



Competition Rules 2017

ALL COMPETITORS MUST HAVE A 3 DAY WEEKEND PASS TO BE ELIGIBLE TO SIGN UP FOR CONTESTS.

COMPETITORS MEETINGS/CONTESTS

There will NOT be a competitors meeting. The SwingCouver team respects your time as dancers and wants to give you more time for social dancing and warm up for competitions. Competition schedules will be announced and posted throughout the weekend. If you are new to competitions and are unfamiliar with the process, please ask, read these rules and our Competition desk team for assistance.

All competitors should read the rules and dance accordingly. During preliminary and semi-final heats, contestants will be asked to line up in bib order in the Shaughnessy room. A listing of names for each heat will be posted in the hallway (outside of the Shaughnessy room), prior to each division. If your name is not listed for the division you signed up for, please see the Floor Coordinator to let them know. We will review our lists and update any errors as we go. If are signed up in a division and not present in the ballroom when your name is called for competition and you are not in attendance by the time the last heat is called out on the floor, you WILL NOT compete.

During finals, if you are not present in the ballroom after the last name is called to the floor, we will call the alternates in order as identified by preliminary placements. Once the alternate is called the person not present is *out of the competition*.

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. **All divisions will be judged using Relative Placement:**
2. **TIMING** - Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Timing extends to much finer distinctions than a single beat. It includes fractionally ahead or behind the beat, as well as matching the syncopated "swing" of the music.
3. **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 the other (or other Competitors), indicates poor teamwork.
4. **TECHNIQUE** - How well the Competitors execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. This includes control of balance and weight, foot placement, bodylines, and spins.
5. **CHOREOGRAPHY** - The selection and order of movements and transitions executed during a dance comprises choreography. Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and its phrasing, as well as variety and contrast.
6. **PRESENTATION** - To create 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, a good show is not a substitute for good dancing.



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WEST COAST SWING JACK & JILL –WSDC DIVISIONS

Please read the following descriptions of the competitions carefully. Competitors may be placed out-of-the-ranking if a violation occurs. * *Note: Minimum number of 5 Entries in any division otherwise division MAY be cancelled at the discretion of the Event coordinator. Time slots set aside for competitions that are cancelled will become social dance time.*

Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight skills in spontaneous swing dancing and the ability to dance well with a variety of partners. A bit of "luck of the draw" comes into play as well. All dancers participating in the Jack & Jill competitions at SwingCouver can only compete in **one skill level division** as a leader or follower to have their points recorded with the World Swing Dance Council Registry.

**Masters division is an age division and can also compete in one skill level division as well.*

SwingCouver offers 6 WCS Jack & Jill divisions that fall under the World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Points Registry. You can also qualify for a division by submitting a petition (see Petition details below).

To determine eligibility for each division of the WSDC registry, please refer to the list below:

Newcomer: This division is intended for those with little or no prior competition experience with no points. There is no spotlight dances. All couples will dance at the same time on the floor for judges to see. Not all events offer this division.

Novice: A competitor must stay in Novice until they have earned at least 15 points in Novice.

Intermediate: A competitor must have earned at least 15 Novice points, and stay in Intermediate until they have earned at least 30 points in Intermediate.

Advanced: A Competitor must have earned at least 30 points in Intermediate in order to move into Advanced.

All-Star: At least one of the qualifications to dance in All Stars is that the competitor has at least 45 current points in Advanced (earned within last 3 years). Winners of this division get to compete in the Swingcouver Invitational division.

Masters: Is an age based division. To qualify, you must be 50 years of age or older. You can also compete in one skill level division.

Swingcouver Invitational: This is a Non-WSDC division. The contestants in this division are invited by the Event Directors of Swingcouver to dance in this division. Winners of the All-star division will get to dance in this division as well.

Competitors are randomly assigned partners to dance to the music selected in advance by our Competition DJ. If there are preliminary heats, competitors will dance in groups (heats) with several different partners. Competitors who advance to finals will be judged as a couple. There is no role changing within the partnership. Competitors will continue to dance with their partner in the role they signed up to compete as and will be judged as. At least 90% recognizable swing patterns are required.

To enter our Jack & Jill divisions, you must be at least 13 years old. If you are under 18, you must have your parent or guardian's consent, and you should be comfortable social dancing with adults on a regular basis. You must also have a 3-day event pass for SwingCouver 2017.



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If competitors do not meet a division's qualifications as stated in this document, and checked against the World Swing Dance Council Competitor Registry, they may petition to be accepted into a specific category. It is highly recommended each competitor review their points on the Jack & Jill Competitor's Point Registry at www.Swingdancecouncil.com before the convention. It is advised to have a printed copy at the time of registration to avoid any delays or expedite any petitioning.

**Note: If you have petitioned to compete in a higher division at one event, this does not "carry over" to the next event. You may need to petition at the next event as well.*

SUBMITTING A PETITION TO CHANGE DIVISIONS

In competitions with more than one division, it is our goal to encourage you to compete with your peers in the correct division. If you are unclear about which division is right for you, check with our Competition Coordinator, Chief Judge or Event Director before you register.

If you feel uncomfortable competing in the division for which you qualify, you may submit a petition to compete in a different division. Write a brief explanation of the reason(s) for your request on the back of the entry form and submit it with your entry fee before the contest registration deadline.

Our Competition Coordinator (in consultation with the Chief Judge and/or Event Director) will approve or deny your request. You will be notified as soon as possible of the decision. You should be prepared to compete in the original division if your petition is denied.

Our verification of your eligibility:

We will attempt to verify that you are eligible for the competitions you enter by checking the WSDC Points Registry (and other sources of information, if applicable). In some cases (for example, if you submit a petition or do not have the required WSDC points), we may reassign you to a different division.

If you have concerns that other competitors are entered in an incorrect division or are ineligible, please inform our Competition Coordinator, Chief Judge or Event Director privately, as soon as possible. We will investigate and take appropriate action, if necessary.

If we determine before or during a competition that you have registered for the wrong division or are not eligible, we will reassign you to the correct division (if possible) or allow you to withdraw. If we discover your error after the finals, we will drop you out of awards. If we made the error and assigned you incorrectly, no penalty will be applied.

ALL AMERI'CANADIAN JACK & JILL - OPEN DIVISION

This division involves competitors of all levels. It is "luck of the draw" where you can draw any level of dancer who registered from a Newcomer to a Champion! No Pro SwingCouver Staff will be allowed to draw each other in this division. Partners will be judged as a Couple whether it is a prelim or a final heat.

This division is gender neutral. Competitors may sign up for this division in their preferred dance role. As there are no switching roles during the contest, competitors will continue to dance with their partner in the role they signed up to compete as and will be judged as such.



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WEST COAST SWING STRICTLY

Newcomer/Novice, Intermediate, Advance, Advanced, All-Star/Champion, Masters:

Competitors can only compete in 1 skill level division.

**The Masters division strictly is an age division contest. If you sign up to compete for this division, you can also sign up for one of the skill level division contests as well.*

This contest is gender neutral. Competitors may sign up for this competition based on their preferred dance role. These contests are based on WSDC division points in the role the competitors sign up as. Couples will dance at the higher division of the partnership. As there are no switching roles during the contest, competitors will continue to dance with their partner in the role they signed up as and will be judged as.

At least 90% recognizable swing patterns are required. Costumes are not allowed but coordinating attire is permissible. Partners may dance in heats or spotlight depending on the number of couples entered. Lifts, acrobatics, aerials and full splits are not allowed. Partners must stay in contact at all times, *except* on free spins, turns, and breakaways. Flea hops, bunny hops, heel kicks, flying Lindy and adaptations to other swing styles, small jumps over a partner's leg, social drops and leveraged slides are all allowed; otherwise, both dancers must keep one foot on the floor at all times. Recognizable Shag patterns are allowed.

MUSIC FOR THE JACK & JILL AND STRICTLY SWING COMPETITIONS

Our Competition DJ will select all music in advance for our Jack & Jill, and Strictly Swing competitions. Music for finals spotlight dances will be approximately the same length of time for each couple. The event reserves the right to provide a choice of music to spotlighted couples. The exact time of fade out is left to the DJ's discretion to maximize the effectiveness of the music. If the judges need more time to determine their callbacks or final placements, the Chief Judge may request that additional music be played.

DEFINITIONS

Aerial: An aerial is a move in which one dancer is lifted with the assistance of his/her partner and the head and torso is in a position higher than the shoulders of the supporting partner.

Aerials are prohibited in all competitions.

Lift: A lift is any intentional maneuver lasting longer than a full beat of music where the feet of one dancer are clearly off the floor and the partner supports the weight. Lift will encompass anything less than an aerial. **Lifts are prohibited in all competitions except Invitational Jack & Jill. Nothing above the shoulder.**