

# COMPETITION RULES & DEADLINES

## Available Contests:

- Pro Am Routines: Novice and Intermediate
- Jack and Jill contests: Pro-Am, Newcomer, Novice, Masters Novice, Masters Open, Intermediate, Advanced, and All-Star
- Strictly Swing contests: Novice, Masters, Intermediate/Advanced, All Star/Pro, Generational
- Pro Am Strictly Swing contests: Novice, Intermediate, and Masters

## ENTRY DEADLINES:

- Friday at 1:30 PM for all Friday's contests
- Saturday at 10:30 AM for all Saturday Jack & Jill contests
- Saturday at 6:30 PM for Pro Am Routines and All Star/Champions Strictly Swing
- Sunday at 12:00 PM for all Sunday contests.
- Entry deadlines are FIRM. There will be no exceptions (You're cute. We love you. Those deadlines still apply to you, too).

**All competitors must purchase a weekend pass.** The weekend pass gives you access to all competitions, open dancing, shows, and most workshops.

*Official policies governing all Floor Play Swing Vacation's competitions. All competitors are responsible for reading and following the rules below.*

## FLOOR PLAY SWING VACATION – 2021 CONTEST RULES

### General

#### ALL CONTESTS ARE DEGENDERED

##### 1. Waivers:

Each competitor must sign an entry/waiver form and pay in full BEFORE competing.

##### 2. Weekend Pass:

All Entrants are required to purchase a weekend ticket and may be asked verify event pass purchase.

##### 3. Age:

Strictly swing, rising star, and pro-am are open to all ages. Jack and Jill contests are open to ages 18 and above. Competitors between ages 11 and 17 may petition to compete in Jack and Jill contests.

##### 4. Costumes:

Costumes are not allowed in any category except Pro-Am Routines. Strictly Swing partners may choose to coordinate outfits.

##### 5. Music:

With the exception of routine divisions, couples will dance to music provided by Floor Play Swing Vacation. The music will be selected at random, and couples will be given no prior music information.

##### 6. Swing Definition:

This is a 'Swing Dance' competition and all recognized swing styles are allowed, including Whip, Push, West Coast, Swing, Shag, Lindy Hop, Imperial, Swingout, Jitterbug, Stepping and others.

## 7. Entry Limits and Requirements:

Dancers may compete in multiple swing contest categories during the weekend. You may compete or enter a particular contest more than once, but each entry must be at the different level and in the opposite gender role. If you are unable to compete in a different level, you may only compete in the contest once. See strictly swing, jack & jill, and pro-am rules.

There is no limit to entries to any division except for pro-am routines and pro-am strictly swing. A professional may dance with up to five (5) amateurs at each level of pro-am strictly swing or pro-am routines.

If there are fewer than five (5) entries in any routine division or less than (10) couples in any strictly or jack and jill division, Floor Play Swing Vacation reserves the right to combine or cancel that division. Floor Play Swing Vacation also reserves the right to have all lead/follow categories run in a heated format in lieu of prelims or spotlight format to facilitate event schedule constraints.

## 8. Qualification for Newcomer Dancers:

Designed for the dancer that is BRAND NEW to competition. This division is not open to all levels.

## 9. Lifts, Drops, and Aerials:

Lifts, drops and aerials are allowed in Floor Play Swing Vacation's routine divisions (rising star and pro-am routines). Drops that are considered 'safe' and that work within the realm of 'lead/follow' are allowed in the Advanced, All-Star and Master's Open Divisions of Jack and Jill and Strictly Swing ONLY.

- Definition of a LIFT: That point when both feet are off the ground, and weight is not self-supported.
- Definition of an AERIAL: The point at which one partner is off the ground due to the other partner and not maintaining contact with their partner.
- Definition of a DROP: The point at which the head goes below your partner's waist and weight is not self-supported.

10. All rules will be strictly enforced - Scoring and penalties will be at the discretion of each individual judge.

## Appropriate Behavior and Dress Code:

It is the desire of the Organizer to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing quality of dancing and good taste. To encourage this balance, any action that the judges believe would make them uncomfortable in a social dance setting (such as wearing inappropriate attire or showing disrespect toward one's partner, other dancers, or the event) is prohibited. Competitors should check with the Chief Judge in advance if they have questions regarding the acceptability of their routine/competition attire.

## Responsibilities of Competitors

1. **Planning:** Competitors should check the weekend schedule in advance to arrive in time to meet registration deadlines. They should bring appropriate competition attire. They should also plan to be on time for all meetings and competitions. Competitors are responsible for checking at the event for any changes to previously announced schedules, which are always subject to change.
2. **Knowing the Rules:** 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 asked at the contestant meeting or addressed in advance to the Organizer or the Chief Judge.
3. **Being Prepared to Compete:** Competitors should be present in the ballroom at least 15 minutes prior to the start of their competition. Any change in partnership for the couple's competitions may require an additional entry fee as well as a new entry form and waiver.
4. **Demonstrating Good Sporting Conduct:** Competitors must always demonstrate good sporting conduct, both on and off the competition 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.

## Petitions for Reclassification

It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to a fair and appropriate classification using the honor system. If competitors feel uncomfortable with their assigned classification, they may petition for reclassification on their entry form by providing a brief, written explanation of the reason(s) for their request. Competitors must submit such petitions at the contest registration desk prior to the earliest registration deadline for the competition(s) in question. Petitions for reclassification will be reviewed by the Chief Judge, in consultation with the Organizer, and contestants will be notified as quickly as possible of the outcome.

## Changes to These Rules

The Organizer will make every effort to conduct all competitions in accordance with these rules. However, the Organizer reserves the right to make any changes in schedule/format deemed necessary for any competition.

## WSDC Jack & Jill Contests

### NEW!!!!- YOU CAN DANCE IN MORE THAN ONE J&J!

WSDC points will be used to determine the level for all Jack & Jill competitors.

Masters may compete in the appropriate WSDC level and in masters (novice or open based on WSDC points but not both).

Based on the input from our dance community, in February 2021, the WSDC Board announced that competitors would be *allowed* to compete as both Leaders and Followers in skill level Jack & Jills at any given event (previously, competitors had to choose to compete in only one role for the skill level J&J for that event).

Here are details on how it works:

- Leader and Follower points will be tracked separately in Points Registry.
- Competitors qualify for their dance level based on either their Leader or Follower points, whichever is higher.
- Competitors are allowed to compete in their non-dominant role one level down if they don't qualify in both for the **same** division. No petitions will be approved for dancing more than one level down.
- Competitors will not be permitted to dance both roles in the same division.

Current competitors whose combined points as both a Leader and Follower would have moved them into a higher skill level will be offered a one-time option (to be "grandfathered" into the higher level).

Competitors – please contact [points@worldsdc.com](mailto:points@worldsdc.com) if any points are/were incorrectly allocated to the wrong role in the system.

## General Jack and Jill Qualifications

Our qualifications for entries promote fairness and competitor enjoyment by grouping dancers of similar ability in the same division. Our rules are based on the World Swing Dance Council recommendations. It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to the appropriate classification using the honor system. If you are not comfortable dancing in the division where these qualifications place you and would like to dance up or down, please petition. You do not need a partner to dance in Jack & Jill contests.

**Novice:** Competitors must stay in Novice until they have earned at least 16 points in Novice.

**Intermediate:** Competitors must have earned at least 16 points in Novice; and less than 30 points in Intermediate.

**Advanced:** Competitors must have earned at least 30 points or more in Intermediate.

**All Star:** Competitors must have earned at least 45 points in Advanced within 3 years prior to this event.

**Masters Novice:** For competitors who are at least 50 years old by the end of the event and are not eligible to compete in WSDC Intermediate or above. Competitors may also dance in a skill level Jack & Jill (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced or All Star).

**Masters Open:** For competitors who are at least 50 years old by the end of the event and are WSDC eligible to compete Intermediate or above. Competitors may also dance in a skill level Jack & Jill (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced or All Star).

### **Newcomer, Novice, and Intermediate J&J Divisions:**

1. These are Swing categories and dance content must be 90% swing. It is a lead/follow category, and no choreographed routines are allowed.
2. No lifts, drops or aerals and no planned entrances or exits allowed.
3. Competitors must dance in their appropriate World Swing Dance Council gender role division or the opposite gender role for their appropriate WSDC division.
4. Competitors may dance in two levels plus masters (if you qualify for masters). No masters WSDC points will be awarded for the Masters novice division but will be awarded for masters open. WSDC points are used to determine your dancing level in the Masters division.

### **Master's Open, Advanced & All-Star J&J Divisions:**

1. These are Swing categories and dance content must be 90% swing. It is a lead/follow category, and no choreographed routines are allowed.
2. No lifts or aerals and no planned entrances or exits allowed. Drops are allowed with restrictions.
3. Competitors must dance in their appropriate World Swing Dance Council gender role division and or the opposite gender role for their appropriate WSDC division.
4. Competitors may dance in two levels plus masters (if you qualify for masters). WSDC points are used to determine your dancing level in the Masters division.

### **Pro Am Jack & Jill**

1. This is an Open Jack & Jill contest where amateur dancers can dance with multiple pros and only the amateur is scored.
2. You can enter as a leader or follower but not both.
3. This is a lead/follow category, and no choreographed routines are allowed.
4. Each judge will score the amateur from 70 to 100. Judges scores are then averaged for the final score.
5. The amateur must be at the intermediate level or below.

### ***Strictly Swing Divisions:***

Swing dancing that encourages lead and follow partner dancing at its best. Although swing includes amalgamations and patterns that are familiar to many dancers, the essence of lead and follow must be maintained in and out of these patterns. Strictly Swing division is not meant for long and extended pre-choreographed phrases. Choreography "on the fly" is the objective. Drops, leans, circular movements and other partner weight support moves are allowed if both partners keep at least one foot on the floor. You must sign up with a partner. If you do not have WSDC points in intermediate or above, you must enter the novice level or if you aged 50 or over, you may also enter the masters level.

### **Division Qualifications:**

It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to a fair and appropriate classification using the honor system. If you do not feel comfortable dancing within these qualifications, please petition accordingly.

### **Strictly Swing Novice & Masters**

1. These are Swing categories and dance content must be 90% swing. It is a lead/follow category, and no choreographed routines are allowed.
2. No lifts, drops or aerals and no planned entrances or exits allowed.
3. Competitors must dance in their appropriate World Swing Dance Council gender role division or the opposite gender role for their appropriate WSDC division.
4. If two competitors are in different divisions, the lower-level competitor must dance up to the division of the higher-level competitor.
5. Same gender partnerships are allowed for all Strictly Swing divisions.

6. Competitors may dance in more than one level as dictated by their WSDC points but must be in the opposite role to do so. Masters may dance in their pointed divisions and masters.
7. To enter masters, both partners must be age 50 or above.

### **Strictly Swing Intermediate/Advanced, All-Star/Professional**

1. These are Swing categories and dance content must be 90% swing. It is a lead/follow category, and no choreographed routines are allowed.
2. Drops are permitted however, no lifts or aerals and no planned entrances or exits allowed.
3. Competitors must dance in their appropriate World Swing Dance Council gender role division or the opposite gender role for their appropriate WSDC division.
4. If two competitors are in different divisions, the lower-level competitor must dance up to the division of the higher-level competitor.
5. Same gender partnerships are allowed for all Strictly Swing divisions.
6. Competitors may dance in more than one level as dictated by their WSDC points but must be in the opposite role to do so. Masters may dance in their pointed divisions and masters.

### **Generational Strictly Swing**

1. Any dancer who qualifies may enter these categories - except Champions.
2. These are Swing categories and dance content must be 90% swing. It is a lead/follow category, and no choreographed routines are allowed.
3. No lifts or aerals and no planned entrances or exits allowed. Drops are allowed with restrictions.
4. Competitors must have at least 20 years in age between them (example: If I am 20 years old my partner must be at least 40).
5. You must sign up with a partner.

## **Pro-Am Division Qualifications:**

It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to a fair and appropriate classification using the honor system. If you do not feel comfortable dancing within these qualifications, please petition.

**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.

**Masters:** This division is for students who are age 50 or older. You may also dance in novice or intermediate pro-am strictly swing as dictated by your wsdc level.

### **Pro-Am Strictly Swing Divisions:**

#### **General:**

1. Students enter with their teacher. This division is designed to highlight social dancing skills at a performance level with an emphasis on lead/follow technique.
2. 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.

3. Only the student is evaluated. Different skill levels are offered for both Leader and Follower roles. Each skill level and role are a separate contest.
4. Each professional shall have no more than 5 entries in each Division offered.
5. It is the Organizer's goal to encourage Pro/Am competitions as a learning tool for the students.
6. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion.
7. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching, or complementary outfits are acceptable.
8. This division will be danced in heats.

### ***Pro-Am Spotlight Routine:***

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.

### **General:**

1. Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose.
2. Expected swing content of any style is 70%. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content has been met.
3. 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.
4. Routine must be at least 2 minutes long and no longer than 3 minutes.
5. Competitors select their own music.
6. Costumes are required.