

2008 SWINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES

Rules of Competition

I. Competition Organizer

Swingtime in the Rockies ("Event"), is organized and sponsored by The Rocky Mountain Swing Dance Club ("Organizer"). The Event shall follow current published rules and guidelines of AANCE, NASDE and WSDC, as defined below. Final decision on any matter pertaining to these competitions rests solely with the Organizer of Swingtime.

II. GENERAL COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

A. General Eligibility. Each competition is open to all competitors in good standing who:

1. Hold a full weekend package ticket;
2. Register by the official entry deadline(s) (consult weekend schedule);
3. Pay the required entry fee(s); and complete and sign the appropriate entry forms and waivers. No one may compete without a signed waiver;
4. Are 16 years of age or older by the end of the Event (age 18 by the end of the Event for competition in NASDE Classic, NASDE Showcase and NASDE Strictly Swing Divisions).
5. Compete as a leader/male and follower/female with the exception of the Pro-Am division; and
6. Meet the specific requirements outlined in these Rules of Competition ("Rules").

B. Multiple Registrations. Each eligible competitor may enter:

1. One Pro-Am Division, one Jack & Jill division, one Strictly Swing division, either the Classic or Showcase division. Any Classic or Showcase contestant may enter a Strictly Swing competition but must compete with a different partner; and
2. Any competitor age 50 years or older may compete in the Masters Jack & Jill division AND either the Intermediate, Advanced, All-Star or Champions Jack & Jill division.

C. AANCE Qualifications. This provision applies to those competitors intending to qualify for and ultimately compete at the annual Americas Classic Championships, sponsored by AANCE and held in January in Houston, Texas.

The Novice and Intermediate Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing competitions must have ten (10) couples registered to sanction the Event as an AANCE Tour qualifier.

1. Novice Competitors: Must have never danced in a Non-pro, Intermediate, Advanced/professional or higher class category in Classic, Showcase, Strictly Swing/Just Dance style or equivalent categories, or as a pro in a Pro-am, in any style of dance. Jack & Jill competitions are not excluded. Novice competitors can not have ever taught any style of partner dance. This division is *not* open to all levels.
2. Intermediate Competitors: Must have never danced in a Rising Star, Advanced/Professional or higher class category in Classic, Showcase, Strictly Swing/Just Dance style or equivalent categories, or as a pro in a Pro-am, in any style of dance. Jack & Jill competitions are not excluded. This division is *not* open to all levels.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETITORS

A. Event Schedule. The Organizer will post time and location for all competitions and will attempt to adhere to the printed schedule for all competitions. Should any significant schedule or format changes be required, these changes will be announced and posted. Competitions will be run with a minimum of three (3) couples. The Organizer may cancel or combine any competitions for which insufficient entries are received. If a competition is canceled, the Organizer will refund

any collected entry fees. Competitors are responsible for checking for schedule changes before and at event time. Pre-written schedules are always subject to change.

B. Ready to Compete. Competitors are responsible for their Bib Numbers, and will be charged a replacement fee of \$10.00 if lost or damaged. Any change in partnership may require an additional entry fee as well as a new application form and waiver. Any cancellation by competitor may result in loss of entry fee. Competitors must be at the staging area at the designated time stated in the competitor meetings or announced by the EMCEE.

C. Rules. The Rules: (i) include the published rules of AANCE, the WSDC and NASDE (collectively, the "Rules"), and (ii) will be strictly enforced as applicable per division. Competitors are responsible for reading and complying with the Rules and should address any questions concerning the Rules at the competitors meetings or in advance to the Organizer or Chief Judge. The Organizer will provide a qualified scorer, a Chief Judge and a panel of judges. The judges will be introduced prior to the start of the competition. A Competition Coordinator selected by the Organizer will act as its official representative. The Competition Coordinator, in consultation with the Chief Judge, will resolve all requests for reclassification and will clarify any competition-related questions. For AANCE and NASDE Divisions, all current AANCE and NASDE rules apply and will override anything stated below in conflict. Each competitor must determine his or her qualifications under ANCE and NASDE Rules.

D. Competitor Meetings. All Jack & Jill competitors must attend all contestant meetings related to their competition. Any contestant who misses a meeting without approval from the Chief Judge or Organizer will not be allowed to compete. For all couples dance, only one of the couple must attend meetings; however, both partners will comply with all matters discussed at the meetings. Contestants working the Event or delayed in travel **must call ahead** to be excused from mandatory meetings but are still responsible for adhering to all Rules. Contestants may discuss competitions with the judges only through appropriate channels such as contestant meetings and/or discussions with the Chief Judge, allowed solely at his discretion.

E. Common Requirements. If a majority of judges determine that any individual or couple has failed to meet one or more of the following requirements, a violation penalty will be applied:

- 1. Appropriate Behavior.** It is the desire of the Organizer to permit expressive and exciting performances without sacrificing quality of dancing and good taste. To encourage this balance, any action that the judges believe would make them uncomfortable in a social dance setting (such as showing disrespect toward one's partner, other dancers, or the Event) is prohibited. Good sporting conduct must be demonstrated by all competitors throughout the event, both on and off the competition floor.
- 2. Swing Content.** Minimum Swing Content as defined below is required in all divisions. Recognizable swing patterns are required in all competitions.

IV. PETITIONS FOR RECLASSIFICATION OF DANCE LEVEL

Contestants may petition for reclassification at the contest registration desk prior to the earliest relevant registration deadline. The Organizer and Competition Coordinator, in consultation with the Chief Judge, will review petitions for reclassification. Competitors will be notified as quickly as possible of the decision. The Organizer reserves the right to reclassify any competitor. Contestants are required to attend earliest meeting at which time they will be notified of final classification.

V. CONTEST MISCLASSIFICATION

A. Misclassification by Competitors. If any individuals or couples classify themselves incorrectly and the Organizer discovers the error before the start of the competition, the

competitors will be given the option to reclassify themselves or withdraw. If the error is discovered after the preliminaries but before the finals, they will be disqualified. If the error is discovered after the finals, they will be disqualified and barred from any subsequent competitions during the Event and their placement will be awarded to the next individual or couple in line for placement.

B. Misclassification by the Organizer or Chief Judge. If the Organizer, Competition Coordinator or Chief Judge classifies an individual competitor or couple incorrectly, no penalty will be applied.

VI. JACK AND JILL DIVISION

The WSDC Competition Registry will be used as a guideline to classify competitors in their respective dance level. Event Rules are based on AANCE and WSDC published recommendations.

A. Novice (1-19 points):

1. A competitor should stay in this division until they have earned at least 20 points in Novice.
2. Competitors may continue to compete in this division until they have both a minimum of 20 points AND a first place win in Novice.
3. A minimum of ten (10) couples must enter this division in order to sanction the event as an AANCE Tour qualifier.

B. Intermediate (20-44 points):

1. This competition is intended for those intermediate dancers with limited competition experience at the national level.
2. A competitor should stay in this division until they have earned a minimum of 25 Intermediate points and may continue to compete in Intermediate until they have both 25 Intermediate points AND a first place win in Intermediate.
3. A minimum of ten (10) couples must enter this division in order to sanction the event as an AANCE Tour qualifier.

C. Advanced (45 points):

1. This competition is intended for those advanced dancers with limited competition experience at the national level
2. A competitor should stay in this division until they have earned a minimum of 40 Advanced points AND a first place win in Advanced.

D. Master Division:

1. This competition is intended for those who are at least 50 years old with limited competition experience at the national level
2. Any competitor who has placed 1st through 5th in a Masters, Intermediate or Advanced Jack & Jill at any event listed in the WSDC Competitors Registry, qualifies for this division.

E. Pro/Am Jack & Jill (Lead & Follow):

1. Any competitor who earns at least one-half (1/2) of his/her income from teaching West Coast Swing, or who has placed in a National Champions or invitational Division in the last ten (10) years qualifies as a professional in this contest. All other competitors must enter this contest as an Amateur.
2. As an Amateur you may enter either the leader or follower division regardless of sex, but not both.
3. All Professionals should compete as a leader/male and follower/female.

F. All-Star:

1. Competitors shall have earned an Advanced Win, AND at least 40 ADVANCED points or; in the last two (2) years have placed FIRST in an Invitational or Champions Division at a WSDC recognized event.
2. Organizer of the Event will offer a free Event ticket to All-Star Competitors who qualify per the Event's stated guidelines. A petition to compete in this division will not include a free Event ticket.

G. Champions:

1. A competitor who is currently competing and recognized as a Champions Competitor on the National circuit and by the WSDC.
2. A competitor already competes at the Champions level AND has finished in the top five (5) places in three (3) or more Champions or Invitational Jack & Jill competitions in the past five (5) years; OR
3. Has won FIRST place in a NASDE Classic OR NASDE Showcase competition in the past five (5) years; OR
4. The competitor submits a successful petition to compete at this level, and is approved by the Chief Judge and the Organizer of the Event.

VII. STRICTLY SWING COMPETITION

Strictly Swing is swing dancing that encourages lead and follow partner dancing at its best. Although swing includes amalgamations and patterns that are familiar to many dancers, the essence of lead and follow must be maintained in and out of these patterns. Competitors enter as a couple and dance to randomly selected music. Each competitor may enter only one (1) division. No change in division will be permitted after the contestant meeting.

A. Eligibility. There is no limit on maximum number of entries; a minimum of ten (10) couples must register to compete in the Novice and Intermediate divisions in order to sanction the Event as an AANCE Tour qualifier. Any Strictly Swing contestant who also enters Classic or Showcase must compete with a different partner.

B. Special Requirements. All dancing in Strictly Swing is to be "lead/follow." There must be a minimum of 90% recognizable swing content (it is the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met). Routines are prohibited. Lifts, aerials, gymnastic maneuvers, and formal entrances and exits are not permitted. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways and recoveries. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves. At most, five (5) partner weight support moves are permitted.

C. Attire. Costumes are not allowed; coordinating attire is permissible and appropriate attire is required.

D. Novice, Intermediate and Advanced/All-Star Strictly Swing Divisions:

1. Couples must compete in Novice, Intermediate or Advanced/All-Star Strictly Swing unless one partner qualifies as a Champion. In this event, the couple must compete in Champions. No NASDE points will be awarded for this division.
2. Couples should choose which division to compete in according to their Jack and Jill qualifications and compete in the division of the highest skilled partner. (i.e. If one (1) partner competes in Novice J & J, and the other partner competes in Intermediate J & J, the couple should enter in the Intermediate Strictly Division).
3. A minimum of ten (10) couples must enter the Novice and Intermediate Strictly Swing divisions in order to sanction the event as an AANCE Tour qualifier.

E. NASDE Strictly Swing Champions Division. All competitors must be 18 years of age or older. Advanced/All-Star competitors with previous NASDE points may choose to enter this division, if they are in need to compete for NASDE points.

1. Couples must compete in this division if either partner qualifies as a Champion (see Section VI.G).
2. NASDE points will be awarded for the Champions division only.

VIII. NASDE CLASSIC AND NASDE SHOWCASE DIVISION

A. NASDE Classic Competition. Open to all contestants 18 years of age or older and all levels of skill. NASDE points will be awarded for this division. There is no limit on maximum number of entries.

1. **Choreography.** The NASDE Classic competition is 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 (1) foot on the floor. Competitors enter as a couple and must supply their own music.
2. **Special Requirements.** Dancing in the NASDE Classic competition is to be primarily "lead/follow." There must be a minimum of 80% recognizable swing content (it is the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met). Lifts, aerials, or acrobatic moves are not allowed. Entrances (with or without music) if used, will be judged as part of the performance. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways and recoveries. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves. Routines must be a minimum of two-minutes or a maximum of three (3) minutes in length. Costumes are allowed and encouraged. Note that common requirements apply (see Section III.E).

B. NASDE Showcase Competition. The NASDE Showcase competition is swing dancing that allows choreography with a flair toward lifts and other partner weight support moves. Competitors enter as a couple and must supply their own music.

1. **Eligibility.** Open to all contestants 18 years of age or older and all levels of skill. NASDE points will be awarded for this division. There is no limit on maximum number of entries. Any NASDE Showcase contestant who also enters Strictly Swing Division must compete with a different partner.
2. **Special Requirements.** Dancing in the NASDE Showcase competition is to be primarily "lead/follow." There must be a minimum of 60% recognizable swing content (it is the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met). Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music. Separate entrances are permitted. Breakaways and side by side patterns are permitted. At least three (3) partner weight support moves are required with the partner at knee level or above. At least one (1) partner weight support move is required with the partner above the waist. At most, five (5) partner weight support moves are permitted with a partner not maintaining floor contact. Routines must be a minimum of two-minutes or a maximum of three (3) minutes in length. Costumes are allowed and encouraged. Note that common requirements apply (see Section III.F).

IX. JUDGING CRITERIA. Competitors will be judged on the following criteria:

A. Timing. 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 or behind the beat as well as matching the syncopated "swing" of the music.

B. Teamwork. 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. One (1) partner ignoring or "out-dancing" the other, or jeopardizing the safety of others indicates poor teamwork.

C. Technique. How well the competitors execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. This includes, but is not limited to, control of balance and weight, foot placement, bodylines, and spins.

D. Choreography. The selection and order of movements and transitions executed during a dance comprise choreography. Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and its phrasing as well as variety and contrast.

E. Musical Interpretation. How the dancer adjusts the flow of the dance to fit the tempo, mood and rhythm variations in the music. The music connection that the judges see when they observe the dancer while listening to the music.

F. Presentation. Creating 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, it cannot substitute for good dancing.

G. Penalties. Breach of these Rules shall result in penalties being assessed by the judges corresponding to the level of severity of the breach. Unless defined specifically elsewhere in these Rules, these levels and associated penalties are as follows:

1. **Error.** An error is an apparently unintentional breach of these Rules. Each error shall be penalized at the discretion of the judge observing the error. Examples of errors might include unintended loss of contact between partners or loss of balance.
2. **Violation.** A violation is a serious and apparently intentional breach of these Rules. Each violation may be penalized by a drop of one (1) or more positions in the final placement, or disqualification. A violation will be assigned when either a majority of judges or a minority of judges AND the Chief Judge concur that a violation has occurred. The amount of drop in placement will be determined by the Chief Judge and will be based on the magnitude of the violation. Examples of violations might include a lift in a Jack & Jill, a routine in Strictly Swing, or a maneuver that endangers another competitor. All decisions of the judges are final and may not be appealed. The Organizer will not intervene in any judging decisions.

H. Restarts. Restarts will only be permitted in the case of music system failure or other significant failure such as shoe or costume failure. Restarts will not be permitted for the reasons of contestant dissatisfaction with their performance, music or partner drawn, or duration of routine. A restart must be requested by the contestants prior to their departure from the competition floor and must be approved by the Chief Judge.

X. DEFINITIONS

A. Aerial. An aerial is a move where the dancer revolves around his or her lateral axis (i.e. flip) or his or her sagittal axis (i.e. cartwheel). Aerials are prohibited in all competitions except Showcase.

B. AANCE. Americas Amateur Novice Championship Events.

C. Breakaway. A breakaway is a set of symmetric or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple who intentionally break contact (except for spins and turns). Breakaways phrased properly to the music are allowed in all competitions.

D. Costume. Attire which, in the opinion of the judges, is specifically designed for couples competition and would not generally be worn for social dancing is considered a costume. Costumes are prohibited in all competitions except Classic and Showcase. Matching or complimentary outfits suitable for social dancing are not considered costumes and are allowed in Strictly Swing.

E. Entrance. An entrance is the initial, pre-choreographed segment of a performance, during which the competitors formally enter the competition floor and prepare to dance. Acknowledging one's partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an entrance. Formal entrances are prohibited in all competitions except Classic and Showcase.

F. Exit. An exit is the final, pre-choreographed segment of a performance, during which the competitors formally leave the competition floor. Acknowledging one's partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered part of an exit. Formal exits are prohibited in all competitions except Classic and Showcase.

G. Gymnastic Maneuver. A gymnastic maneuver is any maneuver that illustrates a gymnastic or acrobatic ability which is not part of a recognizable swing pattern. Examples of gymnastic maneuvers might include back-flips or cartwheels. Gymnastic maneuvers are prohibited in all competitions except Showcase.

H. Lift. A lift is a move where the dancer is not in contact with the floor and the dancer's weight is supported by his or her partner. Lifts are prohibited in all competitions except Showcase. Swing, Carolina Shag, East Coast Swing, Jitterbug, Lindy, Lindy Hop, Push, West Coast Swing, and Whip are recognized as styles of swing. The Organizer will consider additional styles for recognition prior to a competition's registration deadline.

I. NASDE. National Association of Swing Dance Events

J. Relative Placement. This is a scoring system that assigns an equal numerical value to each judge's raw scores, so that each judge has an equal vote in the final outcome. Relative Placement is now widely accepted at major swing dance events.

K. Routine. Any segment that, in the opinion of the judges, consists of prearranged choreography (to include symmetric or complementary movements or footwork) that does not reflect the music is considered a routine. Routines are prohibited in all competitions except Classic and Showcase.

L. Side-By-Side. A side-by-side is a set of symmetric or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple which is not a clearly leadable derivative of a recognizable swing pattern. Side-by-side segments are often executed with the partners next to each other, both facing the

judges, but segments executed in other positions (e.g., back-to-back, open position, closed position) that meet the above description are defined as side-by-sides for the purposes of these Rules. Side-by-sides phrased properly to the music are allowed in all competitions.

M. Swing Content. A minimum swing content of 90% is required in all Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing divisions. A minimum swing content of 80% is required in the Classic division. A minimum swing content of 60% is required in the Showcase division. Recognizable swing patterns are required in all competitions.

N. WSDC. World Swing Dance Council.