

# LIBERTY SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

## COMPETITION GUIDELINES AND JUDGING CRITERIA

### A. REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITION

1. All competitors must hold a weekend ticket to the Liberty Swing Dance Championships and pay all associated registration fees.
2. All competitors must check-in prior to competition and have a Bib Number assigned to them at the time of registration.
3. All competitors must sign a waiver and are responsible for reading these guidelines. They are also responsible for checking postings and attending meetings to ensure they are placed in the correct division.
4. All contests must have a minimum of five (5) couples to be a valid contest.

### B. CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION

#### JACK & JILL DIVISIONS (\$20 contest fee)

(PLEASE USE YOUR WSDC COMPETITOR ID# ON REGISTRATION FORM)

1. Champions: Recognized as a Champion level dancer by the World Swing Dance Council Point Registry.
2. Masters (Open Level): Must be at least 50 years of age. You may also dance in one "level" J&J.
3. Advanced/All-Star Level: Recognized as an Advanced or All-Star dancer by the World Swing Dance Council Point Registry.
5. Intermediate Level: Recognized as an Intermediate level dancer by the World Swing Dance Council Point Registry.
6. Novice Level: Recognized as a Novice level dancer by the World Swing Dance Council Point Registry.
7. Newcomer Level: Beginner or new competitor; must never have placed in Novice.

#### COUPLES DIVISIONS (\$60 contest fee: Classic, Showcase, Rising Star, Pro-Am Spotlight; \$40: Strictly, Pro-Am Strictly)

Note: If one partner qualifies for a higher division, the couple must dance in the higher division.

1. Strictly Swing Champions: If either partner dances at an Invitational or Champions level, you must dance in this division.
2. Strictly Swing Advanced/All-Star: For the Advanced and All-Star dancers not qualifying for the Champions Division.
3. Strictly Swing Intermediate: For competitors lacking the points needed to dance in the Advanced/All-Star level.
4. Strictly Swing Novice : For competitors lacking the points needed to dance in the Intermediate level.
5. Strictly Swing & Hustle Pro-Am: For Novice or Intermediate levels; you can compete in both categories at the same or different levels.
6. Classic: Open to all contestants and all levels of skill.
7. Showcase: Open to all contestants and all levels of skill.
8. Pro-Am Spotlight: Open to all contestants and all levels of skill.
9. Juniors Routine (YASDA): Open to all contestants up to age 18 (can be up to 20 years of age if with established partner).

### C. CONTESTANTS' SIGN-UPS

Friday	2:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. for Jack & Jill, 6:00 p.m. for all Saturday evening contests.
Sunday	10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for all Sunday contests

### D. CONTESTANTS' MEETINGS

Jack & Jill Division, Strictly Swing and Pro-Am Division: There will be **NO** contestants' meetings, however you must check-in with your Bib number at the scheduled times and location.

Couples & Team Division: Meetings are not mandatory, but are strongly recommended. Couples & Team competitors should send one representative to this meeting. Be sure to read the competition guidelines.

If you have any questions regarding the competition, you may ask the Chief Judge/Contestants' Representative. You may also petition for change of dance level. The purpose of check-in is to ensure you are in the correct division, confirm names/spelling, and draw for dance order for Couples/Team.

### E. JUDGES

There will be a minimum of five Judges for all competitions. In addition, LSDC will have a Contestants' Representative/Chief Judge and Alternate Judges available.

### F. SCORING SYSTEM

Contests are scored by computer and relative placements. Contestants will be judged in the preliminaries and/or semi-finals as an individual and as a couple in any finals.

### G. MUSIC AND VIDEO

Music for the Strictly Swing, Pro-Am Strictly and Jack & Jill competitions will be the responsibility of LSDC and DJs. Exclusive video rights to Thumbs Up Video.

Classic, Showcase, Rising Star, Pro-Am Spotlight, Team and Juniors Routine:

1. Couples are responsible for their own music selection.
2. Music must be on CD, identified with the contestant's name, and must be given to the DJ at least 2 hours prior to their competition.

### H. FLOOR TRYOUTS

Friday - check event schedule for times. - All routine couples are welcomed, Friday competition couples will have priority.

Saturday - check event schedule for times. - All routine couples are welcomed.

LSDC will provide a DJ during all floor tryout times

## I. POSTING OF RESULTS

The results of all the competitions will be posted each evening following Awards. The location for the posting will be announced.

## J. PROCEDURE FOR COMPETITIONS

IMPORTANT NOTE: IF YOU ARE NOT IN THE BALLROOM WHEN YOUR NAME AND NUMBER ARE CALLED FOR YOUR COMPETITION, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DANCE. PLEASE BE AWARE OF SCHEDULED COMPETITION TIMES AND BE PREPARED (WITH YOUR BIB NUMBER) TO DANCE.

## K. JACK & JILL COMPETITIONS

Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Masters, Advanced and All Star:

There will be Preliminaries, Semi-finals and Finals as needed depending on the number of dance entries. Contests are judged by relative placement. For Preliminaries and Semi-finals, contestants will be judged individually; in the Finals you will be judged as a couple. You will be dancing for a period of 1½ -2 minutes. The number of contestants brought back for the finals will be determined in advance or where a natural break occurs when possible. **\*\* All Star dancers must compete in the Jack & Jill in order to receive a complementary pass \*\***

Champions:

This division is intended for the top national level WCS competitors. You may compete in this division if any of the following apply: (a) you already compete at the Champion level, and have finished in the top five places in the a Champions or Invitational Jack & Jill competition or (b) you have won 1st place at a national competition in the Classic or Showcase division or (c) you submit a successful petition.

## L. JUDGING CRITERIA (FIRST LOOKING FOR THE THREE T'S)

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 and 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.

## M. SCHEDULED COMPETITION TIMES

Check out event schedule on website (start times are flexible - always SUBJECT TO CHANGE based on number of contestants, etc)

## N. LSDC COMPETITION RULES

LSDC Statement of Swing:

"Swing is an American Rhythm Dance that is identified primarily by 6-beat and 8-beat patterns that incorporate a wide variety of rhythms. 6-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, passes, underarm turns, push-breaks, and open-to-closed/closed-to-open position patterns. 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 rhythm breaks may be incorporated to phrase the music, to extend a pattern, and/or to accent breaks." This statement will be used only to identify the presence of Swing content in a performance. It is not intended to be a full definition of Swing, or to be used to evaluate the quality of the performance. Each Judge will evaluate the presence of Swing content, which will be one of the criteria that determines a final score.

LSDC Sportsmanship Expectations:

Sportsmanship is a fundamental aspect of our competition. Competing at LSDC is a privilege, not a right. The event director may flag a competitor's behavior as un-sportsman like. Said behavior will be reviewed by the Chief Judge or the Contestants' Representative. Redress for violations can include but are not limited to dropping in placement, or removal from competition.

Classic Division:

This division is Swing dancing at its highest performance level and is characterized by the dancers having consistent contact with the dance floor and with each other. Anyone qualifies to compete in this division provided they follow all LSDC guidelines.

1. Recognizable Swing content, as described in the "Statement of Swing" under Competition Rules, must be present in at least 80% of the performance.
2. "In the air" moves (partner weight supported), such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves, are not allowed.
3. "On the ground" supported moves, such as drops, slides, and spreads, are allowed but not required.
4. Competitors may make separate entrances, but must join together within 32 beats of the music.
5. Once contact is made, the couple must maintain physical contact, except for spins, turns, and short breakaways (breaking of physical contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact.)
6. At least one foot must be on the floor at all times.
7. Routines must be a minimum of 2 minutes but no more than 3 minutes in length.
8. Competitors select their own music.
9. Costumes are required.
10. Minimum number of entries is 5 couples.

### Showcase Division:

This division is characterized by Swing dancing with the addition of lifts, aerals, acrobatics, and breakaways. Anyone qualifies to compete in this division provided they follow all LSDC guidelines.

1. Recognizable Swing content, as described in the "Statement of Swing" under Competition Rules, must be present in at least 60% of the performance.
2. A minimum of three "in the air" moves (partner weight supported) such as lifts, aerals, or acrobatics is required. At least one "in the air" move must have the partner's entire body above their waist.
3. "On the ground" supported moves, such as drops, slides, and spreads, are allowed but not required.
4. Routines must be a minimum of 2 minutes but no more than 3 minutes in length.
5. Competitors select their own music.
6. Costumes are required.
7. Minimum number of entries is 5 couples.

### Rising Star Division:

This Routine division will follow the guidelines of the Classic or Showcase Divisions.

1. Routines must be a minimum of 2 minutes but no more than 3 minutes in length.
2. Competitors select their own music.
3. Costumes are required.
4. Minimum number of entries is 5 couples.

### Pro-Am Spotlight Division:

This 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. Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose. Couples dance in a solo format. Both the teacher and amateur's performance is considered by the judges. Dance order will be chosen at random and posted prior to the division start time. Music provided by the competitors must be a single track on a clearly labeled CD at least 2 minutes long and no longer than 3½ minutes. Limited to the first 15 entries received.

1. Costumes are encouraged, but not required
2. Lifts, drops, tricks and stunts are allowed but not required.
3. Choreographed entrances will count towards time limits.
4. No props are allowed.
5. Routines must include at least 75% recognizable of style of the performance.

### Formation Team Division:

This division consists of teams containing four or more couples comprised of any combination of gender, age, and skill level. They will be judged as a group.

1. This division requires Formation Routines to be based on "Couples Dance(s)."
  - a. Examples of Couples Dances include, but are not limited to, Swing, Shag, Hustle, Salsa, and Waltz.
  - b. Examples of dances recognized as Non-Couples Dances include, but are not limited to, Jazz, Hip-Hop.
2. Lifts, aerals, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, breakaways, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are allowed.
3. Routines must be a minimum of 3 minutes but no more than 5 minutes in length.
4. Formation Teams select their own music.
5. Costumes are required.
6. Minimum number of entries is 4 teams.

### Strictly Swing Division:

This division consists of 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.

1. Drops, leans and other partner weight support moves are allowed as long as both partners keep at least one foot on the floor.
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 and/or spotlight at the promoter's discretion.
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.

### Pro-Am Strictly Swing Division:

Students enter with their teacher. This division is designed to highlight social Swing & Hustle dancing skills at a performance level with an emphasis on lead/follow technique. Recognizable Swing content, as described in the "Statement of Swing" under LSDC Competition Rules, must be present in at least 90% of the performance. Recognizable Hustle patterns must be present in at least 90% of the performance.

All divisions must consist of one professional dancing with one amateur. Professional is defined as a dancer that makes a sizable portion of their income from performing or teaching dance. Sizable is a relative term; over a percentage of 50% is suggested to be a professional status. Amateurs are defined as someone who does not teach dancing on a regular, ongoing basis or make a significant amount of income from teaching. This division will be danced in a "strictly" format; heats will have multiple couples on the floor.

1. Couples must remain in contact unless executing a spin.
2. No acrobatic moves, or lifts - but drops, slides, leverages are ok.
3. No choreographed entrances or exits.
4. Couples dance to about 1½ minutes of a song appropriate for their division, DJ picks the music.
5. Costumes and props are not allowed although coordinating attire is acceptable.

6. Only the Amateur is judged in his/her respective lead/follow category.
7. Pros can dance with a maximum of 3 students in any one-dance level.

Junior Swing Division:

The Young Adult Swing Dance Association (YASDA ) encourages events to embrace the following rules and guidelines:

1. All competitors must be under the age of 18
2. Should a partner in an established partnership turn 18, the partnership may petition the event to continue to dance in the Young Adult Division until such time as the youngest turns 18 or the eldest turns 20. At such time they would no longer be eligible to dance in the Young Adult Division.
3. An individual aged 18 or older, while eligible to dance (see rule 2) is ineligible to receive points towards the year end YASDA prize.
4. All other rules are at the discretion of the particular event and may be found on their websites.

Points Allotment

Tier	# of couples	points(1st-5th)
1	1-5 couples	5,4,3,2,1,0
2	6-10 couples	7,6,5,4,3 (6-10=1 pt)
3	11-15 couples	9,8,7,6,5(6-15=2 pt)
4	16-20 couples	11,10,9,8,7 (6-20=3 pt)

WORLD SWING DANCE COUNCIL - Jack & Jill Competitor's Points Registry

effective January 1, 2012

Division/Skill Level	Definition
Newcomer	Skill level - beginner or new competitor; have earned no points; not all events offer
Novice	Skill level - have earned less than 15 Novice points
Intermediate	Skill level - have earned 15 or more Novice points; and less than 30 Intermediate points
Advanced	Skill level - have earned 30 or more Intermediate points
All Star	Skill level - have earned 45 or more Advanced points within 3 years prior to this event
Champions/Invitational/Pro	Skill level - as defined by the event
Juniors	Aged based - less than 18 years of age (all skill levels)
Masters	Aged based - more than 50 years of age (and often, plus skill level requirements)

This new structure and points recorded will be effective January 1, 2012, and past points will not be affected. The Tiers are based solely on the number of competitors and not the size of the Event. The Competitor's Points Registry is meant as a tool to assist both the Promoter and the Contestant.

Points are recorded for current WSDC Registry Member Events for Jack & Jill competition results only, and for male/leader and female/follower competitors for the divisions listed above. Points that are recorded but don t move you to another level/division:

Juniors, Newcomer, Masters, All Star, and Champion/Pro/Invitational. Points that are recorded but DO/CAN move you to another level/division: Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced. Points will be recorded based on the Tiers below which is determined by number of competitors. Please be sure to check **every individual Event rules** regarding their requirements to dance in any division.

The event director is responsible to report the results of Jack & Jill competitions to the WSDC **within 10 days of their event**. They are also responsible for advising the WSDC how many contestants were in each category, thereby setting up the Tier level for recording points, as stated below. Event Directors are also responsible for informing contestants of the point structure detailed below. The WSDC determines recorded points based on this input. **Points are not input into the database until full results and dollar surcharge are turned into the WSDC.**

The competitor is responsible for knowing your WSDC assigned competitor ID number. Please use this ID number when signing up for J&J contests at events. Competitors should know what division they should be competing in but use the Points Registry for guidelines if you are unsure. If the event allows you to petition down or up, please do so according to that event s requirements. **Know the rules of every individual event prior to competing!**

**Points are recorded as follows:** When number of competitors is uneven , points will be recorded separately by leader/follower. The minimum number of couples (even leaders & followers) to make a contest eligible for recording/tracking is five (5).

Tier / # of Competitors	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	Additional
Tier 1 = 5-15	5	4	3	2	1	0
Tier 2 = 16-39	10	8	6	4	2	6 to 10
Tier 3 = 40+	15	12	10	8	6	1 pt all finalists

**TIER 1 - 5 to 15 Competitors** (Could be run as a "finals only", or perhaps semi and final)

**TIER 2 – 16 to 39 Competitors** (Should at least be run as a semi/final, but could be prelim / semi / final)

**TIER 3 – 40+ Competitors** (With this number of competitors, should be 3 rounds – prelim / semi / final)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS

- 1) The WSDC only tracks and records points for Jack & Jill contests. Points will only be recorded for those who danced in the final round only.
- 2) Points are tracked and recorded for female-followers and male-leaders.
- 3) Contests where the leader or follower dances and places twice in that division, that individual will only be awarded points in the highest of the two placements.
- 4) For events that combine divisions (i.e. Novice/Intermediate), points will be tracked for all contestants in the lower of the two divisions.
- 5) For events that offer only one division (i.e. "Open"), points will be tracked in Advanced.
- 6) For events that have different category names per division, we may not record them. Note what divisions **are recognized** by the WSDC (see table page one).
- 7) For events that are held over New Years holiday, points will show as of December-end of that year (versus using January of the New Year).
- 8) Points received prior to the last five (5) current years will not show on the Event Director's copy of Registry Books. They will be archived and available to see on the website (in other words, they are not "taken away").
- 9) Each competitor may only dance in **one skill level division**.

### **Recommendations:**

Novice: A competitor must stay in Novice until they have earned at least 15 points in Novice. In addition, a competitor may stay in the Novice division until they have both 15 points and a first place win in Novice.

Intermediate: A competitor must stay in Intermediate until they have earned at least 30 points in Intermediate. In addition, a competitor may stay in the Intermediate division until they have both 30 points and a first place win in Intermediate.

Advanced: You must have at least 30 points in Intermediate in order to move into Advanced.

All Stars: Not all events offer this division, and it's elective to enter. We recommend that at least one of the qualifications to dance in All Stars is that the competitor has at least 45 current points in Advanced (earned within last 3 years).

Petitions: All events should offer petitions and it can be on the sign-up form. We suggest that a committee, including the Chief Judge, consider the requested reclassification/petition after reviewing the dancer's record. We recommend that the Event Director will select this committee prior to the Event. For competitors, please note that if you have petitioned to dance in a higher/lower division at one event, this does not "carry over" to the next Event. You may need to petition at the next Event as well. Petitioning should only be to dance **one level up or down only**, or to stay in current division. Once you have competed/earned (current) points in a higher division, you should stay in that division!

Some valid petitioning reasons:

- points earned in a very small or very large competition (i.e. recognized by the Tiers)
- points are old (perhaps over 7 years)
- accomplished dancer who has not competed at many Registry events to earn points
- qualified instructor, but without competition points, who should not be competing against their own students

The Points Registry is available at [http://www.swingdancecouncil.com/registry\\_search.asp](http://www.swingdancecouncil.com/registry_search.asp). A published version (hard copy or soft copy), detailing the individual results up to 60 points and showing the past five (5) years of competing, is given to the Event Director (WSDC Members only) just prior to their Event.

## Americas Amateur Novice Championship Events (A.A.N.C.E.) - Tour Regulations

**GOAL - AANCE** is the only Amateur Novice Swing Dance Tour in the Americas.

The main purpose of the AANCE is to promote and preserve the art of West Coast Swing Dancing, and its many related regional styles. This tour will not consist of any dancers in the Rising Star/Advanced or Professional Levels. All events be held no later than December 15th of any given year.

**MISSION - AANCE's** mission is to offer a national platform for all swing dance styles. The Tour events will focus on Novice and Intermediate level competitors.

### **SEASON (PHASES 1 & 2 – See Below)**

Each tour will last one year with the Americas Novice Championship Events, (AANCE). During the course of the year, Regional Events will be held to determine the winners of the qualifying divisions. Once all Regional Events have been held, the National Event will take place. The winners of all Regional events will vie for the National Championship title at the annual ACC, Americas Classic Championships, held in January in Houston, Texas.

**BOARD -** The AANCE Tour will be governed by a board of directors. The primary responsibility of the board will be to oversee rules management, as well as, adoption of expansion events. This board will be comprised of:

1. Mario Robau, Jr., 2. Cher Peardon, 3. Angel Figueroa

**REGIONAL EVENT:** Only one event is allowed per region.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Any event will be eligible to become a sanctioned AANCE™ event, provided the event is in good standing with the community. Failure to remain in good standing may be cause for immediate removal of the AANCE Tour. Actions include but not limited to:

1. Failure to pay hired staff
2. Failure to pay prizes advertised
3. Failure to hold competitions in an ethical manner Amended 1/16/2010
4. Failure to hold competitions within the RULES set forth by the AANCE Tour Board
5. Participation in Golden Ticket Tour or any competitive tour event is grounds for immediate removal from the AANCE tour.

### **SYSTEM**

Each member event will hold the following competition categories:

- 1) Novice Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing Divisions - A minimum of 10 couples must enter said category in order to sanction the event as an AANCE Tour qualifier.
- 2) Intermediate Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing Divisions  
A minimum of 10 couples must enter said category in order to sanction the event as an AANCE Tour qualifier.
- 3) In addition to the winners, the remaining top 20% will qualify and be eligible to enter the National level in that category.

### **RULES**

For continuity, we recommend the inclusion of Strictly Swing and Jack & Jill rules from Americas Classic Championships.

#### **1. Qualification for Novice Dancers:**

You must have never danced in a Non-Pro, Intermediate, Advanced/Professional or higher class category, in Classic, Showcase, Strictly Swing/Just Dance style or equivalent categories, or as a Pro in a Pro-Am, in any style of dance. Jack & Jill competitions **are not** excluded. You cannot have ever taught any style of partner dance. This division is *not* open to all levels.

#### **2. Qualification for Intermediate Dancers:**

You must have never danced in a Rising Star, Advanced/Professional or higher class category in Classic, Showcase, Strictly Swing/Just Dance style or equivalent categories, or as a Pro in a Pro-Am, in any style of dance. Jack & Jill competitions **are not** excluded. This division is *not* open to all levels.

3. If a Novice dancer advances to the Intermediate level and qualifies, they must dance in the higher level they qualified for at the AANCE finals.

### **REGIONAL EVENTS (PHASE 1)**

- Regional Events will be considered the first step in progression AANCE (Americas Amateur Novice Championships Event).
- Anyone may enter at this stage of competition provided they are eligible to dance in that category.
- Winners of each division at the Regional level will automatically be eligible to enter the National level of competition
- In addition to the winners, the remaining top 20% will qualify and be eligible to enter the National level in that category
- For purposes of qualifications, AANCE will ALWAYS round up to qualify an entry rather than round down (i.e. 31 couples X 20% = 6.2 so 7 couples including winners qualify)
- All "National Champions" *do not* qualify to dance again in the "finals" if they have already won. All "National Champions" at their respective levels, must permanently move up to the next level in qualification for future competitions.

### **NATIONAL EVENT (PHASE 2)**

- The National Event will be considered the second and final step in the progression to determine the Americas Amateur National Champion
- Only those that have entered Regional Events may enter at the National level
- All winners and qualifiers from the various Regional Events will automatically be eligible to enter at the National Event
- Certain "Wild Card" entries may also enter at the National level, provided they have entered a Local Event
- "Wild Card" entries will consist of anyone who entered but did not win or qualify at the Regional level
- "Wild Card" eliminations will be held at the National Event to determine which "Wild Card" entries will dance in the actual National competitions
- For the purpose of the "Wild Card" category, qualifications will be the same 20% guide lines used to determine all other categories
- Winners of each division at the National level will earn the Title of "National Champion" for that division/category
- All "National Champions" *do not* qualify to dance again in the "finals" if they have already won. All "National Champions" at their respective levels, must permanently move up to the next level in qualification for future competitions.