

SEATTLE'S EASTER SWING 2010
COMPETITON RULES
Revised 22 February 2010

A. COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

1. General
 - a. A competing couple consists of a male leader and a female follower.
 - b. Contestants (except Classic, Showcase, Invitational and juniors) must hold a 3-day convention package ticket. Each participant in the Classic and Showcase divisions will receive a complimentary 3-day convention package ticket upon registration for the Classic or Showcase division.
 - 1) If a couple registers in the classic or showcase divisions then subsequently fails to compete in either division, each person who received an event pass will be required to reimburse the event for the event pass. Exceptions will be at the discretion of the event director.
 - c. Contestants must be age 15 or over except juniors division (17 or under) and Masters Division (50 or over). Contestants must be 18 or over (or turn 18 on or before Sunday, March 28, 2010) to compete in our NASDE Showcase and Classic competitions.
 - d. Contestants may compete in any Jack and Jill for which they qualify (i.e., Masters *and/or* Novice *or* Intermediate *or* Advanced) and in only one Strictly Swing contest. Contestants may compete in Classic and Showcase and Strictly Swing as long as they dance with a different partner in each.
 - e. There must be at least 5 couples in a competition (non-NASDE) for it to occur.

Note: When we refer to couples and the numbers are not even, we are counting the lower number (i.e. 47 leaders and 63 followers - we consider this the category of "47 couples"). Please note that contests of fewer than 5 couples will not be eligible as a WSDC Registry contest, and no points will be awarded / tracked.

- f. Seattle's Easter Swing (SES) reserves the right to eliminate or combine competitions if there are fewer than five couples entered in one division and to adjust prize money accordingly.
 - g. SES reserves the right to reclassify any contestant for any reason.
 - h. Challenges to any person or couple competing at a specific level must be made at or before the contestants' meeting for that specific competition. SES reserves the right to adjust any rules as needed as long as competitors are notified prior to competition.
2. Entry Form/Waiver
 - a. An entry form and waiver must be signed by each contestant and submitted along with the required fee by the official entry deadline. Failure to do so will preclude participation in the event. The registration fee will not be refunded if a contestant misses a meeting and is thus not able to compete. Contestants under 18 years of age must also submit a signed parental waiver. *Participation in competition(s) implies agreement to follow these rules and consent to the competition liability waiver.*

3. Duplicate Entries
 - a. No individuals or couples will be allowed to enter more than once in any division; however, if there is an uneven number of men and women in a Jack & Jill competition, the computer will randomly determine who will dance a second time.
4. Cancellations
 - a. A contestant who cancels his or her application before March 28, 2010; will have the entry fee refunded. Cancellations after that date will not be refunded. Changes in a partnership require a new entry form/waiver signed by both contestants.
5. Contestant Meetings
 - a. You must attend the contestant meeting for each competition you have entered (see the weekend schedule for times).
 - b. If you miss a meeting without prior approval from our Competition Director, we will not allow you to compete and you will forfeit your entry fee.
 - c. For the couple's competitions (Strictly Swing, Classic, and Showcase), you or your partner may represent both of you at the meeting. However, both of you are responsible for all matters discussed at the meeting.
6. Order of Dance
 - a. Contestants in Showcase and Classic must draw for order of dance at the meeting on Saturday afternoon.
7. Re-starts
 - a. A restart will be allowed only if the music system falters or an unforeseen catastrophe occurs. Events such as a broken dress strap, untied shoe lace, etc, do not warrant a restart.
 - b. You must request a restart prior to your departure from the floor, and the Chief Judge must approve your request. The Chief Judge may also call for a restart at any time.

B. CONTEST DESCRIPTIONS AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. JACK & JILLS

- a. If a competitor does not meet a division's qualifications as stated in this document and as checked against the World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Competitor Registry, he or she may petition to be accepted into that division. It is highly recommended that each competitor review his or her points on the Jack and Jill Competitor's point Registry at www.Swingdancecouncil.com before the convention and that each competitor have a printed copy in hand at the time of registration to avoid delays and to expedite petitioning.
- b. Dancing must consist of at least 90% recognizable swing patterns (as determined by judges, see Definitions below). If there is a preliminary round, contestants will dance in groups with several different partners; they will be judged individually in the preliminaries and as a couple in the finals. No NASDE points are given for Jack & Jills except in All-Star Division. Trophies will be awarded to 5th place. Points are awarded in accordance with WSDC guidelines.
- c. We are offering these Jack & Jill events in 2008:

1) Novice Jack & Jill

1st: \$300 2nd: \$150 3rd: \$100 4th: Trophy 5th: Trophy

- a) To enter this division, you should know at least the following basic WCS patterns: starter step, basic throw-out, tuck and turn throw-out, underarm turn, left side pass, right side pass, push break, whip, lock whip, whip to closed, and whip with inside turn, outside turn, and behind-the-back hand change variations.

You qualify for this division if ANY of the following apply:

- (1) *You are relatively new to competition and haven't earned any WSDC points; OR*
- (2) *You have earned fewer than 20 Novice, Newcomer, or Junior WSDC points in the past five years; OR*
- (3) *You have earned 20 or more Novice, Newcomer, or Junior WSDC points (and no points at a higher level) but have not won 1st place in a Novice Jack & Jill competition; OR*
- (4) *You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.*

2) Intermediate Jack & Jill

1st: \$400 2nd: \$200 3rd: \$100 4th: Trophy 5th: Trophy

- a) You qualify to compete in this division if ANY of the following apply:

- (1) *You already compete at the Intermediate level and have earned Intermediate WSDC points (and no points at a higher level) in the past five years; OR*
- (2) *You have earned 20 or more Novice, Newcomer, or Junior WSDC points (including at least one 1st place*

win) and are ready to move up to the Intermediate level; OR

(3) You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.

3) Advanced Jack & Jill

1st: \$500 2nd: \$250 3rd: \$150 4th: Trophy 5th: Trophy

a) This division is for dancers with significant competition experience and success at the national level. You may compete in this division if ANY of the following apply:

(1) You already compete at the Advanced level and have earned Advanced WSDC points (and no points at a higher level) in the past five years; OR

(2) You have earned 25 or more Intermediate WSDC points (including at least one 1st place win) and are ready to move up to the Advanced level; OR

(3) You submit a successful petition to compete at this level

4) All-Star Jack & Jill

1st: \$700 2nd: 400 3rd: \$300 4th: Trophy 5th: Trophy

a) This division must have a minimum of 10 couples to be a valid contest. If fewer than 10 couples enter, contestants will be automatically registered in the Advanced Division.

b) This division is for dancers with significant competition experience and success at the national level. Dancers who win or place in this division will earn NASDE Jack & Jill points.

c) You may compete in this division if ANY of the following apply:

(1) You already compete at the All-Stars level and have earned All-Stars points in the past five years; OR

(2) You have earned 40 or more Advanced points (including at least one 1st place win) and are ready to move up to the All-Stars level; OR

(3) You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.

d) *This division is part of the NASDE tour for Jack and Jill.*

5) Masters Jack and Jill
1st: \$300 2nd: \$150 3rd: \$100 4th: Trophy 5th: Trophy

- a) This division is intended for experienced, mature WCS competitors. You may enter this division if you are at least 50 years old and you know the basic WCS patterns. (See the Novice Jack & Jill division for a list of the basic WCS patterns.)

Note: If you qualify for another WCS division, you may enter the Masters division AND the other division.

6) Invitational Jack & Jill
1st: \$1,500 2nd: \$1,000 3rd: \$700 4th: \$600 5th: \$500 6th: \$400 7th: \$300

- a) This competition is for those who have been invited by the convention organizers. The Invitational division is not a level of dance. It is the promoter's option to invite competitors to dance at his or her discretion.

2. STRICTLY SWING (NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED, MASTERS, AND PROFESSIONAL)

- a. Couples will compete at a level *based on the WSDC standing of the highest level partner*, based on the Jack and Jill criteria above.
- i. Those who meet the qualifications for the professional division given below, must dance in the professional strictly division.
- b. The Novice and Intermediate divisions are part of the Americas Amateur Novice Championship Events and intended for dancers with limited or no prior competition experience at the national level.
- c. Dancing in this category must consist of at least 90% recognizable swing patterns (as determined by judges, see Definitions below).
- d. No costumes allowed.
- 1) A costume is defined as, "Attire that is specifically designed or selected for a couple's competition and would not generally be worn on the social dance floor."
- e. Appropriate attire is required.
- f. Decisions as to use of heats or spotlights and length of performance are the prerogative of the event director.
- g. Pre-choreographed moves are not allowed; choreography that is "on the fly" and strictly lead and follow is the essence of this division.
- h. Drops, leans, circular movements, and other partner weight support moves are allowed so long as both partners keep at least one foot on the floor.
- i. Physical contact between partners must be maintained except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.

- 1) **Masters Strictly Swing**
1st: \$400 2nd: \$200 3rd: \$100 4th: Trophy 5th: Trophy
 - a) Both participants must be 50 years of age or older.
- 2) **Novice Strictly Swing**
1st: \$250 2nd: \$150 3rd: \$100 4th: Trophy 5th: Trophy
 - a) Both participants must be 15 or over.
- 3) **Intermediate Strictly Swing**
1st: \$300 2nd: \$200 3rd: \$100 4th: Trophy 5th: Trophy
 - a) Both participants must be 15 or over.
- 4) **Advanced Strictly Swing**
1st: \$400 2nd: \$200 3rd: \$100 4th: Trophy 5th: Trophy
 - a) Both participants must be 15 or over.
- 5) **Professional Strictly Swing**
1st: \$1,000 2nd: \$500 3rd: \$260 4th: \$140 5th: \$100
 - a) Participants must be 15 or over.
 - b) A couple consisting of one Professional and one amateur must compete in this division.
 - c) A professional in this contest is any competitor who:
 - (1) *is presently a full-time dance teacher, or*
 - (2) *has earned more than \$2,000 in dance earnings in the last 12 months, or*
 - (3) *earns more than 1/3 of his or her income from teaching dance, or*
 - (4) *has been a finalist in a Champion or Invitational Jack & Jill competition in any event listed in the WSDC Competitor Registry.*
 - (5) *has earned ALS (All-Star) points in the WSDC Registry.*

3. NASDE CLASSIC, SHOWCASE and JACK & JILL

a. GENERAL

- 1) Contestants must be 18 years or older on or before Sunday, April 4th, 2010 to participate in a NASDE Classic or Showcase division.
- 2) Competitors will be one male leader and one female follower.
- 3) The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event director's discretion. There is no minimum number of entries. If fewer than 10 couples enter a division, NASDE points will still be awarded.
- 4) In the NASDE divisions, the competitor guidelines for expected swing content are: at least 80% in Classic and 60% in Showcase.

It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met. (See Definitions below.)

- 6) An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
- 7) Music must be turned in to the DJ at least 2 hours before the competition (preferably the morning of the competition), and may be picked up from the DJ after the competition.
 - a) The music is the sole responsibility of the contestants.
 - b) All music must be on a CD, and be timed for two (2) to three (3) minutes.
 - c) It must be labeled with the contestants' names and the correct side to be played and be in the correct position for an immediate start.
 - d) The contestants should also have a duplicate CD immediately available.
- 8) Since many comedy routines are based on intentional mistakes, judges may not be able to separate a miscue from a planned error. Therefore, no comedy routines will be allowed in Classic or Showcase.
- 9) Trophies will not be awarded in the Classic and Showcase divisions.
- 10) Prize money is to be split 50/50 between partners.
- 11) Sportsmanship is a fundamental aspect of our competition. Competing for the NASDE prize fund is a privilege, not a right. The event director may flag a competitor's behavior as un-sportsman like. Said behavior will be reviewed by the NASDE board at the next scheduled NASDE Board meeting. Redress for violations can include but are not limited to deduction of points, dropping in level in the overall standing, or removal of competitor from the NASDE list.

b. NASDE Divisions

1) CLASSIC DIVISION:

1st: \$1,200 2nd: \$600 3rd: \$300 4th: \$200 5th: \$100

- a) Definition:
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.
- b) Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the chief judge.
- c) Competitors select their own music.
- d) Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
- e) Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
- f) Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music.
- g) Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
- h) Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.

CLASSIC DIVISION (cont'd)

- i) At most five partner weight support moves are permitted.
- j) Break-away in Classic Division to be no more than 8 beats.

2) SHOWCASE DIVISION:

1st: \$1,200 2nd: \$600 3rd: \$300 4th: \$200 5th: \$100

- a) Definition:
Swing dancing that allows choreography with flair toward lifts and other partner weight support moves.
- b) Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the Chief Judge.
- c) Competitors select their own music.
- d) Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
- e) Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
- f) Separate entrances are permitted.
- g) Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted.
- h) At least three partner weight support moves are required with the partner at knee level or above.
- i) At least one partner weight support move is required with the partner above the waist.
- j) There are no lift maximums.

c. NASDE Definitions

- 1) NASDE Statement of Swing to be used to identify the presence of swing in the NASDE competition divisions.
 - a. 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.
 - b. The 6-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, passes, underarm turns, push-breaks, open-to-closed, and closed-to-open position patterns.
 - c. The 8-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, whips, swing-outs, Lindy circles, and Shag pivots.
 - d. 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.

e. Other Definitions

- 1) Aerial.
An aerial is a move in which one dancer is lifted with the assistance of his/her partner and the head and torso are in a position higher than the waist of the supporting partner. Aerials are prohibited in all competitions except Showcase and Professional Strictly Swing.

2) Lift.

A lift is any intentional maneuver lasting longer than a full beat of music where the feet of one dancer are clearly off the floor and the partner supports the weight.

- a) This definition shall not include any of the following common syncopations or patterns: flea hops, bunny hops; heel clicks, flying Lindy and its obvious adaptations to other swing styles; jumps by competitors over the leg of the partner, and leveraged slides.
- b) Lifts are prohibited in all competitions except Showcase and Professional Strictly Swing.

C. Judging Criteria, Decisions and Penalties

1. Timing.

- 1) Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Timing extends to much finer distinctions than a single beat. It includes whether a competitor is fractionally ahead of or behind the beat as well as matching the syncopated "swing" of the music. Syncopations also need to be on time.

2. Teamwork.

- 1) Swing is a connected partner dance. The demonstration of this connection and appearance of "lead/follow" or "action/reaction" between partners is the goal. A balanced performance with give-and-take between partners is the goal. One partner ignoring, "out-dancing," disrespecting, or jeopardizing the safety of the other partner (or of other competitors) indicates poor teamwork. Compensating and adjusting for one's partner are components of good teamwork.

3. Technique.

- 1) How well the competitors execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. This includes elements such as control of balance and weight, foot placement, bodylines, and spins.

4. Choreography.

- 1) Selection and order of movements and transitions executed during a dance comprise choreography. Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and the ability to match patterns and syncopations to the phrasing of the music. It must also include identifiable swing patterns in order to provide variety and contrast.

5. Musical Interpretation.

- 1) Adjusting the flow of the dance to fit the style, tempo, mood, and rhythm variations in the music comprises good musical interpretation. Couples should strive to demonstrate the ability to hear and interpret nuances in the music throughout their dance.

6. Presentation.

- 1) Creating an atmosphere of excitement by inviting interest in a performance is the desired effect of good presentation. Good presentation begins with the selection of appropriate attire. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, it cannot substitute for good dancing. Competitors should aim primarily for demonstrating a positive chemistry as a couple. Gratuitous mugging to the audience or the judges may result in a lower score. Good sporting conduct before, during, and after the dance is also an element of good presentation.

B. Judge's decisions.

1. Judges' decisions are final. Because swing dancing is a subjective form of dance and there is no official criterion, individuals view the dance differently; therefore, protests will not be allowed. Any grievances or problems should be reported to the Competition Coordinator or Chief Judge immediately.

C. Penalties for errors and violations

1. If you fail to follow our rules, the judges may assess a penalty. Unless defined specifically elsewhere in our rules, the levels of severity and associated penalties are as follows:

a. Error:

- 1) An error is a minor and apparently unintentional breach of the rules.

Examples of errors include: (a) a brief and unintended loss of contact with your partner (where the rules require contact); (b) a loss of balance; or (c) a momentary loss of composure. Errors may be penalized (or not) at the discretion of each judge observing the error.

b. Violation:

- 1) A violation is a serious and apparently intentional breach of the rules. Examples of violations include:
 - (a) Making a face or a rude comment expressing unhappiness with your draw of a particular partner or musical selection in a Jack & Jill;
 - (b) Behaving disrespectfully toward your partner, another competitor, a spectator, or a judge;
 - (c) Wearing an inappropriate outfit or costume;
 - (d) Using prohibited choreography, such as a lift in a Classic routine; excessive leveraging beyond the limits, or deliberately failing to meet the lift requirements for Showcase division.
 - (e) Performing a "trick" move that endangers your partner, other competitors, or spectators;
 - (f) Choosing choreography that blatantly ignores or contradicts the phrasing of the music; or

- (g) Failing to include the required percentage of recognizable swing content in your dance.
- 2) A violation penalty will be assigned whenever either a majority of the judges, or the Chief Judge and at least one other judge, agree that a violation has occurred.
- (a) Each violation will be penalized by a drop of one or more positions in final placement.
 - (b) The Chief Judge will apply this violation penalty after the Scorer has tallied the placements for the performances.
 - (c) The Chief Judge will determine the number of places to be dropped based on the magnitude of the violation.
 - (d) The penalty for a severe violation may include being dropped out of awards. (For Classic and Showcase couples, this may include being dropped to 11th place so that no NASDE points would be earned.)
3. Time violation for routines.
- (a) If our Timekeeper determines that your routine is less than five seconds over or under the time limit, no penalty will be applied (to allow for differences in music equipment).
 - (b) If your routine is more than five seconds over or under the time limit, you will be assigned a violation penalty as described above.
 - Penalties for time violations will be in addition to any penalties that the judges have assigned for the performance itself.
 - You will have an opportunity to try out your music before the competition (see Floor Tryouts on our weekend schedule). It is your responsibility to ensure that your routine meets the time requirement.

D. Petitions

1. It is our goal to encourage you to compete with your peers. If you are unclear about which competition or division is right for you, check with our Competition Director, Chief Judge, or Contestant Representative before you register.
2. If you want to enter a competition for which you do not meet the entry requirements stated in these rules, or want to change divisions in a competition with more than one division, you may submit a petition.
3. When you register, fill out a petition form with a brief explanation of the reason(s) for your request and submit it with your entry fee before the contest registration deadline.
4. Our Competition Coordinator (or another competition official designated by our Competition Director) will review your petition (in consultation with the Chief Judge and Contestant Representative, if necessary) and approve or deny your request.
5. Our Competition Coordinator will notify you as soon as possible (no later than the contestant meeting) of the decision. If you are requesting to change

divisions, you should attend the contestant meeting and be prepared to compete in the original division if your petition is denied.

E. Additional Competitor responsibilities

1. Plan ahead.
 - a. You should check the event schedule well in advance and plan to arrive in time to meet our contest registration deadlines and attend all contestant meetings for the competitions you enter. You should bring appropriate competition attire. Be sure to check for any last-minute changes to our schedule when you arrive.
2. Know the rules.
 - a. You should read the competition rules carefully prior to the contestant meeting. You are responsible for following our rules whether you have read them or not. If you have questions, you should ask them at the contestant meeting, or contact our Competition Coordinator ahead of time.
3. Be prepared to compete.
 - a. You should be in the ballroom at least 10 minutes prior to the start of your competition. Remember to bring your bib number (we will charge you a replacement fee of \$10 if you lose it).
 - b. If you miss the competition or withdraw after the registration deadline, you will forfeit your entry fee.
4. Demonstrate good sporting conduct at all times.
 - a. You must demonstrate good sporting conduct both on and off the competition floor. This includes treating your partners, other competitors, competition officials, spectators, and the event itself with respect. Demonstrating a poor attitude by behaving in ways that the judges deem inappropriate or disrespectful may result in a violation penalty.
4. Appropriate behavior and attire.
 - a. It is our desire to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing quality of dancing and good taste. To maintain this balance, we encourage you to put on a good show (including humor where appropriate) but within the context of presenting solid dance fundamentals.
 - b. Keep in mind that all ages (including young dancers) will be present at our event, and that your performance will be recorded. Any action that our judges believe would make them uncomfortable in a social dance setting (such as inappropriate touching or simulating sexual behavior) may earn a violation penalty.