



2011 Competition Rules

A. About our event

Boogie by the Bay (BbB) is the annual dance convention of The Next Generation Swing Dance Club (TNGSDC), a nonprofit corporation founded in 1989 and located in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information, visit boogiebythebay.org.

Final decision on any matter related to our competitions rests with the Event Directors (**Beth Bellamy** and **Andy Bouman**) on behalf of TNGSDC.

Boogie by the Bay is a member of the National Association of Swing Dance Events (nasde.net), the Americas Amateur Novice Championship Events (aance.com), the Young Adult Swing Dance Association (yasdatour.org), and the World Swing Dance Council (swingdancecouncil.com).

B. Our competitions

West Coast Swing Jack & Jill (random partners)

- **Novice** (AANCE qualifying division)*
- **Intermediate** (AANCE qualifying division)*
- **Masters** (age 50+)
- **Advanced**
- **All-Stars** (NASDE J&J qualifying division)
- **Champions**

Lindy Jack & Jill (random partners)

Strictly Swing (couples; just dance)

- **Novice** (AANCE qualifying division)*
- **Intermediate** (AANCE qualifying division)*
- **Advanced**
- **Champions**

Strictly Lindy (couples; just dance)

Balboa (couples; just dance)

Young Adult (couples routines; ages 14-17; by petition for ages 18-19; YASDA competition)

Sophisticated Swing (couples routines; ages 35+)

Classic (couples routines; NASDE competition)

Showcase (couples routines; NASDE competition)

C. Qualifying to compete at our event

1. General requirements for competitors. To compete at our event, you must:

- (a) Have a full weekend package ticket (except for our late-night Balboa contest, where you also may enter with a one-day Saturday pass);
- (b) Register for each competition by the official entry deadline (see the weekend schedule);
- (c) Pay any required entry fees;
- (d) Attend all mandatory competitor meetings; and
- (e) Meet all other specific entry requirements outlined in these rules.

2. Multiple registrations. Multiple registrations are allowed. You may enter any competitions for which you meet the specific entry requirements. However, please note that:

- (a) You may enter each competition only once.
- (b) In competitions with multiple divisions (West Coast Swing Jack & Jill, Strictly Swing), you may enter only one division.
- (c) If you enter more than one couples competition (Strictly Swing, Strictly Lindy, Young Adult, Sophisticated Swing, Classic, Showcase), you must dance with a different partner in each competition. (Does not apply to late-night Balboa contest.)

3. Age requirements. You must be at least 18 years old to enter our NASDE Classic and Showcase competitions. You must meet the specific age requirements to enter our other competitions. Proof of age may be required when you register to compete or at the contestant meeting.

4. Entry/waiver form and fee. Before you compete, you must submit a completed entry form and pay the entry fee. Each competitor must sign the legal waiver on the entry form. You will *not* be permitted to compete without a signed waiver. Note: If you are under 18, your parent or guardian must sign the waiver for you. (No separate entry form or entry fee is required for our Balboa contest; sign the waiver at the Lindy DJ booth when you sign up.)

DIVISION ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

D. Entering our Jack & Jill competitions

Our Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight skills in spontaneous swing dancing and the ability to dance well with a variety of partners. A bit of “luck of the draw” comes into play as well. Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected in advance by our Competition DJ.

To enter our Jack & Jill divisions (except Masters), you must be at least 13 years old. (If you are under 18, you must have your parent or guardian’s consent, and you should be comfortable social dancing with adults on a regular basis.)

Male competitors must enter as “leaders” and female competitors must enter as “followers.”

1. West Coast Swing Jack & Jill competitions. We are offering six West Coast Swing (WCS) divisions. You may enter only one division. (You may also choose to enter our Lindy Jack & Jill competition.) There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division.

We use the World Swing Dance Council Points Registry to determine eligibility for each WCS division. (See swingdancecouncil.com for details.) In most cases, you should enter the highest division for which you qualify. However, if you are on the borderline, we recommend that you continue to compete in the lower division until you have earned the WSDC points to move up *and* have at least one 1st place win.

1a. Novice Jack & Jill.* This division is intended for competitors with limited or no prior experience at the national level. To enter this division, you should know at least the following basic WCS patterns: starter’s step, basic throwout, tuck and turn throwout, underarm turn, left side pass, right side pass, push break, whip, lock whip, whip to closed, and whip with inside turn, outside turn, and behind-the-back hand change variations.

You may compete in this division if *any* of the following apply:

- (a) You are relatively new to competition, and you haven’t earned any WSDC points; or
- (b) You have earned fewer than 20 Novice points in the past five years (and you don’t qualify for a higher level); or
- (c) You have earned 20 or more Novice points, but have not won 1st place in a Novice Jack & Jill competition; or
- (d) You submit a successful petition to compete at this level (see section L).

1b. Intermediate Jack & Jill.* This division is intended for competitors with some previous experience and success at the national level. You may compete in this division if *any* of the following apply:

- (a) You already compete at the Intermediate level (and you don’t qualify for a higher level), and you have earned Intermediate points in the past five years; or
- (b) You have earned 20 or more Novice points (including at least one 1st place win), and you are ready to move up to the Intermediate level; or
- (c) You submit a successful petition to compete at this level (see section L).

1c. Masters Jack & Jill. This division is intended for experienced, mature WCS competitors. You may enter this division if you are at least 50 years old and you know the basic WCS patterns. (See the Novice Jack & Jill division for a list of the basic WCS patterns.)

Note: If you qualify for another WCS division, you must choose whether to enter the Masters division or the other division. You may enter only one WCS division.

1d. Advanced Jack & Jill. This division is intended for competitors with significant experience and success at the national level. You may compete in this division if *any* of the following apply:

- (a) You already compete at the Advanced level (and you don’t qualify for a higher level), and you have earned Advanced points *at three or more events* in the past five years; or
- (b) You have earned 25 or more Intermediate points (including at least one 1st place win), and you are ready to move up to the Advanced level; or
- (c) You submit a successful petition to compete at this level (see section L).

1e. All-Stars Jack & Jill. This division is intended for competitors with significant experience and success at the national level. Dancers who win or place in this division will earn NASDE Jack & Jill points for additional awards (free passes to future events) at the end of the NASDE tour. (See nasde.net for details.)

You may compete in this division if *any* of the following apply:

- (a) You already compete at the All-Stars level (and you don’t qualify for Champions), and you have earned All-Stars points *at three or more events* in the past five years; or

- (b) You have earned 40 or more Advanced points (including at least one 1st place win), and you are ready to move up to the All-Stars level; or
- (c) You submit a successful petition to compete at this level (see section L).

1f. Champions Jack & Jill. This division is intended for the top national level WCS competitors. You may compete in this division if *any* of the following apply:

- (a) You already compete at the Champions level, and you have finished in the top five places in three or more Champions or Invitational Jack & Jill competitions at NASDE member events in the past five years; or
- (b) You have won 1st place in any NASDE Classic or Showcase competition in the past five years; or
- (c) You have taught a swing dance workshop as an invited instructor at Boogie by the Bay in the past five years; or
- (d) You submit a successful petition to compete at this level (see section L).

2. Lindy Jack & Jill. This is an open competition. Competitors of all levels may enter. There is no limit on the total number of entries. (You may also choose to enter one of our West Coast Swing Jack & Jill divisions.)

E. Entering our Strictly Swing competitions

Our Strictly Swing competitions are designed to highlight skills in spontaneous swing dancing (any recognized style; see section T) with a chosen partner. Competitors enter as couples and dance to music selected in advance by our Competition DJ.

We are offering four divisions. You may enter only one division. You must enter the highest division for which you or your partner qualifies. There is no limit on the total number of entries in each division.

To enter, you must be at least 13 years old. (If you are under 18, you must have your parent or guardian's consent.)

If you are entering other couples competitions, you must dance with a different partner in each competition (except the Balboa contest).

Because you choose your own partner, there are no restrictions on gender or lead. Traditional and non-traditional couples are welcome. You and your partner may choose to lead, follow, or switch roles.

1. Novice Strictly Swing.* This division is intended for competitors with limited experience at the national level. You must enter this division if you and your partner both

qualify for the Novice WCS Jack & Jill division under our rules (see section D).

2. Intermediate Strictly Swing.* This division is intended for competitors with some previous experience and success at the national level. You must enter this division if you or your partner qualifies for the Intermediate WCS Jack & Jill division (and neither partner qualifies for our Advanced, All-Stars, or Champions WCS Jack & Jill division) under our rules (see section D).

3. Advanced Strictly Swing. This division is intended for competitors with significant experience and success at the national level. You must enter this division if you or your partner qualifies for the Advanced or All-Stars WCS Jack & Jill division (and neither partner qualifies for our Champions WCS Jack & Jill division) under our rules (see section D).

4. Champions Strictly Swing. This division is intended for the top national level competitors. You must enter this division if you or your partner qualifies for the Champions WCS Jack & Jill division under our rules (see section D). Finalists in this division will have a choice of musical styles for the spotlight dance.

F. Entering our Strictly Lindy competition

Our Strictly Lindy competition is designed to highlight skills in spontaneous Lindy dancing with a chosen partner. Competitors enter as couples and dance to Lindy music selected in advance by our Lindy DJ.

This is an open competition. Competitors of all levels may enter. There is no limit on the total number of entries.

To enter, you must be at least 13 years old. (If you are under 18, you must have your parent or guardian's consent.)

If you are entering other couples competitions, you must dance with a different partner in each competition (except the Balboa contest).

Because you choose your own partner, there are no restrictions on gender or lead. Traditional and non-traditional couples are welcome. You and your partner may choose to lead, follow, or switch roles.

G. Entering our Balboa competition

Our Balboa competition is an informal, late-night contest held in the Regency Ballroom (also known as "the Lindy room"). There is no entry form or entry fee. Sign up as a couple at the Lindy DJ booth in the Regency Ballroom on Saturday night before the start of the contest.

H. Entering our Teams competition

(The Teams competition is no longer offered.)

I. Entering Young Adult

Our Young Adult competition is designed to highlight skills in choreographed swing dancing (any recognized style; see section T) with a chosen partner. Competitors enter as couples, supply their own music, and perform a routine prepared in advance.

This competition is part of the YASDA tour. (See yasdatour.org for details.) To enter, at least one of the partners must be 14 to 17 years old. (Couples where the other partner is ages 6 through 13 may also enter this division. Couples where the other partner is age 18 or 19 may petition to enter this division if the partnership was established when both partners were ages 14 through 17 years old.)

If you are entering other couples competitions, you must dance with a different partner in each competition (except the Balboa contest).

We reserve the right to limit our Young Adult competition to the first 15 couples that enter. A complete entry must include the entry form with signed waivers from both partners (or from the parent or guardian if under age 18).

J. Entering Sophisticated Swing

Our Sophisticated Swing competition is designed to highlight skills in choreographed swing dancing with a chosen partner. Competitors enter as couples, supply their own music, and perform a routine prepared in advance.

To enter, you and your partner must both be at least 35 years old.

Because you choose your own partner, there are no restrictions on gender or lead. Traditional and non-traditional couples are welcome. You and your partner may choose to lead, follow, or switch roles during your dance.

If you are entering other couples competitions, you must dance with a different partner in each competition (except the Balboa contest).

We reserve the right to limit our Sophisticated Swing competition to the first 10 couples that enter. A complete entry must include the entry form with signed waivers from both partners (or the parent or guardian if under age 18), along with the entry fee.

K. Entering Classic and Showcase

Our NASDE Classic and Showcase competitions are designed to highlight skills in choreographed swing dancing with a chosen partner. Competitors enter as couples, supply their own music, and perform a routine prepared in advance.

The top ten couples in both competitions will earn NASDE points for additional monetary awards at the end of the NASDE tour. (See nasde.net for details.)

Competitors may enter both Classic and Showcase, but must dance with a different partner in each competition. (NASDE points will only be awarded for one placement.)

As required by NASDE, you and your partner must both be at least 18 years old to enter Classic or Showcase. A couple must consist of one male "leader" and one female "follower."

If you are entering other couples competitions, you must dance with a different partner in each competition (except the Balboa contest).

We reserve the right to limit our Classic and Showcase competitions to the first 15 couples that enter each competition. A complete entry must include the entry form with signed waivers from both partners, along with the entry fee.

L. Submitting a petition

It is our goal to encourage you to compete with your peers. If you are unclear about which competition or division is right for you, check with our Competition Director, Chief Judge, or Contestant Representative before you register.

If you want to enter a competition for which you do not meet the entry requirements stated in these rules, or want to change divisions in a competition with more than one division, you may submit a petition. When you register, write a brief explanation of the reason(s) for your request on the back of the entry form and submit it with your entry fee before the contest registration deadline.

Our Competition Director (or another competition official designated by our Competition Director) will review your petition (in consultation with the Chief Judge and Contestant Representative, if necessary) and approve or deny your request. Our Competition Director will notify you as soon as possible (no later than the contestant meeting) of the decision. If you are requesting to change divisions, you should attend the earlier contestant meeting and be prepared to compete in the original division if your petition is denied.

M. Our verification of your eligibility

We will verify that you are eligible for the competitions you enter by checking the WSDC Points Registry (and other sources of information, if applicable). In some cases (for example, if you submit a petition or do not have the required WSDC points), we may reassign you to a different division. (See swingdancecouncil.com for details about WSDC points.)

If you have concerns that other contestants are entered in an incorrect division or are ineligible, please inform our Competition Director, Chief Judge, or Contestant Representative privately, as soon as possible. We will investigate and take appropriate action, if necessary.

If we determine before or during a competition that you have registered for the wrong division or are not eligible, we will reassign you to the correct division (if possible) or allow you to withdraw. If we discover your error after the finals, we will drop you out of awards. If we made the error and assigned you incorrectly, no penalty will be applied.

GENERAL RULES

N. Our responsibilities as the organizer

1. Selecting the competition officials. We will select all competition officials in advance, including a panel of judges, Chief Judge, Contestant Representative, Scorer, MC, Competition DJ, and Timekeeper. We will provide the names of these officials prior to the event on our flyers and Web site. We will announce the judges for each competition at the start of the competition.

2. Appointing a Competition Director. We will appoint a Competition Director as our official representative. **Andy Bouman** will serve as the Competition Director for this year's event. Our Competition Director (in consultation with the Chief Judge, Contestant Representative, and other competition officials) will clarify any competition-related questions before and during the event.

3. Determining the rules and schedule. We will determine the rules for our competitions and post them in advance on our Web site. We will also post a tentative schedule listing the times for all meetings, competitions, and awards. We will follow our announced rules and schedule as much as possible. If we need to make any last-minute changes, we will announce them at the event.

4. Registering contestants and verifying eligibility. Entry forms will be available in advance on our Web site and during the event at our contest registration desk (see our weekend schedule for hours). We will verify that you are eligible for each competition you enter.

5. Holding all competitions, or modifying them if necessary. We will do everything we can to hold all our competitions as planned. If necessary, we may extend the registration deadline or change the eligibility requirements (for example, by combining divisions) if we receive insufficient entries. If we must cancel a competition, we will refund your entry fee, and we may invite you to perform an exhibition instead.

6. Scoring the results. We will select a qualified Scorer. We will use callbacks for all preliminary and semifinal heats, and relative placement for all finals. (A detailed explanation of callbacks and relative placement will be available on our Web site and at the contest registration desk.) Our Scorer will post the judges' callbacks and final placements for an hour after the awards ceremony.

7. Presenting the awards. We have set aside a substantial prize fund for our competitions (see section EE). We will award all monetary prizes in the form of checks. If fewer couples enter than the number of places scheduled to receive awards or prizes, we reserve the right to redistribute or retain unused awards and prizes.

O. Your responsibilities as a competitor

1. Planning ahead. You should check the event schedule well in advance and plan to arrive in time to meet our contest registration deadlines and attend all contestant meetings for the competitions you enter. You should bring appropriate competition attire. Be sure to check when you arrive for any last-minute changes to our schedule.

2. Knowing the rules. You should read the competition rules carefully prior to the contestant meeting. You are responsible for following our rules whether you have read them or not. If you have questions, you should ask them at the contestant meeting, or contact our Competition Director ahead of time.

3. Attending all contestant meetings. Unless you have been excused, you must attend the mandatory contestant meeting for each competition you have entered (see the weekend schedule for meeting times).

Note: For the couples competitions (Strictly Lindy, Strictly Swing, Young Adult, Sophisticated Swing, Classic, and Showcase), you or your partner may represent both of you at the meeting. However, both of you are responsible for all matters discussed at the meeting.

The purpose of the contestant meeting is to ensure that each competition runs smoothly. We will hold a roll call to check that our list of contestants is correct and complete. We will introduce the competition officials and take care of any related business (such as drawing for dance order for Young Adult, Sophisticated Swing, Classic, and Showcase, or drawing the names of contestants who will dance twice to balance the number of leaders and followers in a Jack & Jill preliminary round). We also will announce any last-minute schedule changes and answer your questions.

If you need to be excused from a mandatory contestant meeting, you must have prior approval from our Competition Director.

If you miss a mandatory meeting without prior approval from our Competition Director, we will not allow you to compete and you will forfeit your entry fee.

4. Being prepared to compete. You should be in the ballroom at least 10 minutes prior to the start of your competition. Remember to bring your bib number. (We will charge you a replacement fee of \$10 if you lose it.) If you miss the competition or withdraw after the registration deadline, you will forfeit your entry fee.

5. Demonstrating good sporting conduct at all times. You must demonstrate good sporting conduct both on and off the competition floor. This includes treating your partners, other competitors, competition officials, spectators, and the event itself with respect. Demonstrating a poor attitude by behaving in ways that the judges deem inappropriate or disrespectful may result in a violation penalty or disqualification.

6. Using only appropriate channels to communicate your concerns. If you have questions or concerns about our competitions, you should use appropriate channels to share your concerns such as contestant meetings or private discussions with our Competition Director, Chief Judge, or Contestant Representative. You are not allowed to pressure, challenge, or argue with our judges. If you harass or verbally abuse a judge or other competition official, we will disqualify you and may also ban you from competing at our event in the future.

7. Checking how you did. Our Scorer will post the judges' callbacks and final placements after the awards. You may review this information for approximately one hour after the awards to see how you did. (If you are unable to review posted scores at the event, contact our Competition Director after you get home.)

P. General requirements for our competitions

The following requirements apply to all our competitions. If the judges determine that you have failed to meet one or more of these requirements, they may assign a violation penalty (see section U).

1. Minimum swing content guidelines. This is a swing dance event. Therefore, our judges will expect to see a minimum swing content in all our competitions. (See the NASDE statement of swing and recognized swing styles in section T.) Specific guidelines about swing content are provided under the format for each competition. It is at the judges' discretion to determine whether or not you have met our swing content requirement. Failure to meet this requirement may earn a violation penalty.

2. Social dance skills emphasis. Our Jack & Jill, Strictly Swing, and Strictly Lindy competitions are designed to showcase good social dance skills in spontaneous swing

dancing. All dancing in these competitions should consist of lead/follow moves. Prearranged choreography is allowed only in Young Adult, Sophisticated Swing, Classic, and Showcase routines.

3. Connection. Swing is a connected partner dance. You must maintain physical contact with your partner throughout the dance, except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries. (In Strictly Lindy, Young Adult, Sophisticated Swing, and Showcase, you may also break contact for acrobatic maneuvers.)

4. Partner weight support moves ("tricks"). Advanced dancers sometimes use partner weight support moves to add excitement to a performance. Like other patterns, these moves will be judged according to the standard criteria of timing, teamwork, and technique. Any moves that the judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

We distinguish between two types of partner weight support moves:

4a. "In the air" support moves: In these moves, the feet of one partner are clearly off the floor. Lifts, aeriels, and some acrobatic maneuvers are examples. "In the air" support moves are allowed only in Strictly Lindy and Sophisticated Swing (where such moves are optional), Young Adult (where there are certain restrictions; see section AA), and Showcase (where three such moves are required; see section DD).

4b. "On the ground" support moves: In these moves, you and your partner both maintain physical contact with the floor. Drops, leans, circular movements, leveraged slides, and splits are examples. "On the ground" support moves are allowed in all competitions. However, any moves that the judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

5. Appropriate behavior and attire. It is our desire to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing quality of dancing and good taste. To maintain this balance, we encourage you to put on a good show (including humor where appropriate) but within the context of presenting solid dance fundamentals.

Comedy routines (for example, where a couple dances poorly on purpose for comic effect) are not allowed.

Our Competition Director or Chief Judge must approve in advance the use of any props in a routine.

Keep in mind that all ages (including young dancers) will be present at our event, and that your performance will be recorded. Any action that our judges believe would make them uncomfortable in a social dance setting (such as inappropriate touching or simulating sexual behavior) may earn a violation penalty.

Check with our Competition Director, Chief Judge, or Contestant Representative in advance if you have any questions regarding the acceptability of your choreography or competition attire.

Q. Requesting a restart

You may request a restart only in certain special cases such as: you break a shoe or lose a vital piece of clothing; our DJ plays the wrong music (or uses incorrect pitch control) for your routine; or our sound system fails during your dance. You may not request a restart simply because you are dissatisfied with your performance, partner, or music, or because you fail to remember part of your routine.

You must request a restart prior to your departure from the floor, and the Chief Judge must approve your request. The Chief Judge may also call for a restart at any time.

R. Your competition music

1. Music for the Jack & Jill, Strictly Lindy, and Strictly Swing competitions. Our Competition DJ will select all music in advance for our Jack & Jill, Strictly Lindy, and Strictly Swing competitions. Music for finals spotlight dances will be approximately the same length of time for each couple. The exact time of fade out is left to the DJ's discretion to maximize the effectiveness of the music. If the judges need more time to determine their callbacks or final placements, the Chief Judge may request that additional music be played.

2. Music for Young Adult, Sophisticated Swing, Classic, and Showcase. You must provide your own music for your routine.

S. Our judging criteria

You will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Timing. Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Good timing includes not only dancing on the correct beat but finer distinctions such as whether you are dancing to the syncopated "swing" of the music. Your syncopations and footwork also need to be on time.

2. Teamwork. Swing is a connected partner dance. Demonstrating this connection through lead/follow or action/reaction with your partner is an expected part of any swing dance competition. A balanced performance of give-and-take with your partner should be your goal. Ignoring, disrespecting, or jeopardizing the safety of your partner indicates poor teamwork. Compensating and adjusting for your partner is an expected component of good teamwork.

3. Technique. How well you execute the movements in your dance constitutes technique. Good technique includes clean execution of dance elements such as control of

balance and weight, foot placement, body lines, and spins and turns.

4. Choreography. Choreography is the selection and order of movements and transitions during your dance. Such choreography may be spontaneous (for example, in a Jack & Jill) or prearranged in a routine (for example, in Classic or Showcase). Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and the ability to match patterns and syncopations to the phrasing of the music. It also includes identifiable swing patterns in order to provide variety and contrast.

5. Music interpretation. Good musical interpretation consists of adjusting the flow of your dance to fit the style, tempo, mood, and rhythm variations in the music. You should strive to demonstrate the ability to hear and interpret nuances in the music throughout your dance.

6. Presentation. Creating an atmosphere of excitement by inviting interest in your performance is the desired effect of good presentation. Good presentation begins with your selection of appropriate attire. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, it cannot substitute for good dancing. You should aim primarily for demonstrating 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 your dance is also an expected element of good presentation.

T. Definitions

1. NASDE statement of swing. (To be used to identify the presence of swing in the NASDE competition divisions.) 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.

2. Recognized styles of swing dancing. The following are some common names for styles of swing dancing allowed in our competitions: Balboa, Bal-Swing, Bop, Carolina Shag, Charleston, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jazz Spaz, Jitterbug, Jive, Lindy, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, Savoy Style Lindy, Smooth Lindy, and West Coast Swing. If you dance a style of swing not listed here, you may request that we add it by talking to our

Competition Director, Chief Judge, or Contestant Representative before the entry deadline.

3. Acrobatic maneuver. An acrobatic maneuver is any move where a dancer independently passes his or her legs or body over and across the plane of either partner's head. Acrobatic maneuvers illustrate gymnastic abilities that are not normally part of swing patterns in social dancing. Back-flips, cartwheels, and deep backbends are examples. Acrobatic maneuvers are allowed only in Strictly Lindy, Young Adult, Sophisticated Swing, and Showcase.

4. Aerial. An aerial is any move where one partner is lifted with the assistance of the other partner and the head and torso of the lifted partner is in a position higher than the waist of the supporting partner. Aerials are allowed only in Strictly Lindy, Sophisticated Swing, and Showcase.

5. Breakaway. A breakaway is any set of symmetrical or complementary movements or footwork executed after a couple intentionally breaks contact. (Breaking contact for free spins or turns is not considered a breakaway.) Short breakaways are allowed in all our competitions. However, the judges may mark down excessive use of breakaways for lack of variety.

6. Costume. A costume is any attire specifically designed for dance routines and that would not be worn for social dancing. Costumes are allowed only in Young Adult, Sophisticated Swing, Classic, and Showcase. (Matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are not considered costumes and are allowed, although not required, in Strictly Lindy and Strictly Swing.)

7. Entrance. An entrance is the initial, pre-choreographed segment of a performance, where competitors formally enter the floor and prepare to dance. Formal entrances are allowed only in Young Adult, Sophisticated Swing, Classic, and Showcase. (Acknowledging your partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an entrance.)

8. Exit. An exit is the final, pre-choreographed segment of a performance, where competitors formally leave the floor. Formal exits are allowed only in Young Adult, Sophisticated Swing, Classic, and Showcase. (Acknowledging your partner, the judges, or the audience is not considered an exit.)

9. Lift. A lift is any move lasting longer than a full beat of music where the feet of one partner are clearly off the floor and the other partner supports the lifted partner's weight. Lifts are allowed only in Strictly Lindy, Young Adult, Sophisticated Swing, and Showcase. (The following syncopations and patterns are not considered lifts: flea hops; bunny hops; heel clicks; Flying Lindy and its adaptations to other swing styles; jumps over the leg of a partner; and leveraged slides.)

10. Routine. A routine is any dance performance or segment using prearranged choreography rather than spontaneous lead/follow moves. Routines are allowed only in Young Adult, Sophisticated Swing, Classic, and Showcase. (Coordinated footwork or mirror patterns from Carolina Shag are not considered a routine.)

11. Side-by-side. A side-by-side is any set of symmetrical or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple that is not part of a recognizable lead/follow swing dance pattern. Such segments are often executed with the partners next to each other, both facing the judges (i.e., side-by-side), but segments executed in other positions (e.g., back-to-back, open position, closed position) are included in this definition for the purpose of these rules. Side-by-sides are allowed in all our competitions. However, the judges may mark down excessive use of side-by-sides for lack of variety.

U. Penalties for errors and violations

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) Using prohibited choreography, such as a lift in a Classic routine;
- (f) Performing a "trick" move that endangers your partner, other competitors, or spectators;
- (g) Choosing choreography that blatantly ignores or contradicts the phrasing of the music; or
- (h) Failing to include the required percentage of recognizable swing content in your dance.

Judges may assign violations at their discretion, and may penalize a violation by a drop of one or more positions in their final placements. The penalty for a severe violation may include being dropped out of awards. (For Classic and Showcase couples, this may include being dropped to 11th place so that no NASDE points would be earned.)

3. Time violation for routines. If our Timekeeper determines that your routine is less than five seconds over or under the time limit, no penalty will be applied (to allow for differences in music equipment). If your routine is more than five seconds over or under the time limit, you will be assigned a violation penalty.

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. Penalties for time violations will be in addition to any penalties that the judges have assigned for the performance itself.

You will have an opportunity to try out your music before the competition (see Floor Tryouts on our weekend schedule). It is your responsibility to ensure that your routine meets the time requirement.

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

DIVISION RULES

V. Format for Jack & Jill competitions

1. All dancing in our Jack & Jill competitions should be lead/follow. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed. Note that the general requirements apply (see section P).
2. Our judges will expect to see at least 90% recognizable swing content. For our West Coast Swing Jack & Jill divisions, a majority of the swing content must be West Coast Swing. For our Lindy Jack & Jill, a majority of the swing content must be in one or more Lindy styles (Savoy, Smooth, Hollywood, etc.); patterns from related dances such as Balboa, Bal-Swing, or Charleston are also allowed.
3. You and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.
4. "In the air" partner weight support moves (lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are not allowed. "On the ground" support moves (such as drops) are allowed (see section P). However, you and your partner must both maintain physical contact with the floor during support moves. Support moves must be lead/follow social dance patterns that take the safety of your partner and other couples into consideration. Any moves that the judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

5. Costumes are not allowed. However, competition outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable. Appropriate attire is required.

6. For the Novice WCS division, we plan to hold three rounds: preliminaries, semifinals, and finals. For the other divisions, we plan to hold two rounds: semifinals and finals. However, we may add or omit a preliminary or semifinal round in any division, depending on the number of entries. At the contestant meeting, we will announce the number of rounds to be used.

7. During the preliminary and semifinal rounds, you will dance in heats with several partners selected randomly. Although you will be judged individually on a callback basis, you must demonstrate good teamwork with all your partners to advance to the next round.

8. If there is an imbalance in the number of leaders and followers signed up for any division, we will ask some contestants to dance twice. We will hold a random drawing at the contestant meeting to determine which contestants will dance twice. However, even if your name is not drawn, you should remain in the ballroom throughout the competition, in case any additional competitors are needed at the last minute to dance again.

9. The Chief Judge will determine the exact number of finalists after the Scorer has tallied the results of the callbacks.

10. In the finals, we will use a random drawing (or some other random method) to determine your partner. No redraws will be permitted for any reason – it's luck of the draw. Finalists will be judged as couples.

11. For the Novice WCS, Intermediate WCS, Masters WCS, Advanced WCS, and Lindy divisions, couples in the finals will dance in one group heat.

12. For the All-Stars and Champions WCS divisions, couples in the finals will dance in spotlight dances.

13. Finalists in the All-Stars division will earn NASDE Jack & Jill points for additional awards (free passes to future events) at the end of the NASDE Jack & Jill tour. (See nasde.net for details.)

W. Format for Strictly Swing competitions

1. All dancing in our Strictly Swing competitions should be lead/follow. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed. Note that the general requirements apply (see section P).
2. Our judges will expect to see at least 90% recognizable swing content. All recognized styles of swing dancing are allowed and encouraged (see section T).

3. You and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.

4. “In the air” partner weight support moves (lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are not allowed (except in the Champions division, where “anything goes”). “On the ground” support moves (such as drops) are allowed (see section P). However, you and your partner must both maintain physical contact with the floor during support moves. Support moves must be lead/follow social dance patterns that take the safety of your partner and other couples into consideration. Any moves that the judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

5. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary competition outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable. Appropriate attire is required.

6. We may hold semifinal and final rounds, or finals only, depending on the number of entries. At the contestant meeting for each division, we will announce the number of rounds to be used.

7. During the semifinals, couples will be judged on a callback basis during heats.

8. The Chief Judge will determine the exact number of finalists after the Scorer has tallied the results of the callbacks.

9. For the Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced Strictly Swing divisions, couples in the finals will dance in one group heat.

10. For the Champions Strictly Swing division, couples in the finals will dance in spotlight dances.

X. Format for Strictly Lindy competition

1. All dancing in our Strictly Lindy competition should be lead/follow. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed. Note that the general requirements apply (see section P).

2. Our judges will expect to see at least 90% recognizable swing content in one or more Lindy styles (Savoy, Smooth, Hollywood, etc.). Patterns from related dances such as Balboa, Bal-Swing, or Charleston are also allowed.

3. You and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, acrobatic maneuvers, short breakaways, and recoveries.

4. “In the air” partner weight support moves (lifts, aerials), acrobatic maneuvers, and “on the ground” support moves (such as drops) are allowed (see section P). However, support moves must be lead/follow social dance patterns that take the safety of your partner and other couples into consideration. Any moves that the judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

5. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary competition outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable. Appropriate attire is required.

6. We may hold semifinal and final rounds, or finals only, depending on the number of entries. At the contestant meeting, we will announce the number of rounds to be used.

7. During the semifinals, couples will be judged on a callback basis during heats.

8. The Chief Judge will determine the exact number of finalists after the Scorer has tallied the results of the callbacks.

9. Couples in the finals will dance in one group heat.

Y. Format for Balboa competition

1. All dancing in our Balboa competition should be lead/follow. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.

2. Our judges will expect to see 100% recognizable Balboa (or Bal-Swing) content.

3. We may hold semifinal and final rounds, or finals only, depending on the number of entries.

4. Couples in the finals will dance in one group heat.

5. Winners will be announced right after the contest.

Z. Format for Teams competition

(The Teams competition is no longer offered.)

AA. Format for Young Adult competition

1. Routines performed in our Young Adult competition may include any recognized style of swing dancing (see section T). Our judges will expect to see at least 60% recognizable swing content. Note that the general requirements apply (see section P).

2. Routines, choice of music, and costumes must be in good taste and appropriate for your age group.

3. Your performance must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes, including any formal entrance or exit.

4. Time and judging start from the first moment of your performance (with or without music). You and your partner may make separate entrances.

5. Once you make contact, you and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, acrobatic maneuvers, short breakaways, and recoveries.

6. Lifts and aerials that have one partner’s torso rise above the other partner’s shoulders are not allowed. Lifts that do not rise above the partner’s shoulders are optional.

7. Acrobatic maneuvers and “on the ground” support moves (such as drops) are allowed (but not required).
8. Costumes are allowed and encouraged. Tasteful, age-appropriate attire is required.
9. Music must be recorded on a one-track CD and supplied to the Competition DJ no later than the contestant meeting. Please furnish two identical copies of your music (one for backup). The copies must be marked with your names, the correct pitch control (if applicable), and the competition you are entering. You are responsible for retaining additional practice copies.
10. You may reclaim your music from the Competition DJ after the competition. Any music not reclaimed by the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.
11. Order of dance will be drawn during the contestant meeting.
12. The Young Adult division is part of the YASDA tour. (See yasdatour.org for details.)

BB. Format for Sophisticated Swing

1. Routines performed in our Sophisticated Swing competition may include any recognized style of swing dancing (see section T). Our judges will expect to see at least 60% recognizable swing content. Note that the general requirements apply (see section P).
2. Your performance must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes, including any formal entrance or exit.
3. Time and judging start from the first moment of your performance (with or without music). You and your partner may make separate entrances.
4. Once you make contact, you and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, acrobatic maneuvers, short breakaways, and recoveries.
5. “In the air” partner weight support moves (lifts, aerials), acrobatic maneuvers, and “on the ground” support moves (such as drops) are allowed (but not required).
6. Costumes are allowed and encouraged. Appropriate attire is required.
7. Music must be recorded on a one-track CD and supplied to the Competition DJ no later than the contestant meeting. Please furnish two identical copies of your music (one for backup). The copies must be marked with your names, the correct pitch control (if applicable), and the competition you are entering. You are responsible for retaining additional practice copies.

8. You may reclaim your music from the Competition DJ after the competition. Any music not reclaimed by the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.
9. Order of dance will be drawn during the contestant meeting.

CC. Format for Classic (NASDE competition)

1. Routines performed in our Classic competition should emphasize choreography with traditional lead/follow moves and an “on the ground” approach to the dance.
2. Your routine may include any recognized style of swing dancing (see section T). Our judges will expect to see at least 80% recognizable swing content. Note that the general requirements apply (see section P).
3. Your performance must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes, including any formal entrance or exit.
4. Time and judging start from the first moment of your performance (with or without music). You and your partner may make separate entrances but must join together within 32 beats of music.
5. Once you make contact, you and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways (8 beats maximum), and recoveries.
6. “In the air” partner weight support moves (lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are not allowed. “On the ground” support moves (such as drops) are allowed (but not required).
7. You and your partner must both maintain physical contact with the floor during support moves. At most five support moves are permitted.
8. Costumes are allowed and encouraged. Appropriate attire is required.
9. Music must be recorded on a one-track CD and supplied to the Competition DJ no later than the contestant meeting. Please furnish two identical copies of your music (one for backup). The copies must be marked with your names, the correct pitch control (if applicable), and the competition you are entering. You are responsible for retaining additional practice copies.
10. You may reclaim your music from the Competition DJ after the competition. Any music not reclaimed by the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.
11. Order of dance will be drawn during the contestant meeting.
12. The top ten couples will earn NASDE points for additional monetary awards at the end of the NASDE tour. (See nasde.net for details.) If fewer than ten couples enter,

NASDE points will still be awarded. (If you enter both Classic and Showcase, points will only be awarded for one placement.)

DD. Format for Showcase (NASDE competition)

1. Routines performed in our Showcase competition should emphasize choreography with a flair toward lifts, aerials, and other acrobatic or partner weight support moves as well as lead/follow moves.
2. Your routine may include any recognized style of swing dancing (see section T). Our judges will expect to see at least 60% recognizable swing content. Note that the general requirements apply (see section P).
3. Your performance must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes, including any formal entrance or exit.
4. Time and judging start from the first moment of your performance (with or without music). You and your partner may make separate entrances.
5. Once you make contact, you and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, acrobatic maneuvers, short breakaways, and recoveries.
6. “In the air” partner weight support moves (lifts, aerials), acrobatic maneuvers, and “on the ground” support moves (such as drops) are allowed.
7. Your routine must include at least three “in the air” partner weight support moves (lifts, aerials) or acrobatic maneuvers. At least one of these three moves must be an aerial.
8. Costumes are allowed and encouraged. Appropriate attire is required.
9. Music must be recorded on a one-track CD and supplied to the Competition DJ no later than the contestant meeting. Please furnish two identical copies of your music (one for backup). The copies must be marked with your names, the correct pitch control (if applicable), and the competition you are entering. You are responsible for retaining additional practice copies.
10. You may reclaim your music from the Competition DJ after the competition. Any music not reclaimed by the conclusion of the weekend will be discarded.
11. Order of dance will be drawn during the contestant meeting.
12. The top ten couples will earn NASDE points for additional monetary awards at the end of the NASDE tour. (See nasde.net for details.) If fewer than ten couples enter, NASDE points will still be awarded. (If you enter both Classic and Showcase, points will only be awarded for one placement.)

AWARDS

EE. Prize fund

The following prize amounts will be split 50/50 between partners (except the Balboa contest).

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Novice Jack & Jill	200	150	100	60	40
Intermediate Jack & Jill	250	200	150	100	50
Masters Jack & Jill (50+)	250	200	150	100	50
Advanced Jack & Jill	300	250	200	150	100
All-Stars Jack & Jill	400	300	250	200	150
Champions Jack & Jill	1,000	700	500	300	200
Lindy Jack & Jill	300	250	200	150	100
Novice Strictly Swing	200	150	100	60	40
Intermediate Strictly Swing	250	200	150	100	50
Advanced Strictly Swing	300	250	200	150	100
Champions Strictly Swing	1,000	700	500	300	200
Strictly Lindy	300	250	200	150	100
Balboa	(no cash prizes for this contest)				
Young Adult (14-17)	400	300	250	200	150
Sophisticated Swing (35+)	400	300	250	200	150
Classic	1,200	800	600	400	300
Showcase	1,200	800	600	400	300

DISCLAIMER AND FOOTNOTES

FF. Changes to these rules

We will make every effort to conduct all competitions in accordance with these rules. However, we reserve the right to make any changes that we deem necessary for any competition. If we need to make any changes to our competitions or to these rules, we will post them on our Web site (if possible) or announce them at the event.

GG. Footnotes

* Our Novice and Intermediate Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing divisions are also AANCE qualifying divisions. **Novice J&J competitors please note:** If you enter an Intermediate Strictly Swing division with an Intermediate level J&J partner, you are no longer eligible for the AANCE Novice finals; if you qualify, you must compete in the AANCE Intermediate finals. If you enter an Advanced or Champions Strictly Swing division with a higher level J&J partner, or if you enter a NASDE Classic or Showcase competition, you are no longer eligible for the AANCE Intermediate finals. **Intermediate J&J competitors please note:** If you enter an Advanced or Champions Strictly Swing division with a higher level J&J partner, or if you enter a NASDE Classic or Showcase competition, you are no longer eligible for the AANCE Intermediate finals. Visit aance.com for the AANCE rules and other information about the finals held in Houston, Texas in January.

Copyright © 2011 by The Next Generation Swing Dance Club. All rights reserved. For permission to reproduce these rules, in whole or in part, please write to: Boogie by the Bay, The Next Generation Swing Dance Club, 236 West Portal Avenue, PMB 329, San Francisco, CA 94127-1423. Or send us an e-mail. Web site: boogiebythebay.org. Last updated: September 22, 2011.