

The **LoneStar Invitational** is proud to announce its membership in the **World Swing Dance Council**. The **WSDC** was established in 1993 with a goal of "fostering communication between geographical locations and all generations for all types and all styles of swing".

The **LoneStar Invitational** conducts its Jack & Jill competitions under **WSDC** guidelines, and as a **WSDC** Registry Event, earned points will be recorded in the Points Registry. Be sure to visit the link regularly to check your points at <http://www.worldsdc.com/>. Other items of note on the **WSDC** web page are the Competitors Registry, National Events Registry, and the Education Library.

### ***GENERAL "SWING" COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS***

- Contestants may compete in any Jack & Jill division they qualify for based on **WSDC** points (i.e., Masters *and/or*, Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate *or* Advanced). To clarify a person may dance in both Masters and one open contest.
- Contestants must attend all required meetings on time (be present for roll call) unless excused by the Contest Coordinator
- There must be 5 couples in a division for the competition to be held
- LoneStar Invitational reserves the right to eliminate or combine competitions if there are fewer than five couples entered in one division. LoneStar Invitational reserves the right to reclassify any contestant for any reason, and to adjust any rules as needed as long as competitors are notified prior to competition.
- LoneStar J&J is a gender-neutral contest.
- Dancing must consist of at least 90% recognizable swing patterns (as determined by judges) Points are awarded in accordance with **WSDC** guidelines.

### **Entry Form Waiver**

An entry form waiver must be signed by each contestant and submitted along with the required fee by the official entry deadline. Failure to do so will preclude participation in the event. The registration fee will not be refunded if a contestant misses a meeting and is thus not able to compete. Contestants under 18 years of age must also submit a signed parental waiver.

### **Duplicate Entries**

No individuals or couples will be allowed to enter more than once in any division; however, if there are an uneven number of men or women in a Jack & Jill competition, the appropriate number of competitors will be randomly selected to dance twice in order for everyone to have a partner.

## LoneStar Invitational Jack & Jill Division Guidelines

1. There is no limit to the number of entries in any division. The Competitors will sign up at the designated area outside of the main Ballroom Saturday afternoon.
2. Competitors will dance West Coast Swing, Push or Whip as leaders and followers in all heats. If necessary, there will be quarter and semifinal heats. If quarter and semi finals are required, each dancer will rotate among the partners and will be judged as individuals.
3. Depending upon WSDC tier suggestions, natural breaks in preliminary/semi-final selection, and/or expediency, from 5 to 15 leaders and followers may earn advancement to the finals round. Competitors will draw for partners or be rotated to their partner with the aid of a random number generator. In the finals round, competitors are judged as a couple. Time permitting; some higher divisions may dance a spotlight format, while others will dance in a heated format. This format is at the discretion of the event directors and swing coordinator with considerations for entertainment and time.
4. Dancers should not assume levels of eligibility! Please see the guidelines below.

If a competitor does not meet a division's qualifications as stated here, he or she may petition to be accepted into a specific category. It would be highly recommended for competitors to check their points online at <http://www.worldsdc.com/> prior to competing. It might also be helpful when visiting the **WSDC** website to print your standings as this would speed up the petitioning process. The guidelines below are meant to assist in deciding the appropriate competition division, and are not a "final authority".

If a competitor believes they will be placed in an inappropriate division, the competitor may request an exception to the **WSDC** guidelines. Requests of this nature should be made as quickly as possible, and must be resolved 1 (one) hour prior to the assigned division taking place. Prior to the event, you may submit questions concerning these Guidelines to the Event Director or Event Manager. During the event, you should contact the Contest Coordinator.

LoneStar Invitational reserves the right (on our own initiative) to transfer a dancer to a different division than the one suggested by these guidelines in order to avoid an inappropriate assignment.

## *Points*

Please go to the World Swing Dance Council web site <http://www.worldsdc.com/> and review the "WSDC Points Registry Document" to understand how points are awarded. There is also a section on division placement.

### *JUDGING CRITERIA*

- ***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 of or behind the beat as well as matching the syncopated "swing" of the music. Syncopations also need to be on time.
- ***Teamwork*** Swing is a connected partner dance. The demonstration of this connection and appearance of "lead/follow" or "action/reaction" between partners is the goal. A balanced performance with give-and-take between partners is the goal. One partner ignoring, "out-dancing," disrespecting, or jeopardizing the safety of the other partner (or of other competitors) indicates poor teamwork. Compensating and adjusting for one's partner are components of good teamwork.
- ***Technique*** How well the competitors execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. This includes elements such as control of balance and weight, foot placement, bodylines, and spins.
- ***Choreography*** Selection and order of movements and transitions executed during a dance comprise choreography. Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and the ability to match patterns and syncopations to the phrasing of the music. It must also include identifiable swing patterns in order to provide variety and contrast.
- ***Music Interpretation*** Adjusting the flow of the dance to fit the style, tempo, mood, and rhythm variations in the music comprises good musical interpretation. Couples should strive to demonstrate the ability to hear and interpret nuances in the music throughout their dance.
- ***Presentation*** Creating an atmosphere of excitement by inviting interest in a performance is the desired effect of good presentation. Good presentation begins with the selection of appropriate attire. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, it cannot substitute for good dancing. Competitors should aim primarily for demonstrating a positive chemistry as a couple. Gratuitous mugging to the audience or the judges may result in a lower score. Good sporting conduct before, during, and after the dance is also an element of good presentation.
- ***Judge's decisions*** Judges' decisions are final. Because swing dancing is a subjective form of dance and there is no official criterion, individuals view the dance differently; therefore, protests will not be allowed. Any grievances or problems should be reported to the Competition Coordinator or Chief Judge immediately.

## ***PENALTIES***

If you fail to follow our rules, the judges may assess a penalty. Unless defined specifically elsewhere in our rules, the levels of severity and associated penalties are as follows:

1. **Error** An error is a minor and apparently unintentional breach of the rules. Examples of errors include: (a) a brief and unintended loss of contact with your partner (where the rules require contact); (b) a loss of balance; or (c) a momentary loss of composure. Errors may be penalized (or not) at the discretion of each judge observing the error.
2. **Violation** A violation is a serious and apparently intentional breach of the rules. Examples of violations include:
  - a. Making a face or a rude comment expressing unhappiness with your draw of a particular partner or musical selection in a Jack & Jill;
  - b. Behaving disrespectfully toward your partner, another competitor, a spectator, or a judge;
  - c. Wearing an inappropriate outfit or costume;
  - d. Competing while intoxicated or under the influence of mood-altering drugs;
  - e. Performing a "trick" move that endangers your partner, other competitors, or spectators;
  - f. Choosing choreography that blatantly ignores or contradicts the phrasing of the music;  
or
  - g. Failing to include the required percentage of recognizable swing content in your dance.

A violation penalty will be assigned whenever either a majority of the judges, or the Chief Judge or at least one other judge, agree that a violation has occurred. Each violation will be penalized by a drop of one or more positions in final placement. The Chief Judge will apply this violation penalty after the Scorer has tallied the placements for the performances.

The Chief Judge will determine the number of places to be dropped based on the magnitude of the violation. The penalty for a severe violation may include being dropped out of awards.

**All decisions of our competition officials are final. No appeals will be allowed.**