Swing in Capital - COMPETITION RULES 2026

Competition Organizer

Final decision on any matter pertaining to these competitions rests solely with the organizer(s) of Swing in Capital.

General Competition Requirements:

Each competition is open to all competitors in good standing who:

1. Hold an Event Pass (Workshop Pass, Party Pass, All Star Pass) and pay all associated registrations fees;
2. Register by the official entry deadlines(s) as outlined in the weekend schedule;
3. Pay the required entry fee(s) and complete any required entry forms.
4. Meet all other specific entry requirements as outlined in these rules.

Contest Requirements:

1. Entries: All contests must have a minimum of five (5) entries to be a valid contest.
2. Judges: There will be a minimum of four (4) Judges per role for all prelims competitions and a minimum of five (5) Judges for all finals competitions; seven (7) for tier 5-6 contests.
3. Scoring System: Contests are scored using computerized software and relative placement.
4. Contestants will be judged in the preliminaries, quarter-finals and/or semi-finals as an individual in Jack & Jill competitions and as a couple in any finals.

Role/Gender Requirements:

Persons of any gender can choose to dance either lead or follow, as they prefer. We encourage you to register in whichever role you would like when dancing.

Appropriate Behavior and Dress Code:

Any action that the judges believe would make them uncomfortable in a social dance setting (such as wearing inappropriate attire, showing disrespect toward one's partner, other dancers,

or the event) is prohibited. Competitors should check with the Organizer or Chief Judge in advance if they have any questions.

Competitors are encouraged not to wear jeans or “too casual” attire for competitions. Please dress in appropriate attire; if you have a clothing issue, please contact the chief judge for prior approval.

Changes to These Rules

The Organizer reserves the right to make any changes in schedule/format deemed necessary for any competition.

Responsibilities of Competitors

1. Competitors should check the weekend schedule in advance in order to arrive in time to meet registration deadlines. They should bring appropriate competition attire. They should also plan ahead so as to be **on-time** for all marshaling and competitions. Competitors are responsible for checking at the event for any changes to previously announced schedules, which are always subject to change.
2. All competitors should **read these rules** carefully prior to attending the contestant meeting for their competition. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules whether they have read them or not. Questions about the rules should be addressed to the Organizer or the Chief Judge.
3. Competitors should be present in the ballroom or in the marshaling area at least **10 minutes prior** to the start of their competition marshalling. Failure to arrive at your scheduled marshalling times may lead to disqualification.
4. Any cancellation or disqualification by a competitor or couple after the registration deadline will result in the loss of the entry fee.
5. Competitors must demonstrate good sporting conduct at all times, both on and off the dance floor. Competitors may not speak to judges regarding their placements or scores until after the awards have been given. It is bad sportsmanship to badger or argue with judges about placements and scores. Competitors must also refrain from any behavior

that the judges deem inappropriate. Failure to adhere to this code of behavior may result in disqualification.

Competitors: Skill Levels and Points Registry

1. Competitors are responsible for following the WSDC Registry Rules. Competitors will not receive WSDC points for placement if they fail to follow the WSDC Points Registry Rules.
2. Competitors have one (1) unique WSDC Competitor ID number for the Points Registry.
    a. Competitors are responsible for using their WSDC Competitor ID number when registering for Jack and Jill competitions at WSDC Registry Events.
    b. Competitors are responsible for correcting their WSDC Competitor ID number errors, either at the event or with the WSDC directly.
    c. Competitors will be assigned a WSDC Competitor ID number only after they receive a point.
3. Competitors may compete in a maximum of two (2) skill level WSDC Jack and Jill competitions, once in their primary role and once in their secondary role.
4. Competitors may compete in multiple age-based WSDC Jack and Jill competitions for which they qualify.
5. Competitors may compete in either their primary or secondary role in other Contests.
6. Competitors must use the Points Registry, this rules document, and the WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart (Chart 3) to determine the skill level for their primary role.
    a. Competitors may submit petitions to dance one level “up” or “down” for their primary role only. Competitors may only submit petitions up for their secondary role. Petitions must be approved or the competitor will *not* receive points for placement.
    b. Competitors who dance in the incorrect skill level division without a successful petition must be disqualified and will not receive points for placement.
7. Competitors will be awarded points as either a Leader or Follower. Those points are tracked separately in the Points Registry.

a. The points required for moving up (or down) is based on the points in that role, not the combined points in their primary and secondary roles.

8. The level a competitor is allowed to compete in their primary role determines their allowable level in their secondary role. WSDC recommends competitors compete in their secondary role one (1) level down from the role they enter in their primary role. Competitors *may* dance two (2) levels down from the highest level they are *allowed* to compete in their primary role, with the following clarifications: Registry.
    a. Competitors with points in both their primary and secondary roles at the same skill level must select only one (1) role to compete in (either their primary or secondary role) for that event's skill level Jack and Jill contest.
    b. When a competitor has a choice of primary role levels, the highest level the competitor qualifies to compete sets the allowable level for their secondary role, i.e. the division a competitor chooses for their *primary role* at the Event *does not* affect what level they may compete at for their secondary role.
    c. Competitors *may* dance two (2) levels down from their primary level (their highest competitive level), regardless of whether they choose to compete in the primary level for the Event. If they reach the "may" move up level on the WSDC Skill Level Jack & Jill Advancement Chart (Chart 3), based on their points in their secondary role, at which point they *must* dance only one level down from their highest allowed primary role. See Secondary Role WSDC Skill Level Jack & Jill Advancement Chart (worldsdc.com).
    d. Petitions down are not allowed for secondary roles.
    e. Competitors may dance in Newcomer, at events where it is offered, in the following scenarios:
        i. In either role, if they have no points in either role; or
        ii. In their secondary role if they have fewer than 16 Novice points in their primary role and have no points at any level in their secondary role. Note that competitors who are allowed to compete in Intermediate in their primary role (no matter what level they choose to compete in at the Event) may not compete in Newcomer in their secondary role.
9. Points are recorded only for those who place in WSDC Jack and Jill finals.

10. If a competitor places twice in a division, the competitor is only awarded points for the higher placement (e.g., the contest goes straight to finals with uneven numbers; competitor places 2nd and 5th; competitor is awarded points for 2nd place).
11. For WSDC Champion Jack and Jill contests, competitors may compete ("are allowed") if they have 1 Champion point or 150 All Star points and must compete ("are required") if they have 10 Champion points or 225 All Star points, assuming the event offers a WSDC Champion Jack and Jill contest.
    a. Events may no longer define their Champion division by including other qualifications (e.g., alternative predefined number of Champion / Invitational points, NASDE Classic or Showcase placements), but may offer a non- WSDC Champions contest, Invitational, or show as an alternative with different qualifications for entry.
    b. Competitors with 10+ Champion points and/or 225+ All Star points ("are required" to compete in Champions) may not enter All Star contests without an approved petition, but may enter a combined All Star / Champion contest.

Petitions for Division Reclassification

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 worldsdc.com for anyone to look up which division they have qualified for.

1. A Petition Process is for competitors who wish to dance in a different skill division:
    a. Petitions can only move your skill level one (1) division, either up or down.
    b. For petitions **down** (primary role only):
        i. The Chief Judge, or qualified individual(s)/committee designated by the Chief Judge, may approve or deny the petition after reviewing the competitor's Points Registry record.
        ii. Petitions are event-specific and not transferable. Competitors must submit a petition at their next event.
    c. For petitions **up**:

i. Petitions must be submitted to the WSDC Chief Judges Committee ("CJC") at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the event, along with two (2) videos of the competitor's dancing. Petitions and videos must be submitted. The CJC may approve or deny the petition after reviewing the competitor's Points Registry record and videos.

ii. Petitions will be approved for six (6) months and are transferable to other events. Competitors who obtain a point in the higher division will remain in the higher division.

DIVISION RULES

JACK & JILL DIVISIONS

Competitors enter as an individual and dance with a randomly chosen partner. The DJ picks the music. Leaders and followers are randomly paired and there will be several partner changes during the preliminary, quarter-final, or 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. Music tempo and style will vary. All songs will be appropriate for the dance division entered.

Eligibility

Our Jack & Jill competitions are open to anyone who knows the basic West Coast Swing (WCS) patterns, such as:

- Starter step
- Basic throw-out
- Sugar push
- Underarm turn
- Left side pass
- Right side pass
- Rolling side pass

• Tuck
• Whip

Jack & Jill contests offered:

1. Newcomers
2. Novice
3. Intermediate
4. Sophisticated
5. Masters
6. Advanced
7. All Stars *(if possible)*

Division Qualifications:
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 can choose to start in Newcomer or Novice.

Notes:
The points required for moving up (or down) is based on the points in either the dancer's primary or secondary role, not their combined points.

Age-based Contests: Sophisticated are defined as 35 years of age or older by the close of the event.

SPECIFIC RULES FOR JACK & JILLS DIVISIONS:
1. Contestants must be at least sixteen (16) years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Music will be selected by our DJ staff; length of music and number of songs per heat is at the promoter's discretion.

3. This division will be danced in heats for preliminaries, quarter-finals, and semi-finals (if needed).
4. ***Lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed***. Support moves, such as drops, slides, and splits are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
5. You may not enter 2 skill levels dancing the same role.
6. You may not enter the same level dancing both roles.
7. You may not change roles during the Jack & Jill contest for more than eight (8) beats of music.

STRICTLY SWING DIVISIONS:
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. Judges will evaluate the couples based on their demonstration of good social dancing skills, timing, technique, connection, lead and follow, presentation and showmanship. Strictly Swing division is not meant for long and extended pre-choreographed phrases.

Strictly Swing contests offered:

1. Novice - Intermediate
2. Open

For these divisions a couple must enter the highest skill level either of them qualifies for based on WSDC points (If either partner qualifies for Advanced or a higher WSDC level, then the couple must enter the Open division).

SPECIFIC RULES FOR STRICTLY SWING DIVISIONS:
1. Contestants must be at least sixteen (16) years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Music will be selected by our DJ staff; length of music and number of songs per heat is at the promoter's discretion.
3. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits are acceptable and encouraged.
4. This division will be danced in heats for preliminaries and semi-finals (if needed).

5. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-aways, and recoveries.
6. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
7. ***Lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are <u>NOT allowed</u>.*** Support moves, such as drops, slides, and splits are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
8. You may lead at one level and follow at the next higher or lower level. However, if you have earned points in both roles at a higher level (Advanced or All-Star), you cannot move down to Intermediate. In this case, you must select only one role for the Open SS division.
9. You must compete at the same level in your primary role for all divisions. For example, if you enter Intermediate J&J in your primary role, you cannot compete in Novice SS in the same role.
10. If you plan to compete in both Novice or Intermediate SS and Open SS, you must choose **different partners** for each division. You cannot compete with the same partner in both.
11. You may not enter 2 different levels dancing your primary role; except, if you dance in either Novice or Intermediate SS, you may dance in your primary role in the OPEN SS with a different partner.

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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. Judges will evaluate the couples based on their demonstration of good social dancing skills, timing, technique, connection, lead and follow, presentation and showmanship. Strictly Swing division is not meant for long and extended pre-choreographed phrases.

Strictly Swing contests offered:

1. Novice - Intermediate
2. Sophisticated
3. Open

For these divisions a couple must enter the highest skill level either of them qualifies for based on WSDC points (If either partner qualifies for Advanced or a higher WSDC level, then the couple must enter the Open division).

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1. Contestants must be at least sixteen (16) years or older by the end of the event to participate.
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WSDC OFFICIAL RULES