

## 2018 Sweetheart Swing Classic Contest Rules & Judging Guidelines

### **GENERAL RULES & INFORMATION**

#### **STATEMENT OF SWING**

This statement of Swing is to be used to identify the presence of swing in the Swing Divisions at the Sweetheart Swing Classic (SSC). 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.

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 determine a final score.

#### **A. ORGANIZER**

Sweetheart Swing Classic is the Organizer of this event. Final decisions on all matters pertaining to these competitions rest solely with the Organizer.

#### **B. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANIZER**

1. **Staff** – The Organizer will select a panel of Judges, a Chief Judge, a Scoring Staff, and deejays. In case of an emergency, such as illness or transportation difficulties, the Organizer reserves the right to substitute a qualified person.
2.
  - a. The Chief Judge is responsible for all competitions. They will ensure the rules are understood by the judges, as written. They will finalize the judging assignments, making changes when necessary, and has one vote on the Review Panel. They will judge every competition and verify the scores. If a competitor at the event needs to scratch, change a division, get approval for use of a prop, they should contact the Chief Judge at the event.
  - b. The Judges' responsibilities are to determine the placements of the competitors dancing this day with this group of competitors. The Organizers hire professional and respected judges in the dance community. They are responsible for judging swing content, if swing is required in that division. Please see G. JUDGING CRITERIA
  - c. Scoring Staff have been hired to tabulate the scores and produce the results. The scores and results are reviewed and approved by the Chief Judge. The Organization uses Relative Placement system.
3. **Online Entry** –  
\*\*All competitors must purchase a full weekend pass to qualify for entering competitions\*\*
  - Competitors are encouraged to register as early as possible.
  - The organizers can close or cancel a division due to the number or lack of entries.
  - The Organizers may or may not accept registrations at the event.
  - An extra \$5 fee will be added to registrations processed at the event. We encourage everyone to register online prior to the event.
4. **Cancelling a Division** – If a division does not have the required number of entries, the Organizer may choose to cancel that division. If a division is cancelled, the entry fees will be refunded. If a division has

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at least three (3) entries and the Organizer decides to run the division with less than required number of entries, the Organizer has the right to adjust the prize money.

5. **Schedule** – The Organizer will determine the date and time for each competition. A tentative schedule will be listed at [www.tampabayclassic.com](http://www.tampabayclassic.com). The organizer reserves the right to change the schedule based on number of entries in a division and whether or not a prelim and/or semi-final is needed. The Organizers will post a final schedule on the website and update on the online mobile scheduler days prior and during the event, we reserve the right to make changes at the event when deemed necessary.
6. **Practice Times:**
  - a. The Organizer will try to provide as much practice time in the main ballroom as possible.
  - b. Main Ballroom scheduled practice times. Priority is given to the divisions competing that day. Please line up near the deejay booth and you will be processed in order. You can get back in line again.
7. **Awards** – The Organizer will determine and award all prizes and money. Monetary awards will be given in the form of a check or cash at the Awards Ceremony. If your check/s totals more than \$600, you will be required to complete a 1099 form. Your award envelope will send you to the Registration desk to pick up your checks. This should be done prior to the closing of the Registration Desk on Sunday. (See schedule for details). If not picked up, the checks will be mailed once required information has been provided. To award full prize money, a division must have a minimum of 5 couples. Maximum number of entries will be the decision of the promoter. The promoter has the option to offer to run a division with less than 5 couples and the option to reduce or eliminate the prize money on a reduced division. Contestants will be notified in the case of low entry and the promoter's decision to offer the competitors the option to exhibit or compete for reduced prize money. If the division is offered with less than 5 couples, you will not be entitled to a refund of competition fees.  
**If for whatever reason, there is a national disaster or a severe economic downturn beyond the Organizer's control, the Organizer reserves the right to adjust the prize money. Registered competitors will receive advance notice if this should become necessary.**
8. **Preliminaries, Semi-Finals, Finals, and Heats** – At any time prior to the Competition, the Organizer reserves the right to determine whether or not a division will consist of a Preliminary, Semi-Final and a Final. The Chief Judge (in concert with the scoring system) determine the rounds, heated, spotlight, call back numbers, and final numbers. The number of competitors progressing to a final round may vary for each division based on a natural break in the scoring or number of entries.

## **C. REQUIREMENTS TO COMPETE**

We encourage all competitors, who believe they are qualified, to register. Our events are open to all dancers who want to have fun with competition. Special care has been taken to include many different types of dance skill levels. For this reason we offer divisions from novice to professional.

All who plan to compete must adhere to the following requirements in (1) thru (5):

1. **TICKET** –All competitors ARE REQUIRED to purchase a FULL WEEKEND TICKET.
2. **REGISTER** – Competitors should register using our online registration process. A division can be determined closed due to number of entries or lack of entries prior to event date. Competitors can continue to register, at the event, if a division is not closed. Deadlines will be posted online and at the Registration Desk. At event registrations will be charged an extra \$5.
3. **ENTRY FEE** – The payment of the entry fee is required and isn't considered complete until the entry fee has been paid. .
4. **WAIVER** - All competitors are required to sign a waiver at the time they receive their wristbands at the Registration Desk. No Competitor will be allowed to compete without signing the Waiver. Every member of a Team or Cabaret Act must sign the Waiver. Competitors under 18-years of age must have a parent or guardian sign their Waiver and any other required forms.

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5. **MEET REQUIREMENTS** – A dancer must meet all the specific requirements outlined in the rules and for specific division rules. If the Organizer feels someone misrepresents their age for age sensitive divisions or level, the Organizer may remove titles and require the return of trophies and prize money.
6. **MANDATORY Competitors Meeting** – The Chief Judge Will meet with Competitors age 17 & under with their respective Parent(s)/Chaperone(s). You must attend to qualify.

### **D. DEFINITION OF PARTNERSHIPS & DIVISION RESTRICTIONS**

1. Couple – All contests are Gender Neutral. We encourage you to dance in the role you prefer.
  - a. Dancer will be judged according to role rather than gender. A Competitor may not dance in the same division twice, even with a different partner, exception would be a Pro in a Pro Am Division.
2. Routine Division Partnerships:
  - a. Competitors may compete in Classic, Showcase, Sophisticated, Rising Star and Masters, (these divisions may or may not be offered) but with a different partner and a different routine.
  - b. Competitors dancing in routine divisions, excluding Cabaret or Teams, (these divisions may or may not be offered) may also dance in Strictly Division, but with a different partner.
  - c. Any Competitor in a Routine division may also compete in the Cabaret and Teams (these divisions may or may not be offered) even with the same partner.
  - d. Competitors in Young America and Young Adult (these divisions may or may not be offered) may not dance in both divisions, even with a different partner.
3. Strictly Divisions Partnerships:
  - a. Competitors may compete in one skill level of Strictly WCS, and one skill level of Masters Strictly WCS.
  - b. Junior dancers ages 6-17, who want to dance in a Strictly Division, can only dance in the Strictly Junior divisions when offered.
4. Jack & Jills:

Any competitor may dance in one skill level of Jack & Jill and one skill level of Masters (You must be 50 and over to qualify for Masters).
5. Pro/Am –
  - a. Definition of an Amateur: Someone who HAS NOT RECEIVED payment for teaching group lessons, teaching private lessons, or was paid for a dance show or demonstration in the last three years.
  - b. Definition of a Professional: Someone who HAS RECEIVED payment for teaching group classes, teaching private lessons or was paid for a dance show or demonstration in the last three years.
  - c. If a dancer misrepresents their status, they may forfeit their title and be required to return their trophy and prize money.
6. Age Restrictions – Some divisions have age restrictions/requirements. - Please see section J. AGE REQUIREMENTS
7. If you have a particular situation regarding a partnership, please go to the PETITION process in the COMPETITION section and complete a "Petition for Partnerships". The Chief Judge will review your petition.

### **E. CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS**

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1. Competition fees will be refunded to any competitor who withdraws from a competition 30 days prior to the event.
2. If at the event and you have changes, contact Registration.
3. If the Organizer cancels a division, the competitor's fees will be refunded. There are no refunds for "no-shows". You must be in the competitors queuing area 20 minutes prior to the event

### **F. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETITORS**

1. **Rules** – All Competitors are responsible for reading and understanding the rules prior to the competition weekend. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules whether or not they have been read. If you have a question or a concern, please contact [phil@godanceusa.com](mailto:phil@godanceusa.com) prior to the event. If at the event, please contact the Chief Judge.
2. **Deadline Date/Time**
  - Will be posted on Website 30 days prior to event
  - Will be posted at the event.
3. **Music Turn In – Routines Only - NEW**

We encourage those competing in Routine divisions to submit their music prior to the event following the instructions below. If you do not submit prior to the event and chose to submit at the event, please see instructions below. You can not submit your music the day of your competition after floor trials.

All music will be played from a computer in digital format (preferably MP3 files at 320 kbps compression for best possible sound quality). Music in digital format will be emailed, CD's will be converted to MP3, and/or Flash (Thumb drives) will be transferred to the computer.

➤ Submitting prior to Event via Email:

- Email your digital music file in MP3 format to [april@aprilprince.com](mailto:april@aprilprince.com)
- Subject line: Sweetheart Swing Classic
- You will receive a confirmation that the music was received. Bring this confirmation with you to the music turn/dance order draw, along with any set up, start points or pitch adjustments needed.
- Labeling – Digital music files will be labeled as follows:
  - "2014SSC"\_"divisions"\_"Names of Competitors".mp3
- Divisions are as follows: This is specific as this is how they will sort so the deejay can locate your music.
  - Classic
  - Classic Rising Star
  - Showcase
  - Sophisticated Swing
  - Masters
  - Young Adult
  - Young America
  - Teams
  - Cabaret
  - Pro-Am-Leader
  - Pro-Am-Follower

➤ Submitting music at the Event via Flash (Thumb drive) will incur an additional fee:

- Submit a Digital copy of your music on a Flash (Thumb) drive when you check- in. It will be converted to digital format for a fee of \$10.00.

➤ Submitting music at the event in CD format is NOT ACCEPTABLE:

Multiple Routines: If a competitor is performing in more than one routine division, music must be provided on separate Flash (Thumb Drive) or files.

Competitors will be responsible for their own practice music as you will not have access to your music except during the scheduled floor trials.

It is the responsibility of the competitor to listen to their music from beginning to end to verify its accuracy and that there aren't any discrepancies that may have occurred during digital transmission or digital conversion. Neither the US Open nor the deejays will be responsible for any issues pertaining to the music.

We recommend having a back up disk with you, in case there are any music problems.

4. **Competitor Meetings:**

There isn't a mandatory competitors' meeting. Competitors should check in with the Competition Coordinators in the Competitor's Designated Queuing area 20 minutes prior to their competition time.

**Scoring & Judging Workshop** -The Organizer will have a Scoring & Judging Workshop. The workshop is not mandatory, but recommended, especially if it is your first Sweetheart Swing Classic. All competitors are invited to attend the meeting, even if you have already competed.

5. **Bib Numbers**

- a. Jack & Jill Divisions – Both the Leaders and the Followers are required to wear their assigned bib numbers for Prelim, Semis, and Finals.
- b. Strictly Swings – Only the Leader is required to wear his bib number.
- c. Routine and Pro/Am Divisions are not required to wear bib numbers.
- d. Competitors must wear their "official" bib. The cost for a replacement bib is \$5.00. You cannot use a handmade bib.
- e. Bibs can be picked up at the Event Registration desk upon Check-In when you receive your wristband.

6. **Dance Order**

Pro-Am - Dance order will be computer generated, randomized by the Fisher - Yates shuffle algorithm.

Jack & Jill – Prelims and Semis will rotate partnerships and will be danced in heated format. Finals may or may not be danced in heated format. Jack & Jill finals, will be determined by Bib number, which are assigned to competitors randomly. Exception: Jack & Jill All-Star/Champions, Which will draw dance order on the floor prior to the competitions

Strictly Swing – Dance order will be computer generated, randomized by the Fisher - Yates shuffle algorithm. Prelims and Semis will be danced in heated format. Finals may or may not be danced in heated format.

Routine Divisions – Dance order will be computer generated, randomized by the Fisher - Yates shuffle algorithm.

7. **Behavior** – All Competitors must demonstrate courteous and professional behavior at all, both on and off the competition floor. This includes showing respect the event staff, hotel staff, rules, and property.

Please keep in mind that dancers of all ages will be present at the event and all performances will be recorded. All performances should be appropriate and respectful of the audience. Performances in bad taste or are considered inappropriate or disrespectful to the audience, can be stopped and may not be included in the videos.

Failure to adhere to these standards may cause disciplinary action by the Organizer and/or penalties from the Judges. In such a case where a competitor is not allowed to dance, the Organizer is not required to issue refunds for entry fees or event tickets.

8. **WRISTBANDS** – Competitors in the Routine divisions do not have to compete with their wristbands on. **DO NOT throw them away or lose them.** The wristband is your responsibility. After competing, bring your wristband to the registration desk for a replacement. If you lose it, you will have to pay for a new one. We do not recommend removing your wristbands for the Jack & Jill and Strictly divisions.

9. **Performance Feedback** - Competitors may discuss their performance with the Judges using only the appropriate times and channels, which are: 1) One hour after the Posting of Scores 2) by appointment with Chief Judge.

10. **Posting of Scores** – The results of the finalist will be posted after the Awards Ceremony on Sunday. **The review is for competitors or coaches ONLY please.** Parents of junior dancers may accompany their children into the review room. They will remain posted for 1 hour in the designated review area. It is the responsibility of the competitor to attend this review, if they would like to see their scores. The Organizers are not obligated to discuss scores after this time period. The Chief Judge, Referee, and the Score keeper will be present to answer questions. All Competitors must be courteous and demonstrate professional behavior.  
Adherence is required to the standard for receiving feedback that is stated in Section F-1.

## **G. JUDGING CRITERIA**

The Relative Placement System will be used to judge all competitions. All Competitors will be judged using the following criteria:

1. **Timing** – “How Your Body Connects to the Music”. Swing is a dance beginning on the downbeat. Timing extends to much more finer distinctions than a single beat. It includes fractionally ahead or behind the beat, as well as matching the syncopated “swing” of the music.
2. **Technique** – “How Well You Do What You Do.” How well the Competitors execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. We are looking for good footwork, balance, control, frame, and how well turns & spins are executed, and control of arms and hands.
3. **Teamwork** – How Well You Work Together.” Swing is a connected, partner dance. The demonstration of this connection and the appearance of lead/follow or action/reaction between the partners is an expected part of any competition. It is the ability to work together as a team. One partner ignoring or out-dancing the other, or jeopardizing the safety of the other (or other Competitors), indicates poor teamwork.
4. **Content/Choreography** – “What You Do.” The selection and order of movements and transitions executed during a dance comprises choreography. Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and its phrasing, as well as variety and contrast of movements.  
**Choreography must be tasteful and respectful to the audience.**
5. **Showmanship/Presentation** – “How Well You Sell What You Do.” To create an atmosphere of excitement by inviting and generating interest in a performance is the desired effect of good presentation. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, a good show is not a substitute for good dancing.

## **SWING CONTENT**

1. In all divisions, the amount of Swing content that is required or allowed will be evaluated by each judge. A judge will mark his score sheet as follows.
  - a. **Swing Warning** - If a judge feels there may not be enough Swing content in a routine, they will mark their sheet with an SW and their score will not reflect a lower score.
  - b. **Swing Violation** – If a judge feels there isn't enough Swing content in a routine, they will mark their sheet with an SV and their score will reflect a lower score.
2. Please review the STATEMENT OF SWING at the beginning under GENERAL RULES & INFORMATION.
3. Review your division for requirements or restrictions.

## **Judges**

1. Judges will be scoring the performances according to the above criteria.
2. Performances reviewed by the Review Panel will be final.
3. Judges decisions are final. In the unlikely case of ties in scores, the contest will be decided by the mathematical system for breaking ties. Described here:  
[http://www.swingdancecouncil.com/library/relativeplacement\\_5\\_1\\_10.pdf](http://www.swingdancecouncil.com/library/relativeplacement_5_1_10.pdf)

4. Deductions or demotions for violations of rules are applied by the Chief Judge from indications and observations of the judges.

#### **REFEREE (option of Organizer)**

1. The organizers may designate a referee to check routines to make sure they adhere to the rules for that division. The referee's job is to identify infractions in a routine, which can include:
  - a. the length of routine
  - b. costuming requirements
  - c. move restrictions
  - d. move requirements
  - e. length of breakaways
  - f. using an unapproved prop.
2. The Referee will sit with the judging panel for all Routine divisions.
3. The procedure for the Referee:
  - a. If the Referee flags a routine, he will review the routine a second time.
  - b. If he concludes there still may be an infraction, he will submit the performance to the Judging Panel.
  - c. If he concludes there is NOT an infraction after the second viewing, it will not be submitted to the Judging Panel.
4. If it is a length of time infraction, it does not need to go the Judging Panel. It can be verified with the Chief Judge.
5. The Referee does not judge Swing content on the performance.
6. All NASDE events are required to have a Referee, especially for the Classic and Showcase divisions.

### **H. ERRORS, PENALTIES, AND VIOLATIONS**

1. **Pass** – The performance was reviewed and passed. No action is taken.
2. **An Error** – An error is a minor and apparently unintentional breaking of the rules. It is a mistake. If the review panel agrees it is an error, no action will be taken. It will be assumed the error was reflected in the Judges' score.
3. **Penalty** – will be given in cases where the review panel feels the incident was more than an error, but not as serious as a violation. Something that needs to be addressed, but not serious enough to drop you out of the money. A drop in placement will be issued.
4. **A Violation** – A violation is a serious and apparently intentional breach of the rules. A violation is for something serious where it is felt the competitors knew better, but did it anyway. A violation may result in being moved out of finals and/or placed out of the money. In NASDE divisions, if a violation is issued, NASDE points will not be awarded.

### **I. BEGINNING AND ENDING A ROUTINE**

1. **Entrances and Exits** – Choreographed entrances-to and exits-from the dance floor are permitted, but not required, in choreographed routines.
2. Timing and judging will begin from the first movement of the performance, with or without music or sound. Timing requirements for a choreographed routine will be determined by the Referee or designee. If too short or too long, it will result in a Violation.

### **J. AGE REQUIREMENTS**

The Competitor must meet the age requirement specified in these rules on or before the Sunday of the event. If it is discovered someone knowingly enters a division with an age requirement incorrectly and competes, they will forfeit their placement, prize money, and trophy.

- Strictly WCS Champion – age 18 and older
- Strictly WCS – Open Level – age 18 and older
- Strictly WCS – Skill Levels (Nov, Int, Adv All Star) age 18 or over (anyone under the age must petition with parent/guardian approval)
- Strictly Masters – both partners 50 and older
- Jack & Jill – Skill Levels (Newcomer, Nov, Int, Adv, All Star) – age 14 and older \*\*

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- Jack & Jill Masters – age 50 or older
- Jack & Jill Juniors – age 6 -17 \*\*
- Pro/Am – age 6 or older

Contestants may apply for exceptions, the decisions of the event director and chief judge are final.

### **K. PETITIONS TO DANCE**

#### Petition Process:

1. Complete Petition application available at [ruth@godanceusa.com](mailto:ruth@godanceusa.com). You must make your request prior to Deadline.
2. List division, partner names, ages, partner relationship/history and present your case to petition to dance together.
3. The Chief Judge will review your petition and based off past decisions and what they feel is best for that division will either approve or disapprove the petition.
4. They will notify you of their decision.

### **L. PERFORMANCE ATTIRE**

1. **Costumes** - Performance attire is required for all routine divisions, including: Showcase, Classic, Sophisticated Swing, Rising Star, Masters, Lindy Showcase, Cabaret, Young Adult, Young America, Teams, and Pro/Am Routine. Vintage clothing is considered a costume, especially in Lindy routines.
2. Performance attire is NOT allowed in the Strictly Divisions and Jack & Jill divisions, but matching and/or dressy dance clothing is encouraged.
3. Please "Dress to Impress – Perform to Win". Clothing and costumes should be in good taste, suitable for dancing, and flattering in all divisions.
4. Halloween style costumes are not allowed.
5. Sloppiness is not appropriate.
6. **Age appropriate** costumes for the Young America and Young Adult divisions is expected and required. Costumes and clothing should be suitable, flattering, and age appropriate.
7. If a competitor's attire is deemed inappropriate, isn't a costume when it should be, or a costume when it shouldn't be, a penalty or a violation may be applied.

### **M. PROPS**

1. Props are not allowed in any divisions, except Cabaret.
2. Any Cabaret prop must be approved prior to the event. Contact [ruth@godanceusa.com](mailto:ruth@godanceusa.com).
3. A prop is anything used in the routine that is outside of the costume and is used to help tell a story.
4. Hats, jackets, capes, sunglasses, and other reasonable dance clothing items are considered costume, and may be worn in all divisions. However, clothing or items may NOT be discarded, nor switched from partner to partner.
5. If you are concerned if something might be considered a prop, you must ask prior to competing.
6. Microphones and/or head sets are not permitted during any routine.
7. The Referee will have a list of approved props for the Cabaret division. If an unapproved prop is used, it will go before the Judging Panel. Using a prop in any division other than Cabaret or using an unapproved prop will result in a penalty or a violation.

### **N. ROUTINE TIME REQUIREMENTS**

**Time Limit** – Pro/Am Routine performances must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes. Choreographed Floor Entrances and Exits are included in the time limit whether or not there is music. A five-second buffer will be allowed to accommodate differences in music equipment. Exceeding Maximum time by more than 5 Seconds and less than 10 Seconds = loss in 1 placement. Exceeding Maximum time by 10 Seconds or more = Disqualification. Less than Minimum time more than 5 Seconds and less than 10 seconds = loss in 1 placement. Less than Minimum time by 10 Seconds or more = Disqualification.

### **O. RESTARTS**



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A restart will be allowed only if the music system falters or an unforeseen catastrophe occurs. Events such as a broken dress strap, untied shoelace, unhappy with the dancing, or wanting to start over, etc, does not warrant a restart. This applies to all divisions.

### **P. QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE RULES OR COMPETITION**

Please call the office (1-800-537-8937) or e-mail [phil@godanceusa.com](mailto:phil@godanceusa.com) with any questions and especially regarding:-

- Rules
- Petitions
- Approval of props
- Partner changes
- Cancellations

## **DIVISIONS AND RULES**

### **RISING STAR Tour DIVISION**

### **DANCER ELIGIBILITY**

**In order to compete in the 2017 Rising Star Tour, each dancer must:**

- Never have placed or made a qualifying final of a NASDE Classic or Showcase division (no NASDE points).
- Never have won the US Open Rising Star division.\*

**A dancer “graduates” from the 2017 Rising Star Tour when they meet any one of the following:**

- Win the Rising Star tour by accumulating the most points with their partner.
- Place top 3 in the US Open Rising Star division.

\*Individuals may petition the RST committee no less than seven (7) days prior to the event at which they wish to compete with a different (eligible) partner by emailing [petition@risingstartour.com](mailto:petition@risingstartour.com).

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## **CONTEST RULES**

### **General:**

- At the discretion of the event director(s), contestants may be as young as fifteen (15) years by the end of the event to participate. If a YASDA or Juniors division is offered during the event weekend, the minor may not compete in both contests with the same partner.
- A couple may consist of opposite- or same-sex dance partners. This is up to each event's discretion.
- The maximum number of entries in each division is at the Event's discretion. Minimum number of entries = three (3). If there are less than three (3) couples, the event shall offer the competitors the opportunity to perform an exhibition, with judges' feedback.
- Expected swing content of any style is 70%. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content has been met.
- An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division or in Classic/Showcase.

### **Specific**

- Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.
- Competitors select their own music.

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- Costumes are required.
- Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
- Separate entrances are permitted, but must come together within thirty-two (32) beats of the music intro.
- Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted, no longer than 8 beats.
- Lifts are optional but not required.
- Maximum five (5) partner weight support moves with at least one foot on the ground.

### **Restart Guidelines**

Couples may request a restart in the following cases:

- The DJ plays the wrong music for your routine.
- The sound system fails.
- Shoe breaks, costume malfunction, or loss of a vital piece of clothing.
- Lights go out in the ballroom during the performance.

Contestants may NOT request a restart in the following cases:

- Dissatisfied with their dance order.
- Dissatisfied with their performance.
- Dissatisfied with their partner.
- Dissatisfied with their music.
- Failure to remember part of the routine.
- If a contestant is injured during their performance. This is for safety concerns.

If a couple completes their routine, but believes they should be allowed to restart due to special circumstances, they **MUST** make their request to the CJ prior to leaving the competition floor.

- If the CJ approves the request, the couple may elect to perform their routine again with the previous performance scores voided.
- If the CJ denies the request, the performance that was completed will count towards scoring the contest.

If a couple has not completed their routine, but believes they should be allowed to restart due to special circumstances, they **MUST** make their request to the CJ prior to leaving the competition floor.

- If the CJ approves the request, the couple may restart their routine with the previous performance scores voided.
- If the CJ denies the request, the couple will be scratched from the contest.

The Chief Judge (CJ) may call a restart without the request of the couple if the CJ believes it is fair and in the best interest of the contestants and their fellow competitors. In this case, the couple will be allowed to restart after the next couple in dance order or at the discretion of the CJ.

- The couple may decline the option to restart if they are satisfied with their completed routine.
- If they did not complete their routine, and opt out of the restart, the couple will be scratched from the contest.

## **POINT AWARDS**

Points will be awarded in single point increments, starting with one (1) point for last place. This ensures every couple's result is registered, and points increase with the size of the contest.

**Example:** In a contest with nine (9) couples: 9th place receives 1 point. 8th/2, 7th/3, 6th/4, 5th/5, 4th/6, 3rd/7, 2nd/8, 1st/9

No points (performance only) are awarded when there are less than three (3) couples.

Each dancer must be eighteen (18) years or older by the end of the qualifying event to earn points towards graduation during a tour year.

## **ALL STRICTLY SWINGS – GENERAL RULES & GUIDELINES**

1. Emphasis is on "lead/follow", technique, timing, teamwork, and social skills for each style of Swing.
2. Pre-Choreographed routines are NOT allowed.
3. Costumes are NOT allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable. Jeans are NOT allowed. Junior clothing should be age appropriate.
4. Competitors may dance in one level of Strictly WCS and in one level of any different Strictly division, but with a different partner. See sections *D. Definition of Partnerships and Division Restrictions* and *J. Age Requirements* for more detailed information.
5. All dancers must have purchased a full weekend ticket to compete.
6. Music will be randomly selected by the Deejay. It will not be previewed in advance for competitors.
7. Preliminary rounds will be heated. The Final round format will be determined by the Head Judge.
8. Competitors are encouraged and should register online. For competitors registering at the event, there will be an additional \$5 charge.
9. All divisions require a minimum of 7 entries or the division may be cancelled and entry fees refunded. See B-4 Levels (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All Star) are defined by same rules as Jack & Jill. You select Role for Self and are judged according to role rather than gender.
10. If partners are different Skill Level the couple must dance to the higher level.

## **STRICTLY MASTERS - WEST COAST SWING DIVISION**

1. This division is designed to highlight social West Coast Swing dancing skills.
2. Moves such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
3. Support moves, such as drops, slides, and splits are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
4. Short break-aways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed with an 8 beat maximum.
5. There should be at least 90% recognizable West Coast Swing present throughout the performance.
6. Competitors must be age 50 or older.
7. Masters Level Competitions are restricted to Open and Advanced and below.

## **JACK & JILL – GENERAL RULES & GUIDELINES**

1. West Coast Swing levels include: All Star, Advanced, Intermediate, Novice, Newcomer, Masters (Open, Int/Adv, Nov).
2. The level one may enter is based off the World Swing Dance Council Points Registry as described below in each division/level. All Jack & Jill competitors will be verified and moved into their correct division by their WSDC points. Verify your level by checking rosters posted according to schedule provided at the event.
3. A competitor may petition to dance up or down one level. Petitions are available at the registration desk. Petitions must be filled out and returned to registration by 11pm Friday night and a Petition Review with the Chief Judge will be held there from 9:45 – 10:15 am on Saturday.
4. If you register in one level and move to a different level by the time of the event, notify registration desk upon check-in. Give information as to when and where your points moved you up.
5. The Jack & Jill competition highlights social dance skills with an emphasis on lead and follow, technique, timing, and teamwork. Dancer is judge by role rather than gender.

## Sweetheart Swing Classic Rules - 10/10/2017

6. A competitor may enter only one level of WCS Jack & Jill. Exceptions:
  - a. Master Competitors age 50 or older may dance in Masters J & J and one skill level of J & J.
  - b. Juniors ages 14-17 may dance in Juniors and one other WCS Jack & Jill level.
7. Music will be selected by our qualified deejay staff.
8. Each competitor must have a weekend pass.
9. Moves such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
10. Support moves, such as drops, slides, and splits are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
11. Costumes are NOT allowed, but tasteful and dressy clothing is encouraged.
12. Competitors enter as individuals and will be randomly assigned partners.
13. Depending on the number of entries in each division, there may or may not be a preliminary or semi round as determined by the Chief Judge.
14. Prelims and Semis will be danced in heated format. Finals may or may not be danced in a heated format as determined by the Chief Judge.
15. Competitors are encouraged and should register online. For competitors registering at the event, there will be an additional \$5 charge.
16. Each Jack & Jill division requires a minimum number of entries or the division may be cancelled and entry fees refunded. See B-4

### • **ALL STAR/CHAMPION WEST COAST SWING JACK & JILL**

Competitors who have earned 45 or more Advance points within 3 years prior to this event should dance in All Star. This division is also for Champion Level dancers who may or may not have the required points but who have won a Championship Level competition. Competitors must be age 14 or older.

### • **INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED WEST COAST SWING JACK & JILL**

Competitors who have earned 15 or more Novice points and less than 45 Advance points prior to this event. Competitors must be age 14 or older.

### • **MASTERS JACK & JILL – INT/ADV (WSDC points)**

Competitors must be at least 50 years of age by Sunday of the event and who have earned 15 or more Novice points. Master Competitor's may also dance in one skill level of Jack & Jill.

### • **MASTERS JACK & JILL - NOVICE**

Competitors must be at least 50 years of age by Sunday of the event and have earned less than 15 Novice points prior to this event. Master Competitor's may also dance in one skill level of Jack & Jill.

### • **NOVICE JACK & JILL**

Competitors who have earned less than 15 Novice points prior to this event should dance in Novice. Competitors must be age 14 or older.

### • **NEWCOMER JACK & JILL**

Competitors must be a beginner or new (less than a calendar year) competitor and have earned no points.

## **PRO/AM SPOTLIGHT DIVISION**

### **GENERAL RULES**

1. This division is designed to develop routine dancers and showcase an amateur dancing with their Professional instructor.
2. We invite Professionals with Amateurs to compete in this division in any partner dance form including Hustle, Salsa or Swing.
3. A couple must consist of one leader and one follower.
4. The rules governing the Pro/Am Divisions are the same rules that govern the Classic Division.

## Sweetheart Swing Classic Rules - 10/10/2017

5. Routine must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes including an entrance and an exit with or without music.
6. Amateur must be at least 6 years of age.
7. Costumes are encouraged, but not required.
8. To qualify partnership in our Pro/Am, there must be an instructor/student relationship.
  - a. Definition of an Amateur: Someone who HAS NOT RECEIVED payment for teaching or for teaching privates.
  - b. Definition of a Professional: Someone who HAS RECEIVED payment for teaching group classes, teaching privates lessons or paid for a dance show or demonstration in the last three years.
9. Amateur may compete with different Pros in different dances. They may also dance one Pro/Am Solo Routine of each dance style.
10. Each Pro is limited to five (5) student Leaders and (5) student Followers per offered skill level. If Pro Exceeds limits they will be disqualified from Top Teacher Award(s).
11. The Pro/Am Division will be limited to the first 30 registrations.
12. Medals are awarded - Gold Honors, Gold, Silver, and Bronze - in relation to how well a student performs against the standard expected for their entered level. A ranking of these medals will also determine a placement value in the competition.

### **PRO/AM STRICTLY DIVISION**

#### **Novice, Intermediate, Advanced or OPEN**

1. These are "Strictly" in format and are the same definition as above - no tricks, heated format, and music that we choose.
2. In a "Strictly" pro-am only the Amateur is judged - and judged against his (lead) or her (follow) competitors.
3. Medals are awarded - Gold Honors, Gold, Silver, and Bronze - in relation to how well a student performs against the standard expected for their entered level. A ranking of these medals will also determine a placement value in the competition.