

## General Contest Rules

All participants agree to:

- Read, know and follow all contest rules and the code of conduct. Ask questions in advance.
- Respect the contest staff, fellow competitors and exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.
- Register and pay the contest entry fee prior to the published deadlines.
- Pick up your competitor number prior to the scheduled closing time for onsite registration.
- Check in with the competitor coordinators in the staging area 15 minutes prior to the start of each round of each contest in which you will be dancing. If you do not check in you will be scratched and forfeit your entry fee.
- Never use vulgar or offensive gestures, costumes or song lyrics.
- Consent to unrestricted use of your name and likeness in photos and videos to appear in future promotions.
- An individual may not enter the same contest twice.
- Complete scores from all final rounds will be posted immediately following each awards presentation. Preliminary and semi final tally sheets are not posted publicly, however you may request a copy for contests in which you participated after the awards have been announced.
- Contests with fewer than 5 entries (couples) may be cancelled or the prize money reduced at the organizers discretion. Entry fees for cancelled contests will be refunded.

## Strictly Swing Contests

Sign up with your partner. We pick the music. Different skill levels are offered. Each is a separate contest. Couples will dance in heats for several short songs. If more than 15 couples enter a division there will be a preliminary contest followed by a final round. Judges will evaluate the couples based on their demonstration of good social dancing skills, timing, technique, connection, lead and follow, presentation and showmanship.

- Matching costumes and props are not allowed. Coordinating attire is acceptable
- The same partners may not dance together in a Strictly Swing contest and a choreography contest.
- This contest is gender neutral. You may lead at one level and follow at the next higher or lower level.
- You may not enter 2 levels dancing the same role.
- You may not enter the same level dancing both roles.
- A couple must enter the highest skill level either of them qualifies for based on WSDC points.
- **(5) Strictly Swing contests are offered.**
- **Newcomer/Novice, Intermediate, Advanced:** For these divisions a couple must enter the highest level either partner qualifies for based on the WSDC points they have earned and the WSDC level criteria for Jack & Jill.
- **All Star/Pro:** This division is open to All Star (as defined by the World Swing Dance Council) and Professional level competitors. A professional is defined as a dancer that qualifies at or above All Star level and must be actively being hired to teach WCS locally/nationally. All hired staff for Michigan Classic are considered Professional.
- **Masters (50+):** Both partners must be 50 years of age or older. Because this is an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement you may also enter another Strictly Swing contest at the appropriate skill level if you wish.

### Routine Contests

Bring your partner, your music and your dance routine. It's all about the show! Routines are danced in a solo format. Dance order is chosen at random and posted prior to the division start time. Your music must be turned in to the contest DJ at the floor trial for your event. It must be a single file, clearly labeled on a USB thumb drive. Alternately, you can email the file to our routine division DJ Tim Johnson (djtj@dancefanatics.com) 24hrs in advance. If you need your music's tempo altered, started in the middle of the track or an early fade out, please have someone edit your music in advance.

- Performance must be at least 2 minutes and no longer than 3 minutes for Rising Star and ProAm routines. Invitational Jack & Jill has a minimum of 1 minute 30 seconds and a maximum of 5 minutes. Bookends routines should be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 4 minutes (this includes any choreographed entrance, exit and bow).
- Choreographed entrances are counted towards the time limit.
- Costumes are encouraged. Props are not allowed (except in Bookends).
- Lifts, drops, tricks and stunts are allowed but not required.
- There are specific times scheduled for competitor floor trials listed on the schedule.
- Restarts will only be allowed in cases of:
  1. Music malfunction/Technical problem.
  2. Wardrobe/Costume malfunction.
  3. Head Judge stops the couple.

**Rising Star** – This division is part of the WCS Rising Star Tour. All rules outlined by the Rising Star Tour will be enforced. For detailed information please go to the [WCS Rising Star Tour Webpage](#).

**ProAm Routine** – This contest is segregated into two levels Novice and Open (Not open to Allstar and higher dancers). It is offered for all styles of Swing: West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Shag and Hand Dance or any other style of popular swing dance. Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose.

### ProAm Contests

Students enter with their teacher. For this contest, amateurs are defined as anyone who does not teach dancing on a regular, ongoing basis or earn a significant amount of income teaching or performing. A professional is defined as someone who earns a significant amount of income teaching or performing dance. Anyone who has previously competed in open or professional level competition must be considered a Pro for this purpose. Couples entering ProAm divisions must have a prior student/teacher relationship. Only the amateur is evaluated. Each skill level and role is a separate contest.

- This contest is gender neutral. A student may enter two adjacent skill levels in either or both roles.
- Matched costumes and props are not allowed. Coordinating attire is acceptable
- Couples must remain in contact unless executing a spin.
- No lifts, drops or partner supported moves allowed.
- No choreographed entrances or exits
- **(4) West Coast Swing ProAm contests are offered.**
- **Newcomer/Novice** - This division is for students with moderate dance experience and limited previous competition success. Students are expected to perform solid basics. Limited variations

are allowed but not required. No leans, drops, or breakaways are allowed. All material should be recognizable as familiar, common “leadable” social patterns. It is recommended that you follow the levels as outlined by World Swing Dance Council for JnJ.

- **Intermediate** - This division is for students with significant prior competition and or dance experience. Students are expected to perform clean basics with variations and musicality. Judges will consider musical interpretation, showmanship and creativity. It is recommended that you follow the levels outlined by the World Swing Dance Council for JnJ.
- **ProAm Spotlight Novice and Open** (see routine contest rules)

### Jack & Jill Contests

Enter as an individual. Dance with a randomly chosen partner. The DJ picks the music. There are contests for many skill levels. Onsite registration for all Jack & Jill is limited. There are strict entry deadlines published in advance. You must enter before the deadline. Jack & Jill contests allow individuals to enter without a partner and demonstrate skills in spontaneous dancing with a variety of partners. There is an inherent “luck of the draw” factor involved. Leaders and followers are randomly paired. There will be several partner changes during the preliminary and semi-final rounds. Competitors are scored individually on timing, technique and teamwork in the preliminary heats. Those scoring the highest will be called back later to dance in a final round. In the final, individuals are randomly paired, then scored as a couple. The DJ picks the music. Tempo and style will vary. All songs will be appropriate for the dance division entered. There are significant cash prizes awarded to the winners. The amounts are based on the number of entries in each division.

- You may only enter 1 level of Jack & Jill (excluding Masters).
- This contest is gender neutral. You may enter this contest only one time as a leader or follower.  
**West Coast Swing Jack & Jill Levels** - The (WSDC) World Swing Dance Council Points Registry is used to determine eligibility for the West Coast Swing Jack & Jill skill levels. Current WSDC point information is available on the [World Swing Dance Council Webpage](#) for anyone to look up which division they have qualified for. Competitors are expected to honor this system. You may only dance in a level other than what you qualify for by petitioning the chief judge or event director at least 48 hours in advance. WSDC registry documents have been recently updated.  
**(7) West Coast Swing Jack & Jill contests are offered.**
- **Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and AllStar** – These contest levels are governed by the [World Swing Dance Council Points Registry](#). Please go to the website to ensure you enter the appropriate level contest. If you are new to competing you will begin in newcomer. If you feel this doesn’t accurately reflect your level of dance you may petition with the chief judge prior to the contest.
- **Masters (50+) Novice and Open** - These divisions are for competitors age 50 and over. Master Novice is for those dancers that are Novice level or lower competitors as defined by the World Swing Dance Council. Masters Open has no points requirements however is considered to be all Masters dancers with a skill level which exceeds Novice as defined by the World Swing Dance Council. You may enter Masters Novice or Open and another swing Jack & Jill contest at the skill level you are qualified for.
- **Professional** – The professional level contest is for dancers that qualify at or above All Star level as recognized by the World Swing Dance Council. In addition, the dancer must be actively being

hired to teach WCS locally/nationally. All hired staff for Michigan Classic is considered a Professional. This is a non WSDC contest.

### Threesome Strictly Swing

Threesome Strictly Swing is a fun contest that requires a combination of 2 leaders and one follower or 1 follower and 2 leaders. During this contest, the group of 3 dancers may switch roles between leader and follower. Throughout the contest all three members should remain in contact with exception for small breakaways not to exceed 4 counts. Stealing, where one of the three members is not actively dancing with the other two is not allowed. This contest is gender neutral.

### Definitions

- Breakaway - A set of symmetric or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple who intentionally breaks contact (except for spins and turns), which is not clearly a "leadable" derivative of a recognizable swing pattern.
- Costumes - Attire that in the opinion of the judges is specifically designed or selected for couples competition and would not generally be worn for social dancing.
- Drop - Movement in which either partner's head and torso go below knee level of the other partner.
- Entrance - Pre-choreographed segment of a performance, where competitors formally enter the floor and prepare to dance. Acknowledging your partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an entrance.
- Exit - Pre-choreographed segment of a performance, where competitors leave the floor. Acknowledging your partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an exit.
- Lifts - Any movement lasting longer than a full beat of music where the feet of one partner are clearly off the floor and the other partner supports the lifted partner's weight.
- Props - Throw away skirts, shirts, scarfs, etc are considered props in this context and are not allowed. Anything other than what would be considered acceptable clothing.
- Routine - Any segment, which, in the opinion of the judges, consists of prearranged choreography including symmetric or complementary movements or footwork.
- Swing Content - includes West Coast, Hand Dance, Lindy hop and Shag.

### Relative Placement Scoring

This system used to determine winners in final rounds. It was adapted from the figure skating system and is now widely used at major dance competitions. It minimizes the impact of a rouge judge's mark and recognizes the most consistently scored entry. An equal numerical value is assigned to each Judge's raw scores, so that each Judge has an equal vote in the final outcome. A very detailed explanation of this system with examples can be found in the [World Swing Dance Council Library](#).