

World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Registry Event Rules

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WSDC Registry Event Rules

Overview

WSDC

The World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) is a non-profit organization focused on promoting and growing swing dance at a national and global level. Its mission is, “To inspire swing dancing around the world and guide events in creating the ideal environment to promote community growth.”

The WSDC respects the interests of both new and existing members of the entire swing dance community. As a governing body of WSDC Registry Events (“Registry Events”), the WSDC Board of Directors (“Board”) has developed these Registry Event rules to ensure integrity, consistency and fairness at Registry Events.

Registry Events

Registry Events are swing dance events organized and hosted by Professional Members (“Members”) of the WSDC and approved by its Board. Registry Events must meet standards set by the WSDC Board, demonstrating integrity and the highest ethical standards; sufficient event size, scope, and structure; and financial viability and stability. Registry Events offer a mix of social dancing, instruction and competition, bringing together local, regional, national and international dancers.

WSDC Registry Event Rules govern the entire Registry Event, not just WSDC Jack and Jill contests. All Registry Events must hold WSDC Jack and Jill contests. The WSDC tracks the contest results for WSDC Jack and Jill competitions at Registry Events; points awarded for placements are included in the WSDC Points Registry.

Points Registry

The WSDC Points Registry was developed and is maintained by the WSDC. The Points Registry is the official record used to track individual competitors’ results in WSDC Jack and Jill competitions at Registry Events. The Points Registry is used to determine a competitor’s appropriate skill level for WSDC Jack and Jill competitions. The Points Registry tracks the following skill-level and age-based categories: Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All Star, Champions; and Juniors, Sophisticated, and Masters, respectively.

Competitors who have earned at least one WSDC Jack and Jill competition point are assigned a unique WSDC Competitor ID number in the Points Registry. The Points Registry is available at worldsdc.com/registry-points.

Rule changes effective January 1, 2024 are highlighted in yellow.

Rule changes effective July 1, 2024 are highlighted in green. Minor updates were added on July 11, 2024 (and noted with a footnote).

Definitions

Venue

Registry Events must be held in an approved venue that meets the following minimum requirements:

1. Dance floor in main ballroom must be a minimum of 150 sq meters (1600 sq ft).
2. Recommended accommodations must be available within a 10 min walk or event must provide shuttle that goes to/from accommodations suggested by event. If the latter, shuttles must run until the end of social dancing and are of sufficient frequency and capacity needed.
3. Venue must provide full service (food and drink) and/or options must be available nearby.
4. Studios that meet the above requirements must be approved and have additional restrictions as follows:
 - i. A maximum of two (2) Registry Events may be held in the same studio per calendar year.
 - ii. A studio owner who is also the Event Owner / Event Director may hold a maximum of one (1) Registry Event in their studio.
5. Registry Events in venues that do not currently meet these requirements have a three (3) year grace period (ending December 31, 2025) to meet the venue minimum requirements.

Time / Distance Rule

Global Time / Distance Rule, excluding Europe: If the proposed event change (i.e., Trial Event or change to existing Registry Event) is within 400 miles (640 km) **driving distance** of an existing Registry Event(s), then the proposed change and existing Registry Event(s) must be five (5) weekends apart (i.e., the events must have four (4) weekends between them).

Europe Time / Distance Rule: If the proposed event change (i.e., Trial Event or change to existing Registry Event) is within 200 miles (322 km) **driving distance** of an existing Registry Event(s), then the proposed change and existing Registry Event(s) must be five (5) weekends apart (i.e., the events must have four (4) weekends between them).

The following exceptions to the Time / Distance Rule *may* be allowed with Trial Events. *All exceptions listed below will require approval by the Board.*

1. **Cooperating Events:** Events in conflict that agree in writing to allow the Time / Distance conflict. For Trial Events, written approval must be received from all parties involved in the conflict prior to Board review of the Trial and Registry Event applications (i.e., the Board will review cooperating event agreements twice). This agreement will be binding on the Trial Event and Registry Event(s) in future years.
2. **Country-specific rule:** The first / only event that is located in a specific country. A majority of the Owner(s) / Event Director(s) must be resident(s) of the country.
3. **Exceptional extenuating circumstances:** The Board reserves the right to approve Time / Distance Rule conflicts as part of our mission and vision (“focused on promoting and growing swing dance”). Examples are extenuating circumstances, hardship, or local market conditions that warrant approval of an exception.

Age-based Contests

Juniors are defined as those younger than 18 years of age by close of the event.

Sophisticated are defined as 35 years of age or older by close of the event.

Masters are defined as 50 years of age or older by close of the event.

Chief Judge

The Chief Judge is responsible for the oversight of the event’s contests and for ensuring the integrity of every contest.

Secondary Chief Judge

The Secondary Chief Judge has similar or the same duties and responsibilities as the Chief Judge during the Event, and may replace the Chief Judge as needed. The Secondary Chief Judge is subject to the same rules and restrictions as the Chief Judge. Some events may refer to this role as the Co-Chief Judge or Assistant Chief Judge.

Clarification added July 11, 2024.

Raw Score Judge

A Raw Score Judge is a separate judge, not part of a contest's judging panel. The Raw Score Judge may be used in a contest (or multiple contests) during prelims only, to raw score one role while the Chief Judge is scoring the other role. **The Raw Score Judge must assign each competitor a unique numerical raw score.** The Raw Score Judge does not have access to scores and does not determine heats; those duties must be performed by the Chief Judge (or Secondary Chief Judge). The Raw Score Judge is allowed to compete in other contests.

Section 1: Registry Events Structure and Ownership

The following section outlines the minimum standards and requirements for Registry Events.

Membership and Registry Event approval / denial, rule changes, and penalties shall be at the discretion of the Board.

1.1. Professional Membership

All Registry Events must be owned by Professional Members of the WSDC. Members may be individuals, groups, clubs (e.g., swing dance clubs), or organizations. Members must remain in good standing by completing the following:

1. Follow WSDC Registry Event Rules.
2. Be current with WSDC annual membership dues.
3. Conduct their Registry Event(s), contests and business functions in an ethical manner.
4. Submit their Registry Event updates for inclusion on the WSDC Events calendar (worldsdc.com/submit-event-updates).
5. Meet their financial obligations and stated rules & policies.
6. Provide fair, unbiased and untampered competitions, judging and scoring.
7. Submit competition results and Competitor Surcharge in a timely manner.
8. Be compliant with the WSDC Code of Conduct; reflect the WSDC mission, values and brand; and be a member in good standing in the swing dance community. This applies to both Event Owner(s) and Event Director(s).

If an event loses its Registry Event status, the Member must reapply for Registry Event approval (see Section 1.3. New Registry Event), starting with Trial Event approval.

1.2. Registry Event Structure

Registry Events must comply with the following event structure, unless otherwise approved by the Board:

1. Registry Events must have a minimum of three (3) days of swing dance activities / functions (e.g., social dancing, lessons, workshops, competitions).
2. Registry Events must be open to any dancers. Restricted or closed city, state, regional events are not eligible.
3. Registry Events must be held in an approved venue (see Definitions: Venue).
4. Registry Events must offer a minimum of two (2) skill level WSDC Jack and Jill contests at Tier 1 size and a minimum of eighty (80) unique (skill-level and/or age-based) WSDC Jack and Jill competitors.
 - a. Registry Events in a designated WSDC growth region² may meet an alternate required minimum of sixty (60) unique (skill-level and/or age-based) WSDC Jack and Jill competitors and one hundred (100) attendees instead of the required minimum of eighty (80) unique WSDC Jack and Jill competitors.
 - b. If the event has fewer than the required minimum (eighty (80) unique WSDC Jack and Jill competitors for Registry Events, or the alternate minimum of sixty (60) unique WSDC Jack and Jill competitors and one hundred (100) attendees for Registry Events in a designated WSDC growth region), competition results will be posted and Registry Points awarded. The Registry Event will be placed on probation for one (1) year and must meet the required minimum number of competitors.
 - c. If the event has fewer than the required minimum (eighty (80) unique WSDC Jack and Jill competitors for Registry Events, or the alternate minimum of sixty (60) unique WSDC Jack and Jill competitors and one hundred (100) attendees for Registry Events in a designated WSDC growth region) during the probation year's event, the event will lose its Registry Event status. Competition results during probation will be posted and Registry Points awarded. Member may reapply for Registry Event approval.
5. Registry Events must occur annually and maintain the same date and location. All changes to ownership, event name, location, venue and/or date must be approved by the Board. (See Section 1.4.1 Existing Registry Events and Definitions: Venue and Time / Distance Rules)

² Designated WSDC growth regions for 2024: Asia, Australia/New Zealand, South America/Central America, and Africa. Additional countries / regions may be added upon request and agreement by the Board.

1.3. Trial Events and New Registry Events

Event Owners / Event Directors must demonstrate that their event is viable and of sufficient size and scope to warrant Registry Event status. An approved preliminary event (“Trial Event”) must be held prior to applying for Registry Event status.

New or Existing Members who wish to hold a Registry Event must meet the following requirements:

1. Submit Trial Event application and application fee (\$50) a minimum of six (6) months prior to Trial Event (worldsdc.com/event-application). Application must include all required event criteria, including, but not limited to the following: Event Owner(s), Event Director(s), name, date, location, venue, format, competition divisions, staff, and potential conflicts as defined according to the Time / Distance Rule (see Definitions: Venue and Time / Distance Rule)
2. Receive approval from the Board for a Trial Event, and submit request to list event on WSDC website (worldsdc.com/submit-event-updates).
3. Run the Trial Event, following *all* WSDC Registry Event Rules. No points will be awarded to competitors during the Trial Event.
4. Submit WSDC Event Reporting form and all competition and scoring reports (e.g., list of competitors, preliminary and final contest scores, contest tabulation sheets, petitions) for verification within five (5) days of close of Trial Event.
5. Apply for and receive approval from the Board for Registry Event status, and submit request to list event on WSDC website (worldsdc.com/submit-event-updates). Registry Event applications may be denied if any event criteria change during the Trial Event’s “year of history” and/or the Trial Event does not follow *all* Registry Event rules. If denied, a second Trial Event may be permitted.
6. Become a WSDC Professional Member (see Section 1.1 Professional Membership). **Be compliant with the WSDC Code of Conduct; reflect the WSDC mission, values and brand; and be a member in good standing in the swing dance community. This applies to both Event Owner(s) and Event Director(s).**

Existing Members with current Registry Event(s) who wish to **apply for a Trial Event** must *also* meet the following requirements:

1. All of the Member’s existing events must have a minimum of two (2) years of history as Registry Events in good standing.
2. All of the Member’s existing events must have a minimum of three (3) WSDC skill level Jack and Jill divisions and at least 120 unique (skill-level and/or age-based) WSDC Jack and Jill competitors.

1.4. Existing Registry Events

1.4.1 Registry Event Changes:

All changes in ownership, event name, location, venue, and/or date of a Registry Event are subject to the approval of the Board. Prior to a proposed change, the Member shall meet the following requirements:

1. The Board must be notified **in writing** of the proposed change(s) six (6) months prior to the Registry Event.
2. A proposed event location or date change must not create a new conflict to the Time / Distance Rule (see Definitions: Time / Distance Rule).
3. During the first two (2) years of running an event as a Registry Event, the original Owner(s) must retain at least 50% ownership or WSDC status will not transfer to the new Owners.

The following exceptions do not require Board approval but Board must still be notified:

1. A one (1) week change before / after an event’s original weekend. Registry Events associated with a specific date / holiday may be held either the weekend before / after that specific date / holiday.
2. A change from one city to another city in the same metropolitan area will not be considered a change in location.

1.4.2 Registry Event Hiatus:

Registry Events are permitted a one (1) year break without jeopardizing their Registry Event status. New Registry Events must hold two (2) Registry Events before being eligible for hiatus. Hiatus may be a cancellation of the current or upcoming year. The event may be listed on the WSDC Events Calendar with a note that the event is on hiatus. Registry Events on hiatus will keep their date and location on the WSDC Events Calendar for assessing Time / Distance Rule conflicts (see Definitions: Time / Distance Rule).

A one (1) year break is automatically allowed by the Board if the following criteria are met:

1. Members notify the Board that their Registry Event is on hiatus for the current or following year in advance.
2. Members maintain their WSDC Professional Membership during the hiatus (i.e., Members pay their membership fee). Members will receive no partial or full refunds for a canceled event.

Post-hiatus, an event must complete a minimum of two (2) consecutive Registry Events before it may go on hiatus again. If no event is held in the year following the break (i.e., the event is not held for two (2) consecutive years), the event will lose its Registry Event status. Members would need to reapply for Registry Event status, including holding a new Trial Event.

Section 2: Membership Dues, Competition Surcharges, and Competitor Results Reporting

2.1. Membership Dues

Members must pay annual Professional Membership dues as established by the Board. Membership fees include the right to hold one (1) Registry Event (“Primary Event”). Dues are set as follows:

1. Initial membership application fee: \$200.
2. Membership renewal fee: \$200 annually, due after the close of a Member’s Primary Event.
3. Secondary Event(s) fee: \$100 upon approval as a Registry Event; \$100 annually for each Secondary Event, due after the close of each Secondary Event.

Late submission of Membership Dues may result in penalties (see Chart 1: Penalty Chart for Late Membership Fees / Late Competitor Surcharge).

Chart 1: Penalty Chart for Late Membership Fees / Competitor Surcharge

Date Submitted	Penalty
31-60 days	\$50
61-90 days	\$100
91-120 days	\$150
>120 days	Loss of Registry Event Status

2.2. Competitor Surcharge

Members must pay a Competitor Surcharge to the WSDC for each competitor’s entry into WSDC Jack and Jill competitions. Competitors entering multiple WSDC Jack and Jill contests would result in a Competitor Surcharge for each WSDC Jack and Jill contest (e.g., a competitor entering an Advanced as Follower; Intermediate as Leader; and Masters WSDC Jack and Jill contests would result in a \$3 Competitor Surcharge). The Competitor Surcharge is due within 30 days after the close of the Registry Event. The Competitor Surcharge is set as follows:

- \$1 per competitor entry, per contest entered (WSDC Jack and Jill contests only)

Late submission of Competitor Surcharge may result in penalties (see Chart 1: Penalty Chart for Late Membership Fees / Late Competitor Surcharge).

2.3. Competitor Results Reporting

Members must report results for all WSDC Jack and Jill competitions to the WSDC, using the WSDC Event Reporting Form, including the following information:

- All petitions.
- Finalists’ WSDC ID numbers (if assigned by the Points Registry) **must** be included.
- The number of competitors in each division, so the appropriate Tier level for recording points can be determined.
- List of all unique competitors registered in WSDC Jack and Jill contests.

The Event Director and/or the Chief Judge shall verify contest results and the number of contestants.

Competition results are due to the WSDC at the **close** of the Registry Event, and **no later than three (3) days** after the event closes. Submission of contest results within a timely manner is required out of respect for our competitors, so the Points Registry is current for upcoming Registry Events.

Late submission of competition results may result in penalties (see Chart 2: Penalty Chart for Late Submission of Competition Results).

Chart 2: Penalty Chart for Late Submission of Competition Results

Date Submitted	Penalty
4-30 days	\$100
>31 days	Loss of Registry Event Status

Section 3: Competition Requirements

3.1. Contest Structure / Format Requirements

1. Registry Event must hire sufficient judging staff to run contests and avoid conflicts of interest (see Section 3.4 #5).
2. Registry Events must offer a minimum of two (2) skill level WSDC Jack and Jill divisions.
 - a. Events are responsible for informing competitors of the Registry Points skill levels and points awards as defined by the WSDC.
 - b. Events may restrict the number of Jack and Jill contests a competitor may enter (e.g., for scheduling purposes. For example, when Novice and Intermediate are run concurrently, the competitor may be required to choose which contest to enter). This must be published in the Event's rules.
 - c. Events that wish to require male/Leader and female/Follower roles must be pre-approved by the Board and this restriction must be published in the Event's rules.
3. Registry Events may offer only one (1) WSDC Jack and Jill for each skill level or age-based contest.
 - a. WSDC will record WSDC points for only one (1) Junior, one (1) Sophisticated, and one (1) Masters contest per event (see Definitions: Age-based contests). WSDC age-based Jack and Jill contests must be open to competitors of all skill levels who meet the age-based requirement.
 - b. Events must clearly state which contests qualify for WSDC points (e.g., WSDC Champions Jack and Jill vs Invitational or non-WSDC Champions contest)
4. WSDC Jack and Jill competitions must have a minimum of five (5) unique Leaders and five (5) unique Followers in finals for points to be awarded and the results to be included in the Points Registry (see limitations in Section 3.1 #6c).
5. Registry Events must use the Points Registry, this rules document, and the WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart to determine competitors' appropriate skill levels. All dancers in a contest must be properly registered for their contest.
6. Registry Events must offer a petition process for competitors who wish to dance in a different skill division.
 - a. Petitions can be submitted for *one skill level up* or *one skill level down* only. Competitors may submit petitions for their primary or secondary role.
 - b. Petitions shall not be approved for the purpose of making a Tier (i.e., to meet the minimum number of required competitors for a Tier). Competitors added to a contest through the use of petitions will not count towards meeting a Tier 1's minimum requirements (i.e., the contest could not be held if the petition was not approved).
 - c. All petitions must be submitted to the WSDC with the WSDC Event Reporting form.
 - d. For petitions **down** only (in either primary or secondary role):
 - i. The Chief Judge, or qualified individual(s)/committee designated by the Chief Judge, may approve or deny the petition after reviewing competitor's Points Registry record.
 - ii. Petitions are event-specific and not transferable. Competitors must submit a petition at their next event.
 - e. **NEW!** For petitions **up** only³:
 - i. Petitions must be submitted to the WSDC Chief Judges Committee ("CJC") at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the event, along with two (2) videos of the competitor's dancing. Petitions and videos must be submitted via this link: worldsdc.com/level-up-petition. The CJC may approve or deny the petition after reviewing the competitor's Points Registry record and videos.
 - ii. Petitions will be approved for six (6) months and are transferrable to other events. Competitors who obtain a point in the higher division will remain in the higher division.
7. Registry Events may combine divisions. For events with combined divisions, points will be awarded to the lower of the two divisions (e.g., an Advanced / All Star combined contest would award Advanced points), with the exception of Newcomer/Novice divisions, which will be awarded Novice points.
 - a. Competitors are not permitted to dance "down" in a lower skill level contest if the division that they qualify for is not offered (e.g., Advanced dancer may not compete in an Intermediate contest if an Advanced contest is not offered at the event; Champion dancer may not dance in an All Star contest if a Champion contest is not offered).
8. Contest "restarts" (e.g., due to incorrect song, clothing malfunction, sound or lighting issues) may be initiated by

³ The new process for petitioning "up" is effective July 1, 2024.

the Chief Judge and/or competitor, but only approved by the Chief Judge. Chief Judge may use their discretion to allow the competitors to “restart” immediately or at a later time (e.g., at the end of the contest).

9. Registry Events must publish their contest rules in advance of the event.
10. Registry Events must post contest results at the event and those results shall be open to all competitors for a minimum of 30 days. If results are inaccurate (e.g., scoring issues, violations), corrected results must be posted.
11. For Registry Events held over the New Year’s holiday, points will be assigned to December of the outgoing year, not January of the incoming year (e.g., points would be awarded for December 2022, not January 2023).

3.2. Competitors: Skill Levels and Points Registry

1. Competitors are responsible for following the WSDC Registry Rules. Competitors will not receive WSDC points for placement if they fail to follow the WSDC Points Registry Rules.
2. Competitors have one (1) unique WSDC Competitor ID number for the Points Registry.
 - a. Competitors are responsible for using their WSDC Competitor ID number when registering for Jack and Jill competitions at WSDC Registry Events.
 - b. Competitors are responsible for correcting their WSDC Competitor ID number errors, either at the event or with the WSDC directly (email points@worldsdc.com).
 - c. Competitors will be assigned a WSDC Competitor ID number only after they receive a point.
3. Competitors may compete in a maximum of two (2) skill level WSDC Jack and Jill competitions, once in their primary role and once in their secondary role (see limitations in Section 3.1 #2b, #2c and Section 3.2. #7). Competitors may compete in multiple age-based WSDC Jack and Jill competitions.
 - a. Competitors must maintain their role, either as a Leader or Follower, throughout the contest. Brief switching of roles (i.e., less than eight (8) counts) for creative purposes is allowed; this is discouraged during preliminary rounds.
4. Competitors may compete in either their primary or secondary role in other contests (see limitations in Section 3.1 #2b and #2c).
5. Competitors must use the Points Registry, this rules document, and the WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart (Chart 3) to determine the skill level for their primary and secondary role.
 - a. Competitors who wish to dance one (1) skill level up or down (i.e., in a higher or lower division than they qualify for based on the Points Registry and the WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart in their primary role) **must** submit a formal petition (and be approved) or they will *not* receive points for placement.
 - b. Competitors may not change skill levels at an event, with the exception that a competitor entering a contest with a designated partner may dance “up” to match their partner’s skill level (e.g., a Novice competitor may dance in an Advanced strictly swing with an Advanced partner, and dance in Novice in the Jack and Jill). Note: WSDC only records points for WSDC Jack and Jill contests.
6. Competitors will be awarded points as either a Leader or Follower. Those points are tracked separately in the Points Registry (see limitations to secondary role in Section 3.2. #7).
7. Competitors must dance one (1) level down in their secondary role **as indicated on the Points Registry**, with the following clarifications:
 - a. 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 (e.g., competitor with 5 Advanced points as a Leader and 10 Advanced points as a Follower must decide whether to compete as either Leader or Follower in Advanced).
 - b. Competitors who choose to dance at a higher level in their primary role **must** dance one level down from that higher level in their secondary role (e.g., Competitor has 39 points in Intermediate as a Leader and is allowed to dance in Advanced. They may choose to dance in Intermediate as Leader and in Novice as Follower OR in Advanced as Leader and in Intermediate as Follower.)
 - c. Competitors who are Novice in their primary role may choose to dance in either Newcomer if they have no points (see Chart 3: WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart) or Novice in their secondary role. They may not compete twice in the same skill level.
 - d. Competitors with no/limited competition success in their secondary role may submit a petition to dance one (1) additional level down in that role (so they would be dancing two (2) levels down from their primary role). Petitions are event-specific and not transferable. Competitors must submit a new petition at their next event (see Section 3.1. #6).
8. Points are recorded only for those who place in WSDC Jack and Jill finals (see Chart 4: Points Awarded per Tier).

- a. WSDC Jack and Jill competitions must have a minimum of five (5) unique Leaders and five (5) unique Followers in finals for points to be awarded and the results to be included in the Points Registry (see limitations in Section 3.1 #6c).
9. If a competitor places twice in a division, the competitor is only awarded points for the higher placement (e.g., contest goes straight to finals with uneven numbers; competitor places 2nd and 5th; competitor is awarded points for 2nd place).
10. *NEW!* For WSDC Champion Jack and Jill contests, competitors may compete (“are allowed”) if they have 1 Champion point or 150 All Star points and must compete (“are required”) if they have 10 Champion points or 225 All Star points, assuming the event offers a WSDC Champion Jack and Jill contest.
- a. Events may no longer define their Champion division by including other qualifications (e.g., alternative predefined number of Champion / Invitational points, NASDE Classic or Showcase placements), but may offer a non-WSDC Champions contest, Invitational, or show as an alternative with different qualifications for entry.⁴
 - b. Competitors with 10+ Champion points and/or 225+ All Star points (“are required” to compete in Champions) may not enter All Star contests without an approved petition (see Section 3.1 #6). Events may offer a combined All Star / Champion contest (see Section 3.1 #7).

⁴ The WSDC announces this interim definition for WSDC Champion divisions, effective July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, with the intention to gather additional input for a review by the WSDC Board by June 30, 2025. July 1 – December 31, 2024 will be a transition period. Registry Events that (a) occur during this transition period and (b) have published their Champion definition for their WSDC Champion Jack and Jill publicly prior to May 20, 2024 must obtain approval to maintain their previously published definition by the WSDC Board. Events that have not yet published their Champion definition for WSDC Champion Jack and Jill prior to May 20, 2024 or who do not receive Board approval for a variation must follow the definition listed in Section 3.2 #10.

Chart 3: WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart

Skill Level ⁵	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 (i.e., events may no longer define their Champion division for WSDC Champion J&J contests). ⁶	Allowed to dance in Champions with 1 Champion points	Required to dance in Champions with 10 Champion points
All Stars	All Stars should be extremely competitive.	Allowed to move up with 150 All Star points	Required to move up with 225 All Star points
Advanced	Advanced should be very competitive.	Allowed to move up with 60 Adv points	Required to move up with 90 Adv points or 1+ All Star point
Intermediate	Intermediate dancers are perfecting their competitive dance skills.	Allowed to move up with 30+ Intermediate points	Required to move up with 45+ Intermediate points or 1+ Advanced point
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
Newcomer ⁷	Newcomers are new to WSDC competition in their role.	Allowed to move up at the dancer's discretion	Required to move up with 1+ Newcomer point or 1+ Novice point (by role)

⁵ The points required for moving up (or down) is based on the points in the dancer's primary role, not the combined points in their primary and secondary roles.

⁶ Events must follow rule 3.2 #10 for all WSDC Champion J&Js. See footnote for 3.2 #10 for additional details regarding the transition timeframe.

⁷ Newcomer division is not offered at all events. Competitors may select either Newcomer or Novice divisions, but must dance in Novice once they receive one (1) point in either Newcomer OR Novice in their selected role (primary or secondary).

3.3. Contest Tiers, Points Awarded, and Competition Rounds

3.3.1. Point Tier Awards

Tiers are defined by the number of unique competitors in each role (Leader or Follower). Dancing in finals does not guarantee that a competitor will be awarded points. Points awarded to leaders and followers may not be identical. The higher the number of competitors within a division, the higher the Tier, and the greater the points potential.

A division may have different tiers for Leaders and Followers. For example, a Novice contest may have 18 Leaders and 35 Followers. Leaders would receive Tier 2 points; Followers would receive Tier 3 points. The points awarded to a competitor according to their placement in finals is listed in Chart 4.

WSDC Jack and Jill competitions must have a minimum of five (5) unique Leaders and five (5) unique Followers in finals for points to be awarded and the results to be included in the Points Registry.

Chart 4: Points Awarded per Tier

Tier	# of Unique Competitors (per role)	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place	5 th Place	Additional Placements in Final
Tier 1	5-10	3	2	1	0	0	0
Tier 2	11-19	6	4	3	2	1	0
Tier 3	20-39	10	8	6	4	2	1 (up to 10 th place)
Tier 4	40-79	15	12	10	8	6	1 (up to 15 th place)
Tier 5	80-129	20	16	14	12	10	2 (up to 15 th place)
Tier 6	130+	25	22	18	15	12	2 (up to 15 th place)

Competitors added to a contest through the use of petitions will not count towards meeting a Tier 1's minimum requirements (i.e., the contest could not be held if the petition was not approved) (see Section 3.1 #6c).

3.3.2. Competition Rounds

If the leaders and followers fall into different tiers, the number of rounds must be determined by the **higher tier**. The minimum number of rounds for tiers is **mandatory** (see Chart 5: Competition Rounds based on Tier Size).

Chart 5: Competition Rounds based on Tier Size

Tier	Number of Competitors	Number of Rounds	Prelims	Quarters	Semis	Finals
1	5-10	1	Allowed if numbers are uneven	No	No	Yes
2	11-19	1-2	Optional	No	No	Yes
3	20-39	2	Yes	No	No	Yes
4	40-79	3	Yes	No	Yes ⁸	Yes
5	80-129	3-4	Yes	Optional	Yes	Yes
6	130+	4	Yes	Yes ⁵	Yes	Yes

⁸ Registry Events are allowed to waive a competition round if the number of competitors is no more than 10% over the previous Tier's maximum (e.g., a Tier 4 contest with 43 Followers (and fewer than 39 Leaders) could run a prelims and finals only). This is allowed to provide stability for contest planning.

3.4. Contest Oversight: Staff Requirements, Conflicts of Interest, Scoring

Registry Events should follow the highest ethical standards regarding the conduct of contests. Disregard of ethical standards, even if not specifically outlined in the Registry Event Rules, may result in penalties by the Board.

Rules that affect the integrity of a contest – particularly where results / scores could be impacted – apply to all contests held at the event. All efforts must be made to conduct unbiased judging and to avoid any tampering with contests and contest results.

Note: For the purposes of this section, Event Director and Owner are defined as follows:

- Event Director is any person involved in decision-making related to the hiring of judges and/or scoring staff and/or identified as the Event Director.
- Owner is any person with a vested financial / ownership interest (e.g., shareholder) in the event.
- Non-profit shareholders or Board members are not considered Owners but may fall under Event Director restrictions, depending on their role.

Registry Events must follow all contest oversight requirements outlined below, unless otherwise approved by the Board:

1. Event Director and/or Owner must not perform Chief Judge, Judge, or Scoring functions or duties.
 - a. Event Director(s) or Owner(s)' spouses and immediate family may also not perform Chief Judge or Scoring duties.
2. Event Director, Owner, Chief Judge, Secondary Chief Judge (see Definitions: Secondary Chief Judge), and Score person (or Contest Administrator with automated scoring systems) must not compete in any swing contests at the event, with the following exceptions/clarifications:
 - a. Non-judged contests (e.g., exhibitions).
 - b. Any contest of a different dance genre and/or sponsored and run by a separate organization. Exceptions must be authorized by the Board prior to the event. (For example, at UCWDC events only, Event Director, Owner, Chief Judge, and Score person may dance in a UCWDC Pro-Am West Coast Swing contest. This exception is allowed as a carve out to accommodate UCWDC rules.)
3. Chief Judge and Scoring / Tabulation functions and duties must be provided by separate individuals.
4. Judges must make decisions independently. Tampering or altering contest scores is not allowed.
 - a. Group judging decisions (instantaneous “on the floor”), “tap out” eliminations during the contest (by an individual judge or as a group), or audience-judging are permitted only in non-WSDC Jack and Jill contests / “fun” contests (e.g., tournament-style contests, costume contests).
5. All conflicts of interest must be identified and avoided. This is the responsibility of Event Directors, Chief Judge, and judges.
 - a. Conflicts of interest are defined as the following: any Judge/ Chief Judge who is judging an immediate family member, current spouse / significant other, current dance partner, or current business partner (e.g., co-Owners, Event co-Directors, teaching partners).
 - i. The WSDC recommends staff members avoid real or perceived bias (positive or negative) between them and other members of the community, but will enforce only conflicts of interest as defined above.
 - b. Judging assignments must be made to prevent conflicts. Judges / Chief Judges must recuse themselves from a judging panel to prevent conflicts. The following exceptions are allowed:
 - i. Pro-Am Jack and Jill and Pro-Am Strictly Swing competitions when judges are judging the Amateurs only and conflict is with the Pro.
 - ii. A judge with a conflict of interest to a competitor may judge the opposite role to that competitor during preliminary rounds.
 - iii. Self-judged Champions contests.
 - iv. When necessary for a specific contest, the Chief Judge may be replaced by the Secondary Chief Judge (see Definitions: Secondary Chief Judge).

6. Judges for WSDC Jack and Jill contests must meet the following standards:
 - a. For preliminary Jack and Jill contests, a minimum of six (6) judges (plus Chief Judge) are required, where a minimum of three (3) judges shall be assigned to each role. The WSDC recommends Registry Events use four to five (4-5) judges per role in preliminary contests to avoid ties. The following exceptions are allowed:
 - i. Where there are 15 or fewer competitors per role, events may use three to five (3-5) judges. Judges must judge both roles.
 - ii. Where there are 16-25 competitors per role, events may use at least five judges. Judges must judge both roles.
 - b. For final Jack and Jill contests, a minimum of five (5) judges (plus Chief Judge) are required. An even number of judges shall not be used. The WSDC recommends Registry Events use seven (7) judges for finals.
 - c. The Chief Judge may join the general judging panel only if there is an unforeseen / unavoidable shortage of general judges.
 - d. Self-judging contests are allowed only in the Champions division. Self-judging should occur only if there is an insufficient number of available judges.
 - e. Virtual judging is not permitted.
7. All WSDC Jack and Jill contests must maintain the integrity of random and unbiased selection (i.e., rotating partners, pairing of partners, and music selection). For example, rotation of partners in prelims and the selection of partners in finals should be random; music assignments should be fair to all competitors. Note: a choice of music categories (e.g., slow blues / fast contemporary) for finals may be offered.
8. All WSDC Jack and Jill contests must use the Callback system for preliminary competitions and Relative Placement scoring system for finals.
 - a. Judges are allowed to use paper or a phone/tablet system.
 - b. All events must use a computerized system to calculate scores. Score person and/or Chief Judge may do calculations for contest results by hand (“hand scoring”) only in emergency situations.
 - c. Chief Judges must assign unique⁹ numerical raw scores to all competitors in preliminary rounds. If necessary, the Chief Judge may raw score one role and assign a Secondary Chief Judge or Raw Score Judge (see Definitions: Secondary Chief Judge and Raw Score Judge) to raw score the other role (e.g., Chief Judge scores Leaders; Secondary Chief Judge / Raw Score Judge scores Followers). (Note: Secondary Chief Judge or Raw Score Judge must also assign unique numerical raw scores to the competitors.)
 - d. Details on the Callback system standardization and requirements are listed in the Appendix (see Section 6: Callback System for Preliminary Contests). 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).
 - e. Requirements for computerized scoring systems is listed in the Appendix (see Section 6: Computerized Scoring System Requirements).
 - f. For non-WSDC contests, Registry Events must publish if and for which contest(s) they opt not to use the Callback and/or Relative Placement scoring systems (see Section 3.1. #10).

⁹ “Numerical” added for clarity, effective March 27, 2024.

Section 4: WSDC Enforcement Policy and Penalties

All events must implement a Code of Conduct policy, with appropriate plans for reporting and implementation. Sample policies are linked from the Code of Conduct section under Rules & Info on the WSDC website.

Registry Event rules are enforced by the WSDC Board. Membership and Registry Event approval / denial, rule changes, and penalties shall be at the discretion of the Board. Unless otherwise approved, any WSDC Professional Member or Registry Event that does not comply with the WSDC Registry Event Rules will be considered in default of their membership and subject to penalties and/or loss of Registry Event status.

Members who violate Registry Event rules, including ethical violations or late submission of their Membership dues, Competitor Surcharge, or competition results, will be in default. Default may result one or more of the following options:

1. Warning
2. Fine
3. Probation
4. Loss of Registry Event status
 - a. Events who lose status are allowed to reapply for Registry Event approval, including a new Trial Event.

Penalties specific to late submission of Membership fees, Competitor Surcharge, and competition results are detailed in Charts 1 and 2. Penalties for all other Registry Event rules violations are detailed in Chart 6. Members in default may reapply for WSDC membership or Registry Event status, subject to approval by the Board.

Chart 6: WSDC Penalties for Registry Event Rules Violations

Penalty Level	Penalty	Level of Responsibility	Guidance
Penalty Level 1	\$0	Unknowing	The event owner(s), director(s), or associated person(s) did not know and reasonably should not have known of the violation.
Penalty Level 2	\$100-500, Possible probation	Reasonable Cause	The event owner(s), director(s), or associated person(s) knew or, by exercising reasonable diligence, should have known that the act or omission was a violation.
Penalty Level 3	\$500-750 and Probation	Neglect	The violation was the result of failure or indifference to follow WSDC Registry Event rules.
Penalty Level 4	\$750-1000 and Probation	Disregard	The violation was the result of conscious, intentional failure or reckless indifference to follow WSDC Registry Event rules.
Penalty Level 5	Loss of Registry Event status	Intentional	The violation was the result of purposeful intent or indifference to WSDC Registry Event rules.

For internal tracking purposes:

Version dated March 20, 2024.

Previous versions dated 11.1.2007, 1.1.2009, 9.1.2010, 1.1.2012, 7.1.2015, 1.1.2018, 2.15.2019, 1.1.2020, 11.2.2022, 6.8.2023, 12.17.23.

APPENDIX

Section 5: Callback System for Preliminary Competitions

The Callback System for preliminary competitions has been standardized. The following point values must be assigned to judges' callbacks:

- Yes = 10
- Alternate 1 (Alt 1) = 4.5; Alternate 2 = 4.3; Alternate 3 = 4.2
- No = 0.

Scoring systems should not use more than 3 levels of Alternates (i.e., no Alternate 4). At their discretion, the Chief Judge may ask judges to use Alt 1s; Alt 1s & Alt 2s; or Alt 1, Alt 2 & Alt 3s for any specific contest. In larger contests, to minimize the potential for ties, the Chief Judge may ask for two (2) or more Alt 1s; Alt 1 & Alt 2s; or Alt 1, Alt 2, & Alt 3s.

The outcome for callbacks must be determined by the sum of the values.

- Only after the original calculations are complete, the Chief Judge's scores break the tie.

Section 6: Computerized Scoring System Requirements

A computerized scoring system should do the following tasks:

1. Place competitors within the various divisions and contests.
2. Create preliminary and finals contest judging sheets with pre-populated information.
3. Tabulate and rank callbacks. See Section 5 (Callback System for Preliminary Competitions) on requirements for ranking callbacks.
4. Create callback announcement sheets.
5. Transfer competitors to finals.
6. Randomly assign partners (if needed).
7. Place paired competitors in random dance order or place competitors in numerical order for "draw for dance order," as needed.
8. Tabulate and rank finals contests for placement results.
9. Provide limited access to authorized users only, as appropriate (e.g., Chief Judge, judges).
10. Prevent tampering and/or changes to results by unauthorized users.
11. Provide results / announcement / posting sheets.
12. Provide WSDC scoring report to WSDC.