

# 2018 SWINGTIME

## Rules and Policies

### REFUND POLICY

**A. Event Registration.** Tickets are non-refundable. Attendance cancellation request must be submitted by email to [swingtimeintherockies@gmail.com](mailto:swingtimeintherockies@gmail.com) (Subject: REFUND) in order to have your registration reviewed for possible carry over to next year's event.

**B. Competition Registration.** All competition registration is final. No Refunds.

### I. COMPETITION ORGANIZER

SwingTime is the name of the event ("Event") and is the entity organizing the Event ("Organizer"). The Event shall follow current published rules and guidelines of WSDC, as defined below. Final decision on any matter pertaining to these competitions rests solely with the Organizer.

### II. GENERAL COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

**A. General Eligibility.** Each competition is open to all competitors in good standing who:

1. Hold a full weekend Event Pass;
2. Register by the official entry deadline(s) (consult weekend schedule);
3. Pay the required entry fee(s); and complete and sign the appropriate entry forms and waivers. No one may compete without a signed waiver;
4. Desire to compete at this event without age restrictions except as noted for specific divisions (age 50+ for competition in Masters division and under 18 for Juniors division); and
5. Meet the specific requirements outlined in WSDC and these Rules and Policies ("Rules").

**B. Multiple Registrations.** Each eligible competitor may enter:

1. One Pro-Am division in Jack & Jill, one Pro-Am Strictly Swing, and one Pro-Am Routine; one Jack & Jill WSDC point leveled division and one Time Warp Open Jack & Jill; one Strictly Swing division and one Switchly Strictly; one Classic Routine and one Showcase Routine. A competitor may enter the Rising Star Routine division, if they do not compete in Classic or Showcase AND they do not qualify as a Champion competitor and have not placed top 3 in competitions in Classic, Showcase or any equivalent categories. Any contestant entering multiple divisions of Classic, Showcase (or Rising star as stated above) and Strictly Swing *must compete with a different partner in each event*; and
2. Competitors at least 50 years old by the end of the event may ALSO compete in the Masters Jack & Jill division. Dancers may not compete in the Masters AND Champions Jack & Jill divisions. Competitors at least 50 years old by the end of the event may ALSO compete in the Masters Strictly Swing division.
3. Competitors who are 17 years old and under by the end of the event may ALSO compete in the Juniors Jack & Jill division.
4. Competitors who do not have any Novice points may compete in the Newcomers Jack & Jill division AND the Novice Jack & Jill division.

### III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETITORS

**A. Event Schedule.** The Organizer will post time and location for all competitions. Should any significant schedule or format changes be required, these changes will be announced and posted. Competitions will be run with a minimum of 3 couples. The Organizer may cancel or combine any competitions for which insufficient entries are received. If a competition is canceled, the Organizer will refund any collected entry fees. Competitors are responsible for checking for schedule changes before and at event time.

**B. Ready to Compete.** Competitors are responsible for their Bib Numbers, and will be charged a replacement fee of \$10.00 if lost or damaged. Any change in partnership may require an additional entry fee as well as a new application form and waiver. Any cancellation by competitor may result in loss of entry fee. Competitors must be at the staging area at the designated time stated in the competitor meetings or announced by the Emcee.

**C. Rules. The Rules: (i) include the published rules of the WSDC (collectively, the "Rules"), and (ii) will be strictly enforced as applicable per division.** Competitors are responsible for reading and complying with the Rules and should address any questions concerning the Rules at the competitors meetings or in advance to the Organizer or Chief Judge. The Organizer and the Chief Judge

will resolve all requests for reclassification and will clarify any competition-related questions. For WSDC divisions, all current WSDC rules apply.

**D. Common Requirements.** If a majority of judges determine that any individual or couple has failed to meet one or more of the following requirements, a violation penalty will be applied:

- 1. Appropriate Behavior.** It is the desire of the Organizer to permit expressive and exciting performances without sacrificing quality of dancing and good taste. To encourage this balance, any action that the judges believe would make them uncomfortable in a social dance setting (such as showing disrespect toward one's partner, other dancers, or the Event) is prohibited. Good sporting conduct must be demonstrated by all competitors throughout the event, both on and off the competition floor.
- 2. Swing Content.** Minimum Swing Content as defined below is required in all divisions. Recognizable swing patterns are required in all competitions.

#### **IV. PETITIONS FOR RECLASSIFICATION OF DANCE LEVEL**

Contestants may petition for reclassification at the contest registration desk prior to the earliest relevant registration deadline. The Chief Judge will review petitions for reclassification. Competitors will be notified as quickly as possible of the decision. The Organizer reserves the right to reclassify any competitor. Contestants are required to attend the earliest meeting at which time they will be notified of final classification.

#### **V. CONTEST MISCLASSIFICATION**

**A. Misclassification by Competitors.** If any individuals or couples classify themselves incorrectly and the Organizer discovers the error before the start of the competition, the competitors will be given the option to reclassify themselves or withdraw. If the error is discovered after the preliminaries but before the finals, they will be disqualified. If the error is discovered after the finals, they will be disqualified and barred from any subsequent competitions during the Event and their placement will be awarded to the next individual or couple in line for placement.

**B. Misclassification by the Organizer or Chief Judge.** If the Organizer or Chief Judge classifies an individual competitor or couple incorrectly, no penalty will be applied.

#### **VI. JACK & JILL COMPETITIONS**

The WSDC Competition Registry will be used as a guideline to classify competitors in their respective dance level. Event Rules are based on WSDC published recommendations. **Competitors may enter as a lead or follow, regardless of gender.** Competitors may compete one level down if switching primary WSDC pointed role.

There must be sufficient competitors registered in each category for preliminary and finals to be held. Dancers will be judged individually in the preliminary competitions and as a couple in the final competition.

##### **A. Pro-Am Jack & Jill (Lead & Follow):**

1. A "Pro" in the Pro-Am Jack & Jill is a Champion or Invitational qualified competitor selected by SwingTime.
2. An "Am" in the Pro-Am Jack & Jill is limited to Novice and Intermediate competitors. An "Am" may be an Advanced competitor if the "Am" is switching primary WSDC pointed role.
3. An "Am" may enter either the leader or follower division, regardless of gender, but not both.
4. All "Pros" should compete as a leader/male and follower/female.

##### **B. Time Warp Open Jack & Jill:**

1. This competition is intended as a "fun" competition.
2. Competitors may dress up in costume for the competition.
3. Competitors will be paired up by WSDC points/levels on a high/low basis, ie Novice lead/All-Star follow.
4. The preliminary competition will be run as a final, in that, the partner pair will be judged as a couple for the entirety of the competition.

##### **B. Newcomer (No WSDC points):**

1. Competitors shall be new to WCS and/or never competed before and/or never earned any WSDC points.
2. Competitors who qualify for the Newcomer Jack & Jill may ALSO compete in the Novice Jack & Jill division.
3. WSDC points will be awarded in this division.

**C. Juniors:**

1. This competition is intended for those who are 17 years old or younger by the end of the event.
2. Competitors who qualify for the Juniors Jack & Jill may ALSO compete in their point leveled division.
3. WSDC points will be awarded in this division.

**B. Novice (< 30 points):**

1. Competitors shall have earned less than 16 Novice WCS points and may continue to compete in this division until they have 30 Novice points.
2. WSDC points will be awarded in this division.

**C. Intermediate (< 45 points):**

1. Competitors shall have earned 16 or more Novice points and may continue to compete in this division until they have 45 Intermediate points.
2. WSDC points will be awarded in this division.

**D. Advanced (< 60 points in past 3 years):**

1. Competitors shall have earned 30 or more Intermediate points and may continue to compete in this division until they have 60 Advanced points in past 3 years.
2. WSDC points will be awarded in this division.

**E. Masters:**

1. This competition is intended for those who are at least 50 years old by the end of the event.
2. Competitors who qualify to compete in the Masters and Champions divisions may only compete in one of the two divisions.
3. WSDC points will be awarded in this division.

**F. All-Stars:**

1. Competitors shall have earned 45 or more Advanced points or at least one All-Star point, within the past 3 years prior to this event.
2. Organizer of the Event will offer a discounted Event Pass to All-Star Competitors who have a qualifying WSDC point in the past 3 years in WCS. A petition to compete in this division will not include a discounted Event Pass.
3. All-Stars who accept the discounted Event Pass are required to compete in the All-Star Jack & Jill contest and the Time Warp Open Jack & Jill.
4. WSDC points will be awarded in this division.

**G. Champions:**

1. Competitors shall currently be competing and recognized as a Champion competitor on the national circuit and by the WSDC; OR
2. Finished in the top 5 places in 3 or more Champions or Invitational Jack & Jill competitions in the past 5 years; OR
3. Finished in the top 5 places in a NASDE Classic OR NASDE Showcase competition in the past 5 years; OR
4. Submitted a successful petition to compete at this level, and received approval by the Chief Judge and the Organizer of the Event.
5. Organizer of the Event will offer a free Event Pass to qualified Champion Competitors.
6. Champions who accept a free Event Pass are required to compete in the Champion Jack & Jill contest.
7. WSDC points will be awarded in this division.

**VII. STRICTLY SWING COMPETITION**

Strictly Swing encourages lead and follow partner dancing at its best. Competitors enter as a lead/follow couple, regardless of gender. The WSDC Competition Registry will be used as a guideline to classify competitors in their respective dance level. There must be sufficient competitors registered in each category for preliminary and finals to be held. Dancers will be judged individually in the preliminary competition and as a couple in the final competition.

**A. Eligibility:**

Each competitor is eligible to enter one point leveled Strictly Swing division and one Switchly Strictly. If a competitor is at least 50 years old, they may also compete in the Masters Strictly. Competitors may *not* dance with the same partner in more than one strictly division.

**B. Special Requirements.** All dancing in Strictly Swing is to be "lead/follow." There must be a minimum of 90% recognizable swing content (it is the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met). Routines are prohibited. Lifts, aerials, gymnastic maneuvers, and formal entrances and exits are not permitted. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways and recoveries. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.

**C. Attire.** Costumes are not allowed; coordinating attire is permissible and appropriate attire is required.

**D. Novice, Intermediate, Masters, Advanced and All-Star Strictly Swing Divisions:**

1. Couples must compete in Novice, Intermediate, Advanced or All-Star Strictly Swing divisions, according to their WSDC Jack and Jill qualifications AND compete in the division of the highest skilled partner. That is, if one partner competes in Novice Jack & Jill and the other competes in Intermediate Jack & Jill, the couple will compete in the Intermediate Strictly Swing division. No WSDC points are awarded for this division.
2. **Masters Strictly Swing Division.** This competition is intended for those who are at least 50 years old by the end of the event.

**E. Switchly Strictly:**

1. This competition is intended as a "fun" competition.
2. Both partners will lead and follow over the course of the competition. The specific rules will be announced at the beginning of the competition.

**F. Pro-Am Strictly Swing:**

1. The Pro partner may dance with up to five (5) different Amateur partners.
2. In Pro-Am divisions, only the amateur is evaluated.
3. An "Am" in the Pro-Am is limited to Newcomer, Novice and Intermediate competitors. An "Am" may be an Advanced competitor if the "Am" is switching primary WSDC pointed role.
2. No age requirement or limitations.
3. Amateurs may enter either the leader or follower division, regardless of gender, but not both.
4. This is a Swing category and dance content must be 90% that style.
5. No lifts, drops or aerials are allowed.
6. This is a lead/follow category and no choreographed routines are allowed.
7. Couples will dance approximately two (2) minutes to music provided by Event DJ's. The music will be selected at random and the couples will be given no prior music information.
8. Costumes are not allowed; coordinating attire is permissible and appropriate attire is required.

**VIII. CLASSIC, SHOWCASE, RISING STAR AND PRO-AM ROUTINE DIVISIONS**

There is no limit on maximum number of entries, however, a minimum of 3 couples are required to compete. Costumes are allowed and encouraged. Competitors must supply their own music.

Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the Chief Judge. Competitors may **not** dance with the same partner in more than one routine or strictly swing division.

**A. Classic Competition.** Contestants must be 18 years of age by the end of the event to participate.

The Classic competition is swing dancing that allows choreography with an "on the ground" approach to the dance. 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. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.

**1. Special Requirements.** Dancing in the Classic competition is to be primarily "lead/follow." There must be a minimum of 80% recognizable swing content (it is the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met). Lifts, aerials, or acrobatic moves are not allowed. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways and recoveries. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.

**B. Showcase Competition.** Contestants must be 18 years of age by the end of the event to participate.

The Showcase competition is swing dancing that allows choreography with a flair toward lifts and other partner weight support moves. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.

**1. Special Requirements.** Dancing in the Showcase competition is to be primarily "lead/follow." There must be a minimum of 60% recognizable swing content (it is the judges' discretion to determine that

the swing content requirement has been met). Breakaways and side-by-side patterns are permitted. At least 3 partner weight support moves are required with the partner at knee level or above. At least one partner weight support move is required with the partner above the waist.

**C. Rising Star Competition.** Open to all contestants without age restriction. All contestants may dance in this level EXCEPT those who qualify as Champion dancers. Competitors must not have placed top 3 in competitions in Classic, Showcase, or any equivalent categories. This division is **not** open to all levels.

**1. Special Requirements.** Dancing in the Rising Star competition is to be primarily "lead/follow." There must be a minimum of 60% recognizable swing content. Lifts, drops, aerials are allowed, but not required.

**D. Pro-Am Routine.** Open to all Amateurs who enter with their Pro and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose. This division is **not** open to all levels. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.

1. This 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.
2. Amateurs may enter either as the leader or follower, regardless of gender.
3. Both the teacher and student's performance is considered by the judges. Dance order will be randomly selected and posted prior to the start time. Limited to the first 15 entries received.

**IX. JUDGING CRITERIA.** Competitors will be judged on the following criteria:

**A. Timing.** 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 or behind the beat as well as matching the syncopated "swing" of the music.

**B. Teamwork.** Swing is a connected, partner dance. The demonstration of this connection and the appearance of "lead/follow" or "action/reaction" between the partners is an expected part of any competition. One partner ignoring or "out-dancing" the other, or jeopardizing the safety of others indicates poor teamwork.

**C. Technique.** How well the competitors execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. This includes, but is not limited to, control of balance and weight, foot placement, bodylines, and spins.

**D. Choreography.** The selection and order of movements and transitions executed during a dance comprise choreography. Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and its phrasing as well as variety and contrast.

**E. Musical Interpretation.** How the dancer adjusts the flow of the dance to fit the tempo, mood and rhythm variations in the music. The music connection that the judges see when they observe the dancer while listening to the music.

**F. Presentation.** Creating an atmosphere of excitement by inviting and generating interest in a performance is the desired effect of good presentation. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, it cannot substitute for good dancing.

**G. Penalties.** Breach of these Rules shall result in penalties being assessed by the judges corresponding to the level of severity of the breach. Unless defined specifically elsewhere in these Rules, these levels and associated penalties are as follows:

**1. Error.** An error is an apparently unintentional breach of these Rules. Each error shall be penalized at the discretion of the judge observing the error. Examples of errors might include unintended loss of contact between partners or loss of balance.

**2. Violation.** A violation is a serious and apparently intentional breach of these Rules. Each violation may be penalized by a drop of one (1) or more positions in the final placement, or disqualification. A violation will be assigned when either a majority of judges or a minority of judges AND the Chief Judge concur that a violation has occurred. The amount of drop in placement will be determined by the Chief Judge and will be based on the magnitude of the violation. Examples of violations might include a lift in a Jack & Jill, a routine in Strictly Swing, or a maneuver that endangers another competitor. All decisions of the judges are final and may not be appealed. The Organizer will not intervene in any judging decisions.

**H. Restarts.** Restarts will only be permitted in the case of music system failure or other significant failure such as shoe or costume failure. Restarts will not be permitted for the reasons of contestant dissatisfaction with their performance, music or partner drawn, or duration of routine. A restart must be requested by the contestants prior to their departure from the competition floor and must be approved by the Chief Judge.

## IX. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Aerial.** An aerial is a move where the dancer revolves around his or her lateral axis (i.e. flip) or his or her sagittal axis (i.e. cartwheel). Aerials are prohibited in all competitions except Showcase and Rising Star.
- B. **Breakaway.** A breakaway is a set of symmetric or complementary movements or footwork executed by couple intentionally breaking contact (except for spins and turns). Breakaways phrased properly to the music are allowed in all competitions.
- C. **Costume.** Attire which, in the opinion of the judges, is specifically designed for couples competition and would not generally be worn for social dancing is considered a costume. Costumes are prohibited in all non-routine competitions. Matching or complimentary outfits suitable for social dancing are not considered costumes and are allowed in Strictly Swing.
- D. **Entrance.** An entrance is the initial, pre-choreographed segment of a performance, during which the competitors formally enter the competition floor and prepare to dance. Acknowledging one's partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an entrance. Formal entrances are prohibited in all non-routine competitions.
- E. **Exit.** An exit is the final, pre-choreographed segment of a performance, during which the competitors formally leave the competition floor. Acknowledging one's partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered part of an exit. Formal exits are prohibited in all non-routine competitions.
- F. **Gymnastic Maneuver.** A gymnastic maneuver is any maneuver that illustrates a gymnastic or acrobatic ability which is not part of a recognizable swing pattern. Examples of gymnastic maneuvers might include back-flips or cartwheels. Gymnastic maneuvers are prohibited in all competitions except Showcase and Rising Star.
- G. **Lift.** A lift is a move where the dancer is not in contact with the floor and the dancer's weight is supported by his or her partner. Lifts are prohibited in all competitions except Showcase and Rising Star. Swing, Carolina Shag, East Coast Swing, Jitterbug, Lindy, Lindy Hop, Push, West Coast Swing, and Whip are recognized as styles of swing. The Organizer will consider additional styles for recognition prior to a competition's registration deadline.
- H. **Relative Placement.** This is a scoring system that assigns an equal numerical value to each judge's raw scores, so that each judge has an equal vote in the final outcome. Relative Placement is now widely accepted at major swing dance events.
- I. **Routine.** Any segment that, in the opinion of the judges, consists of prearranged choreography (to include symmetric or complementary movements or footwork) that does not reflect the music is considered a routine. Routines are prohibited in all competitions except Classic, Showcase, Rising Star and Pro-am Routines.
- J. **Side-By-Side.** A side-by-side is a set of symmetric or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple which is not a clearly leadable derivative of a recognizable swing pattern. Side-by-side segments are often executed with the partners next to each other, both facing the judges, but segments executed in other positions (e.g., back-to-back, open position, closed position) that meet the above description are defined as side-by-sides for the purposes of these Rules. Side-by-sides phrased properly to the music are allowed in all competitions.
- K. **Swing Content.** A minimum swing content of 90% is required in all Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing divisions. A minimum swing content of 80% is required in the Classic division. A minimum swing content of 60% is required in the Showcase division. Recognizable swing patterns are required in all competitions.
- L. **WSDC.** World Swing Dance Council