

GPSDC July 4th Convention Competition Rules

General Rules:

- 1) All competitions will be swing dancing. Swing is an American Rhythm Dance based on a foundation of 6-beat and 8-beat patterns that incorporate a wide variety of rhythms, built on 2-beats, single, delayed, double, triple, and blank rhythm units. The 6-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, passes, underarm turns, push-breaks, open-to-closed, and closed-to-open position patterns. The 8-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, whips, swingouts, Lindy circles, and Shag pivots. Although they are not part of the foundation of the dance as stated above, 2-beat and 4-beat extension rhythm breaks may be incorporated to extend a pattern, to phrase the music, and/or to accent breaks.
- 2) All competitions must have a minimum of 80% of recognizable swing contest (as determined by each individual judge's discretion).
- 3) Competitions will be judged with the following criteria: Timing, Technique, Teamwork/Partnership, Content/Choreography, Level of Difficulty, Showmanship/Presentation, Musical Interpretation; at the discretion of each individual judge.
- 4) All contests at this Event are Jack & Jill or Couples Strictly Swing formats, which highlight social dancing skill and instantaneous choreography and musical interpretation. Lifts, aerial and acrobatic moves are *not* allowed. Support moves, such as drops, slides and splits are allowed, as deemed to be 'safe' on a social dance floor (with each dancer maintaining their own physical contact with the floor). Couple must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways and recoveries.
- 5) All Competitors must hold a full weekend Event Ticket to be eligible to compete, and sign a Waiver form (minors' Waivers must be signed by a parent or guardian) and pay any required entry fees. Competitors may enter any and all contests/divisions for which they are eligible.
- 6) Competitors for all contests / divisions must register for the competitions; and must register prior to the established deadlines. Competitors who cancel their entry *after* the registration is closed for the contest, will *forfeit* their competition entry fee.
- 7) Competitors are responsible for reading and understanding the rules. Any questions regarding the rules may be directed to the Chief Judge.
- 8) Contestants are responsible for monitoring the schedule. While changes to the final published schedule are not anticipated, changes can occur (and will be announced).
- 9) Contestants will report to the assigned 'check-in' area (to the side of the ballroom), or are subject to being considered 'scratched'. Competitors should be prepared for competition and be present in the ballroom a minimum of 15 minutes before the start of any contest. Competitors will be considered 'scratched' if they have not 'checked in prior to the start of that competition. 'Scratched' competitors will *not* be issued a competition entry fee refund.
- 10) Competitors will be issued competitor bib numbers, to be worn during all competitions (including both partners in Couples contests and both partners in Jack & Jill finals contests). Competitors who lose their bib number are subject to a \$10 bib replacement fee.

- 11) Preliminary and Semi-finals heats in all contests (as needed), the number of 'callbacks' to the next round, the number and length of songs in all rounds shall be at the discretion of the Chief Judge.
- 12) Preliminary and Semi-final rounds shall be judged and scored with the Callback System. Finals contests shall be judged and scored with the Relative Placement system (see the World Swing Dance Council website for explanations).
- 13) All contest results / awards will be announced at the end of the event.
- 14) All results are final. Any errors in results will be corrected. Competitors may not challenge or appeal contest results. Any judging/scoring/results question may be directed to the Chief Judge.
- 15) All competitors must demonstrate good sportsmanship and conduct, on and off the floor, towards their partners, other competitors, Event organizers, judging/scoring staff, and Event volunteers and general staff. Unsportsmanlike behavior / poor conduct / harassment / disrespect, etc. may be means for disqualification from competition and possible removal from the Event.
 - a) Should a competitor refuse the partner that they have drawn, that competitor will be considered as 'forfeited'; unless there is a legal Restraining Order or a verified, documented record of physical harm or sexual harassment, etc.
- 16) All competitors should wear appropriate / modest and age-appropriate attire. Please verify that all clothing is 'dance-able'!
- 17) Skill level competitions are open to Competitors of all ages who met the qualifications of that skill level division. For Age based competitions:
 - a) Masters competition Competitors must be 50 years of age as of the start of the Event.
 - b) Juniors competition Competitors must less than 18 years of age as of the start of the Event.
- 18) All Competitors who dance in both roles (and are of different skill levels in the roles):
 - a) May enter one (1) skill level Jack & Jill as a Leader and one (1) skill level Jack & Jill as a Follower (and must maintain that respective role through the contest rounds).
 - b) May enter Skill level Strictly Swing contests as a Leader and as a Follower (and must maintain that respective role through the contest rounds).
 - c) Competitors who are of different skill levels in the roles, shall have their highest qualifying skill level be their Primary Role and the other role will be their Secondary role; and the Secondary role may only be one (1) level below their Primary Role (and the Secondary Role skill level eligibility rise to the next higher level when the Primary Role advances to the next higher skill level). Note: Dancers may compete two (2) levels down in their Secondary Role, unless they are required to dancer in the higher level based on their WSDC Skill Level points.
 - d) Competitors who are of the same skill level in both roles, must choose which role to compete in, in any skill level competitions.

Jack & Jill Contests:

'Jack & Jill' contests consist of a Leader and Follower (of the same skill level or age division), randomly paired (and rotating partners in preliminary and semi-final rounds), dancing to music selected by the DJ. Competitors' skill levels shall be determined by the WSDC Points Registry. Competitors are judged individually in the preliminary and semi-final rounds, and as a couple with the person they are randomly

paired with in the finals. The preliminary and semi-final rounds will be heated, and the finals (of WSDC divisions) will be in a spotlight format.

- 1) Novice Jack & Jill Competitors eligibility:
 - a. Competitors have 0-16 Novice points (and have no Intermediate points).
 - b. Competitors with 16 to less than 30 Novice points, and no Intermediate points, *may* remain in the Novice division, if they desire.
 - c. Competitors with 30 or more Novice points, or points in a higher division, may no longer compete in a Novice division.
- 2) Intermediate Jack & Jill Competitors eligibility:
 - a. Competitors shall have earned a minimum of 16 Novice points; and have 0-29 Intermediate points (and no Advanced points).
 - b. Competitors with 30 to less than 45 Intermediate points, and no Advanced points, *may* remain in the Intermediate division, if they desire.
 - c. Competitors with 45 or more Intermediate points, or points in a higher division, may no longer compete in an Intermediate division.
- 3) Advanced Jack & Jill Competitors eligibility:
 - a. Competitors shall have earned a minimum of 30 Intermediate points, and have 0 to 59 Advanced points.
 - b. Competitors with 60 to less than 90 Advanced points, and no All-Star points, may remain in the Advanced division if they desire.
 - c. Competitors with 90 or more Advanced points may no longer compete in an Advanced division.
- 4) All-Star Jack & Jill Competitors eligibility:
 - a. Competitors shall have earned a minimum of 60 Advanced points, and have 0 to 149 All-Star points.
 - b. Competitors with 151 to less than 225 All-Star points, and no Champion points, may remain in the All-Star division if they desire.
 - c. Competitors with 225 or more All-Star points may no longer compete in an All-Star division.
- 5) Champions Jack & Jill Competitors eligibility:
 - a. Competitors shall have earned a minimum of 150 All-Star points.
 - b. Competitors who have earned 1 or more Champion level points may compete in the Champion division.
 - c. Competitors with 225 or more All-Star points must compete in the Champion division.
 - d. Competitors with 10 or more Champion points must compete in the Champion division.
- 19) Masters Jack & Jill Competitors eligibility:
 - a) Competitors shall be 50 years of age as of the start of the Event.
 - b) Competitors may enter as either a Leader *or* a Follower.
- 20) Juniors Jack & Jill Competitors eligibility:
 - a) Competitors shall be less than 18 years of age as of the start of the Event.
 - b) Competitors may enter as either a Leader *or* a Follower.

21) Grand Masters Jack & Jill Competitors eligibility:

- a) Competitors shall be 50 years of age as of the start of the Event.
- b) Competitors shall meet one or more of the following skill qualifications:
 - i) Competitors who have 300 or more WSDC Masters Jack & Jill division points; or
 - ii) Competitors who are current All-Star level competitors; or
 - iii) Competitors who are current or past Champion level competitors; or
 - iv) Receive a Special Invitation to compete in this division, due to other dance accomplishments or qualifications.

Note: The Grand Masters Jack & Jill contest is a new addition for 2025, as a special recognition for those highly accomplished Masters Division competitors. This competition is not a WSDC Jack & Jill division, and WSDC Registry Points will not be awarded. Competitors who are eligible for this division may choose to participate in this division; or may choose, instead, to compete the regular Masters Jack & Jill.

22) Competitors who wish to compete in a different skill level that as determined by the WSDC Points Registry may complete a Petition, which will be submitted to the World Swing Dance Council at least fifteen (15) days prior to the event. (whose Chief Judge Committee will review the petition and make a decision at their sole discretion).

- a) Competitors may submit petitions *only* for their Primary Role. Competitors may *not* submit petitions for their secondary role.
- b) Petitions down may only be submitted for a competitor's Primary Role, to the Chief Judge prior to the event (please) or at the event, prior to the competition deadline. *Competitors with 'old' points in a higher division or who have not demonstrated achievement in a higher division over a period of time may submit a petition to enter the next lower division.*

Strictly Swing Contests:

'Strictly Swing' contests consist of a Leader and Follower who are partners of their own choosing, dancing to music selected by the DJ. Contestants are judged as a couple and advance through the rounds as a couple. The preliminary and final rounds will be heated (with the exception of Champions Choice Strictly Swing's finals, which will be a spotlight format). Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed. Costumers are not allowed; but 'coordinating' dress is allowed and encouraged. Competitors' skill levels shall be determined by the WSDC Points Registry. .

1) Skill level Strictly Swing divisions (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars) Competitors eligibility:

- a. Competitors skill level shall be determined by the WSDC Points Registry (as outlined in the Jack & Jill skill level definitions above).
- b. Couples that consist of a Leader and Follower of different skill levels must compete in the *higher* of the partner's skill level division.
- c. Competitors may dance in more than one Skill Level Strictly Swing contest, but if they dance in a Skill Level Strictly Swing other than the Skill Level for which they qualify for in

their Primary or Secondary role, they may only dance 'up' with a higher level partner (see 'b' above) in that role. Competitors may not dance 'down' in a Skill Level Strictly Swing in either role's Skill Level qualification.

- 2) Age level Strictly Swing divisions (Juniors, Masters) Competitors eligibility:
 - a. All competitors (both partners in the couple) must meet the age qualifications as outlined in the Jack & Jill age level definitions above.
- 3) Champions' Choice Strictly Swing contest eligibility:
 - a. A minimum of one of the partners of the couple must meet the Champions Jack & Jill skill level definitions as outlined above.

Hi-Lo All-American Jack & Jill:

The 'Hi-Lo All-American Jack & Jill' contest is open to all Competitors, who may enter the contest as a leader or a follower (but not both), as per their respective WSDC Points Registry skill level. The couples are randomly paired, and maintain their pairing (and are judged as a couple) throughout the rounds of the contest; dancing to music selected by the DJ. The preliminary, semi-final and final rounds will be heated.

- 1) There are two sub-contests: High skill level Leaders (Advanced – Champion) paired with lower skill level Followers (Novice – Intermediate) , and vice versa.
- 2) The finals of the division consist of the top 5-6 couples from each sub-contest's preliminary and semi-final rounds.
- 3) Any contestant that dances more than once (due to uneven numbers of competitors) may participate in the finals more than once.

Switchly Jack & Jill:

Contestants who are skilled in both Leader and Follower roles may compete in the 'Switchly Jack & Jill'. level. Contestants are randomly paired (and rotating partners in preliminary and semi-final rounds), dancing to music selected by the DJ. Competitors are judged individually in the preliminary and semi-final rounds, and as a couple with the person they are randomly paired with in the finals. The preliminary, semi-final and final rounds will be heated. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.

- 1) Couples are required to 'switch roles' and dance as both a leader and a follower multiple times throughout their dances.
- 2) Contestants are not judged as a Leader or a Follower, but advance to the next round as an overall Dancer skilled in both roles.

Generational Strictly Swing:

The 'Generational Strictly Swing' contest consists of a Leader and Follower who are partners of their own choosing, of different ages, dancing to music selected by the DJ. Contestants are judged as a couple and

advance through the rounds as a couple. The preliminary, semi-final and final rounds will be heated. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.

- 1) The partners of the couple must have 20 years minimum difference in their ages (as of the start of the event).
- 2) The partners of the couple may be of any skill level.