



BridgeTown Swing 2010 Competition Rules and Guidelines

Revised and Updated August 1, 2009

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A. Competition Organization

The Portland Swing Dance Club (PSDC) organizes Bridge Town Swing (BTS) and all competitions associated with it. PSDC appoints a Chief Judge, Contest Coordinator, Contest Registrar and Scorer who serve as the Contest Committee. Final decisions on matters pertaining to these competitions rest with the Chief Judge.

B. Competitions Offered

1. *Novice Jack & Jill (WCS)**
2. *Intermediate Jack & Jill (WCS)**
3. *Advanced Jack & Jill (WCS)*
4. *Champions Jack & Jill (WCS)*
5. *Masters Jack & Jill (50 yrs. and older) (WCS)**
6. *Open Nightclub Two-Step Jack & Jill*
7. *All American Jack & Jill (WCS)*
8. *Strictly Swing-Novice Division (WCS)**
9. *Strictly Swing-Intermediate/Advanced Division (WCS)**
10. *Strictly Swing-All-Star/Champion Division (WCS)*

* Events that qualify for collecting points in the Northwest Regional Awards are noted with an asterisk (*)

C. Eligibility to Compete

1. **General Requirements:** *This competition is open to all contestants who: (a) hold a 3-day weekend ticket, (b) register by the official entry deadline (see the event schedule); (c) pay the entry fee; (d) attend all mandatory contestants meetings, and; (e) meet all other specific entry requirements as outlined in these rules.*

2. **Multiple Registrations:** *Each eligible contestant may choose to enter:*

A. *One novice, intermediate, advanced or champions WCS Jack & Jill division.*

B. *the All American Jack & Jill*

C. *the Masters Jack & Jill assuming they meet the age restriction for Masters.*

D. *One of the three WCS Strictly Swing divisions.*

3. **Waiver Forms:** *Each contestant must sign the appropriate waiver form. No contestant will be permitted to compete without a signed waiver form. Anyone under the age of 18 may be allowed to compete in the adult divisions only with approval of the contest committee or Chief Judge. Contestants under 18 must be mature enough to dance with adults on a regular basis and must have a parent or guardian sign any required forms. (See Section I)*

D. Jack & Jill Competitions

The Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight social dance skills in spontaneous West Coast Swing (WCS) dancing (or Nightclub Two-step, as designated) and the ability to dance well with a variety of partners. Contestants enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to

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recommended music selected in advance by the competition DJ, per the recommendations of the DJ Coordinator and Chief Judge.

There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division. Each contestant may enter only one WCS Jack & Jill level-division (Masters Jack & Jill and All American Jack and Jill not included). No change in division will be permitted after the contestant meeting for that division has been held. Male contestants must enter as "leaders" and female contestants must enter as "followers". Please read Section I, General Competition Requirements.

1. **All-American Jack & Jill:** *This WCS competition is an old-fashioned Jack & Jill where all levels of competitors compete together with the luck of the draw. The first partner drawn shall be the partner for the preliminary and final rounds. Participants will be judged as partners. Prizes will be awarded, but no WSDC points are earned in this category.*
2. **Novice Jack & Jill:** *This WCS competition is intended for the beginning dancers with little or no competition experience and an appropriate number of points based on the World Swing Dance Council Jack and Jill Points Registry. Any contestant of any age may compete in this division. At a minimum, contestants in this division should know the following basic patterns: starter step, basic throw-out, tuck and turn throw-out, underarm pass, left side pass, push break, whip, locked whip, and whip with inside and outside turns*
3. **Intermediate Jack & Jill:** *This WCS competition is intended for dancers with limited to moderate local competition experience, or with minimal national competition experience and an appropriate number of points based on the World Swing Dance Council Jack & Jill Points Registry.*
4. **Advanced Jack & Jill:** *This WCS competition is intended for advanced dancers with significant local competition experience or national competition experience and an appropriate number of points based on the World Swing Dance Council Jack & Jill Points Registry such that they would be classified as either Advanced or All-stars.*
5. **Champions Jack & Jill.** *This WCS competition is for participants with appropriate points based on the World Swing Dance Council Jack & Jill Points Registry such that they would be classified as either All-stars or as Champions. .*
6. **Masters Jack & Jill:** *This WCS competition is open to contestants age 50 and above.*
7. **Open Nightclub Two-step Jack & Jill:** *This competition is open to all contestants of any age and ability level.*

E. Strictly Swing Competitions

The Strictly Swing competitions are designed to highlight social dance skills in spontaneous swing dancing, with a chosen partner. Contestants enter as couples and dance to music selected in advance by the competition DJ and DJ Coordinator.

There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division. Each contestant may enter only one Strictly Swing division. No change in division will be permitted after the contestant meeting for that division has been held. Because contestants choose their own partners, there is no restriction on age, gender, or lead. Contestants of either gender may choose to lead, follow, or switch roles during the dance.

1. **Novice Division (WCS):** *Couples qualify for this division if both partners are novice dancers according to the World Swing Dance Council Jack & Jill Points Registry.*

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2. **Lower Division (WCS):** *This competition is open to contestants who meet the intermediate or advanced level definitions according to the World Swing Dance Council Jack & Jill Points Registry. If one member of a partnership is not yet advanced, the partnership shall dance at the level of the more proficient dancer.*
2. **Upper Division (WCS):** *This competition is open to contestants who meet the advanced, all-stars, or champions level according to the World Swing Dance Council Jack & Jill Points Registry. If one member of a partnership is not yet advanced, the partnership shall dance at the level of the more proficient dancer.*

F. Northwest Regional Awards

PSDC provides this award in order to encourage the participation of northwest dancers, and to foster the growth and development of the West Coast Swing dance community in the Pacific Northwest. To encourage this participation, BTS will be awarding two Northwest Regional Awards to Novice or Intermediate dancers from Oregon, Washington, or British Columbia. One award will be made to one male and the other award will be made to one female contestant. Points will be awarded for placements within competitions. The best two scores will be used. If no person qualifies for the award, or at the discretion of the Contest Committee, an award may not be provided. To be eligible for this award, a contestant must:

1. *Meet the requirements for Novice or Intermediate via the appropriate number of points based on the World Swing Dance Council Jack and Jill Points Registry AND have Oregon, Washington or British Columbia as his or her principle residence.*
2. *Compete in a minimum of two competitions. Eligible competitions are: WCS Jack & Jill divisions and Strictly Swing divisions. In Strictly Swing competitions both partners must be novice or intermediate for the competition to be used in the computation for either partner.*

G. Classification/reclassification

1. In general BTS will follow the WSDC guidelines below for placing dancers in appropriate classifications. The Event Contest Committee (Chief Judge, Contest Coordinator and Contest Registrar) will consider petitions on a case-by-case basis.
 - (a) **Novice:** A competitor must enter contests at the Novice level until they have earned at least 20 points in Novice. In addition, a competitor may stay in the Novice division until they have both 20 points and a first place win in Novice.
 - (b) **Intermediate:** A competitor will enter contests at the Intermediate level after meeting the criteria for moving from Novice until they have earned at least 25 intermediate points. In addition, a competitor may stay in Intermediate until they have both 25 intermediate points and won a first place in Intermediate.
 - (c) **Advanced:** A competitor will enter contests at the Advanced level when they have earned at least 25 intermediate points and a first place in Intermediate and until they have earned 40 advanced points and a first place in the advanced division. If a dancer has earned advanced points, he/she may dance in the advanced level.
 - (d) **All-stars.** At this event, contestants who have achieved the level of All-Stars have the option to participate in either the Advanced or Champions contest.

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(e) **Champions:** A competitor will enter contests at the Champions level when they have earned champions points and may enter champions if they qualify as all-stars.

3. In order to determine point allocations for each place, the WSDC has established following series of "Tiers" -- based upon the number of entries in each contest.

Tier/# Couples	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place	5 th Place	Finalists
Tier 1 = 5-15	8	6	4	2	1	0
Tier 2 = 16-39	10	8	6	4	2	1 up to 10th
Tier 3 = 40 +	12	10	8	6	4	1

When couples are not even, the "number of couples" is determined by the lowest number of dancers between leaders and followers.

2. Any contestant may appeal his or her classification to the Contest Committee by the end of the contestants meeting. The Chief Judge retains the right to reclassify any contestant.

The Contest Committee retains the right to cancel or combine competitions for which insufficient entries have been received. A minimum of five (5) couples is required to hold a contest.

H. Misclassification

- Misclassification by Contestants:** *In the event that Strictly Swing (or Classic couples – when offered) or individual Jack & Jill contestants classify themselves incorrectly, and the error is discovered before the start of the competition in question, they will be given the option to reclassify themselves correctly or withdraw. If the error is discovered after the preliminaries or semifinals, but before the finals, they will not advance to the next round. If the error is discovered after the finals, the couple will be dropped out of awards, and their placement will be awarded to the next couple in line for placement.*
- Misclassification by the Event Contest:** *In the event that the Contest Registrar or Contest Coordinator or Chief Judge classifies an individual contestant or couple incorrectly, no penalty will be applied.*

I. General Competition Requirements

The following general requirements apply to all competitions. If a majority of the judges determine that any individual or couple has failed to meet one or more of the requirements described below, a penalty will be applied:

- Swing Content:** *A minimum of 90% recognizable West Coast Swing content is required in all Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing competitions; (when offered, 80% recognizable swing content in Classic; and 60% recognizable swing content in Showcase).*
- Choreography Choices:** *Partners must maintain contact throughout the dance except for free turns, spins, back-to-back or side-by-sides and breakaways. Partners who separate must reconnect within 8 beats of music in Jack & Jill or Strictly Swing competitions. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic maneuvers, and any other maneuvers that might endanger one's partner, other dancers, or spectators, are all prohibited (except in Showcase, when offered). Controlled drops will be allowed.*

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3. **Social Dance Skills Emphasis:** *The Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing competitions have been designed to showcase social dance skills in spontaneous swing dancing. All dancing in these competitions must consist of "lead and follow" moves.*
4. **Appropriate Behavior and Dress Code:** *It is the desire of BTS to encourage expressive and exciting dance 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 wearing inappropriate attire or showing disrespect toward one's partner, other dancers, the judges, or the event) is prohibited. Comedy routines and props are not allowed. Contestants should check with the Contest Coordinator/Chief Judge in advance if they have questions regarding acceptability of their routine or competition attire.*
5. **Minimum Age:** *The minimum age for competing is 18, as of the first day of the event, except as otherwise noted in these rules. The Chief Judge reserves the right to approve the petition of any dancer who exhibits a behavior consistent with the maturity and level of respect expected at an adult competition. Contestants under 18 years of age should be mature enough to dance with adults on a regular basis and must have a parent or guardian sign any required forms. The minimum age for competitors entering a Masters contest is 50 years as of the first day of the event.*

J. Responsibility of the BTS Committee

1. **Staff:** *The BTS Committee will select all competition officials, including a panel of judges, MC, Competition DJ, DJ coordinator, and Scorer. Contestants may obtain the names of selected officials prior to the commencement of each competition.*
2. **Contest Coordinator and Chief Judge:** *The BTS Committee will appoint a Contest Coordinator and Chief Judge as its official representatives. The Contest Coordinator or Chief Judge will resolve all requests for reclassification and will clarify any competition-related questions during the event.*
3. **Schedule and Rules:** *The Contest Committee will determine the rules for all competitions and will make them available on request prior to the event. The Contest Coordinator will determine and make available the times and locations for all meetings, competitions, and award ceremonies. The Contest Committee will attempt to adhere to the announced schedule for all events. Should any changes in schedule or format be required, these changes will be announced and/or posted. Visit the event web site (www.portlandswing.org/bts/) often for updates prior to the event.
*The Contest Committee reserves the right to cancel, combine or extend the registration deadline for any division if insufficient entries are received, and to rearrange the schedule as necessary. If a competition is canceled, BTS will refund any entry fees collected.**
4. **Determine Eligibility and Registration of Contestants:** *The Contest Registrar will determine which contestants are eligible to enter each division. Registration forms will be available at the event during the open hours of the contest registration desk.*
5. **Scoring:** *The BTS Committee will select a qualified Scorer. A Call-back system will be used for all preliminary and semi-final heats and the Relative Placement Scoring System will be used for all finals. An explanation of Relative Placement Scoring System can be found by visiting the World Swing Dance Council web site.*
6. **Awards:** *The Contest Committee will oversee awarding of all trophies and prizes. Monetary prizes will be awarded in cash at the award ceremonies.*

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K. Responsibility of Contestants

1. **Behavior:** *All contestants must demonstrate courteous and appropriate behavior, and good sporting conduct at all times, both on and off the competition floor. Failure to adhere to this code of behavior may result in penalties or disqualification.*
2. **Rules:** *All contestants should read these rules carefully prior to attending the contestant meeting for their division. Visit the event web site (www.portlandswing.org/bts) often for updates prior to the event. Contestants are responsible for adhering to these rules whether they have read them or not. Questions about these rules should be asked at the contestant meeting, or addressed in advance to the Contest Coordinator or Chief Judge.*
3. **Meetings:** ***Contestants meetings are mandatory!*** *All Jack & Jill contestants must attend all contestant meetings related to their division. For Strictly Swing contestant meetings (and Classic and Showcase, when offered), either partner may represent a couple. However, both partners are fully responsible for all matters discussed at the meeting as if both attended. **Any contestant who misses a meeting without approval from the Contest Coordinator or Chief Judge will not be permitted to compete.***
4. **Be Prepared to Compete:** *Contestants should check the weekend schedule in advance in order to arrive in time to meet registration deadlines. They should also plan ahead so as to be on time for all meetings and to be present in the ballroom at least 15 minutes prior to the start of their competition. Contestants are responsible for checking at the event for any changes to the previously announced schedules, which are always subject to change. **Contestants who are not in the ballroom when their name is called for their contest will be replaced by an alternate.** Contestants should bring appropriate competition attire, including the assigned competitors bib number. Any change in partnership for the couple's competitions may require an additional entry fee as well as new entry and waiver forms. Any cancellation by the contestant or couple after the registration deadline will result in the loss of the entry fee.*
5. **Performance Feedback:** *Contestants may discuss the competition and/or their performance with the contest officials using appropriate channels. These channels are: 1) during the contestants meetings, or 2) individually with the Chief Judge only.*

L. Restarts

Restarts will only be permitted in the case of music system failure or other significant failure as deemed appropriate by the Chief Judge. Restarts will not be permitted for the reason of the contestants' dissatisfaction with their performance, the music or partner drawn. Contestants must request a restart prior to their departure from the floor, and the Chief Judge must approve their request. The Chief Judge may call for a restart at any time.

M. Competition Music

1. **Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing:** *All competition music for the Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing divisions will be selected by the Competition DJ and DJ coordinator prior to the commencement of each competition. All times given for lengths of music played during these competitions are estimates. The exact time of fade out is left to the DJ's discretion to maximize the effectiveness of the music. If the judges need additional time to determine their call back or final placements, the Chief Judge may request that additional music be played. This determination will be made as needed for each competition.*

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N. Judging Criteria

1. **Timing:** *Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Timing extends to a much finer distinction than a single beat. It includes whether a contestant is fractionally ahead or behind the beat as well as matching the syncopated “swing” of the music. Syncopations also need to be on time.*
2. **Teamwork:** *Swing is a connected partner dance. The demonstration of this connection and appearance of “lead/follow” or “action/reaction” between partners is the goal. A balanced performance with give-and-take between partners is the goal. One partner ignoring, “out-dancing”, disrespecting, or jeopardizing the safety of the other partner (or of other contestants), indicates poor teamwork. Compensating and adjusting for one’s partner is a component of good teamwork.*
3. **Technique:** *How well the contestants execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. This includes elements such as control of balance and weight, foot placement, bodylines and spins.*
4. **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 the ability to match identifiable swing patterns and syncopations to the phrasing of the music, as well as demonstrating variety and contrast.*
5. **Music Interpretation:** *Adjusting the flow of the dance to fit the style, tempo, mood, and rhythm variations in the music comprises good musical interpretation. Couples should strive to demonstrate the ability to hear and interpret nuances in the music throughout their dance.*
6. **Presentation:** *Creating an atmosphere of excitement by inviting interest in a performance is the desired effect of good presentation. Good presentation begins with the selection of appropriate attire. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, it cannot substitute for good dancing. Contestants 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 the dance is also an element of good presentation.*

O. Definitions

1. **Swing Content:** *Carolina Shag, St. Louis Shag, Balboa, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Jitterbug, Flying Lindy, Lindy Hop, Push, West Coast Swing, and Whip are recognized as styles of swing dancing and may be included in competition dancing. The Chief Judge will consider additional styles for recognition prior to a competition’s registration deadline. The West Coast Swing competitions are intended to demonstrate skill in West Coast Swing dancing therefore competition dancing should be predominantly West Coast Swing.*
2. **Aerials & Acrobatic Maneuvers:** *Acrobatic maneuvers serve to illustrate gymnastic abilities that are not normally part of recognizable swing patterns in social swing dancing. Examples of acrobatic maneuvers include, but are not limited to: back-flips, cartwheels, and deep backbends. Aerials include moves such that both feet of one dancer are off the floor at the same time. **Aerials & Acrobatic maneuvers are prohibited in all competitions.***
3. **Lift:** *A lift is any intentional maneuver lasting longer than a full beat of music where the both feet of one dancer are clearly off the floor and the other partner supports 100% weight. This definition shall not include any of the following common syncopations or patterns: “flea hops”; “bunny hops”; “heel clicks”; “Flying Lindy” (and its obvious adaptations to other swing styles); “jumps” by*

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contestants over the leg of their partners; and leveraged slides. Lifts are prohibited in all competitions.

4. **Back-to-Back or Side-by-Side:** *A back-to-back or 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. Such segments are often executed with the partners next to each other, both facing the judges (i.e., side-by-side), but segments executed in other positions (e.g., back-to-back, open position, closed position) are included for the purposes of these rules. Back-to-back or side-by-side segments are allowed in all competitions. However, the judges may reduce scores when there is (1) excessive use of such segments and/or (2) one or more segments of more than 8 consecutive beats of music.*
5. **Breakaway:** *A breakaway is a set of symmetric or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple that intentionally breaks contact (except for spins and turns). Breakaways are allowed in all competitions. However, the judges may reduce scores when there is (1) excessive use of such segments and/or (2) one or more segments of more than 8 consecutive beats of music.*
6. **Costume:** *Attire that, in the opinion of the judges, is specifically designed for couple's competition and would not generally be worn for social dancing is considered a costume. Matching or complimentary outfits suitable for social dancing are not considered costumes and are allowed in Strictly Swing. Costumes are not allowed.*
7. **Entrance:** *An entrance is the initial, choreographed segment of a performance, during which the contestants formally enter the competition floor and prepare to dance. Acknowledging one's partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an entrance. No formal entrances are allowed.*
8. **Exit:** *An exit is the final, choreographed segment of a performance, during which the contestants formally leave the competition floor. Acknowledging one's partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered part of an exit. No formal exits are allowed.*
9. **Routine:** *Any segment that, in the opinion of the judges, consists of prearranged choreography (to include symmetric or complementary movements or footwork) is considered a routine. An exception is any footwork or pattern recognizable by the judges as a component of Carolina Shag. Routines are prohibited in all competitions except Classic and Showcase.*

P. Penalties

Breach of these rules shall result in penalties being assessed by the judges in accordance with the level of severity of the breach. All decisions of the competition officials are final. No appeals will be allowed. 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. Examples of errors include, but are not limited to: a brief and unintended loss of contact between partners, a loss of balance, or a momentary loss of composure. Each error shall be penalized at the discretion of the judge observing the error.*
2. **Violation:** *A violation is a serious and apparently intentional breach of these rules. A violation penalty will be assigned when either a majority of the judges, or a minority of judges and the Chief Judge, concur that a specific violation has occurred. Each violation will result in the competitor*

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being penalized by a drop of one or more positions in the couple's final placement. Judges will consider the segment containing the violation in determining their scores. The amount of drop in placement will be reviewed by the Chief Judge, and will be based on the magnitude of the violation. The penalty for a severe violation may include being dropped out of awards. Examples of violations include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Unpleasant facial expressions at the draw of a particular partner;
- (b) Unpleasant remarks directed toward one's partner, another contestant, the event, the audience, or a judge;
- (c) Inappropriate costume or attire;
- (d) The inclusion of prohibited choreography, such as a lift in a Jack & Jill or Classic routine, or any maneuver or "trick" that endangers a partner, other contestants, or spectators;
- (e) The use of a choreographed routine in a Strictly Swing competition (this might be apparent when dance elements are inappropriate to the accents, breaks or phrasing of the music); or
- (f) A dance containing less than the required percentage of recognizable swing content.

Q. Beginning and Ending a Competition

1. **Restarts:** *A restart will be allowed only in the event of a music system equipment failure or some other problem totally outside of the control of the dancers. Costume malfunctions (broken strap, untied shoelace, etc.) do not warrant a restart. **No participant may request a restart for failure of items that are in the dancer's control and which should have been thoroughly tested in advance.***

The Chief Judge may signal a restart where safety of one or more dancers is in jeopardy.

R. Format for the Jack & Jill Competitions (West Coast Swing)

1. *All dancing in the Jack & Jill competitions is to be "lead/follow." There must be a minimum of 90% recognizable swing content. Routines are prohibited. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic maneuvers, and formal entrances and exits are not permitted. (See section O.) Note that the general requirements apply (see section I). Costumes are prohibited, but appropriate attire is required.*
2. *There are no restrictions on drawing a familiar partner, regular partner, or a complete unknown – the "luck of the draw" prevails.*
3. *For the Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Masters WCS Jack & Jill competitions, two rounds are planned: preliminaries, and finals (with semi-finals if numbers warrant). For the Champions Jack & Jill, only one round of Finals is planned. The Event Chairperson may add or omit a preliminary and/or semifinal round in any division, based on the number of entries received.*
4. *During the preliminary and semifinal rounds, contestants will dance in heated format with several partners selected randomly. Contestants will be judged individually on a Call-back basis, but must demonstrate good teamwork with all their partners. Should there be an imbalance in the number of leaders and followers, some contestants will dance in more than one heat, and will be judged in each heat. The Chief Judge and scorer will determine the exact number of finalists.*

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5. *In the finals, contestants will draw for partners and dance to a minimum of two pieces of music of approximately 1.5 minutes of music each. Novice, Intermediate and Advanced divisions will be conducted in a heated format and Champions division will be in a spotlight (or modified spotlight) format followed by a review dance with all the couples. Finalists will be judged as couples. Tallying will be performed using the Relative Placement Scoring System.*

S. Format for the Open Nightclub 2-step Jack & Jill Competitions

1. *All dancing in the Jack & Jill competitions is to be "lead and follow." There must be a minimum of 90% recognizable pattern content unique to the relative dance. Routines are prohibited. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic maneuvers, and formal entrances and exits are not permitted. (See section O.) Note that the general requirements apply (see section I). Costumes are prohibited; appropriate attire is required.*
2. *There are no restrictions on drawing a familiar partner, regular partner, or a complete unknown – the "luck of the draw" prevails.*
3. *This is an Open Jack & Jill competition. Two rounds are planned: a preliminary and final. The Contest Committee may add or omit the preliminary and/or semi-final rounds in any division, based on the number of entries received.*
4. *During the preliminary round, contestants will dance in a heated format with one partner selected randomly. Contestants will be judged as a couple on a Call-back basis. Should there be an imbalance in the number of leaders and followers, some contestants will dance twice, and will be judged both times. The Chief Judge and scorer will determine the exact number of finalists.*
5. *In the finals, contestants will dance with the same partner drawn in the preliminary round, in a heated format, and dance to approximately 1.5 minutes. Finalists will be judged as couples. Tallying will be performed using the Relative Placement Scoring System.*

T. Format for the WCS Strictly Swing Competitions

1. *All dancing in the WCS Strictly Swing competitions is to be "lead/follow." There must be a minimum of 90% recognizable swing content. Routines are prohibited. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic maneuvers, and formal entrances and exits are not permitted. (See section .) Note that the general requirements apply (see section I). Costumes are not allowed, although coordinating attire is permissible. Appropriate attire is required.*
2. *Semifinal and final rounds are planned for the Lower, and Upper Strictly Swing divisions; whether or not both rounds are run will depend on the number of entries received. During the semifinals, couples will be judged on a Call-back basis during group heats. The Chief Judge and scorer will determine the exact number of finalists.*
3. *In the finals, couples will dance to a minimum of two pieces of music of approximately 1.5 minutes of music each. Novice and Lower divisions will be in a heated format, and Upper division will be in a spotlight (or modified spotlight) format followed by a review dance with all the couples. Tallying will be performed using the Relative Placement Scoring System.*

U. Relative Placement Scoring System

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The Relative Placement Scoring System assigns an equal numerical value to each judge's raw score, so that each judge has an equal vote in the outcome.

1. Number of Judges Needed

- (a) A minimum of 5 judges will be used for the Relative Placement Scoring System.
- (b) An even or odd number of judges may be used for Call-backs in the preliminary and semifinal rounds.
- (c) An odd number of judges are used in the finals to minimize the possibility of ties.

2. Preliminary and Semifinal Rounds

- (a) In the preliminary and semifinal rounds a Call-back system is used. In this system, each judge selects couples (for Nightclub 2-step Jack & Jill, Strictly Swing) or individuals (for all WCS Jack & Jill divisions) for Call-back to the next round, but does not rank them in any particular order.
- (b) The Scorer converts each judge's selections into ordinals: '1' for all those selected, '2' for any alternates, and '3' for all those not selected. Contestants are then ranked according to the total number of 1's, 2's and 3's received from the judges.
- (c) After the judge's scores have been tallied, the Chief Judge determines how many individuals or couples will be promoted to the next round.
- (d) The Chief Judge's scores are used only to break any ties.

3. Tallying the Final Placements

- (a) In the finals, each judge must place every couple in rank or order (1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, etc.). In finals with a large field of couples, the judges will concentrate on placing the top twelve couples.
- (b) Raw scores (9.5, 8.9, 7.6, etc.) are used only to determine a judge's order of placement. If a judge submits only raw scores, the Scorer will convert them into ordinals (1, 2, 3, etc.) for Relative Placement.
- (c) Duplicate placements are not permitted. The Chief Judge will review each score sheet for all judges prior to releasing them to the scorer. If a judge mistakenly provides duplicate placements, the Chief Judge will request the judge in question to provide unique placement for each couple.
- (d) A couple must have a majority of the judges' votes to be awarded a final placement.
- (e) If no couple has a majority of votes, then the next placement is added to the previous placements (1st through 2nd, 1st through 3rd, etc.) until a majority is reached.
- (f) If two or more couples have an equal majority, then the numerical value of the ordinals for each couple is added. The couple with the lowest sum gets the higher position. If the sums for two or more couples are identical, then the next placement is added to the previous placements for those tied couples only.

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(g) In the case of an absolute tie the scorer will re-score the tied competitors as if the contest was only between them.

V. Scoring Errors

1. If scoring errors are detected after scores are posted but before prizes are awarded the outcomes will be corrected and prizes awarded appropriately.
2. In the event that prizes have been awarded and a scoring error is detected, competitors will return all prizes to the Event Chairperson for redistribution to the appropriate competitors based upon the corrected outcomes.

W. Changes to These Rules

The Contest Committee will make every effort to conduct all competitions according to these rules. However, the Contest Committee reserves the right to make any changes in schedule or format deemed necessary for any competition. Should any changes be made, these changes will be announced and/or posted.