



GLOBAL GRAND PRIX – WEST COAST SWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

COMPETITION RULES – 2026 EDITION

EVENT STATEMENT

The Global Grand Prix – West Coast Swing Championships (GGP) is designed as the annual reunion and celebration of the international West Coast Swing community.

It is a moment to honor the past season, to reconnect as a global dance family, and to open the doors to a new year of dancing, creativity, and cultural exchange.

Our goal is to offer an event where all the branches of this great “dance tree” are connected:

- Teaching and learning
- Fun and social dancing
- Competitions and artistic performances (Routines) at the highest professional level
- Competitions and artistic performances (Routines) at amateur and semi-professional levels
- Traditional improvisation competitions (Strictly Swing and WSDC Jack & Jill)
- A special annual award – the GGP Iconic Awards – recognizing artists who have marked the year, chosen by a popular vote through our website, mailing list, and social media.

We are committed to being open to the many interpretations and appropriations of this dance form, embracing the cultural crossings that shape the way West Coast Swing is danced all over the world.

At the same time, we seek a collective reconnection with the roots, history, and references of this dance, so that we can all be creative and authentic as artists while sharing a common thread that connects us and allows us to build a strong, global, and dialoguing community.

The GGP is about: Unite, connect, express, and resonate.



REGISTRATION

1. Online registration opens on August 25th, 2026.
2. Competitors who register by September 10th are guaranteed publication in the official GGP Program.
3. Competitors in the Routine Divisions must register by September 10th. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Organizers.
4. If a division does not reach the required minimum number of entries, the Organizer may cancel that division. If a division is canceled, all entry fees for that division will be refunded. If a division has at least three (3) entries and the Organizer decides to run it with fewer than the standard required entries, the Organizer reserves the right to adjust prize money. Competitors will be informed in advance of any canceled division or any division running with adjusted prize money.
5. The Event Registration desk will be open from Friday. Competitors are strongly encouraged to register online before September 17th.
6. Multiple registrations are allowed. You may enter any competition for which you meet the eligibility requirements. However, if you enter more than one couples competition (Strictly, Rising Star, Showcase, Classic), you must compete with a different partner in each of those couples divisions.

PROGRAM

The GGP program documents the history of the event and all who compete in it.

We strongly encourage every competitor to register on time and provide all required information to be included in the program.

1. Program deadline: September 10th.
2. Routine Division competitors will have their photo, name, city, state, and country listed in the program.
3. The organization will contact routine competitors by email with a form to collect program information.

BIB NUMBERS

All competitors are assigned a randomly selected Bib Number.

1. Bibs must be collected at the Competitors Service Desk at least 2 hours before your first competition, and only after you have received your event wristband.
 2. Your Bib must be with you when you check into the Competitors Green Room (Marshaling), 30 minutes prior to your competition.
 3. Jack & Jill Divisions – both Leaders and Followers are required to wear their assigned Bib numbers for all rounds (prelims, semi-finals, finals).
 4. Strictly Swing Divisions – only the Leader is required to wear a Bib. In the Switchly division, the partner registered as the initial Leader wears the Bib for the entire contest.
 5. Show your Bib to the Competition Coordinators in the Competitors Green Room before every contest.
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WRISTBANDS

1. **We do not recommend removing your wristband for Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing divisions.**
 2. Routine competitors are not required to dance while wearing wristbands. Green Room staff are authorized to remove your wristbands before you compete.
 3. After you compete, Green Room staff will replace your wristband.
 4. Wristbands are your responsibility. Do not throw them away or lose them.
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SCHEDULE

1. The Organizer will determine the date and time for each competition.
 2. A provisional schedule will be posted on the event website.
 3. The Organizer reserves the right to adjust the schedule based on the number of entries in each division. For WSDC Jack & Jill divisions, the number of rounds is set by the WSDC Tier of the division and cannot be reduced except as permitted by the WSDC rules.
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PRACTICE TIMES – FLOOR TRIALS

The Organizer will provide as much practice time as possible in the main ballroom.

- The Main Ballroom Open Practice Schedule will give priority to divisions competing that day.
 - Divisions not competing that day will be assigned separate practice times.
 - Please check the event schedule for details.
 - During floor trials, competitors should line up near the DJ booth and will be processed in order. Competitors may run their routines again as time allows.
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ORGANIZER AUTHORITY

The final decision on any matter related to these competitions rests solely with the Organizer(s) of the GGP.

Our responsibilities as Organizers

1. Appointing a Competition Coordinator

A Competition Coordinator will be designated as the official representative for all competition matters. In consultation with the Chief Judge and other officials (if necessary), the Competition Coordinator will clarify any competition-related questions before and during the event.

2. Selecting Competition Officials

The Organizer will select:

- Panel of judges
- Chief Judge
- Scorer
- Referee or Raw Score Judge (where applicable)
- Review Panel
- MCs
- Chief DJ and Competition DJs

3. The names of these officials will be posted on the event website prior to the event. The MC will announce the judging panel at the start of each competition. There will be a minimum of five (5) judges plus the Chief Judge for all finals, and a minimum of four (4) judges per role plus the Chief Judge for all preliminary rounds.

4. Determining Rules and Schedule

The Organizer will:

- Establish the rules for all competitions and publish them in advance on the event website.
- Publish a full weekend schedule with times for all meetings, competitions, and awards.
- Follow the posted schedule as closely as possible. Any last-minute changes will be announced at the event.

5. Registering Contestants and Verifying Eligibility

The Organizer will:

- Collect entries in advance through the online registration system and on-site during posted registration times.
- Verify that all competitors are eligible for the divisions they enter.
- Assign Bib numbers to Strictly Swing Leaders, and Jack & Jill Leaders and Followers.

6. Holding or Modifying Competitions if Necessary

The Organizer will make every effort to hold all competitions as planned. However, if necessary, the Organizer may:

- Extend registration deadlines
- Adjust eligibility requirements (within governing bodies' rules)
- Cancel competitions with insufficient entries (with entry fees refunded)

In some cases, competitors from canceled competitions may be invited to perform exhibitions instead.

7. Scoring the Results

The Organizer will:

- Select a qualified, independent scorer.
- Use callbacks for all preliminary and semi-final heats.
- Use relative placement for all finals. (Details are available on the WSDC website.)
- Post all scores for public review for approximately 1 hour after the announcement of results and awards.
- Post scores online after the event.

8. Announcing Results and Presenting Awards

The Organizer will:

- Announce results during the Awards Ceremony.
 - Provide a prize fund for winners (see Awards/Prizes section if applicable).
 - Present all monetary prizes in cash or equivalent form.
 - Reserve the right to redistribute or retain any unused prize money if fewer couples enter than the number of places scheduled to receive prizes.
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GENERAL COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

Each competition is open to all competitors in good standing who:

1. Hold one of the following passes: Full Pass, Party Pass, All Star Pass, Champions Pass, Overseas Pass, Juniors Pass, and have paid all associated registration fees.
2. Register by the official entry deadline(s) listed in the weekend schedule.
3. Pay the required entry fee(s) and complete any required entry forms.
4. Meet all other specific eligibility requirements for the division(s) they enter.

Contest Requirements

1. Entries – A division may be run with a minimum of three (3) entries, at the Organizer's discretion (see Registration). In WSDC Jack & Jill divisions, WSDC points are awarded only if the final includes at least five (5) unique Leaders and five (5) unique Followers.
2. Judges (WSDC Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing contests; for Classic and Showcase see the NASDE judging panel requirements) – Preliminary rounds: a minimum of four (4) judges per role, plus the Chief Judge. A single panel may score both roles only in Tier 1–3 contests, and a minimum of four (4) scores per role is still required. Finals: a minimum of five (5) judges plus the Chief Judge, always an odd number; seven (7) judges are used for Tier 5 and Tier 6 finals.
3. Scoring System – All contests are scored by computer. Preliminary and semi-final rounds use the WSDC callback system; finals use relative placement.
 - In Jack & Jill competitions, competitors are judged as individuals in preliminary, quarter-final, and semi-final rounds, and as couples in finals.
 - In all other divisions, competitors are judged as couples.

ROLE / GENDER REQUIREMENTS

- Competitors of any gender may choose to dance as a Leader or a Follower.
- We encourage competitors to register in whichever role they prefer to dance.

Non-Dominant Role Competing and Tracking:

1. Leader and Follower points are tracked separately in the WSDC Points Registry.
2. A competitor's primary role is the role in which they hold points at the higher skill level; if they hold points in both roles at their highest skill level, the primary role is the one with more points. The secondary role is the other role.
3. Competitors may compete in their secondary role up to two (2) levels below the highest level they are allowed to compete in their primary role; one (1) level down is recommended. If their secondary-role points reach the "allowed to move up" threshold of the WSDC Skill Level Jack & Jill Advancement Chart, they may compete only one (1) level below their highest allowed primary level. Competitors holding points in both roles at the same skill level must choose one role only for that skill-level contest. Petitions down are not permitted for the secondary role. Refer to the WSDC Secondary Role Advancement Chart (worldsdc.com).
4. Competitors are not permitted to dance both roles in the same division.

APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR & DRESS CODE

- Any action that judges feel would be inappropriate in a social dance setting – such as disrespectful behavior toward one's partner, other dancers, judges, staff, or the event – is prohibited.
- Competitors are encouraged not to wear jeans or overly casual attire while competing.
- The GGP is a Gala-themed event; we expect competitors to embrace the theme with elegant attire.
- Competitors with clothing concerns should consult the Organizer or Chief Judge in advance.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETITORS

1. Check the weekend schedule in advance and arrive early enough to meet registration deadlines and marshaling times.

2. Bring appropriate competition attire and be prepared for potential schedule changes.
 3. Read these rules carefully prior to any contestant meeting. Competitors are responsible for following the rules whether they have read them or not.
 4. Be present in the ballroom or marshaling area at least 10 minutes before the start of marshaling for their division.
 5. Any cancellation by a competitor or couple after the registration deadline will result in the loss of the entry fee.
 6. Competitors must demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times, on and off the floor. They may not approach judges about placements or scores until after awards have been given. Harassment or arguing with judges can be considered poor sportsmanship and may lead to disciplinary action.
 7. Competitors must refrain from any behavior that judges deem inappropriate. Failure to adhere to this code of conduct may result in penalties or disqualification.
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DEFINITIONS

- Points – Points listed in the World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Competitors Registry.
- NASDE – National Association of Swing Dance Events.
- RST – Rising Star Tour.
- Swing Content – According to the **NASDE statement**:

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.
- Aerial – Any move where one partner is lifted with assistance and the lifted partner's head and torso are above the waist level of the supporting partner. Aerials are allowed only in the Strictly All Stars/Champions Battle, Showcase, and Rising Star divisions, as specified in division rules.
- Breakaway – Any sequence of symmetrical or complementary movements or footwork after a couple intentionally breaks contact. (Breaks for free spins or turns only are not considered breakaways.) Breakaways of up to 8 beats of music are allowed in all competitions. Excessive use of breakaways may be marked down by judges.
- Costume – Any attire specifically designed for dance routines that would not typically be worn for social dancing. Costumes are allowed only in Rising Stars, Showcase, and Classic. Matching or complementary social-dance outfits are allowed (but not required) in Strictly Swing and are not considered costumes.
- Entrance – A pre-choreographed segment used to formally enter the floor and prepare to dance. Entrances are allowed only in Routine Divisions. (Simple acknowledgements – to partner, judges, or audience – are not considered entrances.)
- Exit – A pre-choreographed segment used to formally leave the floor. Exits are allowed only in Routine Divisions. (Simple acknowledgements while leaving are not considered exits.)
- Lift – Any move lasting longer than one full beat of music where both feet of one partner are clearly off the floor and the other partner supports their weight. Lifts are allowed only in Showcase and Rising Stars, as per division rules.

The following are not considered lifts: flea hops, bunny hops, heel clicks, Flying Lindy and adaptations, jumps over a partner's leg, and leveraged slides.

- Prop – Any object or article of clothing intentionally discarded, removed, taken away, or brought into the dance (e.g., hats thrown to the floor, canes, tables, chairs, objects picked up). To ensure safety, no props are allowed.
- Routine – Any dance performance or segment using prearranged choreography rather than pure spontaneous lead/follow. Routines are allowed only in Routine Divisions. (Coordinated footwork or mirror patterns from styles like Carolina Shag are not necessarily considered full routines.)
- Side-by-Side – Symmetrical or complementary movements or footwork performed together (not part of a recognizable lead/follow swing pattern), often facing the judges side-by-side, but may also occur back-to-back, in open or closed position. Side-by-sides are allowed (up to 8 beats of music). Excessive use may be marked down.

COMPETITION MUSIC

1. Jack & Jill and Strictly Swing Competitions

- The Chief DJ will appoint a Competition DJ to select music for each division.
- For spotlight finals, all songs will be of approximately equal length. The exact fade-out time is at the DJ's discretion to best serve the music and competition.
- If judges need additional time to determine callbacks or placements, the Chief Judge may instruct the Competition DJ to play more music.

2. Routine Divisions

- Competitors must provide their own music.
 - Music must be submitted to the Competition DJ at least 1 day before the competition.
 - Competitors are encouraged to bring their music to floor trials as well.
 - Music should be provided on a USB flash drive or sent by email, with a backup copy recommended.
 - Competitors are responsible for retaining their own practice copies.
 - Any music not reclaimed by the end of the weekend may be discarded.
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VIOLATIONS & ERRORS

(Based on current rules used at THE OPEN)

If a competitor fails to follow GGP rules and no dedicated Referee Judge is present on the panel, judges may apply penalties.

1. Errors

An Error is a minor, unintentional breach of the rules, such as:

- A brief accidental loss of contact where contact is required
- A momentary loss of balance
- A brief loss of composure

Errors may or may not be penalized, at the discretion of each judge observing the error.

2. Violations

A Violation is a serious or intentional breach of the rules, for example:

- Showing displeasure (visibly or with facial expressions) about your partner draw or music selection
- Disrespectful behavior toward a partner, competitor, spectator, judge, or the event
- Wearing clearly inappropriate attire or costumes where they are not allowed
- Competing while intoxicated or under the influence of mood-altering substances
- Using prohibited choreography, such as a lift in a Jack & Jill division where lifts are not allowed
- Performing “trick” moves that endanger your partner or others
- Choosing choreography that blatantly ignores the phrasing of the music
- Failing to meet the required percentage of recognizable swing content

Judges may assign Violations at their discretion and may penalize them by dropping one or more placements in their individual final rankings. This does not apply to the Classic and Showcase divisions:

there, judges score performance quality and swing content only, and any violation unrelated to swing content is monitored by the Referee and, if flagged, decided by the Review Panel.

Review Panel (Routine Divisions only)

1. If all couples pass review, no additional action is needed.
2. If one or more couples are flagged, the Chief Judge may appoint a Review Panel, consisting of the Chief Judge and two (2) additional judges.
3. The Panel will review the video of the flagged couple(s) to determine whether a violation occurred.
4. If a majority agrees a violation occurred, the Panel will decide how many placement positions to drop based on the severity of the violation.
5. In severe cases, the penalty may include being dropped “out of the money” (below prize-receiving positions).

Time Violations for Routines

If the Referee Judge (or Chief Judge, where applicable) determines that a routine exceeds the maximum or falls below the minimum time limit, the couple will be disqualified (placed last).

Competitors have the opportunity to test their music during floor trials and are responsible for ensuring their routine fits within the allowed time.

SWING CONTENT VIOLATIONS

Swing Content is the responsibility of each judge, not the Referee Judge.

Any content-related concerns or violations are reflected in individual judges' scores and/or comments on their score sheets.

- SVW – Swing Violation Warning – No mandatory placement drop.
- SV – Swing Violation – The judge applies a drop of 1, 3, or 10 places within their own placements.

Classic Division (Routine)

- Below 75% Swing Content
 - Judge may choose to issue SVW (no drop), or
 - Judge may issue SV1 (1-place drop).
- Below 60% Swing Content
 - Judge issues SV2 (3-place drop).
- Below 50% Swing Content
 - Judge issues SV3 (10-place drop or last place within their individual score).

Showcase Division (Routine)

- Below 60% Swing Content
 - Judge may issue SVW (no drop), or
 - Judge may issue SV1 (1-place drop).
- Below 50% Swing Content
 - Judge issues SV3 (10-place drop or last place within their individual score).

Final score sheets will reflect these violations (e.g.: “Competitor A – 3rd place, SV-1”).

JUDGING CRITERIA

Competitors will be judged on the following:

1. Timing – Dancing on the correct beat, with accurate syncopations and footwork, aligned with the rhythmic “swing” of the music.
 2. Teamwork – Demonstrating connection, lead/follow, and action/reaction between partners, with safety and respect.
 3. Technique – Quality of movement: control, balance, foot placement, alignment, body lines, turns, and spins.
 4. Choreography – Choice and arrangement of movements, whether spontaneous (Jack & Jill) or choreographed (Showcase/Classic), including musical structure, phrasing, and identifiable swing content.
 5. Musical Interpretation – Ability to reflect tempo, mood, style, and variations in the music throughout the dance.
 6. Presentation – Overall impact, including attire, posture, confidence, and audience engagement, while maintaining good sportsmanship.
 7. Artistry (Routine Divisions only) – Storytelling, theme, emotional impact, originality, and authenticity beyond pure technique.
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ROUTINE DIVISIONS & RULES

(Aligned with the NASDE Division Rules, 2026 edition. Where any GGP rule conflicts with the published NASDE rules, the NASDE rules take precedence.)

GENERAL NASDE RULES - CLASSIC & SHOWCASE

1. These divisions follow the NASDE Division Rules. Where any GGP rule conflicts with the published NASDE rules, the NASDE rules take precedence.
2. Contestants must be 18 years or older by the end of the event.
3. A couple consists of one Leader and one Follower. Competitors must remain in their respective roles for the entire routine, with one allowable role switch not exceeding eight (8) beats of music.
4. Costumes are allowed and highly encouraged.
5. Competitors select their own music.
6. Performance time: minimum 2 minutes, maximum 3 minutes. The clock and the judging both start at the first dance movement, with or without music.
7. No props are allowed. A prop is any article or object intentionally discarded, removed, taken away or brought into the dance - for example a hat thrown to the floor, a cane tossed aside, or an object picked up from the floor. Enforcement of this rule is assigned to the Referee; flagged incidents go to the Review Panel, which makes the final decision on any violation and on any drop in placement.
8. An individual may not dance twice within the same division.
9. Prize money offered meets or exceeds the NASDE minimum for the division.

JUDGING PANEL - CLASSIC & SHOWCASE

A minimum of seven (7) judges. If three (3) or fewer couples compete, a minimum of five (5) judges may be used.

No more than three (3) of the seven judges may be NASDE Event Directors, and no more than three (3) may come from the same region, club or studio.

Significant others should not sit on the same panel, unless one of them is the Chief Judge and the other the Referee.

A Referee is included on the panel for Classic and Showcase; the NASDE Referee System applies.

All scores count and no score may be discarded. The Chief Judge scores are not used to calculate finals results, except if a judge on the panel is unable to continue. Ties are resolved by the panel using relative placement.

Judges score performance quality and swing content only. Violations unrelated to swing content are not reflected in judges scores: they are monitored by the Referee or the chief judge and, if flagged, decided by a Review Panel.

Mock judges may not sit on the floor alongside the official panel.

RE-STARTS - CLASSIC, SHOWCASE & RISING STAR

A re-start may be granted if something occurring during the performance affects competitor safety: (1) technical problems outside the dancers control, such as a lighting failure, faulty or damaged flooring, or the music stopping; or (2) costume malfunctions - a broken shoe, an untied costume, a loose item - that endanger the dancers or expose inappropriate body parts.

The Chief Judge may stop a performance until the problem is rectified. Competitors may also stop voluntarily and request a re-start, but must speak to the Chief Judge before leaving the dance floor. If a re-start is granted, the Chief Judge decides when the couple performs again. The portion danced before the re-start is not counted towards the competitors ranking.

CLASSIC DIVISION WCS (18+)

West Coast Swing routines with an “on the ground” approach, where drops, leans, circular movements, and other weight-supported moves are allowed as long as at least one foot from each partner remains on the floor.

1. West Coast Swing criteria apply.
2. Contestants must be 18 years or older by the end of the event.
3. Competitors may also dance in Showcase or Rising Star if eligibility requirements are met, but must use a different partner and a different routine.
4. Competitors must hold a full weekend pass.
5. Competitors choose their own music and perform choreographed routines.
6. Costumes are allowed and highly encouraged (Halloween-style costumes are not considered appropriate).
7. Swing Content: 70%. Whether this requirement is met is at the discretion of each judge and reflected in scores.
8. Performance time: minimum 2 minutes, maximum 3 minutes. Timing begins with the first performance movement, with or without music.
9. Separate entrances are allowed, but the couple must connect physically within 32 beats of music.

10. Couples must maintain physical contact except during spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.
11. Breakaways may not exceed 8 beats of music. Where a spin, turn or recovery runs directly into a breakaway, the entire separation counts as one and may not exceed 8 beats of music.
12. Both partners must keep at least one foot on the floor during weight-support moves. A foot leaving the floor will be flagged for review, to determine whether it constitutes a violation or an error.
13. A maximum of seven (7) partner weight-support moves is allowed.
14. A couple must remain in their designated roles throughout the routine, with the allowance of one (1) 8-beat role-switch segment.
15. Competitors must register by November 28th, 2026.
16. No on-site registrations will be taken for this division.
17. A minimum of three (3) entries is required for full prize money. If exactly three entries are registered, the division may still run, but prize money may be adjusted. With two (2) or fewer entries, the division will be canceled and entry fees refunded. The Organizer will decide this prior to the event.

SHOWCASE DIVISION WCS (18+)

West Coast Swing routines with greater emphasis on lifts, aerials, acrobatics, and dramatic weight-supported movements.

1. West Coast Swing criteria apply.
2. Contestants must be 18 years or older by the end of the event.
3. Competitors may also enter Classic or Rising Star if eligibility requirements are met, but must use a different partner and a different routine.
4. Competitors must hold a full weekend pass.
5. Competitors choose their own music and perform choreographed routines.
6. Costumes are allowed and highly encouraged (Halloween-style costumes are not considered appropriate).

7. Swing Content: 60% is required. Judges determine whether the requirement is met and reflect it in scores.
8. Performance time: minimum 2 minutes, maximum 3 minutes. Timing begins with the first movement, with or without music.
9. Separate entrances are permitted.
10. Breakaways and side-by-side patterns are permitted.
11. Lifts are permitted:
 - Minimum of three (3) lifts required.
 - No maximum number of lifts.
 - At least one lift must place the follower's hips at or above the leader's shoulders while the leader is standing (not sitting, squatting, or significantly bent forward), and must appear sustained for 1–3 seconds.
 - There is no maximum number of partner weight-support moves in this division.
12. Couples must remain in designated roles, with one (1) allowed role-switch segment of up to 8 beats of music.
13. Minimum three (3) entries for full prize money, with the same cancellation/adjustment rules as Classic.

RISING STAR DIVISIONS (15+)

An open Swing routine division run under the Rising Star Tour Rules (RST), 2026 edition. Where any GGP rule conflicts with the published RST rules, the RST rules take precedence, except on prize money and the range of accepted swing styles, since GGP is a West Coast Swing event.

The Rising Star division is **split into Rising Star Classic and Rising Star Showcase**, each with its own requirements, listed in the general rules below.

1. Eligibility
 - Competitors must be fifteen (15) years old by the last day of the event.

- Competitors are ineligible if they have previously won the RST top place award twice in previous seasons, or have placed in the top three of the Rising Star Classic or Showcase at The Open two or more times in divisions with at least ten couples.
- Competitors with five (5) or more WSDC Champion points are not eligible.
- Eligibility is retained separately for each role, leader and follower.

2. General Rules

- A couple consists of one leader and one follower (any gender combination).
- Swing Content: 70% is required. In the absence of a referee judge, it is at each judge's discretion to determine whether the swing content requirement has been met.
- Performance time: minimum 2 minutes, maximum 3 minutes.
- Competitors choose their own music.
- Costumes are allowed and highly encouraged.
- No props are allowed.
- Time and judging start with the first movement, with or without music.
- Separate entrances are permitted but couples must connect within 32 beats of music.
- Physical contact must be maintained except during spins, turns, short breakaways and recoveries, with separations not exceeding 8 beats of music.
- Couples must remain in designated roles, with one (1) 8-beat role-switch allowance per performance.
- Both partners must keep at least one foot on the floor during weight-support moves; otherwise the move is considered a lift.
- A maximum of seven (7) partner weight-support moves is permitted. All partner weight-support moves, including lifts, count toward this maximum.
- An individual may not compete twice within the same division.
- RST Referee System: if the Referee determines that a violation may have occurred, a review panel made up of the Chief Judge and two other judges is assembled. Each panel

member records Pass or Fail for each couple in question and the majority opinion rules; the result is recorded on a Panel Review Sheet. If a couple Fails, the panel determines whether the violation was an error or a penalty. An error is a breach that was not deliberate, and the panel may apply no drop, one drop or two drops in placement for each error identified. A penalty signifies a deliberate breach of the rules.

- Re-starts: the re-start rules set out for the routine divisions apply. Only the repeat performance is judged; the earlier performance does not influence the ranking.
- **Rising Star Classic:** lifts are not allowed, and dancers must keep at least one (1) foot on the ground during weight-support movements.
- **Rising Star Showcase:** a minimum of three (3) lifts is required, one of which must place the follower's hips above the leader's physical waistline.

TEAM, MASTERS, JUNIORS & PRO-AM DIVISIONS

- Team Division – In 2026, this division will be a non-competitive show (exhibition only).
 - Masters Division – In 2026, this division will be a non-competitive show (exhibition only).
 - Juniors & Young Adult Division – In 2026, this division will be a non-competitive show (exhibition only).
 - Pro-Am Routines / Pro-Am Follower / Pro-Am Leader – In 2026, these divisions will be non-competitive shows (exhibition only).
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PETITIONS FOR DIVISION RECLASSIFICATION – WSDC JACK & JILL

The World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Points Registry determines eligibility for West Coast Swing Jack & Jill skill levels. Current point standings are available at worldsdc.com.

- Petitions may move a competitor one (1) division only, up or down. Petitions to dance UP must be submitted to the WSDC Chief Judges Committee (CJC) at least fifteen (15) days before the event, together with two (2) videos of the competitor's dancing; approved up-petitions are valid for six (6) months and are transferable to other events. Petitions to dance DOWN apply to the primary role only, are reviewed by the Chief Judge, and are valid for this event only. Petitions down are not permitted for the secondary role. A competitor who dances in the incorrect skill-level division without an approved petition will be disqualified and will not receive points.
- Competitors are expected to honor this classification system. Misrepresenting skill level or ignoring point standings can result in disqualification.
- Competitors who wish to dance down in their primary role may request reclassification on their entry form, with a brief written explanation. Requests to dance up must follow the WSDC CJC procedure above and cannot be submitted through the entry form.
- Petitions will be reviewed by the Chief Judge, and decisions will be communicated as soon as possible.
- The Organizer reserves the right to reclassify any competitor for any reason.
- The Organizer reserves the right to verify any competitor's division eligibility against the WSDC Points Registry and the WSDC Skill Level Jack & Jill Advancement Chart, and to move a competitor to their correct division.

WSDC JACK & JILL DIVISION RULES

- Competitors enter as individuals and dance with randomly assigned partners.
- The DJ selects the music.
- Leaders and Followers are randomly paired, and multiple partner changes occur during preliminary and semi-final rounds.
- In preliminary heats, competitors are judged individually on timing, technique, and teamwork.

- Those with the highest scores are called back to a final, where they are randomly paired and judged as couples.
- Music tempo and style will vary, but will be appropriate to the division.
- Lifts and acrobatics are not allowed, except in the Champions division.

Division Qualifications



Chart 3: WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart

Skill Level ^[6]	WSDC Category Definitions	Allowed (Dancers are given the <i>option</i> to move to the next skill level)	Required (Dancers are <i>required</i> to move to the next skill level)
Champion	Champions are defined for WSDC Champion Jack and Jill contests. ^[7]	Allowed to dance in Champions with 1 Champion points	Required to dance in Champions with 10 Champion points
		Champion	
All Star	All Stars should be extremely competitive.	Allowed to move up with 150 All Star points	Required to move up with 225 All Star points
		All Star	
Advanced	Advanced should be very competitive.	Allowed to move up with 60 Advanced points	Required to move up with 90 Advanced points or 1 All Star point
		Advanced	
Intermediate	Intermediate dancers are perfecting their competitive skills.	Allowed to move up with 30 Intermediate points	Required to move up with 45 Intermediate points or 1 Advanced point
		Intermediate	
Novice	Novice dancers demonstrate basic dance skills.	Allowed to move up with 16 Novice points	Required to move up with 30 Novice points or 1 Intermediate point
		Novice	
Newcomer ^[8]	Newcomers are dancers who are new to competition.	Allowed to move up at the dancer's discretion.	Required to move up with 1 Newcomer point or 1 Novice point
		Newcomer	

Chart 4: WSDC Secondary Role Skill Level Jack & Jill Advancement Chart

P Primary Role Competition Level	Primary Role Points	Suggested Secondary Role	Allowed Secondary Role
Champion		All Star	All Star or Advanced <i>(Required to move up to All Star at 60+ Secondary Role Advanced points)</i>
All Star	150+ All Star points	Advanced	Advanced
	<150 All Star points	Advanced	Advanced or Intermediate <i>(Required to move up to Advanced at 30+ Secondary Role Intermediate points)</i>
Advanced	60+ Advanced points	Intermediate	Intermediate
	<60 Advanced points	Intermediate	Intermediate or Novice <i>(Required to move up to Intermediate at 16+ Secondary Role Novice points)</i>
Intermediate	<45 Intermediate points	Novice	Novice
Novice	16+ Novice points	Novice	Novice
	<16 Novice points	Newcomer	Novice or Newcomer <i>(Required to move up to Novice with 1+ Secondary Role points at any level.)</i>
Newcomer	0 points	Newcomer or Novice	<i>Note that you can only enter a given level once, as either lead or follow, not both.</i>

- J&J – Sophisticated (35+)
 - Age-based Jack & Jill for competitors 35 years or older.
 - Open to all skill levels, but competitors must know the basic West Coast Swing patterns (as per Novice guidelines).
 - Competitors may also enter one WSDC skill-level Jack & Jill (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All Star, or Champions).
 - J&J – Masters (50+)
 - Age-based Jack & Jill for competitors 50 years or older.
 - Open to all skill levels, with the same basic pattern expectations as Sophisticated.
 - Competitors may also enter one WSDC skill-level Jack & Jill division.
-

STRICTLY SWING DIVISION RULES

- Competitors sign up with a chosen partner.
- The DJ selects the music.
- Different skill levels are offered; each is a separate contest.
- Couples dance in heats to several short songs.
- Judges evaluate:
 - Social dancing skills
 - Timing and technique
 - Connection, lead and follow
 - Presentation and showmanship

Strictly Swing is not intended for long or heavily pre-choreographed routines.

Strictly Divisions Offered

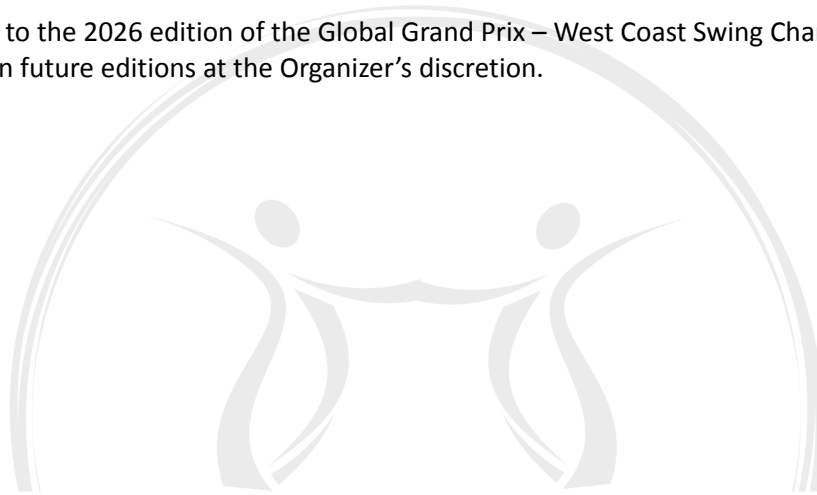
1. Novice
2. Intermediate
3. Open (Advanced / All Stars) **2 pointed All Star dancers aren't allowed to compete together**
4. All Stars / Champions Battle
5. Switchly

Specific Rules

- Contestants must be at least 16 years old by the end of the event.
- Length of performance (per song/heat) is at the Organizer's discretion.
- Costumes are not allowed. Matching or complementary outfits are allowed and encouraged.
- Divisions will be danced in heats for prelims and semi-finals (if needed).
- Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.
- Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
- Dancers must maintain their own contact with the floor during weight-support moves.
- Lifts and acrobatics are not allowed, except in the All Stars / Champions Battle.
- The same partners may not compete together in both a Strictly Swing contest and a choreography (routine) contest.
- You may lead at one level and follow at the next higher or lower level.
- You may not enter two levels dancing the same role.
- You may not enter the same level dancing both roles.

- Switchly: A minimum of three (3) role-switch transitions is required.
- Couples with two All Star dancers are not allowed in Advanced/All Star Strictly.
- Dancers who participate in the Battle Strictly are not allowed in Advanced/All Star Strictly.
- Champion-level dancers are not allowed in Advanced/All Star Strictly.

These rules apply to the 2026 edition of the Global Grand Prix – West Coast Swing Championships and may be updated in future editions at the Organizer’s discretion.



Global Grand Prix WCS 2026		Competitions Entry Fees	
Division	Before/avant September 11th	After/après September 11th	
Juniors & Young Adult Show	€ 0 euros	€ 0 euros	Free
Pro-Am Show (max. 5 entries)	€ 0 euros	€ 0 euros	Free
Masters Routine Show (+50y)	€ 0 euros	€ 0 euros	Free
Sophisticated Routine (+35y)	€ 50 euros	€ 60 euros	Per couple
Rising Star Classic	€ 50 euros	€ 60 euros	Per couple
Rising Star Showcase	€ 50 euros	€ 60 euros	Per couple
Classic	€ 50 euros	€ 60 euros	Per couple
Showcase	€ 50 euros	€ 60 euros	Per couple
Strictly Novice	€ 30 euros	€ 40 euros	Per couple
Strictly Intermediate	€ 30 euros	€ 40 euros	Per couple
Strictly Open	€ 30 euros	€ 40 euros	Per couple
Strictly All Stars/Champions	€ 30 euros	€ 40 euros	Per couple
Strictly Switchly	€ 30 euros	€ 40 euros	Per couple
Jack & Jack (each division)	€ 20 euros	€ 25 euros	Per person

GGP 2026		Competitions Prizes			
	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th place
Showcase	Trophy + €500	Trophy + €280	Trophy + € 200	Trophy + € 120	Trophy + € 100
Classic	Trophy + €500	Trophy + €280	Trophy + € 200	Trophy + € 120	Trophy + € 100
Rising Star	Trophy + €250	Trophy + €200	Trophy + € 120	Trophy + € 100	Trophy + € 70
Strictly Switchly	Medal	Medal	Medal	Medal	Medal
Strictly Novice/Inter	Medal	Medal	Medal	Medal	Medal
Strictly Open	Medal + € 200	Medal + € 100	Medal + € 60	Medal + € 50	Medal + € 40
Strictly Battle All Stars/Champions	Medal + € 200	Medal + € 100	Medal + € 60	Medal + € 50	Medal + € 40
JnJ Juniors	Medal + Event	Medal	Medal	Medal	Medal
JnJ Sophisticated	Medal + Event	Medal	Medal	Medal	Medal
JnJ Masters	Medal + Event	Medal	Medal	Medal	Medal
JnJ Newcomer	Medal + Event	Medal	Medal	Medal	Medal
JnJ Novice	Medal + Event	Medal	Medal	Medal	Medal
JnJ Intermediate	Medal + Event	Medal	Medal	Medal	Medal
JnJ Advanced	Medal + Event	Medal	Medal	Medal	Medal
JnJ All Stars	Medal + € 200	Medal + € 100	Medal + € 60	Medal + € 50	Medal + € 40
JnJ Champions	Medal + € 200	Medal + € 100	Medal + € 60	Medal + € 50	Medal + € 40

If you have questions about our competitions or would like to request permission to reproduce or adapt these rules, contact us at: director@globalgrandprixsdc.com.

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