



2018 Rules - US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS, INC

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide the best possible environment to showcase the highest level of competition from around the world, and thus provide the most exciting entertainment for our attendees.

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 US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS, INC , “THE OPEN”, 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.](#) (For additional information, please visit <http://www.nasde.net/rules.php>)

The objective is to provide a competitive performance venue for the various unique styles of swing that have developed across the nation to include the Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing, to name a few. “THE OPEN” divisions are open to a variety of Swing dances, except in Cabaret division.

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

The US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS, INC. 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 Referee, 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.
 - o The Chief Judge “CJ” is responsible for all competitions. CJ makes sure the rules are understood by the judges, as written. CJ will finalize the judging assignments, make changes when necessary, and has one vote on the Review Panel. CJ will judge every competition and verify the scores. If a competitor at the event needs to scratch, or change a division, they should contact the Chief Judge at the event.
 - o A Referee has been hired to review all routine divisions and all Strictly Finals to make sure they adhere to the rules of “THE OPEN” for length of a routine, proper costuming, and/or movement violations or requirements. The Referee does not judge swing content. Please see section H. Judging Criteria / Referee for further explanation.

- 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 H. JUDGING CRITERIA
- Scoring Staff has been hired to tabulate the scores and produce the results. The scores and results are reviewed and approved by the Chief Judge. "THE OPEN" utilize Relative Placement Scoring System.

3. Online Entry –

- On-line registration will open on July 1st..
- Competitors are encouraged to register as early as possible. Competitors who register by October 1st are guaranteed entry.
- Entry fees increase after October 1st.
- Routine and Pro/Am divisions must register by November 11th. Late entries may be allowed at the discretion of the Event Director. A \$10 fine will be applied.
- The organizers can close or cancel a division due to the lack of entries.
- The Organizers may or may not accept registrations for Jack & Jill and Strictly at the event.
- The Event Registration desk will be open Wednesday from 8-10 PM and Thursday from 8-9 AM to take event registrations for Jack & Jill and Strictly Divisions that are still open. An extra \$5 fee will be added to registrations processed at the event. We encourage everyone to register online prior to November 18th.

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 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. Competitors will be notified prior to the event about a cancelled division or a division with adjusted prize money.

5. **Schedule** – The Organizer will determine the date and time for each competition. A tentative schedule will be listed on the "THE OPEN" website. **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 by November 15th, but reserve the right to make changes at the event when deemed necessary.

6. Practice Times:

- The Organizer will try to provide as much practice time in the main ballroom as possible. The Pasadena Ballroom will be available for practice when the room is not in use for workshops and other "THE OPEN" activities.
- **Main Ballroom Open Practice Schedule:** Priority is given to the divisions competing that day. Divisions not competing will be given separate times. SEE SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS. Please line up near the deejay booth and you will be processed in order. Competitors can queue up again as time permits.

7. **Awards** – The Organizer will determine and award all prizes and money. Monetary awards will be given in the form of a cash or check at the Awards Ceremony.

- Friday Awards – Pro/Am and Jack & Jill (if possible)
- Sunday Awards– All remaining divisions.
- If your check or checks total more than \$600, you will be required to complete a IRS - 1099 form. Your award envelope will direct you to the Registration desk to pick up your checks. This should be done prior to the closing of the Registration Desk on Sunday evening at 9:30 PM. If not picked up, the checks will be mailed once required information has been provided.

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 will 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

“THE OPEN” encourages all competitors, who believe they are qualified, to submit their registration. All who plan to compete must adhere to the following requirements in (1) thru (4):

1. **WEEKEND PASS** –All competitors ARE REQUIRED to purchase a FULL WEEKEND Pass. Competitors can purchase an open seating/standing room only Pass at a reduced price of \$130 up through November 1st. You can purchase your discounted Pass at the time you register for competition or purchase later through the website. This Pass cannot be sold or transferred to someone other than another competitor. Competitor Passes will NOT be sold at the event. The event staff will verify that each competitor, including members of Teams and Cabaret teams, has purchased their weekend Pass.

2. **REGISTER** – Competitors should register using our online registration process. Registration opens July 1st; entry fees increase on October 2nd. A division can be determined “closed” based on number of entries (or lack of) after November 1st.

Competitors can continue to register (if a division is not closed) as follows:

- **Routines up to November 11th.**
- **Jack & Jill and Strictly online registration available even while you travel (published deadlines apply).** On Wednesday evening from 8-10 PM and Thursday morning from 8-9 AM we will be taking registrations at the event for Jack & Jill and Strictly Divisions that have not been cancelled. At event registrations will be charged an extra \$5.

3. **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.

4. **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.

D. DEFINITION OF PARTNERSHIPS & DIVISION RESTRICTIONS

1. Couple – A couple consists of one male leader and one female follower. Exception: Pro-Am Routines and Rising Star.
2. A Competitor may not dance in the same division twice, even with a different partner.

3. Routine Division Partnerships:

- a. Competitors may compete in Classic, Showcase, Lindy Showcase, Sophisticated and Masters, but with a different partner and a different routine.
- b. Competitors dancing in routine divisions, excluding Cabaret or Teams, may also dance in Strictly, but with a different partner.
- c. Any Competitor in a Routine division may also compete in the Cabaret and Teams even with the same partner.
- d. Competitors in Young America and Young Adult may not dance in both divisions, even with a different partner.

4. Strictly Divisions Partnerships:

- A. A couple consists of one leader and one follower, one male, one female.
- B. Competitors may compete in one level of Strictly Swing either Open or Champion.
- C. A Competitor may dance in Strictly Lindy, Strictly Shag, Strictly Hand, Strictly Masters (see K.Age Requirements), and one level of Strictly Swing but with a different partner.
- D. Junior dancers ages 6-13, who want to dance in a Strictly, can only dance in the Strictly Junior Divisions with different partners.

- E. Junior dancers ages 14-17 can dance in the Junior Swing Strictly, and/or Jr Dancers ages 14-20 can dance in the Junior Shag Strictly with different partners.
5. Jack & Jill
- Any competitor may dance in one skill level and one age level of Jack & Jill. (See Jack & Jill Rules for Jack & Jill Masters)
 - If over the age of 50 , a competitor can dance in one skill level and one Masters J & J.
 - If over the age of 14, a competitor may compete in one skill level and one J & J Junior.
6. Pro/Am –
- Definition of an Amateur: Someone who HAS NOT RECEIVED payment for teaching Swing (or Hustle) group lessons, teaching private lessons, or paid for a dance show or demonstration in the last three years.
 - Definition of a Professional: Someone who HAS RECEIVED payment for teaching Swing (or Hustle) group classes, teaching privates lessons or paid for a dance show or demonstration in the last three years.
 - If a dancer misrepresents their status, they may forfeit their title and be required to return their trophy and prize money.
7. Age Restrictions – Some divisions have age restrictions/requirements. - Please see section K. AGE REQUIREMENTS
8. If you have a particular situation regarding a partnership, please go to the PETITION in the COMPETITION section and complete a "Petition for Partnerships". "THE OPEN" Chief Judge will review, approve or disapprove your petition.

E. PROGRAM

Our program is part of the US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS, INC history and has been a collector's item since 1983. It documents the history of all who compete and with whom. We encourage every competitor to register in time and provide the information needed to be in our program. THE PROGRAM DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 10th.

If registering after October 10th, the organizer is not obligated to include you in the program. You may or may not be included in the program after Oct 10th based on editor and printing timelines.

- All Jack & Jill, Pro/Am Routine, and Strictly Swing divisions will have their name, city, state, and Country (if outside the United States of America) listed in the program.
- Routine Divisions: We encourage Competitors in Routine divisions (except Pro/Am) to provide their bios and pictures for our program. They must be submitted in the proper format.

SPECIAL NOTE: When you register and provide payment, you will receive an email indicating a picture and bio is required. Open the link, write bio, and attach the picture. It is best to have your bio and picture ready to submit at the time of registration. It can be done later, but is a little more complicated.

- Please keep bios to **300 characters or less**.
- We want to know about YOU as a dance competitor, so your bio should contain information about you and your partner.
- Who are you? How long have you been dancing? What brought the two of you together? What it means to be dancing together at the Open? What is it about dancing that inspires you? What interests do you have outside of the dance community?
- To ensure your bio is processed properly you MUST SUBMIT your bio through the link provided to you upon payment. If you bypass the recommended process, we do not guarantee it will be in the program.
- To promote a business or event. Please see <http://usopenswing.com/advertise/>
- The Organizer reserves the right to edit content, grammar, and spelling as needed.

Picture -

- The picture should be a **head shot** rather than a full body shot. We are interested in your faces. Full body shots end up being too small to be effective.
- **Submit images in JPEG format, at least 300 dpi and size it no smaller than 2” x 2”.** If you have questions, please contact info@usopenswing.com.
- Please note we'll be printing in black and white, so contrast is important. A color image is fine, as we can convert to B&W.
- Your image should be a recent photo of you and your partner. The Organizer reserves the right to reject any image that does not meet standards of good taste. Please do not submit silly shots, pictures of kids, or pets.
- To ensure your picture is processed properly you **MUST SUBMIT your picture through the link provided to you upon payment**. If you bypass the recommended process, we do not guarantee it will be in the program.

F. CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

1. Entry fees will be refunded to any competitor who withdraws from a competition before the **October 1st** deadline.
2. If a competitor needs to cancel due to uncontrollable circumstances after October 1st, a refund is NOT issued. The Board of Directors may approve the entry fee to be transferred to the following year.
3. Prior to November 18th, if a competitor needs to change a division, or a partnership, or level, please email support@worlddanceregistry.com and cc: info@usopenswing.com with the changes detailing “from” and “to”. This email alerts the Organizer there is a change to the first registration and edited.
4. At the event, if you have changes, contact Registration.
5. If the Organizer cancels a division, the competitor's fees will be refunded. There are no refunds for “no-shows”.

G. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETITORS

1. **Rules** – All Competitors are responsible for reading and understanding the rules prior to the US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS, INC 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 info@usopenswing.com prior to the event. If at the event, please contact the Chief Judge.

2. Deadline Dates

- July 1-October 1st – Registration opens – lowest entry fees – guaranteed entry.
- October 2nd - Entry fees increase.
- October 10th – deadline to get your picture, bio, or name listed in the Program. Some divisions may be closed to number of entries or cancelled due to lack of entries.
- November 11th – deadline to enter a routine division.
- November 1st – last day to purchase a competitor's discounted Pass.
November 21st - Last day to register for Jack & Jill and Strictly through the online website process.
- On-site registrations – We will only take entries for Strictly and Jack & Jill Divisions Wednesday evening and Thursday morning. An extra \$5 fee will be charged for on-site registrations.

3. Music Turn In – Routines Only

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 musicsubmittal@gmail.com
- Subject line: 2018 US Open Swing Dance Championships
- 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:
 - “2018usopen”_”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
 - Showcase
 - Lindy Showcase
 - Rising Star
 - Sophisticated Swing
 - Masters
 - Young Adult
 - Young America
 - Teams
 - Cabaret
 - Pro-Am-Leader
 - Pro-Am-Follower
- Submitting music at the Event via Flash (Thumb drive):
 - Submit a Digital copy of your music on a Flash (Thumb) drive immediately following competitors meeting
 - It will be converted to digital format at this time for a fee of \$10.00.
- Submitting music at the event in CD format:
 - It will be converted into MP3 format, for a fee of \$10.00.

Multiple Routines: If a competitor is performing in more than one routine division, music must be provided on separate CD's or files.

Competitors will be responsible for their own practice music as you will not have access to your music except during the Main Ballroom Open Practice Schedule/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 OPEN" nor the deejays will be responsible for any issues pertaining to the music.

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

4. Competitor Meetings:

Jack & Jill – All Jack & Jill Prelims, Semis (if necessary), and Finals will be on Thursday. There will not be a competitors' meeting. (See Competitors' Meeting below) Competitors should check in with the Competition Coordinators in the Competitors' Green Room 30 minutes prior to their competition time.

Strictly Swings – There will not be a competitors' meeting. (See Competitor's Meeting below) Competitors should check in with the Competition Coordinators in the Competitors' Green Room 20 minutes prior to their competition time.

Pro/Am Routines - There will not be a competitors' meeting. See Competitors' Meeting below) Competitor should check in with the Competition Coordinators in the Competitors' Green Room 20 minutes prior to their competition time.

Routine Divisions – There isn't a mandatory competitors' meeting, but is recommended that at least one dancer per entry attend. ALL Competitors are required to check in with the Competition Coordinators in the Competitors' Green Room 20 minutes prior to their competition time.

Competitors' Meeting -The Organizer will have a competitors' meeting on Friday. The meeting is not mandatory, but recommended, especially if it is your first "THE OPEN" All competitors are invited to attend the meeting, even if you have already competed.

At the meeting, Competitors will:

- Meet key staff members & Sponsors
- Receive last minute updates, instructions, information regarding awards and the Opening Ceremonies, which everyone is invited to participate.
- Your opportunity to ask questions
- Opus Routine Divisions Dance Order will take place at this meeting.

Meeting is Friday in the Main ballroom (Please See Schedule)

5. Bib Numbers

- a. All Competitors are provided with a randomly selected Bib Number. Bibs can be picked up at the Event Registration desk on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning when you get your wristband.
- b. Jack & Jill Divisions – Both the Leaders and the Followers are required to wear their assigned bib numbers for Prelim, Semis, and Finals.
- c. Strictly Swings & Just Hustle – Only the Leader is required to wear his bib number.
- d. Although Routine and Pro/Am Divisions are not required to wear bib numbers, we ask that you collect your bib, indicating that you are at the event.
- e. Competitors must wear their "official" US Open bib. The cost for a replacement bib is \$10. You cannot use a handmade bib.

6. Dance Order

Star Divisions -

1. Pro-Am Divisions - Computer generated, randomized by the Fisher - Yates shuffle algorithm.
2. Jack & Jill – Prelims and Semis will rotate partnerships and will be danced in heated format. The order of Leader Lineup and the order of Follower lineup is determined by the competitors randomly assigned bib number (ascending order. Finals may or may not be danced in heated format. For Jack & Jill finals the final round pairings will be computer generated, randomized by the Fisher - Yates shuffle algorithm.
3. Strictly Swing – 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.

Opus Routine Divisions – Computer generated, randomized by the Fisher - Yates shuffle algorithm, will take place in Ballroom, during the Competitors Meeting – see schedule for day and time.

7. Opening Ceremony – "THE OPEN" is proud to invite ALL competitors and Sponsors to participate in our Opening Ceremonies on Friday night, even if you have already previously danced. Competitors are to meet 30 minutes prior to the Opening Ceremonies in the Competitors' Hallway. Find your division (signs will be on the wall.) If you are dancing in multiple divisions, pick one to march with. Please dress nicely, as this is being documented on video and also on LIVE broadcast around the World. This is your moment to shine, smile, wave, and have a good time. We are proud to welcome all of you to the "THE OPEN" Competition dance floor.

- **Division Flags** - We will have Division Flags to represent all divisions. If your Division has a Sponsor, they will carry the flag and lead your group. If there isn't a Sponsor, someone in your group should carry your flag.
- **National and State Flags** – We have flags for every Country and State that is represented at the "THE OPEN". If you want to be a Flag carrier, please see Carl Hedburg.

8. **Behavior** – All Competitors must demonstrate courteous and professional behavior at all times at the “THE OPEN”, both on and off the competition floor. This includes showing respect to *the* OPEN staff, hotel staff, rules, other competitors, 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 are considered inappropriate and disrespectful to the audience and may 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 Pass.

9. **WRISTBANDS** – We do not recommend removing your wristbands for the Jack & Jill and Strictly divisions. Competitors in the Routine divisions do not have to compete with their wristbands on. Allow our Green Room Staff to remove. The wristband is your responsibility. **DO NOT throw them away or lose them.** After competing, allow the Green Room staff to replace. If you lose it, you will have to pay for a new one.

10. **Performance Feedback** - Competitors may discuss their performance with the Judges using only the appropriate times and channels, which are: 1) Sunday 8:30 PM Judges Panel – In the Producer A/B Competitors Opportunity to Ask “How Can I Improve?” or 2) By Appointment, during the “THE OPEN” Congress, receive a personal review of your Routine Video clip by one of our judging panel. See Chief Judge for appointment.

11. **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 Competitors’ Green Room. It is the responsibility of the competitor to attend this review, if they would like to see their scores. The Organizers have provided an additional opportunity as part of the “THE OPEN” Congress. The Organizers are not obligated to discuss scores after this time period. The Chief Judge, Referee, and the Scorekeeper 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 G-1, and Section G-8.

12. **US OPEN TITLES** – The US Open Swing Dance Championships, Inc requests any introductions, promotion, and/or advertising of yourself as a US Open Champion or finalists, that you state the division with the title. We want to preserve the prestige of the “THE OPEN” title and do not want dancers misleading the public. Examples: Classic US Open Champion, Classic US Open finalist, a US Open 1st Place Winner in Novice Jack & Jill, a US Open finalist in Strictly Swing, or a US Open finalist in Showcase.

H. JUDGING CRITERIA

The Relative Placement System will be used to judge all US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS, INC 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 more finely 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 system is designed in compliance with the relative placement scoring system as defined by the World Swing Dance Council.
4. Deductions or demotions for violations of rules are applied by the referee judging panel from indications and observations of the judges.

REFEREE

1. The organizers have hired 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. the use of an unapproved prop.
2. The Referee will sit with the judging panel for all Routine divisions and Strictly Swing Finals.
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 Review Panel.
 - c. If he concludes there is NOT an infraction after the second viewing, it will not be submitted to the Review Panel.
4. If it is a length of time infraction, it does not need to go the Review Panel. It can be verified with the Chief Judge. If there is a length of time infraction (too short or too long), it will be considered a Violation.
5. The Referee does not judge Swing content on the performance.
6. All NASDE events are required to have a Referee for the Classic and Showcase divisions.

REVIEW PANEL

1. The Review Panel will consist of the Chief Judge and two other judges. There are a total of three votes. The Chief Judge will select the Review Panel.
2. The Referee will present the case, but does not have a vote.
3. The performance in question will be reviewed by the Review Panel. There will be a short discussion and then a vote. Majority rules.
4. If the Review Panel votes there is an infraction, they then will decide whether an error or a violation will be imposed.
5. Any performance may be reviewed by the Review Panel. This process is to insure that the rules, as written, are adhered to.

I. ERRORS AND VIOLATIONS

1. **Pass** – The performance was reviewed and passed. No action is taken.
2. **An Error/Penalty** – See <http://nasde.net/docs/NASDE-Referee-System.pdf> #12
3. **Violation** – See <http://nasde.net/docs/NASDE-Referee-System.pdf> #13.

J. 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. Timing and judging will begin from the first performance movement of the performance, with or without music or sound. Timing requirements for a choreographed routine will be determined by the Referee. If too short or too long, it will result in a Violation.

K. 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.

- Classic – 18 or older
- Showcase – 18 or older
- Lindy Showcase – age 14 and older - may petition
- Sophisticated – both partners must be age 35 or older
- Rising Star - 18 or older
- Masters – both partners must be age 50 or older
- Young America – age 6-13 (Can petition if 1 partner is age 5 by the end of the event.)
- Young Adult – age 14-17 (Can petition if one partner is age 18-19)
- Teams – age 6 or older
- Cabaret – age 14 and older can dance solo or with someone 14 and older, age 13 and under must dance with someone 18 and older.
- Strictly Pro/Champion – age 18 and older
- Strictly Open Level – age 18 and older
- Strictly Lindy – both partners age 14 and older - may petition
- Strictly Shag – both partners age 21 and older - may petition
- Strictly Hand – both partners age 14 and older - may petition
- Strictly Swing Junior - 6-17
- Strictly SHAG Junior 1 - 6-13

- Strictly SHAG Junior 2 - 14-20
- Strictly Masters – both partners 50 and older
- Jack & Jill All Stars – age 14 and older
- Jack & Jill Advanced – age 14 and older
- Jack & Jill Intermediate – age 14 and older
- Jack & Jill Novice – age 14 and older
- Jack & Jill Masters – age 50 or older
- Jack & Jill Junior Swing – age 6 -17
- Jack & Jill Junior 1 Shag – age 6-13
- Jack & Jill Junior 2 Shag - age 14-20
- Jack & Jill Lindy – age 14 and older
- Jack & Jill HUSTLE Advanced – age 14 and older
- Jack & Jill HUSTLE Intermediate – age 14 and older
- Jack & Jill HUSTLE Novice – age 14 and older
- Pro/Am “JUST” HUSTLE – age 6 or older

L. PETITIONS TO DANCE

Divisions open to petitions:

1. Young America/Adult Division - It is not the intention of “THE OPEN” to break up established partnerships when one partner has aged out.
2. Strictly Lindy, Shag, and Hand – Due to these genres have a smaller dance population, “THE OPEN” may approve a petition for someone to dance under the age of 14.
3. Lindy Showcase – The CJ may approve a petition for someone to dance under the age of 14.

Petition Process:

1. Complete Petition application online through “THE OPEN” website. You must make your request prior to November 1st.
2. List division, partner names, ages, partner relationship/history and present your case to petition to dance together.
3. The U.S. Open CJ 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. The U.S. Open CJ will notify you of their decision.

M. 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 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. (Except for Floor Sweepers)
5. **Jeans are not allowed** in any Jack & Jill or Strictly. If Jeans are worn you will be disqualified.
6. If jeans are worn in a Routine division it must connect to the music. If jeans are worn as costumes, it may be reviewed by the Review Panel.

7. Sloppiness is not appropriate.
8. **Age appropriate** costumes for the Young America and Young Adult divisions is expected and required. Age appropriate clothing for the Junior Jack & Jill and Strictly divisions is expected.
9. Costumes and clothing should be suitable, flattering, and age appropriate.
10. 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 violation may be applied.

N. PROPS

1. Props are not allowed in any divisions, except Cabaret.
2. Any Cabaret prop must be approved prior to the event. Contact info@usopenswingdc.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 a costume and may be worn in all divisions. However, clothing or items may NOT be discarded, nor switched from one partner to another.
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 Review Panel. Using a prop in any division other than Cabaret or using an unapproved prop will result in a violation.

O. ROUTINE TIME REQUIREMENTS

1. **Time Limit** – Performances must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes in every division with the exceptions below:
 - a. Pro/Am Routine performances must be a minimum of 1 ½ minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes.
 - b. Team performances must be a minimum of 3 minutes and a maximum of 4 minutes.
 - c. Cabaret performances must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 4 minutes.
2. 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. Time starts at first performance movement. Not adhering to time limit requirements will be treated as a violation.

P. RESTARTS

A contestant may request a restart in special cases, such as:

- Our DJ plays the wrong music for your routine.
- Sound System fails.
- Shoe breaks, costume malfunction/or loss of a vital piece of clothing.
- Lights go out in ballroom during the performance
- The Chief Judge calls a restart if the CJ believes it is fair and in the best interest of the contestants and the competition.

IF competitor completes their routine but believe that they should be allowed to restart due to special circumstance they **MUST** make their request to the CJ prior to leaving the floor.

- If the CJ approves the restart the competitors may elect to perform the routine again with the previous performance scores voided.
- If the request is denied by the CJ then the performance that was danced will count in the competition.

IF competitor requests a restart before the end of your performance and stops dancing:

- If the CJ approves the restart, competitors will be allowed to restart and the previous performance scores will be voided.
- A competitor may not request a restart because they are dissatisfied with their performance, partner, music or fails to remember part of the routine.
- Decisions of CJ are final.

- If a restart is granted the competitor will be allowed to restart after the next couple in dance order at the CJ discretion.

Q. QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE RULES OR COMPETITION

Please e-mail info@usopenswing.com with any questions and especially regarding:

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

DIVISIONS AND RULES

ROUTINE DIVISIONS ARE CONSIDERED AN “OPUS” DIVISION AND WILL RECEIVE THE “OPUS” TROPHY FOR 1ST PLACE

CLASSIC DIVISION – “OPUS” 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 with the exception of costumes.

1. This division is open to Swing dancing that complies with NASDE Statement of Swing.
2. Contestants must be 18 years or older by Sunday of the event to participate.
3. A competitor may also dance in Sophisticated Swing, Masters, Showcase, or Lindy Showcase as long as age requirements are met. They must dance with a different partner and a different routine.
4. Competitor must have purchased a full weekend Pass in order to compete.
5. Competitors select their own music and have choreographed routines.
6. Dance Costumes are required (Halloween style costumes are not considered appropriate)
7. Classic guidelines for expected swing content are 80%. It is at the discretion of the judges to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
8. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with first performance movement with or without music.
9. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music.
10. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-aways, and recoveries.
11. Break-away in Classic Division is to be no more than 8 beats of music.
12. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
13. At most five (5) partner weight support moves are permitted.
14. Competitors must register by November 1st. We will not be taking registrations at the event.
15. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.

This is a NASDE competition and NASDE points will be awarded.

SHOWCASE – “OPUS” DIVISION

Swing dancing that allows choreography with flair toward lifts, aerials, acrobatics, and other partner weight support moves. NASDE rules apply. If any Event rule conflicts with published NASDE rules, the NASDE rules take precedence with the exception of costumes.

1. This division is open to Swing dancing that complies with NASDE Statement of Swing.

2. Contestants must be 18 years or older by Sunday of the event to participate.
3. A competitor may also dance in Sophisticated Swing, Masters, Classic, or Lindy Showcase as long as age requirements are met. They must dance with a different partner and a different routine.
4. Competitor must have purchased a full weekend Pass in order to compete.
5. Competitors select their own music and have choreographed routines.
6. Dance Costumes are required (Halloween style costumes are not considered appropriate)
7. Showcase guidelines for expected swing content are 60%. It is at the discretion of the judges to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
8. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with first performance movement with or without music.
9. Separate entrances are permitted.
10. Break-aways and side-by-side patterns are permitted.
11. At least three partner weight support moves are required with the partner at knee level or above.
12. At least one of the partner weight support move is required with the partner above the waist.
13. There are no lift maximums.
14. Competitors must register by November 1st. We will not be taking registrations at the event.
15. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.

This is a NASDE competition and NASDE points will be awarded.

LINDY SHOWCASE - "OPUS" DIVISION

This division is a traditional Swing Division, which can include Lindy Hop, East Coast Swing, Hollywood Swing, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, and Rock-n-Roll.

1. Contestants must be 14 years or older by Sunday of the event to participate. A petition may be submitted if one partner is under age 14. It may or may not be approved. See section L.
2. Competitors select their own music.
3. A competitor may also dance in Sophisticated Swing, Masters, Classic, or Showcase, as long as age requirements are met. They must dance with a different partner and a different routine.
4. Competitor must have purchased a full weekend Pass in order to compete.
5. Competitors select their own music and have choreographed routines.
6. Dance Costumes are required. Vintage clothing is acceptable and may be considered a costume. (Halloween style costumes are not considered appropriate)
7. This division should have at least 50% of traditional "Lindy" style Swing.
8. "In the air" partner weight support moves, such as Lifts, Aerials, and Acrobatic moves are allowed as long as they are socially acceptable for Lindy style and safe. There is not a minimum or maximum number of lifts required.
9. Moves such as drops, slides, and spreads are allowed, but not required. Experience and safety should be considered at all times.
10. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with first performance movement with or without music.
11. Competitors must register by November 1st. We will not be taking registrations at the event.
12. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.

SOPHISTICATED SWING DIVISION (35+) - "OPUS" DIVISION

This division is characterized by Swing dancing at a performance level. This division is open to all styles of Swing and can include, but is not limited to Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing.

1. The rules governing the Sophisticated Swing Division are the same rules that govern the Showcase Division except both competitors must be 35 years of age or older, on or before the Sunday of the event.
 - a. Choreographed routines are NOT required, but encouraged.
 - b. Partner weight support moves, such as lifts, aeriels, and acrobatic moves are allowed, but not required.
 - c. Break-away is to be no more than 8 beats of music.
2. A competitor may also dance in Masters, Classic, Showcase, or Lindy Showcase as long as age requirements are met. They must dance with a different partner and a different routine.
3. Competitor must have purchased a full weekend Pass in order to compete.
4. Competitors select their own music and have choreographed routines.
5. Dance Costumes are required (Halloween style costumes are not considered appropriate)
6. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with first performance movement with or without music.
7. Competitors must register by November 1st. We will not be taking registrations at the event.
8. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.

MASTERS DIVISION (50+) - "OPUS" DIVISION

This division is characterized by social Swing dancing at a performance level. This division is open to all styles of Swing and can include, but is not limited to Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing.

1. The rules governing the Master Swing Division are the same rules that govern the Classic Division, except both competitors must be 50 years of age or older, on or before the Sunday of the event.
 - a. Break-away is to be no more than 8 beats of music.
2. Choreographed routines are NOT required, but encouraged.
3. A competitor may also dance in Sophisticated Swing, Classic, Showcase, or Lindy Showcase as long as age requirements are met. They must dance with a different partner and a different routine.
4. Competitor must have purchased a full weekend Pass in order to compete.
5. Competitors select their own music and have choreographed routines.
6. Dance Costumes are required (Halloween style costumes are not considered appropriate)
7. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with first performance movement with or without music.
8. Competitors must register by November 1st. We will not be taking registrations at the event.
9. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.

Rising Star DIVISION – Ages 18 and above "OPUS" DIVISION

Any dancer that qualifies may enter this category. For a full list of current rules

<http://www.risingstartour.com/rules.html>)

YOUNG ADULT DIVISION – Ages 14-17 "OPUS" DIVISION

This division is characterized by Swing dancing at a performance level. This division is open to all styles of Swing and can include, but is not limited to Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing.

1. The rules governing the Young Adult are the same rules that govern the Showcase Division except:
 - a. Lifts & aeriels that have 1 partner's torso rise above the other partner's shoulders are NOT allowed. The intent of this rule is for the safety and/or lack of experience to execute these moves for this age group.

- b. The intent of this rule is for the safety and lack of experience of this age group.
 - c. All other partner weight support moves are optional.
2. Age requirements:
- a. This division is for Competitors age 14- through 17- years of age. Competitors must meet the age requirements on or before the Sunday of the event.
 - b. If partners have competed previously but one partner is older than 17- years of age, but not 20-years of age or older, that couple may petition the Organizer for an exception to the age restrictions rule. See section L.
 - c. If one partner has reached the age of 14 by Sunday of the event, and the other partner is under the age of 14, this couple must compete in the Young Adult Division.
3. Competitor must have purchased a full weekend Pass in order to compete.
4. Competitors select their own music and have choreographed routines.
5. A guideline for expected Swing content is 60% (as in Showcase).
6. Costumes are required and must be in good taste and age appropriate for this age group. A breach of this rule may be considered as a penalty or a violation.
7. Routines and choice of music must be in good taste and appropriate for this age group. A breach of this rule may be considered as a penalty or a violation.
8. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
9. Competitors must register by November 1st. We will not be taking registrations at the event.
10. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.

THIS DIVISION IS PART OF THE YASDA TOUR AND POINTS WILL BE AWARDED

YOUNG AMERICA DIVISION – Ages 6-13 “OPUS” DIVISION

This division is characterized by Swing dancing at a performance level. This division is open to all styles of Swing and can include, but is not limited to Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing.

1. The rules governing the Young America are the same rules that govern the Showcase Division except:
- a. Lifts & aerals that have 1 partner's torso rise above the other partner's shoulders are NOT allowed. The intent of this rule is for the safety and/or lack of experience to execute these moves for this age group.
 - b. All other partner weight support moves are optional.
2. Age requirements:
- a. This division is for Competitors age 6- through 13- years of age. Competitors must meet the age requirements on or before the Sunday of the event.
 - b. If one partner has reached the age of 14 by Sunday of the event, and the other partner is under the age of 14, this couple must compete in the Young Adult Division. If one partner is 5 by the end of the event they can petition.
3. Competitor must have purchased a full weekend Pass in order to compete.
4. Competitors select their own music and have choreographed routines.
5. A guideline for expected Swing content is 60% (as in Showcase).
6. Routines and choice of music must be in good taste and appropriate for this age group. A breach of this rule may be considered as a penalty or a violation.
7. Costumes are required and must be in good taste and age appropriate for this age group. A breach of this rule may be considered as a penalty or a violation.
8. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
9. Competitors must register by November 1st. We will not be taking registrations at the event.
10. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.

TEAM DIVISION - “OPUS” DIVISION

This division consists of teams of eight or more dancers comprised of any combination of gender and/or skill-level. They will be judged as a group. This is a Swing division open to all styles that can include but is not limited to Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing.

1. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, break-a ways, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are all allowed, but not required.
2. Dancers must be age 6 or older.
3. A dancer can only dance on one Team.
4. A team member is allowed to enter a Couples Division and/or the Cabaret Division.
5. All members performing on the Team must have purchased a full weekend Pass in order to compete.
6. Teams select their own music and have choreographed routines.
7. Dance Costumes are required.
8. Performance time is a minimum of 3 minutes and maximum of 4 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
9. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.
10. Competitors must register by November 1st. We will not be taking registrations at the event.
11. The first 10 Team entries received by the US Open entry deadline (October 1,) will be guaranteed acceptance into the Team Division.

CABARET DIVISION – “OPUS” DIVISION

This Division is open to any style of dance other than Swing. This is not a Swing Division. However, including a slight amount of swing content is permitted. A maximum Swing content will be estimated at 10% of the overall dance time. If in doubt, leave it out.

1. The Performance must display a Cabaret element.
2. The Cabaret element is an additional ingredient added to the performance that is not present in the other dance divisions.
 - a. “Cabaret Element” includes, but is not limited to, a theme, playing a character, approved props. A “Cabaret Element is something that draws the audience into the story of the music and the performers.
 - b. **If using a prop, it must be approved prior to the event.** Examples of a prop: balls, scarves, ribbons, anything passed from one dancer to the other, or is used to help tell the story. For approval contact info@usopenswingdc.com or the Head Judge at the event.
 - c. A dance performance, such as Jazz Dancing, Salsa, Hustle, Hip-Hop, Foxtrot, etc. with a Cabaret element.
3. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, break-a ways, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are allowed.
4. An entry may consist of a solo performer, couple, or multiple performers. The Organizer reserves the right to limit the number of solo performers.
5. All members performing on the Team must have purchased a full weekend Pass in order to compete.
6. Age Requirements:
 - a. To dance solo, the competitor must be 14 years or older.
 - b. To dance in Couples or Group, age 6 and older can dance, but there must be one dancer over the age of 14 within the group or partnership.
7. Cabaret acts select their own music and have choreographed routines.
8. Dance Costumes are required.
9. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 4 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
10. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.
11. Competitors must register by November 1st. We will not be taking registrations at the event.
12. The first 15 entries received by “THE OPEN” entry deadline (October 1,) will be guaranteed acceptance into the Cabaret Division.

STRICTLY SWINGS - STAR TROPHY DIVISIONS

ALL STRICTLY DIVISIONS-- 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 Swing--Pro/Champion or Open. Competitors may also compete in Masters Strictly Swing Division, Sophisticated Swing Division, Strictly Shag Junior Division (Must be Age 18+), Strictly Shag Division, Strictly Lindy, Strictly Hand. See Section *K. Age Requirements* for more detailed information. Age requirements apply.
5. If you compete in more than one Strictly Swing Division, you must compete with a different partner in each division.
6. All dancers must have purchased a full weekend Pass to compete.
7. Music will be randomly selected by the DeeJay. It will not be previewed in advance for competitors.
8. Preliminary rounds will be heated. The Final round format will be determined by the Head Judge.
9. Competitors are encouraged and should register by November 18th. The online registration close on November 18th. For competitors registering at the event, there will be an additional \$5 charge.
10. All divisions require a minimum of 7 entries by November 18th or the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded.

STRICTLY PRO/CHAMPION - SWING DIVISION 18+

- This division is designed to highlight social West Coast Swing dancing skills at a Champion performance level.
- Moves such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
- 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.
- Short breakaways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed with an 8 beat maximum.
- There should be at least 90% recognizable West Coast Swing present throughout the performance.
- This division will be awarded NASDE points. NASDE rules apply. If any Event rule conflicts with published NASDE rules, the NASDE rules take precedence with the exception of costumes.
- Competitors must be age 18 or older.

STRICTLY OPEN LEVEL - SWING DIVISION 18+

- This division is designed to highlight social West Coast Swing dancing skills.
- Competitors in this division should not have competed in a Champion or Pro Strictly within the last three years.
- Moves such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
- 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.
- Short breakaways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed with an 8 beat maximum.
- There should be at least 90% recognizable West Coast Swing present throughout the performance.
- Competitors must be 18 or older.

STRICTLY MASTERS_- SWING DIVISION 50+

- This division is designed to highlight social West Coast Swing dancing skills.
- Moves such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
- 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.
- Short breakaways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed with an 8 beat maximum.
- There should be at least 90% recognizable West Coast Swing present throughout the performance.
- Competitors must be age 50 or older.

STRICTLY JUNIOR 1 SHAG 6-13

- These divisions are designed to highlight social Shag dancing skills and is open to all Shag styles, including those listed in the *Statement of Swing*.
- Moves such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
- 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.
- Short breakaways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed with an 8 beat maximum.

There should be at least 90% recognizable Swing present throughout the performance.

- Competitors must the ages of 6-13.

STRICTLY JUNIOR 2 SHAG 14-20

- These divisions are designed to highlight social Swing dancing skills and is open to all Shag styles, including those listed in the *Statement of Swing*.
- Moves such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
- 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.
- Short breakaways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed with an 8 beat maximum.
- There should be at least 90% recognizable Swing present throughout the performance.
- Competitors must the ages of 14-17.

STRICTLY JUNIOR SWING 14-17

- These divisions are designed to highlight social Swing dancing skills and is open to all styles of Swing including those listed in the *Statement of Swing*.
- Moves such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
- 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.
- Short breakaways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed with an 8 beat maximum.
- There should be at least 90% recognizable Swing present throughout the performance.
- Competitors must the ages of 14-17.

STRICTLY LINDY DIVISION 14+

- This division is designed to highlight social Lindy Swing dancing skills.
- Moves such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are allowed.
- 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.
- There should be at least 90% recognizable Lindy style of Swing present throughout the performance.
- Competitors must be age of 14 or older.

STRICTLY SHAG DIVISION 21+

- This division is designed to highlight social Carolina Shag dancing skills.
- Moves such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
- 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.
- Short breakaways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed with an 8 beat maximum.
- There should be at least 90% recognizable Shag style of Swing present throughout the performance.
- Competitors must be age of 21 or older. (see Petition requirements)

STRICTLY HAND DIVISION 14+

- This division is designed to highlight social Hand dancing skills.
- Moves such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
- 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.
- Short break-aways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed with an 8 beat maximum.
- There should be at least 90% recognizable Hand style of Swing present throughout the performance.
- Competitors must the age of 14 or older.

JUST (STRICTLY) HUSTLE (This is a Pro Am)

- A couple must consist of one PRO follower and one Amateur leader. This division is designed to highlight social Hustle dancing skills.
- Moves such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed. Partner supported moves are allowed in Advance and Champions divisions only.
- 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.
- Short break-aways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed with an 8 beat maximum.
- There should be at least 90% recognizable Hustle present throughout the performance.
- Competitors must the age of 6 or older.

JACK & JILL - STAR TROPHY DIVISIONS

JACK & JILL – GENERAL RULES & GUIDELINES

1. Refer to World Swing Dance Council Rules.
- 2.. If you register in one skill level and move to a different level by the time of the “THE OPEN”, please email at info@usopenswingdc.com. Give information as to when and where your points moved you up.
6. The Jack & Jill competition highlights social dance skills with an emphasis on lead and follow, technique, timing, and teamwork.
8. The Lindy Jack & Jill is an open level and is not a WSDC contest.
9. Music will be selected by our qualified deejay staff.
10. **Each competitor must have a weekend Pass.**
11. Moves such as lifts, aerals, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed, except in Lindy.
12. 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.
13. Costumes are NOT allowed, but tasteful and dressy clothing is encouraged. **Jeans are NOT allowed.**
14. Competitors enter as individuals and will be randomly assigned partners.
15. Depending on the number of entries in each division, there may or may not be a preliminary or semi round. Will be determined by the Chief Judge.
16. Prelims and Semis will be danced in heated format. Finals may or may not be danced in a heated format. Will be determined by the Chief Judge.
17. Competitors are encouraged and should register by November 18th. The online registration close on November 18th. For competitors registering at the event, there will be an additional \$5 charge.
18. Each Jack & Jill division requires a minimum of 20 entries by November 18th or the division may be cancelled and entry fees refunded.

JUNIOR I SHAG JACK & JILL

Competitors must be at least 6 years of age by Sunday of the event. A Junior Jack & Jill Competitor 6-13 may also dance in one level of Jack & Jill.

JUNIOR II SHAG JACK & JILL

Competitors must be at least 14 years of age by Sunday of the event. A Junior Jack & Jill Competitor 14 to 20 may also dance in one level of Jack & Jill.

LINDY OPEN JACK & JILL

- ✓ This is a Lindy style Jack & Jill, which can include Lindy Hop, East Coast Swing, Hollywood, Imperial, Jive, Jitterbug, and Rock-n-Roll.
- ✓ Lifts and aerals are allowed but not required.
- ✓ This is not a World Swing Dance Council division.
- ✓ This division is open to all levels of dancers, age 14 or older.

ADVANCED HUSTLE JACK & JILL

This division is for dancers that have extensive knowledge of patterns, technique and musicality with 4 or 5 years of dance and competition experience.

Guidelines – This level adds all patterns from intermediate including continuous turns beyond 2 ½ turns, side by sides and one foot patterns (such as rondes & etc). The dancer should be able to handle more complex patterns and syncopated footwork. Tempos can range from 100-120 BPM

*No lifts, dips, drops or assisted moves (moves that require your patterns support)

Competitors must be age 14 or older.

INTERMEDIATE HUSTLE JACK & JILL

This division is for dancers with 2 or more years of experience. This is the most common level of hustle dancing seen at most hustle socials or parties. Dancers at this level should exhibit good technique, arm styling and syncopated footwork. Tempos can range from 100-115 BPM.

Guidelines – All patterns from novice including patterns with up to 2 ½ turns are allowed in either direction for both the leader and follower; along with extended rhythms outside of the normal 3 and 6 count, syncopated footwork, swivel actions, blind leads, free turns and traveling moves (circular or linear). Both feet must remain on the floor at all times. Once you place first at this level you must move up to **Advanced**.

*No complex variations, elaborate patterns.

*No continuous turns

*No rondes

*No turns beyond 2 ½ for either leader or follower.

*No lifts, dips, drops or assisted moves (moves that require your patterns support)

Competitors must be age 14 or older.

NOVICE HUSTLE JACK & JILL

This division is for dancers with 1-2 years total dance experience and limited competition experience. dancers are expected to perform solid basics. All material should be recognizable as familiar, common “lead-able” social patterns. Tempos can range from 100-110 BPM

Guidelines - All basic hustle patterns including or up to 1 ½ turns are allowed. Breakaways are allowed (A “breakaway” is set of movements executed by a couple who intentionally break contact). Circular moves are allowed. Both feet must be on the floor at all times. Arm styling is encouraged. Once you place first at this level you must move up to **Intermediate**.

*No free turns

*No blind leads – the leaders back is to the follower on the lead. Number 2 if you count +1,2,3.

*No traveling moves – a move that significantly travels over the dance floor.

*No complex variations, elaborate patterns or syncopated foot work.

*No continuous turns

*No rondes

*No turns beyond 1 ½ for either leader or follower.

*No lifts, dips, drops or assisted moves (moves that require your patterns support)

Competitors must be age 14 or older.

PRO/AM ROUTINES - STAR TROPHY DIVISIONS

PRO/AM SWING SPOTLIGHT DIVISION

GENERAL RULES

1. This division is designed to develop routine dancers and showcase an amateur dancing with their Professional instructor.
2. It is open to all styles of Swing and is an open level.
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.
5. Routine must be a minimum of 1 ½ minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes.
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 (Swing or Hustle) teaching or for teaching privates.
 - b. Definition of a Professional: Someone who HAS RECEIVED payment for (Swing or Hustle) teaching group classes, teaching privates lessons or paid for a dance show or demonstration in the last three years.
9. Each Pro is limited to five (5) students per Division.
10. The Pro/Am Division will be limited to the first 30 registrations.
11. **Competitors must register by November 1st. We will not be taking registrations at the event.**

PRO / AMATEUR FOLLOWER

1. A couple must consist of one PRO leader and one Amateur follower.
2. 1st place winner will spotlight their dance on Saturday evening
3. Prize money paid to 3rd place.

PRO / AMATEUR LEADER

1. A couple must consist of one PRO follower and one Amateur leader..
2. 1st place winner will spotlight their dance on Saturday evening
3. Prize money paid to 3rd place.