

Competitor's Handbook

Marriott Hotel , Burbank, CA



THE OPEN
SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

PROUD MEMBERS
OF THE FOLLOWING
ORGANIZATIONS/
TOURS



Through the National Fast Dance Association,
our dance activities are properly and legally
licensed by:



Treating Others with Respect

The US Open ("The Open") and the West Coast Swing Community are committed to providing a safe, welcoming environment for everyone, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, physical appearance, ability, ethnicity, religion, nationality or other personal circumstances. We ask that all competitors be kind and friendly towards one another, show good sportsmanship towards all competitors, and refrain from the use of crude or abusive language with competitors, judges, and spectators. Failure to adhere to the standards set forth by The Open may cause disciplinary action by the Organizer and/or the Judges.

Preparing for Competition

Rules:

- Please read all RULES. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with your division and event rules. To view the rules for The Open, please click on the link [here](#).

Competitors' Meeting (Contestants' Meeting):

- The Competitors' Meeting (also referred to as the Contestants' Meeting) is a great way to reconnect with old friends, and make new ones! Here you'll have the opportunity to meet the Event Director & Chief Judge.
- This is also an opportunity to see the ballroom from the audience's perspective.

Opening Ceremony:

- The Opening Ceremony will be held on Friday at 7:00 pm. This is a chance for you to represent your division and state/country, so we encourage all competitors to attend (even if you have already previously danced). Those wishing to participate must meet 30 minutes prior to the Opening Ceremonies in the Competitors' Hallway.
- **Dress Code:** Cocktail/Semi-Formal is encouraged

Music Submissions (Routines Only):

- We encourage those competing in Routines to submit their music prior to the event following the instructions located under the Rules & Competitions section of the rules, which is included [here](#).
- Please submit your digital music file in MP3 Format to music@usopenswing.com with the subject line "2023 The Open Swing Dance Championships (YOUR DIVISION)". Please label your submission file as "2023usopen"_"(divisions)"_"(Names of Competitors)".mp3
- 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.

Awards:

- Awards will be as follows: Pro/AM and Jack & Jill - Friday, All Remaining Divisions - Sunday
- **Dress Code:** Semi-Formal/Formal

Wristbands:

- We highly encourage wristband to be worn during the Jack & Jill and Strictly Divisions.
- Competitors in the Routine Divisions do not have to compete with their wristbands. Wristbands should only be removed by the Green Room Staff. After competing, please allow the Green Room Staff to replace your wristband.

Floor Trials:

- The Pasadena Ballroom will be available for practice when the room is not in use for workshops/other "The Open" activities.
- Main Ballroom Practice Schedule - Priority is given to the divisions competing that day. Please see the schedule for details.

Sunday Night Judges' Review (Routines Only):

- **Time/Location:** Sunday after Awards (8:30 pm - 9:30 pm). Location will be posted on the schedule.
- The Open will provide a panel of judges to discuss your performance from the weekend. The Chief Judge, Judges, Referee and Scorekeeper will be present to answer questions. If a competitor would like to discuss their results, it is their responsibility to attend this review.
- Judges will sit at long tables, are provided their scores and they are encouraged to bring their notes.
- Competitors line up outside of the Judges' Room. They select a judge they want to talk to. They get two (2) minutes with the judge, and must be polite. If competitors want to speak with a 2nd judge, they will need to get back in line outside in the hallway.
- Junior Competitors must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or coach in the review room.
- **All competitors must be courteous & demonstrate professional behavior. The Organizers are not obligated to discuss scores after this time period, and Judges' decisions are final.**

Resources

Across the Street	Up the Road (Car/Rideshare Needed)
Starbucks	Walmart
Denny's	Target
Panda Express	TJ Maxx
Del Taco	Marshall's
Fish Dish	Ulta (Beauty Supplies)
Greek	Wendy's
McDonald's	Jamba Juice

The Green Room

Items Available for Competitors in the Green Room:

- Dance Floor for Warm Ups
- Dancer Essentials (Bobby Pins, Hair Spray, Safety Pins, Needle & Thread, Tissues, etc.)
- Green Room Staff - Contestant Coordinators who are available to answer questions, assist with wristband removal/replacements (routine competitors only) & to make sure you get sent to the stage on time.

Competitor Liaison:

- The Open provides you a competitor liaison for you to utilize should you have any questions about rules, competition times, floor trials, or anything in general that pertains to you competing at The Open, even concerns regarding any conflict of interest. Please contact them.

All competitors are required to check in at the Competitors Service Desk to receive your bib. Then, at the Competitor's Green Room, please check in with the Competitor Coordinator 30 minutes prior to your competition time.

Please always remember to be kind, and treat others with respect.

Contact Information

Please read all rules, for it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with your division and event rules. For more details as for competitor's rules, please visit The Open's Competitor's Page, included [here](#).



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