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 or have been awarded a current year 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. Jack & Jill: minimum age to enter is 13 years of age at the time of the first day of the Event
    b. Strictly Swing: no minimum age to enter
    c. Should the WSDC rules mandate alternate 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 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. Masters Strictly Swing and Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Open Strictly Swing)
6. Lead/Follow requirements
    a. Jack & Jill contests are role based
    b. Strictly Swing contests are role based
7. Appropriate Dress Code
    a. No costumes allowed

b. Inappropriate attire is prohibited ("inappropriate" is defined by, and at the discretion of, the Event Director and 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 Organizer 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, quarter-final, 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 Strictly Swing division straight to finals if less than 15 couples enter the division
    d. Organizer will follow the WSDC Tier Guidelines for Jack & Jill divisions
4. Cancellations
    a. Any contestant(s) may cancel their registration for any contest
        i. Contestants that cancel their registration 30 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. Following awards on Sunday, Competitors' dance scores will be available for review
    b. The Head Judge, as well as other judges, will be asked to be available for questions
    c. Scores will be posted to the Event website shortly after the conclusion of the Event
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 WSDC Point Registry 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. 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 one hour prior to the start time of the contest unless stated elsewhere on the schedule or at the Event
        ii. Contests 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 and the WSDC rules prior to their contest
    b. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules and the WSDC 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 15 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. Contestants should wear their bib number on their 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 is called to the floor will result in disqualification

Division Rules

1. Skill Level Division Jack & Jill
   The Skill Level Division 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. Competitors may only enter one skill level division Jack & Jill (Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All Star)
        iv. In addition to the skill level division, eligible competitors may also choose to enter the Novice or Open Masters Jack & Jill contest
    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, quarter-final, 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 rules, 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"
    iii. The below is a synopsis of the full rules found on the WSDC website and are provided only for your convenience
        1. Newcomer Division – designed for first time competitors, those with no Newcomer points, and those with no prior competitive success. To enter Newcomer you should be competent with the basics of social dancing
        2. Novice Division – have Newcomer points or have previously danced in a Novice division. A competitor may stay in the Novice division until they have 30 Novice points at WSDC Registry Events as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry. You are allowed to move up to Intermediate if you have 16 or more Novice points. You are required to move to Intermediate if you have 30 or more Novice points. 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 at least 16 or more Novice points; and less than 45 Intermediate points at WSDC Registry Events as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry. You are allowed to move up to Advanced if you have 30 or more Intermediate points. You are required to move to Advanced if you have 45 or more Intermediate points
        4. Advanced Division – have earned at least 30 or more Intermediate points at WSDC Registry Events as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry. You are allowed to move up to All Star if you have 45 or more Advanced points accumulated within 36 months. You are required to move to All Star if you have 60 or more Advanced points accumulated within 36 months.
        5. All Star Division – have earned 45 or more Advanced points within 36 months prior to this event at WSDC Registry Events as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry, or have earned at least 3 points at WSDC Registry Events in the last 36 months as an All Star, or have earned 10 Advanced points in a 12 month period at WSDC Registry Events as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry after having moved from All Star to Advanced
    iv. Masters Divisions
        1. See "General Competition Requirements – Age Sensitive Divisions"
        2. Novice Masters Division – The eligible competitor qualifies for the Newcomer or Novice Division
            a. The Novice Masters Division is not reported nor eligible for WSDC points
        3. Open Masters Division – The eligible competitor qualifies for the Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, or All Star Division
        4. Qualifying competitors may enter both the Novice Master Division and Open Masters Division

2. Pro-Am Jack & Jill
    a. Definitions
        i. Am (Amateur) – Is an eligible competitor that is not part of the Atlanta Swing Classic staff and meets the Pro-Am Jack & Jill Division Qualifications

ii. Pro (Professional) – Is an eligible competitor that is part of the Atlanta Swing Classic staff or is an eligible competitor that has qualified as a WSDC All Star dancer and has been invited by the Organizer to dance in the contest

b. Entry
   i. Competitors enter as individuals
   ii. See also "General Information – Entries Per Division"
   iii. Competitors may only enter one skill level division of the Pro-Am Jack & Jill (Novice, Intermediate)
   iv. In addition to the skill level division, eligible competitors may also choose to enter the Masters Pro-Am Jack & Jill contest
c. Format
   i. Music – See "General Information – Music"
   ii. Rounds – There is a preliminary round and a final (Pro-Am Challenge) round
d. Judging
   i. Competitors are randomly assigned Pro partners in all rounds
      1. In the preliminary competitors will dance with at least three different Pro partners and shall be judged individually
      2. In the final (Pro-Am Challenge) round, competitors will dance with one Pro partner and shall be judged as a team
e. 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 rules, 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"
   iii. Divisions:
      1. Pro-Am Novice Division – The eligible competitor qualifies as a Newcomer or Novice dancer per the WSDC rules
      2. Pro-Am Intermediate Division – The eligible competitor qualifies as an Intermediate dancer per the WSDC rules
      3. Pro-Am Masters Division – See "General Competition Requirements – Age Sensitive Divisions"
f. See also "General Competition Requirements – Competitor Eligibility"

3. All-American Jack & Jill
   a. Entry
      i. Competitors enter as individuals
      ii. See also "General Information – Entries Per Division"
   b. Format
      i. Music – See "General Information – Music"
      ii. Rounds – See "General Information – Rounds"
   c. Judging
      i. Competitors dance with the same dancer partner in all rounds
      ii. Competitors are judged as a team in all rounds
   d. Division Qualifications
      i. There is one division
   e. Partnership
      i. Lead/Follow partnerships are assigned randomly
      ii. Lead/Follow partnerships will be randomized so that no ASC staff are paired together
   f. See also "General Competition Requirements – Competitor Eligibility"

4. Criss Cross Jack & Jill
    a. Entry
        i. Competitors enter as individuals
        ii. See also “General Information – Entries Per Division”
    b. Format
        i. Music – See “General Information – Music”
        ii. Rounds – See “General Information – Rounds”
    c. Judging
        i. Competitors dance with the same dancer partner in all rounds
        ii. Competitors are judged as a team in all rounds
    d. Division Qualifications
        i. There are two divisions
        ii. Newcomer-Novice/Advanced Division
            1. The eligible competitor qualifies as a Newcomer or Novice dancer per the WSDC rules
            2. The eligible competitor qualifies as as Advanced dancer per the WSDC rules
        iii. Intermediate/All Star-Pro Division
            1. The eligible competitor qualifies as an Intermediate dancer per the WSDC rules
            2. The eligible competitor qualifies as as All Star dancer per the WSDC rules or “Pro” dancer as described above
    e. Partnership
        i. In the Newcomer-Novice/Advanced Division;
            1. Newcomer-Novice Leaders will be randomly assigned to dance with an Advanced Follower
            2. Newcomer-Novice Followers will be randomly assigned to dance with an Advanced Leaders
        ii. In the Intermediate/All Star-Pro Division;
            1. Intermediate Leaders will be randomly assigned to dance with an All Star-Pro Followers
            2. Intermediate Followers will be randomly assigned to dance with an All Star-Pro Leaders
    f. See also “General Competition Requirements – Competitor Eligibility”

5. 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 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
    a. Entry
        i. Competitors enter as couples
        ii. See also “General Information – Entries Per Division”
        iii. See also “General Competition Requirements – Competitor Eligibility”
        iv. Eligible competitors may choose to enter both the Open Masters Strictly Swing and one Strictly Swing level (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All Star)
        v. Eligible 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 competitors may choose to dance in the Generational Strictly regardless of participation in the Open Masters Strictly Swing or the Strictly Swing leveled division.

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. Individuals may not enter two levels dancing the same role
    iii. Individuals may not enter the same level dancing both roles
    iv. Individuals must dance the role you registered as
    v. Partnerships must dance in the Division of the highest ranked partner
    vi. Classifications are based on the World Swing Dance Council recommendations, if you qualify for two divisions, you must dance in the higher division
    vii. 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. Generational partners must have at least 20 years difference in age
    ix. Divisions
        1. Novice – have earned less than 16 Novice points at WSDC Registry Events as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry
        2. Intermediate – have earned 16 or more Novice points; and less than 30 Intermediate points at WSDC Registry Events as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry.
        3. Advanced – have earned 30 or more Intermediate points; and less than 45 Advanced points at WSDC Registry Events as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry
        4. All Star – have earned 45 or more Advanced points at WSDC Registry Events in the past 36 months, or 10 Advanced points in the past 12 months after having moved down from All Star to Advanced as recorded in the WSDC Competitors Points Registry
        5. Open Masters Division – See “General Competition Requirements – Age Sensitive Divisions”
        6. Generational Strictly Swing Division
            a. Atlanta Swing Classic staff and/or WSDC All Star dancers may not dance together