



2025 WEST COAST SWING POLICIES

REFUND POLICY

- A. **Event Registration.** Tickets are non-refundable. Attendance cancellation requests must be submitted by email to info@calgarydancestampede.com.
- B. **Competition Registration.** Competition registrations are transferable to another person yet are non-refundable unless the competitor wishes to withdraw due to two division levels being combined as one.

COMPETITION ORGANIZER

CALGARY DANCE STAMPEDE (CDS) is the name of the event (“Event”) and is the entity organizing the Event (“Organizer”). The Event shall follow the current published rules and guidelines of WSDC, available at WSDC.COM. The final decision on any matter pertaining to these competitions rests solely with the Organizer.

COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

- A. **General Eligibility.** Each competition is open to all competitors in good standing who:
- i) Hold a 3-DAY Weekend Pass.
 - ii) Register by the official entry deadline(s).
 - iii) Pay the required entry fee(s); and complete and sign the appropriate entry forms and waivers. No one may compete without a signed waiver.
 - iv) Desire to compete at this event without age restrictions except for Age specific divisions, and
 - v) Meet the specific requirements outlined in WSDC and these Rules and Policies (“Rules”).
- B. **Multiple Registrations.** Each eligible competitor may enter:
- i) One ProAm Strictly Swing, and one ProAm Routine; One CDS Rising Star Routine division; one Jack n’ Jill WSDC point leveled division as a follower and one as a leader at a different level; one Strictly Swing division. A competitor may enter the CDS Rising Star if they do not qualify as a Champion competitor and have not placed top 3 in competitions in Classic, Showcase, or any equivalent categories. Any contestant entering multiple divisions of CDS Rising Star and Strictly Swing must compete with a different partner in each event.
 - ii) Competitors entering age-specific competitions must meet the age requirements before the end of the event weekend, and

- iii) Competitors who do not have any Novice points should compete in the Newcomers Jack n' Jill division and any competitors with one or more Novice Points must compete in the Novice division unless competing one level down in their non-primary role.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETITORS

- A. **Event Schedule.** The Organizer will post the time and location for all competitions. Should any significant schedule or format changes be required, these changes will be announced and posted. Non-WSDC Jack n' Jill Competitions will be run with a minimum of 3 couples. The Organizer may cancel or combine any competitions for which insufficient entries are received. If a competition is canceled, the Organizer will refund any collected entry fees. Competitors are responsible for checking for schedule changes before and at event time.
- B. **Ready to Compete.** Competitors are responsible for their Bib Numbers and may be charged a replacement fee of \$10.00 if lost or damaged. Any change in a partnership may require an additional entry fee as well as a new application form and waiver. Any cancellation by a competitor may result in a loss of entry fee, subject to Section 1, paragraph B. Competitors must be at the staging area at the designated time stated in the competitor meetings or announced by the Emcee.
- C. **Rules. The Rules: (i) include WSDC published rules and CDS rules for non-Jack n' Jill WCS competitions (collectively, the "Rules"), and (ii) will be strictly enforced as applicable per division.** Competitors are responsible for reading and complying with the rules and should address any questions concerning the rules in advance to the organizer or Chief Judge. The organizer delegates to the Chief Judge authority to resolve all requests for reclassification and will clarify any competition-related questions.
- D. **Common Requirements.** If a majority of judges determine that any individual or couple has failed to meet one or more of the following requirements, a violation penalty will be applied:
 - i) **Appropriate Behavior.** Any action that the judges believe would make them uncomfortable in a social dance setting such as showing disrespect toward one's partner, other dancers, or the Event is prohibited. Good sporting conduct must be demonstrated by all competitors throughout the event, both on and off the competition floor.
 - ii) **Swing Content.** Minimum swing content as defined below is required in all divisions. Recognizable swing patterns are required in all competitions.

CONTEST MISCLASSIFICATION

- A. **Misclassification by Competitors.** If any individuals or couples classify themselves incorrectly and the Organizer discovers the error before the start of the competition, the competitors will be given the option to reclassify themselves or withdraw. If the error is discovered after the preliminaries but before the finals, they will be disqualified. If the error is discovered after the finals, they will be disqualified and barred from any subsequent competitions during the Event and their placement will be awarded to the next individual or couple in line for placement.
- B. **Misclassification by the Organizer or Chief Judge.** If the Organizer or Chief Judge classifies an individual competitor or couple incorrectly, no penalty will be applied.

WCS JACK n' JILL DIVISIONS

- A. Jack n' Jill competitions randomly have paired Leaders and Followers as partners in preliminary and semi-final rounds, with partner rotations occurring a minimum of three times for each round. Leader and Follower competitors are paired in Finals without further rotation of partners.
- B. CALGARY DANCE STAMPEDE is a fully Recognised WSDC event for 2025 that will follow the WSDC Rules and Guidelines. **WSDC POINTS are awarded.**
- C. CDS uses WSDC Competition Registry to classify competitors in their respective dance level. Those who have not yet earned WSDC points to receive a WSDC ID number will be recorded as Newcomers.
- D. Event Rules follow the most current [WSDC published rules and recommendations](#). **Competitors may enter as a Lead or Follow, regardless of gender.** Competitors may compete at one level down if switching primary WSDC pointed role.
- E. Dancers will be judged individually in the preliminary competitions and as a couple in the final competition in occurrence with CDS' judging criteria.
- F. As per WSDC rules, there must be sufficient competitors registered in each category for preliminary and finals to be held. CDS may be required to combine two levels to reach the minimum number of leader and follower competitors to run a division level as permitted by WSDC. The following Jack n' Jill division levels are offered:
 - i) **Newcomer:** Competitors new to WCS and have not earned any Novice points.
 - ii) **Novice: (< 30 Novice points):** Competitors shall have earned less than 16 Novice WCS points and may continue to compete in this division until they have 30 Novice points.
 - iii) **Intermediate: (< 45 Intermediate points):** Competitors shall have earned 16 or more Novice points and may continue to compete in this division until they have 45 Intermediate points;

- iv) **Advanced: (< 60 Advanced points in past 3 years):** Competitors shall have earned 30 or more Intermediate points and may continue to compete in this division until they have 60 Advanced points in the past 3 years, and
- v) **Masters:** this competition is for competitors at least 50+ years of age by the end of the event,
- vi) **Sophisticated:** this competition is for competitors at least 35+ years of age by the end of the event,

STRICTLY SWING DIVISIONS

- A. Strictly Swing competitions have Leaders and Followers preselect their partnerships, regardless of gender. During prelims, semi-finals, and finals there are no partner rotations.
- B. CDS uses the WSDC Competition Registry to classify competitors at their respective division levels. There must be a minimum of three couples registered in each category for preliminary and finals to be held. Dancers are judged as a couple.
- C. **Eligibility:** Each competitor is eligible to enter one point leveled Strictly Swing division.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITORS

- A. **Lead and follow.** All Jack n' Jill and Strictly Swing dancing must be "lead/follow." Routines and prearranged patterns are prohibited.
- B. **Swing content.** There must be a minimum of 80% recognizable swing content (it is the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met).
- C. **Non-Swing content.** Lifts, aerials, gymnastic maneuvers, and formal entrances and exits are not permitted. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways of less than nine (9) musical beats, and recoveries. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves. The leader must keep the follower's head at or above knee level during drops, dips, and slides.
- D. **Attire.** Costumes are not allowed in Jack n' Jill and Strictly Swing competitions. Coordinating attire is permissible in Strictly Swing and appropriate attire is required for both.
- E. **Age Requirement.** WCS Competitors must be a minimum of Sixteen (16) years of age by the end of the Event weekend.

F. Division levels: Newcomer/Novice, Intermediate/Advanced, Sophisticated

Divisions: Couples must compete in Newcomer/Novice or Intermediate/Advanced according to their WSDC Jack n' Jill qualifications AND compete in the division of the highest skilled partner. That is if one partner competes in Novice Jack n' Jill and the other competes in Intermediate Jack n' Jill, the couple will compete in the Intermediate/Advanced Strictly Swing division. No WSDC points are awarded for this division.

PROAM STRICTLY SWING DIVISION

- A. The ProAm division is a degendered competition for WCS competitors.
- B. For these divisions:
 - a. An amateur is defined as anyone who does not teach dancing on a regular, ongoing basis or earn a significant amount of income teaching or performing.
 - b. A professional is defined as someone who earns a significant amount of income teaching or performing dance. Anyone who has previously competed in open or professional level competition must be considered a Pro for this purpose.
- C. Only the amateur is evaluated and ranked against other amateurs in the same role as Leader or Follower at the same Division level. The following rules apply:
 - i) there must be a minimum of 80% recognizable swing content.
 - ii) no lifts, drops/dips below the leader's knees, or aerials are allowed.
 - iii) the dancing is to be "lead/follow." Routines and prearranged patterns are prohibited, and
 - iv) costumes are not allowed; coordinating attire is permissible and appropriate attire is required.

ROUTINE DIVISIONS

- A. All routine divisions are degendered. There is no limit on the maximum number of entries. Costumes are allowed and encouraged. Competitors must supply their own music to the Head DeeJay prior to competition day. The following rules apply:
 - i) performance time is a minimum of two (2) minutes to a maximum of three (3) minutes with the clock beginning when the music starts as acknowledged by the Chief Judge.
 - ii) Competitors may **not** dance with the same partner in more than one routine.
 - iii) there must be a minimum of 70% recognizable swing content.
 - iv) the order of dance order is randomly selected and posted prior to the start time, and

- v) all styles of Swing may be performed during the performance such as West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Hustle, Shag, Hand Dance, or any other popular swing dance style, and
- vi) the number of entries is limited to the first ten (10) received for each division.

- B. **Rising Star Competition.** All contestants may dance at this level EXCEPT those who qualify as Champion dancers; those having 150 or more All-Star points. Competitors must not have placed top three (3) in Classic, Showcase, or any equivalent categories.
- C. **ProAm Routine.** The ProAm division is for WCS competitors with **less than 45 Intermediate** points and who earn **less than 40% of their income** through dance-related employment. Judges evaluate both the Pro and the Amateur.

JUDGING CRITERIA APPLIED TO COMPETITORS

- A. **Timing.** Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Timing extends to much finer distinctions than a single beat. It includes whether a competitor is fractionally ahead or behind during a weight change as well as matching the syncopated "swing" of the music.
- B. **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 others indicates poor teamwork.
- C. **Technique.** How well the competitors execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. This includes, but is not limited to, control of balance and weight, foot placement, bodyline, and articulation.
- D. **Choreography.** The selection and order of movements and transitions executed during a dance comprise choreography. Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and its phrasing as well as variety and contrast.
- E. **Musical Interpretation.** How the dancer adjusts the flow of the dance to fit the tempo, mood, and rhythm variations in the music. The musical connection the dancer conveys to the judges while listening to the music.
- F. **Presentation.** Creating an atmosphere of excitement by inviting and generating interest in performance is the desired effect of a good presentation. While providing a good show is one aspect of the presentation, it cannot substitute for good dancing.

- G. **Penalties.** Breach of these Rules shall result in penalties being assessed by the judges corresponding to the level of severity of the breach. Unless defined specifically elsewhere in these Rules, these levels and associated penalties are as follows:
- i) **Error.** An error is an apparently unintentional breach of these Rules. Each error shall be penalized at the discretion of the judge observing the error. Examples of errors might include unintended loss of contact between partners or loss of balance;
 - ii) **Violation.** A violation is a serious and apparently intentional breach of these Rules. Each violation may be penalized by a drop of one (1) or more positions in the final placement, or disqualification. A violation will be assigned when either a majority of judges or a minority of judges AND the Chief Judge concur that a violation has occurred. The amount of drop in placement will be determined by the Chief Judge and will be based on the magnitude of the violation. Examples of violations might include a lift in a Jack & Jill, a routine in Strictly Swing, or a maneuver that endangers another competitor. All decisions of the judges are final and may not be appealed. The Organizer will not intervene in any judging decisions.
- H. **Restarts.** Restarts will only be permitted in the case of music system failure or another significant failure such as a shoe or costume failure. Restarts will not be permitted for the reasons of contestant dissatisfaction with their performance, music or partner drawn, or duration of the routine. A restart must be requested by the contestants prior to their departure from the competition floor and must be approved by the Chief Judge.

DEFINITIONS

- A. **Aerial.** An aerial is a move where the dancer revolves around his or her lateral axis (i.e. flip) or his or her sagittal axis (i.e. cartwheel). Aerials are prohibited in all competitions except Showcase and Rising Star.
- B. **Breakaway.** A breakaway is a set of symmetric or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple intentionally breaking contact (except for spins and turns). Breakaways phrased properly to the music are allowed in all competitions, subject to limitations.
- C. **Costume.** An attire specifically designed for competition and would not generally be worn for social dancing is considered a costume. Costumes are prohibited in all non-routine competitions. Wearing matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing is encouraged in Strictly Swing.

- D. **Entrance.** An entrance is the initial, pre-choreographed segment of a performance, during which the competitors formally enter the competition floor and prepare to dance. Acknowledging one's partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an entrance. Formal entrances are prohibited in all non-routine competitions.
- E. **Exit.** An exit is the final, pre-choreographed segment of a performance, during which the competitors formally leave the competition floor. Acknowledging one's partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered part of an exit. Formal exits are prohibited in all non-routine competitions.
- F. **Gymnastic Maneuver.** A gymnastic maneuver is any maneuver that illustrates a gymnastic or acrobatic ability that is not part of a recognizable swing pattern. Examples of gymnastic maneuvers might include backflips or cartwheels. Gymnastic maneuvers are prohibited in all competitions except Showcase and Rising Star.
- G. **Lift.** A lift is a move where the dancer is not in contact with the floor and the dancer's weight is supported by the other partner. Lifts are prohibited in all competitions except Showcase and Rising Star.
- H. **Swing Styles.** Swing, Carolina Shag, East Coast Swing, Jitterbug, Lindy, Lindy Hop, Push, West Coast Swing, and Whip are recognized as styles of swing. The Organizer will consider additional styles for recognition prior to a competition's registration deadline.
- I. **Relative Placement.** This is a scoring system that assigns an equal numerical value to each judge's raw scores so that each judge has an equal vote in the final outcome. Relative Placement is now widely accepted at major swing dance events.
- J. **Routine.** Any segment that, in the opinion of the judges, consists of prearranged choreography (to include symmetric or complementary movements or footwork) that does not reflect the music is considered a routine. Routines are prohibited in all competitions except Rising Star and ProAm Routines.
- K. **Side-By-Side.** A side-by-side is a set of symmetric or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple that is not a clearly leadable derivative of a recognizable swing pattern. Side-by-side segments are often executed with the partners next to each other, both facing the judges, but segments executed in other positions (e.g., back-to-back, open position, closed position) that meet the above description are defined as side-by-sides for the purposes of these Rules. Side-by-sides phrased properly to the music are allowed in all competitions.
- L. **Swing Content.** Recognizable swing patterns are required in all competitions. A minimum swing content of 80% is required in all Jack n' Jill and Strictly Swing divisions. A minimum swing content of 70% is required in the Classic division. A minimum swing content of 60% is required in the Showcase division.