

2010 US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the ultimate achievement for Swing Dance competitors and the best in swing dance entertainment in an environment that is inspiring, exhilarating, respectful of others, and fun.”

GENERAL RULES & INFORMATION

A. SWING CONTENT

Because the US OPEN is a SWING Dance Championship, the Judges will expect to see Swing content in all competitions except Cabaret and Team divisions. Specific guidelines about Swing content required in each division are discussed under the rules for that division. The statement that Judges will use identify the presence of Swing content is as follows:

- “Swing is an American Rhythm Dance that is identified primarily by
- 6-beat and 8-beat patterns that incorporate a wide variety of rhythms.

- 6-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, passes, underarm turns, push-breaks, open-to-closed and closed-to-open position patterns.

- 8-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, whips, swing-outs, Lindy circles, and Shag pivots.

- Although they are not part of the foundation of the dance as stated above, 2-beat and 4-beat rhythm breaks may be incorporated to phrase the music, to extend a pattern, and/or to accent breaks.

This statement will be used only to identify the presence of Swing content in a performance. It is not intended to be a full definition of Swing, or to be used to evaluate the quality of the performance. Each Judge will evaluate the presence of Swing content, which will be one of the criteria that determine a final score

B. ORGANIZER

The US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS, INC. is the Organizer of this event. Final decisions on all matters pertaining to these competitions rest solely with the Organizer.

C. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANIZER

1. **Use of the Mission Statement** – The Organizer will align decisions and policies with the Mission Statement.

2. **Staff** – The Organizer will select a panel of Judges, an Information Manager, a Chief Judge, Referee, and a Contestants’ Representative. The names of the people in these positions will be available prior to the event. In case of an emergency, such as illness or transportation difficulties, the Organizer reserves the right to substitute a qualified person, and will announce that substitution as soon as it occurs.

3. **Contestants Representative** – The Organizer will appoint a Contestants’ Representative as the official representative of the Competitors. The Contestants’ Representative, in consultation with the Chief Judge and Competition Coordinator, will clarify all competition –related questions during the event.
4. **Schedule** – The Organizer will determine the date and time for each competition and the location for the Competitors’ Meeting, and will announce this information prior to the event. The Organizer reserves the right to cancel a division if the number of entries is under the posted minimum, and to rearrange the schedule if necessary. Cancellation of a division would result in the refund of any applicable competitor entry fees.
5. **Awards** – The Organizer will determine and award all prizes and money. Monetary awards will be given in the form of a check at the Awards Ceremony.

If your check or checks total to more than \$600, you will be required to provide information for a 1099 form. Your award envelope will send you to the Registration desk to pick up your checks. This should be done prior to the closing of the Registration Desk on Sunday evening.

For whatever reason there is a national disaster or a severe economic downturn beyond the Organizer’s control, the Organizer reserves the right to adjust the prize money.

6. **Posting of Scores** – The results of the competitions will be posted for finalists to review after the Awards Ceremony on Sunday. They will remain posted for 1 hour in the Competitors’ Green Room. Adherence is required to the standard for receiving feedback that is stated in Section H-7, and the behavior standard that is stated in Section H-1.
7. **Preliminaries, Semi-Finals, Finals, and Heats** – At any time prior to the Competition, the Organizer reserves the right to determine whether or not a division will consist of a Preliminary, Semi-Final and a Final, and whether or not rounds are danced in heats or as spotlight and the number of competitors who will go on to a final round. This decision will be communicated as soon as possible, on the website or through announcements at the event. The number of competitors progressing to a final round may vary from Division to Division.

D. DEFINITION OF PARTNERSHIPS & DIVISION RESTRICTIONS

1. Couple – A couple consists of one male leader and one female follower.
2. Division Restrictions – (all age requirements apply)
 - a. A Competitor may enter both Sophisticated Swing and Masters Divisions (with different partners).
 - b. A Competitor may enter both Classic and Showcase Divisions (with different partners).
 - c. Any Competitor entered into the Classic or Showcase Divisions is ineligible to enter the Sophisticated Swing or masters Divisions.
 - d. Any Competitor may compete in the Cabaret, and/or the Formation Teams, and/or one of the “Strictly” Divisions that represent their genre in the Swing Challenge.
3. Partner Restrictions – Competitors are not allowed to enter multiple divisions with the same partner.
4. In Cabaret, anyone 14- years of age or under must perform with an Adult (18 years or older).

E. REQUIREMENTS TO COMPETE

The US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS encourages all Competitors, who believe they are qualified, to submit their application. All who plan to compete must adhere to the following requirements in (1) thru (5):

1. **TICKET** -Purchase a full weekend ticket to the 2010 US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS. Competitors can purchase an open seating/standing room only ticket at a reduced fee of **\$100**. This ticket will be held in WILL CALL and can't be sold or transferred to someone other than another competitor. Tickets purchased after **October 1, 2010** are **\$120**.
2. **ENTRY FEE** - Pay the required entry fees when the application is submitted. All competition registrations are now done on-line on our website. Entries made after **October 1, 2010** will reflect increased fees.
3. **WAIVER** - All competitors are required to sign a waiver at the time they receive their wristbands at the Registration Desk. No Competitor will be allowed to compete without a signing the Waiver. Every member of a team or Cabaret Act must sign the Waiver. Competitors under 18-years of age must have a parent or guardian sign their Waiver and any other required forms.
4. **REGISTER** - Register by the official entry deadline of **October 1, 2010** to be guaranteed entry into a division. If entering after **October 1, 2010**, entry fees increase and a division may be determined closed due to number of registered dancers. To be officially registered, ALL of the following items must be submitted to the US Open by **October 1, 2010**:
 - The Complete Entry Form
 - A Photo (see F-2 -Program)
 - A bio (see F-3- Program)
 - Payment for Entry into the competition
5. Meet all the specific requirements outlined in these rules and each specific division rules.

F. PROGRAM

1. Our program is part of the US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS history and has been a collector's item since 1983. It documents the history of all who compete and with whom. It is important to be in the program and ask you to please participate in a timely manner.
2. **Picture** - The routine divisions are asked to provide a picture for the program. Here are the suggestion parameters for submission:
 - The picture should be more of a close up rather than a scenic shot far away. We are interested in your faces.
 - Submit images in JPEG format, at least 300 dpi and sized at no smaller than 2" x 2".
 - Please note that we'll be printing in Black and White, so contrast is important. A color image is fine, as we can convert to B&W.
 - Your image should be a recent photo of you and your partner. The Organizer reserves the right to reject any image that does not meet standards of good taste.
 - The photo needs to be submitted by **October 1, 2010**, but absolutely no later than **October 10th**, otherwise just your name will be listed in the program.

Photos are not required of Jack & Jill and Strictly competitors. Just names, city, & states will be listed.

3. **Bio** – The routine divisions are asked to provide a bio to go along with your picture. Here are some guidelines for preparing your bio:
 - Please keep it within 50 words
 - We want to know about YOU as a dance competitor, so your bio should contain information about you and your partner.
 - Who are you? How long have you been dancing? What brought the two of you together?
 - What is it about dancing that inspires you?
 - What interests do you have outside of the dance community?
 - The Organizer reserves the right to edit content, grammar, and spelling as needed.

G. CANCELLATIONS

1. Entry fees will be refunded to any competitor who withdraws from a competition before the **October 1st** deadline.
2. Because of the event's program production schedule, no refunds will be made for any cancellations after that date.
3. Any partnership changes will require a new application process and will be considered a new competition entry. The Organizer will delete the cancelled registration.
4. Entry fees will be refunded if a division is cancelled due to not enough entries.

H. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETITORS

1. **Behavior** – All Competitors must demonstrate courteous and professional behavior at all times at the US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS, both on and off the competition floor. This includes honoring and respecting the hotel staff, rules, and property.

Failure to adhere to these standards could cause disciplinary action by the Organizer, or penalties from the Judges. In such a case where a competitor is not allowed to dance, the Organizer is not required to issue refunds for entry fees or event tickets.

2. **Rules** – All Competitors are responsible for reading and understanding the rules prior to the US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS competition weekend. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules whether or not they have been read.
3. **Competitors' Meeting** – Unless prior arrangements are made with the Event Organizers, all Competitors are required to attend the Competitors' Meeting on the **Friday of the event at 2:00 PM** in the main competition ballroom. Please make your travel arrangements to accommodate being at this meeting.

This is where competitors meet the scoring & competition staff and receives all last minute information, updates, and/or changes.

ALL Jack & Jill competitors **MUST ATTEND** the Competitors Meeting – no exceptions. If you are not present for the meeting, you will be eliminated from the competition and the Organizer will pull from the waiting list. Those on the waiting list should also attend the competitors' meeting. (This is our first competition of the day and the expectant number is critical.)

4. **Dance Order** – Drawing for dance order will take place the **Friday of the event** between **11:30 am until 1:30 pm**, just prior to the Competitors' Meeting. This includes all Jack & Jill entries and Strictly Swing entries. ALL dance order draws will take place prior to the end of the Competitors' Meeting.
5. **Music Turn In** - If applicable, competitors will submit their music at this time as well. The Organizer will have staff managing the process for music turn-in and drawing of dance order.
6. **Deadlines** – Failure to comply with deadlines and attendance at mandatory meetings may result in disqualification from competing in the event without a refund of entry fee. These decisions will be made solely at the discretion of the Organizer.
7. **Performance Feedback** - Competitors may discuss their performance with the Judges using only the appropriate times and channels, which are: 1) during the Competitors' Meeting, 2) by appointment with the Contestants Representative.

A Finalist may make an appointment with the Contestants' Representative for a detailed discussion. That appointment must occur at a time that is convenient for both the Competitors and the Contest's Representative, and may occur either during the US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS or anytime after the event. The standards for behavior from H-1 must be followed.

8. **Refund of Competition Entry Fee** – After the cut- off date of **October 1st** competition fees will not be refunded unless the Organizer cancels a division. If the Organizer feels a reason for cancellation is severe and valid, a credit for the following year may be approved.

I. JUDGING CRITERIA

The Relative Placement System will be used to judge all the competitions in the main ballroom at the US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS. In all divisions, the amount of Swing content will be evaluated. All Competitors will be judged using the following criteria:

1. **Timing** – Swing is a danced beginning on the downbeat. Timing extends to much more finer distinctions than a single beat. It includes fractionally ahead or behind the beat, as well as matching the syncopated “swing” of the music.
2. **Teamwork** – Swing is connected, partner dance. The demonstration of this connection and the appearance of lead/follow or action/reaction between the partners is an expected part of any competition. One partner ignoring or out-dancing the other, or jeopardizing the safety of the other (or other Competitors), indicates poor teamwork.
3. **Technique** – How well the Competitors execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. This includes control of balance and weight, foot placement, bodylines, and spins.
4. **Choreography** – The selection and order of movements and transitions executed during a dance comprises choreography. Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and its phrasing, as well as variety and contrast. **Choreography must be tasteful and respectful to the audience.**

5. **Presentation** – To create an atmosphere of excitement by inviting and generating interest in a performance is the desired effect of good presentation. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, a good show is not a substitute for good dancing.

Judges decisions are final.

J. ERRORS, VIOLATIONS, AND PENALTIES

If the rules outlined in this document are broken, the judges and/or referee will assign penalties depending on the severity of the breach. There are two breach levels:

1. **An Error** – An error is a minor and apparently unintentional breaking of the rules. It is a mistake. For example, a dancer unintentionally loses contact with his or her partner, when the rules state that they must keep contact. Each error will be penalized at the discretion of the Judge who observed the error, and will be factored into the judge's final score.
2. **A Violation** – A violation is a serious, and apparently intentional, breach of the rules. A violation shows disrespect towards a partner, the judges, other dancers, the Organizer, the audience, or the rules. The penalty for a violation could result in disqualification, which means being moved out of finals and/or placed "out-of-the-money." In NASDE Divisions, NASDE points will not be awarded if a violation results in disqualification.

Examples of intentional violations could be: using a foreign substance on the dance floor (baby powder, dance wax, Vaseline, etc....), 2 lifts in a Showcase routine, a pre-choreographed routine in Strictly Swing, the lack of enough Swing content, an inappropriate costume or music in a Junior Division, a performance that runs overtime, a lift in a Classic routine, or a move that causes injury, or a routine that is offensive or inappropriate for the audience. Recognize, that each of these examples do not necessarily always qualify as a violation. For example, a Showcase couple fails in the execution of one of their lifts, resulting in a 2 lift routine. This should be recognized as an error and not a violation.

K. BEGINNING AND ENDING A ROUTINE

1. **Entrances and Exits** – Choreographed entrances-to and exits-from the dance floor are permitted, but not required, in choreographed routines. Timing and judging will begin from the first movement of the performance, with or without music or sound. If a choreographed entrance and/or exit are used, it will be included in the judging and timing requirements.
2. **Restarts** – A restart will be allowed only if the music system falters or an unforeseen catastrophe occurs. Events such as a broken dress strap, untied shoelace, unhappy with the dancing, etc....does not warrant a restart.

L. AGE REQUIREMENTS

The Competitor must meet the age requirement specified in these rules on or before the Sunday of the event. Competitors must be at least 18- years old to compete in the Adult Divisions, with the exception of Cabaret and Advanced/All Star Jack & Jill. An Advanced/All Star Jack & Jill Competitor qualifies through the World Swing Dance Council point system; therefore it is possible for a junior under the age of 18 to have the necessary points to enter. Age requirements for juniors are discussed under that division's rules. Proof of age may be required.

M. PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

1. **Costumes** - Performance attire is **required** for Showcase, Classic, Sophisticated Swing, Masters, Cabaret, Young Adult, Young America, and Formation Teams Divisions. No Halloween type costumes are allowed. Please “Dress to Impress – Perform to Win”. Clothing and costumes should be suitable and flattering in all divisions.
2. **Costume Award** - There is a \$250 costume award awarded to a couple or team with best overall costume in the routine dance category. Color is encouraged over all black.
3. Performance attire is NOT allowed in the Strictly Divisions and Jack & Jill, but dressy dance clothing is encouraged. Dance clothing that is all black is undesirable. Jeans are NOT appropriate. Sloppiness is not appropriate.
4. **Age appropriate** costumes for the Young America and Young Adult divisions is expected and required. Age appropriate clothing for the Junior Strictly division is expected. Costumes and clothing should be suitable, flattering, and age appropriate.

N. PROPS

1. Props are not allowed in any divisions, except Cabaret. Any Cabaret Prop must be approved prior to November 18th, 2010 (one week prior to event). The use of unapproved Props will result in a penalty and drop in placement.
2. Hats, jackets, and other reasonable dance clothing items are considered costume, and may be worn in all divisions. However, clothing may NOT be discarded, nor switched from one partner to another, nor used as a prop in any way. Doing so will result in a penalty and drop in placement.
3. The Swing Challenge Division does allow some reasonable and appropriate props and do not need to be pre-approved.
4. If in doubt or for prior approval, please contact Tyoni Martin at tyonim@globaldance.tv prior to November 18th (or one week prior to event).

O. MUSIC

1. **Submitting Your Music** – A one-track CD copy of your music must be submitted on the Friday, of the event between **11:30 am and 1:30 pm**, just prior to the Competitors’ Meeting unless prior approval is obtained from the Event Organizers.
2. Someone else can submit your music and draw your dance order for you, if you are not able to do so prior to 1:30 pm. It is at the music turn in process, that a competitor communicates with the deejay any music requirements, start points, or variances. The deejay nor the Organization is responsible for any music mishap if this communication does not take place by you not turning in your music.

3. NO TAPES WILL BE ACCEPTED.
4. If a Competitor is performing in two competitions, music must be provided on two separate CD's. Each Competitor will be responsible for retaining practice copies.
5. A room and table (TBA) at the Convention Center will be set up between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm, with staff available to accept and label your music with computerized labels prepared in advance. All competition music must be turned in during this time frame. Drawing for dance order will take place during this process as well.
6. **Time Limit** – Performances must be a minimum of 2-minutes and a maximum of 3-minutes in every division except Teams and Cabaret. In Teams, performances must be between 3-minutes and 4-minutes. In Cabaret, performances must be between 2-minutes and 4-minutes. Choreographed Floor Entrances and Exits are included in the time limit. A five-second buffer will be allowed to accommodate differences in music equipment. Not adhering to time limit requirements may be treated as a violation.
7. **Claiming Your Music** – Your music can be reclaimed at the DJ booth after your competition. Music not claimed will be discarded at the conclusion of the event.
8. **Back up Music** – It is highly recommended to have an extra copy of your music in the ballroom in case there is a problem with your music at the deejay booth.

P. QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE RULES OR COMPETITION

Please call the US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS (800-537-8937) or e-mail Tyoni Martin, tyonim@globaldance.tv with any questions and especially regarding:

- Rules
- Petitions
- Approval of props
- Partner changes
- Cancellations
- Competitor tickets if purchasing after registering for competition

DIVISIONS AND RULES

CLASSIC DIVISION - \$6,000

1st Place - \$3,000 2nd Place - \$1,500 3rd Place - \$700 4th Place - \$500 5th Place - \$300

This division is traditional Swing dancing at its highest performance level and is characterized by the dancers having consistent contact with the dance floor and with each other.

1. Recognizable Swing content, as described in the Statement of Swing, must be present in at least 80% of the performance, as required by NASDE.
2. “In the air” partner weight support moves, such as Lifts, aeriels, and acrobatic moves are not allowed.

3. “On the ground” partner weight support moves (such as drops, slides, and splits) are allowed, but not required.
4. At most, five “on the ground” partner weight support moves are permitted.
5. Competitors may make separate entrances, but must join together within 32-beats of the music.
6. Once contact is made, the couple must maintain physical contact, except for spins, turns, and short break-aways. (8 beat maximum separation).
7. Routines must be a minimum of 2-minutes and a maximum of 3-minutes in length.
8. Competitors select their own music.
9. Competitors must be 18-years of age or older on or before the Sunday of the event.
10. Dance Costumes are required and qualify for the Costume Award. Halloween costumes not allowed.
11. Minimum number of entries is 5 couples.

This is a NASDE competition and NASDE points will be awarded.

SHOWCASE DIVISION - \$6,000

1st Place - \$3,000 2nd Place - \$1,500 3rd Place - \$700 4th Place - \$500 5th Place - \$300

This division is characterized by Swing dancing with the addition of lifts, aerials, acrobatics, side-by-side and break – aways.

1. Recognizable Swing content as described in the Statement of Swing must be present in 60% of the performance is required by NASDE.
2. A minimum of three “In the air”, partner weight support moves such as, lifts, aerials, or acrobatics is required.
 - a. Moves must be at knee level or above.
 - b. At least one move must place the partner above the waist.
 - c. There is no maximum to the number of “In the air” moves allowed.
 - d. “In the air” moves do NOT count towards meeting the “60%” recognizable swing content rule.
3. “On the ground” support moves (such as drops, slides, and spreads) are allowed, but not required.
4. Side-by-side patterns, and breaks in contact are allowed.
5. Routines must be a minimum of 2-minutes and a maximum of 3-minutes in length.
6. Competitors select their own music.
7. Competitors must be 18-years of age or older on or before the Sunday of the event.
8. Dance Costumes are required and qualify for the Costume Award. Halloween costumes not allowed.
9. Minimum number of entries is 5 couples.

This is a NASDE competition and NASDE points will be awarded.

LINDY SHOWCASE - \$2,500

SPONSORED by: Fritz & Jeannine Healey

1st Place- \$1,200 2nd Place - \$600 3rd Place – \$40 4th Place - \$200 5th Place - \$100

This division is a traditional “Lindy” Swing Division

1. Recognizable Swing content, as described in the Statement of Swing, must be present throughout at least half of the performance.

2. “In the air” partner weight support moves, such as Lifts, Aerials, and Acrobatic moves are allowed and encouraged, there is not minimum or maximum number of lifts.
3. “On the ground” support moves (such as drops, slides, and spreads) are allowed, but not required.
4. Choreographed Routines are required.
5. Routines must be a minimum of 2-minutes and a maximum of 3-minutes in length.
6. Competitors select their own music.
7. Dance Costumes are required and qualify for the Costume Award. Halloween costumes not allowed.
8. Minimum number of entries is 5 couples.

CABARET DIVISION - \$4,500

1st Place - \$2,500 2nd Place - \$1,200 3rd Place - \$500 4th Place - \$200 5th Place - \$100

This Division is open to any style of Dance other than Swing. This is not a Swing Division. However, including a slight amount of swing content is permitted. A maximum Swing content will be estimated at 10% of the overall dance time. If in doubt, leave it out.

1. The Performance must display a Cabaret element.
 - a. The Cabaret element is an additional ingredient added to the performance that is not present in the other dance divisions.
 - b. “Cabaret Element” includes, but is not limited to, a theme, playing a character, additional props. If using a prop, it must be approved prior to the event.
 - c. A dance performance, such as Jazz Dancing, Salsa, Hustle, Hop-Hop, Foxtrot, etc..... without a Cabaret element, is not appropriate for this division.
2. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, break-aways, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are allowed.
3. Theater Arts routines are appropriate for the Cabaret Division.
4. Competitors who are 14 years of age or under must perform with an Adult (18 years or older).
5. An entry may consist of a solo performer or multiple performers. Organizer reserves the right to limit the number of solo performers.
6. Routines that have previously been performed in the US OPEN Cabaret Division within the last 3 years will not be allowed to repeat those performances.
7. Routines must be a minimum of 2-minutes and a maximum of 4-minutes in length.
8. Choreographed Entrances and Exits do count towards the length of the routine. Exceeding the 4-minute maximum will result in a reduction in placement.
9. Competitors select their own music.
10. Dance Costumes are required and qualify for the Costume Award. Halloween costumes not allowed.
11. Minimum number of entries is 5 entries.
12. The first 15 entries received by the US Open entry deadline (October 1,) will be guaranteed acceptance into the Cabaret Division.

FORMATION TEAM DIVISION - \$5,000

1st Place - \$2,500 2nd Place - \$1,300 3rd Place - \$700 4th Place - \$300 5th Place \$200

This division consists of teams of eight or more dancers comprised of any combination of gender, age, and skill-level. They will be judged as a group.

1. This division requires Formation Routines to be based on “Couples Dances (s).”
 - a. Examples of “Couples Dances”, include, but are not limited to Swing, Shag, Hustle, Salsa, and Waltz.
 - b. Examples of dances recognized as “Non-Couples Dances” include, but are not limited to Jazz Dancing, Line Dancing, Hip-Hop, and Break Dancing.
 2. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, break-aways, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are all allowed.
 3. A competitor can be a member of only one Formation Team.
 4. A team member is allowed to enter a Couples Division and/or the Cabaret Division.
 5. Routines must be a minimum of 3-minutes and a maximum of 4-minutes in length.
 6. Formation Teams select their own music.
 7. Dance Costumes are required and qualify for the Costume Award. Halloween costumes not allowed.
 8. Minimum number of entries is 4 Formation Teams.
 9. The first 10 Team entries received by the US Open entry deadline (October 1,) will be guaranteed acceptance into the Formation Team Division.
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SOPHISTICATED SWING DIVISION (35+) - \$2,800

1st Place - \$1,300 2nd Place - \$700 3rd Place - \$400 4th Place - \$250 5th Place - \$150

This division is characterized by social Swing dancing at a performance level.

1. The rules governing the Sophisticated Swing Division are the same rules that govern the Showcase Division with the following exceptions:
 - a. Both Competitors must be 35-years of age or older, on or before the Sunday of the event.
 - b. “In the air” partner weight support moves, such as Lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are allowed, but not required.
 2. Choreographed routines are required.
 3. Routines must be a minimum of 2-minutes and a maximum of 3-minutes in length.
 4. Competitors select their own music.
 5. Dance Costumes are required and qualify for the Costume Award. Halloween costumes not allowed.
 6. Minimum number of entries is 5 couples.
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MASTERS DIVISION (50+) - \$2,500

1st Place- \$1,200 2nd Place - \$600 3rd Place – \$400 4th Place - \$200 5th Place - \$100

This division is characterized by social Swing dancing at a performance level.

1. The rules governing the Masters Swing Division are the same rules that govern the Showcase Division with the following exceptions:
 - a. Both Competitors must be 50-years of age or older on or before the Sunday of the event.

- b. “In the air” partner weight support moves, such as Lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are allowed, but not required.
 2. Choreographed routines are required.
 3. Routines must be a minimum of 2-minutes and a maximum of 3-minutes in length.
 4. Competitors select their own music.
 5. Dance Costumes are required and qualify for the Costume Award. Halloween costumes not allowed.
 6. Minimum number of entries is 5 couples.
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YOUNG ADULT DIVISION - \$2,500

SPONSORED by Jim & Dale Hern

1st Place- \$1,200 2nd Place - \$600 3rd Place – \$400 4th Place - \$200 5th Place - \$100

This division is for Competitors age 14 through 17-years of age.

1. The rules governing this division are the same rules that govern the Showcase Division with the following exceptions:
 - a. Lifts & aerials that have 1 partner’s torso rise above the other partner’s shoulders are not allowed.
 - b. All other partner weight support moves are optional.
 2. Age requirements:
 - a. If partners have competed previously but one partner is older than 17-years of age, that couple may petition the Organizer for an exception to the age restrictions rule. The intent of this rule is to allow youngsters who have formed a partnership and advanced their dancing together to continue to compete together in the Young Adult Division.
 - b. If one partner has reached the age of 14, and the other partner is under the age of 14, this couple must compete in the Young Adult Division.
 - c. Competitors must be between the ages of 14 and 17 by the Sunday of the event.
 3. Routines, choice of music and costumes must be in good taste and appropriate for this age group.
 4. Routines will be a minimum of 2-minutes and a maximum of 3-minutes in length.
 5. Competitors select their own music.
 6. Age appropriate Dance Costumes are required. See M-1 & 4. Dance Costumes are required and qualify for the Costume Award. Halloween costumes not allowed.
 7. Minimum number of entries is 5 couples. If less than 5, the Organizer can either allow competition or exhibition.
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YOUNG AMERICA DIVISION - \$4,000

SPONSORED BY: Russell Hausske and

Magnone Brothers Enterprises (shared sponsorship)

1st Place – 2,000 2nd Place – 1,000 3rd Place - \$500 4th Place - \$300 5th Place - \$200

This division is designed to feature young dancers age 6 through 13-years of age.

1. The rules governing this division are the same as the rules that govern the Showcase Division with the following exceptions:
 - a. Lifts & aerials that have 1 partner’s torso rise above the other partner’s shoulders are not allowed.
 - b. All other partner weight support moves are optional.
2. Competitors must have reached the age of 6-years old in order to compete. If one partner is 14-years of age or older, and the other partner is under the age of 14, this couple must compete in the Young Adult Division.

3. Competitors must be age appropriate by the Sunday of the event.
 4. Routines, choice of music and costumes must be in good taste and appropriate for this age group.
 5. Routines must be a minimum of 2-minutes and a maximum of 3-minutes in length.
 6. Competitors select their own music.
 7. Age appropriate Dance Costumes are required. See M-1 & 4. Dance Costumes are required and qualify for the Costume Award. Halloween costumes not allowed.
 8. Minimum number of entries is 5 couples. If less than 5, the Organizer can either allow competition or exhibition.
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JUNIOR STRICTLY SWING DIVISION - \$1,500 SPONSORED BY: The Phoenix Foundation

1st Place - \$700 2nd Place - \$350 3rd Place - \$200 4th Place - \$150 5th Place - \$100

This division is designed to highlight social Swing dancing skills with emphasis on lead/follow technique.

1. This division is for Competitors age 6 through 18-years of age with the following exception:
 - a. 18 -Year old Competitors registered to compete in the Classic, Showcase, Adult Strictly Swings are ineligible to compete in the Junior Strictly Swing Division.
 2. Recognizable Swing content, as described in the Statement of Swing, must be present throughout the performance.
 3. Semi-Finals will be danced in a group format. Finals danced in a Group Spotlight format.
 4. This is a “lead/follow” dance.
 5. Competitors must be age appropriate by the Sunday of the event.
 6. “In the air” partner weight support moves, such as Lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are not allowed.
 7. “On the ground” support moves (such as drops, slides, and splits) are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
 8. Short break-aways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed. 8 beat maximum.
 9. Music will be randomly selected by the Organizer. It will not be previewed in advance by the Competitors.
 10. Costumes are not allowed, but tasteful dance clothing is encouraged. No jeans allowed.
 11. The entry fees for this division are being sponsored by the Phoenix Foundation.
 12. Minimum number of entries is 7 couples.
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**ALL-STAR / ADVANCED JACK & JILL DIVISION - \$900 SPONSORED BY: Jim & Cathy Tigges
Betty Whyte (shared sponsorship)**

1st Place - \$450 2nd Place - \$200 3rd Place - \$100 4th Place - \$75 5th Place - \$75

This division is for randomly paired leaders/followers who will dance immediately after being paired.

1. This division is open to All-Star and Advanced Level Jack & Jill Competitors as recognized by the World Swing Dance Council. An Advanced / All Star Jack & Jill Competitors qualifies through the World Swing Dance Council point system. If you are under 18 and qualify as stated above, you are eligible to compete.
2. Recognizable Swing content, as described in the Statement of Swing, must be present throughout the performance.
3. Semi-Finals will be danced in a group format. Finals may be dance in a Group and/or Spotlight format.

4. This is a “lead/follow” dance.
 5. “In the air” partner weight support moves, such as Lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are not allowed.
 6. “on the ground” support moves (such as drops, slides, and spreads) are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
 7. Short break-aways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed. 8 beat maximum.
 8. Music will be randomly selected by the Organizer and will not be previewed in advance by the Competitors.
 9. Dance Costumes are not allowed, but dressy dance attire is encouraged. No jeans allowed.
 10. Minimum number of entries is 10 couples.
 11. This is a non-NASDE division.
 12. The first 40 “qualified” Advanced / All Star Jack & Jill entries received by the US Open entry deadline (October 1st) will be guaranteed acceptance into this Division.
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STRICTLY SWING CHALLENGE - \$2,000

1st Place Team- \$2,000 (\$200 to each dancer on the winning team)

Strictly partners enter the Swing Challenge Division by signing up to dance and represent one of four genres of Swing Dancing: West Coast Swing, Lindy, Carolina Shag, and Hand Dancing.

1. The top placing couples from each Division (Strictly West Coast Swing, Strictly Lindy, Strictly Shag, and Strictly Hand) will compete in a final round for the Overall Strictly Swing Challenge Championship.
 2. These Challenge Divisions are open to all levels of Swing Dancer – Open level - including Champions, Professionals, All Star, Advanced, Intermediate, Novice, and Beginners.
 3. NASDE Points will not be awarded.
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***STRICTLY SWING CHALLENGE – STRICTLY WEST COAST SWING DIVISION - \$1500**

1st Place - \$700 2nd Place - \$350 3rd Place - \$200 4th Place - \$150 5th Place - \$100

This division is designed to highlight social West Coast Swing dancing skills at a performance level with an emphasis on lead/follow technique. Final Rounds will feature brief spotlighted performances within a group format all present on the floor at once.

This division **requires a minimum of 7 entries by October 20th** or the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. If the division is cancelled, competitors may transfer to another strictly division.

1. Competitors must participate in the Strictly Swing Challenge Championship’s Final Round to be eligible for any Strictly Swing Challenge Prize Money. There are no exceptions to this rule.
2. Recognizable West Coast Swing content must be present throughout the performance.

3. This is a “lead/follow” dance.
 4. “In the air” and “on the ground” partner weight support moves are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
 5. Side-by-side patterns, and breaks in contact are allowed.
 6. Competitors must be 18-years of age or older on or before the Sunday of the event
 7. Music will be randomly selected by the Organizer. It will not be previewed in advanced by the Competitors.
 8. Dance Costumes are not allowed, but dressy dance attire is encouraged.
 9. Minimum number of entries is 7 couples. If less than 7, but more than 3, the Organizer has the option of allowing those entered to dance in the Swing Challenge to represent their genre, but would not receive Strictly West Coast Swing prize money.
 10. The first 40 Strictly Swing entries received by the US Open entry deadline will be guaranteed acceptance into this Strictly West Coast Swing Division.
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***STRICTLY SWING CHALLENGE – STRICTLY LINDY DIVISION - \$1500**

SPONSORED BY: Fritz & Jeannine Healey

1st Place - \$700 2nd Place - \$350 3rd Place - \$200 4th Place - \$150 5th Place - \$100

This division is Lindy, the grandfather of all types of Swing. This division is designed to feature swing dancing and companion dancers at the fast tempo. This Division is open to all levels of Lindy Swing Dancer – from Champions, Professional, All Star, Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice. Final Rounds will feature brief spotlighted performances with in a group format all present on the floor at once.

This division **requires a minimum of 7 entries by October 20th** or the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. If the division is cancelled, competitors may transfer to another strictly division.

1. Competitors must participate in the Strictly Swing Challenge Championship’s Final Round to be eligible for any Strictly Swing Challenge Prize Money. There are no exceptions to this rule.
 2. Recognizable Lindy Swing content must be present throughout the performance.
 3. This is a “lead/follow” dance.
 4. “In the air” and “on the ground” partner weight support moves are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
 5. Side-by-side patterns, and breaks in contact are allowed.
 6. Competitors must be 18-years of age or older on or before the Sunday of the event.
 7. Music will be randomly selected by the Organizer and will not be previewed in advance by the Competitors. Music will be Lindy type tempo.
 8. Dance Costumes are not allowed, but dressy dance attire is encouraged.
 9. Minimum number of entries is 7 couples. If less than 7, but more than 3, the Organizer has the option of allowing those entered to dance in the Swing Challenge to represent their genre, but would not receive Strictly Lindy prize money.
 10. The first 40 Strictly Swing entries received by the US Open entry deadline will be guaranteed acceptance into this Strictly Lindy Swing Division.
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***STRICTLY SWING CHALLENGE – STRICTLY SHAG DIVISION - \$1500**

1st Place - \$700 2nd Place - \$350 3rd Place - \$200 4th Place - \$150 5th Place - \$100

This division is the southern version of Swing referred to as Carolina Shag. Final Rounds will feature brief spotlighted performances with a group format all present on the floor at once.

This division **requires a minimum of 7 entries by October 20th** or the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. If the division is cancelled, competitors may transfer to another strictly division.

1. Competitors must participate in the Strictly Swing Challenge Championship's Final Round to be eligible for any Strictly Swing Challenge Prize Money. There are no exceptions to this rule.
2. Shag characteristics, rhythms, and patterns are required.
3. This is a "lead/follow" dance in the classic sense of Carolina Shag.
4. "In the air" and "on the ground" partner weight support moves are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
5. Side-by-side patterns, and breaks in contact are allowed.
6. Competitors must be 18-years of age or older on or before the Sunday of the event.
7. Music will be randomly selected by the Organizer and will not be previewed in advance by the Competitors.
8. Dance Costumes are not allowed, but dressy dance attire is encouraged.
9. Minimum number of entries is 7 couples. If less than 7, but more than 3, the Organizer has the option of allowing those entered to dance in the Swing Challenge to represent their genre, but would not receive Strictly Shag prize money.
10. The first 40 Strictly Shag entries received by the US Open entry deadline will be guaranteed acceptance into this Strictly Shag Division.

***STRICTLY SWING CHALLENGE – STRICTLY HAND DIVISION - \$1500**

1st Place - \$700 2nd Place - \$350 3rd Place - \$200 4th Place - \$150 5th Place - \$100

This division features a version of Swing originating from our nation's capital, known as DC Hand Dancing. Final Rounds will feature brief spotlighted performances within a group format all present on the floor at once.

This division **requires a minimum of 7 entries by October 20, 2010** or the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. If the division is cancelled, competitors may transfer to another strictly division.

1. Competitors must participate in the Strictly Swing Challenge Championship's Final Round to be eligible for any Strictly Swing Challenge Prize Money. There are no exceptions to this rule.
2. Shag characteristics, rhythms, and patterns are required.
3. This is a "lead/follow" dance in the classic sense of Hand Dance.
4. "In the air" and "on the ground" partner weight support moves are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
5. Side-by-side patterns, and breaks in contact are allowed.
6. Competitors must be age appropriate by the Sunday of the event.

7. Music will be randomly selected by the Organizer and will not be previewed in advance by the Competitors.
 8. Dance Costumes are not allowed, but dressy dance attire is encouraged.
 9. Minimum number of entries is 7 couples. If less than 7, but more than 3, the Organizer has the option of allowing those entered to dance in the Swing Challenge to represent their genre, but would not receive Strictly Hand prize money.
 10. The first 40 Strictly Hand entries received by the US Open entry deadline will be guaranteed acceptance into this Strictly Hand Division.
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SPECIAL SPONSORED DANCE COMPETITION

1. The following divisions are being offered through special sponsorship money.
 2. These competitions will be held in the secondary ballroom.
 3. They will not be videoed.
 4. The scoring and judging panel will be separate from the Organizer's main scoring and judging panel.
 5. Prize money and certificate will be awarded to the top three places. These divisions do not receive a US OPUS trophy.
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BALBOA - \$500

SPONSORED BY: Fritz & Jeannine Healey

1ST Place – \$250 2nd Place - \$150 3rd Place – 100

Although Balboa doesn't fit into our "Swing" definition, it is still very popular and danced in the Lindy dance community. Bal-swing or pure Balboa is permitted.

1. This is a Strictly Division. You pick your partner, we pick the music.
 2. It is open to all levels of dancers, age 16 or older.
 3. Competitors must be age appropriate by the Sunday of the event.
 4. Competition will be danced in heated format. It will be dance in a Final, unless it is felt a semi-final is necessary.
 5. Music will be between 205-230 bpm. Most likely will dance 2-3 songs.
 6. Dance Costumes are not allowed, but dressy dance attire is encouraged.
 7. Minimum number of entries is 7 couples.
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LINDY OPEN JACK & JIL - \$500

SPONSORED BY: Fritz & Jeannine Healey

1ST Place – \$250 2nd Place - \$150 3rd Place – 100

1. This is a Lindy only Jack & Jill.
2. Open to all levels of dancers, age 16 or older.
3. Dancers will rotate to partners randomly.
4. Competitors must be age appropriate by the Sunday of the event.
5. Competition will be danced in heated format. It will be dance in a Final, unless it is felt a semi-final is necessary.
6. Music will be Lindy style and tempos.
7. Dance Costumes are not allowed, but dressy dance attire is encouraged.
8. Minimum number of entries is 7 couples.

