

# Meet Me

In St. Louis SDC

## CONTEST RULES – Updated March 18, 2019

### General Rules for All Participants

- **Conduct** All participants must abide by the MMISL code of conduct at all times including in performance.
- **Supervision** A chaperone (age 21 or older) is required to attend with each participant under the age of 18. The chaperone will be responsible for supervising the participant(s) throughout the event, on and off site.
- **Disclaimer** The event staff reserves the right to remove any person (or persons) who present(s) potential harm, danger or disruption to themselves or anyone around them while attending the event.
- **Your wristband ticket must be worn at all times.** Do not remove it at any time. Anyone participating in any event activities without a wristband will be removed and banned from the event.
- **Reserved Tables and VIP Seating** are for attendees and sponsors who have purchased their pass with reserved seating. Open seating is available at tables without a reserved sign.
- **Video recording and photography is welcome during all contests.** Video recording is only restricted during the special exhibitions. No tripods or extension cords allowed in the ballroom. Good Internet etiquette requires that you get permission before publishing identifiable videos of others.
- **Hotel Regulations** Outside food or beverages are not allowed in the ballroom per hotel policy.
- **Liability Release** Everyone must read and sign the release at the time they purchase and receive tickets.
- **Ticket Refunds** All ticket sales are final. There are no cash refunds. If you discover you are unable to attend for any reason before an event you may transfer your registration to another dancer.
- **Contest Refunds** Entries may be withdrawn and a refund issued through registration up to 1 hour prior to the session entry deadline. Withdrawals or scratches made after that time will not be refunded.
- Wax, powder or any other foreign substance may not be used on dance shoes or dance floors.

### General Contest Rules

All participants agree to:

- Read, know and follow all contest rules. Ask questions in advance.
- Respect contest staff, your partner, fellow competitors, and the audience.

- Exhibit good sportsmanship.
- Refrain from vulgar or offensive gestures, costumes or song lyrics.
- Register and pay the contest entry fee prior to the published deadlines.
- Pick up your competitor number prior to the scheduled closing time for onsite registration.
- Choreography competitors may have their wristband temporarily removed prior to a performance by the contest staff in the ballroom ONLY.
- You must check in with the competitor coordinators in the staging area 15 minutes prior to the start of each round of each contest. If you do not check in you will be scratched and forfeit your entry fee.
- An individual may not enter the same contest twice.
- Contests with fewer than 5 entries (couples) may be cancelled or the prize money reduced at the organizers' discretion. Entry fees for cancelled contests will be refunded.
- Entering a contest indicates consent to unrestricted use of your name and likeness in photos and videos to appear in future promotions.
- Complete scores from all contest rounds are available through the event website after the last day of the competition.

**Strictly Swing Contests** – Sign up with your partner. We pick the music. Different skill levels are offered. Each is a separate contest. Couples will dance in heats for several short songs. If more than 15 couples enter a division there will be a preliminary contest followed by a final round. Judges will evaluate the couples based on their demonstration of good social dancing skills, timing, technique, connection, lead and follow, presentation and showmanship.

- Matching costumes and props are not allowed. Coordinating attire is acceptable.
- The same partners may not dance together in a Strictly Swing contest and a choreography contest.
- You may lead at one level and follow at the next higher or lower level.
- You may not enter 2 levels dancing the same role.
- You may not enter the same level dancing both roles.
- A Couple must enter the highest skill level either of them qualifies for based on WSDC points.

### **Strictly Swing divisions**

- **Skill divisions [Newcomer/Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Star/Pro]:** A couple's Strictly Swing skill division is determined by their WSDC Jack & Jill levels. If partners in this contest qualify for different WSDC Jack & Jill levels, the couple must enter Strictly Swing at the higher skill level. You may lead at one skill level and follow at the next higher or lower level; you may not enter two skill levels dancing the same role; you may not enter the same level twice in the same role.
- **All-Star/Pro:** If either partner has 45 or more advanced level points or any recent All-Star, Champion or Invitational WSDC points they must compete in this division.
- **Age divisions [Masters Open]:** Both partners must be 50 years of age or older.

This contest has an age requirement rather than a skill level requirement. You may also enter a Strictly Swing contest at the appropriate skill level, and may enter this age divisions, with the same or different partners.

**Choreography Contests** – Bring your partner, your music and your dance routine. It's all about the show! Routines are danced in a solo format. Dance order is chosen at random and posted prior to the division start time. Your music must be turned in to the contest DJ at the floor trial for your event. It must be a single file, clearly labeled on a USB thumb drive. Alternately, you can email the file to [DJTJ@DanceFanatics.com](mailto:DJTJ@DanceFanatics.com) 24hrs in advance. If you need your music's tempo altered, started in the middle of the track or an early fade out, please have someone edit your music in advance.

- Performance must be at least 2 minutes and no longer than 3 minutes.
- Choreographed entrances are counted towards the time limit.
- Costumes are encouraged. Props are not allowed.
- Lifts, drops, tricks and stunts are allowed but not required (Rising Star have specific requirements).
- There are specific times scheduled for competitor floor trials listed on the schedule.
- You must turn in your music to the DJ no later than during the floor trial for your event.
- Restarts will only be allowed in cases of:
  1. Music malfunction/Technical problem.
  2. Wardrobe/Costume malfunction.
  3. Head Judge stops the couple.

**Rising Star** - This single division is for couples that have limited experience with choreography and do not yet want to compete against professionals. If either partner has previously placed 5th or higher at a NASDE Classic or Showcase contest they are no longer eligible to compete in Rising Star. If either partner has won the US Open Rising Star Division they are not eligible. A couple with a total of 10 first place wins together in Rising Star division must move up to an open level division. You may not enter Rising Star and Open Routine at the same event.

**WCS Rising Star Tour** – This competition is part of the tour. There are additional rules for tour participation here: [www.risingstartour.com/rules.html](http://www.risingstartour.com/rules.html)

**ProAm Spotlight** – Students enter with their teacher and perform a choreographed routine to music they choose. See “student” and “professional” definitions under ProAm Contests for eligibility requirements.

- Two divisions are offered: Beginner and Intermediate/Advanced.
- Routines must include at least 75% swing content.
- Lifts, drops, tricks and stunts are allowed, but not required.

**Open Routine** – Costumes, lifts, drops, tricks and stunts are allowed, but not required.

- Contestants must be 18 or older.
- Routines must include at least 60% recognizable swing content.
- There is no limit on partner-supported moves.

- Your performance must be at least 2 minutes and no longer than 3 minutes.

**ProAm Contests** - Students enter with their teacher. For this contest, amateurs are defined as anyone who does not teach West Coast Swing 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 West Coast Swing. Anyone who has previously competed in open or professional level West Coast Swing competition must be considered a Pro for this purpose.

**ProAm Strictly** - Couples entering ProAm strictly swing divisions must have a prior student/teacher relationship. Students enter with their teacher. Only the amateur is evaluated. Couples dance in heats with multiple couples on the floor for about 1½ minutes of a song the DJ chooses for that division.

- A student may enter two adjacent skill levels in either or both roles.
- Matched costumes and props are not allowed. Coordinating attire is acceptable.
- Couples must remain in contact unless executing a spin.
- No lifts, drops or partner supported moves allowed.
- No choreographed entrances or exits.
- Each pro is limited to a maximum of 5 entries per ProAm Strictly division.

## **(2) West Coast Swing ProAm Strictly contests are offered.**

- Novice - This division is for students with limited previous competition success. 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.

**ProAm Jack & Jill** – Enter as an individual. Dance with at least one randomly chosen professional or All-Star partner. The DJ picks the music. Jack & Jill contests allow individuals to enter without a partner and demonstrate skills in spontaneous dancing.

See also ProAm Spotlight under “Choreography Contest.”

## **Jack & Jill Contests**

Jack & Jill contests allow individuals to enter without a partner and demonstrate skills in spontaneous dancing with a variety of partners. There is an inherent “luck of the draw” factor involved. Leaders and followers are randomly paired. There will be several partner changes during the preliminary and semi-final rounds. Competitors are scored individually on timing, technique and teamwork in preliminary heats. Those scoring the highest will be called back to dance in the next round. In the final round, individuals are randomly paired, then scored together as a couple. The DJ picks the music. Tempo and style will vary. All songs will be appropriate for the dance division entered. There are

divisions for different skill levels (WSDC), divisions with age requirements and divisions open to all. Onsite registration for all Jack & Jill is limited. There are strict entry deadlines. Significant cash prizes are awarded to winners in Novice and above in amounts based on the total number of entries.

- You may only enter 1 (WSDC) skill level.

**Leveled (WSDC) West Coast Swing Jack & Jill divisions** - The (WSDC) World Swing Dance Council Points Registry determines eligibility for these leveled West Coast Swing Jack & Jill contests. Look up your level here: [www.worldsdc.com](http://www.worldsdc.com). Competitors are responsible for entering only contests they qualify for. If you haven't earned any WSDC points you should start in newcomer. A Competitor may only compete in one (WSDC) skill level.

### **Skill Level Divisions (WSDC)**

- **Newcomer** – This is where you start! First time competitors and those with no prior competition success should dance in Newcomer. To enter you must be competent with the basics of social dancing. You may continue to dance in newcomer until you have earned 10 newcomer points.
- **Novice** - Recognized as a Novice level dancer by the World Swing Dance Council Point Registry.
- **Intermediate** - Recognized as an Intermediate level dancer by the World Swing Dance Council Point Registry.
- **Advanced** - Recognized as an Advanced level dancer by the World Swing Dance Council Point Registry.
- **All-Star/Pro** - Recognized as an All-Star or higher level dancer by the World Swing Dance Council Point Registry.
- **Invitational** - Event Director will personally invite competitors to dance in this division. Invitational competitors may not dance in the All-Star/Pro division. Contest fee will be waived for this division.

A competitor with exceptional circumstances may submit a formal petition for a level change. Petitions must be submitted via this link no less than 48 hours before the competition begins. Dancing in the wrong division without a successful prior petition may incur disqualification. Petitions can be submitted for one skill level up or one skill level down only. Questions should be directed to the chief judge.

**NON WSDC divisions.** These do not have skill level restrictions. You may enter any or all of them so long as you meet the requirements. You may also enter one WSDC skill level division.

- **Masters (50+)** - This division is for competitors age 50 and over. There are no points requirements.

- Swing 16 – Tournament style Jack-and-Jill, open to dancers of all levels. Please check the website for format and rules <https://www.swing16.com/rules>.

See also ProAm Contests - ProAm Jack and Jill

## Definitions

- Breakaway - A set of symmetric or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple who intentionally break contact (except for spins and turns), which is not a clearly leadable derivative of a recognizable swing pattern.
- Costumes - Attire that in the opinion of the judges is specifically designed or selected for couples competition and would not generally be worn for social dancing.
- Drop - Movement in which either partner's head and torso go below knee level of the other partner.
- Entrance - Pre-choreographed segment of a performance, where competitors formally enter the floor and prepare to dance. Acknowledging your partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an entrance.
- Exit - Pre-choreographed segment of a performance, where competitors leave the floor. Acknowledging your partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an exit.
- Lifts - Any movement lasting longer than a full beat of music where the feet of one partner are clearly off the floor and the other partner supports the lifted partner's weight.
- Props - Throw away skirts, shirts, scarfs, etc are considered props in this context and are not allowed. Anything other than what would be considered acceptable clothing.
- Routine - Any segment, which, in the opinion of the judges, consists of prearranged choreography including symmetric or complementary movements or footwork.
- Swing Content - Recognizable West Coast Swing elements.

Relative Placement Scoring -This system used to determine winners in final rounds. It was adapted from the figure skating system and is now widely used at major dance competitions. It minimizes the impact of a rogue judge's mark and recognizes the most consistently scored entry. An equal numerical value is assigned to each Judge's raw scores, so that each Judge has an equal vote in the final outcome. A very detailed explanation of this system with examples can be found here:

[https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Relative\\_placement.pdf](https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Relative_placement.pdf).

For additional info contact Sophy Kdep at [sundancer9@aol.com](mailto:sundancer9@aol.com).

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