

Colorado Swing Classic 2026 Rules

General rules for all competitions

Eligibility requirements

To compete in WSDC contests, Masters, Hi-Lo Jack & Jill or Strictly competitions at our event, you must:

- Have a full weekend pass.
- Register for each competition by the official entry deadline. (See the weekend schedule.)
- Pay any required entry fees.
- Sign the event waiver

To compete in Generational Strictly, you must:

- Have a day pass
- Register for each competition by the official entry deadline. (See the weekend schedule.)
- Pay any required entry fees.
- Sign the event waiver

Role/gender inclusiveness

Colorado Swing Classic welcomes persons of all genders to dance as a leader or follower.

Our verification of your eligibility

We will verify that you are eligible for the competitions you enter by checking the World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) points registry and other sources of information, if applicable. In some cases (for example, if you submit a petition or do not have the required WSDC points), we may reassign you to a different division. (See worldsdc.com for details about WSDC points.)

Our responsibilities as the organizer

1. Selecting the competition officials. We will select a panel of judges, head judge, scorer, MCs, head DJ, and competition DJs. Our MC will announce the judges for each competition at the start of the competition.

2. Determining the rules and schedule. We will determine the rules for our competitions and post them in advance on our website. We will also post a full weekend schedule listing the times for all registration deadlines, meetings, competitions, and awards. We will follow our posted schedule as much as possible. If we need to make any last-minute changes, we will announce them at the event.

3. Registering contestants and verifying eligibility. We will collect entries from eligible competitors in advance (using our online registration system) and at the event (during contest registration times listed on the weekend schedule). We will verify that you are eligible for each competition you enter. We will assign bib numbers to Strictly Swing leaders and Jack & Jill leaders and followers.

4. Holding all competitions as planned or modifying them if necessary. We will do everything we can to hold all competitions as planned. If we must cancel a competition, we will refund your entry fee, and we may invite you to perform an exhibition instead.

5. Scoring the results. We will select a qualified independent scorer. Our scorer will use callbacks for all preliminary and semifinal heats, and relative placement for all finals. (A detailed explanation of relative placement is available on the WSDC website at worldsdc.com.) Our scorer will post all the scores for public examination for approximately 1 hour after the announcement of the results and presentation of awards. Scores will also be posted online after the event.

6. Announcing the results and presenting awards. We will announce the results of all competitions at our awards ceremony.

Your responsibilities as a competitor

1. Planning ahead. You may register for competitions in advance (using our online registration system) or at the event (during the signup times listed on the schedule). **If you register in advance, you should pick up your bib number(s) at event registration when you check in.** Be sure to check for any last-minute changes to the schedule.

2. Knowing the rules. You should read the rules carefully prior to the competition. You are responsible for following the rules whether or not you have read them. If you have any questions, you should contact our head judge ahead of time.

4. Being prepared to compete. You should be in the ballroom at least **15** minutes before your competition and lining up in the marshaling area. For Strictly Swing and Jack & Jill competitions, remember to bring your bib number. (If you lose your bib number, we may charge you for a replacement.) **You must wear your bib number for all competition rounds including finals** (unless our competition officials tell you it is not needed). If you are not wearing a bib number, you will not be allowed to dance. If you are disqualified, miss the competition, or withdraw after the registration deadline, you will forfeit your entry fee. **Due to overlapping contest schedules between the Colorado Swing Classic and the Colorado Country Classic, there may be instances where competitors need to be scratched if one ballroom falls behind. The Colorado Swing Classic contest team will make every effort to contact affected competitors and accommodate all registered dancers. However, in some cases, scratches may be unavoidable. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility.**

5. Demonstrating good sporting conduct at all times. You must demonstrate good sporting conduct at all times, both on and off the competition floor. This includes treating your partners, other competitors, competition officials, spectators, event staff and volunteers, and the event itself with respect. Demonstrating a poor attitude by behaving in ways that our head judge, judging panel, or other competition officials deem inappropriate or disrespectful may result in a violation penalty or disqualification.

6. Using appropriate channels to communicate your concerns. If you have questions or concerns about our competitions, you should use appropriate channels to share your concerns, such as an email to the head judge at joanna.meinl@gmail.com or in private discussion with our head judge. You are not allowed to confront, pressure, challenge, or argue with individual judges. If you harass or verbally abuse a judge or any other competition official, we may disqualify you and may also ban you from competing at our events in the future.

7. Reviewing your scores. Our scorer will post scores for approximately 1 hour after the announcement of the results and presentation of awards. You may review this information to see how you did. (You may also take photos of the scores for your personal use.) If you are unable to review your scores at the event, you also may view posted scores online or contact our competition director after the event.

8. Partner weight-support moves (“tricks”). Advanced dancers sometimes use partner weight-support moves to add excitement to a performance. Like other patterns, these moves will be judged according to the standard criteria of timing, teamwork, and technique. Any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

We distinguish between two types of partner weight-support moves:

- **“In the air” support moves:** In these moves, both feet of one partner are clearly off the floor. Lifts, aeriels, and some acrobatic maneuvers are examples. “In the air” support moves are allowed only in All-Star/Champions Strictly and the Invitational Jack & Jill.
- **“On the ground” support moves:** In these moves, you and your partner both maintain physical contact with the floor. Drops, leans, circular movements, leveraged slides, and splits are examples. “On the ground” support moves are allowed in all competitions. However, any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.
- Determining whether the criteria for an “in the air” weight support has been met is at the discretion of each individual judge. It is up to the judge to decide how, and to what extent, this will be reflected in their scoring as a penalty.

9. Appropriate behavior and attire. It is our desire to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing quality of dancing and good taste. To maintain this balance, we encourage you to put on a good show (including humor where appropriate) but within the context of presenting solid dance fundamentals. Keep in mind that all ages (including young dancers) will be present at our event, and that your performance will be streamed live online and recorded for the future. Any action that our judges believe would make them uncomfortable in social dancing (such as inappropriate touching or simulating sexual behavior) may earn a violation penalty.

Check with our head judge in advance if you have any questions regarding the acceptability of your competition attire.

Requesting a restart

You may request a restart if something happens during your dance that could impact safety, such as:

- **Technical problems** – factors outside your control, such as: lights in the ballroom go out; flooring is faulty or damaged; music suddenly stops; or our DJ plays the wrong music for your dance.
- **Costume malfunctions** – your shoe breaks or becomes unfastened or untied; your costume tears or breaks; or you lose a piece of clothing that could endanger other dancers or expose a part of your body that would not normally be exposed in a public setting.

You may **not** request a restart simply because you are dissatisfied with your dance order, performance, partner, or music.

For your own safety, you also will **not** be allowed to restart if you are injured during your dance.

You must request a restart prior to your departure from the floor, and our head judge must approve your request. Our head judge may also call for a restart without a request from you if our head judge believes it is fair to all and in your best interest.

If our head judge allows a restart, your previous scores will be voided. If our head judge denies your request for a restart, or you decline an offer to restart, your prior performance will be scored.

Competition music

1. Music for our Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing competitions. Our head DJ will appoint a competition DJ to select music for each Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing division. Music for finals spotlight dances will be approximately the same length of time for each couple. The exact time of fade out is left to the DJ's discretion to maximize the effectiveness of the music. If our judges need more time to determine callbacks or final placements, our head judge may ask the competition DJ to play additional music.

Jack & Jill

Summary

Our Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight skills in spontaneous swing dancing (primarily West Coast Swing) 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 by the appointed competition DJ.

Eligibility

Our Jack & Jill competitions are open to anyone who knows the **basic West Coast Swing (WCS) patterns**, such as:

- Starter step
- Underarm turn
- Left side pass
- Right side pass

- Push break
- Whip

You may choose to enter as either a **leader** or **follower for the contests you qualify for**. For **WSDC Jack & Jill divisions**, you must choose one role when you register and remain in that role throughout the competition (preliminaries, quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals); **switching roles during your dances is not allowed**.

There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division.

World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Jack & Jill divisions

Colorado Swing Classic is a WSDC registry event. Every effort has been made to ensure our event rules follow current WSDC rules. However, if there is a conflict, the WSDC rules take precedence.

We offer the following WSDC divisions:

- Newcomer Jack & Jill
- Novice Jack & Jill
- Intermediate Jack & Jill
- Open Masters Jack & Jill (age 50+)
- Advanced Jack & Jill
- All-Stars Jack & Jill

We use the **WSDC points registry** to determine eligibility for WSDC Jack & Jill skill level divisions (Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars).

If you don't have any WSDC points, you should enter our Newcomer **or** Novice Jack & Jill division.

If you have previously earned points as a leader or follower in any WSDC Jack & Jill competition, your points are recorded in the WSDC points registry:

<https://www.worldsdc.com/registry-points/>

The WSDC database will automatically display which level(s) you qualify for as a leader or follower.

You may enter only one skill level division (Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars) in your primary role.

Masters A and Masters Open Jack & Jill

If you are 50+ years old, you may also enter both the Masters A(non-WSDC) and Masters Open (WSDC) Jack & Jill. You may enter both contests in the same role. Masters A division is for aged 50+ dancers that qualify for Newcomer & Novice according to the WSDC points registry. Masters Open Jack & Jill is for all aged 50+ dancers. Only Masters Open Jack & Jill will be awarded WSDC points. If you enter either of these divisions, you may also enter a WSDC Jack & Jill skill level division (Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars) in your primary or secondary role(s).

Submitting a petition

- Individuals may enter a maximum of two unique skill divisions within two different roles. Per the WSDC rules, a dancer will be allowed to dance down one to two levels in their secondary role at their own discretion without seeking a petition. However, under no circumstances is a dancer that has an intermediate point or higher in their primary role allowed to dance in Newcomer in their secondary role. The only dancer allowed to dance in Newcomer in their secondary role is a Novice Dancer who has no Novice points in their secondary role.
- Petitions may only be submitted to dance one level up or down in their primary role. Petitions to dance up must be submitted 15 days prior to the start of the event to the Chief Judges Committee: worldsdc.com/level-up-petition
- To petition down, dancers may either fill out the form electronically and email it to joanna.meinl@gmail.com.. “Dancing down” petitions must be submitted by 4pm on Friday of the event. In the case of all petitions submitted, our Head Judge will review your petition and either approve or deny your request. You will be contacted with the decision as soon as possible. Please be prepared to dance in your original competition level or division in case your petition is denied. The petition form to “dance down” is available here:

https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/WSDC-Jack-and-Jill-petition_vF_Oct-2023.pdf

- If you have petitioned to dance in a different division at one event, this does not “carry over” to the next event. You need to petition at the next event as well. Once you have competed and earned points in a higher division, you should stay in that division (if you continue to qualify).

Note: Some competitors may be required to compete in a higher division in Strictly Swing, because their partner qualifies the partnership for the higher level. **Competing or placing in a higher level Strictly Swing doesn’t qualify you to compete at that level in a WSDC Jack & Jill competition.**

Format for all Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing competitions

1. All dancing in our Jack & Jill competitions should be lead/follow. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
2. “In the air” partner weight-support moves (lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are not allowed except in the non-WSDC Invitational and the All Star/Champions Strictly.
3. “On the ground” support moves (such as drops, slides, or splits) are allowed. However, you and your partner must both maintain physical contact with the floor during support moves.

4. Support moves must be lead/follow, social dance patterns that take the safety of your partner and other couples into consideration. Any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

5. Costumes and props are not allowed. However, competition outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable. Appropriate attire is required.

6. During preliminaries, quarterfinals, and semifinals, you will dance in heats with several partners selected randomly. Although you will be judged individually on a callback basis, you must demonstrate good teamwork with all your partners to advance to the next round.

7. If there is an imbalance in the number of leaders and followers, some contestants (selected randomly) may dance in more than one heat. However, even if your name is not called to dance again, you should remain in the ballroom throughout the competition, in case any additional competitors are needed to dance again at the last minute.

8. Our head judge will determine the exact number of finalists after our scorer has tallied the results of the callbacks.

9. In the finals, we will use a random drawing (or some other random method) to determine your partner. No redraws will be permitted for any reason – it's "luck of the draw." Finalists will be judged as couples.

10. For all Jack & Jill and Strictly finals couples will compete either in spotlight dances, push-out jams, or in a heated format in order to provide the judges with ample opportunity to view and place each couple. The exact format of the finals for each division will be determined by the head judge for that division, in consultation with the competition director, based on the number of entries, the number of couples who make the finals, and the available time to stay on schedule.

11. Eligible finalists in all WSDC divisions will earn WSDC points according to current WSDC policies. (See worldsdc.com for details.) Points will be recorded in the WSDC points registry.

12. All prelims, semis and quarters for Jack & Jill and Strictly contests will be scored utilizing the Callback system. All finals for contests will be scored utilizing Relative Placement.

Additional information on the Callback system and Relative Placement is available on the WSDC website under Rules (worldsdc.com/rules, see Prelim Scoring and Relative Placement, respectively).

15. Newcomer/Novice Strictly, Intermediate/Advanced Strictly, AllStar/Champions Strictly, The Generational Strictly, Hi-Lo Jack & Jill, Invitational and Masters A Jack & Jill are **non- WSDC** competitions. No WSDC points will be awarded.

Strictly Swing

Summary

Our Strictly Swing competitions are designed to highlight skills in spontaneous swing dancing (any recognized style) with a chosen partner. Competitors enter as couples and dance to music selected by the appointed competition DJ.

Eligibility

- You may choose to enter Strictly Swing as either a leader or a follower. Your level (Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars, or Champions) is determined by your Jack & Jill level in that role. However, if your chosen partner qualifies for a higher level Jack & Jill, then you and your partner should enter the higher level Strictly Swing. (Note: Competing or placing in a higher level Strictly Swing doesn't qualify you to compete at that level in a Jack & Jill competition.)
- If you qualify for a different Jack & Jill level in your other role, you also may enter Strictly Swing a second time (with a different partner) in that role. For example, if you qualify as an Advanced Jack & Jill follower and a Novice Jack & Jill leader, you could enter both the equivalent Strictly Swing divisions in those roles, as long as your partner in each division also qualifies at that level (or below) in their role.

Strictly Swing skill level divisions

1. Newcomer/Novice Strictly Swing. This division is intended for dancers with limited competition experience. You may enter this division if you and your partner both qualify for our Newcomer or Novice Jack & Jill division in your chosen roles (and neither partner qualifies for our Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars Jack & Jill division in your chosen roles).

2. Intermediate/Advanced Strictly Swing. This division is intended for dancers with some previous competition experience and success. You may enter this division if you or your partner qualifies for either our Intermediate or Advanced Jack & Jill division in your chosen roles (and neither partner qualifies for our All-Stars Jack & Jill division in your chosen roles).

4. All-Stars/Champions Strictly Swing. This division is intended for dancers with significant competition experience. You may enter this division if you or your partner qualifies for our All-Stars Jack & Jill division or is in the Invitational Jack & Jill.

Format

1. All dancing in our Strictly Swing competitions should be lead/follow. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.

2. Our judges will expect to see at least 90 percent recognizable swing content. All recognized styles of swing dancing are allowed and encouraged.

3. "In the air" partner weight-support moves (lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are not allowed (except in the AllStar/Champions Strictly Swing division, where lifts and acrobatic maneuvers are optional).
4. "On the ground" support moves (such as drops, slides, or splits) are allowed. However, you and your partner must both maintain physical contact with the floor during support moves.
5. Support moves must be lead/follow, social dance patterns that take the safety of your partner and other couples into consideration. Any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.
6. Costumes and props are not allowed. However, matching or complementary competition outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable. Appropriate attire is required.
7. We may hold semifinal and final rounds, or finals only, depending on the number of entries.
8. During the semifinals, couples will be judged on a callback basis during heats.
9. Our head judge will determine the exact number of finalists after our scorer has tallied the results of the callbacks.
10. For the Newcomer/Novice, Intermediate/Advanced, Masters and Generational Strictly Swing divisions, couples in the finals will compete either in one large group heat or in push-out jams, as determined by the head judge for that division.
11. For the All-Stars/Champions Strictly Swing divisions, couples in the finals will compete in spotlight dances (time permitting).

Hi-Low Jack and Jill:

This division will be run as two contests for prelims and finals. Hi Followers/Low Leaders will dance first, followed by Hi Leaders/Low Followers. "Hi" dancers will be those who qualify for Advanced, All Star or Champions according to WSDC. "Low" dancers will be those who qualify for Newcomer, Novice or Intermediate according to WSDC. Low dancers will draw a Hi dancer, who then becomes their partner for the duration of the contest. Hi dancers may make finals more than once. Should a Hi dancer not be present for finals, an alternate Hi dancer may be brought in.

Disclaimer and copyright notice

We will make every effort to conduct all competitions in accordance with these rules. However, we reserve the right to make any changes that we deem necessary for any competition. If we need to make any changes to our competitions or to these rules, we will post them on our website and Facebook event page (if possible) or announce them at the event.

Gratitude to Andy Bouman and the Next Generation Swing Dance Club for the above rules template.