



2019 USA GRAND NATIONAL DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION RULES

(Anything in red reflects “New”- updated April 2019)

Yellow highlights are for changes to outside organization rules.

Mission Statement

“To provide a fun, friendly, and organized competitive dance environment where separate dance communities can become inspired by the other to share, create, and merge into one dance while maintaining the integrity of each dance individually”

Competitor Organizer

USA Grand National Dance Championship is sponsored by Michael and LeAnn Productions LLC. Final decisions on any matter pertaining to these competitions rest solely with the Organizer.

General Competition Requirements

Competitor Eligibility:

- Must purchase a weekend pass
- Must sign a waiver (if you are under the age of 18, your parent or guardian must sign for you)
- Register by entry deadline(s)
- Must complete entry form and pay entry fee prior to event or not considered “registered”
- Must follow individual division guidelines as outlined in this document

Age Requirements:

- Are outlined in the specific qualification for each division
- Competitors must meet age requirement by the event date
- Competitors under the age of six are not allowed to compete at this event
- All attendees under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

Waiver Forms:

- Every competitor must sign the appropriate waiver before being allowed to compete
- Competitors under the age of eighteen must have a parent or guardian sign any required forms
- Every member of a team or cabaret act must sign a waiver

Partner Restrictions:

- Eligible competitors are not allowed to enter multiple routine divisions with the same partner (except team division or cabaret).
- Eligible competitors may choose to enter one Jack & Jill level, one Strictly Swing level, one Cabaret act, or one Team act.
- Eligible competitors are not allowed to compete in a routine division and a Strictly Swing with the same partner.

Restarts:

May request a restart under the following circumstances

- If the dj plays the wrong song.
- If the music or sound system fails or if the ballroom lights go out during the performance.
- If a contestant has a costume malfunction or loses a vital piece of clothing or breaks a shoe.

May **NOT** request a restart under the following circumstances

- Dissatisfied with their performance, their partner, or their dance order
- Dissatisfied with their music or music tempo
- Fail to remember all or part of the routine or stop their performance
- If a contestant is injured during the performance. This is for safety reasons.

Note: You must request a restart before you leave the floor. The Chief Judge approves the request. The Chief Judge may also call for a restart without a request from you, if our Chief Judge believes it is fair for all and in your best interest. If a restart is allowed, your previous scores will be voided. If denied, or you decline an offer to restart, your prior performance will be scored. Competitors with pre-selected music are expected to ensure their music and tempo are tested on the DJ's sound system.

Responsibility of Competitors

1. Be prepared for the weekend by checking all weekend schedules, attending all mandatory meetings, turning in music on time, and arriving for competition on time. Competitors must be present in ballroom 10 minutes prior to their competition. Remember: Event schedule is subject to change.
2. Read and adhere to the rules for their competition prior to dancer's meeting.
3. Demonstrate good sportsmanlike conduct.
4. Competitors must turn-in music at DANCERS MEETING on FRIDAY.

Cancellations

Any contestant(s) who wish to cancel their application prior to May 15, 2019 will receive a refund of their entry fee. Cancellations received after that date will not receive a refund.

Dancer's Roll Call

The dancers' meeting will be held in the Chambers Auditorium at 4:45 pm on Friday of the event. All competitors must be registered and plan to attend (except Pro-Am Lead/Follow, Jack and Jill's, and Non-Professional Shag). Dance positions will be drawn at 4:45 pm and roll call will be at 5:00 pm. If you are not there to draw your position number prior to roll call, a number will be drawn for you. If you are not registered, you will not dance unless you have informed the Organizer in advance explaining your reason for failing to register. Turn in your music to the DJ on Staff at the dancers meeting, USB drive or CD.

[Dance Order will be announced at the end of the meeting.](#)

Referee Judging

Contestants will be judged by a panel of 5-7 judges. All judges' decisions are final. GNDC may utilize a Referee judge to monitor and flag rules in question. A video review may be required by a 3-person judging panel. If 2 or more agree a penalty or violation may result. See Appendix 1 for Referee Rules.

Scoring Review

Competitors' dance scores will be available for review immediately after the awards ceremony on Sunday evening in the Ascot Room off the Atrium. **This review is for competitors ONLY please; however,**

parents of junior dancers may accompany their children into the review room. No cameras will be allowed in the scoring room! The Head **Judges, Referee Judge**, as well as other judges, will be asked to be available for questions.

2019 USA GRAND NATIONAL DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVISION RULES

Junior Shag I:

This division is designed to feature young Carolina Shag dancers who are under the age of 14

General:

1. Competitor couples will be comprised of one male and one female.
2. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division is 5.
3. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
4. Props are not allowed.

Specific

1. Contestants must be between the ages of 6 -14 by the end of the event to participate.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes.
3. Competitors select their own music.
4. No choreographed routines or lifts allowed.
5. No costumes allowed although tasteful, age-appropriate, matching or complimentary outfits are allowed.
6. No choreographed entrances or exits.

Junior Shag II:

This division is designed to feature young Carolina Shag dancers who are older than 15 but under the age of 21

General:

1. Competitor couples will be comprised of one male and one female.
2. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division is 5.
3. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
4. Props are not allowed.

Specific

1. Contestants must be between the ages of 15-20 by the end of the event to participate.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes.
3. Competitors select their own music.
4. No choreographed routines or lifts allowed.
5. No costumes allowed although tasteful, age-appropriate, matching or complimentary outfits are allowed.
6. No choreographed entrances or exits.

Carolina Masters Shag:

This division is designed to feature Carolina Shag dancers who are over the age of 45

General:

1. Competitor couples will be comprised of one male and one female.
2. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division is 5.
3. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
4. Props are not allowed.

Specific

1. Contestants must be 45 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes.
3. Competitors select their own music.
4. No choreographed routines or lifts allowed.
5. No costumes allowed although matching or complimentary outfits are appropriate.
6. No choreographed entrances or exits.

Team:

This division is designed to feature synchronized couples dancing of any genre of "swing" with a minimum of two couples

General:

1. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division are 3 teams.
2. An individual is only allowed to compete on one team, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Must be approved by event director if an individual is competing on more than one team.
3. Props are not allowed.

Specific

1. Contestants must be 6 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 3 minutes and a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Competitors select their own music.
4. Choreographed routines are required. No line dances allowed.
5. Lifts, aeriels, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, break-aways, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are all allowed.
6. Costumes are required.
7. Choreographed entrances or exits are allowed. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the Chief Judge.
8. Guidelines for expected swing content: 50% in Team. It is at the judges' discretion to determine the swing content requirement has been met.

National Association of Swing Dance Events (NASDE) Rules

NASDE rules apply to Classic & Showcase Division ONLY

<http://www.nasde.net/rules.php>

NASDE RULES *Effective January 1, 2019*

NASDE Swing Dance Competition Divisions

NASDE sponsors the swing dance competition divisions of Showcase, Classic, and **Strictly Swing** to help promote, preserve, and improve swing dancing. The objective is to provide a competitive performance venue for the various unique styles of swing that have developed across the nation to include the Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing, to name a few.

NASDE Statement of Swing

NASDE Statement of Swing to be used to identify the presence of swing 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.

NASDE Sportsmanship Expectations

Sportsmanship is a fundamental aspect of our competition. Competing for the NASDE prize fund is privilege, not a right. The event director may flag a competitor's behavior as un-sportsman like. Said behavior will be reviewed by the NASDE board at the next schedule NASDE Board meeting. Redress for violations can include but are not limited to deduction of points, dropping in level in the overall standing, or removal of competitor from the NASDE list.

NASDE Prop Rules

To ensure the safety of competitors and the audience, no props are allowed in NASDE routines. A prop is defined as any article or object that is intentionally discarded, removed, taken away, or brought into a dance by a competitor. This includes, but not limited to, a hat that is thrown to the floor, a cane that is tossed away, or picking up an object from the floor. The referee will be designated as ensuring this rule is enforced. if the referee determines a violation occurred, the NASDE Referee will be used for verification and applying penalties.

CLASSIC DIVISION

(Place/Points: 1/10, 2/9, 3/8, 4/7, 5/6, 6/5, 7/4, 8/3, 9/2, 10/1)

Swing dancing that allows choreography emphasizing the foundation of swing dancing and swing movement. Drops, leans, circular movements and other partner weight support moves are allowed as long as both partners keep at least one foot on the floor.

General

1. NASDE rules apply.
2. If any Event rule conflicts with published NASDE rules, the NASDE rules take precedence.
3. Contestants must be 18 years or older by the end of the event to participate.

4. A competitive couple must consist of one leader and one follower. They must remain in their designed roles throughout the entire routine with an allowable exception of an 8 count maximum of role switching.
5. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the Event's discretion.
6. The minimum prize money offered for the division should be \$2,500.
7. If a member event offers a NASDE competition division and cancels the division due to not having enough competitors to compete in the division, the competitors who registered and arrived prepared to compete, will be allowed to compete for NASDE points. Cash prize money can be reduced at the discretion of the Event Director.
8. Guidelines for expected swing content in Classic is 80%. It is at the Judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
9. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.

Specific

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins and judging starts at the first dance movement of the performance, with or without music.
2. Competitors select their own music.
3. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
4. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music.
5. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-aways, and recoveries. If **combined**, separation cannot be more than 8 beats of music. For example, if a competitor does a free spin or a turn, is not connected to their partner, and goes straight into a side by side break-away, the entire separation cannot be more than 8 beats of music.
6. Both partners must keep at least one foot on the floor during weight-support moves. If the foot comes off the floor, it will be flagged for review to determine if it was a violation (part of the choreography) or an error.
7. A maximum of five (5) partner weight-support moves are permitted.

SHOWCASE DIVISION

Place/Points: 1/10, 2/9, 3/8, 4/7, 5/6, 6/5, 7/4, 8/3, 9/2, 10/1)

Swing dancing that allows lifts, as well as other partner weight-support moves.

General

1. NASDE rules apply.
2. If any Event rule conflicts with published NASDE rules, the NASDE rules take precedence.
3. Contestants must be 18 years or older by the end of the Event to participate.
4. A competitive couple must consist of one leader and one follower. They must remain in their designed roles throughout the entire routine with an allowable exception of an 8 count maximum of role switching.
5. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the Event's discretion.
6. The minimum prize money offered for the division should be \$2,500.
7. If a member event offers a NASDE competition category and cancels the division due to not having enough competitors to compete in the division, the competitors who registered and arrived prepared to compete, will be allowed to compete for NASDE points. Cash prize money can be reduced at the discretion of the Event Director.
8. Guideline for swing content in Showcase is 60%. It is at the Judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
9. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.

Specific

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins and judging starts at the first dance movement of the performance, with or without music.
2. Competitors select their own music.
3. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
4. Separate entrances are permitted.
5. Break-aways and side-by-side patterns are permitted.
6. A minimum of three (3) lifts total are required, with at least one of those lifts above the partner's waist.
7. There is no lift maximum.

Swing Violation Criteria

Swing Content is the responsibility of each judge, NOT the REFEREE Judge. Any violations or warning regarding Swing Content is reflected in the individual judge's score or so noted on their individual score sheets. A "SVW" (Swing Violation Warning) indicates no drop in score and "SV" (Swing Violation) indicates the judge dropped their placement 1, 3 or 10 places for Swing Content within their individual score. Judges are to use the following criteria when giving a "SV" (Swing Violation):

— Classic Division

Below 80% - judge's discretion/choice to issue "SVW" indicates no drop in score or "SV1" indicates one (1) drop in placement.

Below 60% - judge's issue "SV2" indicates three (3) drop in places within their individual score.

Below 50% - judge's issue "SV3" indicates ten (10) drop in places within their individual score.

Final score sheets that get posted should show the above values.

Example:

Competitor A 3rd placement SV-1

— Showcase Division

Below 60% - judge's discretion/choice to issue "SVW" indicates no drop in score or "SV1" indicates one (1) drop in placement

Below 50% - judge's issue a "SV3" indicates ten (10) drop in places within their individual score

Young Adult Swing Dance Association (YASDA) Rules

YASDA Statement:

The Young Adult Swing Dance Association was created to support young people in pursuing the art of swing dance. Traveling and competing across the USA is very expensive for families and we hope to assist families in offsetting these cost by providing such things as travel scholarships and prize money at existing National Swing Conventions that support and encourage participation of young people under the age of 18. The organization will provide needed resources that will expand the number of young people that participate in national events and inspire other young people to explore dance as a means of creative expression.

YASDA Rules and Guidelines:

1. All competitors must be under the age of 18.
2. Should an individual in an established partnership turn 18, they may petition the event to continue to dance in the Young Adult Division until such time as the youngest turns 18 or the eldest turns 20. At such time they would no longer be eligible to dance in the Young Adult Division.
3. An individual aged 18 or older, while eligible to dance (see rule 2) will be eligible for the year end prize as long as they are still eligible to dance at the time of the final event of the tour, which is the US Open Swing Dance Championships.
4. All other rules are at the discretion of the particular event (see below).

YASDA Points allotted:

Tier # of couples' points(1st-5th)

1. 1-5 couples 5,4,3,2,1,0
2. 6-10 couples 7,6,5,4,3 (6-10=1 pt)
3. 11-15 couples 9,8,7,6,5(6-15=2 pt)
4. 16-20 couples 11,10,9,8,7 (6-20=3 pt)

Young America:

This division is designed to feature young dancers from the ages of 6 – 13.

General:

1. Competitor couples will be comprised of one male and one female.
2. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division is 4.
3. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
4. Props are not allowed.

Specific

1. All competitors must be at least 6 years old but under 13.
 - Competitors must have reached the age of 6-years-old by the end of the event in order to compete. If one partner is 14-years of age or older, and the other partner is under the age of 14, this couple must compete in the Young Adult Division.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the Chief Judge.
3. The rules governing this division are the same as the rules that govern the Showcase Division with the following exceptions:
 - Lifts & aerials that have 1 partner's torso rise above the other partner's shoulders are not allowed.

- All other partner weight support moves are optional.
- 4. Competitors select their own music (age appropriate).
- 5. Tasteful, age-appropriate costumes are allowed and encouraged.
- 6. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
- 7. Separate entrances are permitted.
- 8. Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted.

Young Adult:

This division is designed to feature young dancers from the ages of 14 – 17.

General:

1. Competitor couples will be comprised of one male and one female.
2. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division is 4.
3. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
4. Props are not allowed.

Specific

1. All competitors must be at least 14 through 17 years of age.
 - If partner have completed previously but one partner is older than 17 years of age, that couple may petition the Organizer for an exception to the age restrictions rule. The intent is to allow youngsters who have formed a partnership and advanced their dancing together to continue to compete together in the Young Adult Division.
 - If one partner is 14-years of age or older, and the other partner is under the age of 14, this couple must compete in the Young Adult Division.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the Chief Judge.
3. The rules governing this division are the same as the rules that govern the Showcase Division with the following exceptions:
 - Lifts & aerals that have 1 partner's torso rise above the other partner's shoulders are not allowed.
 - All other partner weight support moves are optional.
4. Competitors select their own music (age appropriate).
5. Tasteful, age-appropriate costumes are allowed and encouraged.
6. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
7. Separate entrances are permitted.
8. Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted.

Shag Jack and Jill Divisions

The Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight social dance skills in shag dancing and the ability to dance well with a variety of partners.

Format

Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected in advance by the Competition DJ. Depending on the number of entries, preliminary, semi-final, and final rounds may be held and will be danced in a heated format. Each division must have at least 5 leaders and 5 followers. There is no maximum number of competitors.

General

1. Each competitor may enter only one skill level Jack & Jill competition.
2. Competitors must be at least fourteen (14) years of age.
3. Male competitors must enter as “leaders” and female competitors must enter as “followers.”
4. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
5. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves (at least one foot on ground).
6. No lifts.
7. Props are not allowed.

Shag Division Qualifications

Our qualifications for entries promote fairness and competitor enjoyment by grouping dancers of similar ability in the same division. It is the Organizer’s goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to the appropriate classification using the honor system.

Non-Professional

1. Competitors must be at least fourteen (14) years of age.
2. Newcomer, amateur, or novice shag dancers who have never competed in OR won a professional shag dance competition.
3. Junior, Senior, or Master competitors who have won or placed in the top three in any national shag dance competition are encouraged to dance in the experienced division.

Experienced

1. Competitors must be at least fourteen (14) years of age.
2. Competitors who are considered “experienced” dancers who do not meet eligibility requirements for the non-professional Jack & Jill. Competitors may be shag instructors, hall of fame designees, or experienced social dancers.
3. Junior, Senior, or Master competitors who have won or placed in the top three in any national shag competition are encouraged to dance in the experienced division.
4. Competitors are encouraged to assign themselves to the appropriate classification using the honor system.

Swing Jack and Jill Divisions

The Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight social dance skills in spontaneous swing dancing and the ability to dance well with a variety of partners.

Swing Jack and Jill Division Qualifications

Our qualifications for entries promote fairness and competitor enjoyment by grouping dancers of similar ability in the same division. Our rules are based on the World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) recommendations and points registry competitor data. It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to the appropriate classification using the World Swing Dance Council Points Registry. <https://www.worldsdc.com/registry-points/>.

Swing Jack and Jill Format

Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected in advance by the Competition DJ. Depending on the number of entries, preliminary, semi-final, and final rounds may be held and will be danced in a heated format. Each division must have at least 5 leaders and 5 followers. There is no maximum number of competitors.

Specific

Competitors must be at least 14 years of age, and if you are under age 18 you must have the consent of your parent or guardian)

Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries
Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves, (one foot on the ground) Props are not allowed.

World Swing Dance Council – Event Rules

Effective February 15, 2019 <http://www.worldsdc.com/library/rules>

WSDC Points Registry Rules, February 15, 2019

Points Registry

The WSDC Points Registry was developed and is maintained by the WSDC. The Points Registry is the official record used to track individual competitors' results in WSDC Jack and Jill competitions at WSDC Registry Events ("Event"). Promoters and competitors use the Points Registry data to determine a competitor's appropriate skill level for WSDC Jack and Jill competitions (see WSDC Jack and Jill Advancement Chart). The Points Registry also tracks two (2) age-based levels: Juniors, defined as 17 years of age or younger by close of the event, and Masters, defined as 50 years of age or older by close of the event.

Once competitors earn at least one WSDC point, they are assigned a unique WSDC Competitor ID number in the Points Registry. WSDC points are awarded at WSDC Registry Events, as outlined in the Point Tier section below. The Points Registry is available at worldsdc.com/registry-points. It is accessible online to the general public.

Point Tier Minimums and Guidelines

There must be a minimum of five (5) unique leaders and five (5) unique followers in a specific WSDC Jack and Jill division for a competition to be eligible for inclusion in the Points Registry.

Tiers and Points Awarded Per Tier

Tiers are defined by the number of competitors in each role (leader or follower). There may be two different tiers within the same division (e.g., a Novice competition may have 18 leaders and 35 followers, which would result in a Tier 2 for leaders and Tier 3 for followers). The greater the number of competitors within a division, the higher the Tier, and the greater the points potential. Dancing in finals does not guarantee that a competitor will be awarded points. Points awarded to leaders and followers may not be identical. The Points Awarded per Tier chart lists the points awarded to a competitor, according to their placement in finals.

Tier	# of competitors	1st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place	5 th Place	Additional Placements in Final
Tier 1	5-10	3	2	1	0	0	0
Tier 2	11-19	6	4	3	2	1	0
Tier 3	20-39	10	8	6	4	2	1 pt (up to 12th place)
Tier 4	40-79	15	12	10	8	6	1 pt (up to 15th place)
Tier 5	80-129	20	16	14	12	10	2 pts (up to 15th place)
Tier 6	130+	25	22	18	15	12	2 pts (up to 15th place)

Tier Size and Number of Competition Rounds

If the leaders and followers fall into different tier sizes, the number of rounds must be determined by the higher tier size. Effective July 1, 2019, the number of rounds for tiers will be mandatory.

Tier 1: 5-10 Competitors. Finals only. Prelims allowed if numbers are uneven.

Tier 2: 11-19 Competitors. Run 1 or 2 rounds (prelims and final).

- Tier 3: 20-39 Competitors. Run 2 rounds (prelims and final).
Tier 4: 40-79 Competitors. Run 3 rounds (prelims, semis, and final).
Tier 5: 80-129 Competitors. Run 3 or more rounds (prelims, semis, and final).
Tier 6: 130+ Competitors. Run 4 rounds (prelims, quarters, semis, and final).

Specific Rules Regarding Competitor Divisions and Points

1. Each competitor has one (1) WSDC Competitor ID number for the Points Registry.
2. Each competitor may compete in only one (1) skill level division.
3. Competitors who wish to dance “up” or “down” (i.e., in a higher or lower division than their points would allow) must submit a formal petition (see Petition section) or they will not receive points if they reach the final. The Event must include all petitions with the WSDC Event Reporting form.
4. Skill points are recorded only for those who place in finals, according to the Points Awarded per Tier chart.
5. If a competitor places twice in a division, the competitor is only awarded points for the higher placement.
6. Competitor may be awarded points as either a leader or follower. All of a competitor’s points at a specific skill level, whether awarded as a leader or follower, count towards the total earned points needed to advance to the next skill level.
7. For Events with combined divisions (e.g., Novice/Intermediate), points will be awarded to the lower of the two divisions.
8. For Events that have different category names for their skill level divisions, WSDC may choose not to record them. Please refer to the WSDC Jack and Jill Advancement Chart for the list of recognized WSDC skill level divisions.
9. WSDC will record WSDC points for one Junior and one Masters contest.
10. For Events held over the New Year’s holiday, points will be assigned to December of the outgoing year, not January of the incoming year (e.g., points would be awarded for December 2018, not January 2019).

Recording Points Responsibilities

The Event Director

1. Is responsible for informing competitors of the Registry Points skill levels and points awards as defined by the WSDC.
2. Must have a petition process in place for competitors who wish to dance in a different skill division.
3. Is responsible for reporting the results of the Jack and Jill competitions, including petitions, to the WSDC within five (5) days of their event.
4. Must provide the WSDC with the number of competitors in each division, so the appropriate Tier level for recording points can be determined.
5. Must submit the Competitor Surcharge to the WSDC.

The Competitor

1. Is responsible for following the WSDC Points Registry Rules.
2. Is responsible for using their WSDC Competitor ID number when registering for Jack and Jill competitions at WSDC Registry Events.
3. Is responsible for registering for only one WSDC skill level Jack and Jill competition (see WSDC Jack and Jill Advancement Chart).

4. May enter either as a Leader or Follower, and maintain that role throughout the contest, at Registry Events that allow this option or as traditional Male / Leader or Female / Follower at Registry Events that maintain traditional roles.
5. Is responsible for submitting a formal petition to dance “up” or “down” (see Petition section).
6. Is responsible for correcting their WSDC Competitor ID number errors, either at the event or with the WSDC directly (contact points@worldsdc.com).
7. Will not receive WSDC points for placement if they fail to follow the WSDC Points Registry Rules.

Petitions

Competitors may submit a formal petition to the Event’s Chief Judge to dance at a different skill level than they qualify for in a Jack and Jill division.

1. All Events will offer a petition process.
2. Petitions can be submitted one skill level up or one skill level down only.
3. The Chief Judge, or qualified individual(s) designated by the Chief Judge, will consider the requested reclassification petition after reviewing the competitor’s Points Registry record.
4. Petitions are Event-specific and not transferable. Competitors may need to submit a new petition at their next Event.
5. All petitions must be submitted by the Event Director with the WSDC Event Reporting form.

WSDC Jack and Jill Points Clarification: (also see advancement chart below)

Novice: First category all dancers must pass through to demonstrate their basic skills.

1. Competitors with fewer than 16 novice points should dance in this division.
2. Competitors with 16 or more novice points are allowed to move up or continue to dance in this division.
3. Competitors with 30 or more novice points are required to move up to a higher division.

Intermediate: Designed to contain the most dancers while they perfect their social and competitive skills.

1. Competitors with 30 or more novice points, should dance in this division.
2. Competitors with at least 30 Intermediate points may continue to dance in this division
3. Competitors with 45 or more intermediate points must dance in a higher division.
4. If you are a Novice who had 15 Novice points at the end of 2017 and danced in intermediate, but did not earn points, you may fill out a petition to continue to dance in Intermediate.

Advanced: Intended to be a very competitive category where a dancer may move up from Intermediate or return from All Star

1. Competitors with 45 or more intermediate points are allowed to dance in this division.
2. Competitors with 45 advanced points accumulated within 36 months are allowed to move up to a higher division.
3. Competitors with 60 Advanced Points accumulated within 36 months are required to move up to a higher division.

All-Star: Intended to be extremely competitive, with constantly evolving and changing skill level, and requiring consistent placements to remain in this category.

1. (GNDC) Must have a minimum of 10 couples to be a valid contest. Less than 10 couples, contestants will be automatically registered in the Advanced Division.
2. Competitors with at least 45 or more Advanced Points, accumulated within 36 months may dance in this division.
3. Competitors must have earned 3 All Star points in the last 36 months to stay in this division.
4. Competitors must earn 10 points in a 12-month period to move back to All Star.
5. Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational J&J held at a qualifying major event, are not eligible for this division.

Masters: Is an age category and not a point “advancement” category

- GNDC - Must have a minimum of 10 couples to be a valid contest. Less than 10 couples, contestants will be automatically registered into their appropriate level Jack & Jill.
- Competitors must be at least 50 years of age or older to dance in this division. (WSDC)
- Master competitors may also dance in one other level of Jack & Jill.(WSDC)

WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart

	WSDC Notes	Allowed	Required
Skill Level	<i>Dancers may use the petition process to request dancing up or down one level in a competition. Dancers and promoter should realize the risks associated with granting petitions up or down.</i>	Dancers who reach these point milestones are given the option to move up. Dancers should realize the risks associated with dancing at a higher skill level.	Dancers who reach these point milestones are required to move up. The intent is to instruct excellent dancers that they must advance to the next level.
Champion	Champion points are tracked in the Points Registry; however, Champion is a general category that is set by promoters for their higher skill level dancers in attendance.	Champion Dancer	
		Allowed to dance based on event criteria set by Event Promoter	Required to enter if meets criteria set by Event Promoter
All Star	All Star is intended to be extremely competitive, with constantly evolving and changing skill level. Dancers require consistent placements to remain in this category.	All Star Dancer	
		Allowed to compete in Advanced or All Star with 1 or 2 All Star points	Must receive 3 All Star points in last 36 Months to remain in All Star
			Must receive 10 Advanced points in a 12 month period to move back to All Star
Advanced	Advanced is intended to be very competitive where dancers move up from Intermediate or return to from All Star.	Allowed to move up with 45 Advanced points accumulated within 36 Months	Required to move up with 60 Advanced points accumulated within 36 Months
		Advanced Dancer	
Intermediate	Intermediate is for dancers who are perfecting their social and competitive dance skills.	Allowed to move up with 30+ Intermediate points	Required to move up with 45+ Intermediate points
		Intermediate Dancer	
Novice	Novice is where dancers demonstrate their basic dance skills.	Allowed to move up with 16+ Novice points	Required to move up with 30+ Novice points
		Novice Dancer	
Newcomer	Some events offer a Newcomer division. It may be mandatory for new dancers / competitors. New dancers / competitors should check the event's rules.	Newcomer Dancer	

Strictly Swing Divisions:

Swing dancing that encourages lead and follow partner dancing at its best. Although swing includes amalgamations and patterns that are familiar to many dancers, the essence of lead and follow must be maintained in and out of these patterns. Strictly Swing division is not meant for long and extended pre-choreographed phrases. Choreography "on the fly" is the objective. Drops, leans, circular movements and other partner weight support moves are allowed as long as both partners keep at least one foot on the floor.

General:

1. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. There is no minimum number of entries.
2. A single entry is one couple (two dancers). A couple may be other than a male leader and female follower.
3. Guidelines for expected swing content are 90% in Strictly Swing. It is at the judge's discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
4. An individual is not permitted to dance in both Open and Champions Strictly Swing.
5. Competitors are not permitted to dance with the same partner in Strictly Swing and a Routine Division.

Specific:

1. Contestants must be at least fourteen (14) years or older by the end of the event to participate, and if you are under 18, you must have the consent of your parent or guardian.
2. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion.
3. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable.
4. This division will be danced in heats for preliminaries, semi-finals, and for finals.
5. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
6. Pre-choreographed routines, and entrances or exits are not allowed.
7. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves (at least one foot on ground).

Division Qualifications:

It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to a fair and appropriate classification using the honor system.

Open:

1. Open to all competitors except Champions.
2. Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational J&J held at qualifying major event **may not** dance in this division.

Champions:

1. Competitors may, but are not required to, dance in this division if they have any earned Professional (PRO), Champions (CHMP), Invitational (INV) or Teachers (TCH) points.
2. Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational J&J held at qualifying major event must dance in this division.

Pro-Am Divisions

The Pro-Am divisions are designed to give the amateur the opportunity to be showcased with their professional instructor for critique and feedback.

Pro-Am SWING Lead/Follow General:

1. Amateurs may enter in one Division Level: Novice or Intermediate
2. Each professional shall have no more than 5 Amateurs in each Division Level (Novice and Intermediate)
3. A student/teacher relationship must exist between the competitors defined as at least one hour of private instruction in the previous 6 months.

Specific

1. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion. Music will be chosen by the Organizer.
2. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable
3. This division will be danced in heats.
4. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
5. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
6. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves (at least one foot on the ground).

Pro-Am SHAG Lead/Follow General:

1. Amateurs may enter in one Division Level: Novice or Intermediate.
2. Each professional shall have no more than 5 Amateurs in each Division Level (Novice and Intermediate)
3. Junior, Non-Professional, Senior, or Master competitors who have WON any national shag dance competition are encouraged to dance as the PRO.
4. A student/teacher relationship must exist between the competitors defined as at least one hour of private instruction in the previous 6 months.
5. Competitors are encouraged to assign themselves to the appropriate classification using the honor system.

Specific

1. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion. Music will be chosen by the Organizer.
2. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable
3. This division will be danced in heats.
4. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
5. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed, but mirror steps may be performed.
6. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves (at least one foot on the ground).

Pro-AM Routine Spotlight

General:

This Division is designed to spotlight an amateur swing dancer in a choreographed routine with one partner being a Professional Swing Dancer the other an Amateur Swing Dancer. Amateurs should be experienced and skilled in the basics of Swing Dancing. The Pro is expected to spotlight the am in a routine appropriate to their skill ability.

1. Competitors must consist of one "amateur" and one "Professional".
2. The maximum and minimum number of entries is at the Event's discretion.
3. Guidelines for expected swing content are 70%. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
4. Each professional shall have no more than 3 amateur routines.
5. An "amateur" is defined as someone who does NOT teach dance, nor earn income as a dance teacher, and has not competed as an All- Star or Champion.
6. Pros with multiple Amateurs must accept their drawn dance order with each Am. If they have 3 entries and the dance order indicates back to back they must be prepared to dance the order drawn and not cause contest delays.

Specific:

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the chief judge.
2. Competitors select their own music.
3. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
4. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
5. Separate entrances are permitted but must come together within thirty-two (32) beats of the music intro.
6. Max of 3 Lifts are allowed but not required.
7. No props.
8. Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted, no longer than eight (8) beats.
9. Maximum five (5) partner weight support moves with at least one foot on the ground.

Rising Star (RISING STAR TOUR)

<http://www.risingstartour.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/19RST-Printable-Rules.pdf>

Competitors new to routine dancing and part of the Rising Star Tour who wish to compete against non-pro advanced level competitors to develop their skills as Classic or Showcase dancers.

Dancer Eligibility

1. To participate in the 2018 Rising Star Tour (RST), each dancer must:
 - Be 18 years or older, (15) years or older at (GNDC), by the end of the event. If you are under 18 you must have the consent of your parents and be chaperoned by an adult during the event weekend.
 - Never have placed or made a qualifying final of a NASDE Classic or Showcase division.
 - Not have Champion or Invitational WSDC points within the last ten (10) years.
 - Never have won the RST top point award in previous years. *
 - Never have placed top three (3) in the US Open RS division. *

Division Rules

General:

- A single entry is one couple (two dancers). A couple may be other than a male leader and female follower.
- Minimum number of entries = three (3). If there are less than three (3) couples, GNDC will offer the competitors the opportunity to perform an exhibition with judges' feedback.
- Expected swing content of any style is 70%. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content has been met.

Specific:

- Performance time is a minimum of two (2) minutes and maximum of three (3) minutes.
- Competitors select their own music.
- Costumes are required.
- No props.
- Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
- Separate entrances are permitted, but must come together within thirty-two (32) beats of the music intro.
- Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted, not longer than eight (8) beats.
- Lifts are optional but not required.
- Maximum five (5) partner weight support moves with at least one foot on the ground.

Cabaret

This division is considered “open” to any style of dance other than swing. However, a slight amount of swing is permitted.

General:

1. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event’s discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division is 4.
2. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
3. Props are allowed but must be approved by the event directors prior to the event.

Specific:

1. Contestants must be 6 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 2.5 minutes and a maximum of 4.5 minutes.
3. The performance must display a Cabaret element, which is not present in the other dance divisions.
4. Any style of dance other than swing is permitted however a slight amount of swing is permitted defined as a maximum of 32 beats of swing patterns.
5. Competitors select their own music.
6. Choreographed routines and costumes are required.
7. Any entry may consist of a solo performer or multiple performers (ex: team)
8. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, break-aways, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are all allowed.
9. Theatre Arts routines are appropriate for the Cabaret Division.
10. Choreographed entrances or exits are allowed. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the Chief Judge.

APPENDIX 1

The Wayne Bott Referee System – updated 1.17.2017(as voted by NASDE)

Overview of Referee System:

1. Review current NASDE and local competition rules for consistency.
 2. A Referee sits on the judging panel watching for rules adherence. The Referee uses a Referee Rules Checklist.
 3. If all couples Pass, a Panel Review is unnecessary.
 4. If any couple Fails, a Panel Review is necessary and should occur immediately or ASAP, after all judges have scored the contest.
 5. The event must have a video of each performance for review.
 6. A review panel is formed, consisting of the chief judge and two (2) other judges.
 7. The referee will have a checklist for each couple during their performance.
 8. If a referee flags a performance for review, the referee will acquire the video and review the video any number of times.
 9. If the referee determines a violation possibly occurred, the review panel will be assembled to review and determine final judgement
 10. The referee presents the video and possible violation to the review panel and will answer any questions from the review panel.
 11. The review panel reviews the video as many times as necessary to determine if violation occurred. Verbal interaction between panel members is encouraged. Be concise, get to the point, give opinion, and move on.
 12. At the conclusion, each panel member indicates “Pass” or “Fail” for each couple in question. There is no need for panel members to agree. Majority opinion (2 out of 3) carries. The results are recorded on a Panel Review Sheet and the couple is given an overall “Pass” or “Fail”.
 13. If couple “Fails”, the panel determines if the violation was an “error” or “penalty”. An “error” signifies that the violation was not a deliberate action against the rules. Errors include the drop already being part of the judges’ scores or a drop of up to two (2) placements. A “penalty” signifies that the violation was a deliberate action against the rules. Penalties include not being called-back for the next round or dropped to last place in a finals round.
 14. Any and all Panel Reviews taking place should be noted on the scoring sheets with a “VR” (Violation-Review) when posting scores, even reviews that passed. Any drop in placement is noted with a “VP” (Violation-Penalty), on the posted scoring sheets, using VP1 or VP2 to further define the number of placements dropped.
 15. The details of the Referee Panel are NOT to be posted. All Panel Review Sheets and Referee Rules Checklist are turned into the chief judge to be included in the Scoring Book for future review and archiving.
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1. **Note: Swing Content** is the responsibility of each judge, NOT the REFEREE Judge. Any violations or warning regarding Swing Content is reflected in the individual judges score and noted on their individual score sheets. Any Swing Content Warnings and Violations are posted by the Scorer on Sunday.

*Author: Wayne Bott/created & implemented in 2006 for the US OPEN
Latest revision/Sharlot Bott 5/8/2019*