

COMPETITION RULES - Nordic WCS Championships

General eligibility requirements

To compete at the event, you must:

- Have a pass eligible for comps
- Register for each competition by the official entry deadline. (See the weekend schedule)
- Pick up your bib number during comp registration and wear it (unless asked otherwise by the event)
- Pay any required entry fees.
- Meet all other specific entry requirements outlined in these rules.

Multiple registrations

Multiple registrations are allowed. You may choose to enter any competitions for which you meet the specific entry requirements. However, if you enter more than one couples competition (Strictly Swing Intermediate + Open), you must dance with a different partner each time. It is possible to compete in one skill level division and additionally in any open/age-based divisions. For WSDC Jack & Jill competitions, it is possible to compete in 2 skill level division under some circumstances. Please refer to the official WSDC rules for details.

Dancing in a non-traditional role

You are allowed to enter any competition in any role. You can dance different competitions in different roles. You cannot dance the same competition in both roles. You can only dance in Newcomers if you don't have any WSDC Newcomer points in that specific role.

Submitting a petition

If you want to enter a competition for which you do not meet the entry requirements, or want to change divisions, you should submit a petition. When you register, request a petition form. Fill out the form and submit it before the registration deadline. Include contact information (such as your cell phone number or hotel room number) so staff may reach you during the event. The chief judge will review your petition and approve or deny your request. Our competition staff will notify you as soon as possible of the decision. If you are requesting to change divisions, you should be prepared to compete in the original division if your petition is denied. If you qualify for a higher division, but the points are not listed in the registry database yet, please fill out a petition and include the event, placement and tier of the competition as well as a contact for the event so we are able to verify.

Our verification of your eligibility

We will verify that you are eligible for the competitions you enter by checking the World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Points Registry and other sources of information, if applicable. In some cases (for example, if you submit a petition or do not have the required WSDC points), we may reassign you to a different division. (See worldsdc.com for details about points). If you have concerns that other contestants are entered in an incorrect division or are ineligible, please inform our chief judge privately, as soon as possible. We will investigate and take appropriate action, if necessary. If we determine before or during a competition that you have registered for the wrong division or are not eligible, we will reassign you to the correct division (if possible) or allow you to withdraw. If we discover your error after the finals, we may drop you (and your partner) out of awards. If we made the error and assigned you incorrectly, no penalty will be applied.

Your responsibilities as a competitor

- **Planning ahead** - You may register for competitions in advance or at the event (during times listed on the event schedule). If you register in advance, you should plan to pick up your bib number(s) at the event. Be sure to check for any last-minute changes to the schedule.
- **Knowing the rules** - You should read the rules carefully prior to the competition. You are responsible for following the rules whether or not you have read them. If you have any questions, you should ask them at the contestant meeting or contact our chief judge ahead of time.
- **Being prepared to compete** - You should be in the ballroom at least 15 minutes before your competition. During the competitions, we use marshalling to prepare the following heats prior dancing. Check which heat you are dancing in before the competition starts and follow the call for marshalling immediately. For Jack & Jill competitions, remember to bring your bib number. If you miss the competition (or withdraw after the registration deadline), you will forfeit your entry fee.
- **Reviewing your scores** - You may review this information to see how you did. If you are unable to review your scores at the event, please use the online version at <https://scoring.dance>

- **Using appropriate channels to communicate your concerns.** If you have questions or concerns about our competitions, you should use appropriate channels to share your concerns, such as at the contestant meeting or in private discussion with our chief judge. You are not allowed to confront, pressure, challenge, or argue with individual judges. If you harass or verbally abuse a judge or other competition official, we may disqualify you and may also ban you from competing at our events in the future.
- **Demonstrating good sporting conduct at all times.** You must demonstrate good sporting conduct at all times, 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 our chief judge, judging panel, or other competition officials deem inappropriate or disrespectful may result in a violation penalty or disqualification.

Dance requirements for competitions

The following dance requirements apply to all our competitions. If our judges determine that you have failed to meet one or more of these requirements, they may assign a violation penalty.

- **Minimum swing content guidelines.** This is a swing dance event. Therefore, our judges will expect to see recognizable swing content from both partners. Guidelines about swing content are provided under the format for each competition. Our judges will determine whether or not you have met our swing content requirement. If you fail to meet this requirement, you may earn a violation penalty.
- **Social dance skills emphasis.** Our Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing competitions are designed to showcase good social dance skills in spontaneous swing dancing. All dancing in these competitions should consist of lead/follow moves. Prearranged choreography are not allowed.
- **Connection.** Swing is a connected partner dance. You must maintain physical contact with your partner through out the dance, except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries. (Open Routine you may also break contact for acrobatic maneuvers.)
- **Partner weight support moves.** Like other patterns, these moves (tricks) will be judged according to the standard criteria of timing, teamwork, and technique. Any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out. We distinguish between two types of partner weight support moves: - "In the air" support moves: In these moves, both feet of one partner are clearly off the floor. Lifts, aerials, and some acrobatic maneuvers are examples. - "On the ground" support moves: In these moves, you and your partner both maintain physical contact with the floor. Drops, leans, circular movements, lever aged slides, and splits are examples. "On the ground" support moves are allowed in all competitions. However, any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out. NOTE: "In the air" support moves are NOT allowed under any circumstances and will result in point deduction and potential disqualification!
- **Appropriate behavior.** It's our desire to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without having to sacrifice 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 younger dancers) will be present at our event, and that your performance will be streamed live online and recorded. Any action that our judges believe would make dancers uncomfortable in a social dance setting may earn a violation penalty. Check with our chief judge in advance if you have any questions regarding the acceptability of your choreography.

Requesting a restart

This only applies to Spotlit dances. You may request a restart only in certain cases, such as:

- You break a shoe or lose a vital piece of clothing.
- The DJ plays the wrong music for your routine.
- The sound system fails during your dance. You may not request a restart simply because you are dissatisfied with your performance, partner, or music, or because you fail to remember part of your routine. You must request a restart prior to your departure from the floor, and our chief judge must approve your request.
- The chief judge may also call for a restart at any time.

Competition music

- Our competition DJ will select all songs for our Jack & Jill competitions. Songs for finals spotlight dances will be approximately the same length of time for each couple. The exact time of fade out is left to the DJ's discretion to maximize the effectiveness of the music. If our judges need more time to determine callbacks or final placements, our chief judge may ask our competition DJ to play additional music.

Judging criteria

You will be judged on the following criteria:

- **Timing.** Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Good timing includes not only dancing on the correct beat but finer distinctions such as whether you are dancing to the syncopated “swing” of the music. Your syncopations and footwork also need to be on time.
- **Teamwork.** Swing is a connected partner dance. Demonstrating this connection through lead/follow or action/reaction with your partner is an expected part of any swing dance competition. A balanced performance of give-and take with your partner should be your goal. Ignoring, disrespecting, or jeopardizing the safety of your partner indicates poor teamwork. Compensating and adjusting for your partner is an expected part of good teamwork.
- **Technique.** How well you execute the movements in your dance constitutes technique. Good technique includes clean execution and completion of dance elements such as control of balance and weight, foot placement, body lines, and spins and turns.
- **Choreography.** Choreography is the selection and order of movements and transitions during your dance. Such choreography may be spontaneous (for example, in a Jack & Jill) Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and the ability to match patterns and syncopations to the phrasing of the music. It also includes identifiable swing patterns in order to provide variety and contrast.
- **Musical interpretation.** Good musical interpretation consists of adjusting the flow of your dance to fit the style, tempo, mood, and rhythm variations in the music. You should strive to demonstrate the ability to hear and interpret nuances in the music throughout your dance.
- **Presentation.** Creating an atmosphere of excitement by inviting interest in your performance is the desired effect of good presentation. Good presentation begins with your selection of appropriate attire. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, it cannot substitute for good dancing. You should aim primarily for demonstrating 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 your dance is also an expected element of good presentation.

Jack & Jill

Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight skills in spontaneous West Coast Swing dancing with a variety of partners and music. A bit of “luck of the draw” comes into play as well. Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners and dance to music selected by the Head DJ.

Division based eligibility

To enter, you must be at least 13 years old. If you are under 18, you must have the consent of your parent or guardian to compete, and you should be comfortable social dancing with adults on a regular basis. We are offering skill and age divisions. There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division. You may choose to enter as either a “leader” or “follower.” There are no gender restrictions for your chosen role as long as you meet the following:

- You may enter only one Jack & Jill skill level division (Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars, Champions). You must remain in that same role throughout the competition (prelims, semifinals, and finals).
- You may enter only one Jack & Jill age division (Juniors, Sophisticated). You must remain in that same role throughout the competition (prelims, semifinals, and finals).
- In most cases, you should enter the highest division for which you qualify in your chosen role.
- If you want to enter a division for which you don’t meet the entry requirement, or want to change divisions, or believe you qualify for a higher division, you should submit a petition. For example, if previous placements are not recorded in the WSDC Points Registry, list them in your petition.
- If you are unclear about which division is right for you, check with our chief judge before you register.
- Support moves must be lead/follow social dance patterns that take the safety of your partner and other couples into consideration. Any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn a penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.
- Competition outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable. Appropriate attire is required.
- Depending on the number of competitors and by the WSDC rules, semi and quarter finals can be added to the comp schedule.
- During the preliminary and semifinal rounds you will dance in heats with several random partners selected. Although you will be judged individually on a callback basis, you must demonstrate good teamwork with all your partners to advance to the next round.
- If there is an imbalance in the number of leaders and followers, some contestants will dance twice. However, even if your name is not called, you should remain in the ballroom throughout the competition, in case any additional competitors are needed at the last minute to dance again.

- Our chief judge will determine the exact number of finalists after our scorer has tallied the callbacks.
- In the finals, we will use a random drawing (or some other random method) to determine your partner. No redraws will be permitted for any reason – it's luck of the draw. Finalists will be judged as couples.
- Additional all-skate dances in finals can be requested by the judges.

Jack & Jill WSDC divisions

WSDC Jack & Jill follow the official WSDC rules. If event rules and WSDC rules should be incompatible, WSDC rules supersede the event rules.

Skill level divisions

- Newcomer: no WSDC points at all / no WSDC points in that role for dual-dancers.
- Novice: max. 30 Novice points
- Intermediate: at least 15 Novice and max. 45 Intermediate points
- Advanced: at least 30 Intermediate points and max. 60 Advanced points
- All-Stars: Check the minimum requirement of the WSDC
- Champions: Check the minimum requirement of the WSDC

Age divisions

- Sophisticated: older than 35 years at the time of the competition
- Masters: older than 50 years at the time of the competition

Format

- All dancing in our WSDC competitions should be lead/follow. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
- Our judges will expect to see at least 90 percent recognizable swing content.
- You and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, breakaways, and recoveries.
- Support moves must be lead/follow social dance patterns that take the safety of your partner and other couples into consideration. Any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn a penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.
- Costumes are not allowed. However, competition outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable.
- Depending on the number of competitors and by the WSDC rules, semi and quarter finals can be added to the comp schedule.
- During the preliminary and semifinal rounds, you will dance in heats with random partners selection. Although you will be judged individually on a callback basis, you must demonstrate good teamwork with all your partners to advance to the next round.
- If there is an imbalance in the number of leaders and followers, some contestants will dance twice. However, even if your name is not called, you should remain in the ballroom throughout the competition, in case any additional competitors are needed at the last minute to dance again.
- Our chief judge will determine the exact number of finalists after our scorer has calculated the callbacks.
- In the finals, we will use a random drawing (or some other random method) to determine your partner. No redraws will be permitted for any reason – it's luck of the draw. Finalists will be judged as couples.
- Additional all-skate dances in finals can be requested by the judges.