

## AVAILABLE CONTESTS:

- ❖ WSDC Jack and Jill contests: Newcomer, Novice, Sophisticated, Masters, Intermediate, Advanced, and All Star
- ❖ Non-WSDC Jack and Jill contest: All American
- ❖ Strictly Swing contests: Novice, Masters, Intermediate, Generational, Advanced, and All Star
- ❖ Pro Am Routines: Novice and Intermediate/Advanced
- ❖ Pro Am Strictly Swing contests: Newcomer, Novice, and Intermediate/Advanced
- ❖ Rising Star Routines (part of the Rising Star Tour)

## ENTRY DEADLINES:

- ❖ **7 PM** - Friday: Registration closes for all Friday Contests
- ❖ **10 AM** - Saturday: Registration closes for all Saturday Contests
- ❖ **9 PM** - Saturday: Registration closes for Pro Am Strictly Contests
- ❖ **11 AM** - Sunday: Registration closes for Strictly Swing Contests

Entry deadlines are **FIRM**. There will be no exceptions. (You are cute. We love you. Those deadlines still apply to you, too.)

**All competitors must purchase a weekend pass.** The weekend pass gives you access to all competitions, open dancing, shows, and most workshops.

*Official policies governing all Swing City Chicago's competitions are below. All competitors are responsible for reading and following the rules.*

# COMPETITION RULES

## General

### ALL CONTESTS ARE DEGENERED

- 1. Waivers:** Each competitor must sign an entry/waiver form and pay in full BEFORE competing.
- 2. Weekend Pass:** All Entrants are required to purchase a weekend ticket and may be asked to verify event pass purchase.
- 3. Age:**
  - ❖ Jack and Jill contests are open to ages 18 and above.
    - Competitors between ages 11 and 17 may petition to compete in Jack and Jill contests.
  - ❖ Strictly Swing and Pro-Am are open to all ages.
  - ❖ Rising Star must be fifteen (15) years or older by the end of the event.
  - ❖ Sophisticated is 35 and above.
  - ❖ Masters is 50 and above.
- 4. Petitions for Reclassification:** All petitions **MUST** be received by Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am to be processed in a timely fashion.
  - ❖ You may petition down by submitting a petition to the Chief Judge.
  - ❖ To petition up, petitions must be submitted to the WSDC Chief Judges Committee ("CJC") at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the event, along with two (2) videos of the competitor's dancing. Petitions and videos must be submitted via this link: [worldsdc.com/level-up-petition](http://worldsdc.com/level-up-petition). The CJC may approve or deny the petition after reviewing the competitor's Points Registry record and videos

5. You will have line ups prior to each division. The area for lining up will be announced prior to the division start. You must line up and check in with the contest coordinators in the designated locations. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** IF YOU ARE NOT IN LINE WHEN YOUR HEAT IS WALKING IN TO THE COMPETITION AREA, YOU WILL BE SCRATCHED AND NOT ALLOWED TO DANCE. PLEASE BE AWARE OF SCHEDULED COMPETITION TIMES AND BE PREPARED (WITH YOUR BIB NUMBER) TO DANCE.
6. **Costumes:** Costumes are not permitted in any category except Rising Star and Pro-Am Routines. Strictly Swing partners may choose to wear Halloween costumes OR coordinated outfits.
7. **Swing Definition:** This is a 'Swing Dance' competition, and all recognized swing styles are allowed, including Whip, Push, West Coast, Swing, Shag, Lindy Hop, Imperial, Swingout, Jitterbug, Stepping and others.
8. **Entry Limits and Requirements:**
  - Dancers may compete in multiple swing contest categories during the weekend. You may compete or enter a particular contest more than once, but each entry must be at the different level. If you are unable to compete in a different level, you may only compete in the contest once.
  - There is no limit to entries to any division except for pro-am routines and pro-am strictly swing. A professional may dance with fifteen (15) total amateurs in pro-am strictly swing (combining all levels) or five (5) amateurs in pro-am routines (per level).
  - If there are fewer than five (5) entries in any division, Swing City Chicago reserves the right to combine or cancel that division. Swing City Chicago also reserves the right to have all lead/follow categories run in a heated format in lieu of prelims or spotlight format to facilitate event schedule constraints.
9. **WSDC Jack and Jill Rules:**

WSDC points will be used to determine the level for all Jack & Jill competitors. Masters may compete in the appropriate WSDC level and in masters. You may compete as a leader and follower per WSDC guidelines.

  - Leader and Follower points are tracked separately in Points Registry.
  - Competitors qualify for their dance level based on either their Leader or Follower points, whichever is higher.
  - Competitors are allowed to compete in their non-dominant role one level down if they do not qualify in both for the same division. **HOWEVER** - Competitors with no/limited competition success in their secondary role **may** submit a petition to dance one (1) additional level down in that role.
  - Competitors will not be permitted to dance both roles in the same division.
  - Competitors with points in both their primary and secondary roles at the same skill level must select only one (1) role to compete in (either their primary or secondary role) for that event's skill level contest.

Competitors – please contact [points@worldsdc.com](mailto:points@worldsdc.com) if any points are/were incorrectly allocated to the wrong role in the system.
10. **Qualification for Newcomer Dancers:** Designed for the dancer that is BRAND NEW to competition. This division is not open to all levels.
11. **All rules will be strictly enforced:** Scoring and penalties will be at the discretion of each individual judge.

### 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. Competitors should check with the Chief Judge in advance if they have questions regarding the acceptability of their routine/competition attire.

### Responsibilities of Competitors

1. **Planning:** Competitors should check the weekend schedule in advance to arrive in time to meet registration deadlines. They should bring appropriate competition attire. They should also plan to be on time for 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 competing. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules whether they have read them or not. Questions about the rules should be addressed in advance to the Organizer and/or the Chief Judge.
3. **Being Prepared to Compete:** Competitors should be present in the ballroom **at least 15 minutes** prior to the start of their competition. Any change in partnership for the couple's competitions may require an additional entry fee as well as a new entry form and waiver.
4. **Demonstrating Good Sporting Conduct:** Competitors must always demonstrate good sporting conduct, 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.

### 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/format deemed necessary for any competition.

### Jack and Jill Divisions:

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.

- **Newcomer:** Designed for the dancer that is **BRAND NEW** to competition. Any Newcomer who makes finals and gets 1 point recorded in the WSDC registry now moves up to Novice in that role. You are NOT required to dance in Newcomer if you'd like to go straight to Novice.
- **Novice:** Competitors must stay in Novice until they have earned at least 16 points in Novice. **Required** to move up with 30+ novice points or 1 Intermediate point.
- **Intermediate:** Competitors must have earned at least 16 points in Novice; and less than 30 points in Intermediate. **Required** to move up with 45+ Intermediate points or 1 Advanced point.
- **Advanced:** Competitors must have earned at least 30 points or more in Intermediate. **Required** to move up with 90 Advanced points (no time limit) or 1 All Star Point.
- **All Star:** Competitors must have earned at least 60 points in Advanced (no time limit).
- **Sophisticated:** For competitors who are at least 35 years old by the end of the event. Competitors may also dance in a skill level Jack & Jill (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced or All Stars) and Masters.

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

**Chart 3: WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart**

Skill Level <sup>5</sup>	WSDC Category Definitions	Allowed (Dancers are given the <i>option</i> to move to the next skill level)	Required (Dancers are <i>required</i> to move to the next skill level)
Champion	Champions are defined for WSDC Champion Jack and Jill contests (i.e., events may no longer define their Champion division for WSDC Champion J&J contests). <sup>6</sup>	Allowed to dance in Champions with 1 Champion points	Required to dance in Champions with 10 Champion points
All Stars	All Stars should be extremely competitive.	Allowed to move up with 150 All Star points	Required to move up with 225 All Star points
Advanced	Advanced should be very competitive.	Allowed to move up with 60 Adv points	Required to move up with 90 Adv points or 1+ All Star point
Intermediate	Intermediate dancers are perfecting their competitive dance skills.	Allowed to move up with 30+ Intermediate points	Required to move up with 45+ Intermediate points or 1+ Advanced point
Novice	Novice dancers demonstrate basic dance skills.	Allowed to move up with 16+ Novice points	Required to move up with 30+ Novice points or 1+ Intermediate point
Newcomer <sup>7</sup>	Newcomers are new to WSDC competition in their role.	Allowed to move up at the dancer's discretion	Required to move up with 1+ Newcomer point or 1+ Novice point (by role)

## Strictly Swing Divisions:

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.

**Strictly swing partners may choose to wear Halloween costumes OR coordinated outfits.**

### 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 within these qualifications, please petition accordingly.

**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.

**Masters (50+):** Both partners must be 50 years of age or older.

### Generational:

- ❖ Any dancer may enter this division except for Champions.
- ❖ Only 1 partner can be Advanced or All Star
- ❖ There must be a 20-year age gap between partners (minimum of 20, not 19 ½).

## Pro-Am Strictly Swing Division

### General:

- 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.
- 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. Anyone who has previously competed in open or professional level competition must be considered a Pro for this purpose.
- Only the student is evaluated. Different skill levels are offered for both Leader and Follower roles. Each skill level and role are a separate contest.
- Each professional shall have no more than 15 total entries (combining all levels).
- It is the Organizer’s goal to encourage Pro/Am competitions as a learning tool for the students.
- Length of performance is at the promoter’s discretion. Music will be chosen by the Organizer.
- Costumes are not allowed. Matching or complementary outfits, however, are acceptable.
- This division will be danced in heats.

### 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 within these qualifications, please petition.

**Newcomer:** This division is for students with little to no competition experience. Students are expected to perform solid basics. Limited variations are allowed but not required. No leans, drops, or breakaways are allowed. All material should be recognizable as familiar, common “leadable” social patterns.

**Novice:** This level is based on WSDC skill level. Students are expected to perform solid basics. Limited variations are allowed but not required. 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.

## Pro-Am Spotlight Routine:

This single division is offered for all styles of Swing: West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Hustle, Shag and Hand Dance or any other style of popular swing dance.

### General:

- Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose.
- Expected swing content of any style is 70%. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content has been met.
- 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. Anyone who has previously competed in open or professional level competition must be considered a Pro for this purpose.
- Routine must be at least 2 minutes long and no longer than 3 minutes.
- Competitors select their own music.
- Lifts, drops, tricks and stunts are allowed but not required.
- Costumes are required.

## Rising Star Division

- Rising Star routines represent an opportunity for amateur dancers to gain experience in the routine process with their peers.
- Swing City Chicago is a Rising Star Tour event. Click [here](#) for more information on the Rising Star Tour, and the rules that we comply with to maintain competitive consistency across the tour.