

Freedom Swing Competition Guidelines

Competition Organizer

Freedom Swing Dance Challenge is sponsored by R&S Dance Productions and JL Productions Inc. Final decisions on any matter pertaining to these guidelines rest solely with the organizers.

General Competition Requirements

- (1) All competitors must hold a full weekend pass and have completed the specific division entry registration for the division in which they are dancing.
- (2) All competitors must register by the official entry deadline(s) as outlined in the weekend schedule.
- (3) All competitors must have paid the associated entry fees.
- (4) All competitors must meet any other specific requirements as outlined in this document.

Contest Requirements

- (1) **Entries:** All divisions must have a *minimum* of five (5) entries to be considered a valid contest.
- (2) **Judges:** All divisions will have a *minimum* of five (5) judges. In addition, a Chief Judge/Contestant Representative will be available.
- (3) **Scoring:** Scoring format used is relative placement and done by computer.

Waiver Form

Each contestant is *required* to sign a waiver form.

Contestants under the age of eighteen (18)

Contestants under the age of eighteen (18) must have their parent or guardian co-sign the waiver form and must also accompany them, when in the ballroom, at all times.

Role/Gender Requirements

Freedom Swing is open to persons of any gender dancing either lead or follow as they prefer.

Dress Code and Appropriate Behavior

We encourage expressive and exciting dance performance without the sacrifice of quality or propriety. Any action the judges believe would be inappropriate in a social dance setting (e.g. inappropriate attire, disrespect towards one's partner, other dancers, or the event itself) is prohibited. Competitors should check with the Chief Judge in advance if they have questions regarding the acceptability of their competition attire.

Responsibilities of Competitor

- (1) **Plan Ahead:** Check the weekend schedule in advance. Be on time for all deadlines, meetings, and staging. Keep in mind that the printed schedule is subject to change!
- (2) **Know the rules:** Any questions concerning these rules should be voiced at the competitor's meeting, or addressed, in advance of the contest, to the Chief Judge.
- (3) **Be prepare to compete:** Be present in the ballroom at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the comp. You are responsible for your assigned Bib Number. A replacement fee of \$10 will be made if the issued Bib is lost. A change of partner will require a new division entry registration and *may* result in an additional entry registration fee. Cancellations made after the registration deadline *will* result in the loss of entry fee.

Good Sporting Conduct

We expect you to demonstrate respect for your fellow dancers and judges as well as for the hosting venue. It is bad behavior to badger or argue about placements and scoring with the judges. Questions about scoring or placements should be withheld until after awards have been given. Disrespectful behavior may result in disqualification.

Number of division entries permitted that will earn WSDC points

A competitor may enter a total of 3 divisions that can qualify for WSDC points.

- (1) His or Her **primary** lead or follow role (the role in which the majority of points have been awarded).
- (2) His or Her **alternate** role (1 skill level down from their primary role).
- (3) His or Her choice of **one** (1) age related role.

Division Qualifications

Our qualifications for entries promote fairness and competitor enjoyment by grouping dancers of similar skill ability. Rules for Jack & Jill division entries are based on the World Swing Dance Council recommendations which can be accessed at [World Swing Dance Council \(worldsdc.com\)](http://World Swing Dance Council (worldsdc.com))

Petitions for Reclassification of Division

All competitors should register appropriately at their earned skill levels, based on their World Swing Dance Council awarded points. Should a competitor find themselves dissatisfied with that classification, they may petition for reclassification by providing a brief, written explanation as to the reason for their request. This petition should be submitted to the registration desk as early as possible in order that the head judge be given ample time to make the review.

Division Rules

Jack and Jill Division The Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight social dancing. Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected by the Competition DJ. Preliminary and semi-final rounds may be held and will be danced in a heated format.

Judging Criteria:

- (1) Timing: The ability of the dancer to dance on the down beat of the music and to include syncopations that accent the music.
- (2) Technique: We're looking for quality and control in your movement; footwork, balance, frame, dance lines, and how well turns and spins are integrated into your dance.
- (3) Teamwork: The ability of the partners to work together as a team. One partner should not out-dance the other. Action-reaction is essential in good dancing.
- (4) Content: The content, planned or spontaneous, is the choreography, and becomes musical interpretation through physical movement. Variety and contrast are key elements here.
- (5) Showmanship: Presentation is the ability of the dancers to keep the audience's attention for the entire length of the performance. You're "selling it"; get the judges to "buy it".

Strictly Swing Division This division encourages lead/follow **partnered** dancing. In Strictly Swing you know your partner, and you're comfortable with how they move and dance. Choreography "on the fly" is the objective. 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. Champions division is exempt from this rule.

General: The guideline for expected swing content is 75% but is at the discretion of the judges to determine that the requirement has been met. This division will be danced in heats for preliminaries and semi-finals (if needed).

Specific:

- (1) Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion.
- (2) Costumes are not permitted, however, matching or complementary outfits are acceptable.
- (3) Couples must maintain physical contact except for free-spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
- (4) Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.

(5) Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.

(6) You may not dance with your routine partner in this division if you're also dancing in a routine

division this weekend.

Division Qualifications:

Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All Star : For these divisions a couple must enter the highest level either partner qualifies for based on the WSDC points they have earned and the WSDC level criteria for Jack & Jill.

Sophisticated (35+): Both partners must be 35 years of age or older.

Masters (50+): Both partners must be 50 years of age or older. Because this is an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement you may also enter Sophisticated and another Strictly Swing contest at the appropriate skill level.

Pro-Am Strictly Swing Division

General:

(1) Students enter with their teacher. This division is designed to highlight social dancing skills at a performance level with an emphasis on lead/follow technique.

(2) For this contest, amateurs are defined as anyone who does not teach dancing on a regular, ongoing basis or earn a significant amount of income teaching or performing. A professional is defined as someone who earns a significant amount of income teaching or performing dance. Anyone who has previously competed in open or professional level competition must be considered a Pro for this purpose.

(3) Only the student is evaluated. Different skill levels are offered for both Leader and Follower roles. Each skill level and role is a separate contest.

(4) Each professional shall have no more than 5 entries in each Division offered.

Specific:

(1) Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion. Music will be chosen by the Competition DJ.

(2) Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits are acceptable.

(3) This division will be danced in heats for preliminaries and semi-finals (if needed).

(4) Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.

(5) Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed, no choreographed entrances or exits.

(6) Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.

(7) Dancers may compete in both Novice and Intermediate division as long as they dance in different roles.

Division Qualifications:

Novice: This division is for students with less than 3 years total dance experience and limited previous competition success. Students are expected to perform solid basics. Limited variations are allowed but not required. No leans, drops, or breakaways are allowed. All material should be recognizable as familiar, common "leadable" social patterns.

Intermediate: This division is for students with significant prior competition and or dance experience. Students are expected to perform clean basics with variations and musicality. Judges will consider musical interpretation, showmanship and creativity.

Sophisticated (35+): Students age 35 and over regardless of previous dance or competition experience. Because this is an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement you may also enter other ProAm contests if you wish.

ProAm Spotlight Routine This single division is offered for all styles of Swing: West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Hustle, Shag and Hand Dance or any other style of popular swing dance. Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose. Routine must be at least 2 minutes long and no longer than 3½ minutes. Limited to the first 15 entries received.

Rising Star Division WCS Rising Star Tour rules apply. Please refer to the RST Rules document to determine which division(s) you qualify for: <https://risingstartour.com>