

# Easter Swing 2017 Competition Rules

Welcome to Easter Swing, and congratulations on choosing to compete! Our goal is to ensure you have a great time and learn and grow in West Coast Swing. We offer various competitions that allow you to dance and compete with other dancers from all around the world. These rules embody the latest in West Coast Swing dancing and competitions. Please take a few minutes to review these rules. You are responsible for reading, understanding, and knowing these rules. By competing at Easter Swing, you agree to these rules. You may direct any questions to our chief judge.

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## 1. Competitor Basics

You must have a 3-day convention ticket to compete. A waiver must be signed by each competitor prior to competing. You must be at least 15 years of age or have a parent or legal guardian written permission to compete. Certain competitions have particular minimum or maximum age requirements. We reserve the right to reclassify a competitor for any reason. You may not register for the same competition more than once.

Contestants meetings are available for you to learn more about the competitions and ask any questions to the Chief Judge and Contest Coordinator. These will be posted along with the competition schedule. These are highly recommended for any first-time competitor, first-time Easter Swing competitor, and competitors who have not competed in a long time. You are REQUIRED to attend one of the meetings if you have filed a petition and/or are dancing in a role that is not your typical role, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Chief Judge or Contest Coordinator.

We will make available a verification list of competitors outside the ballroom. You may use this opportunity to verify that you are in the correct competitions. If you find a discrepancy, notify the Contest Coordinator immediately.

To compete in any competition, you must know the basic West Coast Swing patterns.

## 2. Sportsmanship

The essence of competition is sportsmanship, both on and off the competition floor. This means that you treat all competitors, judges, DJs, emcees, staff, and spectators with the utmost respect. Examples include, but not limited to, challenging a judge regarding a score, not following the directions of the Contest Coordinator or staff, showing disapproval of a dance partner or music selection, and performing in a way that exhibits lewd conduct. Any poor sportsmanship behavior could result in a violation during scoring, removal from the competition, removal from the event, and/or banning from future Easter Swing events.

## 3. Petitions

We encourage you to compete with your peers at your respective competitive level. However, there may be times when it is appropriate for you to dance in a different division or competition. The petition process allows you to state why you wish to compete differently than the rules allow. Petition forms are available at the competition registration desk during competition registration desk hours.

Petitions will be reviewed by the Chief Judge and one or more representatives of the event (such as the Event Director or Contest Coordinator). You are required to attend the competitors meeting to find out the result of your petition, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Chief Judge or Contest Coordinator.

## 4. Behavior and Attire

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.

Keep in mind that all ages (including young dancers) will be present at our event, and that your performance will be recorded. Your attire and behavior must be appropriate for all ages. Any action that our judges believe would make them uncomfortable in a social dance setting (such as inappropriate touching or simulating sexual behavior) or inappropriate attire may result in a violation penalty.

## 5. Be Ready to Compete

Competition registration desk hours will be posted at the competition registration desk and in the program. You are responsible for registering before the deadline and paying the applicable entry fee(s). If you are dancing with a partner, you must know your partner's name and pay the full entry fee for that contest at the time of registering.

You must be in the ballroom at least 15 minutes prior to the start of your competition with your event bib. Should you lose your bib, we may charge a \$10 replacement fee. Our competition staff will check you in prior to the contest starting and may line you up to run the contests smoothly. If you are not in the ballroom when your name is announced before the competition starts, you will forfeit your contest and will not be refunded the entry fee. You may withdraw from the competition prior to the contest registration deadline and be refunded your entry fee; however, if you withdraw after the registration deadline, you will forfeit your entry fee.

## 6. Judging Definitions, Criteria, Decisions, and Penalties

### 6.1. Judging Definitions

**Basic West Coast Swing 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.

**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, Rising Star, and YASDA Junior Routine.

**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. This definition does 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. Lifts are prohibited in all competitions except Showcase, Rising Star, and YASDA Junior Routine.

### 6.2. Judging Criteria

1. Timing
  - a. 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. Technique
  - a. 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.

3. Teamwork
  - a. 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.
4. Choreography
  - a. 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 to provide variety and contrast.
5. Musical Interpretation
  - a. 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
  - a. 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.

### 6.3. Judging Decisions

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. Each judge makes their own determination in recognizing swing patterns and swing content. Any grievances or problems should be reported to the Contest Coordinator or Chief Judge immediately.

### 6.4. Judging Penalties

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:

1. Error
  - a. An error is a minor and apparently unintentional breach of the rules.
  - b. Examples of errors include:
    - i. a brief and unintended loss of contact with your partner (where the rules require contact);
    - ii. a loss of balance; or
    - iii. a momentary loss of composure.
  - c. Errors may be penalized (or not) at the discretion of each judge observing the error.
2. Violation
  - a. A violation is a serious and apparently intentional breach of the rules. Examples of violations include:
    - i. Making a face or a rude comment expressing unhappiness with your draw of a particular partner or musical selection;
    - ii. Behaving disrespectfully toward your partner, another competitor, a spectator, or a judge;
    - iii. Wearing an inappropriate outfit or costume;
    - iv. Using prohibited choreography;
    - v. Performing a "trick" move that endangers your partner, other competitors, or spectators;

- vi. Choosing choreography that blatantly ignores or contradicts the phrasing of the music; or
- vii. Failing to include the required percentage of recognizable swing content in your dance.
- b. Judges may assign violations at their discretion, and may penalize a violation by a drop of one or more positions in their final placements. The penalty for a severe violation may include being dropped out of awards.
- c. A referee will be used during routines to ensure rules are followed. The Wayne Bott review system will be used when a referee flags a routine. The chief judge will assemble a review panel of 3 judges that includes the referee. Each individual panelist reviews the video to determine if a violation occurred. Judges may confer with one another to discuss the violation in question. Once the judges have decided, the majority (2 out of 3) carries. Violations will be dropped one or two placements.
- d. If the referee determines that a routine is less than five seconds over or under the time limit, no penalty will be applied (to allow for differences in music equipment). If a routine is more than five seconds over or under the time limit, it 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 Trials” on our weekend schedule). It is your responsibility to ensure that your routine meets the time requirement.

## 6.5. Music Selection

All music, except for routines, will be chosen by the DJs at random. Under no circumstances shall music be played that favors any specific competitors.

If you are competing in a routine division that requires you to supply your own music, you must turn this in to the Chief or routine DJ during or before floor trials of the day of the contest, unless prior arrangements with the Chief or routine DJ are made. Failure to turn in your music may result in contest disqualification. You should also have a backup of your music on a separate medium and brought to Easter Swing should your primary copy not work properly. The DJ will play your music as is, without any modifications. You are responsible for adjusting any tempo or cutting the music as your routine deems appropriate with the music that is submitted.

The DJ will accept music provided on a USB flash drive in MP3 format. If you have a different format, you must provide an acceptable format for the routine DJ and must make plans with the routine DJ before floor trials.

## 6.6. Music Restarts

Music may be restarted in the cases of the DJ playing the wrong song, clothing breakage that could cause an injury if not addressed immediately, or the sound system incurs a fault (such as the music skipping). Any of these and other cases should be stated to the Chief Judge before you walk off the dance floor, if you request a restart. Dissatisfaction with your performance in any way is not an acceptable restart reason.

## 7. Competitions

No competitor may dance with the same partner multiple times in competitions that require a couple to register together. All non-NASDE and non-YASDA competitions require at least 5 couples (or 5 leaders and 5 followers in Jack and Jills). We reserve the right to cancel a competition if the minimum entry requirement is not met (refunds will be given in the event of a contest cancellation). Prize money for any competition that fails to meet the entry requirements may be adjusted or eliminated.

If you have a change in partnership, please notify the Contest Coordinator immediately. Any challenges regarding a competitor or partnership competing at a certain level must be made before the finals round for the contest has been called to the floor. If the event discovers an error before preliminaries has been called to the floor, the competitor or partnership may be reassigned to the correct division without notice. It is your responsibility that you are signed up for the correct division according to the rules.

Decisions as to use of heats or spotlights and length of performance are the prerogative of the Event Director and Chief Judge.

We hire judges based on their knowledge and professionalism. Any challenges to a judge's professionalism must include documented historical proof and presented to the Chief Judge and Event Director.

### 7.1. World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Jack and Jills

Easter Swing is a proud registry event with the World Swing Dance Council (WSDC). The WSDC tracks points for competitors through a variety of competitions. Competitors that are in the registry are assigned a WSDC Registry Number. You can find more details about the WSDC and its registry at <http://www.swingdancecouncil.com>.

Easter Swing is allowing competitors the opportunity to dance in one (1) skill-leveled division as a leader or follower. Please note that the WSDC will track points if you compete at your current level as a leader or follower. For instance, if you are an Advanced leader, you will only obtain points if you compete as a leader or follower in Advanced (and receive points for that specific role). You may petition at Easter Swing to compete in a different division and the WSDC will recognize placements if you are competing one level up or down. So in another scenario, if you have points as an Advanced leader and you petition successfully and compete as an Intermediate follower, the WSDC will track any points obtained.

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. We will honor a competitor's choice to dance in one division lower if the competitor has accumulated no points in their earned division within the last 5 years. It is highly recommended that each competitor review his or her points on the Jack and Jill Competitor's Points Registry at <http://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.

Dancing must consist of at least 90% swing content. If there is a preliminary, quarter-finals, or semi-finals round, contestants will dance in groups with several different partners and judged individually. In the finals round, the couple will be judged together. NASDE points are given for the All-Stars and Champions Jack and Jills. WSDC points are awarded in accordance with WSDC guidelines.

#### 7.1.1. Newcomer Jack and Jill

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

1. You have not earned any WSDC points; OR
2. You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.

#### 7.1.2. Novice Jack and Jill

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

1. You have earned fewer than 15 Novice WSDC points; OR
2. You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.

#### 7.1.3. Intermediate Jack and Jill

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

1. You already compete at the Intermediate level and have earned less than 30 Intermediate WSDC points (and no points at a higher level); OR
2. You have earned 15 or more Novice WSDC points; OR
3. You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.

#### 7.1.4. Advanced Jack and Jill

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); OR
2. You have earned 30 or more Intermediate WSDC points; OR
3. You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.

#### 7.1.5. All-Stars Jack and Jill

This division is part of the NASDE Jack and Jill Tour and for dancers with significant competition experience and success at the national level. Dancers who win or place in this division will earn NASDE Jack and Jill points. For information on the NASDE Jack and Jill Tour, please visit <http://nasde.net/rules.php>.

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-Star or higher points in the past three years; OR
2. You have earned 45 or more Advanced points within the past three years; OR
3. You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.

#### 7.1.6. Champions Jack and Jill

This division is part of the NASDE Jack and Jill Tour and intended for the top competitors. Dancers who win or place in this division will earn NASDE Jack and Jill points. For information on the NASDE Jack and Jill Tour, please visit <http://nasde.net/rules.php>.

You may enter this division if any of the following apply:

1. You have danced in an Invitational Jack and Jill at Easter Swing since 1995; OR
2. You have placed in the top 5 places in a Champions Jack and Jill at 3 or more NASDE events in the last 3 years; OR
3. You have won 1st place in any NASDE Classic or Showcase competition in the past 3 years; OR
4. You submit a successful petition to dance at this level.

#### 7.1.7. Juniors Jack and Jill

This is an aged-based division, regardless of level. You may enter this division if you are under 18 years old. If you qualify for another WCS division, you may enter the Juniors division AND the other division.

#### 7.1.8. Masters Jack and Jill

This is an aged-based division, regardless of level. You may enter this division if you are at least 50 years old. If you qualify for another WCS division, you may enter the Masters division AND the other division.

### 7.2. Other Jack and Jills

Placements in these divisions are not awarded any points through the WSDC.

#### 7.2.1. Easter Egg Scramble (All American)

This division is intended for any level of dancer. It encourages dancers to compete with other dancers at any level. A competitor may enter this division as either a lead or follow in addition to any other qualified Jack and Jill division.

Competitors are paired together randomly by the scorekeeper before the contest begins. Couples, once paired, will remain a couple and dance together throughout all rounds of this division. After the preliminary round, if either competitor of the partnership does not check in before the round starts, the couple will be scratched from competing.

If there is an unbalanced number of competitors, the scorekeeper will randomly select competitors from the smaller role to dance more than once. If the competitor is promoted to the next round from both partnerships, both partnerships will dance in the next round but in different heats.

### 7.3. Strictly Swings

In our Strictly Swings, competitors must register at the highest role level of the partnership, based on, first, what Jack and Jill division(s) the competitors are competing in or, second, the Easter Swing Jack and Jill division criteria. You are not allowed to dance in a Strictly division lower than your Jack and Jill division. For instance, if one partner is an Advanced Jack and Jill leader and the other partner is a Novice Jack and Jill follower, the couple must register in the Advanced/All-Stars division. If one partner is a Champions Jack and Jill follower and the other is an All-Stars Jack and Jill leader, the couple must register in the Champions division. The roles, once defined at contest registration, may not be changed before, during, or in between rounds of the competition.

A competitor can dance in a different leveled Strictly Swing partnership in the opposite role that they qualify for, according to the WSDC point. For instance, the Advanced leader may dance as a Novice follow with an Intermediate leader; that partnership would register as a Novice/Intermediate level couple. If any points are obtained at a higher level for that competitor's role, for example, the Advanced leader wanting to compete as a Novice/Intermediate follower has Advanced follower points, the competitor will not be able to dance as a Novice/Intermediate Strictly Swing follower.

Dancing must consist of at least 90% swing content. Pre-choreographed moves are not allowed; choreography that is "on the fly" and strictly lead and follow is the essence of this division. Drops, leans, circular movements, and other partner weight support moves are allowed if both partners keep at least one foot on the floor. Physical contact between partners must be maintained except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.

Appropriate attire is highly recommended. No costumes allowed. 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."

#### 7.3.1. Novice/Intermediate Strictly Swing

No competitor in their role may compete in their leveled Jack and Jill higher than the Intermediate level.

#### 7.3.2. Advanced/All-Stars Strictly Swing

No competitor in their role may compete in their leveled Jack and Jill higher than the All-Star level.

#### 7.3.3. Champions Strictly Swing

This division is eligible for NASDE Tour points. For information on the NASDE Tour, please visit <http://nasde.net/rules.php>. At least one competitor in their role must be eligible to compete in their leveled Jack and Jill at either All-Stars or Champions.

#### 7.3.4. Sophisticated Strictly Swing

All competitors must be at least 35 years old. If you qualify for another Strictly Swing division, you may enter the Sophisticated division AND the other qualified divisions but with different partners.

### 7.4. NASDE Routines

NASDE sponsors the swing dance competition divisions of Showcase and Classic to help promote, preserve, and improve swing dancing. The objective is to provide a competitive performance venue for the various unique styles of swing that have developed across the nation to include the Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing, to name a few. Couples are comprised of a male leader and female follower.

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 unsportsmanlike. 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.

#### 7.4.1. Statement of Swing

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

#### 7.4.2. Classic

This division highlights swing dancing that allows choreography with an “on the ground” approach to the dance. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.

Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the referee. Competitors select their own music. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.

Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music. 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. At most five (5) partner weight support moves are permitted. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries. Breakaways may be no more than 8 beats.

This division requires at least 80% swing content.

#### 7.4.3. Showcase

This division highlights swing dancing that allows choreography with flair toward lifts and other partner weight support moves. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.

Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the referee. Competitors select their own music. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.

Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries. Break-a-ways 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. There are no maximum number of lifts.

This division requires at least 60% swing content.

#### 7.5. Rising Star

This division highlights swing dancing by first-time or developing routine dancers that allows choreography with flair toward lifts and other partner weight support moves. Costumes are required. Couples can be comprised of any gender leader and follower.

A competitor is not allowed to compete in this division if he/she has placed or made a qualifying final of a NASDE Classic or Showcase division, has won the Rising Star Tour or US Open Rising Star division, is competing in the Champions Jack and Jill at Easter Swing, or has competed in All-Stars for longer than one year.

Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Competitors select their own music. Time and judging start at the first movement of performance with or without music, as determined by the referee

Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries. Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted but must be no longer than 8 beats. Lifts are optional. A maximum of 5 partner weight support moves are allowed (lifts are not considered weight supported).

This division requires at least 70% swing content.

## 7.6. YASDA Juniors Routine

Our YASDA competition (part of the YASDA tour) is designed to highlight skills in choreographed swing dancing with a chosen partner. Competitors enter as couples, supply their own music, and perform a routine prepared in advance.

To enter, at least one of the partners must be 14 to 17 years old. Couples where the other partner is ages 6 through 13 may also enter this division. Couples where the other partner is age 18 or 19 may petition to enter this division if the partnership was established when both partners were ages 14 through 17 years old.

Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the referee. Competitors select their own music. Time and judging start at the first movement of performance with or without music.

Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries. Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted. Lifts and partner weight support moves are allowed with no minimums.

This division requires at least 60% swing content.