

Quarterly

Newsletter



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President's message

Hello Dancers – as our world of dance is slowly starting to open, we are cautiously optimistic! We have been apart for over a year and are so excited to see each other and dance together again. However, we should continue to take it slow!

As mentioned before, we strongly recommend that events in 2021 focus on the social versus competitive side of dancing. *All Registry Events will be permitted to cancel in 2021 due to Covid without jeopardizing their Registry Event status. We recommend events hold a non-Registry Event (no Jack & Jill competitions) for 2021, and return to Registry Events for 2022. No new Trial Events will be considered in 2021.*

Given that countries (and states) have different levels of health guidelines and regulations, we require all Registry Events follow their local, state and federal health regulations. We appreciate all the hard work our Event Directors have done to stay on top of this!

The WSDC Board has been meeting regularly and working hard to identify ways we can help our community rebuild, while balancing the need to maintain the brand and integrity of our Registry Events.

We focused on clarifying the specific rule changes that we hope will keep our dance community healthy (physically and financially):

- Expanded venue options to keep your event “special” but give you more flexibility
- Competing in both dominant and non-dominant roles at same event
- No virtual judging allowed
- Restricted ‘vaccine only’ / open events
- Continued “freeze” on Adv / AS 3 year window for points
- Lower competitor requirements for 2021
- No new trial events for 2021

As noted above, a couple of the rules are temporary for 2021 (to be re-evaluated later this year). Please refer to pages two and three for the “full details.”

We want our dance community to stay safe, stay strong, and stay supportive of each other. We see the light at the end of the tunnel...let's keep shooting for that!

Until we see you again,

Dani Canziani

President, WSDC Board of Directors

Venue flexibility for Registry Events

Over the past several years, the WSDC Board has discussed the option to expand approved venues for Events from hotels to “other venues”. For the past year, since our January 2020 Board meeting, we have spent time researching our current Events' venues and listening to our membership's concerns and recommendations to develop our new guidance. *Exceptions to holding Registry Events in hotels will still need Board review and approval – especially this year.*

We wanted to give our Event Directors more flexibility with location and costs, while maintaining the brand and integrity of a WSDC Registry Event.

Below are our requirements for an acceptable alternate venue:

- The venue must be special – with either architectural style or character “above and beyond” (e.g., castle, stadium / sports facility, performing arts / cultural centers). *Dance studios and warehouse-type facilities are not acceptable and will not be approved.*
- The venue must have enough dance floor and space for attendees. The following are *minimum* requirements:
 - ◇ Ballroom must accommodate a minimum of 150 occupants (as defined by local building codes)
 - ◇ Ballroom must have a minimum dance floor of 2000 sq ft / 186 sq meters
 - ◇ Venue must provide full service (food) and/or options must be available nearby. We strongly recommend our Event Directors provide information on nearby hotels and available transportation on their website / Facebook.

Over the years, the WSDC has held the U.S. to the hotel-only standard because they are readily available (exceptions are a handful of grandfathered events). Outside of the U.S., we have been flexible in markets (cities/countries) that do not have access to appropriate hotels, and have worked closely with the EDs on these choices. The markets that do have multiple hotels, we have held them to the same standard as the U.S. We are now opening this flexibility of non-hotel locations to all events in the world.

We are not stating you must be in a hotel (although it's preferred when possible for a variety of reasons), but we continue to say no to a dance studio. Studios present a conflict of interest. This is similar to the conflict of interest you would see if an Event Director were to be allowed to judge or compete at their own event. If the studio owner is the ED or is affiliated with the event director, there is an appearance of influence on judging or other aspects of the event. Studios do not provide a neutral setting for the entire community to be welcomed and encouraged to attend. Hotels and other venues, though not perfect, help to lessen the fractions in different communities and allow different instructors that don't get along personally to come to a neutral place to

compete and to socialize. Hotels also provide more "safety" since everything is contained in one space. Studios are where you have your weekly and monthly dances. A Registry Event is designed to be a special experience at a different place that draws interstate and/or international competitors from around the world.

Be Safe! Be Healthy!

- Registry Events **must** follow their local, state and federal health guidelines / regulations.
- Registry Events may cancel in 2021 due to Covid without jeopardizing their Registry Event status.
- WSDC Board encourages events to focus on social dancing in 2021 (hold a non-Registry Event!) – and return as a Registry Event in 2022.

Restricted / Open Events (i.e., “Vaccine Passport” requirements)

The WSDC Board does not take a position on whether events choose to hold open or restricted (aka vaccine passport only) events. Events, even Registry Events, are private businesses and may determine what they need to do to be safe – we consider this a medical decision.

In these difficult times, Event Directors are balancing multiple challenges (e.g., hotel contracts, medical / health guidelines, financial commitments) and trying to find ways to hold an event. Some of these ways may be less than ideal and not to everyone's liking – it's your choice to attend or not. This will be the situation worldwide until we are through this pandemic.

Some event directors are exploring an immunity passport model to reopen safely. One discussion group cited by several EDs is with Dorry Segev, M.D., Ph.D. from John Hopkins School of Medicine. It is an interactive page where you can post your questions.

Dorry's thoughts on dance and the pandemic:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/158671312715141>

Alyssa Lundgren's notes - Meeting #2, April 18, 2021:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/158671312715141/files>

Take a look at Dorry's forecast as of April 18, 2021 as to when it would be safe to start having events if you use the vaccinated only model and his answers to other health questions.

As stated before, WSDC Board encourages events to focus on social dancing in 2021 – and return as a Registry Event in 2022. Competing and earning points should be low priority – we hope everyone who attends an event does so for their love of dancing and reconnecting with our dance friends /family.

No New Trial Events will be approved in 2021

Non-dominant Role Competing and Tracking

Based on the input from our dance community, in February 2021, the WSDC Board announced that competitors would be *allowed* to compete as both Leaders and Followers in skill level Jack & Jills at any given event (previously, competitors had to choose to compete in only one role for the skill level J&J for that event).

Here are details on how it works:

- 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 one level down, *as long as they don't qualify in both for the same division*. No petitions will be approved for dancing more than one level down.
- Competitors will not be permitted to dance both roles in the same division.

Current competitors whose combined points as both a Leader and Follower would have moved them into a higher skill level will be offered a one-time option (to be “grandfathered” into the higher level).

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

The WSDC Board is updating our Points Registry database to reflect a competitor’s dominant role level (“Dance Level”). To keep it simple for contest registration, we will also reflect a competitor’s eligibility in their non-dominant role.

This rule is not mandatory for events. Events may allow competitors to dance in both roles or limit competitors to one role only.

Examples:

- Chris has 5 Int points as a Leader; 1 Nov point as a Follower.
Chris may dance in Int as a Leader and in Nov as a Follower.
- Alex has 20 Adv points as a Follower; 0 points as a Leader.
Alex may dance in Adv as a Follower and in Int as a Leader (one level down).
- Jordan has 10 Adv points as a Leader and 10 Adv points as a Follower.
Jordan may dance in Adv as either a Leader or

Follower, but not both. Jordan may **not** petition to dance in Int in either role.

- Taylor has 30 Int points as a Follower and 16 Int points as a Leader. Previously, Taylor would have been required to dance Adv with a 46 combined point total.
Taylor will make a one-time choice whether to dance in Adv as a Follower going forward or to remain in Intermediate for both roles.

Virtual judging is not allowed

During this pandemic, we have been advised that some Jack and Jill competitions were judged virtually. To clarify, this option is not allowed by the WSDC. Virtual judges cannot replace in-person judging – this can impact the integrity of the contest.

Lower Competitor Requirements for 2021

In early 2020, the WSDC Board announced the required number of competitors would increase to 80. To encourage the safe and slow re-entry of dance events, the WSDC Board is lowering that number for 2021.

- *For 2021 only*, WSDC will require 60 unique competitors. These can include both skill level and age-based competitors.
- Registry Events will need to submit their full roster of competitors with their reporting form.

Registry Events

Registry Events are special events where local dancers share their love of dancing with other regional, national and global dancers. They offer a mix of social dancing, instruction and competition in a unique setting, beyond the local weekly / monthly dances.

Registry Events must meet certain minimum standards and requirements to maintain the integrity of the event (e.g., size, staff, judging process, contests, venue). The WSDC Board is the governing body for WSDC Registry Events and administers the Points Registry for competitor Jack and Jill points.

Continued “freeze” on Advanced / All Star 3 year window for points

Hooray! Our Points Registry finally reflects a competitor’s Advanced / All Star dance level correctly, including our “freeze” on the 3 year window!

Competitors will continue to be awarded points during this period, but no competitors will be penalized for not having the opportunity to compete. We will continue to leave this window open for the foreseeable future.