

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **What level should I compete in?**

Levels are your competition level, not your dance level. Even if you have been dancing, or even teaching for years but have never competed, you will not have any World Swing Dance Council registry points(WSDC), so you will start in Newcomer. If you truly don't belong at that level, you will point out of it at your first competition and move on to Novice. Points are tracked through the WSDC website <https://www.worldsdc.com/registry-points/>. You will be given a WSDC number when you are awarded your first point. You will use that number in all future WSDC competitions.

**Newcomer:** No WSDC points in any level

**Novice:** More than one newcomer point, less than 30 Novice points

**Intermediate:** More than 16 Novice points, less than 45 Intermediate points

**Advanced:** More than 45 Intermediate points less than 90 Advanced points

**All Star:** More than 60 Advanced points

**Sophisticated:** This is an aged based category – you must be 35 or older at the close of the event

**Masters:** This is an aged based category – you must be 50 or older at the close of the event

In addition, you will use that level to choose your level in Pro-Ams and Strictly Swing contests.

### **What if the partner I want to dance with for Strictly is at a different level than me?**

No Problem! You will enter the level of the higher partner. For instance, if you are in Novice, and your partner is in Intermediate, you would enter the Intermediate Strictly.

### **What should I wear?**

Workshops: Wear whatever you are comfortable in and can move freely.

Competitions: At BTO we like to be a little classy. It is preferred for the “serious” competitions (Jack and Jill, Strictly) that you wear more professional attire (nice pants, blouse, collared shirts, etc.) Whatever you choose to wear, please ensure that there are no holes, obscene words or gestures, or political statements on them. For fun competitions like the Crazy Canuck whatever is comfortable for you. Slippers, street shoes, socked feet, and bare feet are not allowed.

### **What is Relative Placement Scoring:**

This system determines winners in the final rounds. It was adapted from the figure skating system and is now widely used at major dance competitions. It minimizes the impact of a rogue judge's mark and recognizes the most consistently scored entry. An equal numerical value is assigned to each Judge's raw scores so that each Judge has an equal vote in the outcome. A very detailed explanation of this system with examples is found here:

<https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Relative-Placement-12-20-20-Rev-5-1-10-1.pdf>

### **Can I Lead and Follow in a Contest?**

In most cases, yes! You can dance your primary role in your WSDC level, and your secondary role one level down. For instance, in Jack and Jill, if you are primarily an Intermediate follower you can enter Intermediate as a Follower, and Novice as a Leader. You can follow the same formula for Strictly Swing. The only problem that arises is when both your primary and secondary roles are at the same level, then you will need to choose which you would like to do for that contest.

## What do those words in the rules mean?

- Breakaway - A set of symmetric or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple who intentionally break contact for eight or more beats (except for spins and turns), which is not a lead-able derivative of a recognizable swing pattern.
- Costumes - Attire that in the opinion of the judges is specifically designed or selected for couples competition and would not generally be worn for social dancing.
- Drop - Movement in which either partner's head and torso go below knee level of the other partner.
- Lifts - Any movement lasting longer than a full beat of music where both feet of one partner are clearly off the floor and the other partner supports the lifted partner's weight.
- Props - Throw away skirts, shirts, scarves, etc. are considered props in this context and are not allowed, or anything other than what would be regarded as acceptable clothing.
- Routine - Any segment, which, in the opinion of the judges, consists of prearranged choreography including symmetric or complementary movements or footwork.
- Swing Content - Recognizable West Coast Swing elements for this event shall be as follows: initiating a technique on the downbeat of the music where the leader typically moves the left foot and the follower moves the right foot; stretch and/or compression between partners to initiate or change a movement; full weight changes to complete a walk or triple step; creating some lateral swing action with the body in any direction; and creating an anchor before initiating a new pattern by settling the body weight over the rear standing leg.
- Amateur status: An amateur is someone in recent history who has not self-proclaimed Pro status while having a main profession other than teaching, coaching, or choreographing dance. An amateur may receive money from competitions or teaching if annual revenue is under 20% of the amateur's income for the last five years. An amateur is a person who has never competed as a Pro in a Pro-Am.

## How do I know if I made Finals?

If you have competed in a contest that has a prelim round there are 2 ways that you will know if you made finals.

- 1) Finals will be posted outside the ballroom or the event's online event page and social accounts.
- 2) Finals will be "call to the floor"

In either example, you are responsible for being in the ballroom at the time specified. If you are not there, the alternate will be called and you will not be allowed to dance.

## What happens if my contest gets canceled?

If you registered for a contest that doesn't have enough entries to run, your contest fee will be refunded. Usually we love to let people dance so where possible levels may be combined. If a WSDC contest is combined (ie Advanced/All Star) points will be awarded to the lower division (advanced). You will still have the choice to dance the combined division, or get a refund.

## What happens if I'm late for a contest?

If you are not checked in for your contest at the appropriate time you will be scratched and your entry fee forfeited. You are responsible for being in the ballroom 15 minutes before your contest start time so that you can be lined up and ready to go. If you show up after the contest coordinator submits, you're out of luck.

## Am I being judged individually, or as a partnership?

### Jack and Jill

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| Prelims | Individually |
| Semis   | Individually |

Finals Partnership

Strictly Swing

Prelims Partnership

Semis Partnership

Finals Partnership

Pro-Am Strictly Swing

All Individually – Only the Am

Pro-Am Spotlight Routine

All Partnership

Krazy Canuck

Prelims Individually

Finals Partnership