

## Finnfest 2019, Competition Rules

As a WSDC approved event, all FINNFEST competitions follow the rules of World Swing Dance Council. Detailed rules can be found at <https://www.worldsdc.com/>

### General Competition Rules

- To compete a competitor must have a Finnfest Full.
- Competition registration has to be done and competition fee paid prior the official entry deadline.
- Minimum of five leaders and five followers have to sign up to each division for that particular competition to be organized.

### Multiple Registration

- Only one Jack & Jill registration per competitor is allowed during the weekend. Non-traditional gender roles are allowed. WSDC points earned on the chosen role will determine the competition level.
- A competitor may enter both Strictly Swing divisions if he/she meets the requirements according to WSDC points. A competitor can sign up only once for each division. One must compete with a different partner on each division.
  - Example: A novice competitor is allowed to dance in Newcomer-Novice Strictly Swing with a novice partner and in Open Strictly Swing with an Intermediate or higher level partner.

### Petition

- A competitor may petition to dance up or down one skill level. A written petition explaining the grounds for the request has to be delivered to the registration desk prior the competition entry deadline (forms are available at the desk). Contact information during the weekend should be included. Chief Judge will review the request.

### Responsibilities of the Competitor

- A competitor must know and follow the contest rules.
- Any question should be asked in advance.
- Competitors who have earned WSDC points prior to this event must use their WSDC competitor number when signing up for competition.
- Competitors must be ready to compete when their division is scheduled to start. One should be at the ballroom at least 15 minutes before the scheduled time.
- There may be multiple rounds in each division. Marshalling may be used and the place where to check in for marshalling will be announced before the competition. Absence in marshalling results in the competitor being scratched from the competition.
- Competitors have to pay attention to the schedule in case of any changes during the weekend
- The bib number has to be attached so that it can be easily seen on the back of the competitor.
- Competitors are requested to dress neatly. Costumes are not allowed.

### Responsibilities of the Organizer

- The Organizer appoints a Competition Director and Chief Judge.
- The Organizer selects Competition Officials, scorer, DJ and MC.
- The Organizer together with the Chief Judge will select the Judges. Judges will be announced for each competition when the division is about to start.
- The Organizer will check that competitors are eligible to compete for each competition they have registered.
- DJ will choose the music played during the competitions.
- Results will be announced at the awards ceremony.

### Dance Requirements

- West Coast Swing is a swing dance and recognizable swing content is expected on the competition floor. Following the NASDE definitions of swing is just to determinate the swing content:  
NASDE Statement of Swing  
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.  
<http://nasde.com/>
- Typically competitors will dance to 2-4 different songs during a heat.
- Competitors will be judged on lead and follow skills, timing, technique, teamwork and performance.
- Pre-choreographed routines are forbidden.
- Partners must maintain a constant physical connection to each other. However short breakaways are allowed during spins and recoveries.
- Lifts are not allowed. Both partners must maintain a constant contact with the floor.

### Jack&jill Competition – WSDC Competition

- Competitors enter as individuals either as a leader or a follower.
- The skill levels offered are: Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced/Allstar
  - Newcomer – beginner or new competitor; have earned no points
  - Novice – a competitor with less than 16 Novice points
  - Intermediate – a competitor with 16 or more Novice points but less than 30 Intermediate points
  - Advanced – a competitor with more than 30 Intermediate points
- There will be several partners during the preliminary rounds. Leaders and followers are randomly paired. Music styles and tempos will vary.
- Finals are danced with the same partner. Partner will be randomly selected on site.
- If there is an uneven number of leaders and followers some competitors are asked to dance twice.

### Stricly Swing Competition

- Competitors sign up with a partner.
- Two divisions: Newcomer-Novice and Open
  - Necomer-Novice: couples who have earned less than 16 Novice points as individual dancers.
  - Open: couples with at least one individual who has earned more than 16 Novice points.
- A competitor may enter both divisions if they meet all the requirements.
- Preliminary rounds are organized if necessary.
- Couples will dance to 2-4 short songs.

### Judging

- Each competition round will have at least five Judges and a Chief Judge.
- All division will be judged using relative placement.
- The Chief Judge will determine the final number of finalists.
- In Jack&Jill during the preliminary rounds competitors will be judged as individuals and as a couple during the finals.
- In Strictly Swing competitors are judged as a couple.
- Scores from final rounds will be posted after the awards.