

High Desert Dance Classic

Dance Competition Rules

March 14-16, 2008

Antelope Valley College (Gymnasium)

32th West and Avenue K

Lancaster, CA 93550

(661) 722-6300

Competition, Rules & Guidelines

Costume and Syllabus Restrictions for *Ballroom/Latin Events*

- Age Categories:** Juniors (under 18)
Adult A (18 - 35)
Adult B (36 – 50)
Adult C (51 +)
- Competitors:** *One Male Leader and one Female Follower (exception in Ballroom/Latin events female/female partnership will be permitted).*
- Eligibility:** This competition is open to all amateurs and professionals. Professionals may enter the Pro/Am events as well as the Jack and Jill events.
- Newcomer:** Individual who began dancing after April of 2007 and has never competed. **Bronze Syllabus** only No open choreography allowed. No costumes allowed.
- Beginner:** **Bronze and Silver Ballroom Syllabus.** No open choreography. No costumes allowed.
- Advanced:** Open choreography permitted. **No lifts or drops.** Costumes are allowed.
- Novice, Pre-Champ, Champ Ballroom** Open to all. Open choreography and costumes allowed. No lifts or drops.
- Pro/Am:** Costumes are allowed for Newcomer through Championship levels for Ballroom and Salsa Pro-Am events (e.g. Multi Dance and Fun Dance Events). Costumes are not allowed in West Coast Swing events.

Pro-Am Fun Events : (Cha-Cha, Hustle, Night-Club, Salsa)

Newcomer: Individual who has never competed before

Novice: Bronze syllabus or individual who has been dancing less than 2 years and at beginning to intermediate skill level.

Intermediate: Bronze/silver syllabus or individual who has been dancing more than one year and intermediate to advanced skill level

Advanced: Bronze/silver/gold syllabus or individual who is not a Professional but a skilled advanced dancer.

Pro/Am Fun Event: *West Coast Swing*

Newcomer: Has danced for one year (with training) but has never competed before

Novice: Knows the first ten step patterns of West Coast Swing but has not yet achieved 20 points in the Novice Division as listed on the World Swing Dance Council Registry

Intermediate: Has earned at least 25 Novice points as listed on the WSDC Registry.

Advanced: Has earned at least 20 Intermediate points as listed on the WSDC Registry.

All Star: Has earned at least 40 Advanced points as listed on the WSDC Registry.

Costumes

A costume is an outfit that is worn expressly for the purpose of performing, such as dance tails, ballgowns, and latin dresses. Costumes are allowed, but not required, for the Advanced, Novice, Pre-Champ, Champ, Multi-Dance Events, and Pro-Am Divisions.

No costumes are permitted for newcomer and beginner ballroom/latin events.

Evening wear is suggested as costuming for newcomers and beginners (i.e. cocktail dresses for ladies, jackets or vests for men). Competitors should remain in the same costume for the completion of each freestyle group or division in a particular style (Smooth, Rhythm, Standard or Latin). Adequate time for costume changes between divisions will be allowed.

Costumes are permitted in the Salsa "Fun Dances" and the Salsa "Open To All Events".

Costumes are **NOT** permitted in West Coast Swing events (e.g. Open WCS, Fun Dance WCS, Jack and Jill Events)

Definitions

Lift: A lift is described as any move where both feet of one partner are off the floor and weight of one partner is supported by the other partner.

Drop: A drop is described as any move where the entire head and torso of one partner is entirely below the waist level of the other partner and weight of one partner is supported by the other partner.

Aerial: An aerial is a move where one dancer is lifted with the assistance of his or her partner and the entire body is in a position higher than the waist of the remaining partner.

*** Please note: NO drops and NO lifts are permitted. Aerials will be permitted only for the **Open Lindy Division**.

Events

The Organizers of this Event have the right to cancel or combine events, as they deem necessary.

Liability

The organizers of this event bear no responsibility for the loss or theft of personal property. The High Desert Dance Classic and Antelope Valley College cannot be held liable for any injury sustained while in attendance at this event.

Fun Team Match

The Fun Team Match will take place on Saturday night. A Team consists of four (4) different couples (students/adults/pro or amateur), each of which will dance one (1) of the four (4) dances. The level is open, any moves are allowed. The dances for the team match will be drawn out of a hat and the four dances will be announced. Teams can sign up one hour prior to the event. Each Team should consist of at least one professional and a maximum of two professionals. If you have a partial team and would like to be matched up with another partial team, let us know and we will attempt to do so. Each team should be full four (4) couples; you cannot dance more than once in a team match.

Open-To-All Competition (Amateur Only)

This category is amateur open to all couples, (whether student or adult), of all levels. Any moves are allowed. Costumes are permitted.

Ballroom/Latin Formation Event

Ballroom/Latin Formation- maximum time limited to three (3) minutes for a single dance and (4) minutes for a medley. Formation team division is open to **amateur dancers only**. Teams must consist of a minimum of three couples.

West Coast Swing/Lindy Formation Event

West Coast Swing/Lindy Formation – this division must consist of eight or more dancers, any gender, age or skill level. They are judged as a group. Formation routines must be based on “Couples Dances”, Lifts, aerials, moves, drops, slides, breakaways, and switching of partners are all allowed, teams select their own music, costumes are required.

Jack and Jill Events

(Night Club 2-Step, West Coast Swing, Salsa, Cha-Cha, etc.)

Enter by yourself and be randomly paired with different partners. Try your luck; there's little pressure and lots of fun! Jack & Jill competitions have been designed to showcase competitors' skills in spontaneous swing and salsa dancing and their abilities to dance well with a variety of partners.

All dancing in Jack & Jill competitions is to be "lead/follow". **Side-by-sides & breakaways** are **NOT** allowed. Note that the common requirements apply.

There is no restriction on drawing one's previous partner, regular partner, or "worst nightmare" - it's luck of the draw. Should there be an imbalance in the number of leaders and followers entered in the contest, some contestants will dance twice. Contestants will be judged as couples in the final round.

The number of couples in the contest will determine the length of the contest. There may be a preliminary round with a minimum of 3 songs and 3 partner changes with dancers being called back individually for a final round.

Alternatively there may be a "one-shot" final contest (without a preliminary round) in which partners stay together and dance to a minimum of 3 songs.

Costumes are prohibited, but appropriate attire is required.

- ❑ Jack & Jill Divisions must have one male as a leader and one female as a follower
- ❑ All levels will be determined by the World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Recommendation List

❑ West Coast Swing Guidelines

- **Masters** (50+ years of age and **Intermediate or above**) Dancers **are** allowed to dance in the Masters Jack and Jill and any other level contest that he/she may qualify for (e.g. Intermediate, Advanced)
- **Juniors** Juniors are 18 years and younger. Juniors are allowed to dance in the Juniors Jack and Jill, and any other level contest that they qualify for (e.g. Novice, Intermediate, Advanced)
- **All American** Open to all levels and all ages.

❑ Salsa Guidelines

- **Newcomer** never competed before and one year or less of dance training
- **Novice** dancing less than 2 years and a beginner-intermediate skill level
- **Intermediate** Dancing more than one year and an intermediate-advanced skill level
- **Advanced** Not a professional but a skilled advanced dancer

West Coast Swing and Salsa Jack & Jill Competitions

West Coast Swing: No routines, lift, aerials, planned entrances or exits are allowed. Breakaways (12 count maximum) and drops are NOT permitted. See registration packet for the Jack and Jill events.

Salsa: No routines, planned exits or entrances allowed. Lifts and aerials are not permitted. Breakaways (12 count maximum) and drops are permitted but not required. Competitor's fees: \$10.00/per person.

*** Registration for Jack and Jill/Strictly Swing Events will open Friday at 6:30 p.m.

Registration for Jack and Jill will CLOSE 1-hour before each event.

Note: All competitors entering in the Jack and Jill Events must hold a 1-day competition pass.

STRICTLY SWING

Strictly Swing – A and B Divisions: Swing dancing that encourages lead and follow partner dancing at its best. Although swing includes amalgamations and patterns that are familiar to many dancers, the essence of lead and follow must be maintained in and out of these patterns. Strictly Swing division is not meant for long and extended pre-choreographed phrases. Choreography "on the fly" is the objective. Drops, leans, circular movements and other partner weight support moves are allowed as long as both partners keep at least one foot on the floor.

1. Competitors must be one Male Leader and one Female Follower
2. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion.
3. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable
4. This division will be danced in heats and/or spotlight at the promoter's discretion.
5. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
6. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
7. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
8. At most five partner weight support moves are permitted

JUDGING CRITERIA: (Swing, Ballroom, Latin)

Competitions will be judged using the Relative Placement Scoring System based on the following criteria:

1. **Timing** - Swing and salsa is danced beginning on the downbeat. Timing extends to much finer distinctions than a single beat. It includes whether a competitor is fractionally ahead or behind the beat as well as matching the syncopations of the music.
2. **Teamwork** – Swing and Salsa are connected, partner dances. The demonstration of this connection and the appearance of "lead/follow" or "action/reaction" between the partners is an expected part of any competition dance. One partner ignoring or "out-dancing" the other, or jeopardizing the safety of the other, indicates poor teamwork.
3. **Technique** - How well the competitors execute movements encompassing their dance represents technique. This includes control of balance and weight, foot placement, body lines, and spins.
4. **Presentation** - Creating an atmosphere of excitement by inviting and generating interest in a performance is the desired effect of good presentation. While showmanship is one aspect of presentation, it cannot substitute for good dancing. Good sporting conduct before, during, and after the dance is also an element of good presentation.
5. **WSDC Rules** will be followed.