5th in each division and role will also be recognized. Couples dance in heats with multiple couples on the floor for about 1½ minutes of a song the DJ chooses for that division.

- A student may enter two adjacent skill levels in either or both roles.
- Matched costumes and props are not allowed. Coordinating attire is acceptable
- Couples must remain in contact unless executing a spin.
- No lifts, drops or partner supported moves allowed.
- No choreographed entrances or exits

**(6) West Coast Swing ProAm contests are offered.**

- **Youth** - Students under age 15 must enter this division regardless of previous dance or competition experience.
- **Sophisticated (35+)** - Students age 35 and over regardless of previous dance or competition experience. Because this is an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement you may also enter up to 2 adjacent ProAm contests if you wish.
- **Newcomer** - This is an entry-level division for students with very little or no previous competition experience. It is limited to students competing less than 1 year in West Coast Swing. Students who have previously won a contest against 3 or more entries should move up to novice or intermediate. Newcomer competitors should exhibit traditional basic figures only. Judges will be looking for good basic technique, connection, timing and confidence. Complex variations and elaborate patterns are not acceptable in newcomer divisions.
- **Novice** - This division is for students with less than 3 years total dance experience and limited previous competition success. Students are expected to perform solid basics. Limited variations are allowed but not required. No leans, drops, or breakaways are allowed. All material should be recognizable as familiar, common "leadable" social patterns.
- **Intermediate** - This division is for students with significant prior competition and or dance experience. Students are expected to perform clean basics with variations and musicality. Judges will consider musical interpretation, showmanship and creativity.
- **Advanced** – This division is for seasoned competitors who want to get in front of the audience and judges with their teacher. Judges will consider everything including but not limited to: variations, musicality, teamwork, showmanship and creativity.

**Jack & Jill Contests** – Enter as an individual. Dance with a randomly chosen partner. The DJ picks the music. There are contests for many skill levels. Onsite registration for all Jack & Jill is limited. There are strict entry deadlines published in advance. You must enter before the deadline. 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 the preliminary heats. Those scoring the highest will be called back later to dance in a final round. In the final, individuals are randomly paired, then scored 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 significant cash prizes awarded to the winners. The amounts are based on the number of entries in each division.

- You may only enter 1 level of Jack & Jill (sophisticated, Masters excluded).
- You must be at least 15 years old

**West Coast Swing Jack & Jill Levels** - The (WSDC) World Swing Dance Council Points Registry is used to determine eligibility for the West Coast Swing Jack & Jill skill levels. Current WSDC points information is available online at [www.swingdancecouncil.com](http://www.swingdancecouncil.com) for anyone to look up which division they have qualified for. Competitors are expected to honor this system. You may only dance in a level other than what you qualify for by petitioning the chief judge or event director at least 48 hours in advance. WSDC registry documents have been recently updated.

- **Newcomer** - This where you start! First time competitors and those with no prior competition success should dance in Newcomer even if you have entered a Novice contest elsewhere. To enter newcomer 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 competition success. You must have at least 5 Newcomer points OR have previously danced in a Novice division elsewhere. Competitors with 15 or more Novice points must move up to intermediate.
- **Intermediate** - Requires previous competition success in the Novice division. You must have at least 15 Novice points OR any Intermediate points. Competitors with 30 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 OR any Advanced points. Competitors with 45 or more Advanced points earned within the last 3 years must move up to AllStar.
- **AllStar** - You must have at least 45 Advanced or higher level points OR any existing AllStar points earned in the previous 3 years.
- **Champion** - This contest features the best of the best. To be eligible, all competitors must have placed 5<sup>th</sup> or higher at a NASDE tour event in a Champions, Invitational or professional level Jack & Jill or Strictly Swing contests within the previous 3 years.

The following Jack & Jill divisions are not “Leveled” so if you meet the criteria for these divisions you may enter them in addition to the skill level you qualify for.

- **Sophisticated (35+)** - This division is for competitors age 35 and over. There are no points requirements and the World swing dance council no longer tracks points for this division. You may enter Sophisticated and another swing Jack & Jill contest at the skill level you are qualified for.
- **Masters (50+)** - This division is for competitors age 50 and over. There are no points requirements and the World swing dance council no longer tracks points for this division. You may enter Masters, Sophisticated and another swing Jack & Jill contest at the skill level you are qualified for.

### **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 - includes West Coast, Hustle, Hand Dance, Lindy hop and Shag.

**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 rouge 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. A very detailed explanation of this system with examples can be found here: [http://www.swingdancecouncil.com/library/relativeplacement\\_5\\_1\\_10.pdf](http://www.swingdancecouncil.com/library/relativeplacement_5_1_10.pdf)

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