



ATLANTA SWING CLASSIC

Atlanta Swing Classic Competition Rules

Competition Organizer

The Atlanta Swing Classic (Event) is sponsored and organized by the Atlanta Swing Dancers Club Inc. (Organizer). Final decisions on any matter pertaining to the competitions rest solely with the Organizer.

Competition Affiliations

The Atlanta Swing Classic is a World Swing Dance Council (WSDC - www.worldswingdancecouncil.com) Registry Event. Rules provided by the WSDC will prevail in the event of inconsistencies between those below and those provided by the WSDC.

General Competition Requirements

1. Competitor Eligibility:
 - a. Must purchase a weekend pass
 - b. Must sign a waiver
 - c. Must pay appropriate competition entry fee
 - d. Must complete all three of the above by the competition entry deadline
 - e. Must follow individual division guidelines as outlined in this document
 - f. Meet all other general requirements as outlined in this document
2. Age requirements:
 - a. Minimum age to enter a Jack & Jill competition is 13 years of age at the time of the first day of the Event
 - b. There is no minimum age to enter the Strictly Swing Competition
 - c. Should the WSDC or AANCE rules mandate specific age requirement for competitions, those rules shall govern the rules herein
3. Age Sensitive Divisions:
 - a. Masters Strictly Swing – both partners must be 50 years of age at the time of the first day of the Event
 - b. Masters Jack & Jill – you must be 50 years of age at the time of the first day of the Event
 - c. Should the WSDC or AANCE rules mandate specific age requirement for competitions, those rules shall govern the rules herein
4. Waiver Forms:
 - a. Every competitor must sign the appropriate waiver before being allowed to compete
 - b. Competitors under the age of eighteen must have a parent or guardian sign any required forms
5. Partner Restrictions:
 - a. Eligible competitors are not allowed to enter multiple divisions with the same partner (e.g. Master's Strictly Swing and Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced Strictly Swing)

6. Lead/Follow requirements
 - a. Jack & Jill contests
 - i. Males will lead
 - ii. Females will follow
 - b. Strictly Swing
 - i. Males may lead and/or follow
 - ii. Females may lead and/or follow
7. Multiple Registrations:
 - a. Jack & Jill
 - i. Eligible competitors may choose to enter both the Master's Jack & Jill and one Jack & Jill level (Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Star)
 - ii. Eligible competitors may choose to enter both the Master's Pro-Am Jack & Jill and one Jack & Jill Pro-Am level (Novice, Intermediate)
 - b. Strictly Swing
 - i. Eligible male competitors may choose to enter both the Open Master's Strictly Swing and one Strictly Swing level (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced/All-Star) while leading
 - ii. Eligible male competitors may choose to enter the Novice Master's Strictly Swing, Open Master's Strictly Swing, and one Strictly Swing level (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced/All-Star) while leading
 - iii. Eligible female competitors may choose to enter both the Open Master's Strictly Swing and one Strictly Swing level (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced/All-Star) while following
 - iv. Eligible female competitors may choose to enter the Novice Master's Strictly, Open Master's Strictly Swing, and one Strictly Swing level (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced/All-Star) while following
 - v. Eligible male competitors may choose to enter one Strictly Swing level (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced/All-Star) while leading and one Strictly Swing level (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced/All-Star) while following provided the level eligibility is not the same level for both leading and following
 - vi. Eligible female competitors may choose to enter one Strictly Swing level (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced/All-Star) while following and one Strictly Swing level (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced/All-Star) while leading provided the level eligibility is not the same level for both leading and following
 - vii. Eligible competitors may dance in the Novice Master's Strictly Swing and/or Open Master's Strictly Swing and two separate Strictly Swing levels
 - viii. Dancers that qualify as an All-Star Leader may not dance down as an Intermediate Follower.
 - ix. Dancers that qualify as an All-Star Follower may not dance down as an Intermediate Leader.
8. Appropriate Dress Code
 - a. No costumes allowed
 - b. Inappropriate attire is prohibited ("inappropriate" is defined by, and at the discretion of, the judge(s) in consultation of the Head Judge)
 - c. Matching or complimentary outfits are appropriate for Strictly Swing contests

General Information

1. Entries Per Division
 - a. There is no limit to the number of entries per division or contest.
 - b. If there are fewer than five entries in a division, the Event reserves the right to;
 - i. Combine the division
 - ii. Cancel the division
 - iii. Dance the division as an exhibition
 - iv. Adjust prize money accordingly

2. Music
 - a. Event DJ(s) will select music
 - b. No information about the music will be provided in advance
 - c. Length of music is at the discretion of the Organizer
3. Rounds
 - a. Preliminary and semi-final round will be run in a heated format
 - b. Finals may be run as a spotlight or heated format as decided upon by the Organizer
 - c. Organizer may send a division straight to finals in a:
 - i. Strictly Swing if less than 15 couples enter the division
 - ii. Jack & Jill if less than 15 leaders or 15 followers enter the division
4. Cancellations
 - a. Any contestant(s) may cancel their registration for any contest
 - i. Contestants that cancel their registration 21 days prior to the Event will receive a refund of their entry fee (minus administrative fees of \$5)
 - ii. Contestants that cancel their registration less than 21 days prior to the Event will not receive a refund of their entry fee
5. Scoring Review
 - a. Immediately following awards on Sunday, Competitors' dance scores will be available for review
 - b. The review is for competitors only
 - c. No cameras will be allowed in the scoring room
 - d. The Head Judge, as well as other judges, will be asked to be available for questions
6. Petitions for Reclassification
 - a. It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to classify themselves to a fair and appropriate division using the honor system and the WSDC Competitor Point Registry
 - i. The WSDC Competitor Point Registry is found here:
<http://www.worldsdc.com/registry-points/>
 - ii. In the event that competitors feel uncomfortable with their assigned division based on WSDC Competitor Point Registry, they may petition for reclassification using the appropriate form as provided by the WSDC
 - iii. Competitors must submit such petitions at the contest registration desk prior to the earliest registration deadline for the competition(s) in question
 - b. Petitions for reclassification will be reviewed by a committee, including the Chief Judge, or as directed by the WSDC, and consider the requested reclassification/petitions after reviewing the dancer's record and submitted petition
 - c. The contestants will be notified as quickly as possible of the outcome of the review. The decision is final
 - d. The Organizer reserves the right to reclassify any contestant for any reason pursuant to applicable rules
7. Definitions
 - a. "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
 - b. "Points" means points listed in the World Swing Dance Council Competitors Registry
8. Changes to these Rules
 - a. The Organizer will make every effort to conduct all competitions in accordance with these rules. However, the Organizer reserves the right to make any changes in schedule or format deemed necessary for any competition

Responsibilities of Competitors

1. Plan Ahead:
 - a. Know the competition and weekend schedule in advance
 - i. Registration for contests will end promptly at the times posted on the schedule
 - ii. Contest will start promptly as described on the schedule
 - b. Competitors are responsible for checking with the Head Judge or Organizer for any changes to previously announced
 - c. Schedules are subject to change
2. Know the Rules:
 - a. All competitors should read these rules prior to their contest
 - b. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules
 - c. Questions about the rules should be asked at least one hour prior to the applicable contest
 - d. Questions should be directed to the Head Judge
3. Be Prepared:
 - a. Competitors should be present in the ballroom at least 10 minutes prior to the start of their contest
 - b. Competitors are responsible for their bib numbers
 - i. If you lose your bib number, replacements are available for \$10
 - ii. Leaders should wear their bib number on their upper back
 - iii. Followers should wear their bib number on their lower back
4. Demonstrating Good Behavior and Conduct
 - a. Competitors must demonstrate good sportsmanship, conduct and behavior on and off the dance floor
 - b. Competitors must refrain from any behavior that the judges deem inappropriate (“inappropriate” is defined by, and at the discretion of, the judge(s) in consultation of the Head Judge)
 - c. Failure to adhere to this code of behavior may result in disqualification
5. Be on time
 - a. Contest will run on-time
 - b. Failure to be in the ballroom when your contest happens will result in disqualification

Division Rules

1. Jack & Jill

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. A bit of “luck of the draw” comes into play as well.

 - a. Entry
 - i. Competitors enter as individuals
 - ii. See also “General Information – Entries Per Division”
 - iii. See also “General Competitor Information – Multiple Registrations”
 - b. Format
 - i. Music – See “General Information – Music”
 - ii. Rounds – See “General Information – Rounds”
 - c. Judging
 - i. Competitors are randomly assigned partners in all rounds
 1. In preliminary and semi-final rounds, competitors will dance with at least two different partners and shall be judged individually
 2. In the final round, competitors will dance with one partner and shall be judged as a team
 - d. Division Qualifications
 - i. Qualifications for entries promote fairness and competitor enjoyment by grouping dancers of similar ability in the same division
 - ii. Classifications are based on the World Swing Dance Council recommendations, if you are not comfortable dancing in the division where these qualifications place you

and would like to dance up or down, please see “General Information – Petitions for Reclassification”

1. Newcomer Division – designed for first time competitors, those with no Newcomer points, and those with no prior competitive success. To enter Newcomer you must be competent with the basics of social dancing
2. Novice Division – have Newcomer points or have previously danced in a Novice division. You have earned less than 15 Novice points at WSDC Registry Events and as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry. A competitor may stay in the Novice division until they have both 15 points and a first place win in Novice. If you do not have Newcomer points and you choose to dance in the Novice Division, you are asserting that you have previously danced in the Novice division
3. Intermediate Division – have earned 15 or more Novice points; and less than 30 Intermediate points at WSDC Registry Events and as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry. A competitor may stay in the Intermediate division until they have both 30 points and a first place win in Intermediate
4. Advanced Division – have earned 30 or more Intermediate points at WSDC Registry Events and as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry
5. All-Star Division – have earned 45 or more Advanced points within 3 years prior to this event at WSDC Registry Events and as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry
6. Masters Division – See “General Competition Requirements – Age Sensitive Divisions”
7. Invitational Division – invited by the Event to participate

2. Strictly Swing

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 prechoreographed 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

- a. Entry
 - i. Competitors enter as couples
 - ii. See also “General Information – Entries Per Division”
 - iii. See also “General Competitor Information – Multiple Registrations”
- b. Format
 - i. Music – See “General Information – Music”
 - ii. Rounds – See “General Information – Rounds”
- c. Dancing
 - i. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries
 - ii. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed
 - iii. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves
 - iv. You must dance the role (Leader/Follower) that you registered as in your partnership
- d. Judging
 - i. Competitors choose their own dance partner
 - ii. Competitors dance with the same dancer partner in all rounds
 - iii. Competitors are judged as a team in all rounds

- e. Division Qualifications
 - i. Qualifications for entries promote fairness and competitor enjoyment by grouping dancers of similar ability in the same division
 - ii. Non-traditional gender roles are welcome in these contests
 - iii. Individuals may not enter two levels dancing the same role
 - iv. Individuals may not enter the same level dancing both roles
 - v. Individuals must dance the role you registered as
 - vi. Partnerships must dance in the Division of the highest ranked partner (e.g. one partner is “Novice” as defined below and one partner is “Intermediate” as defined below, the partnership must dance in the Intermediate Strictly Swing Division)
 - vii. Classifications are based on the World Swing Dance Council recommendations, if you are not comfortable dancing in the division where these qualifications place you and would like to dance up or down, please see “General Information – Petitions for Reclassification”
 - viii. When a male is leading or a female is following
 - 1. Novice – have earned less than 15 Novice points at WSDC Registry Events and as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry. A competitor may stay in the Novice division until they have both 15 points and a first place win in Novice
 - 2. Intermediate – have earned 15 or more Novice points; and less than 30 Intermediate points at WSDC Registry Events and as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry. A competitor may stay in the Intermediate division until they have both 30 points and a first place win in Intermediate
 - 3. Advanced – have earned 30 or more Intermediate points at WSDC Registry Events and as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry
 - 4. All-Star – have earned 45 or more Advanced points at WSDC Registry Events and as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry
 - 5. Novice Masters Division – have earned less than 15 Novice points at WSDC Registry Events and as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry. A competitor may stay in the Novice division until they have both 15 points and a first place win in Novice. See also “General Competition Requirements – Age Sensitive Divisions”
 - 6. Open Masters Division – See “General Competition Requirements – Age Sensitive Divisions”
 - ix. When a male is following
 - 1. You can dance down one level or up one level from your WSDC qualification as a leader
 - x. When a female is leading
 - 1. You can dance down one level or up one level from your WSDC qualification as a follower
 - xi. Dancers that qualify as an All-Star Leader may not dance down as an Intermediate Follower.
 - xii. Dancers that qualify as an All-Star Follower may not dance down as an Intermediate Leader.