



TOP TEN SWING CONTENT FAQ'S

On, or around, June 1st we opened registration for competitors and announced via Facebook, MailChimp email and in the website the criteria, method and process we will use to measure Swing Content. We provided an avenue for our competitors to submit their video for review of their Swing Content. The following represents THE OPEN's continued efforts to keep our competitors informed as regarding Swing Content. Our Committee and analysts rigorously tested the results and have committed additional weeks to the testing. We are satisfied with the consistency of the measurements and recognize that this is fundamentally a result of standardizing the criteria. Our committee is also considering the comments brought before us. See 8. Q

1. Q. Why are we judging Swing Content?

A. NASDE rules are used for all OPUS Routine Divisions (see usopenswing.com/Compete). NASDE requires a percentage of Swing Content be measured and included in the results to meet scoring guidelines. The Rules Have Not Changed.

SEE <http://www.nasde.net/scoring.php>.

A "SVW" (Swing Violation Warning) indicates no drop in score and "SV" (Swing Violation) indicates the judge dropped their placement 1, 3 or 10 places for Swing Content within their individual score. Judges are to use the following criteria when giving a "SV" (Swing Violation):

Classic Division

Below 80% - judge's discretion/choice to issue "SVW" indicates no drop-in score or "SV1"¹ indicates one (1) drop in placement.

Below 60% - judge issues "SV2" indicates three (3) drop-in places within their individual score.

Below 50% - judge issues "SV3" indicates ten (10) drop-in places within their individual score.

Final score sheets, that get posted, should show the above values.

Example: Competitor A 3rd placement SV-1

Showcase Division

Below 60% - judge's discretion/choice to issue "SVW" indicates no drop-in score or "SV1" indicates one (1) drop in placement

Below 50% - judge issues a "SV3" indicates ten (10) drop-in places within their individual score ²

2. Q. Why is THE OPEN using Swing Content Judges?

A. Although the Rules are not new, the specified percentages, or benchmarks, associated with violations were put in place on 10/31/2018.

¹ The Swing Content Judges have asked the committee to review this vagueness of the "or". This will be reviewed by the Committee.

² Please contact NASDE if you have issues or concerns regarding NASDE Rules.

THE OPEN fully supported the new NASDE 2018 Scoring guidelines regarding Swing Content. The judges were informed during the Judges Meeting to measure non-swing, apply and notate the “Swing Violation Criteria” as per the new scoring criteria.

After the event the Annual Judging Results Analysis³ indicated inconsistencies and a need to study the processes, expectations and assignments by role. Recognizing that, in addition to Swing Content Criteria, THE OPEN’s Judges were expected to recognize dance elements from ANY Swing Dance Style and Judge accordingly within Category: Timing, Technique, Teamwork, Choreography, Artistry/Showmanship, Level of Difficulty AND, do this for 100+ routine dance partnerships or 200+ routine competitors!

THE OPEN met with the NASDE Board. We shared our 2018 Judges’ analysis and notified the board that we would be adding a new position within our Judging Panel. We suggested 2 Swing Content Judges and our Chief Judge would measure Quantity of Swing. (We are not advocating that all events be required to add this role. For THE OPEN this organization model is appropriate, given the number of routine divisions and routine competitors.) Using the accepted practice of defining roles and tasks, THE OPEN will be separating the task of Judging **Quality** from the task of Measuring **Quantity**.

NASDE approved.

This decision began our long journey of research, study and interviews necessary to provide the procedure, process, guidelines and tools to accurately and effectively measure swing content.

3. Q. How was Swing Content measured before? – or - Why is THE OPEN standardizing what will be measured and how?

A. Let’s start the journey here. What was being used prior: What we discovered was that it was hard to find any consistency as to what was being measured as swing content vs choreography, technique or timing. There was even less consistency as to how the measurement was captured (stopwatch, wristwatch, finger counting or feeling). There were different interpretations as to what is swing. We were overwhelmed with questions, from judges and competitors, no - earnest pleas, to document “what is Swing Content”.

4. Q. Where did the “What is Swing/What is not Swing” definition come from? - or - Who is going to document this for us (competitors, judges, event directors etc.)

A. Our committee compiled, definitions from the “experts”. We dug through publications, conducted interviews and searched out documented commentary. We discussed in forums with the US OPEN Certified Judge trainees⁴. The information was compiled and reviewed by over 30 professionals. But we were not satisfied until we had a “how” and put the entire procedure to hours of testing by our committee.

5. Q. Has the criteria and process been tested?

A. Many times, by Many professionals in Many Contexts over Many months. - AND - We continue to test to ensure it will be consistently measured and fair. Please note that in the initial phase of testing we identified that

³ This is a process used by THE OPEN to evaluate the Judges and identify needs for the next year. We will continue to perform this analysis to include Swing Content Judges.

⁴ The 2019 US Open Judges Panel began their participation in February and will continue to until October. The professionals in the community have been instrumental in assisting with this training which includes study guides, homework, quizzes and (yes) a final exam.

because all of the “judges’ were using the same criteria the scores were remarkably close. For this reason, the What Is Swing/What Is Not criteria, may be the single most important piece of this project. We also recognized, when viewing a routine on video we saw more than when we did when reviewing a live routine. We discovered that when using a video to review; the second score was lower than the first and the third score was lower than the second. Couple that finding with the logistics (hours, staff, rooms, etc.) of doing the entire swing content measurement from videos, the committee agreed that a review from video was not in the best interest of the competitor.

BREAKING NEWS: We heard your overwhelming concern and are now looking at how and when will we send results to a video review panel at the event. Because NOTHING will be set forth that has not undergone sincere consideration and multiple testing, we ask that you patiently await that detail.

6. Q. Does my routine have enough Swing Content?

A. Meeting at least the minimum Swing content percent has always been required and certainly effort was applied when choreographing your routines. Now, with a clarification and transparency brought to the what and how Swing Content will be measured, we anticipated your concern. On June 3rd we posted our 1st (of many) offer to have our Swing Content Judges provide you with this feedback. You can review the procedure for providing us your video at usopenswing.com/compete.

7. Q. Who will be reviewing my routine?

A. Two parts to this. Part One: Free Video Review

When you submit your routine prior to September 30th the Swing Content Judges will review your routine for swing content. They will use the What is Swing, What is not criteria. The Chief Judge will review and compile an email providing you with the results. YES, the Chief Judge will review as well.

Part Two: At The Event,

3 Swing Content judges and the Chief Judge will review the routine during the live performance, using the What is Swing/What is not Criteria. ALL results will be sent to the Scorekeeper.

BREAKING NEWS: We heard you. We have been granted the additional budget for adding yet more to the staff. We will have 3 Swing Content Judges on the Judging panel. That individual has been part of the training and committee but has will be investing several hours in testing/practice before they are announced. Announced? YES! our Swing Content Judges for 2019 are Kelly Casanova and John Lindo. Our Swing Content judges advised us that after many hours put into testing the criteria and process and completing hundreds of video reviews, they are ready to respond to your questions, as assigned. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR CONCERN email info@usopenswing.com or ruth@usopenswing.com.

8. Q. What changes can we look forward to?

A. The following items are under Review:

VIDEO REVIEW PROCEDURE, at the event; WHEN, WHO, HOW

ANSWER FROM NASDE REGARDING 20 POINT VARIANCE BETWEEN SVW AND SV-2

AS WE NOW HAVE 3 SCJ'S WE ARE EVALUATING THE SCORING PROCEDURE

9. Q. Where do I get a copy of the What is Swing/What is Not, criteria?

A. It will continue to be part of our Rules and is located at usopenswing.com/compete. Please note we recognize that Jive was listed under what is Swing and was also listed (in error, of course) under what is not. We will be making edits and reposting this critical document.

10. What is the Swing Application and How can I get access to the Swing Application?

A. The Swing Application is a fancy stopwatch. When Dan Kreiger saw one of our Swing Content Judges testing the criteria, he provided the committee with a better tool than a stopwatch or wristwatch. The Swing Content Judges have been using this Application (as well as stopwatches, wristwatches etc.) for 5 months to track their What Is Swing/What Is NOT.⁵ The Swing Application has performed in multiple environments.

This Application does not belong to THE OPEN, we are not permitted to provide it publicly. We understand that Dan is working on a gateway for sharing this. We will let you know if/when that is resolved.

THE OPEN recognizes the endless hours provided by our community leaders, (including US OPEN CHAMPIONS), our Committee, the 2019 judging panel and everyone who have contributed to the research, development, the analyzing, testing, wordsmithing and sleepless nights. You know who you are. Our praise is insufficient when it does not include your voice.

© 2019, All information contained herein is the sole property of US Open Swing Dance Championships, INC US Open Swing Dance Championships, INC reserves all rights and privileges regarding the use of this information. Any unauthorized use, such as distributing, copying, modifying, or reprinting, is not permitted. This document is not intended for reproduction or distribution outside of US Open Swing Dance Championships, INC. To obtain permission to reproduce or distribute this document contact info@usopenswing.com for information about Reprint Services.

⁵ The percentage that is captured is a function of what is being measured. To get consistent results it is important to use the What is Swing/What Is not criteria.