

NORTHEAST SWING CLASSIC 2026

WORLD SWING DANCE COUNCIL (WSDC)

WEST COAST SWING COMPETITION TITLES & RULES

November 12-15, 2026 • Providence/Warwick, Rhode Island

These rules govern Northeast Swing Classic's West Coast Swing competitions, including its WSDC Registry Jack & Jill contests and related West Coast Swing specialty contests. Country Swing competitions are governed by a separate NSC Country Swing Competition Rules document.

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

1. Northeast Swing Classic 2026 (NSC'26) is a World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Registry Event for West Coast Swing. These rules apply to the West Coast Swing competitions identified in this document. Country Swing competitions are governed by a separate NSC Country Swing Competition Rules document. NSC'26 is open to all eligible contestants in every applicable division. Every competitor must have purchased or been awarded an event pass that permits competition participation and must sign all required waiver forms. Contestants under eighteen (18) must have a parent or legal guardian sign any forms requiring parental or guardian consent.
2. This is a Swing Dance Competition. Swing is an American Rhythm Dance based on a foundation of 6-beat and 8-beat patterns incorporating a wide variety of rhythms built on 2-beat single, delayed, double, triple, and blank rhythm units. Six-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, passes, underarm turns, push breaks, open-to-closed and closed-to- open patterns. Eight-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, whips, swing-outs, Lindy circles and Shag pivots. Two-beat and 4-beat extension rhythm breaks may be incorporated to extend a pattern, phrase the music and/or accent breaks.
3. All competition categories are gender neutral. Northeast Swing Classic intends to follow and comply with all applicable World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Registry Event Rules.
4. NSC'26 does not impose an event-wide minimum age for Jack & Jill competition. Eligibility is determined by the requirements of the applicable division and the current WSDC Registry Event Rules. Age-based divisions remain subject to their stated age qualifications. Minors must satisfy the waiver/consent requirements stated above.
5. There will be no mandatory dancers' meeting unless announced by Event Management or the Chief Judge. Competitors must be in the ballroom and ready to check in at least fifteen (15) minutes before their competition block. A competitor who is not present when line-up is completed may be scratched. Competitors are responsible for checking the current event schedule.
6. WSDC Jack & Jill contests will follow the current WSDC Tier classifications, minimum round requirements, scoring requirements and other applicable Registry Event Rules.
7. For non-WSDC contests, competition format, number of heats and number/length of songs may be adjusted by Event Management and the Chief Judge as appropriate. WSDC Jack & Jill rounds will be conducted in accordance with current WSDC requirements.
8. These rules will be enforced by Event Management and the Chief Judge within their respective authority. Matters governed by WSDC Registry Event Rules will be handled in accordance with those rules.

ENTRIES

1. Unless a specific contest states otherwise, there is no maximum number of entries. Registration deadlines are as published in the event schedule and registration system.
2. The number of preliminary and semifinal heats, when applicable, will depend on the number of entries and the applicable competition rules. WSDC Jack & Jill contests will follow WSDC Tier and round requirements.
3. For non-WSDC contests, a minimum of five (5) entries is generally required for full prizes. If three (3) or four (4) entries are registered, the contest may run with adjusted prizes. If fewer than three (3) entries are registered, NSC'26 may combine or cancel the contest and refund the applicable competition entry fee if cancelled.
4. WSDC skill-level Jack & Jill divisions will not be offered as combined divisions at registration. If a division does not meet the applicable WSDC Tier 1 requirements at registration close, the Event Director may combine it with an adjacent division or cancel it only as permitted by the current WSDC Registry Event Rules. When adjacent skill-level divisions are combined, WSDC points will be awarded at the lower division level, except that a combined Newcomer/Novice contest awards Novice points.
5. For non-WSDC contests, NSC'26 may use heat, all-skate, spotlight, tournament or other announced formats when appropriate for the contest and schedule.

APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR AND DRESS CODE

The Organizers encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing quality, safety, respect or good taste. Conduct or attire that the judges or Event Management reasonably consider inappropriate for a social dance or competition environment may result in a warning, penalty or disqualification. Competitors with questions regarding competition attire should consult the Chief Judge in advance. All competitors are also subject to the Northeast Swing Classic Code of Conduct.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETITORS

1. **Planning Ahead:** Competitors are responsible for checking the weekend schedule, registration deadlines, check-in times and competition locations; arriving on time; and bringing appropriate competition attire. Schedule changes may be announced in the ballroom and/or through official NSC communication channels.
2. **Knowing the Rules:** Competitors are responsible for reading and following these rules and, when applicable, the current WSDC Registry Event Rules. Questions should be addressed to Event Management, the Chief Judge or registration staff before the applicable deadline.
3. **Being Prepared to Compete:** Competitors should be present in the ballroom at least fifteen (15) minutes before their competition. A cancellation or missed check-in may result in loss of the competition entry fee.
4. **Bib Numbers:** Competitors are responsible for their assigned bib numbers and must wear them as directed by the competition coordinator. For Strictly Swing contests, only the Leader is ordinarily required to display the couple's bib unless otherwise announced. Bib placement instructions may be adjusted by the competition coordinator or Chief Judge.
5. **Sportsmanship and Conduct:** Competitors must demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the competition floor and comply with the Northeast Swing Classic Code of Conduct. Violations may result in disciplinary action, including disqualification.

JACK & JILL RULES

All Jack & Jill Divisions

1. NSC'26 plans to offer the following West Coast Swing Jack & Jill contests: Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All Star, Sophisticated, Masters, Pro-Am Newcomer/Novice, Pro-Am Intermediate, Pro-Am Advanced, and the All-American Swing 16 tournament-style contest. Additional West Coast Swing contests, including Strictly Swing, Pro-Am Routine and Rising Star Routine, are governed by their respective sections below.
2. The WSDC-pointed contests at NSC'26 are the WSDC Jack & Jill divisions identified as Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All Star, Sophisticated and Masters, subject to WSDC eligibility and minimum contest requirements. Pro-Am, All-American Swing 16, Strictly Swing and other specialty contests are not WSDC-pointed contests. NSC'26 does not currently plan to offer a WSDC Champion Jack & Jill. Competitors whose WSDC eligibility requires Champion must follow the current WSDC Registry Event Rules and may not enter All Star unless eligible to do so under those rules or an applicable petition has been approved.
3. WSDC Jack & Jill competitions will be conducted under the WSDC Registry Event Rules in effect at the time of NSC'26. If an NSC rule conflicts with an applicable WSDC Registry Event Rule, the WSDC rule controls for the WSDC contest.
4. Competitors are responsible for checking the WSDC Points Registry before registering and for entering the correct skill level in each role. A competitor who has not yet earned a WSDC point may not yet have a WSDC Competitor ID.
5. Petitions involving WSDC skill levels must follow the current WSDC Petition Process described later in these rules.
6. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways and recoveries. During partner weight-support moves, each dancer must maintain their own contact with the floor. Props are not allowed unless a specific non-WSDC contest expressly permits them.
7. A competitor may not enter the same Jack & Jill contest twice.
8. NSC'26 staff members must comply with any staff competition restrictions communicated by Event Management and should contact the Event Director before registering when required.

WSDC Jack & Jills

1. Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected by the competition DJ. Preliminary and semifinal rounds, when required, will be conducted in heats. Partner rotation, pairing and music selection will preserve random and unbiased competition as required by WSDC.
2. Competitors may compete in a maximum of two (2) skill-level WSDC Jack & Jill contests at the event: once in their primary role and once in their secondary role, subject to WSDC eligibility. Competitors may additionally enter multiple age-based WSDC Jack & Jill contests for which they qualify.
3. Secondary-role eligibility will be determined under the current WSDC Registry Event Rules and WSDC Skill Level Jack & Jill Advancement Chart. The highest level for which a competitor is eligible in their primary role determines the allowable level(s) in the

5. Each dancer must remain in the registered role throughout the contest.

6. Swing content must be at least 90%. Any style of swing is allowed, but music will generally be appropriate for West Coast Swing and ordinarily in 4/4 time. No lifts or aerials and no planned entrances or exits are allowed. Drops are permitted only when each partner maintains their own weight/contact with the floor. Costumes are not required; coordinated or matching outfits are permitted.

Sophisticated Strictly Swing

- Both partners must be at least thirty-five (35) years old by the close of the event.
- Unless otherwise stated in the final contest description, only one member of a Sophisticated Strictly couple may be a Champion-level dancer as determined by the current WSDC Points Registry.

Masters Strictly Swing

- Both partners must be at least fifty (50) years old by the close of the event.
- Unless otherwise stated in the final contest description, only one member of a Masters Strictly couple may be a Champion-level dancer as determined by the current WSDC Points Registry.

Invitational / Open Strictly - if offered

Eligibility for any Invitational or Open Strictly contest will be stated in the published contest description. If Champion status is used as an eligibility criterion, Champion status will be determined using the current WSDC Points Registry.

ROUTINE COMPETITIONS

Routine competitions are non-WSDC-pointed contests. Competitors select their own music and perform a choreographed routine. Music must be submitted in the format and by the deadline announced by NSC'26. Dance order will be determined by Event Management and/or the Chief Judge. Routine competitors are subject to the Northeast Swing Classic Code of Conduct and all applicable general competition rules.

Pro-Am Routine

1. The Pro-Am Routine division is designed to develop routine dancers and showcase an Amateur dancing a choreographed West Coast Swing routine with a Professional partner/instructor.
2. For this division, an Amateur is a Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate or Advanced-level dancer who does not regularly earn significant income teaching or performing West Coast Swing. A Professional is an All Star, Champion, or a person who regularly earns significant income teaching or performing West Coast Swing. Event Management and the Chief Judge may determine eligibility when a dancer's status is unclear.
3. The partnership must have a bona fide instructor/student relationship. Both partners' performances may be considered by the judges, with the Amateur's development and performance central to the purpose of the division.
4. A Professional may compete with up to three (3) different Amateurs in the Pro-Am Routine division.
5. Routines must contain at least fifty percent (50%) recognizable swing content and must be a minimum of two (2) minutes and a maximum of three (3) minutes in length.
6. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Props are not permitted. Lifts, drops, tricks and other weight-support movements may be used only when performed safely and in accordance with any instructions issued by the Chief Judge.
7. The contest will ordinarily be conducted as a final. If the number of entries requires another format, Event Management and the Chief Judge may announce an appropriate preliminary/final procedure.
8. This is an NSC specialty contest and does not award WSDC Registry Points.

Rising Star Routine

1. NSC'26 will offer a Rising Star Routine division for developing choreographed swing partnerships. Unless NSC publishes a specific exception, the division will follow the current 2026 Rising Star Tour (RST) rules for dancer eligibility, routine content, performance requirements, safety, judging and penalties.
2. Under the current 2026 RST eligibility rules, each dancer must be at least fifteen (15) years old by the end of the event and must satisfy the remaining RST eligibility requirements. This age requirement applies only to the Rising Star Routine division and does not create a minimum age for NSC Jack & Jill contests.
3. Current RST rules require at least seventy percent (70%) swing content. Separate entrances are permitted, but partners must join within thirty-two (32) beats of music. Physical contact must be maintained except during permitted spins, turns, short breakaways and recoveries, with separations not exceeding eight (8) beats.

4. Current RST rules permit a maximum of seven (7) partner weight-support moves, with up to three (3) of those available as optional lifts, subject to the current RST definitions and restrictions. Competitors are responsible for reviewing the current RST rules before competing.
5. Competitors provide their own music and perform a choreographed routine. Props are not permitted under the current RST rules.
6. Unless Northeast Swing Classic is separately designated as a Rising Star Tour points event for 2026, placement in this contest does not imply or guarantee Rising Star Tour points. Any RST Tour status or points eligibility will be announced separately by NSC.
7. If the Rising Star Tour updates its rules before NSC'26, the rules in effect for the event will control.

WSDC PETITION PROCESS

Competitors wishing to compete in a different WSDC skill-level division must follow the current WSDC Petition Process. A petition may move a competitor only one skill level up or down.

1. Petitions Down: Petitions to move down are permitted for a competitor's primary role only. The WSDC Certified Chief Judge, or qualified individual(s)/committee designated by the Chief Judge, may approve or deny the petition after reviewing the competitor's Points Registry record. A petition down is event-specific.
2. Petitions Up: Petitions to move up must be submitted to the WSDC Chief Judges Committee at least fifteen (15) days before the event and must include all materials required by the current WSDC petition process, including the required competition video submission(s). Approval is governed by the current WSDC Registry Event Rules.
3. Secondary Role: Under current WSDC rules, petitions up may be available for a secondary role as permitted by WSDC; petitions down are for the primary role only.
4. Competitors may not compete outside their WSDC-eligible skill level unless the required petition has been approved. A competitor who enters the incorrect division without an approved petition may be disqualified and may not receive WSDC points.
5. Petitions will not be approved for the purpose of creating or meeting a WSDC Tier.
6. Because WSDC may update forms or procedures, competitors should use the current WSDC Rules and Forms pages rather than relying on an older event-year PDF.

WSDC REFERENCES AND CONTROLLING RULES

Northeast Swing Classic is a World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Registry Event for West Coast Swing. The current WSDC Registry Event Rules, WSDC Points Registry, Skill Level Jack & Jill Advancement Chart, scoring requirements and petition procedures govern WSDC Jack & Jill contests at NSC'26. These WSDC/West Coast Swing rules do not govern NSC Country Swing competitions, which are covered in a separate rules document. If WSDC publishes a rule clarification or revision that becomes applicable before the event, NSC'26 will follow the applicable WSDC requirement. Current WSDC rules and forms are available from the World Swing Dance Council Rules & Info and Forms pages. Competitors are responsible for confirming their current eligibility before registering.

FINAL AUTHORITY

Event Management reserves the right to make reasonable administrative changes necessary for safety, scheduling and the orderly operation of non-WSDC contests. The WSDC Certified Chief Judge has the authority assigned to that role under the WSDC Registry Event Rules. Nothing in these NSC rules is intended to override an applicable WSDC requirement. Questions: northeastwcs@gmail.com

NORTHEAST SWING CLASSIC

COUNTRY SWING COMPETITION RULES

2026 Event Rules - Country Swing Jack & Jill

November 12-15, 2026 | Providence / Warwick, Rhode Island

These rules are intended as the competitor-facing Country Swing rules for Northeast Swing Classic 2026. CSDC-pointed competitions are governed by the current Country Swing Dance Council (CSDC) Rules and Regulations. If a conflict exists, the current CSDC rules control.

1. SANCTIONING AND AUTHORITY

Northeast Swing Classic Country Swing competitions are conducted in accordance with the current Country Swing Dance Council (CSDC) Rules and Regulations. CSDC-pointed competitions will be identified as point-eligible in the published competition information.

The Chief Judge has authority over competition integrity, eligibility, finalist verification, restarts, rule enforcement, and competition-related disputes.

2. COUNTRY SWING JACK & JILL DIVISIONS

For 2026, Northeast Swing Classic intends to offer the following CSDC Country Swing Jack & Jill divisions:

- Novice Country Swing Jack & Jill
- Intermediate Country Swing Jack & Jill

Additional divisions may be added only if published by the event and conducted in accordance with CSDC requirements.

CSDC recognizes additional skill levels including Newcomer, Advanced, Allstar, Champion, Masters/Diamond, Sophisticated/Rhinestone, and Juniors when applicable; however, only divisions specifically listed by Northeast Swing Classic are offered at this event.

3. ELIGIBILITY AND DIVISION PLACEMENT

Competitors are responsible for entering the correct division based on the CSDC/DancePlace Points Registry, the CSDC advancement chart, and the published Northeast Swing Classic rules.

- Leader and Follower points are tracked separately.
- Primary- and secondary-role eligibility is governed by CSDC rules.
- Competitors may petition only as permitted by CSDC rules.
- A competitor who reaches a mandatory advancement threshold may no longer compete in the lower division.

Current CSDC advancement thresholds include: Novice optional advancement at 25 points and mandatory advancement at 35 points; Intermediate optional advancement at 45 points and mandatory advancement at 55 points.

4. JACK & JILL FORMAT

Competitors register individually as either a Leader or Follower. Partners are randomly assigned and/or rotated. The Jack & Jill format is intended to test each competitor's ability to dance with a variety of partners and music.

- Partner rotation and finals pairings must remain random and unbiased.
- Music selection must be fair to all competitors.
- Preliminary rounds use an approved callback scoring system.
- Finals use the Relative Placement Scoring System (RPSS).

5. MINIMUM ENTRIES AND POINT ELIGIBILITY

For CSDC points to be awarded, a pointed Jack & Jill division must meet CSDC minimum participation requirements.

- Only one pointed CSDC Jack & Jill may be offered at each skill level.
- Finals must include at least five (5) unique Leaders and five (5) unique Followers for CSDC points to be awarded.
- Northeast Swing Classic must offer at least two skill-level CSDC Jack & Jill competitions and reach at least 40 total competitor entries across those divisions to satisfy the CSDC minimum pointed-programming standard.

If a division does not meet the minimum participation requirement, Northeast Swing Classic may combine it with the next higher adjacent division, cancel the division, or run it as an exhibition without CSDC points.

6. COMPETITION ROUNDS

Competition rounds will be determined by the number of registered entries and the event schedule. CSDC requires additional rounds for larger fields.

- Semifinals are required at 35 or more entries.
- Quarterfinals are required at 60 or more entries.
- The event will provide reasonable rest and transition time between rounds in accordance with the published schedule and CSDC requirements.

7. COUNTRY SWING STYLE EXPECTATION

Competitions labeled Country Swing must reflect the foundational Country Swing identity described by CSDC. Country Swing is a stationary, rotational partner dance built around clear lead-follow communication, elastic connection, grounded mechanics, rhythmic precision, rotational momentum, and musical responsiveness.

Depending on the division, dancers may use different rhythmic structures while maintaining the same core Country Swing identity.

8. JUDGING

Judges score independently. Score manipulation, collusion, coercion, tampering, or improper influence is prohibited.

- CSDC minimum judging-panel requirements apply.
- Finals must use an odd-numbered panel of at least three judges, excluding the Chief Judge.
- The Chief Judge oversees rule compliance, eligibility, scoring integrity, and final competition decisions.
- Judging conflicts of interest must be disclosed and resolved by reassignment or recusal as required by CSDC.

9. RESTARTS

A restart may be requested because of an incorrect song, clothing malfunction, sound or lighting issue, or another competition-affecting circumstance. All restarts must be approved and directed by the Chief Judge.

10. AGE REQUIREMENTS

CSDC does not establish a universal minimum age for regular Country Swing Jack & Jill competition. Northeast Swing Classic may establish a minimum age if required by the venue or event policy; any such restriction will be published in advance with a defined age cutoff.

Unless a separate age restriction is published by Northeast Swing Classic, competitors are not subject to an additional NSC-specific minimum age solely for participation in the Country Swing Jack & Jill.

11. REGISTRATION AND EVENT RESTRICTIONS

Competitors must be registered in each competition they enter. Any additional competition restrictions adopted by Northeast Swing Classic will be published in accordance with CSDC requirements.

- Competitors must comply with event registration deadlines and competition check-in procedures.
- Competitors are responsible for confirming their registered role and division.
- Northeast Swing Classic reserves the right to restrict staff participation or the number of competition entries when such restrictions are published in advance.

12. CONDUCT, SAFETY, AND INTEGRITY

All competitors are subject to the Northeast Swing Classic Code of Conduct and all applicable CSDC competition-integrity rules.

- Harassment, intimidation, retaliation, discrimination, or abusive conduct is prohibited.
- Competitors must follow the direction of the Chief Judge, competition staff, and event management.
- Competition manipulation, bribery, coercion, collusion, score tampering, or wagering on CSDC-pointed competition outcomes is prohibited.
- Unsafe conduct may result in removal from a competition or the event.

13. OBJECTIONS, PROTESTS, AND FINAL AUTHORITY

Competition objections and protests will be handled in accordance with CSDC procedures. On-site competition decisions are subject to the authority of the Chief Judge and Northeast Swing Classic competition management.

Northeast Swing Classic may clarify administrative details as needed, provided those clarifications do not conflict with CSDC rules. In the event of a conflict between these event rules and the current CSDC Rules and Regulations, the current CSDC rule controls.

14. REFERENCE

Primary governing reference: Country Swing Dance Council (CSDC) Rules and Regulations, Version 3, effective March 12, 2026.

secondary role; merely choosing to compete at a lower primary-role level does not lower the competitor's secondary-role eligibility.

4. Sophisticated competitors must be at least thirty-five (35) years old by the close of the event. Masters competitors must be at least fifty (50) years old by the close of the event. A competitor who qualifies by age may enter multiple WSDC age-based contests, subject to the current WSDC rules.

5. WSDC preliminary rounds will use the WSDC-approved Callback scoring system and finals will use Relative Placement. Contest staffing and judging panels will meet current WSDC requirements.

Pro-Am Jack & Jills

1. Competitors enter and are judged as individuals, are randomly assigned professional partners, and dance to music selected by the competition DJ.

2. Competitors may enter a maximum of two (2) Pro-Am Jack & Jills, one in each role, unless otherwise announced.

3. A competitor who also enters a WSDC skill-level Jack & Jill must enter the corresponding Pro-Am level based on the competitor's eligible/entered level as determined by Event Management and the Chief Judge. Competitors may not use Pro-Am registration to intentionally dance below their appropriate competitive level.

4. Preliminaries, semifinals and/or finals may be held depending on the number of entries.

5. For this contest, a Professional is a member of the NSC teaching staff and/or a dancer who qualifies as All Star or Champion under the current WSDC Points Registry, subject to Event Management approval.

All-American Swing 16 - Tournament Style Jack & Jill

1. Competitors enter as individuals and are randomly paired for the preliminary round. Competitors are judged as couples. Scoring emphasizes solid swing content and technique, with musicality and showmanship considered as appropriate.

2. This non-WSDC-pointed contest is open to all skill levels, including Champions, unless otherwise stated in the published contest information.

3. Couples receive raw scores using a consistent scale established by the Chief Judge. All couples are scored.

4. The top sixteen (16) couples advance to the tournament finals. Leaders and Followers are randomly drawn into new partnerships for the finals.

5. If a dancer competes in multiple preliminary heats and qualifies for the finals more than once, that dancer will advance only once. The next qualifying competitor(s) in the affected role will be advanced as needed to create the final field.

6. Tournament finals consist of head-to-head rounds progressing from sixteen (16) couples to eight (8), then four (4), followed by placement rounds for third place and first/second place. The Chief Judge may make reasonable procedural adjustments needed to preserve a fair tournament.

STRICTLY SWING RULES

Role and Level Definitions

For NSC Strictly Swing eligibility, a dancer's PRIMARY ROLE (PR) is the role in which the dancer has the higher WSDC skill level or points status. Strictly Swing is a non-WSDC-pointed contest; however, NSC uses the WSDC Points Registry and current WSDC skill-level framework as an objective guide for leveled Strictly eligibility. The appropriate leveled Strictly division for a couple is determined by the highest applicable primary-role level of either partner. A dancer may choose to dance up in a higher leveled Strictly division. A dancer's SECONDARY/NON-PRIMARY ROLE eligibility will be based on the current WSDC secondary-role framework. NSC will use the highest level for which the dancer is eligible in the primary role-not simply the level the dancer elects to enter at NSC-to determine the lowest appropriate level in the secondary/non-primary role. Event Management and the Chief Judge may place or reclassify a couple when necessary to preserve fair competition.

General Strictly Rules

1. NSC'26 plans to offer the following Strictly Swing contests: Newcomer/Novice, Intermediate/Advanced, Sophisticated, Masters and All Star/Open or other specialty Strictly contests as published in the final competition schedule. The final list of offered divisions controls.

2. Strictly Swing competitions require a couple to register together, with one Leader and one Follower. If a dancer enters multiple Strictly contests, NSC may require a different partner for each contest as stated in the published registration rules.

3. Dancers may compete in no more than two (2) leveled Strictly Swing contests, once in each role, unless the final published contest rules provide otherwise. Eligible dancers may additionally enter age-based or specialty Strictly contests.

4. Competitors are allowed one entry per Strictly Swing contest and may not enter the same contest with multiple partners.