

2026 Florida Dance Magic Competition Rules

Contests Available:

- **WSDC Jack and Jill contests:** Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Masters, Advanced, and All Star
- **Strictly Swing contests:** Masters, Open (Novice through All Star), and All Star/Champions
- **Pro-Am Contests:** Jack and Jill (Novice & Intermediate), Strictly (Newcomer, Novice, and Intermediate), and Routines (Open)
- **Country Swing (Non-WSDC)** – Jack and Jill (Novice, Intermediate & Advanced), Strictly (Open), and Line Dance (Low & High)

Entry Deadlines:

- **7:00pm - Friday:** Registration closes for all WSDC Friday contests
- **10:00pm - Friday:** Registration closes for Line Dance contest
- **11:00am - Saturday:** Registration closes for all Saturday WSDC contests
- **4:00pm - Saturday:** Registration closes for all Saturday Country Swing contests
- **10:00am - Sunday:** Registration closes for all Sunday contests

Entry deadlines are FIRM. There will be no exceptions.

Official policies governing all Florida Dance Magic's competitions are below. All competitors are responsible for reading and following the rules.

GENERAL COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

1. To compete in any West Coast Swing contest, you must hold a full weekend pass and pay all associated contest and registrations fees.
2. To compete in any Country Swing contest, you must hold a weekend pass or a full-Friday or full-day AND Night Saturday pass and pay all associated contest and registration fees.
3. Register by the official entry deadlines(s) as outlined in the weekend schedule.
4. Pay the required entry fee(s) and complete any required entry forms, including signed waivers.
5. Meet all other specific entry requirements as outlined in these rules.
6. All attendees must abide by the code of conduct listed on Florida Dance Magic's website.
7. Entering a contest indicates consent to unrestricted use of your name and likeness in photos and videos to appear in future promotions on the internet.
8. You will line up prior to each division. The area for lining up will be announced prior to the division start. You must line up and check in with the contest coordinators in the designated locations. **IMPORTANT NOTE: IF YOU ARE NOT IN LINE WHEN YOUR HEAT IS WALKING IN TO THE COMPETITION AREA, YOU WILL BE SCRATCHED AND NOT ALLOWED TO DANCE. PLEASE BE AWARE OF SCHEDULED COMPETITION TIMES AND BE PREPARED (WITH YOUR BIB NUMBER) TO DANCE.**
9. This is a 'Swing Dance' competition, and all recognized swing styles are allowed, including but not limited to Whip, Push, West Coast, Swing, Shag, Lindy Hop, Imperial, Swingout, Jitterbug, Stepping and others.
10. **Waiver Forms:** Each contestant must sign the appropriate waiver form. No contestant will be permitted to compete without a signed waiver form. All contestants under the age of eighteen must have a parent or guardian sign any required forms.
11. **Appropriate Behavior and Dress Code:** It is the desire of the Organizer to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing the 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. Competitors should check with the Organizer or Chief Judge in advance if they have questions regarding the acceptability of their routine/competition attire.

12. **WSDC Jack and Jill Contents:** WSDC points will be used to determine the level for all Jack & Jill competitors. Masters may compete in the appropriate WSDC level and in masters. You may compete as a lead and follow per WSDC guidelines.
- Per WSDC rules, competitors who dance in the incorrect skill level division without a successful petition must be disqualified and will not receive points for placement. You also will not receive a refund for your competition fees.
 - Leader and Follower points will be tracked separately in Points Registry.
 - Competitors qualify for their dance level based on either their Leader or Follower points, whichever is higher.
 - Competitors are allowed to compete in their non-dominant role two levels down if they do not qualify in both for the same division. **HOWEVER** – the only division that may dance down to Newcomer is Novice.
 - Competitors will not be permitted to dance both roles in the same division.
 - Competitors with points in both their primary and secondary roles at the same skill level must select only one (1) role to compete in (either their primary or secondary role) for that event's skill level Jack and Jill contest.
 - When a competitor has a choice of primary role levels, the highest level the competitor qualifies to compete sets the allowable level for their secondary role, i.e. the division a competitor chooses for their primary role at the Event does not affect what level they may compete at for their secondary role.
 - Competitors may dance two (2) levels down from their primary level (their highest competitive level), regardless of whether they choose to compete in the primary level for the Event. If they reach the "may" move up level on the WSDC Skill Level Jack & Jill Advancement Chart (Chart 3), based on their points in their secondary role, at which point they must dance only one level down from their highest allowed primary role. See Secondary Role WSDC Skill Level Jack & Jill Advancement Chart (Chart 4- see below).

*Competitors – please contact points@worldsdc.com if any points are/were incorrectly allocated to the wrong role in the system.

13. **Newcomer Division:** Designed for the dancer that is BRAND NEW to competition. This division is not open to all levels.
14. All rules will be strictly enforced - Scoring and penalties will be at the discretion of each individual judge.
15. Complete scores from all contest rounds will be available through the event website (and Facebook) at the end of the weekend (after all contests are complete).
16. **Contest Requirements:**
1. **Entries:** All contests must have a minimum of five (5) entries to be a valid contest.
 2. **Judges:** There will be a minimum of five Judges for all competitions.
 3. **Scoring System:** Contests are scored by computer and relative placement. Contestants will be judged in the preliminaries and/or semi-finals as an individual and as a couple in any finals.

PETITIONS FOR RECLASSIFICATION

- CHECK YOUR WSDC POINTS FOR CORRECT LEVEL PLACEMENT BEFORE SIGNING UP FOR JACK & JILL COMPETITIONS. The link to the WSDC Competitor Points Registry is: <https://www.worldsdc.com/registry-points/>
- Petitions must be submitted per the Petition Submission Process in accordance with the WSDC Petition Process and as outlined toward the end of these Competition Rules. ALL DECISIONS BY THE CHIEF JUDGE (IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMPETITION COMMITTEE PANEL) WILL BE FINAL.
- PETITION PROCESS - It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to a fair and appropriate classification using the honor system (and in accordance with the WSDC Points Registry System). In the event that a competitor feels uncomfortable with their classification they may petition for

reclassification by following the Petition Process outlined in the WSDC Rules. Dancing in the wrong division (or a competition requiring a Petition being submitted) without a successfully approved petition may incur disqualification. See <https://www.worldsdc.com/rules/> for complete details about the petition process.

Chart 4: WSDC Secondary Role Skill Level Jack & Jill Advancement Chart

P Primary Role Competition Level	Primary Role Points	Suggested Secondary Role	Allowed Secondary Role
Champion		All Star	All Star or Advanced <i>(Required to move up to All Star at 60+ Secondary Role Advanced points)</i>
All Star	150+ All Star points	Advanced	Advanced
	<150 All Star points	Advanced	Advanced or Intermediate <i>(Required to move up to Advanced at 30+ Secondary Role Intermediate points)</i>
Advanced	60+ Advanced points	Intermediate	Intermediate
	<60 Advanced points	Intermediate	Intermediate or Novice <i>(Required to move up to Intermediate at 16+ Secondary Role Novice points)</i>
Intermediate	<45 Intermediate points	Novice	Novice
Novice	16+ Novice points	Novice	Novice
	<16 Novice points	Newcomer	Novice or Newcomer <i>(Required to move up to Novice with 1+ Secondary Role points at any level.)</i>
Newcomer	0 points	Newcomer or Novice	<i>Note that you can only enter a given level once, as either lead or follow, not both.</i>

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETITORS

1. **Planning:** Competitors should check the weekend schedule in advance to arrive on time to meet registration deadlines. They should bring appropriate competition attire. They should also plan to be on time for all competitions. Competitors are responsible for checking at the event for any changes to previously announced schedules, which are always subject to change.
2. **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 and addressed in advance to the Chief Judge or the Organizer.
3. **Being Prepared to Compete:** You will have line ups prior to each division.
 - a. The area for lining up will be announced prior to the division start.
 - b. You must line up and check in (wearing your assigned bib number) with the contest coordinators in the designated locations.
 - c. Competitors should be present in the ballroom at least 15 minutes prior to the start of their competition.
 - d. Contest check in closes 10 minutes before the start of the competition.
 - e. Any change in partnership for the couple's competitions may require an additional entry fee as well as a new entry form and waiver.
4. **Demonstrating Good Sporting Conduct:** Competitors must always demonstrate good sporting conduct, both on and off the competition floor. Competitors may not speak to judges regarding their placements or scores until after the awards have been given. It is bad sportsmanship to badger or argue with judges about placements and scores. Competitors must also refrain from any behavior that the judges deem inappropriate. Failure to adhere to this code of behavior may result in disqualification.

CHANGES TO THESE RULES

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/format deemed necessary for any competition.

SWING CONTENT: 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, swingouts, 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.

** 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 determines a final score **

DIVISION RULES

Jack and Jill Division

You may dance in more than 1 level of Jack & Jill contests! You can compete as both a leader and a follower.

Here are details on how it works:

- Leader and Follower points is tracked separately in the Points Registry.
- Competitors qualify for their dance level based on either their Leader or Follower points, whichever is higher.
- Competitors are allowed to compete in their secondary role as indicated on the Points Registry, with the following clarifications:
 - Competitors will not be permitted to dance both roles in the same division.
 - Competitors who chose to dance at a higher level in their primary role must dance one level down from that role in their secondary role.
 - Novice competitors (primary role) may dance in Newcomer in their secondary role (if they have no Newcomer or Novice points in their secondary role). **HOWEVER** – the only division that may dance down to Newcomer is Novice with fewer than 16 Novice points in their primary role.
 - Note that competitors who are allowed to compete in Intermediate in their primary role (no matter what level they choose to compete in at the Event) may not compete in Newcomer in their secondary role.

Competitors – please contact points@worldsdc.com if any points are/were incorrectly allocated to the wrong role in the system.

General:

Competitors at least 50 years of age may also enter the Masters Division. Competitors must be at least eleven (11) years of age.

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.

Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves, (one foot on the ground) except for Champions division.

Props are not allowed.

Format:

Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected in advance by the Competition DJ. Depending on the number of entries, preliminary and semi-final rounds may be held and will be danced in a heated format. Each division must have at least 5 leaders and 5 followers. There is no maximum number of competitors.

Division Qualifications (Chart 3 below):

Our qualifications for entries promote fairness and competitor enjoyment by grouping dancers of similar ability in the same division. Please see the World Swing Dance Council webpage for more details for the jack and jill division. It is the Organizer’s goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to the appropriate classification using the honor system.

Chart 3: WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart

Skill Level ^[6]	WSDC Category Definitions	Allowed (Dancers are given the <i>option</i> to move to the next skill level)	Required (Dancers are <i>required</i> to move to the next skill level)
Champion	Champions are defined for WSDC Champion Jack and Jill contests. ^[7]	Allowed to dance in Champions with 1 Champion points	Required to dance in Champions with 10 Champion points
		Champion	
All Star	All Stars should be extremely competitive.	Allowed to move up with 150 All Star points	Required to move up with 225 All Star points
		All Star	
Advanced	Advanced should be very competitive.	Allowed to move up with 60 Advanced points	Required to move up with 90 Advanced points or 1 All Star point
		Advanced	
Intermediate	Intermediate dancers are perfecting their competitive skills.	Allowed to move up with 30 Intermediate points	Required to move up with 45 Intermediate points or 1 Advanced point
		Intermediate	
Novice	Novice dancers demonstrate basic dance skills.	Allowed to move up with 16 Novice points	Required to move up with 30 Novice points or 1 Intermediate point
		Novice	
Newcomer ^[8]	Newcomers are dancers who are new to competition.	Allowed to move up at the dancer's discretion.	Required to move up with 1 Newcomer point or 1 Novice point
		Newcomer	

Judging Criteria:

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 & 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.

Age Division:

Masters: For competitors who are at least 50 years old by the end of the event. Competitors may also dance in a skill level Jack & Jill (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, or All-Star).

For further clarification or explanation please refer to the WSDC rules for J&J. <https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/WSDC-Registry-Event-Rules-Jan-17-2026.pdf>

STRICTLY SWING DIVISIONS:

Swing dancing 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.

You may enter more than one Strictly Swing contest. You may dance up a level by dancing with a partner of a higher level. You may also dance down one level in your non-dominant role. You may also enter an age delineated division such as masters. And yet still, you may also enter generational strictly swing. See the generational rules for more information.

General:

The minimum number of entries in each division is five (5). There is no maximum number of entries. Guidelines for expected swing content are 90% in Strictly Swing. It is at the judge’s discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.

Specific:

1. Contestants must be least ten (10) years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Length of performance is at the promoter’s discretion.
3. Drops, leans and other partner weight support moves are allowed as long as both partners keep at least one foot on the floor.
4. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching, or complementary outfits are acceptable.
5. This division will be danced in heats for preliminaries and semi-finals (if needed).
6. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
7. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
8. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.

Division Qualifications:

It is the Organizer’s goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to a fair and appropriate classification using the honor system. If you do not feel comfortable dancing within these qualifications, please petition (see “Petitions”)

Open: This division includes all divisions Novice through Advanced

Masters (50+): Both partners must be 50 years of age or older. Because this is an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement you may also enter another Strictly Swing contest at the appropriate skill level if you wish.

All Star/Champions:

- One partner **must** be either an **All-Star** or **Champion** level dancer.

- Champions and All-Stars **are not required** to dance with each other.
 - Two all-stars may dance together.
 - Two champions may dance together.
 - An all-star may dance with a champion.
 - An all-star or champion may dance with any level they choose

Pro-Am Strictly Swing Division

General:

1. Students enter with their teacher. This division is designed to highlight social dancing skills at a performance level with an emphasis on lead/follow technique.
2. For this contest, amateurs are defined as anyone who does not teach dancing on a regular ongoing basis or earn a significant amount of income teaching or performing. A professional is defined as someone who earns a significant amount of income teaching or performing dance. Anyone who has previously competed in open or professional level competition must be considered a Pro for this purpose.
3. Only the student is evaluated. Different skill levels are offered for both Leader and Follower roles. Each skill level and role is a separate contest.
4. Each professional shall have no more than 7 entries in each Division offered.
5. It is the Organizer's goal to encourage Pro/Am competitions as a learning tool for the students.

Specific:

1. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion. Music will be chosen by the Organizer.
2. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching, or complementary outfits are acceptable.
3. This division will be danced in heats.
4. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
5. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed, no choreographed entrances or exits.
6. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.

Division Qualifications: It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to a fair and appropriate classification using the honor system. If you do not feel comfortable dancing within these qualifications, please petition (see "Petitions.")

Newcomer: This division is for students with little to no competition experience. Students are expected to perform solid basics. Limited variations are allowed but not required. No leans, drops, or breakaways are allowed. All material should be recognizable as familiar, common "leadable" social patterns.

Novice: This level is based on WSDC skill level. Students are expected to perform solid basics. Limited variations are allowed but not required. No leans, drops, or breakaways are allowed. All material should be recognizable as familiar, common "leadable" social patterns.

Intermediate: This division is for students with significant prior competition and or dance experience. Students are expected to perform clean basics with variations and musicality. Judges will consider musical interpretation, showmanship, and creativity.

ROUTINE DIVISION

Pro-Am Spotlight Routine

This single 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.

General:

- Each professional shall have no more than 10 entries.
- Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose.
- Expected swing content of any style is 70%. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content has been met.
- For this contest, amateurs are defined as anyone who does not teach dancing on a regular, ongoing basis or earn a significant amount of income teaching or performing. A professional is defined as someone who earns a significant amount of income teaching or performing dance. Anyone who has previously competed in open or professional level competition must be considered a Pro for this purpose.
- Routine must be at least 2 minutes long and no longer than 3 minutes.
- Couples dance in a solo format.
- Dance order will be chosen at random and posted prior to the division start time.