

## **2006 Twin Cities Swing Challenge Contest Rules**

### **Competition Organizer**

The Twin Cities Rebels Swing Dance Club sponsors the Twin Cities Rebels Swing Challenge and Masquerade Ball. Final decisions on any matters pertaining to these competitions rests solely with the Organizer. The Twin Cities Rebels Swing Dance Club is a proud member of the World Swing Dance Council.

### **Competitions Offered (Eligibility Details Below)**

Novice WCS Jack & Jill  
Intermediate WCS Jack & Jill  
Advanced WCS Jack & Jill  
Masters WCS Jack & Jill  
Youth Strictly Swing (Ages 17 and under)  
Novice Strictly Swing  
Intermediate Strictly Swing  
Advanced Strictly Swing  
Classic B Routines (Non-Pro)  
Classic A Routines (Open)

### **Competition Requirements**

**General requirements.** Each competition is open to all competitors in good standing who have purchased a weekend package ticket; are at least 18 years of age or have a parent's signed consent for ages 8-17 (Juniors Strictly Swing); register by the official entry deadline; pay the required entry fee; attend the mandatory competitors meeting; meet all other specific entry requirements as outlined in these rules.

**Bibs.** All contestants with the exception of those competing in Classic A & B, must have a bib number that will be assigned at the time of registration.

**Multiple registrations.** Each eligible competitor may choose to enter more than one competition but cannot dance with the same person in two competitions, i.e. Classic and Strictly. If you enter the Jack and Jill at one level, generally, you will also enter the Strictly Swing division at the same level. However, if your partner is at a different level for the strictly swing, you must enter at the higher level.

**Waiver forms.** Each contestant must sign the appropriate waiver form, attached at the bottom of your competition registration form. No contestant will be allowed to compete without a signed waiver form.

**Minimum contestants.** All contests must have a minimum of five (5) couples to be a valid contest.

## **General Competition Requirements/Responsibilities**

**Planning Ahead.** Competitors should check the weekend schedule in advance and arrive to the event in time to meet registration deadlines and be on time for all mandatory competitor meetings. They should bring appropriate competition attire. Competitors are responsible for checking at the event for any changes to previously announced schedules, which are always subject to change.

**Knowing the Rules.** All competitors should read these rules carefully prior to attending the contestant meeting for their competition. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules whether they have read them or not. Questions about the rules should be asked at the competitors meeting or addressed in advance to the Head Judge.

**Attending the Mandatory Competitors Meeting.** All contestants must attend the mandatory meeting for their competition. Any contestant who misses a meeting without the advanced approval of the Head Judge will not be permitted to compete. A couple may choose to be represented by either partner; however, both partners are fully responsible for all matters discussed at the meeting.

**Being Prepared to Compete.** Competitors should be present in the ballroom at least 10 minutes prior to the start of their competition. Any change in partnership for the couple's competition may require an additional entry fee as well as a new entry form and waiver. Any cancellation by a competitor or couple after the registration deadline will result in the loss of their entry fee.

**Demonstrating Good Sportsmanship.** Competitors must demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times both on and off the competition floor. Competitors must also refrain from any behavior that the judges may deem inappropriate. Failure to adhere to this code of conduct may result in disqualification.

\*\* The following general requirements apply to all competitions. If a majority of judges determine that an individual or couple has failed to meet any of these requirements, a violation will be assessed.

**Choreography Choices.** Partners must maintain contact throughout the dance except for free turns, spins, back-to-backs, short side-by-sides or short breakaways. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic maneuvers or any maneuver that might endanger one's partner, other dancers, or spectators are prohibited.

**Social Dance Skills.** The Strictly Swing and Jack n' Jill competition divisions have been designed to showcase social dance skills in spontaneous dancing. All dancing in these divisions must consist of lead/follow moves.

**Appropriate Behavior and Dress.** It is the desire of the Organizer to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing quality of dancing and good taste. To encourage this balance, any action that the judges believe would make them uncomfortable in a social dance setting (such as wearing inappropriate attire or showing disrespect toward one's partner, other dancers or the event) is prohibited. Comedy routines and props are not allowed. Competitors should check with the Chief Judge regarding the acceptability of a pattern or their attire.

## **Judging Criteria**

**Timing.** Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Timing is extended to much finer distinctions than a single beat. It includes whether a competitor is fractionally ahead or behind the beat as well as the syncopated “swing” of the music. Syncopations must be on time also.

**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. A balanced performance with give and take between partners is the goal. One partner ignoring, out-dancing, disrespecting or jeopardizing the safety of the other partner (or of other competitors), indicates poor teamwork. Compensating and adjusting for one’s partner is a component of good teamwork.

**Technique.** How well the competitors execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. This includes elements such as control of balance and weight, foot placement, bodylines and spins.

**Choreography.** The selection and order of movements and transitions executed during a dance comprise choreography. Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and the ability to match patterns and syncopations to the phrasing of the music. It must include identifiable patterns to provide variety and contrast.

**Music Interpretation.** Adjusting the flow of the dance to fit the style, tempo, mood and rhythm variations in the music comprises good musical interpretation. Couples should strive to demonstrate the ability to hear and interpret nuances in the music throughout their dance.

**Presentation.** Creating an atmosphere of excitement by inviting interest in a performance is the desired effect of good presentation. Good presentation begins with the selection of appropriate attire. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, it cannot substitute for good dancing. Competitors should aim primarily for demonstrating positive chemistry as a couple. Gratuitous mugging to the audience or the judges may result in a lower score. Good sporting conduct before, during and after the dance is also an element of good presentation.

**Scoring System:** In the preliminary rounds, scoring is done by the judges on a call-back basis. The finals will use the relative placement system. The results of the competition will be posted at the event.

**Music.** All competition music will be selected by the competition DJ prior to the commencement of each competition. If the judges need additional time to determine their callbacks or final placements, the Head Judge may request that additional music be played. The Head Judge will make these determinations as needed for each competition.

## **Jack & Jill Division Rules**

**General.** All dancing in the Jack & Jill competitions is to be lead/follow. There must be a minimum of 90% swing content. Routines are prohibited. Lifts, aerials, drops and acrobatic maneuvers are not permitted. Costumes are prohibited but appropriate attire is required. The Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight social dancing skills in spontaneous swing dancing and the ability to dance well 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 in advance by the competition deejay. There is no limit on the number of entries in each division. No change in division level will be permitted after the contestant’s meeting. Two rounds are planned: preliminaries and finals. The organizer may add or omit a preliminary, semi-final or both, based on the number of entries received. During the preliminaries, contestants will dance in heats with several partners selected randomly. Contestants will be judged individually but must demonstrate good teamwork with all partners. Selection to the next round is on a call-back basis. Should there be an imbalance in the number of leaders and followers, some contestants will dance twice and could be judged both times. The Chief Judge will determine the exact number of finalists. In the finals, contestants will redraw for partners and dance to 1-2 songs with different tempos and styling. The finals will be by spotlight or group heat as decided by the Organizer and Head Judge. Finalists will be judged as a couple.

**Novice Jack & Jill.** This division is intended for dancers with little or no competition experience. Any competitor who has earned less than 20 points at any WSDC event qualifies for this division. Competitors who have 20 or more points may choose to remain in this division if they have NOT taken a first place win in a Novice Jack & Jill.

**Intermediate Jack & Jill.** Any competitor who has earned between 20 and 29 points, or has been a finalist in an Intermediate Jack and Jill at any event listed in the World Swing Dance Council Competitors Registry (available at the convention) qualifies for this division. Competitors who have earned 30 or more points may choose to remain in this division if they have NOT taken a first place win in an Intermediate Jack and Jill.

**Advanced Jack & Jill.** Any competitor who has earned 30 or more points, or, has been a finalist in an Advanced Jack & Jill at any event listed in the World Swing Dance Council Competitors Registry (available at the convention) qualifies for this division. This competition is intended for advanced social dancers with significant competition experience and success at the national level.

**Masters Jack & Jill.** Any competitor who is 50+ years of age, all levels welcome.

**Petition for reclassification.** It is the Organizer’s goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to a fair and appropriate classification using the honor system. In the event that competitors feel uncomfortable with their classification, they may petition for reclassification to the Head Judge. Contestants will be notified of the decision as soon as possible. The Organizer reserves the right to reclassify any contestant for any reason.

## Strictly Swing Division Rules

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.

1. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion.
2. Costumes are not allowed, however, matching outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable
3. This division will be danced in heats and/or spotlight at the promoter's discretion.
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.

## Classic A & B Routine Rules

Swing dancing that allows choreography with an "on the ground" approach to the dance. Minimum number of entries in each division is 5 couples. Recognizable swing content must be present in at least 80% of the performance. **Music:** A 1 track CD of your music must be submitted at your competitor meeting on either Friday night or Saturday afternoon. You may reclaim your music by the end of the weekend or else it will be discarded. Please bring a second copy for floor try-outs. **Re-Starts:** A re-start will be allowed only in the event of a music system breakdown or costume mishap such as a broken dress strap, shoe strap, heel, etc. **Order of Dance:** Contestants will draw at the mandatory contestants' meeting for the dance order in which they will compete.

1. Costumes are required.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes.
3. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
4. Separate entrances 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-a-ways, and recoveries.
6. 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.
7. "In the air" partner weight supported moves, such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are not allowed.

**Classic A (Open):** This division is intended for the Advanced Level dancer or higher, or any couple that has significant West Coast Swing routine experience no matter the level (Int, Adv, etc.).

**Classic B (Non-pro):** This division is designed for the couple that does not have significant West Coast Swing routine experience, and/or is not ready to dance against advanced/pro-level competitors. At some conventions, this division may also be considered as Rising Star.

## Definitions:

**Lift:** A lift is described as any move where both feet of one partner are off the floor and weight of one partner is supported by the other partner.

**Drop:** A drop is described as any move where the entire head and torso of one partner is entirely below the waist level of the other partner and weight of one partner is supported by the other partner.

**Aerial:** an aerial is a move where one dancer is lifted with the assistance of his or her partner and the entire body is in a position higher than the waist of the remaining partner.

**Acrobatic:** an acrobatic movement is any move where one person independently passes his/her foot, leg, or body over and across the plane of either partner's head or independently brings both feet off the floor & one foot is above either partner's shoulder level or both feet are above either partner's waist level.