

2011 US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide the best possible environment to showcase the highest level swing dance competitors from around the world, thus provide the most exciting entertainment our attendees.

GENERAL RULES & INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF SWING

This statement of Swing is to be used to identify the presence of swing in the Swing Divisions at the US Open Swing Dance Championships. Swing is an American Rhythm Dance based on a foundation of 6-beat and 8-beat patterns that incorporate a wide variety of rhythms built on 2-beat single, delayed, double, triple, and blank rhythm units. The 6-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, passes, underarm turns, push-breaks, open-to-closed, and closed-to-open position patterns. The 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 extension rhythm breaks may be incorporated to extend a pattern, to phrase the music, and/or to accent breaks.

The objective is to provide a competitive performance venue for the various unique styles of swing that have developed across the nation to include the Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing, to name a few. The US Open Swing Dance Championships divisions are open to a variety of Swing dances, except in Cabaret division.

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

A. 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.

B. 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, a Competition Director, a Chief Judge, a 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 Director, will clarify all competition –related questions during the event. Competitors are encouraged to address any issues they have through the Contestants Representative.
4. **Online Entry** – The Organizers will have the online entry process ready by August 1st. Competitors are encouraged to register as early as possible, but to be guaranteed entry; competitors need to register by October 1st. If registering after October 1st entry fees increase. The Organizers may or may not accept registrations after November 1st for a division.
5. **Cancelling a Division** – If a division does not have the required number of entries, the Organizer may choose to cancel that division. If a division is cancelled, the entry fees will be refunded. If a

division has at least three (3) entries and the Organizer decides to run the division with less than required number of entries, the Organizer has the right to adjust the prize money. Decisions will be made two weeks prior to the event. Competitors will be notified prior to the event about a cancelled division or a division with adjusted prize money.

6. **Schedule** – The Organizer will determine the date and time for each competition. A tentative schedule will be listed on the US Open’s website. The organizer reserves the right to change the schedule based on number of entries in a division and whether or not a semi-final is needed. A final schedule will be posted by November 15th.
7. **Competitors’ Meeting** – The Organizer will have a competitors’ meeting on Friday, with time to be listed on the website schedule. This meeting is mandatory for competitors and you should have at least one member present. This meeting is important as you will meet the staff, the sponsors; receive last minute instructions and/or changes. Competitors are responsible for the rules and other updates whether or not they have read them or not present at the competitors meeting. The meeting is also your opportunity to ask questions. Please make your travel arrangements to accommodate this meeting.

8. **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 more than \$600, you will be required to complete 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. If not picked up, the checks will be mailed once the form is submitted.

If 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. Registered competitors will receive advance notice if this should become necessary.

9. **Posting of Scores** – The results of the finalist will be posted after the Awards Ceremony on Sunday. They will remain posted for 1 hour in the Competitors’ Green Room. It is the responsibility of the competitor to attend this review, if they would like to see their scores. The Organizers are not obligated to review scores after this time period.

Adherence is required to the standard for receiving feedback that is stated in Section G-8, and the behavior standard in Section G-1.

10. **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.

C. DEFINITION OF PARTNERSHIPS & DIVISION RESTRICTIONS

1. Couple – A couple consists of one male leader and one female follower.
2. Division Restrictions –
 - 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, Teams, Jack & Jills, and/or one of the “Strictly” Divisions.
 - e. A Competitor may not dance in the same division twice, even with a different partner.
 - f. If competitor is 18 years of age and dancing in the adult divisions, they may not enter the Junior Strictly.

3. Age Restrictions – Please see section K. AGE REQUIREMENTS

D. 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** –All competitors ARE REQUIRED to purchase a FULL WEEKEND TICKET. Competitors can purchase an open seating/standing room only ticket at a reduced fee of \$120. You can purchase your discounted ticket at the time you register for competition or purchase later through the website under "TICKETS/Competitor Ticket". This ticket will be held in WILL CALL and can't be sold or transferred to someone other than another competitor. Competitor tickets will NOT be sold at the event. Please make sure to purchase before November 18th.
2. **ENTRY FEE** – The payment of the entry fee is required when the application is submitted. All competition registrations are now processed on-line through our website. Entries processed after **October 1st** will reflect increased entry 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 1st** to be guaranteed entry into a division. If entering after **October 1st**, entry fees increase and a division may be determined closed due to number of registered competitors. Competitors can start registering July 1st. To be officially registered, ALL of the following items must be submitted to the US Open by **October 1, 2010**:
 - A Complete Entry Form
 - A Photo (see E-3 -Program)
 - A bio (see E-4- Program)
 - Payment for Entry into the competition**(* Organizers may or may not accept registrations after November 1st.)**
5. Meet all the specific requirements outlined in these rules and each specific division rules.

E. 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 we ask you to please submit your picture and bio a timely manner.
2. Pictures and bios are required for routine divisions only. All other divisions will list names of competitors and city/state.
3. To be guaranteed in the program, you must register and submit picture and bio no later than October 10th. If registering after October 10th, the organizer is not obligated to include you in the program.
4. **Picture** - The routine divisions are asked to provide a picture for the program. Here are the suggested parameters for submission:
 - Please have ready when registering for competition.
 - The picture should be a **head shot** rather than a full body shot. We are interested in your faces. Full body shots end up being too small to be effective.
 - 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. Please do not submit silly shots, pictures of kids, and pets.
 - We would like your picture and bio to be submitted by **October 1st**, but absolutely no later than **October 10th**, otherwise just your name will be listed in the program if possible.
 - To ensure your picture is processed properly and gets to the graphic artist, you **MUST SUBMIT** your picture through the website. If you bypass our website procedure, it may not make it in the program. The website tracks who has submitted their picture and who hasn't. It will send out reminders to those who haven't. If you submit your picture outside of the website procedure, you will still receive notices that your picture is still outstanding.
5. **Bio** – The routine divisions are asked to provide a bio to go with your picture. Here are some guidelines for preparing your bio:
- You should have your bio prepared prior to registering for competition.
 - Please keep it within **50 words or less**.
 - 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?
 - You may not use the bio to promote a business.
 - The Organizer reserves the right to edit content, grammar, and spelling as needed.

F. CANCELLATIONS

1. Entry fees will be refunded to any competitor who withdraws from a competition before the **October 1st** deadline.
2. Any partnership changes will require a new application process and will be considered a new competition entry. The Organizer will delete the cancelled registration.
3. Entry fees will be refunded if a division is cancelled due to not enough entries.

G. 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 US Open staff, 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. If you have a question or a concern, please contact info@usopenswingdc.com prior to the event.
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 staff, the sponsors, and the 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 2:00 pm**, just prior to the Competitors' Meeting. This includes all Jack & Jill entries and Strictly Swing entries. Competitors who have not drawn for placement by 2:00 pm will be placed to the front of the dance order for that division. If you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the Competitor's Representative.
5. **Music Turn In** - If applicable, competitors will submit their music at the same time as the Dancer Order draw. The Organizer will have staff managing the process for music turn-in and drawing of dance order. Competitors should have a back up disk in case there are problems with the original one.
6. **Open Ceremony** – The US Open is proud to invite all competitors to participate in our Opening Ceremonies on Friday night. Competitors are to meet 30 minutes prior to the Opening Ceremonies, gather in the division you wish to walk in with (if entered in multiple divisions, pick one). Please dress nicely as this is being documented on video and through the LIVE broadcast.
7. **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.
8. **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 only during the US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS.
9. **Posting of Scores** – The results of the finalist will be posted after the Awards Ceremony on Sunday. They will remain posted for 1 hour in the Competitors' Green Room. It is the responsibility of the competitor to attend this review, if they would like to see their scores. The Organizers are not obligated to review scores after this time period. Adherence is required to the standard for receiving feedback that is stated in Section G-8, and the behavior standard in Section G-1.
10. **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.
11. **WRISTBANDS** – Competitors do not have to compete with their wristbands on. **DO NOT** throw them away or lose them. The wristband is your responsibility. After competing, bring your wristband to the registration desk for a replacement. If you lose it, you get to pay for a new one.

H. 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 a 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.

I. ERRORS, PENALTIES, AND VIOLATIONS

Judges will be scoring the performances according to section H-JUDGING CRITERIA, along with swing content in a division if it is required. The organizers have hired a referee to check if performances adhere to the rules for that division. The referee's job is to verify length of routine, costuming requirements, move requirements or move violations. If the referee questions a performance, it will be reviewed by a review panel. A decision will be made using the below.

1. Reviewed and passed.
2. **An Error** – An error is a minor and apparently unintentional breaking of the rules. It is a mistake. If the review panel agrees it is an error, no action will be taken.
3. **Penalty** – will be given in cases where the review panel feels the incident was more than an error, but not as serious as a violation. A drop in placement will be issued.
4. **A Violation** – A violation is a serious, and apparently intentional, breach of the rules. A violation shows disrespect towards the rules, a partner, the judges, other dancers, the Organizer, or the audience. The penalty for a violation may 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.

J. 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.

K. 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 exceptions below.

Adult Divisions include: Classic, Showcase, Strictly WCS, Strictly Lindy, Strictly Hand, Strictly Shag.

Age Sensitive Divisions: Sophisticated Swing, Masters, Young America, Young Adult, Junior Strictly. Age requirements are discussed under that division's rules.

Age Exception Divisions:

- Cabaret – age 15 and older can dance solo or with someone 15 and older, age 14 and under must dance with someone 18 and older.
- Lindy Showcase - age 15 and older can dance.
- Teams – Team members must be at least 6 years of age or older.
- 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.

Proof of age may be required.

L. PETITIONS TO DANCE

1. Regarding the Young Adult division and its age limitation, it is not the intention of the US Open to break up partnerships when one partner has aged out. We have an online process for those who have established their partnerships prior to the US Open to petition the Board of Directors for approval to dance as partners in this division even if one partner is older than 18.
2. The petition can be completed through our website.
3. The Board of Directors reviews each petition and based off previous decisions and the intent of this division, the BOD will either approve or deny the petition.
4. If 20- years of age or older, you may not petition to dance in the Young Adult divisions.

M. PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

1. **Costumes** - Performance attire is required for all routine divisions, including: Showcase, Classic, Sophisticated Swing, Masters, Cabaret, Young Adult, Young America, and Teams.
2. Please "Dress to Impress – Perform to Win". Clothing and costumes should be in good taste, suitable for dancing, and flattering in all divisions. Halloween style costumes are not allowed.
3. Vintage clothing is considered a costume, especially in Lindy divisions.
4. Performance attire is NOT allowed in the Strictly Divisions and Jack & Jill, but dressy dance clothing is encouraged.
5. Dance clothing that is all black is undesirable especially for videoing and photos.
6. Jeans are not allowed unless it connects to the music. If jeans are worn as costumes, it will be reviewed by the review panel and will need approval to be accepted as a costume.
7. Sloppiness is not appropriate.
8. **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 at least two weeks prior to the event. Props are anything that is added to the routine or switched from one partner to another and is used to help tell a story.
2. If you aren't sure if something you are using or doing is would be considered a prop contact Tyoni Martin at tyonim@globaldance.tv .
3. The use of unapproved Props will result in a penalty and drop in placement.
4. Hats, jackets, capes, sunglasses, 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. Doing so will result in a penalty and drop in placement.

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. Music on Tapes, MP3 or other file based media will not 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. To turn in your music, please line up in the "Competitors Hallway" near the Competitors' Green Room. Staff will be 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 whether or not there is music. A five-second buffer will be allowed to accommodate differences in music equipment. Not adhering to time limit requirements will 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

DIVISIONS AND RULES

**ROUTINE DIVISIONS ARE CONSIDERED AN "OPUS" DIVISION AND WILL RECEIVE
THE "OPUS" TROPHY FOR 1ST PLACE**

CLASSIC DIVISION - \$6,000 prize pool – "OPUS" DIVISION

Swing dancing that allows choreography with an "on the ground" approach to the dance. 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. NASDE rules apply. If any Event rule conflicts with published NASDE rules, the NASDE rules take precedence with the exception of costumes.

1. This division is open to all styles of Swing dancing that complies with our definition.
2. Contestants must be 18 years or older by Sunday of the event to participate.
3. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
4. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.

5. Competitors select their own music.
6. Dance Costumes are required (Halloween style costumes are not considered appropriate)
7. Guidelines for expected swing content are: 80% in Classic. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
8. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
9. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music.
10. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
11. Break-away in Classic Division to be no more than 8 beats.
12. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
13. At most five partner weight support moves are permitted.
14. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
15. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.

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

SHOWCASE DIVISION - \$6,000 prize pool - "OPUS" DIVISION

Swing dancing that allows choreography with flair toward lifts, aerials, acrobatics, and other partner weight support moves. NASDE rules apply. If any Event rule conflicts with published NASDE rules, the NASDE rules take precedence with the exception of costumes.

1. This division is open to all styles of Swing dancing that complies with our definition.
2. Contestants must be 18 years or older by Sunday of the event to participate.
3. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
4. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
5. Competitors select their own music.
6. Dance Costumes are required (Halloween style costumes are not considered appropriate)
7. Guidelines for expected swing content are: 60% in Showcase. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
8. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
9. Separate entrances are permitted.
10. Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted.
11. At least three partner weight support moves are required with the partner at knee level or above.
12. At least one partner weight support move is required with the partner above the waist.
13. There are no lift maximums.
14. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.

15. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.

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

LINDY SHOWCASE - \$4,000 prize pool – “OPUS” DIVISION

SPONSORED BY: FRITZ & JEANINE HEALEY

This division is a traditional Swing Division, which can include Lindy Hop, East Coast Swing, Hollywood Swing, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Rock-n-Roll.

1. Contestants must be 15 years or older by Sunday of the event to participate.
2. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower
3. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
4. Competitors select their own music.
5. Choreographed routines are required.
6. Dance Costumes are required. Vintage clothing is acceptable and considered to be costumes. (Halloween style costumes are not considered appropriate)
7. This division should have at least 50% of traditional “Lindy” style Swing.
8. “In the air” partner weight support moves, such as Lifts, Aerials, and Acrobatic moves are allowed as long as they are socially acceptable for Lindy style and safe. There isn’t a minimum or maximum number of lifts.
9. Moves such as drops, slides, and spreads are allowed, but not required.
10. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
11. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
12. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.

CABARET DIVISION - \$4,500 prize pool – “OPUS” DIVISION

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, approved props. A “Cabaret Element is something that draws the audience into the story of the music and the performers.

- c. If using a prop, it must be approved prior to the event.
 - d. A dance performance, such as Jazz Dancing, Salsa, Hustle, Hip-Hop, Foxtrot, etc..... without a Cabaret element, is not appropriate for this division.
2. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, break-a ways, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are allowed.
 3. Age Requirements: Competitors who are 15 and older can dance solo or with someone 15 and older. An entry may consist of a solo performer, couple, or multiple performers. Organizer reserves the right to limit the number of solo performers.
 4. Performance time is a minimum of 3 minutes and maximum of 4 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
 5. Competitors select their own music.
 6. Dance Costumes are required.
 7. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
 8. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.
 9. The first 15 entries received by the US Open entry deadline (October 1,) will be guaranteed acceptance into the Cabaret Division.

TEAM DIVISION - \$5,000 prize pool - "OPUS" DIVISION

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 is a Swing division that can include but is not limited to Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing
2. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, break-a ways, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are all allowed, but not required.
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. Performance time is a minimum of 3 minutes and maximum of 4 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
6. Formation Teams select their own music.
7. Dance Costumes are required.
8. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
9. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.
10. The first 10 Team entries received by the US Open entry deadline (October 1,) will be guaranteed acceptance into the Formation Team Division.

SOPHISTICATED SWING DIVISION (35+) - \$2,800 prize pool – “OPUS” DIVISION

This division is characterized by social Swing dancing at a performance level. It can include, but is not limited to Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing.

1. This division is open to all styles of Swing dancing that complies with our definition.
2. The rules governing the Sophisticated Swing Division are the same rules that govern the Showcase Division except both competitors must be 35 years of age or older, on or before the Sunday of the event.
3. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
4. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
5. A competitor may dance in both Sophisticated Swing and Masters, if age requirements are met, but with a different partner.
6. Competitors select their own music.
7. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
8. Choreographed routines are NOT required, but encouraged.
9. Partner weight support moves, such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are allowed, but not required.
10. Dance Costumes are required.
11. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
12. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.

MASTERS DIVISION (50+) - \$2,800 prize pool – “OPUS” DIVISION

This division is characterized by social Swing dancing at a performance level. It can include, but is not limited to Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing.

1. This division is open to all styles of Swing dancing that complies with our definition.
2. The rules governing the Master Division are the same rules that govern the Showcase Division except both competitors must be 50 years of age or older, on or before the Sunday of the event.
3. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
4. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
5. A competitor may dance in both Sophisticated Swing and Masters, if age requirements are met, but with a different partner.
6. Competitors select their own music.
7. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
8. Choreographed routines are NOT required, but encouraged.
9. Partner weight support moves, such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are allowed, but not required.

10. Dance Costumes are required.
11. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
12. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event

THIS DIVISION IS PART OF THE MASTER TOUR AND POINTS WILL BE AWARDED

YOUNG ADULT DIVISION - \$2,500 prize pool – “OPUS” DIVISION
SPONSORED BY: JIM & DALE HERN

This division is characterized by social Swing dancing at a performance level. It can include, but is not limited to Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing.

1. The rules governing the Young Adult are the same rules that govern the Showcase Division except:
 - 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. This division is for Competitors age 14- through 17- years of age. Competitors must meet the age requirements on or before the Sunday of the event.
 - b. If partners have competed previously but one partner is older than 17- years of age, but not 20-years of age or older, 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.
 - c. Petitions can be submitted through our website. The US Open Board of Directors review and either approve or disapprove the petition.
 - d. 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 Yung Adult Division.
3. This division is open to all styles of Swing dancing that complies with our definition.
4. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
5. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
6. Competitors select their own music.
7. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
8. Choreographed routines are required.
9. Routines, choice of music and costumes must be in good taste and appropriate for this age group. A breach of this rule may be considered as a penalty or a violation. Please section J
10. A guideline for expected Swing content is 60% (as in Showcase).
11. Costumes are required and must be in good taste and age appropriate for this age group. A breach of this rule may be considered as a penalty or a violation. Please see section I.
12. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
13. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.

THIS DIVISION IS PART OF THE YASDA TOUR AND POINTS WILL BE AWARDED

YOUNG AMERICA DIVISION - \$2,000 prize pool - "OPUS" DIVISION
SPONSORED BY: (STANLEY & ALLEN) MAGNONE BROTHERS ENTERPRISES

This division is characterized by social Swing dancing at a performance level. It can include, but is not limited to Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing.

1. The rules governing the Young America are the same rules that govern the Showcase Division except:
 - 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.
3. Age requirements:
 - a. This division is for Competitors age 6- through 13- years of age. Competitors must meet the age requirements on or before the Sunday of the event.
 - 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 Yung Adult Division.
4. This division is open to all styles of Swing dancing that complies with our definition.
5. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
6. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
7. Competitors select their own music.
8. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
9. Choreographed routines are required.
10. Routines, choice of music and costumes must be in good taste and appropriate for this age group. A breach of this rule may be considered as a penalty or a violation. Please section J
11. A guideline for expected Swing content is 60% (as in Showcase).
12. Lifts & aerials that have 1 partner's torso rise above the other partner's shoulders are NOT allowed. All other partner weight support moves are optional.
13. Costumes are required and must be in good taste and age appropriate for this age group. A breach of this rule may be considered as a penalty or a violation. Please see section I.
14. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
15. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted. Two or less the division will be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The event Organizers will make this determination prior to event.

JACK & JILL AND STRICTLYS ARE NON-OPUS DIVISIONS

ALL-STAR /ADVANCED JACK & JILL DIVISIONS - \$1,000 PRIZE POOL
SPONSORED BY: BETTY WHYTE AND JIM & CATHY TIGGES

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

1. This is a West Coast Swing Division
2. 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 qualify through the World Swing Dance Council point system. If you are under 18 and qualify as stated above, you are eligible to compete.
3. Recognizable West Coast Swing content must be present throughout the performance.
4. This is a "lead/follow" dance.
5. Semi-Finals will be danced in a group format. Finals may be dance in a Group and/or Spotlight format.
6. "In the air" partner weight support moves, such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are not allowed.
7. 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.
8. Short break-a ways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed, but must reconnect after 8 beats.
9. Music will be randomly selected by the Organizer and will not be previewed in advance by the Competitors.
10. Dance Costumes are NOT allowed, but dressy dance attire is encouraged. Jeans are NOT allowed.
11. Minimum of 10 couples is required to run this division.
12. This is a non-NASDE division.
13. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
14. 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.

JUNIOR STRICTLY SWING DIVISION - \$1,000 prize pool

SPONSORED BY: *SwingDanceSport* – LOU SZED

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.

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. Partner weight support moves, such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
 7. 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-a ways (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 for this age group is encouraged. No jeans allowed. Disrespecting this rule may result in a Penalty or Violation. Please see section I.
 11. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
 12. Minimum number of entries is 7 couples.
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STRICTLY WEST COAST SWING DIVISION - \$1,100 prize pool

SPONSORED BY: TONY SWAN

This division is designed to highlight social West Coast Swing dancing skills at a performance level with an emphasis on lead/follow technique. It is open to all levels. 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. Recognizable West Coast Swing content must be present throughout the performance.
2. This is a "lead/follow" dance.
3. Pre-choreographed routines are NOT allowed.
4. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
5. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
6. Partner weight support moves, such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
7. Competitors must be 18-years of age or older on or before the Sunday of the event
8. Music will be randomly selected by the Organizer. It will not be previewed in advanced by the Competitors.
9. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable.
10. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
11. The first 40 Strictly Swing entries received by the US Open entry deadline will be guaranteed acceptance into this Strictly West Coast Swing Division.

STRICTLY LINDY DIVISION - \$1,100 prize pool

SPONSORED BY: FRITZ & JEANINE HEALEY

This division is Lindy, the grandfather of all types of Swing. This division should highlight social dancing skills at a performance level with an emphasis on lead/follow technique. This division is designed to feature swing dancing and companion dancers at the fast tempo. This Division is open to all levels. 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. Recognizable Lindy Swing content must be present throughout the performance.
 2. This is a "lead/follow" dance.
 3. Pre-choreographed routines are NOT allowed.
 4. Partner weight support moves, such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves characteristic of Lindy are allowed, but not required, to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
 5. Support moves, such as drops, slides, and splits are allowed (but not required).
 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. Music will be Lindy type tempo.
 8. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching, Vintage, or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable.
 9. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
 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 SHAG DIVISION - \$1,100 prize pool

This division is the southern version of Swing referred to as Carolina Shag. This division is designed to highlight social Carolina Shag dancing skills at a performance level with an emphasis on lead/follow technique. It is open to all levels. 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. Shag characteristics, rhythms, and patterns are required.
2. This is a "lead/follow" dance in the classic sense of Carolina Shag.
3. Pre-choreographed routines are NOT allowed.
4. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
5. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
6. Partner weight support moves, such as lifts, aerals, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
7. Competitors must be 18-years of age or older on or before the Sunday of the event
8. Music will be randomly selected by the Organizer. It will not be previewed in advanced by the Competitors.
9. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable.
10. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
11. The first 40 Strictly Swing entries received by the US Open entry deadline will be guaranteed acceptance into this Strictly West Coast Swing Division.

STRICTLY HAND DIVISION - \$1,100 prize pool

This division features a version of Swing originating from our nation's capital, known as DC Hand Dancing. This division is designed to highlight social DC Hand Dancing skills at a performance level with an emphasis on lead/follow technique. It is open to all levels. 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. DC Hand dance characteristics, rhythms, and patterns are required.
2. This is a "lead/follow" dance in the classic sense of Hand Dance.
3. Pre-choreographed routines are NOT allowed.
4. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
5. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
6. Partner weight support moves, such as lifts, aerals, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
7. Competitors must be 18-years of age or older on or before the Sunday of the event
8. Music will be randomly selected by the Organizer. It will not be previewed in advanced by the Competitors.
9. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable.
10. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
11. The first 40 Strictly Swing entries received by the US Open entry deadline will be guaranteed acceptance into this Strictly West Coast Swing Division.

SPECIAL SPONSORED DANCE COMPETITION

1. The following divisions are being offered through special sponsorship money.
 2. Prize money will be awarded to the top three places.
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BALBOA STRICTLY - \$700 prize pool
SPONSORED BY: FRITZ & JEANINE HEALEY

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 15 or older.
3. Competitors must be age appropriate by the Sunday of the event.
4. Competition will be danced as a final in a jam format, unless a semi is required. The semi will be danced in a heated format.
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 or vintage clothing is encouraged.
7. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
8. Minimum number of entries is 7 couples.
9. Prize money paid to 3rd place.

ENTRY FEE ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1ST = \$25

AFTER OCTOBER 1ST = \$35

LINDY OPEN JACK & JILL - \$700 prize pool
SPONSORED BY: FRITZ & JEANINE HEALEY

1. This is a Lindy style Jack & Jill.
2. The emphasis is on lead/follow.
3. Partner weight support moves, such as lifts, aeriels, and acrobatic moves characteristic of Lindy are allowed, but not required, to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
4. Dancers will rotate partners randomly.
5. Open to all levels of dancers, age 15 or older.
6. Competitors must be age appropriate by the Sunday of the event.
7. Competition will be danced as a final in a jam format, unless a semi is required. The semi will be danced in a heated format.
8. Music will be Lindy style and tempos.
9. Dance Costumes are not allowed, but dressy dance attire is encouraged.
10. Competitors must have a weekend ticket to compete.
11. Minimum number of entries is 7 couples.
12. Prize money paid to 3rd place.

ENTRY FEE ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1ST = \$25

AFTER OCTOBER 1ST = \$35
