

# Toronto Open Swing Dance Championships

## 2008 Competition Rules

### A. About our Event

2008 is the inaugural year for the Toronto Open Swing Dance Championships and we intend to make it an annual weekend dance event brought to you by Swing Plus Productions Ltd. located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Final decision on any matter related to our competition rests with the Event Directors on behalf of Swing Plus Productions Ltd.

Toronto Open Swing Dance Championship and Swing Plus Productions Ltd. are both members of the World Swing Dance Council (WSDC). For more information about the WSDC, visit [www.swingdancecouncil.com](http://www.swingdancecouncil.com)

### B. Our competition events

We are offering the following competitions for 2008:

#### **West Coast Swing Jack & Jill (random Partners)**

**Newcomer**

**Novice division**

**Intermediate division**

**Masters division (age 50+)**

**Advanced division**

#### **Rising Star – WCS Classic**

#### **Strictly West Coast Swing ( just dance )**

**Novice**

**Intermediate**

**Advanced**

#### **West Coast Teams**

#### **Lindy Jack & Jill (Random partners)**

**Novice**

**Intermediate**

**Advanced**

#### **Lindy Showcase ( routines )**

#### **Strictly Lindy ( just dance )**

**Novice**

**Intermediate**

**Advanced**

#### **Strictly Balboa**

#### **Lindy Teams**

#### **Pro Am - Male / Female Lindy & WCS**

#### **Novice & Intermediate**

#### **Cabaret**

### C. Qualifying to Compete at our event

**1. General requirements for competitors.** To compete at our event, you must:

- (a) Have a full weekend package ticket;
- (b) Register for each competition by the official entry deadline ( See the weekend schedule );
- (c) Pay any required entry fees;
- (d) Attend all mandatory competitor meetings; and
- (e) Meet all other specific entry requirements outlined in these rules.

**2. Multiple registrations.** Multiple registrations are allowed. You may enter any competitions for which you meet the specific entry requirements. However, please note that:

- (a) You may enter each competition only once.
- (b) In competitions with multiple divisions (West Coast Swing Jack & Jill, Strictly Swing ) you may enter only one division.
- (c) If you enter more than one couples competition (Strictly Swing, Strictly Lindy, Lindy Showcase) you must dance with a different partner in each competition.

**3. Age requirements.** You must meet the specific age requirements to enter our competitions. Proof of age may be required when you register to compete.

**4. Waiver form.** Before you compete, you must sign the appropriate legal waiver on the entry form. You will **NOT** be permitted to compete without a signed waiver form. (If you are under 18, your parent or guardian must sign the waiver for you.)

## **D. Entering our Jack & Jill competitions**

Our Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight skills in spontaneous swing dancing and the ability to dance well with a variety of partners. 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 in advance by our competition DJ.

To enter our Jack & Jill divisions (except Masters), you must be at least 13 years old. (If you are under 18, you must have your parent or guardian's consent. And you should be comfortable social dancing with adults on a regular basis.)

Male competitors must enter as 'leaders' and female competitors must enter as 'followers'.

**1. West Coast Swing Jack & Jill competitions.** We are offering five WCS divisions. You may only enter one division. (You may also choose to enter our Lindy Jack & Jill competition.) There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division.

We use the World Swing Dance Council Points Registry to determine eligibility for each WCS division. In most cases you should enter the highest division for which you qualify. However, we recommend that you continue to compete in a lower division until you have earned the WSDC points to move up AND have at least one 1<sup>st</sup> place win.

**1a. Newcomer Jack & Jill** This division is intended for dancers with little or no prior competition experience. To enter this division you should know at least the basic patterns listed under the Novice Jack & Jill below and have accumulated 0 – 4 points in previous competitions.

**1b. Novice Jack & Jill.** This division is intended for dancers with little or no prior competition experience at the national level and have accumulated 0 – 19 Novice points. To enter this division, you should know at least the following basic patterns: starter's step, basic throwout, tuck and turn throwout, underarm turn. Left side pass, right side pass, push break, whip, lock whip, whip to closed, and whip to inside turn, outside turn, and behind-the-back hand change variations.

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

- (a) You are relatively new to competition and haven't earned any WSDC points; OR
- (b) You have earned fewer than 20 Novice/Newcomer, or Junior points in the past five years; OR
- (c) You have earned 20 or more Novice/Newcomer, or Junior points (and no points at a higher level) but have not won 1<sup>st</sup> place in a Novice Jack & Jill competition; OR
- (d) You submit a successful petition to compete at this level (see section J).

**1c. Intermediate Jack & Jill.** This division is intended for dancers with some previous competition experience and success at the national level. You may compete in this division if ANY of the following apply;

- (a) You already compete at the Intermediate level and have earned Intermediate points (and no points at a higher level) in the past five years; OR
- (b) You have earned 20 or more Novice/Newcomer or Junior points (Including at least one 1<sup>st</sup> place win) and are ready to move up to the Intermediate level; OR
- (c) You submit a successful petition to compete at this level (see section J).

**1d, Masters, Jack & Jill.** 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 patterns).

Note: If you qualify for another WCS division, you must choose whether to enter Masters division OR the other division. You may enter only one WCS division.

**1e. Advanced Jack & Jill.** This division is intended for dancers with significant competition experience and success at the national level. You may enter this division if ANY of the following apply:

- (a) You already compete at the Advanced level and have earned Advanced points (and no points at a higher level) in the past five years; OR
- (b) You have earned 30 or more Intermediate points (including at least one 1<sup>st</sup> place win) and are ready to move up to the Advanced level; OR
- (c) You submit a successful petition to compete at this level (see section J).

**If Champions Jack & Jill.** If offered this division is intended for the top national level WCS competitors. You may compete in this division if ANY of the following apply:

- (a) You already compete at the Champions level and have finished in the top five places in three or more Champions or Invitational Jack & Jill competitions in the past five years; OR
- (b) You have won 1<sup>st</sup> place in any NASDE Classic or Showcase competition in the past five years; OR
- (c) You have taught a swing dance workshop as an invited instructor at competitions within a 400 mile radius of Toronto; OR
- (d) You submit a successful petition to compete at this level (see section J).

**2. Lindy Jack & Jill.** We are offering three Lindy divisions. You may enter only one division. ( You may also choose to enter our West Coast Swing Jack & Jill competition.) There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division.

**2a Novice Lindy Jack & Jill.** This division is intended for dancers with little or no prior competition experience at the national level. You should have good Lindy basics including underarm turns ( inside and outside), throwouts, and behind the back hand change variations.

**2b Intermediate Lindy Jack & Jill.** This division is intended for dancers with some previous competition experience and success at the national level. You may compete in this division if:

- (a) You already compete at the Intermediate level; OR
- (b) You have at least one 1<sup>st</sup> place win and are ready to move up to the Intermediate level;

**2c Advanced Lindy Jack & Jill.** This division is intended for the dancers with significant competition experience and success at the national level. You may compete in this division if:

- (a) You already compete at the Advanced level; OR
- (b) You have at least one 1<sup>st</sup> place win and are ready to move up to the Advanced level.

## **E. Entering our Strictly WCS competitions**

Our Strictly West Coast Swing competitions are designed to highlight skills in spontaneous WCS dancing with a chosen partner. Competitors enter as a couple and dance to music selected in advance by our Competition DJ.

We are offering three divisions. You may enter only one division. You must enter the highest division for which you or your partner qualifies. There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division.

To enter you must be at least 13 years old. ( If you are under 18, you must have your parent or guardian's consent.)

If you are entering other couples competitions, you must dance with a different partner in each competition.

Because you choose you own partner there are no restrictions on gender or lead. Traditional and non-traditional couples are welcome. You and your partner may choose lead, follow, or switch roles during your dance.

**1. Novice Strictly WCS.** This division is intended for dancers with limited competition experience at the national level. You must enter this division if you AND your partner both qualify for the Novice WCS Jack & Jill division under our rules (see section D).

**2. Intermediate Strictly WCS.** This division is intended for dancers with some previous competition experience and success at the national level. You must enter this division if you OR your partner qualify for the Intermediate WCS Jack & Jill division (and neither partner qualifies for our Advanced, All-Stars, or Champions WCS Jack & Jill division) under our rules (see section D).

**3. Advanced Strictly WCS.** This division is for dancers with significant competition experience and success at the national level. You must enter this division if you OR your partner qualify for the Advanced or All-Stars WCS Jack & JILL division ( and neither partner qualifies for our Champions WCS Jack & Jill division) under our rules ( see section D).

## **F. Entering our Strictly Lindy competition**

Our Strictly Lindy Competition is designed to highlight skills in spontaneous Lindy dancing with a chosen partner. Competitors enter as a couple and dance to Lindy music selected in advance by our Competition DJ.

We are offering three divisions. You may enter only one division. You must enter the highest division for which you or your partner qualifies. There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division.

To enter you must be at least 13 years old. ( If you are under 18, you must have your parent or guardian's consent.)

If you are entering other couples competitions, you must dance with a different partner in each competition.

Because you choose your own partner there are no restrictions on gender or lead. Traditional and non-traditional couples are welcome. You and your partner may choose lead, follow, or switch roles during your dance.

**1. Novice Strictly Lindy.** This division is intended for dancers with limited competition experience at the national level. You must enter this division if you AND your partner both qualify for the Novice Lindy Jack & Jill division under our rules (see section D).

**2. Intermediate Strictly Lindy.** This division is intended for dancers with some previous competition experience and success at the national level. You must enter this division if you OR your partner qualify for the Intermediate Lindy Jack & Jill division (and neither partner qualifies for our Advanced Lindy Jack & Jill division) under our rules (see section D).

**3. Advanced Strictly Lindy.** This division is for dancers with significant competition experience and success at the national level. You must enter this division if you OR your partner qualify for the Advanced Lindy Jack & JILL division.

## **G. Submitting a petition**

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.

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. When you register, write a brief explanation of the reason(s) for your request on the back of the entry form and submit it with your entry fee before the contest registration deadline.

Our Competition Director ( or other 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. Our Competition Director 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.

## **H. Our verification of your eligibility**

We will verify that you are eligible for the competitions you enter by checking the 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.

If you have concerns that other contestants are entered in an incorrect division or are ineligible, please inform our Competition Director, Chief Judge, or Contestant Representative 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 will drop you out of the awards. If we made the error and assigned you incorrectly, no penalty will be applied.

## **I. Our responsibilities as the organizer**

**1. Selecting the competition officials.** We will select all competition officials in advance, including a panel of judges, Chief Judge, Contestant Representative, Scorer, MC, Competition DJ, and Timekeeper. We will provide the names of these officials prior to the event on our flyers and web site. We will announce the judges for each competition at the start of the competition.

**2. Appointing a Competition Director.** We will appoint a Competition Director as our official representative at the event. Our Competition Director (in consultation with the Chief Judge, Contestant Representative, and other competition official) will clarify any competition related questions before and during the event.

**3. Determining the rules and schedule.** We will determine the rules for our competition and post them in advance on our Website. We will also post a tentative schedule listing the times for all meetings, competitions and awards. We will follow our announced rules and schedule as much as possible. If we need to make any last minute changes, we will announce them at the event.

**4. Registering contestants and verifying eligibility.** Entry forms will be available in advance on our Web site and during the event at our contest registration desk. (see our weekend schedule for hours). We will verify that you are eligible for each competition you enter.

**5. Holding all competitions, or modifying them if necessary.** We will do everything we can to hold all our competitions as planned. If necessary, we may extend the registration deadline or change the eligibility requirements ( for example, by combining divisions ) if we receive insufficient entries. If we must cancel a competition, we will refund your entry fee, and we may invite you to perform an exhibition instead.

**6. Scoring the results.** We will select a qualified Scorer. We will use callbacks for all preliminary and semifinal heats, and relative placement for all finals. ( A detailed explanation of callbacks and relative placement will be available on our Web site and at the contest registration desk.) Our Scorer will post the judges' callbacks and final placement after the award ceremony.

## **J. Your responsibilities as a competitor**

**1. Planning ahead.** 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 when you arrive for any last minute changes to our schedule.

**2. Knowing the rules.** 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 Director ahead of time.

**3. Attending contestant meetings.** You must attend the contestant meeting for each competition you have entered ( see the weekend schedule for times ) The purpose of the meeting is to ensure that each competition runs smoothly. We will hold a roll call to check that our list of contestants is correct and complete. We will introduce the competition officials and take care of any business (such as drawing for dance order, or drawing the names of contestants who will dance twice to balance the number of leaders and followers in a Jack & Jill preliminary round) We will also announce any last minute schedule changes and answer your questions.

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. For the couples competitions (Strictly Lindy, Strictly WCS ) you or your partner may represent both of you at the meeting. However, both of you are responsible for matters discussed at the meeting

## **4. being prepared to compete**

You should be in the ballroom at least ten 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). If you miss the competition or withdraw after the registration deadline, you will forfeit your entry fee.

## **5. Demonstrating good sporting conduct at all times.**

You must demonstrate good sporting conduct both on and off the competition floor. This includes treating your partner, 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.

## **6. Using only 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 contestant meetings or private discussions with our Competition Director, Chief Judge, or Contestant Representative. You are not allowed to pressure, challenge, or argue with our judges. If you harass or verbally abuse a judge or other competition official, we will disqualify you and may also ban you from competing at our event in the future.

**7. Checking how you did.** Our Scorer will post the judges' callbacks and final placements after the awards. You may review this information for approximately one hour after the awards to see how you did.( If you are unable to review posted scores at the event, contact our Competition Director after you get home.)

## **K. General requirements for our competitions**

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

**1. Minimum swing content requirements.** This is a swing dance event. Therefore, our judges will expect to see a minimum swing content in all our competitions, ( See the NASDE statement of swing and recognized swing styles in section O.) Specific guidelines about swing content are provided under the format for each competition. It is at the judges' discretion to determine whether or not you have met our swing content requirements. Failure to meet this requirement may earn a violation penalty.

**2. Social dance skills emphasis.** Our Jack & Jill, Strictly WCS and Strictly Lindy 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 is not allowed.

**3. Connection.** Swing is a connected partner dance. You must maintain physical contact with your partner throughout the dance, except for spins. Turns, short breakaways, and recoveries. ( In strictly Lindy you may also break contact for acrobatic maneuvers.)

**4. Partner weight support moves ('tricks').** Advanced dancers sometimes use partner weight support moves to add excitement to a performance. Like other patterns, these moves will be judged according to the standard criteria of timing, teamwork, and technique. Any moves that the judges deems unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

We distinguish between two types of partner weight support moves:

**4a. "In the air" support moves:** In these moves, the feet of one partner are clearly off the floor. Lifts, Aerials, and some acrobatic maneuvers are examples. "In the air" support moves are allowed only in Strictly Lindy.

**4b. "On the ground" support moves.** In these moves, you and your partner both maintain physical contact with the floor. Drops, leans, circular movements, leveraged slides, and splits are examples. "On the ground" support moves are allowed in all competitions. However, any moves that the judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

**5. Appropriate behaviour 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 to put on a good show ( including humour where appropriate) but within the context of presenting solid dance fundamentals.

Comedy routines ( for example, where a couple dances poorly on purpose for comic effect) are NOT allowed.

Our Competition Director or Chief Judge must approve, in advance, the use of any props in a routine.

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 behaviour) may earn a violation penalty.

Check with our Competition Director, Chief Judge, or Contestant Representative in advance if you have any questions regarding the acceptability of your choreography or competition attire.

### **L. Requesting a restart**

You may request a restart only in certain special cases such as: you break a shoe or lose a vital piece of clothing; our DJ plays the wrong music ( or uses incorrect pitch control ) for your routine; or our 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 your part of the routine.

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.

### **M. Your competition music**

**1. Music for Jack & Jill, Strictly Lindy, and Strictly WCS competitions.** Our competition DJ will select all music in advance for our Jack & Jill, Strictly Lindy and Strictly WCS competitions. Music 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 the judges need more time to determine their callbacks or final placements, the Chief Judge may request that additional music be played.

## **N. Our Judging criteria**

You will be judged on the following criteria:

**1. Timing.** Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Good timing included 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.

**2. 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 component of good teamwork.

**3. Technique.** How well you execute the movements in your dance constitutes technique. Good technique includes clean execution of dance elements such as control of balance and weight, foot placement, body lines, and spins and turns.

**4. 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 ) or prearranged in a routine. 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.

**5. Music 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.

**6. 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 performance.

## **O. Definitions**

**1. NASDE statement of swing.** ( To 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, double, triple, delayed and blank rhythm units. The 6-beat patterns include ( but are not limited to ) passes, under arm 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.

**2. Recognized styles of swing dancing.** The following are some common names for styles of swing dancing allowed in our competitions: Balboa, Bal-swing, Bop, Carolina Shag, Charleston, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jazz Spaz, Jitterbug, Jive, Lindy, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, Savoy Style Lindy, Smooth Lindy and West Coast Swing. If you dance a style of swing not listed here, you may request that we add it by talking to our Competition Director, Chief Judge, or Contestant Representative before entry deadline.

**3. Acrobatic maneuver.** An acrobatic maneuver is any move where a dancer independently passes his or her legs or body over and across the plane of either partner's head. Acrobatic maneuvers illustrate gymnastic abilities that are not normally part of swing patterns in social dancing. Back-flips, cartwheels, and deep backbends are examples. Acrobatic maneuvers are allowed only in Strictly Lindy, Lindy Showcase, and Showcase. ( when offered ).

**4. Aerial.** An aerial is any move where one partner is lifted with the assistance of the other partner and the head and torso of the lifted partner is in a position higher than the waist of the supporting partner. Aerials are allowed only in Strictly Lindy, Lindy Showcase, and Showcase ( when offered ).

**5. Breakaway.** A breakaway is any set of symmetrical or complementary movements or footwork executed after a couple intentionally breaks contact. ( Breaking contact for free spins or turns is not considered a breakaway.) Short breakaways are allowed in all our competitions. However, the judges may mark down excessive use of breakaways for lack of variety.

**6. Costume.** A costume is any attire specifically designed for dance routines and that would not be worn for social dancing. Costumes are allowed in Lindy Showcase, Classic, and Showcase ( when offered ). (Matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are not considered costumes and are allowed, although not required, in Strictly Lindy and Strictly WCS.)

**7. Entrance.** An Entrance is the initial, pre-choreographed segment of a performance, where competitors formally enter the floor and prepare to dance. Formal entrances are allowed only in Lindy Showcase, Classic, and Showcase ( when offered ). Acknowledging your partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an entrance.

**8. Exit.** An exit is the final, pre-choreographed segment of a performance, where competitors formally leave the floor. Formal exits are allowed only in Lindy Showcase, Classic, and Showcase ( when offered ) Acknowledging your partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an exit.

**9. Lift.** A lift is any move 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 other partners weight. Lifts are allowed only in Strictly Lindy, Lindy Showcase, and Showcase ( when offered ). The following syncopations and patterns are not considered lifts: flea hops, bunny hops, heel clicks, Flying Lindy and it's adaptations to other swing styles, jumps over the leg of a partner, and leveraged slides.

**10. Routine.** A routine is any dance performance or segment using prearranged choreography rather than spontaneous lead/follow moves. Routines are allowed only in Lindy Showcase, Classic, and Showcase ( when offered ) Coordinated footwork or mirror patterns from Carolina Shag are not considered a routine.

**11. Side-by-side.** A side-by-side is any set of symmetrical or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple that is not part of a recognizable lead/follow swing dance pattern. Such segments are often executed with the partners next to each other, both facing the judges ( i.e. side-by-side ), but segments are often executed in other positions ( e.g. back-to-back, open position, closed position ) are included in this definition for the purpose of these rules. Side-by-sides are allowed in all our competitions. However, the judges may mark down excessive use of side-by-side for lack of variety.

## **P. Penalties for errors and violations**

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.** 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 requires 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.

**2. Violation.** A violation is a serious and apparently intentional breach of the rules. Examples of violations are:  
(a) Making a face or 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) Competing while intoxicated or under the influence of mood altering drugs;  
(e) Using prohibited choreography, such as a lift in a Classic routine;  
(f) Performing a 'trick' move that endangers your partner, other competitors, or spectators;  
(g) Choosing choreography that blatantly ignores or contradicts the phrasing of the music; or  
(h) Failing to include the required percentage of recognizable swing content in your dance.

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 the awards. ( For Classic and Showcase couples this may include being dropped to 11<sup>th</sup> place so that no NASDE points would be earned.)

**3. Time Violation for routines.** 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 ). If your routine is more than five seconds over or under the time limit, you will be assigned a violation penalty.

The Chief Judge will determine the number of places to be dropped based on the magnitude of the violation. The penalty for a severe violation may include being dropped out of the awards. 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 the weekend schedule). It is your responsibility to ensure that your routine meets the time requirements.

**All decisions of our competition officials are final. No appeal will be allowed.**

### **Q. Format for our Jack & Jill competitions**

1. Dancing in our Jack & Jill competitions should be lead/follow. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed. Note that the general requirements apply ( see section K )

2. Our judges will expect to see at least 90% recognizable swing content. For our WCS Jack & Jill divisions, a majority of the swing content must be West Coast Swing. For our Lindy Jack & Jill, a majority of the swing content must be in a Lindy style ( Savoy, Smooth, Hollywood, etc.).

3. You and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.

4. ‘In the air’ partner weight support moves ( lifts, aerials ) and acrobatic maneuvers and NOT allowed. ‘On the ground’ support moves ( such as drops ) are allowed ( see section K). However, you and your partner must both maintain physical contact with the floor during support moves. Support moves must be lead/follow social dance patterns that take the safety of your partner and other couples into consideration. Any moves that the judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

5. Costumes are not allowed. However, competition outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable. Appropriate attire is required.

6. For the Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced WCS divisions, we plan to hold three rounds: preliminaries, semifinals, and finals. For the Masters WCS, All-Stars WCS, Champions WCS and Lindy divisions, we plan to hold two rounds: semifinals and finals. However, we may add to or omit a preliminary or semifinal round in any division, depending on the number of entries. At the contestant meeting, we will announce the number of rounds to be used.

7. During the preliminary and semifinal rounds, you will dance in heats with several partners selected randomly.

8. If there is an imbalance in the number of leaders and followers signed up for any division, we will ask some contestants to dance twice. However, even if your name is not drawn, you should remain in the ballroom throughout the competition, in case any additional competitors are needed at the last minute to dance again.

9. The Chief Judge will determine the exact number of finalists after the scorer has tallied the results of the callbacks.

10. 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.

11. For the Novice WCS, Intermediate WCS, Masters WCS, and Lindy divisions, couples in the finals will dance either in heats or in spotlight dances. We will announce the finals format at the contestant meeting.

12. For the Advanced WCS divisions, couples in the finals will dance in Spotlight dances.

### **R. Format for our Strictly WCS competition**

1. All dancing in the Strictly WCS competitions should be lead/follow, pre-choreographed routines are not allowed. Note that the general requirements apply. ( see section J ).

2. Our judges will expect to see at least 90% recognizable swing content.

3. You and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.

4. ‘In the air’ partner weight support moves (lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are NOT allowed. ‘ On the ground’ support moves ( such as drops) are allowed ( see section k). However you and your partner must maintain physical contact with the floor during support moves. Support moves must be lead/follow social dance patterns that take the safety of your partner and other couples into consideration. Any moves that the judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

5. Costumes are not allowed. However matching or complementary competition outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable. Appropriate attire is required.

8. The Chief Judge will determine the exact number of finalists after the scorer has tallied the results of the callbacks.

9. For the Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced Strictly WCS divisions, couples in the finals will dance either in heats or in spotlight dances. We will announce the finals format at the contestant meeting.

### **S. Format for our strictly lindy competition**

1. All Dancing in our Strictly Lindy competition should be lead/follow. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed. Note that the general requirements apply ( see section K )

2. Our judges will expect to see at least 90% recognizable swing content in a Lindy style (Savoy, Smooth, Hollywood etc.).

3. You and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, acrobatic maneuvers, short breakaways, and recoveries.

4. 'In the air' partner weight support moves ( lifts, aerials ) and acrobatic maneuvers and 'On the ground' support moves ( such as drops ) are allowed ( see section K). However support moves must be lead/follow social dance patterns that take the safety of your partner and other couples into consideration. Any moves that the judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

5. We may hold semifinal and final rounds, or finals only, depending on the number of entries. At the contestant meeting, we will announce the number of rounds to be used.

6. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary competition outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable. Appropriate attire is required.

7. During the semifinals, couples will be judged on a callback basis during heats.

8. The Chief Judge will determine the exact number of finalists after the scorer has tallied the results of the callbacks.

9. Couples in the finals will dance either in heats or in spotlight dances. We will announce the finals format at the contestant meeting.

### **T. Format for Lindy Showcase**

1. Routines performed in our Lindy Showcase competition should emphasize choreography that highlights one or more forms of Lindy Hop ( the original swing dance ). Patterns from related dances such as Balboa, Bal-swing, or Charleston may also be incorporated into the routine.

2. Our judges will expect to see at least 60% recognizable swing content in a Lindy style (Savoy, Smooth, Hollywood etc.). Note that the general requirements apply (see section k).

3. Your performance must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes, including and formal entrance or exit.

4. Time and judging start from the first moment of your performance ( with or without music ). You and your partner may make separate entrances.

5. Once you make contact, you and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, acrobatic maneuvers, short breakaways, and recoveries.

6. 'In the air' partner weight support moves ( lifts, aerials ) and acrobatic maneuvers and 'On the ground' support moves ( such as drops ) are allowed (but not required ).

7. Costumes are allowed and encouraged. Appropriate attire is required.

8. Music must be recorded on a one-track CD and supplied to the Competition DJ no later than the contestant meeting. Please furnish two identical copies of your music ( one for backup ) The copies must be marked with your names, the correct pitch control ( if applicable ) , and the competition you are entering. You are responsible for retaining additional practice copies.

9. You may reclaim your music from the Competition DJ after the competition. Any music not reclaimed will be discarded at the conclusion of the event.

10. Order of dance will be drawn during the contestant meeting.

#### **U. Format for our Cabaret Division**

This Division is open to any style of dance except Swing.

1. This division is as “Anything But Swing” division.
  - a. dance performance such as Jazz dancing, Salsa, Hustle, Hip Hop, Modern, Ballet, Latin, Ballroom etc is appropriate for this division.
2. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, breakaways, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are all allowed.
3. Theater arts routines are allowed.
4. Competitors who are 14 years of age and under must perform with an adult ( 18 years or older ) throughout the performance.
5. An entry may consist of a solo performer or multiple performers
6. Routines must be a minimum of 3 minutes but no more than 5 minutes.
7. Choreographed entrances and exits count towards the length of the routine. Exceeding the 5 minute maximum will result in a reduction in placement. Time begins as the first competitor enters the floor.
8. Competitors select their own music.
9. Costumes are required.
- 10 Minimum number of entries is 5.

#### **V. Entering our Strictly Triple Rhythm Swing competition**

Our Strictly Triple Rhythm Swing competitions are designed to highlight skills in spontaneous Jive or East Coast Swing dancing with a chosen partner, Competitors enter as a couple and dance to music selected in advance by our Competition DJ.

We are offering three divisions. You may enter only one division. You must enter the division for which you or your partner qualifies. There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division.

To enter you must be at least 13 years old. ( If you are under 18, you must have your parent or guardian’s consent.)

If you are entering other competitions, you must dance with a different partner in each competition.

Because you choose your own partner there are no restrictions on gender or lead. Traditional and non-traditional couples are welcome. You and your partner may choose lead, follow, or switch roles during your dance.

**1. Novice Strictly Triple Rhythm Swing.** This division is intended for dancers with limited competition experience at the national level.

**2. Intermediate Strictly Triple Rhythm Swing.** This division is intended for dancers with some previous competition experience and success at the national level.

**3. Advanced Strictly Triple Rhythm Swing.** This division is for dancers with significant competition experience and success at the national level.

#### **W. Formation Swing Teams:**

This is an open swing dance division and may follow Classic or Showcase rules. A team shall consist of a minimum of 5 couples. The division is open to any number of dancers and any mixture of age and sexes. Their routine must consist of 60% swing content. Costumes or similar attire is required. Duration of music and routine will be a minimum of 3 minutes and a maximum of 4 minutes. Dancers may compete in this division even if they are competing in another division.

*promoter option ...* If there are less than 5 teams entered in the event, organizer reserves the right to cancel this competition.

**Changes to these rules** We will make every effort to conduct all competitions in accordance with these rules. However, we reserve the right to make changes that we deem necessary for any competition. If we need to make any changes we will post them on our Web site (if possible) or announce them at the event.