



JAY BYAM, DIRECTOR  
(805) 405-2946 • JAYBDANCER@AOL.COM  
2025 CHANNEL ST, VENTURA, CA 93001

PALM SPRINGS SWING DANCE CLASSIC™  
& SALSA EXTRAVAGANZA®  
WWW.JAYBYAM.COM

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PEOPLE WHO DANCE • A JAY BYAM PRODUCTION  
**GENERAL RULES & INFORMATION**

## **SWING DEFINITION**

Swing is an American Rhythm Dance based on 6-beats and 8-beats patterns.

One of the major characteristics of "SWING" is the use of the SWING Rhythm Triple.

Swing Patterns use rhythms built on 2 beats. Most common are doubles & "SWING" triples rhythm. Singles (step hold) & delayed singles (tap steps), & blank (hold- hold) Rhythms may be also be used as well as syncopations.

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.

2- beat and 4-beat extension rhythm breaks may be incorporated to extend a pattern, to phrase the music, and/or to accent breaks.

Swing Styles may include the Carolina Shag, Dallas Push, East Coast Swing, Hand Dancing, Hollywood Swing, Houston Whip, Imperial Swing, Jive, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Rock-n-Roll, and West Coast Swing.

This is not intended to be a full definition of Swing, or to be used to evaluate the quality of the Competitors.

Competitors must have Swing content.

Each Judge will evaluate the presence of Swing content, which will be one of the criteria that determines the final score.

## **DEFINITION OF PARTNERSHIPS & DIVISION RESTRICTIONS**

1. Couple – A couple consists of one leader and one follower.
2. A Competitor may not dance in the same division twice, even with a different partner.

## **REQUIREMENTS TO COMPETE**

2. ENTRY FEE – The payment of the entry fee is required when the application is submitted.
3. WAIVER - All competitors are required to sign a waiver at the time they check in  
No Competitor will be allowed to compete without a signing the Waiver.
4. REGISTER - Register by the official entry deadline to be guaranteed entry into a division.
5. Biography (Optional)-The routine divisions are asked to provide a bio to go with your picture.
  - Bio must submitted when registering for competition. • Keep it short-70 words or less.
  - Bio should contain information about you and your partner. Points to cover include:
    - Who are you? How long have you been dancing? What brought the two of you together?
    - What is it about dancing that inspires you?
    - What interests do you have outside of the dance community?
    - Bio cannot be used to promote a business.
    - The Organizer reserves the right to edit content, grammar and spelling as needed.



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## COMPETITORS

1. All Competitors must demonstrate courteous and professional behavior
2. Music Turn In - Competitors will submit their music ON CD or flash drive
3. Competitors MUST bring a back up disk TO THE EVENT  
in case there are problems with the original one.
4. All Dancers MUST check in to the event at least 1 hour before & must be present 30 minutes before the competition.
5. Deadlines – Failure to comply with deadlines and attendance at mandatory meetings may result in Disqualification from competing in the event without a refund of entry fee.
6. Performance Feedback - Competitors may discuss their performance with the Judges using only the appropriate times and channels, which are:  
1) during the Competitors' Meeting,  
2) by appointment with the Chief Judge  
That appointment must occur at a time that is convenient for both the Competitors and the Judge

## JUDGING CRITERIA

In all divisions, the amount of Swing content will be evaluated. All Competitors will be judged using the following criteria:

1. Timing – Swing is a dance beginning on the downbeat and using a "SWING" rhythm. Dancers will be judged on their ability to demonstrate a consistent swing triple.
2. Teamwork – Swing is a connected partner dance. The demonstration of this connection and the appearance of lead/follow or action/reaction between the partners is an expected part of any competition. Poor connection is indicated when one partner ignores or out-dances the other or when jeopardizing the safety of the other (or otherCompetitors).
3. Technique – How well the Competitors execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. This includes control of balance and weight, foot placement, bodylines, and spins.
4. Choreography – The selection and order of movements and transitions executed during a dance comprises choreography. Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and its phrasing, as well as variety and contrast. Choreography must be tasteful and respectful to the audience with no overt sexual content.
5. Performance /Showmanship – To create an atmosphere of excitement by inviting and generating interest in a performance is the desired effect of good presentation. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, a good show is not a substitute for dance skill and technique.
6. Judging Scores and Decisions are final.



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## ERRORS, PENALTIES, AND VIOLATIONS

Judges will be scoring the performances according to section "JUDGING CRITERIA", along with swing content in a division if required. A "Chief Judge" is on staff to ensure that performances adhere to the posted rules for that division. If the "Chief Judge" questions a performance, it will be reviewed by all the Judges. A final decision will be based on a unilateral vote between Judges.

1. Reviewed and passed.
2. An Error – An error is a minor and apparently unintentional breaking of the rules. It is a mistake. If the review panel agrees it is an error, no action will be taken.
3. Penalty – will be given in cases where the review panel believes the incident was more than an error. A drop in ONE placement will be issued (i.e. 2nd down to 3rd).
4. Violation – A violation is a serious and apparently intentional breach of the rules. The penalty for a violation may result in disqualification. Example: If you dance TANGO with NO swing content you may be in violation. If you perform a LIFT in a contest that does not allow lifts you will be in violation.

## BEGINNING AND ENDING A ROUTINE

1. Entrances and Exits – Choreographed entrances-to and exits-from the dance floor are permitted but not required in choreographed routines. Timing and judging will begin from the first movement of the performance with or without music or sound. If a choreographed entrance and/or exit are used, it will be included in the judging and timing requirements.

2. Restarts – A restart will be allowed only if the music system falters or an unforeseen catastrophe occurs. Events such as a broken dress, untied shoelaces, a misstep or fall in the dancing, does not warrant a restart.

## PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

1. Costumes - Performance attire is required for all routine divisions,
2. Please "Dress to Impress – Perform to Win". Clothing and costumes should be in good taste, suitable for dancing, and flattering in all divisions.
3. Vintage clothing is considered a costume.
4. Performance attire is NOT allowed in the Strictly Divisions and Jack & Jill, but dressy dance clothing is required
5. Sloppiness is not appropriate.

## PROPS

1. Props are not allowed
2. If you aren't sure if something you are using or doing please contact the event.
3. The use of unapproved Props will result in a penalty and drop in placement.
4. Hats, jackets, capes, sunglasses, and other reasonable dance clothing items are considered costume, and may be worn in all divisions. However, clothing may NOT be discarded, nor switched from one partner to another, or used for "TRICKS". Doing so will result in a penalty and drop in placement.



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## MUSIC

1. Submitting Your Music – A thumb drive copy of your music must be submitted before the Event unless approval is obtained from the Event.
2. Your thumb drive is YOUR performance; nothing else may be on the thumb drive.
3. You must receive confirmation that your music was received and is playable by the Event. If you do NOT receive confirmation you must contact the Event.
4. Time Limit – Performances must be a minimum of 2-minutes and a maximum of 3-minutes in every division. Not adhering to time limit requirements will be treated as a violation.
5. Back up Music – you MUST have an extra copy of your music in the ballroom in case there is a problem with your music at the DJ booth.

## QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE RULES OR COMPETITION

Please Contact Jay Byam, Chief Judge : 805-405-2946 : jaybyam@PeopleWhoDance.NET

## DIVISIONS RULES

### RISING STAR DIVISION:

1. This division is open to all styles of Swing dancing that complies with the "SWING DEFINITION' AND MAY USE either the Classic or the Showcase division definitions below .

### CLASSIC DIVISION:

Swing dancing that allows choreography with an "on the ground" approach to the dance. Drops, leans, circular movements and other partner weight support moves are allowed as long as both partners keep at least one foot on the floor.

1. This division is open to all styles of Swing dancing that complies with the "SWING DEFINITION".
2. Contestants must be 18 years or older by the day of the Event to participate.
3. Competitors will be one Leader and one Follower.
4. Individuals are not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
5. Competitors select their own music.
6. Dance costumes are required
7. Guidelines for expected swing content are: 80% in Classic. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
8. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
9. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music.
10. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
11. Break-away in Classic Division to be no more than 8 beats.
12. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
13. At most five partner weight support moves are permitted. Example: lifting your partner as they "SLIDE" across the floor
14. Competitors must have a ticket to compete.
15. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries or LESS are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted or the Event may be cancelled and entry fees refunded. The Event organizers will make this determination prior to the competition.



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## SHOWCASE DIVISION

Swing dancing that allows choreography with flair toward lifts, aerials, acrobatics and other partner weight support moves.

1. This division is open to all styles of Swing dancing that complies with the Event's definition.
2. Competitors will be one Leader and one Follower.
3. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
4. Competitors select their own music.
5. Dance costumes are required.
6. Guidelines for expected swing content are: 60% in Showcase. It is at the judges' discretion to determine the swing content requirement has been met.
7. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. Timing starts with movement with or without music.
8. Separate entrances are permitted.
9. Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted.
10. At least 3 partner weight support moves are required with the partner being "support" at knee level or above.
11. At least one partner weight support move is required with the partner above the waist.
12. There are no lift maximums.
13. Competitors must have a ticket to compete.
14. A minimum number of 5 entries are required to run this division for full prize money to be awarded. If 3-4 entries or LESS are registered, the division may run, but the prize money may be adjusted or the Event maybe cancelled and entry fees refunded. The Event organizers will make this determination prior to competition.

## JACK & JILL Open DIVISION

This division is for randomly paired leaders/followers who will dance immediately after being paired.

1. This is a West Coast Swing Division.
2. This division is open to all Level Jack & Jill Competitors. We STRONGLY recommend that you have at least 8 months West Coast Swing experience.
3. Recognizable West Coast Swing content must be present throughout the performance.
4. This is a "lead/follow" dance.
5. Semi-Finals will be danced in a group format. Finals may be danced in a Group and/or Spotlight format.
6. "In the air" partner weight support moves, such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are not allowed.
7. Support moves, such as drops, slides, and spreads are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
8. Short break-a ways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed but must reconnect after 8 beats.
9. Music will be randomly selected by the Event DJ and will not be previewed in advance by the Competitors.
10. Dance Costumes are NOT allowed; dressy dance attire is encouraged.
11. Minimum of 10 couples is required to run this division.
12. Competitors must have a ticket to compete.



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### **STRICTLY WEST COAST SWING DIVISION -**

This division is designed to highlight social West Coast Swing dancing skills at a performance level with an emphasis on lead/follow technique. It is open to all levels. Final Rounds will feature brief spotlighted performances within a group format all present on the floor at once.

1. Recognizable West Coast Swing content must be present throughout the performance.
2. This is a "lead/follow" dance.
3. Pre-choreographed routines are NOT allowed.
4. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
5. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
6. Partner weight support moves, such as lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
7. Music will be randomly selected by the Organizer. It will not be previewed in advanced by the Competitors.
8. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable.
9. Competitors must have a ticket to compete.

### **JACK & JILL SWING DIVISION**

1. Dancers can compete in only ONE skill level W SDC Registry division at an event. AGE based divisions like Masters & Sophisticated or Jr's. are allowed to dance in all other divisions they qualify for.
2. Dancers can compete only in their LEVELED competition as either a Leader or Follower, within their qualified WSDC Registry Division level. Example: ALL ADVANCED dancers can ONLY dance in the advanced division.
3. Cross gender dancing is not allowed in the Masters Division.
4. Dancers must ensure that they only compete in the WSDC Registry division they qualify for.

### **ALL STARS JACK & JILL SWING DIVISION**

1. Competitors must have earned 45 or more Advanced points within 3 years prior to this Event, or
2. Competitors must have earned at least 3 ALL STAR points within 2 years prior to this Event.

### **QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE RULES OR COMPETITION**

Please Contact Jay Byam, or our Chief Judge : 805-405-2946 :