



## LIBERTY SWING COMPETITION RULES for 2026

### Mission Statement

*“Our competitive dance program fosters a fun, friendly, and organized space where dancers can collaborate, create, and showcase their unique styles.”*

### 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 registration fees.
2. Register by the official entry deadlines(s) as outlined in the weekend schedule.
3. Pay the required entry fee(s) and complete any required entry forms, including signed waivers.
4. Competitors must be at least 14 years old for all competitions except Junior Routines and Teams.
5. Meet all other specific entry requirements as outlined in these rules.

#### Contest Requirements:

1. **Entries:** All contests must have a minimum of five (5) entries to be a valid contest.
2. **Judges:** There will be a minimum of five (5) 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 contestants under the age of eighteen (18) must have a parent or guardian sign any required forms.
5. **Photos/Videos:** Entering a contest indicates consent to unrestricted use of your name and likeness in photos and videos to appear in any future promotions by the event.

#### 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:

The Organizer encourages expressive and exciting dance performances without compromising quality or taste. To maintain this balance, judges prohibit actions that would make them uncomfortable in a social dance setting, such as inappropriate attire or disrespect toward partners, other dancers, or the event.

#### 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 multiple age-based WSDC Jack & 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.

#### **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/>

**WSDC Jack & Jill Divisions (Skill-Based):** Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All Star, Champion

**WSDC Jack & Jill Divisions (Age-Based):** Sophisticated, Masters, Juniors

**Non-WSDC Jack & Jill Divisions:** ProAm Novice (Leader, Follower), ProAm Intermediate (Leader, Follower), Jackpot Jack & Jill

#### **ProAm Jack & Jill Divisions:**

Amateur competitors will be randomly paired with a professional partner. Competitors may only register in the role(s) for which they qualify for according to their current WSDC Level.

#### **Jackpot Jack & Jill:**

This division is intended to provide dancers of all levels the opportunity to compete with dancers of all ages and skill levels. Therefore, anyone regardless of age, gender, or skill level can compete within this division.

### **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.

#### **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 at 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.
9. Role Switching is not permitted, with the exception of Switch Role Strictly Swing.
10. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, and drops are only allowed in Champions.

**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, Champion:** In these divisions, couples must enter the highest WSDC level that either partner qualifies for based on their WSDC points.

**Age-based:** Sophistication are open to competitors over 50 years old.

**Novice Open:** This division pairs newer dancers with more experienced ones. One partner must be a true newcomer or novice dancer (WSDC definition). Dancers qualifying for Novice or Intermediate based on points and choose to dance in the Intermediate J&J may not compete as Novice in the Novice Open. Those with Intermediate points or above may not compete in the opposite role as the "Novice" in the partnership.

**Pro-Am Strictly Swing Division**

Pro-Am divisions allow amateurs to showcase their skills with professional instructors for critique & 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.
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. Competitors participating in the Juniors Routine division must be between 6 - 17 years of age as of the conclusion of the event.

**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 six (6) years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Performance time is a minimum of three (3) minutes and a maximum of five (5) minutes.
3. Competitors select their own music. Costumes are required.
4. Choreographed routines are required. No line dances allowed.
5. Choreographed entrances/exits are allowed.
6. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, drops, break-aways, switching of partners, reverse lead/follow are allowed.
7. Guidelines for expected swing content: 50% in Team. Swing content is determined at the judges' discretion.

**Classic & Showcase Division Rules (NASDE):**

LSDC follows the Rules set forth by the NASDE Tour.

\*\*\* 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 (RST):**

LSDC follows the Rules set forth by the Rising Star Tour.

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