

NOVICE INVITATIONAL CONTEST RULES

1. Novice Invitational is open to all eligible contestants in every division.
2. All categories are gender neutral. Contestants may dance in only one role per division.
3. This is a West Coast Swing dance competition. (See definition below used at Novice Invitational)

DEFINITION OF WEST COAST SWING West Coast Swing is a slotted dance where the Follower travels up and down an imaginary slot and the Leader remains basically at the halfway point of the slot. Comprised mainly of 6 and 8 count patterns, each pattern can be identified by an even number of weight changes during the first two beats, with the Follower moving forward. Each pattern ends with an odd number of weight changes where both Leader and Follower are not traveling. Additionally, West Coast Swing is known to have 2 beat (normally walks) and 4 beat (normally triples) extensions during the course of a pattern.

5. Dancers may compete in multiple swing contest categories during the weekend. No one may enter a particular contest more than once. The exception is that Pro dancers may enter the Pro-Am division with multiple ams.
6. Contestants must dance at least two (2) minutes and no more than three (3) minutes to music they provide (except the Jack & Jill, Strictly Swing and Pro-Am Strictly Swing categories for which Novice Invitational will provide music). Failure to dance at least two (2) minutes will result in disqualification. The penalty for any other rules violation (s) will be the loss of one placement for each infraction in the final contest standing.
7. There will be no dancers meeting. All competitors must attend the mandatory roll call before their division.
8. Dance order will be determined by drawing for dance position during the mandatory check in time.
9. Previous competition experience determines eligibility for the Strictly Swings and Pro-Am divisions. WSDC rules and points determine eligibility for Jack & Jill competitions. Petitions need to be directed to the Chief Judge by 11am Saturday. The rules below are for all divisions except Jack & Jill:
10. Qualification for Newcomer Dancers: This division of competition is designed and intended for anyone who has no points as a NOVICE competitor and has never taught dancing in an organized class setting.
11. Qualification for Novice Dancers: You must have never danced in a Non-Professional (Intermediate), Open or higher Class category, in Classic, Showcase, Strictly Swing/Just Dance style or equivalent categories, or as a Pro in a Pro-Am, in any style of dance. You cannot have ever taught any style of partner dance. This division is not open to all levels. If this level rule is in conflict with your WSDC Jack & Jill level, consult with the chief judge before registering for the contest.
12. Qualification for Intermediate Dancers: You must have never danced in an Open or higher Class category, in Classic, Showcase, Strictly Swing/Just Dance style or equivalent categories, or as a Pro in a Pro-Am, in any style of dance. This division is not open to all levels. If this level rule is in conflict with your WSDC Jack & Jill level, consult with the chief judge before registering for the contest.
13. Qualifications for Advanced Dancers: You must never have placed in the top five (5) at a national competition in a Pro Strictly, Pro Jack & Jill or equivalent categories in the last five (5) years. This division is not open to all levels.
14. If either partner has previously placed 5th or higher at a NASDE Classic or Showcase contest they are no longer eligible to compete in Rising Star. If either partner has won the US Open Rising Star Division they are not eligible.
15. Qualification for All Star dancers is based on WSDC points and rules.
16. All rules will be STRICTLY enforced.
17. All eligibility questions should be directed to the Head Judge at the time of registration.

DEFINITIONS

LIFT - That point when both feet are off the ground, and weight is not self-supported.

DROP - The point at which the head goes below your partner's waist and weight is not self-supported.

AERIAL - The point at which one partner is off the ground due to the other partner and not maintaining

contact with their partner.

ENTRIES

1. There is no limit to entries to any division with the exception of deadline regulations. Deadlines for all divisions are as listed in schedule. In place of a Dancers Meeting there will be a **MANDATORY** roll call prior to each contest. **ANY COMPETITOR NOT PRESENT AT ROLL CALL WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DANCE.** (Please check schedule. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS). **If there are fewer than five (5) entries in any division Novice Invitational reserves the right to combine or cancel that division.** Novice Invitational also reserves the right to have any and all lead/follow categories run in a heat format in lieu of prelims or spotlight format for time restraints.

2. All entrants are required to purchase a weekend ticket and must be included or have verification of purchase. All competitors must attend the mandatory roll call before their division. See above General Notes #8.

Log on to <http://www.novice-invitational.com> for registration and payment.

NEWCOMER STRICTLY SWING

1. Any dancer that qualifies may enter this category. (See General Rules)

2. Dance content must be 100% swing style.

3. This is a lead/follow category, no choreographed routines are allowed.

4. No lifts, drops or aerals and no planned entrances or exits allowed.

5. No apart dancing other than free spins.

6. This division is danced in heats of 3-5 couples.

7. Couples will dance approximately two (2) minutes to music provided by Novice Invitational. The music will be selected at random and the couples will be given no prior music information.

NOVICE STRICTLY SWING, INTERMEDIATE STRICTLY SWING & ADVANCED STRICTLY SWING

1. Any dancer that qualifies may enter this category. (See General Rules)

2. Dance content must be 100% swing style.

3. This is a lead/follow category, no choreographed routines are allowed.

4. No lifts, drops or aerals and no planned entrances or exits allowed.

5. No apart dancing other than free spins.

6. Couples will dance approximately two (2) minutes to music provided by Novice Invitational. The music will be selected at random and the couples will be given no prior music information.

MASTERS STRICTLY SWING

1. Both partners must at least 50 years of age at the time of the contest.

2. Dance content must be 100% swing style.

3. This is a lead/follow category, no choreographed routines are allowed.

4. No lifts, drops or aerals and no planned entrances or exits allowed.

5. No apart dancing other than free spins.

6. Couples will dance approximately two (2) minutes to music provided by Novice Invitational. The music will be selected at random and the couples will be given no prior music information.

PRO-AM STRICTLY SWING - ALL DIVISIONS

1. The Pro may dance with up to five (5) different Am partners per division.

2. The Am may only dance once in this division.

3. The Novice partner must not qualify as an Intermediate, Rising Star, Open or higher level dancer. The Intermediate partner must not qualify as a Rising Star, Open or higher level dancer.

4. The Pro can qualify as either Rising Star, Open or Professional level dancer.

5. Any Am who has previously won any Pro-Am competition at the Novice Invitational will not be allowed to dance as an Am again in the same division.
6. Dance content must be 100% swing style.
7. It is a lead/follow category and no choreographed routines are allowed.
8. No lifts, drops or aerals and no planned entrances or exits allowed.
9. No apart dancing other than free spins.
10. Couples will dance to music provided by Novice Invitational. The music will be selected at random. The couples will be given no prior music information.
11. Costumes are not allowed.

MIXED PRO-AM DIVISION

1. The Am must be eligible to qualify as a Newcomer, Novice, or Intermediate dancer. (See General Rules)
2. Any Am who has previously won any Pro-Am competition at Novice Invitational will not be allowed to dance as an Am again in the same division.
3. The Pro in the division may dance with 3 Ams.
4. This is a Swing category and dance content must be 80 % swing style.
5. No minimum or maximum bpm (music speed) limitation.
6. Lifts and drops are allowed but not required.
7. There are no other restrictions.

RISING STAR ROUTINE DIVISION

This division is for routines where neither partner is a professional dancer.

1. Competitors who qualify for Rising Star are eligible for this division. You must not have placed in the top five (5) at a national competition in NASDE Showcase or Classic routine division in the last five (5) years. This division is not open to all levels.
2. This is a Swing category and dance content must be 60% swing style
3. Lifts and drops are allowed but not required.
4. No minimum or maximum bpm (music speed) limitation.
5. Contestants must dance at least two (2) minutes and no more than three (3) minutes to music they provide. Failure to dance at least two (2) minutes will result in disqualification.
6. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join within 32 beats of music. Couples must remain contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways and recoveries. Short breakaways happen in eight (8) beats or less of music.
7. A one-track CD, thumb drive or e-mail copy of your music must be submitted to the head DJ at least one (1) hour before the competition. No other media (iPods, iPhones, etc.) will be accepted nor will CDs containing multiple songs or tracks. Each CD should be clearly labeled with the couples names and division.
8. Dance order will be determined by draw during the mandatory check in time.
9. Costumes required.
10. Dancing this division does not affect eligibility for other divisions/contests.

- IMPORTANT JACK & JILL INFORMATION -

CHECK YOUR WSDC POINTS FOR CORRECT LEVEL PLACEMENT BEFORE SIGNING UP FOR THE JACK & JILL COMPETITIONS. COMPETITORS WSDC POINTS WILL BE CHECKED BY NOVICE INVITATIONAL FOR CORRECT LEVEL PLACEMENT FOR THE JACK & JILL DIVISIONS. PETITIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE HEAD JUDGE BY 11AM ON SATURDAY OR EVENT DIRECTORS AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. ALL DECISIONS BY THE CHIEF JUDGE WILL BE FINAL.

NEWCOMER JACK & JILL

1. Anyone that qualifies may enter this contest.

2. You must sign up in person. **No proxies.**

NOVICE JACK & JILL

1. Anyone that qualifies may enter this contest.

2. You must sign up in person. **No proxies.**

INTERMEDIATE JACK & JILL

1. Anyone that qualifies may enter this contest.

2. You must sign up in person. **No proxies.**

ADVANCED JACK & JILL

1. Anyone that qualifies may enter this contest.

2. You must sign up in person. **No proxies.**

ALL STAR JACK & JILL

1. Anyone that qualifies may enter this contest.

2. You must sign up in person. **No proxies.**

MASTERS JACK & JILL

1. Anyone that qualifies may enter this contest.

2. You must sign up in person. **No proxies.**