



CONTEST RULES

Revised October 11, 2022
DC Swing eXperience (DCSX)

General Rules For All Participants

- **Conduct** All participants must abide by the DJP code of conduct at all times including in performance.
- **Health & Safety** All participants agree to follow the current policy requirements.
- **Supervision** A chaperone (age 21 or older) is required to attend with each participant under the age of 18. The chaperone will be responsible for supervising the participant(s) throughout the event.
- **Disclaimer** The event staff reserves the right to remove any person (or persons) who present(s) potential harm, danger or disruption to themselves or anyone around them while attending the event.
- **Your wristband ticket must be worn at all times.** Do not remove it at any time.
- **Seating is open and shared for everyone.** Look for the table with your region or group name posted. You may not sit on the carpet or stand anywhere that blocks the view of others seated behind you. You may not "hold" shared seating by parking your stuff there. Anyone who wants a front row seat is invited to sit on the edge of the dance floor during performances.
"Sit in a chair or sit on the dance floor - Not on the carpet and don't block the doors"
- **Video recording and photography is welcome during all contests.** Video recording is only restricted during the special exhibitions. No tripods or extension cords allowed in the ballroom. Good Internet etiquette requires that you get permission before publishing identifiable videos of others.
- Outside food or beverages are not allowed in the meeting rooms per hotel policy.
- **Contest Refunds** Entries may be withdrawn, and a refund issued through registration up to 1 hour prior to the session entry deadline. Withdrawals or scratches made after that time will not be refunded.
- Wax, powder or any other foreign substance may not be used on dance shoes or dance floors. No bare feet.
- **Soliciting** or sales of any product or service within the event areas requires advance permission of the event management.

General Contest Rules

All participants agree to:

- Read, know and follow all contest rules. Ask questions in advance.
- Register and pay the contest entry fee prior to the published deadlines.
- Pick up your competitor number prior to the scheduled closing time for that division in online registration.
- Respect contest staff, your partner, fellow competitors, and the audience.
- Exhibit good sportsmanship.
- Refrain from using vulgar or offensive gestures, costumes, or song lyrics.
- You must check in with the competitor coordinators in the staging area 15 minutes prior to the start of each round of each contest. If you do not check in you will be scratched and forfeit your entry fee.
- All contestants must be at least 15 years old.
- An individual may not enter the same contest twice.
- Contests with fewer than 5 entries (couples) may be cancelled or the prize money reduced at the organizers' discretion. Entry fees for cancelled contests will be refunded.
- Entering a contest indicates consent to unrestricted use of your name and likeness in photos and videos to appear in future promotions.
- Complete scores from all contest rounds are available through the event website after the last day of the competition.

Strictly Swing Contests Sign up with your partner. We pick the music. Different skill levels are offered. Each is a separate contest. Couples will dance in heats for several short songs. If more than 15 couples enter a division there will be a preliminary contest followed by a final round. Judges will evaluate the couples based on their demonstration of good social dancing skills, timing, technique, connection, lead and follow, presentation and showmanship.

- Matching costumes and props are not allowed. Coordinating attire is acceptable.

- Strictly Swing partners may not dance together in more than one Strictly Swing contest or in any choreography contest.
- You may enter more than one Strictly Swing contest by
 - Entering an age division
 - "Dancing up" with a partner of a higher level
 - "Dancing down one level" in your non-dominant (lower points) role, as WSDC rules allow for JJ OR "dancing down two levels" (one level farther than JJ rules allow) only if you have no WSDC points and no significant previous competitive placements in your non-dominant role at any level.

Strictly Swing divisions

- **Skill divisions** [Newcomer-Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Allstar]: A couple's Strictly Swing skill division is determined by their WSDC Jack & Jill levels. If partners in this contest qualify for different WSDC Jack & Jill levels, the couple must enter Strictly Swing at the higher skill level.
- **Allstar**: If either partner has 45 or more advanced level point or any recent Allstar, Champion or Invitational WSDC points they must compete in this division.
- **Age divisions** [Sophisticated, Masters]: These contests have an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement. Sophisticated (35+): Both partners must be 35 years of age or older. Masters (50+): Both partners must be 50 years of age or older.
- **Switch** (non-leveled) - Lead, Follow, Switch. Couples must show role switching skills within the partnership. Anyone with lead, follow, and role-switching skills can enter, from Newcomer to Champions.

Choreography Contests Bring your partner, your music and your dance routine. It's all about the show! Routines are danced in a solo format. Dance order is chosen at random and posted prior to that session.

- Performance must be at least 2 minutes and no longer than 3 minutes beginning at the first dance movement with or without music.
- Choreographed entrances are counted towards the time limit.
- Costumes are encouraged. Props are not allowed.
- Lifts, drops, tricks and stunts are allowed but not required (Classic & Showcase have specific requirements)
- There are specific times scheduled for competitor floor trials.
- You must provide your music to the contest DJ at the floor trial for your event. It must be a single file, clearly labeled on a USB thumb drive. Alternately, you may email the file to dave@dancejamproductions.com at least 24hrs in advance. If you need your music's tempo altered, started in the middle of the track or an early fade out you must make those edits in advance.
- Restarts will only be allowed in cases of:
 1. Music malfunction/Technical problem.
 2. Wardrobe/Costume malfunction.
 3. Head Judge stops the performance.

Rising Star - This single division is for couples that have limited experience with choreography competition and do not yet want to compete against professionals. You may not enter Rising Star and Classic or Showcase at the same event.

ProAm Spotlight – Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose. See "student" and "professional" definitions under ProAm Contests for eligibility requirements. Three divisions are offered: ProAm Leader, ProAm Follower, or a non-competitive exhibition division.

Jack & Jill Contests Jack & Jill contests allow individuals to enter without a partner and demonstrate skills in spontaneous dancing with a variety of partners. There is an inherent "luck of the draw" factor involved. Leaders and followers are randomly paired. There will be several partner changes during the preliminary and semi-final rounds. Competitors are scored individually on timing, technique and teamwork in preliminary heats. Those scoring the highest will be called back to dance in the next round. In the final round, individuals are randomly paired, then scored together as a couple. The DJ picks the music. Tempo and style will vary. All songs will be appropriate for the dance division entered. There are divisions for different skill levels (WSDC), divisions with age requirements and divisions open

to all. Onsite registration for all Jack & Jills is limited. There are strict entry deadlines. Significant cash prizes are awarded to winners in Novice and above in amounts based on the total of entries.

- You must be at least 15 years old.

Leveled WSDC West Coast Swing Jack & Jill divisions- The World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Points Registry determines eligibility for these leveled West Coast Swing Jack & Jill contests. Look up your level here: www.worldsdc.com. Competitors are responsible for entering only contests they qualify for. If you haven't earned any WSDC points you should start in newcomer. You may enter more than one skill level if you dance different roles.

WSDC Skill Level Divisions

- **Newcomer** - This where you start! First time competitors and those with no prior competition success should dance in Newcomer. To enter you must be competent with the basics of social dancing. You may continue to dance in Newcomer until you have earned 10 newcomer points.
- **Novice** - For competitors with some prior experience or competition success. Competitors with 30 or more Novice points must move up to intermediate.
- **Intermediate** - Requires previous competition success in the Novice division. You must have at least 16 Novice points to dance in Intermediate. Competitors with 45 or more Intermediate points must move up to Advanced.
- **Advanced** - Requires previous competition success in the Intermediate division. You must have at least 30 Intermediate points. Competitors with 60 or more Advanced points earned within the last 3 years must move up to AllStar.
- **AllStar** - Requires at least 45 Advanced or higher level points OR 3 AllStar points earned in the previous 36 months.
- **Invitational** - This contest includes only dancers invited by the event organizers.

A competitor with exceptional circumstances may submit a formal petition for a level change. Petitions must be submitted no less than 48 hours before the competition begins. Dancing in the wrong division without a successful prior petition may incur disqualification. Petitions can be submitted for one skill level up or one skill level down only. Questions should be directed to dave@dancejamproductions.com.

Additional Divisions.

- **Sophisticated (35+)** - This division is for competitors age 35 and over.
- **Masters WSDC (50+)** - This division is for competitors age 50 and over.

All In In this 'Jack & Jill' style dance mixer you'll rotate to three partners. It's for newcomers to allstar and everyone in between, have magical dances together - but instead of judging we will celebrate dancing with each other AND two lucky people who enter will be chosen randomly to WIN a Dream Pass to YOUR CHOICE of Dance Jam Productions event: MADjam 2023 - Mid Atlantic Dance Jam, Swing Fling 2023, or DCSX 2023!

ProAm Jack & Jill – Enter as an individual. Dance with at least three randomly chosen professional or Allstar partners. The DJ picks the music. Jack & Jill contests allow individuals to enter without a partner and demonstrate skills in spontaneous dancing.

(2) West Coast Swing ProAm Jack & Jill contest levels are offered. Students should use WSDC JJ rules (see above) to determine which level to enter. Students may choose to enter a second ProAm JJ in their nondominant role at the same level or one level down. Contestants will be assessed on skills within the role they entered

- Newcomer/Novice
- Intermediate

Definitions

- **Breakaway** - A set of symmetric or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple who

intentionally break contact (except for spins and turns), which is not a clearly leadable derivative of a recognizable swing pattern.

- Costumes - Attire that in the opinion of the judges is specifically designed or selected for couples competition and would not generally be worn for social dancing.
- Drop - Movement in which either partner's head and torso go below knee level of the other partner.
- Entrance - Pre-choreographed segment of a performance, where competitors formally enter the floor and prepare to dance. Acknowledging your partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an entrance.
- Exit - Pre-choreographed segment of a performance, where competitors leave the floor. Acknowledging your partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an exit.
- Lifts - Any movement lasting longer than a full beat of music where the feet of one partner are clearly off the floor and the other partner supports the lifted partner's weight.
- Props - Throw away skirts, shirts, scarfs, etc are considered props in this context and are not allowed. Anything other than what would be considered acceptable clothing.
- Routine - Any segment, which, in the opinion of the judges, consists of prearranged choreography including symmetric or complementary movements or footwork.
- Swing Content - Recognizable West Coast Swing elements.

Relative Placement Scoring This system used to determine winners in final rounds. It was adapted from the figure skating system and is now widely used at major dance competitions. It minimizes the impact of a rogue judge's mark and recognizes the most consistently scored entry. An equal numerical value is assigned to each Judge's raw scores, so that each Judge has an equal vote in the final outcome.

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