

COMPETITION RULES

General Competition Requirements

General Eligibility: Each competition is open to all competitors in good standing who:

1. Hold a full weekend ticket and pay all associated registration fees (except for Newcomer Jack & Jill)
2. Register by the official entry deadlines(s) as outlined in the weekend schedule or extended by means of the head judge's discretion.
3. Pay the required entry fee(s) and complete any required entry forms, including signed waivers.
4. Meet all other specific entry requirements as outlined in these rules.

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.

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.

Role/Gender Requirements:

Bama Jamma is open to persons of any gender dancing either lead or follow, as they prefer, and we encourage you to register in whichever role you would like.

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.

Responsibilities of Competitors

1. **Planning:** Competitors should check the weekend schedule in advance to arrive in 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:** Competitors should be present in the ballroom at least 15 minutes prior to the start of their competition. 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.

Petitions for Reclassification

It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to a fair and appropriate classification using the honor system. If competitors feel uncomfortable with their assigned classification, they may petition for reclassification on their entry form by providing a brief, written explanation of the reason(s) for their request. Competitors must submit such petitions at the contest registration desk prior to the earliest registration deadline for the competition(s) in question.

Petitions for reclassification will be reviewed by the Chief Judge, or qualified individual(s)/committee designated by the Chief Judge, and contestants will be notified as quickly as possible of the outcome. The Event reserves the right to reclassify any contestant for any reason.

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.

Definitions:

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 are 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).
 - Competitors with no/limited competition success in their secondary role may submit a petition to dance one additional level down in that role (so they would be dancing two levels down from their primary role). **Petitions are event-specific and not transferable.**

General:

Competitors at least 50 years of age may also enter the Masters Division.

Competitors must be at least ten (10) 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.

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.

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.

Division Qualifications:

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. If you are not comfortable dancing in the division where these qualifications place you and would like to dance up or down, please petition (see “Petitions”). All petitions will be evaluated.

Age Divisions:

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, Sophisticated or Champions).

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 5 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 DIVISIONS

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 total entries (between Novice and Intermediate/Advanced).
- 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.