

# West Coast Swing Contest Rules

## General Rules for all Participants

- Please follow all the rules of the host hotel
- Please follow all state & federal laws
- 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.
- Always wear your wristband. It's your ticket in. Do not remove it.
- Table Seating - if table seating was purchased ahead of time, please sit at your assigned table. All other seating is open.
- Please don't hold seats past the session you're dancing in.
- Video recording and photography is welcome during all weekend. Please be respectful of others while videoing.
- No tripods or extension cords allowed in the ballroom for videos or pictures outside the official event photographer/videographer.
- Outside food, beverages and pets are not allowed in the meeting rooms per hotel policy.
- Soliciting or sales of any product or service within the event areas requires advance permission.

## General Contest Rules:

- Read and follow all contest rules. Ask questions in advance. (contest questions will be answered by the head judge or contest coordinator for consistency)
- Register and pay the contest entry fee prior to the published deadlines on the website.
- Pick up your competitor number prior to the scheduled entry deadline your first contest division.
- 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.
- An individual may not enter the same contest twice.
- 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.

## 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 partnership 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 outlined on the website and schedule.

### **Skill Level Divisions:**

- Newcomer
- Novice
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Allstar

### **Additional Divisions:**

- Sophisticated WSDC (35+) for competitors age 35 and over, Newcomer through All Star
- Masters Novice (50+) for competitors age 50 and over who are in Newcomer or Novice and as per the WSDC rules
- Masters Open (50+) for competitors age 50 and over who are in Intermediate or above as per the WSDC rules.
- ProAm Jack & Jill (if offered) 2 Skill Levels [Newcomer/Novice or Intermediate & Above] 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 to determine which level to enter. You may choose to enter a second ProAm JJ in the other role at the same level or one level down. Contestants will be assessed on skills within the role they entered.

### **Choosing the Correct Level**

- 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 at <https://www.worldsdc.com/wsdc-points-registry-rules/>
- You may enter one skill level as a leader and an adjacent skill level as a follower.
- 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 you are eligible to enter in each role on this site: <https://www.worldsdc.com/registry-points/>.
- 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. 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. See [worldsdc.com/rules](https://www.worldsdc.com/rules).

- ❑ Questions should be directed to the email on our website and will be forwarded to our head judge or contest coordinator for consistency.

## 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.

- ❑ **Skill divisions** [Newcomer-Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Allstar]
- ❑ **Choosing your level** - A couple's Strictly Swing skill division is determined by their WSDC Jack & Jill levels. If partners in this contest dance in for different WSDC Jack & Jill levels, the couple must enter Strictly Swing at the higher skill level.
- ❑ **Costumes** - 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.
- ❑ **Entering multiple Strictly Swings** -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 ect
  - 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

## Choreography Contests

You chose your partner, your costumes, your music and your dance routine. Routines are danced in a solo format. Dance order is chosen at random and will be posted prior to the contest.

- ❑ **Divisions** [Rising Star, Pro Am Routines]
- ❑ **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.
- ❑ **Music** - You must provide your music to the contest DJ at (or before) the floor trial for your event. It must be a single file, clearly labeled with your name on a USB thumb drive. Alternately, you may email the file to the email address on the contact page of the website at least 24hrs in advance.
- ❑ **No Props** – No props are allowed in routines. A prop is defined as any article or object that is intentionally discarded, removed, taken away, or brought into a dance by a competitor. This includes, but not limited to, a hat that is thrown to the floor, a cane that is tossed away, or picking up an object from the floor.

**Pro Am Routines** - Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose.

**Rising Star Routines** – Routines with a partner of your choosing for couples not competing in Classic or Showcase swing divisions at other events.

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### **Contest Scoring**

The relative placement 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 please contact us on through the contact us page on the website