



# 2018 Competition Rules

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## About our event

**Boogie by the Bay (BbB)** is the annual dance convention of **The Next Generation Swing Dance Club (TNGSDC or “Next Gen”)**, a nonprofit corporation founded in 1989 and located in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information about the event, visit **[boogiebythebay.com](http://boogiebythebay.com)**.

Final decision on any matter related to our competitions rests with the event directors, **Beth Bellamy** and **Andy Bouman**, on behalf of TNGSDC. **Andy** will also serve as the **competition director** for this year’s event. **Beth** will also serve as the **chief DJ** and will determine which DJ on staff will select the music for each division in our Strictly Swing and Jack & Jill competitions.

Boogie by the Bay is a member of:

- **National Association of Swing Dance Events (NASDE)** – [nasde.net](http://nasde.net)
- **West Coast Swing Rising Star Tour** – [risingstartour.com](http://risingstartour.com)
- **World Swing Dance Council (WSDC)** – [worldsdc.com](http://worldsdc.com)

## **General rules for all competitions**

### **Eligibility requirements**

To compete at our event, you must:

- Have a full weekend pass.
- Register for each competition by the official entry deadline. (See the weekend schedule.)
- Pay any required entry fees.
- Sign a legal waiver. (If you are under 18, your parent or guardian must sign for you.)
- Meet all other specific entry requirements outlined in these rules.

### **Multiple registrations**

Multiple registrations are allowed. You may choose to enter any competitions for which you meet the specific entry requirements. However, if you enter more than one couples competition (Strictly Swing, Rising Star, Showcase, or Classic), you must compete with a different partner each time.

### **Submitting a petition**

It is our goal to encourage you to compete with your peers. If you are unclear about which competition or division is right for you, check with our competition director or chief judge before you register.

If you want to enter a competition for which you do not meet the entry requirements, or want to change divisions, you must submit a petition. You may petition in advance or at the event.

**To petition in advance**, download and fill out the WSDC petition form:

<https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/2018.1D-WSDC-Petition-Form.pdf>

E-mail your petition form to our competition director, Andy Bouman, at [andy@boogiebythebay.com](mailto:andy@boogiebythebay.com).

**To petition at the event**, fill out a petition form at our contest signups desk (before the registration deadline). Please include your contact information (such as your cell phone number or hotel room number) so our competition staff can reach you during the event with our decision.

Our competition director and chief judge (and other competition staff, if appropriate) will review your petition and approve or deny your request. Our competition staff will notify you as soon as possible of the decision. You should be prepared to compete in the original division if your petition is denied.

Here is some additional guidance from WSDC regarding Jack & Jill petitions:

- If you have petitioned to dance in a higher or lower division at one event, this does not “carry over” to the next event. You may need to petition at the next event as well.
- **You should petition only to dance one level up or down, or to stay in your current division.** If you compete more than one level above or below your qualified skill level, and you make the finals or place in that division, you will **not** receive any WSDC points for that competition.

- Once you have competed and earned points in a higher division, you should stay in that division (if you continue to qualify).

Some reasons for submitting a petition might include:

- A recent previous Jack & Jill placement hasn't been recorded in the WSDC Registry. (For example, you won a Jack & Jill competition the previous weekend.)
- You earned points in a very small (Tier 1) or very large (Tier 6) Jack & Jill competition.
- Your points are old (for example, earned more than 7 years ago).
- You are an accomplished dancer who has not competed at many events.
- You want to try competing in your less familiar role, and wish to dance down one level.

### **Our verification of your eligibility**

We will verify that you are eligible for the competitions you enter by checking the World Swing Dance Council (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. (See [worldsdc.com](http://worldsdc.com) for details about WSDC points.)

If you have concerns that other contestants are entered in an incorrect division or are ineligible, please inform our competition director or chief judge privately, as soon as possible. We will investigate and take appropriate action, if necessary.

If we determine before a competition that you 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 do not discover until after finals that you misrepresented your status and were not eligible, we may drop you (and your partner) out of awards. If we made the error and assigned you incorrectly, no penalty will be applied.

### **Our responsibilities as the organizer**

**1. Appointing a competition director.** We will appoint a competition director as our official representative. Our competition director (in consultation with our chief judge and other competition officials, if necessary) will clarify any competition-related questions before and during the event.

**2. Selecting the competition officials.** We will select a panel of judges, chief judge, scorer, referee judge, review panel, MCs, chief DJ, and competition DJs. We will provide the names of these officials prior to the event on our website. Our MC will announce the judges for each competition at the start of the competition. There will be a minimum of 5 judges for all competitions.

**3. Determining the rules and schedule.** We will determine the rules for our competitions and post them in advance on our website. We will also post a full weekend schedule listing the times for all meetings, competitions, and awards. We will follow our posted schedule as much as possible. If we need to make any last-minute changes, we will announce them at the event.

**4. Registering contestants and verifying eligibility.** We will collect entries from eligible competitors in advance (using our online registration system) and at the event (during contest registration times listed on the weekend schedule). We will verify that you are eligible for each competition you enter. We will assign bib numbers to Strictly Swing leaders and Jack & Jill leaders and followers.

**5. Holding all competitions as planned or modifying them if necessary.** We will do everything we can to hold all competitions as planned. If necessary, we may extend the registration deadline or change the eligibility requirements (for example, by combining divisions) if we receive insufficient entries. If we must cancel a competition, we will refund your entry fee, and we may invite you to perform an exhibition instead.

**6. Scoring the results.** We will select a qualified independent scorer. Our scorer will use callbacks for all preliminary and semifinal heats, and relative placement for all finals. (A detailed explanation of relative placement is available on the WSDC website at [worldsdc.com](http://worldsdc.com).) Our scorer will post all the scores for public examination for approximately 1 hour after the announcement of the results and presentation of awards. Scores will also be posted online after the event.

**7. Announcing the results and presenting awards.** We will announce the results of all competitions at our awards ceremony. We will set aside a significant prize fund for the winners. (See the section on “Awards” below for a list of prize amounts.) We will present all monetary prizes in the form of checks. If fewer couples enter than the number of places scheduled to receive prizes, we reserve the right to redistribute or retain any unused prize money.

**8. Preparing tax forms.** If your prize winnings are subject to income tax reporting, our accounting team will prepare a 1099 tax form and mail it to you. In some cases, our accounting team may need to ask you for your legal name, address, or taxpayer identification number. If so, we will keep that information confidential and disclose it only as required by law.

### **Your responsibilities as a competitor**

**1. Planning ahead.** You may register for competitions in advance (using our online registration system) or at the event (during the contest signup times listed on the schedule). **If you register in advance, you should plan to pick up your bib number(s) at the event during contest signup desk open hours.** Be sure to check for any last-minute changes to the schedule.

**2. Knowing the rules.** You should read the rules carefully prior to the competition. You are responsible for following the rules whether or not you have read them. If you have any questions, you should ask them at the contestant meeting or contact our competition director or chief judge ahead of time.

**3. Attending the contestant meeting.** We will hold a brief meeting for the following competitions:

- Rising Star
- Showcase
- Classic

Attendance at this meeting is optional. At the meeting, a representative of each couple will draw for dance order. If you and your partner both miss the meeting, we will ask someone else to draw for you.

**Note: There are no contestant meetings for our Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing competitions.**

**4. Being prepared to compete.** You should be in the ballroom at least 15 minutes before your competition. For Strictly Swing and Jack & Jill competitions, remember to bring your bib number. (If

you lose your bib number, we will charge you for a replacement.) If you miss the competition (or withdraw after the registration deadline), you will forfeit your entry fee.

**5. Demonstrating good sporting conduct at all times.** You must demonstrate good sporting conduct at all times, both on and off the competition floor. This includes treating your partners, other competitors, competition officials, spectators, event staff and volunteers, and the event itself with respect. Demonstrating a poor attitude by behaving in ways that our competition director, chief judge, judging panel, or other competition officials deem inappropriate or disrespectful may result in a violation penalty or disqualification.

**6. Using appropriate channels to communicate your concerns.** If you have questions or concerns about our competitions, you should use appropriate channels to share your concerns, such as at the contestant meeting or in private discussion with our competition director or chief judge. You are not allowed to confront, pressure, challenge, or argue with individual judges. If you harass or verbally abuse a judge or any other competition official, we may disqualify you and may also ban you from competing at our events in the future.

**7. Reviewing your scores.** Our scorer will post scores for approximately 1 hour after the announcement of the results and presentation of awards. You may review this information to see how you did. (You may also take photos of the scores for your personal use.) If you are unable to review your scores at the event, you also may view posted scores online or contact our competition director after the event.

### **Dance requirements for competitions**

The following dance requirements apply to all our competitions. If our judges determine that you have failed to meet one or more of these requirements, they may assign a violation penalty.

**1. Minimum swing content guidelines.** This is a swing dance event. Therefore, our judges will expect to see recognizable swing content from both partners. Guidelines about swing content are provided under the format for each competition. Our judges will determine whether or not you have met our swing content requirement. If you fail to meet this requirement, you may earn a violation penalty.

**2. Social dance skills emphasis.** Our Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing competitions are designed to showcase good social dance skills in spontaneous swing dancing. All dancing in these competitions should consist of lead/follow moves. Prearranged choreography is allowed only in routines performed in Rising Star, Showcase, and Classic.

**3. Connection.** Swing is a connected partner dance. You must maintain physical contact with your partner throughout the dance, except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries. (In Rising Star and Showcase, you may also break contact for acrobatic maneuvers.)

**4. Partner weight support moves (“tricks”).** Advanced dancers sometimes use partner weight support moves to add excitement to a performance. Like other patterns, these moves will be judged according to the standard criteria of timing, teamwork, and technique. Any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

We distinguish between two types of partner weight support moves:

- **“In the air” support moves:** In these moves, both feet of one partner are clearly off the floor. Lifts, aerials, and some acrobatic maneuvers are examples. “In the air” support moves are allowed only in Showcase (where 3 such moves are required), and in Champions Strictly Swing and Rising Star (where such moves are optional).
- **“On the ground” support moves:** In these moves, you and your partner both maintain physical contact with the floor. Drops, leans, circular movements, leveraged slides, and splits are examples. “On the ground” support moves are allowed in all competitions. However, any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

**5. Appropriate behavior and attire.** It is our desire to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing quality of dancing and good taste. To maintain this balance, we encourage you to put on a good show (including humor where appropriate) but within the context of presenting solid dance fundamentals. Comedy routines where a couple dances poorly on purpose for comic effect are **not** allowed.

Keep in mind that all ages (including young dancers) will be present at our event, and that your performance will be streamed live online and recorded for the event DVD. Any action that our judges believe would make them uncomfortable in social dancing (such as inappropriate touching or simulating sexual behavior) may earn a violation penalty.

Check with our competition director or chief judge in advance if you have any questions regarding the acceptability of your choreography or competition attire.

### **Requesting a restart**

You may request a restart if something happens during your dance that could impact safety, such as:

- **Technical problems** – factors outside your control, such as: lights in the ballroom go out; flooring is faulty or damaged; music suddenly stops; or our DJ plays the wrong music for your dance.
- **Costume malfunctions** – your shoe breaks or becomes unfastened or untied; your costume tears or breaks; or you lose a piece of clothing that could endanger other dancers or expose a part of your body that would not normally be exposed in a public setting.

You may **not** request a restart simply because you are dissatisfied with your dance order, performance, partner, or music, or because you fail to remember part of your routine.

For your own safety, you also will **not** be allowed to restart if you are injured during your dance.

You must request a restart prior to your departure from the floor, and our chief judge must approve your request. Our chief judge may also call for a restart without a request from you if our chief judge believes it is fair to all and in your best interest.

If our chief judge allows a restart, your previous scores will be voided. If our chief judge denies your request for a restart, or you decline an offer to restart, your prior performance will be scored.

## **Competition music**

**1. Music for our Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing competitions.** Our chief DJ will appoint a competition DJ to select music for each Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing division. Music for finals spotlight dances will be approximately the same length of time for each couple. The exact time of fade out is left to the DJ's discretion to maximize the effectiveness of the music. If our judges need more time to determine callbacks or final placements, our chief judge may ask the competition DJ to play additional music.

**2. Music for Rising Star, Showcase, and Classic.** You must provide your own music for your routine. You must submit your music to our competition DJ at least 3 hours prior to your competition. If possible, please bring your music to floor trials (see the weekend schedule). Please supply your music to the DJ on a USB flash drive. You may also want to bring a backup copy on a CD (marked with your name and the competition you are entering). You are responsible for retaining additional practice copies. You may reclaim your music from our competition DJ after the competition. Any music not reclaimed by the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.

## **Our judging criteria**

You will be judged on the following criteria:

**1. Timing.** Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Good timing includes not only dancing on the correct beat but finer distinctions such as whether you are dancing to the syncopated "swing" of the music. Your syncopations and footwork also need to be on time.

**2. Teamwork.** Swing is a connected partner dance. Demonstrating this connection through lead/follow or action/reaction with your partner is an expected part of any swing dance competition. A balanced performance of give-and-take with your partner should be your goal. Ignoring, disrespecting, or jeopardizing the safety of your partner indicates poor teamwork. Compensating and adjusting for your partner is an expected part of good teamwork.

**3. Technique.** How well you execute the movements in your dance constitutes technique. Good technique includes clean execution and completion of dance elements such as control of balance and weight, foot placement, body lines, and spins and turns.

**4. Choreography.** Choreography is the selection and order of movements and transitions during your dance. Such choreography may be spontaneous (for example, in a Jack & Jill) or prearranged in a routine (for example, in Showcase or Classic). Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and the ability to match patterns and syncopations to the phrasing of the music. It also includes identifiable swing patterns in order to provide variety and contrast.

**5. Musical interpretation.** Good musical interpretation consists of adjusting the flow of your dance to fit the style, tempo, mood, and rhythm variations in the music. You should strive to demonstrate the ability to hear and interpret nuances in the music throughout your dance.

**6. Presentation.** Creating an atmosphere of excitement by inviting interest in your performance is the desired effect of good presentation. Good presentation begins with your selection of appropriate attire and shoes. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, it cannot substitute for good dancing. You should aim primarily for demonstrating positive dance chemistry together as a couple.

Gratuitous mugging to the audience or the judges may result in a lower score. Good sporting conduct before, during, and after your dance is also an expected element of good presentation.

## **Definitions**

**1. NASDE statement of swing.** (To be used to identify the presence of swing content in the NASDE competition divisions.) “Swing is an American rhythm dance based on a foundation of 6-beat and 8-beat patterns that incorporate a wide variety of rhythms built on 2-beat single, delayed, double, triple, and blank rhythm units. The 6-beat patterns include (but are not limited to) passes, underarm turns, push-breaks, open-to-closed, and closed-to-open position patterns. The 8-beat patterns include (but are not limited to) whips, swing-outs, Lindy circles, and Shag pivots. Although they are not part of the foundation of the dance as stated above, 2-beat and 4-beat extension rhythm breaks may be incorporated to extend a pattern, to phrase the music, and/or to accent breaks.”

**2. Recognized styles of swing dancing.** The following are some common names for styles of swing dancing allowed in our competitions: Balboa, Bal-Swing, Bop, Carolina Shag, Charleston, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jazz Spaz, Jitterbug, Lindy, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, Savoy Style Lindy, Smooth Lindy, and West Coast Swing. If you dance a style of swing not listed here, you may request that we add it by talking to our competition director or chief judge before the competition.

**3. Acrobatic maneuver.** An acrobatic maneuver is any move where a dancer independently passes his or her legs or body over and across the plane of either partner’s head. Acrobatic maneuvers illustrate gymnastic abilities that are not normally part of swing patterns in social dancing. Back-flips, cartwheels, and deep backbends are examples. Acrobatic maneuvers are allowed only in Champions Strictly Swing, Rising Star, and Showcase.

**4. Aerial.** An aerial is any move where one partner is lifted with the assistance of the other partner and the head and torso of the lifted partner is in a position higher than the waist of the supporting partner. Aerials are allowed only in Champions Strictly Swing, Rising Star, and Showcase.

**5. Breakaway.** A breakaway is any set of symmetrical or complementary movements or footwork executed after a couple intentionally breaks contact. (Breaking contact for free spins or turns is not considered a breakaway.) Short breakaways (no longer than 8 beats of music) are allowed in all our competitions. However, our judges may mark down excessive use of breakaways.

**6. Costume.** A costume is any attire specifically designed for dance routines and that would not be worn for social dancing. Costumes are allowed only in Rising Star, Showcase, and Classic. (Matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are not considered costumes and are allowed, although not required, in Strictly Swing.)

**7. Entrance.** An entrance is an initial, pre-choreographed segment of a performance, where competitors formally enter the floor and prepare to dance. An entrance is allowed only in Rising Star, Showcase, and Classic. (Acknowledging your partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an entrance.)

**8. Exit.** An exit is a final, pre-choreographed segment of a performance, where competitors formally leave the floor. An exit is allowed only in Rising Star, Showcase, and Classic. (Acknowledging your partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an exit.)



**9. Lift.** A lift is any move lasting longer than a full beat of music where both feet of one partner are clearly off the floor and the other partner supports the lifted partner's weight. Lifts are allowed only in Champions Strictly Swing, Rising Star, and Showcase. (The following syncopations and patterns are not considered lifts: flea hops; bunny hops; heel clicks; Flying Lindy and its adaptations to other swing styles; jumps over the leg of a partner; and leveraged slides.)

**10. Prop.** A prop is any object or article of clothing that is intentionally discarded, removed, taken away, or brought into a dance by a competitor. This includes, but is not limited to, a hat that is thrown to the floor, a cane that is tossed away, a table or chair used in a performance, or an object picked up from the floor. To ensure the safety of competitors and the audience, **no props are allowed.**

**11. Routine.** A routine is any dance performance or segment using prearranged choreography rather than spontaneous lead/follow moves. Routines are allowed only in Rising Star, Showcase, and Classic. (Coordinated footwork or mirror patterns from Carolina Shag are not considered a routine.)

**12. Side-by-side.** A side-by-side is any set of symmetrical or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple that is not part of a recognizable lead/follow swing dance 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 in this definition for the purpose of these rules. Side-by-sides (no longer than 8 beats of music) are allowed in all our competitions. However, our judges may mark down excessive use of side-by-sides.

## **Errors and violations**

If you fail to follow these rules, our judges may assess a penalty. Unless defined elsewhere in our rules, the levels of severity and associated penalties are as follows:

**1. Error.** An error is a minor and apparently unintentional breach of the rules. Examples include:

- A brief and unintended loss of contact with your partner (where the rules require contact).
- A momentary loss of balance.
- A momentary loss of composure.

Errors may be penalized (or not) at the discretion of each judge observing the error.

**2. Violation.** A violation is a serious and apparently intentional breach of the rules. Some examples:

- Making a face or expressing unhappiness with your draw of a particular partner or musical selection.
- Behaving disrespectfully toward your partner, another competitor, a spectator, a judge, or the event.
- Wearing an inappropriate outfit or costume.
- Competing while intoxicated or under the influence of mood-altering drugs.
- Using prohibited choreography, such as a lift in a Jack & Jill competition.
- Performing a "trick" move that endangers your partner, other competitors, or spectators.
- Choosing choreography that blatantly ignores or contradicts the phrasing of the music.
- Failing to include the required percentage of recognizable swing content in your dance.

Judges may assign violations at their discretion, and they may choose to penalize a violation by a drop of one or more positions in their final placements.

**3. Referee judge and review panel for routines.** For our routine competitions (Rising Star, Showcase, and Classic), we will use the **Wayne Bott Referee System** (developed by Wayne Bott for the U.S. Open). See [nasde.net](http://nasde.net) for full details. Here is a brief summary:

- A referee judge uses a checklist to determine whether or not each routine follows the rules.
- If all couples pass, no review panel is needed.
- If any couple fails, our chief judge will appoint a review panel, which consists of the referee judge and at least two other judges.
- These judges will review the video of the flagged couple to determine if a violation occurred.
- If a majority of the review panel agrees that a violation has occurred, the review panel will determine the number of places to be dropped based on the magnitude of the violation.
- The penalty for a severe violation may include being dropped out of awards. For Showcase and Classic couples, this may mean being dropped to 11th place so no NASDE points would be earned.

**Note:** Determining swing content is the responsibility of each judge, **not** the referee judge. Any warning or violation regarding lack of swing content will be reflected in the score of the individual judge and is not subject to review.

**4. Time violation for routines.** If our referee judge determines that your routine is over the maximum or under the minimum time limit, you may be assigned a violation. You will have an opportunity to try out your music before the competition during floor trials. (See the weekend schedule for times.) It is your responsibility to ensure that your routine meets the time requirements.

## **Appeals**

**All decisions of our competition officials are final. No appeals will be allowed.** However, you may use appropriate channels to discuss any concerns with our chief judge or competition coordinator.

# **Jack & Jill**

## **Summary**

Our Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight skills in spontaneous swing dancing (primarily West Coast Swing) with a variety of partners and music. A bit of “luck of the draw” comes into play as well. Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected by the appointed competition DJ.

## **Eligibility**

We use the **World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Points Registry** (see [worldsdc.com](http://worldsdc.com) for details) to determine eligibility for each WSDC Jack & Jill skill level division (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars, or Champions).

To enter one of our WSDC Jack & Jill skill level divisions, you must be at least 13 years old.

- If you are under 18, you must have the consent of your parent or guardian to enter. You should be comfortable social dancing with adults on a regular basis.
- If you are younger than 13 years old, your parent or guardian must submit a petition for you to enter. Petitions will be considered in exceptional cases (such as previous competition experience).

If you are at least 50 years old, you also may enter our Masters Jack & Jill, which is an age division, **not** a WSDC Jack & Jill skill level division.

If you qualify as a Junior (any age under 18 at the beginning of the weekend) or Champion/All-Star, you also may enter The Next Generational Jack & Jill, which is **not** a WSDC competition. If you are under 18, you must have the consent of your parent or guardian to enter.

There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division.

You may choose to enter as either a “leader” or “follower.” There are no gender restrictions for your chosen role as long as you meet the following criteria:

- As required by current WSDC rules, you may enter only one WSDC Jack & Jill skill level division (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars, or Champions).
- You should enter the highest division for which you qualify. Within that division, you may choose to enter as either a “leader” or “follower.” (If you are competing in your less familiar role, you may petition to dance down one level.)
- You must remain in the same role throughout the competition (preliminaries, quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals); **switching roles is not allowed.**
- If you qualify, you also may enter our Masters Jack & Jill and/or The Next Generational Jack & Jill in the same role or a different role.

**Note:** Some competitors may be required to compete in a higher division in Strictly Swing, because their partner qualifies the partnership for the higher level. **Competing or placing in a higher level Strictly Swing doesn’t qualify you to compete at that level in a Jack & Jill competition.**

If you are unclear about which Jack & Jill division is right for you, check with our competition director or chief judge before you register.

### **WSDC Jack & Jill skill level divisions**

**1. Novice Jack & Jill.** This division is intended for dancers with limited prior competition experience. To enter this division, you should know the following **basic West Coast Swing (WCS) patterns**:

- Starter step
- Basic throwout
- Tuck and turn throwout
- Underarm turn
- Left side pass
- Right side pass
- Push break
- Whip
- Lock whip
- Whip to closed
- Whip with inside turn, outside turn, and behind-the-back hand change variations

You may enter the Novice division if *any* of the following apply:

- You are relatively new to competition, and you haven't earned any Novice points; or
- You have earned fewer than 15 Novice points; or
- You have earned 16 to 29 Novice points but wish to remain in this division; or
- You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.

**2. Intermediate Jack & Jill.** This division is intended for dancers with some previous competition experience and success. You may enter this division if *any* of the following apply:

- You have earned 16 or more Novice points (optional; you are required to move up to Intermediate with 30+ Novice points); or
- You have earned 1 to 29 Intermediate points; or
- You have earned 30 to 44 Intermediate points but wish to remain in this division; or
- You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.

**3. Advanced Jack & Jill.** This division is intended for dancers with significant competition experience and success. You may enter this division if *any* of the following apply:

- You have earned 30 or more Intermediate points (optional; you are required to move up to Advanced with 45+ Intermediate points); or
- You have earned 1 to 44 Advanced points; or
- You have earned 45 to 59 Advanced points in the past 36 months but wish to remain in this division; or
- You no longer qualify for All-Stars because you haven't earned at least 3 points in All-Stars in the past 36 months.
- You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.

**4. All-Stars Jack & Jill.** This division is intended for dancers with significant competition experience and success at the Advanced level and above. You may enter this division if *any* of the following apply:

- You have earned 45 or more Advanced points in the past 36 months (optional; you are required to **move up** to All-Stars with 60+ Advanced points accumulated in the past 36 months); or
- You have earned at least 3 All-Stars points in the past 36 months to **stay** at this level; or
- You have earned at least 10 additional Advanced points in the past 12 months to **move back** to All-Stars after dropping to Advanced (due to earning less than 3 All-Stars points in the past 36 months).
- You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.

**5. Champions Jack & Jill.** This division is intended for the top champion-level competitors. You may enter this division if *any* of the following apply:

- You have finished in the top 5 places in the Champions Jack & Jill at Boogie by the Bay in the past 5 years; or
- You have finished in the top 5 places in the Champions Jack & Jill (not an Invitational or combined All-Stars/Champions Jack & Jill) at 3 or more other WSDC member events in the past 36 months; or
- You have taught a West Coast Swing workshop as an invited instructor at Boogie by the Bay in the past 5 years; or
- You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.

### **Masters Jack & Jill**

This is an age-based Jack & Jill intended for competitors who are at least 50 years old. It is open to all skill levels, but you should know the basic West Coast Swing (WCS) patterns. (See the Novice Jack & Jill division above for a list of basic WCS patterns.) Competitors in this division may also enter one WSDC Jack & Jill skill level division (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars, or Champions).

### **The Next Generational Jack & Jill**

This is a special competition at Boogie by the Bay to support young dancers and encourage them to continue their dance journey. It is **not** a WSDC Jack & Jill division, so no WSDC points will be awarded. **There is no entry fee.** There is no limit on the total number of entries.

- You may enter as a **Junior** if you are any age under 18 (at the beginning of the weekend).
- You may enter as a **Champion/All-Star** if you qualify for our Champions or All-Stars Jack & Jill divisions (see above).

The Next Generational Jack & Jill will go straight to finals on Friday night. There will be two group heats, one for Junior leaders paired with Champion/All-Star followers, and one for Junior followers paired with Champion/All-Star leaders. Each Junior will draw a random Champion or All-Star partner. **If more Juniors enter, some Champions/All-Stars may dance twice. If more Champions/All-Stars enter, some may not be drawn by a Junior and won't dance.**

## **Submitting a petition**

If you want to enter a Jack & Jill division for which you do not meet the entry requirements, or want to change divisions, you must submit a petition. (See page 2 for details about submitting a petition.)

## **Format**

1. All dancing in our Jack & Jill competitions should be lead/follow. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
2. Our judges will expect to see at least 90 percent recognizable swing content. You should assume that our Jack & Jill competitions will be primarily West Coast Swing (WCS). However, you and your partner may choose to incorporate other recognized forms of swing dancing (such as Carolina Shag, Hand Dancing, or Lindy Hop) as well without penalty.
3. You and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.
4. “In the air” partner weight support moves (lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are not allowed.
5. “On the ground” support moves (such as drops) are allowed. However, you and your partner must both maintain physical contact with the floor during support moves.
6. Support moves must be lead/follow social dance patterns that take the safety of your partner and other couples into consideration. Any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.
7. Costumes and props are not allowed. However, competition outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable. Appropriate attire and shoes are required.
8. For our Novice division, which we expect to be Tier 5 (80 to 129 competitors) or Tier 6 (130+ competitors), we plan to hold 4 rounds: preliminaries, quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals. For our Intermediate, Advanced, and All-Star divisions, which we expect to be Tier 3 (20 to 39 competitors) or Tier 4 (40 to 79 competitors), we plan to hold 3 rounds: preliminaries, semifinals, and finals. For the other divisions (Masters and Champions), we plan to hold at least 2 rounds: semifinals and finals. However, we may add or omit a preliminary or semifinal round in any division, depending on the actual number of entries.
9. During preliminaries, quarterfinals, and semifinals, you will dance in heats with several partners selected randomly. Although you will be judged individually on a callback basis, you must demonstrate good teamwork with all your partners to advance to the next round.
10. If there is an imbalance in the number of leaders and followers, some contestants (selected randomly) may dance in more than one heat. However, even if your name is not called to dance again, you should remain in the ballroom throughout the competition, in case any additional competitors are needed at the last minute.
11. Our chief judge will determine the exact number of finalists after our scorer has tallied the results of the callbacks.

12. In the finals, we will use a random drawing (or some other random method) to determine your partner. No redraws will be permitted for any reason – it's luck of the draw. Finalists will be judged as couples.

**13. For all our WSDC Jack & Jill skill level divisions (and the Masters Jack & Jill), couples in the finals on Sunday afternoon will compete in spotlight dances (time permitting).**

14. Eligible finalists in all WSDC divisions will earn WSDC points according to current WSDC policies. (See **worldsdc.com** for details.)

15. The Next Generational Jack & Jill is **not** a WSDC Jack & Jill division, so no WSDC points will be awarded.

# **Strictly Swing**

## **Summary**

Our Strictly Swing competitions are designed to highlight skills in spontaneous swing dancing (any recognized style) with a chosen partner. Competitors enter as couples and dance to music selected by the appointed competition DJ.

## **Eligibility**

To enter Strictly Swing, you and your partner must both be at least 13 years old. If you are under 18, you must have the consent of your parent or guardian to enter. If you are younger than 13 years old, your parent or guardian must petition for you to enter. For our Sophisticated Strictly Swing division, you and your partner both must be at least 35 years old.

There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division.

You may choose to enter Strictly Swing as either a “leader” or “follower.” There are no gender restrictions for your chosen role as long as you meet the following criteria:

- You may enter only one Strictly Swing skill level division (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars, or Champions) per role. You and your partner must enter the highest division for which either one of you qualifies. You and your partner must remain in the same roles throughout the competition (preliminaries, semifinals, and finals); **switching roles is not allowed except in the Champions division.**
- You may compete in a second Strictly Swing skill level division in the opposite role (with a different partner) only if your second partnership qualifies for a different division than your first partnership. *For example, if you qualify as an Intermediate Jack & Jill leader, you could compete as a leader in Intermediate Strictly Swing with an Intermediate (or Novice) follower. If you also wanted to compete in Strictly Swing as a follower, you could either: (1) compete as a follower in Advanced Strictly Swing with a leader who qualifies as an Advanced Jack & Jill competitor, bringing your second Strictly Swing partnership up to the Advanced level; or (2) petition to compete in Novice Strictly Swing as a Novice follower with a leader who qualifies as a Novice Jack & Jill competitor.* Note: Competing or placing in a higher level Strictly Swing doesn't qualify you to compete at that level in a Jack & Jill competition.
- If you are at least 35 years old, you also may enter our Sophisticated Strictly Swing division (with a partner who also is at least 35 years old).

If you enter more than one Strictly Swing division (or other couples competitions such as Rising Star, Showcase, or Classic), you must compete with a different partner each time.

## **Strictly Swing skill level divisions**

**1. Novice Strictly Swing.** This division is intended for dancers with limited competition experience. You may enter this division if you and your partner both qualify for our Novice Jack & Jill division and neither partner qualifies for our Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars, or Champions Jack & Jill division.



**2. Intermediate Strictly Swing.** This division is intended for dancers with some previous competition experience and success. You may enter this division if you or your partner qualifies for our Intermediate Jack & Jill division and neither partner qualifies for our Advanced, All-Stars, or Champions Jack & Jill division.

**3. Advanced Strictly Swing.** This division is intended for dancers with significant competition experience and success. You may enter this division if you or your partner qualifies for our Advanced Jack & Jill division and neither partner qualifies for our All-Stars or Champions Jack & Jill division.

**4. All-Stars Strictly Swing.** This division is intended for dancers with significant competition experience and success at the Advanced level and above. You may enter this division if you or your partner qualifies for our All-Stars Jack & Jill division and neither partner qualifies for our Champions Jack & Jill division.

**5. Champions Strictly Swing.** This division is intended for the top champion-level competitors. You may enter this division if you or your partner qualifies for our Champions Jack & Jill division.

### **Sophisticated Strictly Swing**

This is an age-based Strictly Swing division intended for competitors who are both at least 35 years old. It is open to all skill levels.

### **Format**

1. All dancing in our Strictly Swing competitions should be lead/follow. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
2. Our judges will expect to see at least 90 percent recognizable swing content. All recognized styles of swing dancing are allowed and encouraged.
3. You and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.
4. “In the air” partner weight support moves (lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are not allowed (except in the Champions Strictly Swing division, where lifts and acrobatic maneuvers are optional).
5. “On the ground” support moves (such as drops) are allowed. However, you and your partner must both maintain physical contact with the floor during support moves.
6. Support moves must be lead/follow social dance patterns that take the safety of your partner and other couples into consideration. Any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.
7. Costumes and props are not allowed. However, matching or complementary competition outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable. Appropriate attire and shoes are required.
8. We may hold semifinal and final rounds, or finals only, depending on the number of entries.
9. During the semifinals, couples will be judged on a callback basis during heats.

10. Our chief judge will determine the exact number of finalists after our scorer has tallied the results of the callbacks.

11. For the Novice, Intermediate, Masters, and Advanced Strictly Swing divisions, couples in the finals will compete in one group heat or in a jam format, as determined by the competition director and chief judge.

12. For the All-Stars and Champions Strictly Swing divisions, couples in the finals will compete in spotlight dances (time permitting).

## **Rising Star**

### **Summary**

Our Rising Star competition is intended for dancers that are relatively new to performing a choreographed routine. Competitors enter as a couple, supply their own music, and perform a swing dance routine (any recognized style) prepared in advance. Routines may follow either the “Showcase” or “Classic” format.

### **Eligibility**

As required by current Rising Star Tour rules (see [risingstartour.com](http://risingstartour.com) for details), to enter Rising Star, both partners must:

- Be at least 18 years old by the end of the weekend to earn Rising Star Tour points. (However, dancers who are 15 to 17 years old also will be allowed to compete in Rising Star at this event.)
- Never have placed or made a qualifying final of a NASDE Classic or Showcase division (in other words, never have received NASDE routine points).
- Not have Champion or Invitational WSDC Jack and Jill points within the last 10 years.
- Never have won the Rising Star Tour top point award in previous years as a couple.\*
- Never have placed as a couple in the top 3 couples in Rising Star at the U.S. Open.\*

\*Note: If you as an individual have previously won the Rising Star Tour top point award or have placed in the top 3 couples at the U.S. Open, but you wish to compete in Rising Star with a new (eligible) partner, you must submit a petition to the Rising Star Tour committee no less than 7 days prior to the event by sending an email to [petition@risingstartour.com](mailto:petition@risingstartour.com).

You may choose to enter as either a “leader” or “follower.” There are no gender restrictions for your chosen role.

You are **not** permitted to dance twice in this competition (even with a different partner) or to enter the NASDE Classic or Showcase competitions at this event.

We reserve the right to limit our Rising Star competition to the first 20 couples that enter. A complete entry must include the entry form with signed waivers from both partners, along with the entry fee.

### **Format**

1. Routines performed in our Rising Star competition may include any recognized style of swing dancing. Our judges will expect to see at least 70 percent recognizable swing content.
2. Your performance must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes, including any formal entrance or exit.
3. Time and judging start from the first moment of your performance (with or without music). You and your partner may make separate entrances, but you must come together within 32 beats of music.

4. Once you make contact, you and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, acrobatic maneuvers, short breakaways or side-by-side patterns (no longer than 8 beats), and recoveries.
5. Showcase format “in the air” partner weight support moves (such as lifts, aerials, or acrobatic maneuvers) are allowed (but not required).
6. Classic format “on the ground” partner weight support moves (such as drops, slides, or splits) are allowed (but not required). A maximum of 5 partner weight support moves with at least one foot on the ground are allowed.
7. Costumes are allowed and encouraged. Appropriate attire and shoes are required.
8. Props are not allowed.
9. You must submit your music to our competition DJ at least 3 hours prior to your competition. If possible, please bring your music to floor trials (see the weekend schedule). Please supply your music to the DJ on a USB flash drive. You may also want to bring a backup copy on a CD (marked with your name and the competition you are entering). You are responsible for retaining additional practice copies.
10. You may reclaim your music from our competition DJ after the competition. Any music not reclaimed by the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.
11. Order of dance will be drawn during the contestant meeting. If you and your partner both miss the meeting, we will ask someone else to draw for you.
12. Eligible finalists receiving top placements will earn points in the WCS Rising Star Tour. (See [risingstartour.com](http://risingstartour.com) for details.)

## **Showcase and Classic**

### **Summary**

Our Showcase and Classic competitions are designed to highlight skills in choreographed swing dancing (any recognized style) with a chosen partner. Competitors enter as a couple, supply their own music, and perform a routine prepared in advance.

**Showcase** routines include lifts, aerials, and other acrobatic or partner weight support moves as well as lead/follow moves.

**Classic** routines include traditional lead/follow moves and an “on the ground” approach to the dance. Lifts, aerials, and acrobatic maneuvers are not allowed.

Showcase and Classic are part of the NASDE tour. (See [nasde.net](http://nasde.net) for details.)

### **Eligibility**

As required by current NASDE rules:

- You and your partner must both be at least 18 years old to enter Showcase or Classic.
- A couple must consist of one male “leader” and one female “follower.”

You may enter both Showcase and Classic, but you must dance with a different partner in each competition. (NASDE points will only be awarded to each competitor once, for the highest placement in Showcase or Classic.)

You are **not** permitted to dance twice in the same competition (even with a different partner) or to enter the Rising Star competition at this event.

If you enter another couples competition (such as Strictly Swing), you must compete with a different partner each time.

We reserve the right to limit our Showcase and Classic competitions to the first 20 couples that enter each competition. A complete entry must include the entry form with signed waivers from both partners, along with the entry fee.

### **Format for Showcase**

1. Routines performed in our Showcase competition should emphasize choreography that includes lifts, aerials, or other acrobatic or partner weight support moves as well as lead/follow moves.
2. Your routine may include any recognized style of swing dancing. Our judges will expect to see at least 60 percent recognizable swing content.
3. Your performance must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes, including any formal entrance or exit.

4. Time and judging start from the first moment of your performance (with or without music). You and your partner may make separate entrances, but you must come together within 32 beats of music.
5. Once you make contact, you and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, acrobatic maneuvers, short breakaways or side-by-side patterns (no longer than 8 beats), and recoveries.
6. “In the air” partner weight support moves (lifts, aerials), acrobatic maneuvers, and “on the ground” support moves (such as drops) are allowed.
7. Your routine must include at least 3 “in the air” partner weight support moves (lifts, aerials) or acrobatic maneuvers. At least 1 of these 3 moves must be an aerial.
8. Costumes are allowed and encouraged. Appropriate attire and shoes are required.
9. Props are not allowed.
10. You must submit your music to our competition DJ at least 3 hours prior to your competition. If possible, please bring your music to floor trials (see the weekend schedule). Please supply your music to the DJ on a USB flash drive. You may also want to bring a backup copy on a CD (marked with your name and the competition you are entering). You are responsible for retaining additional practice copies.
11. You may reclaim your music from our competition DJ after the competition. Any music not reclaimed by the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.
12. Order of dance will be drawn during the contestant meeting. If you and your partner both miss the meeting, we will ask someone else to draw for you.
13. The top 10 couples will earn NASDE points (if eligible) for additional monetary awards at the end of the NASDE tour. (See [nasde.net](http://nasde.net) for details.) If fewer than 10 couples enter, NASDE points will still be awarded. (If you enter both Showcase and Classic, with different partners, you will only be awarded points once, for the highest placement.)

### **Format for Classic**

1. Routines performed in our Classic competition should emphasize choreography with traditional lead/follow moves and an “on the ground” approach to the dance.
2. Your routine may include any recognized style of swing dancing. Our judges will expect to see at least 80 percent recognizable swing content.
3. Your performance must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes, including any formal entrance or exit.
4. Time and judging start from the first moment of your performance (with or without music). You and your partner may make separate entrances but must join together within 32 beats of music, but you must come together within 32 beats of music.

5. Once you make contact, you and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways or side-by-side patterns (no longer than 8 beats), and recoveries.
6. “In the air” partner weight support moves (lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are not allowed.
7. “On the ground” support moves (such as drops) are allowed (but not required). You and your partner must both maintain physical contact with the floor during support moves. At most 5 support moves are permitted.
8. Costumes are allowed and encouraged. Appropriate attire and shoes are required.
9. Props are not allowed.
10. You must submit your music to our competition DJ at least 3 hours prior to your competition. If possible, please bring your music to floor trials (see the weekend schedule). Please supply your music to the DJ on a USB flash drive. You may also want to bring a backup copy on a CD (marked with your name and the competition you are entering). You are responsible for retaining additional practice copies.
11. You may reclaim your music from our competition DJ after the competition. Any music not reclaimed by the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.
12. Order of dance will be drawn during the contestant meeting. If you and your partner both miss the meeting, we will ask someone else to draw for you.
13. The top 10 couples will earn NASDE points (if eligible) for additional monetary awards at the end of the NASDE tour. (See [nasde.net](http://nasde.net) for details.) If fewer than 10 couples enter, NASDE points will still be awarded. (If you enter both Showcase and Classic, with different partners, you will only be awarded points once, for the highest placement.)

## **Prize amounts**

The following prize amounts will be split 50/50 between partners.

	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>5th</b>
<b>WSDC Jack &amp; Jill skill level divisions</b>					
Novice Jack & Jill	250	200	150	100	50
Intermediate Jack & Jill	250	200	150	100	50
Advanced Jack & Jill	300	250	200	150	100
All-Stars Jack & Jill	300	250	200	150	100
Champions Jack & Jill	1,000	600	400	300	200
<b>Masters Jack &amp; Jill</b>					
	250	200	150	100	50
<b>The Next Generational Jack &amp; Jill</b>					
Junior Leader & Champion/All-Star Follower	250	200	150	100	50
Junior Follower & Champion/All-Star Leader	250	200	150	100	50
<b>Strictly Swing skill level divisions</b>					
Novice Strictly Swing	250	200	150	100	50
Intermediate Strictly Swing	250	200	150	100	50
Advanced Strictly Swing	300	250	200	150	100
All-Stars Strictly Swing	300	250	200	150	100
Champions Strictly Swing	1,000	600	400	300	200
<b>Sophisticated Strictly Swing</b>					
	250	200	150	100	50
<b>Routine competitions</b>					
Rising Star	300	250	200	150	100
Showcase	1,200	800	600	400	200
Classic	1,200	800	600	400	200

## **Disclaimer and copyright notice**

We will make every effort to conduct all competitions in accordance with these rules. However, we reserve the right to make any changes that we deem necessary for any competition. If we need to make any changes to our competitions or to these rules, we will post them on our website (if possible) or announce them at the event.

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If you have questions about our competitions or would like to request permission to reproduce or adapt these rules, contact to our competition director, Andy Bouman, at [andy@boogiebythebay.com](mailto:andy@boogiebythebay.com).

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