



## LIBERTY SWING COMPETITION

### RULES for 2024

#### **Mission Statement**

*"The purpose of our competitive dance program is to provide a fun, friendly, and organized environment where our dance community can create and share while maintaining the integrity of each dancer individually."*

#### **Competition Organizer**

Liberty Swing Dance Championships is sponsored by JL Productions, Inc. Final decisions on any matter pertaining to these competitions rests solely with the organizer.

#### **General Competition Requirements**

##### **General Eligibility:**

1. hold a full weekend ticket and pay all associated registrations fees
2. register by the official entry deadlines(s) as outlined in the weekend schedule
3. pay the require entry fee(s) and complete any required entry forms, including signed waivers
4. meet all other specific entry requirements as outlined in these rules

##### **Contest Requirements:**

1. **Entries:** All contest must have a minimum of five (5) entires to be a valid contest.
2. **Judges:** There will be a minimum of five Judges for all competitions finals.
3. **Scoring System:** Contests are scored by computer and relative placement.
4. **Waiver Forms:** Each contestant must sign the appropriate waiver form. All contestant under the age of eighteen (18) must have a parent or guardian sign any required forms.

##### **Role/Gender Requirements:**

LSDC is open to persons of any gender dancing either lead or follow, as they prefer, and we encourage you to register in whichever role you would like to when dancing in any contest.

##### **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.

##### **Responsibilities of Competitors:**

1. **Knowing the Rules:** All competitors should read these rules carefully prior to attending their competition. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules whether they have read them or not. Questions about the rules should be asked, or addressed in advance to the Organizer or the Chief Judge.
2. **Being Prepared to Compete:** Competitors should be present in the ballroom at least 15 minutes prior to the start of their competition. Competitors are responsible for checking at the event for any changes to previously announced schedules, which are always subject to change. Any cancellation by a competitor or couple after the registration deadline will result in the loss of the entry fee.
3. **Demonstrating Good Sporting Conduct:** Competitors must demonstrate good sporting conduct at all times, 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.

## Division Rules

### Jack and Jill Division

Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight social dance skills in spontaneous swing dancing and the ability to dance well with a variety of partners. A bit of "luck of the draw" comes into play as well.

#### **Format:**

Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected in advance by the Competition DJ. Depending on the number of entries, preliminary and semi-final rounds may be held and will be danced in a heated format. Each division must have at least 5 leaders and 5 followers. There is no maximum number of competitors.

#### **Judging Criteria:**

Timing: Timing points are determined by the ability of the dancer to dance on the down beat of the music and to include syncopations that are also on the beats of the music.

Technique: "How Well You Do What You Do": We are looking for good footwork, balance, control, frame and line and how well turns & spins are executed. Well controlled arms and hands.

Teamwork: The ability of the partners to work together as a team. One person should not be obviously "out dancing" the other. TEAMWORK with action-reaction is essential in good dancing.

Content: "What You Do": the content is the CHOREOGRAPHY, planned or spontaneous, and musical interpretation through physical movement. Showing variety & contrast will enhance your dance performance.

Showmanship: "How Well You Sell What You Do": showmanship/presentation is the ability of the dancers to keep the audience's attention for the entire length of the performance.

#### **General:**

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. Competitors may compete in multiple age-based WSDC Jack and Jill competitions. Competitors at least 35 years of age may enter the Sophisticated Division. Competitors at least 50 years of age may enter the Masters Division and the Sophisticated Division.

Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves, (one foot on the ground) Props are not allowed. Champions Division is excepted from this rule.

#### **Division Qualifications/Skill Levels:**

For Competitor specific rules about skill levels and points registry, please see [https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-Registry-Event-Rules\\_vFRER-Version-2024.1A.pdf](https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-Registry-Event-Rules_vFRER-Version-2024.1A.pdf).

#### **Petitions:**

Competitors may submit a formal petition to the Chief Judge to dance at a different skill level than they qualify.

1. Petitions can be submitted for one skill level up or two skill level down only.
2. The Chief Judge, or qualified individual(s) designated by the Chief Judge, will consider the requested reclassification petition after reviewing the competitor's Points Registry record.
3. Petitions are Event-specific and not transferable.
4. Petition forms will be available at the event registration desk.

### Strictly Swing Division

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.

#### **General:**

The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. There is no minimum number of entries. Guidelines for expected swing content are 90% in Strictly Swing. It is at the judge's discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.

**Specific:**

1. Contestants must be least fourteen (14) years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion.
3. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits are acceptable.
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-a-ways, and recoveries.
6. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
7. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
8. Dancers are not permitted to dance with the same partner in Strictly Swing and a Routine division.

**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.

**Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All Star:** 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.

**Champion:** At least one partner must have placed 5th or higher at a NASDE tour event in a Champions, Invitational or Professional level Jack & Jill or Strictly Swing contest within the previous 3 years.

**Age-based:** Competitors at least 35 years of age may enter the Sophisticated Division. Competitors at least 50 years of age may enter the Masters Division and the Sophisticated Division.

**Pro-Am Strictly Swing Division**

The Pro-Am divisions are designed to give the amateur the opportunity to be showcased with their professional instructor for critique and feedback.

**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.
3. Each professional shall have no more than 5 entries in each Division offered.

**Specific:**

1. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion. Music will be chosen by the Organizer.
2. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits are acceptable.
3. This division will be danced in heats.
4. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
5. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed, no choreographed entrances or exits.
6. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.

**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.

**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. 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.

**Age-based:** Competitors at least 35 years of age (Sophisticated Division). Competitors at least 50 years of age (Masters) may enter, because this is an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement you may also enter other ProAm contests if you wish.

### **ProAm Spotlight Routine**

This single division is offered for all styles of Swing: West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, 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. Routine must be at least 2 minutes long and no longer than 3½ minutes.

#### **General:**

Couples dance in a solo format. Both the teacher and student's performance is considered by the judges. Dance order will be chosen at random and posted prior to the division start time.

#### **Specific:**

1. Competitors must consist of one "amateur" and one "Professional".
2. The maximum and minimum number of entries is at the Event's discretion.
3. Guidelines for expected swing content are 70%. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
4. Each professional shall have no more than 5 amateur routines.
5. An "amateur" is defined as someone who does NOT teach dance, nor earn income as a dance teacher, and has not competed as an All- Star or Champion.
6. Pros with multiple Amateurs must accept their drawn dance order with each Am.

### **Juniors Routine**

1. The rules governing this division are the same as the rules that govern the Showcase Division with the following exceptions:
  - Lifts & aerials that have 1 partner's torso rise above the other partner's shoulders are not allowed.
  - All other partner weight support moves are optional.
2. Routines, choice of music, and costumes must be in good taste and appropriate for this age group.
3. Routines must be a minimum of two-minutes or a maximum of three-minutes in length.
4. Competitors select their own music.
5. Tasteful, age appropriate Costumes are required.

### **Formation Team Division**

This division is designed to feature synchronized couples dancing of any genre of "swing" with a minimum of two couples comprised of any combination of gender, age, and skill level. They will be judged as a group.

#### **General:**

The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division are 3 teams. An individual is only allowed to compete on one team, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Must be approved by event director if an individual is competing on more than one team. Props are not allowed.

#### **Specific:**

1. Contestants must be 6 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 3 minutes and a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Competitors select their own music.
4. Choreographed routines are required. No line dances allowed.
5. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, break-aways, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are all allowed.
6. Costumes are required.
7. Choreographed entrances or exits are allowed. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the Chief Judge.
8. Guidelines for expected swing content: 50% in Team. It is at the judges' discretion to determine the swing content requirement has been met.

## **NASDE Division Rules:** Classic & Showcase Divisions only

### **NASDE Swing Dance Competition Divisions**

NASDE sponsors the swing dance competition divisions of Showcase, Classic to help promote, preserve, and improve swing dancing. The objective is to provide a competitive performance venue for the various unique styles of swing that have developed across the nation to include the Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing, to name a few.

### **NASDE Statement of Swing:**

NASDE Statement of Swing to be used to identify the presence of swing in the NASDE competition divisions. 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-beat 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, swing-outs, 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.

### **NASDE Sportsmanship Expectations:**

Sportsmanship is a fundamental aspect of our competition. Competing for the NASDE prize fund is privilege, not a right. The event director may flag a competitor's behavior as un-sportsman like. Said behavior will be reviewed by the NASDE board at the next scheduled NASDE Board meeting. Redress for violations can include but are not limited to deduction of points, dropping in level in the over all standing, or removal of competitor from the NASDE list.

### **NASDE Prop Rules:**

To ensure the safety of competitors and the audience, **no props** are allowed in NASDE 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. The referee will be designated as ensuring this rule is enforced. If the referee determines a violation occurred, the NASDE Referee will be used for verification and applying penalties.

### **NASDE Re-starts Rule:**

Re-starts will be allowed in NASDE Classic or Showcase divisions, if something occurred during the performance that would **impact the safety** of the competitors. This includes:

1. **Technical problems** — factors outside the dancer's control (e.g., lights in ballroom go out, flooring is faulty or damages, music suddenly stops)

**OR,**

2. **Costume malfunctions** — shoe breaks or becomes unfastened or untied; costume tears or breaks, and loose items could endanger dancers or expose a part of body that would not normally be exposed in a public setting.

If such a problem occurs during a performance, the Chief Judge may stop the performance, until the problem can be addressed and rectified at the time of the competition. The competitors may also willingly stop their performance and ask the Chief Judge for a Re-start. The competitors must request the re-start prior to their departure from competition dance floor. They must speak to the Chief Judge when the problem occurs. If it is determined that a Re-Start is allowable, the Chief Judge will then make a decide based on their situation and ask the couples to dance/restart as quick as possible.

Staff Judges will be instructed by the Chief Judge to judge the competitors on the repeat performance only. The performance that occurred before the Re-Start will not be counted toward the competitor's overall ranking.

### **Classic Division:**

Swing dancing that allows choreography with an "on the ground" approach to the dance. Drops, leans, circular movements and other partner weight support moves are allowed as long as both partners keep at least one foot on the floor. NASDE rules apply. If any Event rule conflicts with published NASDE rules, the NASDE rules take precedence.

\*\*\* Please refer to this link for division rules and specifics. ([www.nasde.net/nasde-rules](http://www.nasde.net/nasde-rules))

### **Showcase Division:**

Swing dancing that allows choreography with flair toward lifts and other partner weight support moves. NASDE rules apply. If any Event rule conflicts with published NASDE rules, the NASDE rules take precedence.

\*\*\* Please refer to this link for division rules and specifics. ([www.nasde.net/nasde-rules](http://www.nasde.net/nasde-rules))

**Rising Star Division Rules:** Rising Start Tour rules apply

### **Rising Star Dance Competition Divisions**

The objective of the Rising Star Tour is to provide a platform for amateur dancers to grow and improve their swing dancing skills in the context of choreographed routines.

\*\*\* Please refer to this link for division rules and specifics. ([www.risingstartour.com/rules](http://www.risingstartour.com/rules))s