

Sea To Sky Seattle: 2016 Competition Rules

Please read the following descriptions of the competitions carefully. Competitors may be placed out-of-the-ranking if a violation occurs.

* Note* All Competitors MUST have an All Inclusive Event Pass to Compete! Minimum number of 5 Entries in any division otherwise division MAY be cancelled at the discretion of the Event co-ordinator. Time slots set aside for competition that are cancelled will become social dance time.

JACK & JILL and STRICTLY SWING

If competitors do not meet a division's qualifications as stated in this document, and checked against the World Swing Dance Council Competitor Registry, they may petition to be accepted into a specific category. **It is highly recommended each competitor review their points on the Jack and Jill Competitor's Point Registry at www.Swingdancecouncil.com before the convention.**

It is advised to have printed copy at the time of registration to avoid any delays or expedite any petitioning.

Our Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight skills in spontaneous swing dancing and the ability to dance well with a variety of partners. A bit of "luck of the draw" comes into play as well. Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected in advance by our Competition DJ.

To enter our Jack & Jill divisions (except Masters), you must be at least 13 years old. (If you are under 18, **the event must be provided with** your parent or guardian's consent, and you should be comfortable social dancing with adults on a regular basis.)

Jack & Jill — At least 90% recognizable swing patterns are required. If there is a preliminary, contestants will dance in groups with several different partners; judged individually in the preliminaries and as a couple in the finals.

***Male competitors must enter as "leaders" and female competitors must enter as "followers." (Strictly Swing Divisions exempt)

West Coast Swing Jack & Jill competitions. We are offering eight WCS divisions. There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division. We use the [World Swing Dance Council Points Registry](#) to determine eligibility for each WCS division. Please see WSDC rules for eligibility.

Newcomer Jack & Jill: (See WSDC Definition)

Novice Jack & Jill: (See WSDC Definition)

Intermediate Jack & Jill: (See WSDC Definition)

Advanced Jack & Jill: (See WSDC Definition)

All-Star Jack & Jill: (See WSDC Definition)

Masters Jack & Jill. This division is intended for experienced, mature WCS competitors. You may enter this division if you are at least 50 years old and you know the basic WCS patterns.

Note: You may enter any J&J divisions you qualify for based on WSDC rules as well as Masters.

Open (All American) Jack & Jill. This competition is for everyone. Open to any level competitor. Any lead can draw any follow. If enough competitors enter we will have a prelim and final. All will be judged as couples. If prelims are held, **the couple will make it to the final and all will redraw their finals partner.**

Champions Jack & Jill. You have finished in the top 5 places in the Invitational Jack & Jill at Sea to Sky in the last 5 years. Placed in a Champions or Invitational Jack & Jill division at 3 or more NASDE events within the past 5 years; or You have won 1st place in any NASDE Showcase or Classic competition within the past 5 years; or **You have taught a West Coast Swing workshop as an invited instructor at a NASDE event within the past 5 years;** or You submit a successful petition to compete at this level.

STRICTLY SWING/

Strictly Swing (Novice, Intermediate, Masters, Adv/All-Star)

- Competitors can only compete in 1 division.
- At least 90% recognizable swing patterns are required.
- **Competitors are free to choose their partner of any gender. You will dance at the level of the role you qualify for per WSDC Jack and Jill rules unless you petition. If planning to dance at a level OTHER than what you compete at in Jack and Jill you MUST submit a petition to ensure you qualify.**
- No role switching during the dance – Leader leads, Follow must follow.
- Costumes are not allowed; coordinating attire is permissible.
- Judges will be looking for the type of clothes worn to go out dancing on a weekend evening.
- Couples may dance in heats or spotlight depending on the number of couples entered.

Lifts, acrobatics, aerials are not allowed. Partners must stay in contact at all times, *except* on free spins, turns, and breakaways. Flea hops, bunny hops, heel kicks, flying Lindy and adaptations to other swing styles, small jumps over a partner's leg, social drops and leveraged slides are all allowed; otherwise, both dancers must keep one foot on the floor at all times. No routines or choreographed moves are allowed. Recognizable shag patterns are allowed. Dancing must be strictly lead and follow.

Music for the Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing competitions. Our Competition DJ will select all music in advance for our Jack & Jill, and Strictly Swing competitions. Music for finals spotlight dances will be approximately the same length of time for each couple. The event reserves the right to provide a choice of music to spotlighted couples (Choices may be Blues, Contemporary, 60's, Rock or Slow, TBD). The exact time of fade out is left to the DJ's discretion to maximize the effectiveness of the music. If the judges need more time to determine their callbacks or final placements, the Chief Judge may request that additional music be played.

Judging Criteria

All divisions will be judged using Relative Placement .

- TIMING** - Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Timing extends to much finer distinctions than a single beat. It includes fractionally ahead or behind the beat, as well as matching the syncopated "swing" of the music.
- TEAMWORK** - Swing is a connected, partner dance. The demonstration of this connection and the appearance of lead/follow or action/reaction between the partners is an expected part of any competition. One partner ignoring or out-dancing the other, or jeopardizing the safety of the other (or other Competitors), indicates poor teamwork.
- TECHNIQUE** - How well the Competitors execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. This includes control of balance and weight, foot placement, bodylines, and spins.

- D. **CHOREOGRAPHY** - The selection and order of movements and transitions executed during a dance comprises choreography. Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and its phrasing, as well as variety and contrast.
 - E. **PRESENTATION** - To create an atmosphere of excitement by inviting and generating interest in a performance is the desired effect of good presentation. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, a good show is not a substitute for good dancing.
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Definitions

Aerial.

An aerial is a move in which one dancer is lifted with the assistance of his/her partner and the head and torso is in a position higher than the waist of the supporting partner. **Aerials are prohibited in all competitions except Showcase.**

Lift.

A lift is any intentional maneuver lasting longer than a full beat of music where the feet of one dancer are clearly off the floor and the partner supports the weight. This definition shall not include any of the following common syncopations or patterns: "flea hops"; "bunny hops"; "heel clicks"; "Flying Lindy" (and its obvious adaptations to other swing styles); "jumps" by competitors over the leg of the partners and leveraged slides. **Lifts are prohibited in all competitions**

Submitting a petition to change divisions

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

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

Our Competition Coordinator (or another competition official designated by our Competition Coordinator) will review your petition (in consultation with the Chief Judge) and approve or deny your request. Our Competition Coordinator will notify you as soon as possible (no later than the contestant meeting) of the decision. You should attend the contestant meeting and be prepared to compete in the original division if your petition is denied.

Our verification of your eligibility

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

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

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

Contestant Meetings/Contests

All contestant meetings are optional. **You are responsible for checking off your name on the posted rosters per division to confirm you are correctly registered.** You are responsible for knowing all rules for the divisions you dance in. All rules will be clarified at the contestants meetings if there is any ambiguity or questions. All Petitions will be communicated AT the contestants meetings. No petitions will be accepted after the contestant meetings. Rosters will be posted and divisions will run based on those rosters.