2026 WSDC Registry Event Rules

Overview

WSDC

The World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) is a non-profit organization focused on promoting and growing West Coast swing (WCS) dance at the global level. Its mission is "To inspire a global passion for west coast swing and *guide* community growth through supporting events, dancers, and competitors with fairness, integrity, and respect."

The WSDC respects the interests of both new and existing members of the entire West Coast 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 integrity of the West Coast Swing contests at 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.

Definitions

Event Director(s) and/or Owner(s):

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

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

1. Competition dance floors must be a minimum of 150 sq meters (1600 sq ft) and must be suitable for dancing (note: concrete, marble/stone, etc., are not acceptable). Recommended competition dance floors: Sprung dance floor. A multi-layered floor – flexible hardwood top over a shock-absorbing subfloor.
2. Recommended accommodations must be available within a 10-minute walk or the event must provide a shuttle that goes to/from the accommodations suggested by the 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:
    a. A maximum of two (2) Registry Events may be held in the same studio per calendar year.
    b. A studio owner who is also the Event Owner / Event Director may hold a maximum of one (1) Registry Event in their studio.

Time / Distance Rule: Global 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]

1. *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.

2. *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.

Designated WSDC Growth Region: Designated WSDC growth regions as of 2025: Asia, Australia/New Zealand, South America/Central America, Africa, and USA: Alaska, and Hawaii. Additional countries / regions may be added upon request and agreement by the Board.

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 the close of the event. Masters are defined as 50 years of age or older by the 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. A Chief Judge must have extensive judging experience with a proven record of competency, and cannot compete. Only individuals who have previously served as a judge at multiple registry events and demonstrated proficiency in all aspects of judging may be appointed as Chief Judge.

ef Judge in one or more contests. The Secondary Chief Judge is subject to the same rules and restrictions as the Chief Judge. Secondary Chief Judge may not compete.

Raw Score Judge: A Raw Score Judge is a separate judge, not part of a contest's judging panel. A Raw Score Judge may be used in a contest (or multiple contests), to raw score one 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 / number of callbacks / cuts to finals / any other contest structure decisions; those duties must be performed by the Chief Judge (or Secondary Chief Judge). The Raw Score Judge is allowed to compete in other contests.

Primary and Secondary Roles: For the purpose of these rules, a competitor's primary and secondary roles are based on the number of points in the WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart. The primary role is the one in which they have points at a higher skill level or, if they have points in both roles at their highest skill level, the one in which they have more points. The secondary role is the one in which they have points only at a lower skill level or, if they have points in both roles at their highest skill division, the one in which they have fewer points.

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 Update Form annually – within forty-five (45) days after the close of the event – to be listed as a confirmed Event on the WSDC Events calendar.
5. Meet their financial obligations no later than forty-five (45) days after the last day of their event.
6. Provide fair, unbiased and untampered competitions, judging and scoring.
7. Enforce their stated rules, policies and code of conduct.
8. Submit competition results and Competitor Surcharge in a timely manner.
9. Post Event Rules (including minimal age if it applies), Code of Conduct, and Tentative Schedule on their website (90 days before the event)
10. 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).

Loss of Registry Event status requires a one (1) calendar year waiting period before the Member(s) can submit an application for a Trial Event.

1.2. Registry Event Structure

Registry Events must occur annually and maintain the same date and location, and comply with the following event structure, unless otherwise approved by the Board:

1. Registry Events must have a minimum of three (3) days of west coast swing dance activities (e.g., social dancing, lessons, workshops, competitions).
2. Restricted or closed city, state, regional events are not eligible.

3. Registry Events must be held in an approved venue.

4. Registry Events must publish their contest rules on their website before contest registration opens.

5. All events must implement a Code of Conduct policy and post it on their website, with appropriate plans for reporting and implementation 90 days before the start of the event. Sample policies are linked from the Code of Conduct section under Rules & Info on the WSDC website.

6. Registry Events must offer a minimum of two (2) skill level WSDC Jack and Jill contests and have a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) competitor entries in WSDC Jack and Jill contests. Jack & Jill Contest entries include all WSDC skill- and age-based contests. Individuals competing in multiple contests count per contest, not per person.

    a. Growth Region. Exception: Eighty (80) WSDC Jack and Jill competitor entries are required and one hundred (100) attendees.

    b. If the event has fewer than the required minimum, competition results will be posted and Registry Points awarded but the Registry Event will be placed on probation for one (1) year.

    c. During the probation year, if the event has fewer than the required minimum, competition results will be posted and the event will lose its Registry Event status.

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 ($100) a minimum of six (6) months prior to Trial Event. 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.

3. Run the Trial Event, following *all* WSDC Registry Event Rules.

    a. Trial Events must use a WSDC Certified Chief Judge[2].

b. Trial events must use a WSDC approved Scoring System.

c. Trial events must use a minimum of ten (10) judges, not including the Certified Chief Judge.

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 three (3) days of close of the Trial Event.

    a. Points will be awarded to competitors during the Trial Event.

    b. Trial Events must also submit the Competitor Surcharge fee

5. WSDC Board will review the Trial Event results for Registry Event approval. Trial Events may receive one of the following designations:

    a. Approval as a Registry Event in full (i.e., no restrictions);

    b. Approval on probation (see Action Plan requirements under or;

    c. Denial, due to any event change during the Trial Event and/or failure to meet all Registry Event rules during the Trial Event. If denied, a second Trial Event may be permitted.

6. Approved Events must submit the annual Membership fee. Event must also submit Registry Event Update Form annually to be listed as a confirmed Registry Event on the WSDC Event calendar.

7. Become a WSDC Professional Member 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. Members may not hold two (2) Trial Events at the same time.

2. All of the Member's existing events must have a minimum of three (3) WSDC skill level Jack and Jill divisions, and demonstrate a history of excellence.

1.4. Existing Registry Event Changes:

Members are required to notify the Board of proposed change(s) six (6) months prior to Registry Events. Changes are subject to the written approval by the Board. Multiple changes may not be approved. Changes not approved may result in probation or loss of Registry Status. Changes requiring approval include:

1. New location
    a. Exception: An Event in a hotel may make a change from one location to another in the same metropolitan area without Board approval, if the new venue remains a hotel.
2. New date

    a. An Event may make a one (1) week change before / after an event's official weekend without Board approval.

    i. Registry Events associated with a specific date / holiday must occur on the weekend either before or after that specific date / holiday.

    b. An Event may request a one-time date change, subject to Board approval. When a one-time date change is approved, an Event is required to return to its official date (plus or minus one week) for a minimum of two years.

    c. An Event may request a change to their official date, subject to Board approval and the Time/Distance rule.
3. New event name
4. New Venue Type
5. Transfer of ownership
    a. 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 and will not be approved.

1.5. Registry Event Hiatus:

Registry Events are permitted a one (1) year break without jeopardizing their Registry Event status. 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 ***official*** date and location on the WSDC Events Calendar for assessing Time / Distance Rule conflicts.

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 in writing six (6) months in advance.
    a. Failure to provide notification in the required time frame may result in the Hiatus not being granted, or loss of Registry Event status.

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.

3. Exception: New Registry Events must hold two (2) Registry Events before being eligible for hiatus. This does not include the Trial Event year.

Post-hiatus:

1. An event must complete a minimum of two (2) consecutive Registry Events before it may go on hiatus again.

2. 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.

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

2.1 Membership Fee

Members must pay an annual fee ($200) for each Registry Event. Membership Fee is due within 30 days after the close of the Registry Event (invoiced separately from Competitor Surcharge).

Late submission of Membership Fee may result in penalties.

2.2. Competitor Surcharge

Members must pay a Competitor Surcharge to the WSDC for all competitor entries in WSDC Jack and Jill contests.

1. The Competitor Surcharge is $2 per competitor entry (as of Jan. 1, 2026), per contest entered (WSDC Jack and Jill contests only)[3]

2. Competitors entering multiple WSDC Jack and Jill contests incur 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 $6 Competitor Surcharge).

3. The Competitor Surcharge is due within 30 days after the close of the Registry Event (invoiced separately from Membership Fee).

Late submission of Competitor Surcharge may result in penalties.

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

Date Submitted	Penalty
31-60 days	$50.00 (USD)
61-90 days	$100.00 (USD)
91-120 days	$150.00 (USD)
>120 days	Loss of Registry Event Status

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:

1. All petitions.
2. Finalists' WSDC ID numbers (if assigned by the Points Registry) must be included.
3. The number of competitors in each division, so the appropriate Tier level for recording points can be determined.
4. List of all 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 in 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).

Chart 2: Penalty Chart for Late Submission of Competition Results

Date Submitted	Penalty
4-30 days	$100.00 (USD)
>31 days	Loss of Registry Event Status

Section 3: Competition Requirements

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3.1. Contest Structure / Format Requirements

1. Registry Event must hire sufficient judging staff to run contests and avoid conflicts of interest

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. 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.

    d. Events may restrict their staff from participating in Jack and Jill or other contests.

    e. While Registry Events must be open to everyone, events may set a minimum age requirement for contestants. This 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 in the Event's rules 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.

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 registered for their contest.

6. A Petition Process is for competitors who wish to dance in a different skill division:

a. Petitions can only move your skill level one (1) division, either up or down.

b. For petitions down (primary role only):

   i. The Chief Judge, or qualified individual(s)/committee designated by the Chief Judge, may approve or deny the petition after reviewing the competitor's Points Registry record.

   ii. Petitions are event-specific and not transferable. Competitors must submit a petition at their next event.

c. For petitions up:

   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. 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 transferable to other events. Competitors who obtain a point in the higher division will remain in the higher division.

d. Petitions shall not be approved at the Event for the purpose of making a Tier (i.e., to meet the minimum number of required competitors for a Tier).

e. Events must submit all petitions to the WSDC with the WSDC Event Reporting form.

7. Registry Events may not offer combined WSDC skill-level Jack and Jill divisions (e.g., Advanced/All Star Jack and Jill) for registration.

   a. If a division does not meet Tier 1 requirements at registration close (e.g., there are insufficient entries in All Star JnJ), the Event Director may either combine the division with an adjacent division (e.g. Advanced/ All Star) or cancel the one that does not meet the Tier 1 requirement.

   b. When divisions are combined, points are awarded to the lower division (e.g., Advanced points for an Advanced/All Star contest), except for a combined Newcomer/Novice contest, which awards Novice points.

   c. 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., An Advanced follower may not compete as a follower in an Intermediate if an Advanced contest is not offered at the event; A Champion leader may not dance as a leader 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 the Chief Judge and/or competitor, but only approved by the Chief Judge. The 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 post contest results at the event and those results shall be open to all competitors for a minimum of 30 days. Contest results include contest rounds (e.g., prelims, semis, finals), placements and score reports. (Judges may be listed anonymously (e.g., as Judge 1, Judge 2, etc.) on the score report, at the Event Director / Owner / Chief Judge’s discretion.) If results are inaccurate (e.g., scoring issues, violations), corrected results must be posted.

10. 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.

    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.

4. Competitors may compete in multiple age-based WSDC Jack and Jill competitions for which they qualify.

5. Competitors may compete in either their primary or secondary role in other contests.

6. 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 role.

    a. Competitors may submit petitions to dance one level “up” or “down” for their primary role only. Competitors may only submit petitions up for their secondary role. Petitions must be approved or the competitor will *not* receive points for placement.

b. Competitors who dance in the incorrect skill level division without a successful petition must be disqualified and will not receive points for placement.

7. Competitors will be awarded points as either a Leader or Follower. Those points are tracked separately in the Points Registry.

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

8. The level a competitor is allowed to compete in their primary role determines their allowable level in their secondary role. WSDC recommends competitors compete in their secondary role one (1) level down from the role they enter in their primary role. Competitors *may* dance two (2) levels down from the highest level they are *allowed* to compete in their primary role, 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.

    b. When a competitor has a choice of primary role levels, the highest level the competitor **qualifies** to compete sets the allowable level for their secondary role, i.e. the division a competitor chooses for their *primary role* at the Event *does not* affect what level they may compete at for their secondary role.

    c. Competitors *may* dance two (2) levels down from their primary level (their highest competitive level), regardless of whether they choose to compete in the primary level for the Event. If they reach the "may" move up level on the WSDC Skill Level Jack & Jill Advancement Chart (Chart 3), based on their points in their secondary role, at which point they *must* dance only one level down from their highest allowed primary role. See Secondary Role WSDC Skill Level Jack & Jill Advancement Chart (Chart 4).

    d. Petitions down are not allowed for secondary roles.

    e. Competitors may dance in Newcomer, at events where it is offered, in the following scenarios:

        i. In either role, if they have no points in either role; or

        ii. In their secondary role if they have fewer than 16 Novice points in their primary role and have no points at any level in their secondary role. Note that competitors who are allowed to compete in Intermediate in their primary role (no matter what level they choose to compete in at the Event) may not compete in Newcomer in their secondary role.

9. Points are recorded only for those who place in WSDC Jack and Jill finals (see Chart 4: Points Awarded per Tier).

10. If a competitor places twice in a division, the competitor is only awarded points for the higher placement (e.g., the contest goes straight to finals with uneven numbers; competitor places 2nd and 5th; competitor is awarded points for 2nd place).

11. 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.[5]

    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, but may enter a combined All Star / Champion contest.

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Chart 3: WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart

Skill Level[6]	WSDC Category Definitions	Allowed (Dancers are given the *option* to move to the next skill level)	Required (Dancers are *required* to move to the next skill level)
Champion	Champions are defined for WSDC Champion Jack and Jill contests.[7]	Allowed to dance in Champions with 1 Champion points	Required to dance in Champions with 10 Champion points
		Champion	
All Star	All Stars should be extremely competitive.	Allowed to move up with 150 All Star points	Required to move up with 225 All Star points
		All Star	
Advanced	Advanced should be very competitive.	Allowed to move up with 60 Advanced points	Required to move up with 90 Advanced points or 1 All Star point
		Advanced	
Intermediate	Intermediate dancers are perfecting their competitive skills.	Allowed to move up with 30 Intermediate points	Required to move up with 45 Intermediate points or 1 Advanced point
		Intermediate	
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
		Novice	
Newcomer[8]	Newcomers are dancers who are new to competition.	Allowed to move up at the dancer's discretion.	Required to move up with 1 Newcomer point or 1 Novice point
		Newcomer	

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Chart 4: WSDC Secondary Role Skill Level Jack & Jill Advancement Chart

P Primary Role Competition Level	Primary Role Points	Suggested Secondary Role	Allowed Secondary Role
Champion		All Star	All Star or Advanced *(Required to move up to All Star at 60+ Secondary Role Advanced points)*
All Star	150+ All Star points	Advanced	Advanced
	<150 All Star points	Advanced	Advanced or Intermediate *(Required to move up to Advanced at 30+ Secondary Role Intermediate points)*
Advanced	60+ Advanced points	Intermediate	Intermediate
	<60 Advanced points	Intermediate	Intermediate or Novice *(Required to move up to Intermediate at 16+ Secondary Role Novice points)*
Intermediate	<45 Intermediate points	Novice	Novice
Novice	16+ Novice points	Novice	Novice
	<16 Novice points	Newcomer	Novice or Newcomer *(Required to move up to Novice with 1+ Secondary Role points at any level.)*
Newcomer	0 points	Newcomer or Novice	*Note that you can only enter a given level once, as either lead or follow, not both.*

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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.

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.

Chart 5: Points Awarded per Tier

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

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.

Chart 6: 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			Yes
2	11 - 19	1-2	Optional			Yes
3	20 - 39	2	Yes		Optional	Yes
4	40 - 79	3	Yes	Optional	Yes[9]	Yes
5	80 - 129	3-4	Yes	Encouraged	Yes	Yes
6	130 +	3-4	Yes	Encouraged	Yes	Yes

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

Registry Events must 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.

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

1. Event Director(s) and/or Owner(s) 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(s), Owner(s), or their spouses and children; 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 two (2) months prior to the event. (E.g., 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. A Chief Judge must review all finalists prior to posting or starting finals.

5. Judges and scorekeepers may not take on any additional roles or responsibilities (e.g. MCs, DJs, Contest Team, photographer, etc.) during that specific contest.

    a. Exception: When a champion's or invitational division is being self judged, a contestant can hold more than one role in addition to being on the judges panel.

    b. Judges must make decisions independently. Tampering or altering contest scores is not allowed.

    c. 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).

6. 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, established dance partner, or current business partner (e.g., co-Owners, Event Co-Directors, teaching partners who are contracted together).

        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. Staff members are responsible for providing conflicts of interest to the Chief Judge and/or Event Directors.

    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 Jack and Jill preliminary rounds.

iii. Self-judging contests are allowed only in Champions and invitational contests. Here is the link for guidelines: Guidelines from the CJC

iv. When necessary for a specific contest, the Chief Judge may be replaced by the Secondary Chief Judge.

7. Judges for WSDC Jack and Jill contests must meet the following standards:

   a. For preliminary Jack and Jill contests, a minimum of four (4) judges per role (plus Chief Judge) are required. The WSDC strongly recommends Registry Events use at least five (5) judges per role in larger (Tier 5 and 6) preliminary contests to avoid ties. The following exception for contests is allowed:

      i. An Event may assign some or all of the judges in the judging panel to score both roles for contests in Tiers 1-3. Additional songs per round may be needed. A minimum of four (4) scores per role is still required.

   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 requires Events to use seven (7) judges for finals in Tiers 5- 6.

   c. The Chief Judge may join the general judging panel only if there is an unforeseen / unavoidable shortage of general judges.

   d. Virtual judging is not permitted

8. 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.

9. All WSDC Jack and Jill contests must use the WSDC-approved Callback system for preliminary competitions and Relative Placement scoring system for finals.

   a. Judges are allowed to use paper or an electronic 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.

      i. Transfer of judges' paper score sheet results to computerized systems must be audited by the Chief Judge and/or scoring team approved by the Chief Judge (i.e, verified by a separate person than the Score person inputting the data).

c. Chief Judges must assign unique 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. Additional information on the Callback system and Relative Placement is available on the WSDC website under Rules, see Prelim Scoring and Relative Placement, respectively).

e. Requirements for computerized scoring systems are listed in the Appendix.

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.

Section 4: WSDC Enforcement Policy and Penalties

Registry Event rules are enforced by the WSDC. 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.

The WSDC has developed a collaborative process for addressing issues (e.g., rule violations) that occur at Registry Events. Events may implement a mutually agreed upon and approved Action Plan to address the issue(s). The draft Action Plan addressing the issue should be submitted within 10 days of notice and be approved by both the Event and Board within 30-60 days. The Action Plan should address the following:

1. What happened
2. Who was impacted
3. How to repair what happened (including communication plan to impacted parties)
4. How to prevent it in the future
5. Follow up reporting on implementation of the repair and proposed prevention (accountability follow up)

When an approved Action Plan is implemented and followed, the Registry Event is no longer considered in violation or in default. The Action Plan may be implemented by the

Event Owner(s), Event Director(s), the Certified Chief Judge and/or other relevant parties.

Members and/or Chief Judges who violate Registry Event rules and/or fail to fully implement the Action Plan will be in default. Default may result one or more of the following options:

1. Warning or Probation
2. Loss of Registry Event status
    a. Events that lose status are allowed to reapply for Registry Event approval, including a new Trial Event.
3. Drop in or Loss of Certified Chief Judge status

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 7: WSDC Penalties for Registry Event Rules Violations

Level	Possible Penalty	Description of Issue
One	Warning or Probation (1 year)	Did not know or understand current WSDC Registry Event Rules. Minor impact to the reputation of the event.
Two	Probation (1 year)	Knew, or by exercising reasonable diligence, should have known that the act or omission did not follow current WSDC Registry Event rules. Moderate impact to event participants and/or the integrity of the event / contests.
Three	Probation (1-2 years) and Fine	Displayed conscious, intentional failure or reckless indifference to following WSDC Registry Event rules. Major impact to event participants and/or the integrity of the event / contests
Four	Loss of Registry Event status	Exhibited purposeful intent or indifference to current WSDC Registry Event rules. Extreme impact to event participants and/or the integrity of the event / contests.

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:

1. Yes = 10

2. Alternate 1 (Alt 1) = 4.5; Alternate 2 = 4.3; Alternate 3 = 4.2

3. 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.

1. 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.

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12. Provide WSDC scoring report to WSDC.

Section 7: WSDC Judges Certification and Affiliated Judges Program

Launch Date: January 1, 2027

WSDC Anticipated Guidelines: All registry events are expected to meet the initial target participation with the program. We anticipate that the initial guidelines will fall between 30% and 50%.

WSDC Monitoring and Review: As the certification is rolled out through 2026, WSDC will monitor, review, and list global-certified judging resources. We expect registry events to meet the anticipated guidelines for 2027.

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