

2009 SwingDiego Competition Rules

Competition Organizer

SwingDiego, the Superbowl of Swing, is sponsored by SwingDiego Productions Inc. Final decision on any matter pertaining to these competitions rests solely with the Organizer.

General Competition Requirements

General Eligibility. Each competition is open to all competitors in good standing who:

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

Multiple Registrations.

Each eligible competitor may choose to enter one Jack & Jill level, one Strictly Swing level, one Cabaret act. Competitors may compete in both Classic and Showcase, so long as they have different partners per division. Any Classic or Showcase contestant who also enters Strictly Swing must compete with a different partner in each division.

Waiver Forms.

Each contestant must sign the appropriate waiver form. No contestant will be permitted to compete without a signed waiver form. All contestants under the age of eighteen must have a parent or guardian sign any required forms.

Age Requirements

Are outlined in the specific qualification for each division. Competitors under the age of six are not allowed to compete at this event.

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. Comedy routines and props are not allowed except for Cabaret. Competitors should check with the Contest Coordinator or Chief Judge in advance if they have questions regarding the acceptability of their routine or competition attire.

Responsibilities of Competitors

1. **Planning Ahead.** Competitors should check the weekend schedule in advance in order to arrive in time to meet registration deadlines. They should bring appropriate competition attire. They should also plan ahead so as 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 Contest Coordinator or the Chief Judge.
3. **Attending the Mandatory Contestant Meetings.** All Jack & Jill competitors must attend all contestant meetings related to their competition. Any contestant who misses a meeting without approval from the Chief Judge or Contest Coordinator will not be permitted to compete. For the Pro-Am, Strictly Swing, Classic, Showcase, Cabaret, Young America, and Young Adult contestant meetings, a couple/act may choose to be represented by either partner/one performer. However, all competitors are fully responsible for all matters discussed at the meeting, as if everyone had attended.
4. **Being Prepared to Compete.** Competitors should be present in the ballroom at least 10 minutes prior to the start of their competition. Competitors are responsible for their bib numbers and will be charged a replacement fee of \$10 if lost. Any change in partnership for the couple's competitions may require an additional entry fee as well as a

new entry form and waiver. Any cancellation by a competitor or couple after the registration deadline will result in the loss of the entry fee.

5. **Demonstrating Good Sporting Conduct.** Competitors must demonstrate good sporting conduct at all times, both on and off the competition floor. Competitors must also refrain from any behavior that the judges deem inappropriate. Failure to adhere to this code of behavior may result in disqualification.
6. **Discussing the Competitions Only Where Appropriate.** Competitors may only discuss the competitions with the contest officials using appropriate channels, such as contestant meetings, the scoring review session, and individual discussions with the Contest Coordinator or Chief Judge.
7. **Asking for Feedback at the Scoring Review Session.** Finalists may examine their posted scores after Awards. If a judge is available for feedback they will attend the review session and finalists may ask for brief feedback. The scoring review session is designed for finalists to receive, not give, feedback. Judges will be available for feedback on a volunteer, as-available, basis; no competitor should monopolize any judge's time. Those who did not advance to the finals may examine their callback scores, which will also be posted at the scoring review.

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. In the event that 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 Contest Coordinator, in consultation with the Chief Judge, and contestants will be notified as quickly as possible of the outcome. The Organizer reserves the right to reclassify any contestant for any reason.

Contestant Misclassification

1. **Misclassification by Competitors.** In the event that Strictly Swing couples or individual Jack & Jill competitors classify themselves incorrectly, and the error is discovered before the start of the competition in question, they will be given the option to reclassify themselves correctly or withdraw
2. **Misclassification by the Event.** No penalty will be applied in the event that the Organizer or Chief Judge classifies an individual competitor or couple incorrectly.

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 or format deemed necessary for any competition

Definitions:

“Points”

means points listed in the World Swing Dance Council Competitors Registry.

“NASDE”

means the National Association of Swing Dance Events.

“Qualifying major event”

means an event that was a member of NASDE at the time an event was held. Additional event may be considered major events on a case by case basis. Please petition if you have concerns.

“Swing Content” –

The NASDE Statement of Swing to be used to identify the presence of swing.

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.

Division Rules

Pro-Am Division

General

1. Amateurs may enter in one Division Level: Novice, Intermediate or Advanced.
2. Each professional shall have no more than 4 Amateurs in each Division Level (Novice, Intermediate & Advanced)
3. It is the Organizer's goal to encourage Pro/Am competitions as a learning tool for the Amateurs, and requires that a prior Student/Teacher relationship exists between the competitors. This is defined as at least one hour of private instruction in the previous 6 months.

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 suitable for social dancing 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.
6. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
7. At most five partner weight support moves are permitted

Jack and Jill Division

The 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. Finals will be danced in spotlight format. Each division must have at least 5 leaders and 5 followers. There is no maximum number of competitors.

General

Each competitor may enter only one skill level Jack & Jill competition (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Champions) Competitors at least 50 years of age may also enter the Masters Division. No change in division will be permitted after the contestant meeting for that division has been held. Male competitors must enter as "leaders" and female competitors must enter as "followers." Competitors must be at least fourteen (14) years of age. 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.

Division 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 (see "Petitions"). Most reasonable petitions will be approved.

Novice:

- Competitors with fewer than 20 novice points should dance in this division.
- Competitors with 20 or more novice points may continue to dance in this division until they have a first place win in novice.
- Competitors with 20 or more novice points AND a win in novice must dance in a higher division.

Intermediate:

- Competitors with 20 or more novice points, but fewer than 25 intermediate points should dance in this division.
- Competitors with 25 or more Intermediate points may continue to dance in this division until they have a first place win in intermediate.
- Competitors with 25 or more intermediate points AND a win in intermediate must dance in a higher division.
- Competitors with fewer than 20 novice points who have any intermediate points may, but are not required to, dance in this division.

Masters:

- For competitors who are at least 50 years old by the end of the event
- Masters competitors may also dance in a skill level Jack & Jill (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced or Champions)

Advanced:

- Competitors with 25 or more intermediate points should dance in this division.
- Competitors with fewer than 25 intermediate points who have any advanced points may, but are not required to, dance in this division.
- Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational J&J held at a qualifying major event (see definitions) must dance in a higher division.

Champions:

- Competitors may, but are not required to, dance in this division if they have any earned Professional (PRO), Champions (CHMP), Invitational (INV) or Teachers (TCH) points.
- Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational J&J held at qualifying major event (see definitions) must dance in 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. 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.

General

1. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
2. 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.
3. An individual is not permitted to dance in both Open and Champions Strictly Swing.

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 suitable for social dancing are acceptable.
4. This division will be danced in heats for preliminaries and semi-finals (if needed) and spotlight for finals.
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. At most five partner weight support moves are permitted.

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 where these qualifications place you, please petition (see "Petitions.")

Open

- Open to all comers except Champions.
- Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational J&J held at qualifying major event (see definitions) **may not** dance in this division.

Champions.

- Competitors may, but are not required to, dance in this division if they have any earned Professional (PRO), Champions (CHMP), Invitational (INV) or Teachers (TCH) points.
- Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational J&J held at qualifying major event (see definitions) must dance in this division.

NASDE Rules

NASDE rules apply to the Classic & Showcase Divisions only

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 schedule 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.

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.

General

1. Contestants must be 18 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
3. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the Event's discretion. There is no minimum number of entries. If fewer than ten couples enter a division, NASDE points will still be awarded.
4. Guidelines for expected swing content are: at 80% in Classic. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
5. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.

Specific

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the chief judge.
2. Competitors select their own music.
3. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
4. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
5. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music.
6. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
7. Break-away in Classic Division to be no more than 8 beats effective January 1, 2009.
8. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
9. At most five partner weight support moves are permitted.

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.

General

1. Contestants must be 18 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
3. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the Event's discretion. There is no minimum number of entries. If fewer than ten couples enter a division, NASDE points will still be awarded.
4. Guidelines for expected swing content are: at 60% in Showcase. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
5. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.

Specific

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the Chief Judge.
2. Competitors select their own music.
3. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
4. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
5. Separate entrances are permitted.
6. Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted.
7. At least three partner weight support moves are required with the partner at knee level or above.
8. At least one partner weight support move is required with the partner above the waist.
9. There are no lift maximums.

Young America (Ages 6-13)

This division is designed to feature young dancers age 6 through 13-years of age.

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. Age Requirements
 - Competitors must have reached the age of 6-years old by the end of the event in order to compete.
 - If one partner is 14-years of age or older, and the other partner is under the age of 14, this couple must compete in the Young Adult Division.
3. Routines, choice of music, and costumes must be in good taste and appropriate for this age group.
4. Routines must be a minimum of two-minutes or a maximum of three-minutes in length.
5. Competitors select their own music.
6. Tasteful, age appropriate Costumes are required.

Young Adult (Ages 14-17)

This division is for Competitors age 14 through 17-years of age.

1. The rules governing this division are the same 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. Age requirements:
 - If partners have competed previously but one partner is older than 17-years of age, that couple may petition the Organizer for an exception to the age restrictions rule. The intent of this rule is to allow youngsters who have formed a partnership and advanced their dancing together to continue to compete together in the Young Adult Division.
 - If one partner has reached the age of 14, and the other partner is under the age of 14, this couple must compete in the Young Adult Division.
3. Routines, choice of music, and costumes must be in good taste and appropriate for this age group.
4. Routines will be a minimum of two-minutes and a maximum of three-minutes in length.
5. Competitors select their own music.
6. Tasteful, age appropriate Costumes are required.