BridgeTown Swing 2016
Competition Rules and Guidelines

Revised and Updated September 5, 2016

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A. Competition Organization

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

B. Competitions Offered

1. Newcomers Jack & Jill (WCS)*
2. Novice Jack & Jill (WCS)*
3. Intermediate Jack & Jill (WCS)*
4. Advanced Jack & Jill (WCS)
5. All Star Jack & Jill (WCS)
6. Invitational Jack & Jill (WCS)
7. Sophisticated Jack & Jill (35 years and older) (WCS)
8. Masters Jack & Jill (50 years and older) (WCS)
9. All-American Jack & Jill (WCS)
10. Newcomer/Novice Strictly Swing (WCS)*
11. Intermediate/Advanced Strictly Swing (WCS)*
12. All Star/Champions Strictly Swing (WCS)

*Events that qualify for collecting points in the Northwest Regional Awards are noted with an asterisk (*). See Section F for NW Regional Award rules.

C. Eligibility to Compete

1. **General Requirements:** These competitions are open to all contestants who: (a) hold a three-day weekend ticket, (b) register by the official entry deadline (see the event schedule), (c) pay the entry fee, and (d) meet all other specific entry requirements as outlined in these rules.

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

    A. one skill level (newcomer, novice, intermediate, advanced, all star) WCS Jack & Jill division; Note: the invitational Jack & Jill competition is a skill level Jack & Jill for competitors invited by the BTS and Contest Committees, and if a competitor is invited and entered into the invitational, he/she may not enter the all star division.

    B. one age-defined contest; note that this means that a person may enter either the Sophisticated OR the Masters Jack & Jill, but not both

    C. the All-American Jack & Jill;

    D. the Sophisticated Jack & Jill OR the Masters Jack & Jill, assuming he/she meets the age restrictions;

    E. one of the three WCS Strictly Swing skill level 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 the 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 and the ability to dance well with a variety of partners. Contestants enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to 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 skill level division (Sophisticated Jack & Jill, Masters Jack & Jill, and All-American Jack & Jill not included). No change in division will be permitted after the contestants' meeting for that division has been held. Contests are gender neutral, so males may enter as either leaders or followers and females may enter as either leaders or followers. Contestants may not switch roles during the skill level competitions. (See also Section G.)

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. This is a gender neutral competition, so males may enter as either leaders or followers and females may enter as either leaders or followers. Contestants of either gender may choose to lead, follow, or switch roles during the dance. The first partner drawn shall be the partner for both the preliminary and final rounds. Participants will be judged as partners. Prizes will be awarded, but no World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) points are earned in this category.

2. **Newcomer Jack & Jill:** This WCS competition is intended for dancers with little or no competition experience and no points based on the WSDC Competitors Points Registry. Any contestant of any age may compete in this division. At a minimum, contestants in this division should know the basic patterns and rhythms of West Coast Swing.

3. **Novice Jack & Jill:** This WCS competition is intended for beginning dancers with little or no competition experience and/or an appropriate number of novice points (0-14) based on the WSDC Competitors 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 whips with inside and outside turns.

4. **Intermediate Jack & Jill:** This WCS competition is intended for dancers with limited to moderate local competition experience, or with minimal national competition experience. In addition, an appropriate number of points based on the WSDC Competitors Points Registry such that they would be classified as Intermediate is required.

5. **Advanced Jack & Jill:** This WCS competition is intended for advanced dancers with significant local competition experience or national competition experience. In addition, an appropriate number of points based on the WSDC Competitors Points Registry such that they would be classified as Advanced is required.

6. **All Star Jack & Jill:** This WCS competition is for participants with significant local and national competition experience and an appropriate number of points based on the WSDC Competitors Points Registry such that they would be classified as All Stars.

7. **Sophisticated Jack & Jill:** This WCS competition is open to contestants aged 35 and above who can perform the basic patterns of West Coast Swing.

8. **Masters Jack & Jill:** This WCS competition is open to contestants aged 50 and above who can perform the basic patterns of West Coast Swing.

9. **Invitational Jack & Jill:** Competitors will be invited to participate in this contest. Participants in this contest may not compete in any other skill level Jack & Jill.

E. Strictly Swing Competitions

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

There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division. Each contestant may enter one leveled Strictly Swing division. No change in division will be permitted after the contestants' meeting for that division has been held. Because contestants choose their own partners, there is no restriction on age or gender. Contestants of either gender may choose to lead, follow, or switch roles during the dance. If partners are of different skill levels, the partnership shall compete in the division of the competitor with the higher qualification.

1. **Newcomer/Novice Strictly Swing (WCS):** Couples qualify for this division if both partners are newcomer/novice dancers according to the WSDC Competitors Points Registry.

2. **Intermediate/Advanced Strictly Swing (WCS):** This competition is open to contestants who meet the intermediate or advanced level definitions according to the WSDC Competitors Points Registry. Couples shall dance at the level of the more proficient dancer. That is, a couple consisting of one Novice partner and one Intermediate partner must compete in the Intermediate/Advanced Division rather than the Novice Division.

3. **All Star/Champions Strictly Swing (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 an All Star or Champion, the partnership shall compete at the level of the more proficient dancer.

F. Northwest Regional Awards

PSDC provides this award 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 award two Northwest Regional Awards to Novice or Intermediate dancers from Oregon, Washington, Idaho or British Columbia. One award will be made to a leader and the other award will be made to a follower. 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 Newcomer, Novice, or Intermediate by having the appropriate number of points based on the WSDC Competitors Points Registry AND have Oregon, Washington, Idaho, or British Columbia as his or her principal residence

   and

2. compete in a minimum of two competitions in the same role. Eligible competitions are the skill level WCS Jack & Jill divisions and the skill level Strictly Swing divisions. In the Strictly Swing competitions, both partners must be Newcomer, Novice, or Intermediate for the competition to be used in the computation for either partner. An Intermediate dancer who dances with an advanced dancer in the Intermediate/Advanced Strictly Swing contest will not be eligible for this award.

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, Scorekeeper, and Contest Registrar) will consider petitions on a case-by-case basis.

   (a) **Newcomer**: Competitors may enter either newcomer or novice divisions until one point has been earned in either division. Then, the competitor must compete at the Novice level.

   (b) **Novice:** Competitors shall enter contests at the Novice level until they have earned 15 points in Novice.

   (c) **Intermediate:** Competitors shall enter contests at the Intermediate level if they have earned 15 or more Novice points and less than 30 Intermediate points.

   (d) **Advanced:** Competitors shall enter contests at the Advanced level when they have earned 30 or more Intermediate points or have earned Advanced points.

   (e) **All Stars**: Competitors may compete as All Stars if they have earned 45 or more Advanced points within three years prior to this event. Competitors shall compete in All Stars if they have earned All Star points.

2. To determine point allocations for each place, the WSDC has established the following series of "Tiers" based upon the number of entries in each contest.

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

When the numbers of leaders and followers are not even, the tiers are determined separately for leaders and followers.

3. 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

1. **Misclassification by Contestants:** In the event that Strictly Swing couples 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.

2. **Misclassification by the Contest Committee:** In the event that the Contest Registrar, 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 it is determined that any individual or couple has failed to meet one or more of the requirements described below, a penalty will be applied.

1. **Swing Content:** A minimum of 90% recognizable West Coast Swing content is required in all WCS Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing competitions.

2. **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 eight 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. Controlled drops will be allowed.

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. Clothing may not be used as a prop. Contestants should check with the Contest Coordinator/Chief Judge in advance if they have questions regarding the acceptability of their competition attire.

5. **Minimum Age:** The minimum age for competing is 18, as of the first day of the event. 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 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 the Sophisticated Swing contest is 35 years as of the first day of the event; the minimum age for entering the Masters contest is 50 years.

J. Responsibilities of the BTS Committee

1. **Staff:** The BTS Committee will select all competition officials, including a panel of judges, MC, Competition DJ, DJ Coordinator, Chief Judge, and Scorekeeper. 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 upon 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. **Determining Eligibility and Registration of Contestants:** The Contest Registrar will determine which contestants are eligible to enter each division. Electronic registration forms will be available at the event during the open hours of the contest registration desk. If detained by traffic or travel constraints, a competitor may use online registration (from 2:30 pm on Friday onward, using the link on the BTS website) or may contact the Event Registration Desk and talk with the Contest Registrar. Registration is not final until payment has been received at the registration desk and a bib number has been issued.

5. **Scoring:** The BTS Committee will select a qualified Scorekeeper. 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 the Relative Placement Scoring System can be found by visiting the World Swing Dance Council website.

6. **Awards:** The Contest Committee will oversee the awarding of all trophies and prizes. Monetary prizes will be awarded in cash to the top three placements at the award ceremonies.

K. Responsibilities 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 contestants' 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 contestants' meeting, or addressed in advance to the Contest Coordinator or Chief Judge.

3. **Meetings:** Contestants' meetings will be scheduled to meet the following purposes: to verify contest registration, answer questions about rules and expectations, provide perspective for first-time competitors, and finalize petitions. Roll call lists will be posted at the time of the contestants' meetings. In lieu of attending the contestants' meeting, a competitor is responsible for checking the roll call sheets to ensure proper registration. Errors should be brought to the attention of the Contest Coordinator or Contest Registrar as soon as possible so that corrections can be made prior to the contest. The Contest Coordinator may provide alternative verification procedures.

4. **Be Prepared to Compete:** Contestants should check the weekend schedule in advance in order to arrive in time to meet registration deadlines. Contestants should plan ahead so as to be on time for meetings and to be present in the ballroom at least 15 minutes prior to the start of their competitions. Contests will be run in blocks of time and may be rearranged within a given block to facilitate the event. Contestants are responsible for checking at the Contest Registration Table at the event for any changes to the previously announced schedules, which are always subject to change. **Any contestant who is not in the ballroom when his/her name is called for a contest will not compete in that event.** Contestants should bring appropriate competition attire, including the assigned competitor's bib number. Any change in partnership for the couples' competitions may require an additional entry fee as well as an update to entry 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 on Sunday after the final awards have been made.

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 the 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, DJ Coordinator, and/or Chief Judge 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 callbacks or final placements, the Chief Judge may request that additional music be played. This determination will be made as needed for each competition.

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 of the beat 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 desired. 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, body lines, 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 and acrobatic maneuvers are prohibited in all competitions.** If a contestant has questions about a maneuver, it should be discussed with the Chief Judge in advance of the competition.

3. **Lift:** A lift is any intentional maneuver lasting longer than a full beat of music where both feet of one dancer are clearly off the floor and the other partner supports 100% of his/her weight. This definition shall <u>not</u> 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 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 that 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 continues for more than eight 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 continues for more than eight consecutive beats of music.

6. **Costume:** Attire that, 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. 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.

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. <u>All decisions of the competition officials are final. No appeals will be allowed.</u> 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 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 competition, 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. 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 Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Sophisticated, and Masters WCS Jack & Jill competitions, two rounds are planned: preliminaries and finals (with semi-finals if numbers warrant). For the All Star and Invitational Jack & Jills, only one round of finals is planned. The Contest Committee 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 a 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 Scorekeeper will determine the exact number of finalists. The format for the All-American Jack & Jill is described in Section D.

5. In the finals, contestants will draw for partners. Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced divisions will be conducted in a heated format, whereas the All Star and Invitational divisions will be in a spotlight (or modified spotlight) format followed by a review dance with all of the couples. Finalists will be judged as couples. Tallying will be performed using the Relative Placement Scoring System.

R. 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 O.) Note that the general requirements apply (see section I). Costumes are not allowed, although coordinating attire is permissible. Appropriate attire is required.

2. Prelim and final rounds are planned for the Newcomer/Novice, Intermediate/Advanced, and All Star/Champion 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 callback basis during group heats. The Chief Judge and Scorekeeper 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 each. The Novice and Intermediate/Advanced divisions will be in a heated format, and the All Star/Champion division will be in a spotlight (or modified spotlight) format followed by a review dance with all of the couples. Tallying will be performed using the Relative Placement Scoring System.

S. Relative Placement Scoring System

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 five judges will be used for the Relative Placement Scoring System.

(b) An even or odd number of judges may be used for 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 callback system is used. In this system, each judge selects couples (for the All-American Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing divisions) or individuals (for all other Jack & Jill divisions) for callback to the next round, but does not rank them in any particular order.

(b) The Scorekeeper converts each judge's selections into ordinals: '1' for those selected, '2' for any alternates, and '3' for 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 judges' 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 order (1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, etc.).

(b) Duplicate placements are not permitted. The Chief Judge will review the score sheets for each judge prior to releasing them to the scorekeeper. If a judge mistakenly provides duplicate placements, the Chief Judge will request the judge in question to provide unique placements for each couple.

(c) A couple must have a majority of the judges' votes to be awarded a final placement.

(d) 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.

(e) If two or more couples have an equal majority, then the numerical values of the ordinals for each couple are 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. The placements following that will be used until the tie is broken.

(f) In the case of an absolute tie, the scorekeeper will re-score the tied competitors as if the contest were only between them.

(g) The Chief Judge's scores are used only to break any further ties.

T. Scoring Errors

In the event that prizes have been awarded and a scoring error is detected, competitors will return all prizes to the Contest Coordinator for redistribution to the appropriate competitors based upon the corrected outcomes.

U. 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.