



LIBERTY SWING COMPETITION

RULES for 2025

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 event 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 leads and 5 follows. 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/rules/wsdc-points-registry-rules/>

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:

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 or Invitational 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 - (ProAM-Open (6+), ProAM-Sophisticated (35+))

This division is designed to highlight a performance between a Professional and an Amateur. Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose.

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. Time limit must be a minimum of 1 ½ minutes and a maximum of 2 ½ minutes.
2. Swing Content rule 50 % swing. Judges' discretion to determine that % requirement has been met.
3. Competitors must consist of one "amateur" and one "Professional".
4. The maximum and minimum number of entries is at the Event's discretion.
5. Each professional shall have no more than 5 amateur routines.
6. Amateur is defined as anyone who does not teach West Coast Swing.
7. Professional is defined as anyone who earns a significant amount of income teaching/performing WCS.
8. 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 Rising Star Division with the following exceptions:
 - Lifts & aerials that have 1 partner's torso rise above the other partner's shoulders are not allowed.
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.

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, break-aways, switching of partners, reverse lead/follow are allowed.
6. Costumes are required.
7. Choreographed entrances or exits are allowed.
8. Guidelines for expected swing content: 50% in Team. Swing content is determined at the judges' discretion.

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.

*** Please refer to this link for division rules and specifics. (www.nasde.net/nasde-rules)

Rising Star Division Rules: Rising Start Tour rules apply

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)