

SHOW ME SHOWDOWN COMPETITION GUIDELINES AND JUDGING CRITERIA

A. REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITION

1. All competitors must hold a weekend ticket to the Show Me Showdown and pay all associated registration fees.
2. All competitors must check-in prior to competition and have the Bib Number assigned to them at the time of registration.
3. **All competitors must sign a waiver** and are responsible for reading these guidelines. Contestants under the age of 18 must have their parent/guardian sign a waiver.
4. All contests must have a minimum of five (5) couples to be a valid contest.
5. **Gender Neutral Rules:**
 - Show Me Showdown is open to persons of any gender dancing either lead or follow, as they prefer, and we encourage you to register in whichever role you would like to when dancing in any contest.
 - Dancers must remain in their registered role throughout the dance, as Competitors will be judged according to their role rather than their gender.
 - A Competitor may not dance in the same division twice, even with a different partner; the exception would be in the Pro-Am Divisions as outlined under the ProAm Section of the Rules.
 - **Gender applicable WSDC points:**
 - If the dancer has earned points in a WSDC level in one role, for example, as a leader, but wishes to dance the same level in another role, as a follower, but has not earned any points in that role, the dancer must audition to determine if they qualify to dance in that role, at that level, and be approved by the judge chosen by the event director. Please petition the head judge if this applies to you so we may arrange the necessary audition. The Judge's decision is final.
 - Each Competitor may only dance/compete in one skill level division.
 - Pro-Ams may also be role-switched, but dancers must remain in the same role (leader or follower) throughout the dance.
 - Dancers may compete in multiple swing contests during the event. However:
 - 1. A dancer may compete in a single contest only once.
 - 2. A dancer may register to compete with the same partner only once.
 - ALL CONTESTS are GENDER Neutral. Ams may dance as a LEADER and/or a FOLLOWER, but must remain in that role for the entire dance. The Am may only dance once per division. E.G. – A Novice dancer can dance as a Novice Leader and a Novice Follower with two different Pros.
 - PLEASE NOTE: All followers compete against each other, regardless of gender. All Leaders compete against each other regardless of gender.

B. SHOW ME SHOWDOWN COMPETITION RULES

Show Me Showdown Statement of Swing: "Swing is an American Rhythm Dance that is identified primarily by 6-beat and 8-beat patterns that incorporate a wide variety of rhythms. 6-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, passes, underarm turns, push-breaks, and open-to-closed/closed-to-open position patterns. 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 rhythm breaks may be incorporated to phrase the music, to extend a pattern, and/or to accent breaks." This statement will be used only to identify the presence of Swing content in a performance. It is not intended to be a full definition of Swing, or to be used to evaluate the quality of the performance. Each Judge will evaluate the presence of Swing content, which will be one of the criteria that will determine a final score.

Show Me Showdown Sportsmanship Expectations: Sportsmanship is a fundamental aspect of our competition. Competing at Show Me Showdown is a privilege, not a right. The event director may flag a competitor's behavior as un-sportsman like. Said behavior will be reviewed by the Chief Judge or the Contestants' Representative. Redress for violations can include but are not limited to dropping in placement, or removal from the competition.

C. CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION

JACK & JILL DIVISIONS (\$21 contestant fee, Newcomer only \$1)

**Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All Star/Champions, Sophisticated, and Masters
(PLEASE USE YOUR WSDC COMPETITOR ID# ON YOUR REGISTRATION FORM)**

Please be aware of the new 2018 WSDC Points Rules. Our rules include these required updates.

There will be Preliminaries, Semi-finals and Finals as needed depending upon the number of dance entries. Final couples are judged by relative placement. For Preliminaries and Semi-finals, contestants will be judged individually; in the Finals you will be judged as a couple. You will be dancing for a period of 1½ -2 minutes. The number of contestants brought back for the finals will be determined in advance or where a natural break occurs when possible.

There must be a minimum of five (5) leaders and five (5) followers in a specific Jack and Jill division for a competition to be eligible in the Points Registry. You can only dance in ONE Jack & Jill contest unless you are competing in Sophisticated or Masters.

1. Newcomer: This division is intended for the first time competitor who qualifies as a beginner or new competitor. Newcomers should not have danced in a WSDC Novice division previously, nor have any WSDC points.

- 2. Novice:** Recognized as a Novice level dancer by the WSDC Point Registry with 0-15 Novice points. **Allowed** to move up to Intermediate with 16+ points. **Required** to move up to Intermediate with 30+ points.
- 3. Intermediate:** Recognized as an Intermediate level dancer by the WSDC Point Registry with 0-29 Intermediate points. **Allowed** to move up to Advanced with 30+ Intermediate points. **Required** to move up to Advanced with 45+ Intermediate points.
- 4. Advanced:** Recognized as an Advanced level dancer by the WSDC Point Registry with 0-44 Advanced points. **Allowed** to move up to All Star with 45 Advanced points accumulated within 36 months. **Required** to move up to All Star with up to 60 Advanced points accumulated within 36 months.
- 5. All-Star/Champions:** Recognized as an All-Star dancer by the WSDC Point Registry. All Star is intended to be extremely competitive, with constantly evolving and changing skill level, and requiring consistent placements to remain in this category. (45-60 Advanced points to qualify) **PLUS** 3 All Star points in the last 36 months to remain in All Star. All Stars are **allowed** to move up to the Champion level based upon criteria set by the Event Promoter. They are also **required** to enter if they meet the criteria set by the Event Promoter.
- 6. Sophisticated:** Open to all contestants 35+ years of age or older, and all levels of skill. Sophisticated is not a WSDC Points Registry division.
- 7. Masters:** Open to all contestants 50+ years of age or older, and all levels of skill.
- 8. All American:** Dancers of any skill level or age may enter this division. Everyone will be randomly sorted to select a partner. Dancers will be separated into Newcomer through Intermediate and Advanced through Champion. If you are Intermediate or below, you should be able to draw a higher level dancer, dancer and vice-versa. This creates a very fun and social competition in which anyone could place.

COUPLES DIVISIONS, FEES and RULES:

Note: If one partner qualifies for a higher division, the couple must dance **in the higher division**. Contestants may only dance once per division, however, contestants may dance in more than one division with a different partner if qualified. Pros can dance with a maximum of 5 students in any one-dance level.

1. Rising Star Routine \$40.00 Fee: Neither competitor in a partnership shall have placed in the top 3 in any NASDE competitions in Classic, Showcase, Strictly Swing or any equivalent categories.

Rising Star Rules:

1. Recognizable Swing content, as described in the "Statement of Swing" under Competition Rules, must be present in at least 60% of the performance.
2. "In the air" moves (partner weight supported), such as lifts, aeriels, and acrobatic moves, are allowed, but not required.
3. "On the ground" supported moves, such as drops, slides, and spreads, are allowed but not required.
4. Routines must be a minimum of 2 minutes but no more than 3 minutes in length.
5. Competitors select their own music.
6. Costumes are encouraged but not required.
7. Couples are responsible for their own music selection.
8. Music must be turned in prior to floor trials the day of your competition at the contestant's meeting. Please email in digital format to ShowMeWCS@gmail.com with the subject line *Show Me Showdown Music/Division/Name*. CD format is NOT ACCEPTABLE.

2. Pro-Am Spotlight Routine \$40.00 Fee: Students enter with a teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose. Both the teacher and the student performance are judged as a couple, with extra emphasis on partnering and connection, and on the Am's execution of the judging criteria. A Pro partner may dance with up to five (5) different Am partners per division. An amateur may only enter one Pro-Am Routine. These divisions are open to any level of Am – Newcomer/Novice or Intermediate/Advanced. An "Am" is defined as follows: "one who engages in a pursuit, study, science, or sport as a pastime rather than as a profession".

Pro-Am Spotlight Routine Divisions:

- Am Leaders: Newcomer/Novice or Intermediate/Advanced
- Am Followers: Newcomer/Novice or Intermediate/Advanced

Pro-Am Spotlight Routine Rules:

This division is offered for all styles of Swing: West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Hustle, Shag and Hand Dance or any other style of popular swing dance. Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose. Couples dance in a solo format. Both the teacher and amateur's performance is considered by the judges. Dance order will be chosen at random and advised at the contestant's meeting during floor tryouts. Music provided by the competitors must be at least 2 minutes long and no longer than 3½ minutes. Limited to the first 20 entries received.

1. Costumes are encouraged, but not required
2. Lifts, drops, tricks and stunts are allowed but not required.
3. Choreographed entrances will count towards time limits.
4. No props are allowed.
5. Routines must include at least 75% recognizable of style of the performance.
6. Couples are responsible for their own music selection.
7. Music must be turned in prior to floor trials the day of your competition at the contestant's meeting. Please email in digital format to ShowMeWCS@gmail.com with the subject line *Show Me Showdown Music/Division/Name*. CD format is NOT ACCEPTABLE.

3. Pro-Am Strictly Swing \$30.00 Fee: For Newcomer, Novice or Intermediate levels recognized by the World Swing Dance Council Point Registry. Strictly Swing is a couples contest where the competing couples' leaders and followers enter as a partnership, dancing to randomly selected music with spontaneous lead and follow moves and patterns. Students enter with a teacher, and their performance is judged as a couple, with extra emphasis on partnering and connection and on the Am's execution of the judging criteria. A Pro partner may dance with up to five (5) different Am partners per division. An amateur may only enter one Pro-Am Strictly Swing. This division is open to

any level of Am – Newcomer, Novice or Intermediate. An “Am” is defined as follows: “one who engages in a pursuit, study, science, or sport as a pastime rather than as a profession”.

Pro-Am Strictly Swing Divisions:

- Am Leaders: Newcomer, Novice or Intermediate
- Am Followers: Newcomer, Novice or Intermediate

Pro-Am Strictly Swing Rules:

Students enter with their teacher. This division is designed to highlight social Swing dancing skills at a performance level with an emphasis on lead/follow technique. Recognizable Swing content, as described in the “Statement of Swing” under Show Me Showdown Competition Rules, must be present in at least 90% of the performance. All divisions must consist of one professional dancing with one amateur. Professional is defined as a dancer that makes a sizable portion of their income from performing or teaching dance. Sizable is a relative term; over a percentage of 50% is suggested to be a professional status. An “Am” is defined as one who engages in a pursuit, study, science, or sport as a pastime rather than as a profession. This division will be danced in a “strictly” format; heats will have multiple couples on the floor.

1. Couples must remain in contact unless executing a spin.
2. No acrobatic moves, or lifts - but drops, slides, leverages are okay.
3. No choreographed entrances or exits.
4. Couples dance to about 1½ minutes of a song appropriate for their division, DJ picks the music.
5. Costumes and props are not allowed although coordinating attire is acceptable.
6. Only the Amateur is judged in his/her respective lead/follow category.
7. Pros can dance with a maximum of 5 students in any one-dance level.

4. **Strictly Swing: \$40.00 Fee:** For Novice, Intermediate, Advanced/All-Star, Sophisticated and Masters levels recognized by the World Swing Dance Council Point Registry.

Strictly Swing Rules (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced/All-Star, Sophisticated and Masters)

This division consists of 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.

1. Drops, leans and other partner weight support moves are allowed as long as both partners keep at least one foot on the floor.
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 and/or spotlight at the promoter’s discretion.
5. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
6. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.

MISC Divisions:

Swing 16 Swing 16: \$10 Fee, Rules:

- Open to all levels.
- Lead or Follow - Your Choice.
- If you qualify in a role, you cannot continue to compete in the other role.
- Wildcard points are recorded separately by role.
- No lifts.
- Competitors must be at least 16 years of age.
- Winners (1st place) at a qualifying event can not participate in any other qualifiers until after the finals.
- Scoring will be based on solid swing content and technique. Musicality and showmanship will be used as tie-breakers at each judges’ discretion.

In the event of a blatant disregard for the rules, such as a lift, one of the following will occur based on the round in which the violation occurred:

- Prelims – If a majority of the judges, or the ref, see a lift, the couple will be disqualified and not advance to the finals.
- Round of 16, 8, or 4 - Disqualified from the tournament with opponent receiving an automatic advancement to the next round. If both couples execute a lift, both couples will be disqualified and the couple in the next round will receive a buy.
- In the battle for Third - Disqualified from the tournament with opponent receiving an automatic Third Place. If both couples execute a lift, both couples will be disqualified and Third Place will not be awarded.
- In the battle for First - Disqualified from the tournament with opponent receiving an automatic First Place with Third Place and Fourth Place couples moving up one placement. If both couples execute a lift, both couples will be disqualified and third place will not be awarded. Third Place and Fourth Place couples will move up to First and Second.

Open Steal Challenge: \$10 per person to enter (\$40 per teams of 4)

Two leaders, two followers. Limit of one Champion and one All-Star on a team, with two lower tier dancers. (Mixed level teams are encouraged ie...one Advanced, two Intermediate and one Novice; one All-Star, one Advanced and two Novice. Etc.)

Preregister at the registration desk before the scheduled cut off time.

D. CONTESTANTS’ MEETINGS

Jack & Jill Division and Strictly Swing Divisions: There will be **NO** contestants’ meetings, however you must check-in with your Bib number at the scheduled times and location.

Routine Divisions (Rising Star, Pro-Ams)

There will be a contestants' meeting during floor trials on the day of your competition. During this meeting, you will turn in your music to the DJ, and draw for your order of dance. Couples must have at least one representative present.

If you have any questions regarding the competition, you may ask the Chief Judge/Contestants' Representative. You may also petition for a change of dance level. The purpose of check-in is to ensure you are in the correct division, confirm names/spelling and draw for dance order if applicable to your division.

E. JUDGES

There will be a minimum of five Judges for all competitions. In addition, Show Me Showdown will have a Contestants' Representative/Chief Judge and Alternate Judges available.

F. SCORING SYSTEM

Contests are scored by computer and relative placements. Contestants will be judged in the preliminaries and/or semi-finals as an individual and as a couple in any finals. World Dance Registry will provide scoring.

G. MUSIC AND VIDEO

Music for the Strictly Swing, Pro-Am Strictly and Jack & Jill competitions will be the responsibility of Show Me Showdown and DJs. Exclusive video rights belong to Show Me Showdown and Destination Swing. Video taping is allowed for all competitions and workshops.

H. FLOOR TRYOUTS

See our website for the schedule. Show Me Showdown will provide a DJ during all floor tryout times.

I. POSTING OF RESULTS

The results of all the competitions will be posted following Awards. The location for the posting will be announced.

J. PROCEDURE FOR COMPETITIONS

IMPORTANT NOTE: IF YOU ARE NOT IN THE BALLROOM WHEN YOUR NAME AND NUMBER ARE CALLED FOR YOUR COMPETITION, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DANCE. PLEASE BE AWARE OF SCHEDULED COMPETITION TIMES AND BE PREPARED (WITH YOUR BIB NUMBER) TO DANCE.

K. JUDGING CRITERIA (FIRST LOOKING FOR THE THREE T'S)

Timing: Timing points are determined by the ability of the dancer to dance on the down beat of the music and to include syncopations that are also on the beats of the music.

Technique: "How Well You Do What You Do": We are looking for good footwork, balance, control, frame and line and how well turns and spins are executed. Well controlled arms and hands.

Teamwork: The ability of the partners to work together as a team. One person should not be obviously "out dancing" the other. TEAMWORK with action-reaction is essential in good dancing.

Content: "What You Do": the content is the CHOREOGRAPHY, planned or spontaneous, and musical interpretation through physical movement. Showing variety and contrast will enhance your dance performance.

Showmanship: "How Well You Sell What You Do": showmanship/presentation is the ability of the dancers to keep the audience's attention for the entire length of the performance.

L. SCHEDULED COMPETITION TIMES

Start times are flexible - always SUBJECT TO CHANGE based on number of contestants, etc.