

## Section 3: Competition Requirements

### 3.1. Contest Structure / Format Requirements

1. Registry Event must hire sufficient judging staff to run contests and avoid conflicts of interest (see Section 3.4 #5).
2. Registry Events must offer a minimum of two (2) skill level WSDC Jack and Jill divisions.
  - a. Events are responsible for informing competitors of the Registry Points skill levels and points awards as defined by the WSDC.
  - b. Events may restrict the number of Jack and Jill contests a competitor may enter. This must be published in the Event's rules.
  - c. Events that wish to require male/Leader and female/Follower roles must be pre-approved by the Board and this restriction must be published in the Event's rules.
  - d. Events may restrict their staff from participating in Jack and Jill or other contests.
3. Registry Events may offer only one (1) WSDC Jack and Jill for each skill level or age-based contest.
  - a. WSDC will record WSDC points for only one (1) Junior, one (1) Sophisticated, and one (1) Masters contest per event (see Definitions: Age-based Contests). WSDC age-based Jack and Jill contests must be open to competitors of all skill levels who meet the age-based requirement (see restrictions listed in Section 3.1 #2).
  - b. Events must clearly state **in the Event's rules** which contests qualify for WSDC points (e.g., WSDC Champions Jack and Jill vs Invitational or non-WSDC Champions contest)
4. WSDC Jack and Jill competitions must have a minimum of five (5) unique Leaders and five (5) unique Followers in finals for points to be awarded and the results to be included in the Points Registry (see limitations in Section 3.1 #6b).
5. Registry Events must use the Points Registry, this rules document, and the WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart to determine competitors' appropriate skill levels. All dancers in a contest must be registered for their contest.
6. Registry Events must offer a petition process for competitors who wish to dance in a different skill division.
  - a. Petitions can be submitted for *one skill level up or one skill level down only*. **Competitors may submit petitions for their primary role only. Competitors may not submit petitions for their secondary role (see Section 3.2 #7.)**
  - b. Petitions shall not be approved **at the Event** for the purpose of making a Tier (i.e., to meet the minimum number of required competitors for a Tier).
  - c. All petitions must be submitted to the WSDC with the WSDC Event Reporting form.
  - d. For petitions **down only (primary role only)**:
    - i. The Chief Judge, or qualified individual(s)/committee designated by the Chief Judge, may approve or deny the petition after reviewing competitor's Points Registry record.
    - ii. Petitions are event-specific and not transferable. Competitors must submit a petition at their next event.
  - e. For petitions **up only**:
    - i. Petitions must be submitted to the WSDC Chief Judges Committee ("CJC") at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the event, along with two (2) videos of the competitor's dancing. Petitions and videos must be submitted via this link: [worldsdc.com/level-up-petition](http://worldsdc.com/level-up-petition). The CJC may approve or deny the petition after reviewing the competitor's Points Registry record and videos.
    - ii. Petitions will be approved for six (6) months and are transferrable to other events. Competitors who obtain a point in the higher division will remain in the higher division.
7. Registry Events may combine divisions. **The WSDC recommends avoiding combining skill level divisions if at all possible, but the limitations that may be imposed due to a lack of entrants, time/schedule constraints, judges' fees, and award costs are recognized.** For events with combined divisions, points will be awarded to the lower of the two divisions (e.g., an Advanced / All Star combined contest would award Advanced points), with the exception of combined Newcomer/Novice contests, which will be awarded Novice points.
  - a. Competitors are not permitted to dance "down" in a lower skill level contest if the division that they qualify for is not offered (e.g., Advanced dancer may not compete in an Intermediate contest if an Advanced contest is not offered at the event; Champion dancer may not dance in an All Star contest if a Champion contest is not offered).

8. Contest “restarts” (e.g., due to incorrect song, clothing malfunction, sound or lighting issues) may be initiated by the Chief Judge and/or competitor, but only approved by the Chief Judge. Chief Judge may use their discretion to allow the competitors to “restart” immediately or at a later time (e.g., at the end of the contest).
9. Registry Events must publish their contest rules **on their website** in advance of the event.
10. Registry Events must post contest results at the event and those results shall be open to all competitors for a minimum of 30 days. **Contest results include contest rounds (e.g., prelims, semis, finals), placements and score reports. (Judges may be listed anonymously (e.g., as Judge 1, Judge 2, etc.) on the score report, at the Event Director / Owner / Chief Judge’s discretion.)** If results are inaccurate (e.g., scoring issues, violations), corrected results must be posted.
11. For Registry Events held over the New Year’s holiday, points will be assigned to December of the outgoing year, not January of the incoming year (e.g., points would be awarded for December 2022, not January 2023).

### 3.2. Competitors: Skill Levels and Points Registry

1. Competitors are responsible for following the WSDC Registry Rules. Competitors will not receive WSDC points for placement if they fail to follow the WSDC Points Registry Rules.
2. Competitors have one (1) unique WSDC Competitor ID number for the Points Registry.
  - a. Competitors are responsible for using their WSDC Competitor ID number when registering for Jack and Jill competitions at WSDC Registry Events.
  - b. Competitors are responsible for correcting their WSDC Competitor ID number errors, either at the event or with the WSDC directly (email [points@worldsdc.com](mailto:points@worldsdc.com)).
  - c. Competitors will be assigned a WSDC Competitor ID number only after they receive a point.
3. Competitors may compete in a maximum of two (2) skill level WSDC Jack and Jill competitions, once in their primary role and once in their secondary role (see limitations in Section 3.1 #2 and Section 3.2. #7). Competitors may compete in multiple age-based WSDC Jack and Jill competitions.
  - a. Competitors must maintain their role, either as a Leader or Follower, throughout the contest.
4. Competitors may compete in either their primary or secondary role in other contests (see limitations in Section 3.1 #2).
5. Competitors must use the Points Registry, this rules document, and the WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart (Chart 3) to determine the skill level for their primary role.<sup>4</sup>
  - a. **Competitors may submit petitions to dance one level “up” or “down” for their primary role only (see Section 3.1 #6.) Competitors may not submit petitions for their secondary role (see Section 3.2 #7.)** Petitions must be approved or the competitor will *not* receive points for placement.
6. Competitors will be awarded points as either a Leader or Follower. Those points are tracked separately in the Points Registry.
7. **Competitors may dance one (1) or two (2) levels down in their secondary role** as indicated on the Points Registry, with the following clarifications:
  - a. Competitors with points in both their primary and secondary roles at the same skill level must select only one (1) role to compete in (either their primary or secondary role) for that event’s skill level Jack and Jill contest (e.g., competitor with 5 Advanced points as a Leader and 10 Advanced points as a Follower must decide whether to compete as either Leader or Follower in Advanced).
  - b. ***New!*** The division a competitor selects for their *primary role* at the Event determines what level they may compete at for their secondary role. WSDC *recommends* competitors dance one (1) level down, but based on their skills, competitors *may* dance two (2) levels down from their primary role unless they are *required* to move up based on the WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart (Chart 3) for their secondary role (i.e., based on their points in their secondary role). *Petitions are not allowed for secondary roles.* (E.g., a competitor with 63 Advanced points as a Leader is allowed to dance in Advanced or All Star as a Leader in their primary role. If they choose to dance in Advanced as a Leader, they may dance in Novice or Intermediate as a Follower; if they choose to dance in All Star as a Leader, they may dance in Intermediate or Advanced as a Follower. However, if they have 1+ Intermediate points, they *must* dance in Intermediate as a Follower, even if they choose to dance in Advanced as a Leader.)

<sup>4</sup> *New!* The WSDC has eliminated the rule requiring competitors to maintain their same skill level at an Event across all contests (e.g., a competitor who is allowed to dance in either Intermediate or Advanced as a Leader may enter as an Advanced Leader in the WSDC Jack and Jill and as an Intermediate Leader in the strictly swing contest *if* the Event’s rules allow it). Competitors should review Events’ rules on non-WSDC contests (note: different Events may have different rules and it is the competitor’s responsibility to follow them).

- i. *Exception:* To maintain the intent of the Newcomer division, competitors competing in Intermediate in their primary role may not compete in Newcomer (i.e., Intermediate competitors may only dance down one level down in their secondary role).
  - c. Competitors who are Novice in their primary role may choose to compete in their secondary role in the Newcomer division, if they have no points in their secondary role (see Chart 3: WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart), or the Novice division. They may not compete twice in the same skill level Jack and Jill contest.
  - d. Competitors may dance in Newcomer in the following scenarios:
    - i. In either their primary or secondary role if they have no points in either role; or
    - ii. In their secondary role if they compete in Novice in their primary role and have no points in Newcomer or Novice in their secondary role.
- 8. Points are recorded only for those who place in WSDC Jack and Jill finals (see Chart 4: Points Awarded per Tier).
  - a. WSDC Jack and Jill competitions must have a minimum of five (5) unique Leaders and five (5) unique Followers in finals for points to be awarded and the results to be included in the Points Registry (see limitations in Section 3.1 #6b).
- 9. If a competitor places twice in a division, the competitor is only awarded points for the higher placement (e.g., contest goes straight to finals with uneven numbers; competitor places 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>; competitor is awarded points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place).
- 10. For WSDC Champion Jack and Jill contests, competitors may compete (“are allowed”) if they have 1 Champion point or 150 All Star points and must compete (“are required”) if they have 10 Champion points or 225 All Star points, assuming the event offers a WSDC Champion Jack and Jill contest.
  - a. Events may no longer define their Champion division by including other qualifications (e.g., alternative predefined number of Champion / Invitational points, NASDE Classic or Showcase placements), but may offer a non-WSDC Champions contest, Invitational, or show as an alternative with different qualifications for entry.<sup>5</sup>
  - b. Competitors with 10+ Champion points and/or 225+ All Star points (“are required” to compete in Champions) may not enter All Star contests without an approved petition (see Section 3.1 #6), but may enter a combined All Star / Champion contest (see Section 3.1 #7).

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<sup>5</sup> The WSDC announces this interim definition for WSDC Champion divisions, effective July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, with the intention to gather additional input for a review by the WSDC Board by June 30, 2025.

**Chart 3: WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart**

Skill Level <sup>6</sup>	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)
<b>Champion</b>	Champions are defined for WSDC Champion Jack and Jill contests. <sup>7</sup>	<p><b>Allowed</b> to dance in Champions with 1 Champion points</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Champion</p>	<p><b>Required</b> to dance in Champions with 10 Champion points</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Champion</p>
<b>All Stars</b>	All Stars should be extremely competitive.	<p><b>Allowed</b> to move up with 150 All Star points</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All Star</p>	<p><b>Required</b> to move up with 225 All Star points</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All Star</p>
<b>Advanced</b>	Advanced should be very competitive.	<p><b>Allowed</b> to move up with 60 Adv points</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Advanced</p>	<p><b>Required</b> to move up with 90 Adv points or 1+ All Star point</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Advanced</p>
<b>Intermediate</b>	Intermediate dancers are perfecting their competitive dance skills.	<p><b>Allowed</b> to move up with 30+ Intermediate points</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Intermediate</p>	<p><b>Required</b> to move up with 45+ Intermediate points or 1+ Advanced point</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Intermediate</p>
<b>Novice</b>	Novice dancers demonstrate basic dance skills.	<p><b>Allowed</b> to move up with 16+ Novice points</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Novice</p>	<p><b>Required</b> to move up with 30+ Novice points or 1+ Intermediate point</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Novice</p>
<b>Newcomer<sup>8</sup></b>	Newcomers are new to WSDC competition in their role.	<p><b>Allowed</b> to move up at the dancer's discretion</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Newcomer</p>	<p><b>Required</b> to move up with 1+ Newcomer point or 1+ Novice point (by role)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Newcomer</p>

<sup>6</sup> The points required for moving up (or down) is based on the points in the dancer's primary role, not the combined points in their primary and secondary roles.

<sup>7</sup> Events must follow rule 3.2 #10 for all WSDC Champion Jack and Jill contests. See footnote for 3.2 #10 for additional details regarding the transition timeframe.

<sup>8</sup> Newcomer division is not offered at all events. Competitors may select either Newcomer or Novice divisions, but must dance in Novice once they receive one (1) point in either Newcomer OR Novice in their selected role (primary or secondary). **Competitors competing in Intermediate may not compete in Newcomer in their secondary role.**

### 3.3. Contest Tiers, Points Awarded, and Competition Rounds

#### 3.3.1. Point Tier Awards

Tiers are defined by the number of unique competitors in each role (Leader or Follower). Dancing in finals does not guarantee that a competitor will be awarded points. Points awarded to Leaders and Followers may not be identical. The higher the number of competitors within a division, the higher the Tier, and the greater the points potential.

A division may have different tiers for Leaders and Followers. For example, a Novice contest may have 18 Leaders and 35 Followers. Leaders would receive Tier 2 points; Followers would receive Tier 3 points. The points awarded to a competitor according to their placement in finals is listed in Chart 4.

WSDC Jack and Jill competitions must have a minimum of five (5) unique Leaders and five (5) unique Followers in finals for points to be awarded and the results to be included in the Points Registry.

**Chart 4: Points Awarded per Tier**

Tier	# of Unique Competitors (per role)	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	4 <sup>th</sup> Place	5 <sup>th</sup> Place	Additional Placements in Final
Tier 1	5-10	3	2	1	0	0	0
Tier 2	11-19	6	4	3	2	1	0
Tier 3	20-39	10	8	6	4	2	1 (up to 10 <sup>th</sup> place)
Tier 4	40-79	15	12	10	8	6	1 (up to 12 <sup>th</sup> place)
Tier 5	80-129	20	16	14	12	10	2 (up to 15 <sup>th</sup> place)
Tier 6	130+	25	22	18	15	12	2 (up to 15 <sup>th</sup> place)

#### 3.3.2. Competition Rounds

If the leaders and followers fall into different tiers, the number of rounds must be determined by the **higher tier**. The minimum number of rounds for tiers is **mandatory** (see Chart 5: Competition Rounds based on Tier Size).

**Chart 5: Competition Rounds based on Tier Size**

Tier	Number of Competitors	Number of Rounds	Prelims	Quarters	Semis	Finals
1	5-10	1	Optional	No	No	Yes (must have 5 in finals)
2	11-19	1-2	Optional	No	No	Yes
3	20-39	2	Yes	No	No	Yes
4	40-79	3	Yes	No	Yes <sup>9</sup>	Yes
5	80-129	3-4	Yes	Optional	Yes	Yes
6	130+	3-4	Yes	Optional	Yes	Yes

<sup>9</sup> Registry Events are allowed to waive a competition round if the number of competitors is no more than 10% over the previous Tier's maximum (e.g., a Tier 4 contest with 43 Followers (and fewer than 39 Leaders) could run a prelims and finals only). This is allowed to provide stability for contest planning.

### 3.4. Contest Oversight: Staff Requirements, Conflicts of Interest, Scoring

Registry Events should follow the highest ethical standards regarding the conduct of contests. Disregard of ethical standards, even if not specifically outlined in the Registry Event Rules, may result in penalties by the Board.

Rules that affect the integrity of a contest – particularly where results / scores could be impacted – apply to all contests held at the event. All efforts must be made to conduct unbiased judging and to avoid any tampering with contests and contest results.

Note: For the purposes of this section, Event Director and Owner are defined as follows:

- Event Director is any person involved in decision-making related to the hiring of judges and/or scoring staff and/or identified as the Event Director.
- Owner is any person with a vested financial / ownership interest (e.g., shareholder) in the event.
- Non-profit shareholders or Board members are not considered Owners but may fall under Event Director restrictions, depending on their role.

Registry Events must follow all contest oversight requirements outlined below, unless otherwise approved by the Board:

1. Event Director and/or Owner must not perform Chief Judge, Judge, or Scoring functions or duties.
  - a. Event Director(s) or Owner(s)' spouses and immediate family may also not perform Chief Judge or Scoring duties.
2. Event Director, Owner, Chief Judge, Secondary Chief Judge (see Definitions: Secondary Chief Judge), and Score person (or Contest Administrator with automated scoring systems) must not compete in any swing contests at the event, with the following exceptions/clarifications:
  - a. Non-judged contests (e.g., exhibitions).
  - b. Any contest of a different dance genre and/or sponsored and run by a separate organization. Exceptions must be authorized by the Board **two (2) months** prior to the event. (E.g., at UCWDC events only, Event Director, Owner, Chief Judge, and Score person may dance in a UCWDC Pro-Am West Coast Swing contest. This exception is allowed as a carve out to accommodate UCWDC rules.)
3. Chief Judge and Scoring / Tabulation functions and duties must be provided by separate individuals.
4. Judges must make decisions independently. Tampering or altering contest scores is not allowed.
  - a. Group judging decisions (instantaneous “on the floor”), “tap out” eliminations during the contest (by an individual judge or as a group), or audience-judging are permitted only in non-WSDC Jack and Jill contests / “fun” contests (e.g., tournament-style contests, costume contests).
5. **All conflicts of interest must be identified and avoided.** This is the responsibility of Event Directors, Chief Judge, and judges.
  - a. Conflicts of interest are defined as the following: any Judge/ Chief Judge who is judging an immediate family member, current spouse / significant other, current dance partner, or current business partner (e.g., co-Owners, Event co-Directors, teaching partners).
    - i. The WSDC recommends staff members avoid real or perceived bias (positive or negative) between them and other members of the community, but will enforce only conflicts of interest as defined above. **Staff members are responsible for providing conflicts of interest to the Chief Judge and/or Event Directors.**
  - b. Judging assignments must be made to prevent conflicts. Judges / Chief Judges must recuse themselves from a judging panel to prevent conflicts. The following exceptions are allowed:
    - i. Pro-Am Jack and Jill and Pro-Am Strictly Swing competitions when judges are judging the Amateurs only and conflict is with the Pro.
    - ii. A judge with a conflict of interest to a competitor may judge the opposite role to that competitor during **Jack and Jill** preliminary rounds.
    - iii. Self-judging contests are allowed only in the Champions division. Self-judging should occur only if there is an insufficient number of available judges.
    - iv. When necessary for a specific contest, the Chief Judge may be replaced by the Secondary Chief Judge (see Definitions: Secondary Chief Judge).

6. Judges for WSDC Jack and Jill contests must meet the following standards:
  - a. For preliminary Jack and Jill contests, a minimum of **four (4) judges** per role (plus Chief Judge) are required. The WSDC strongly recommends Registry Events use at least five (5) judges per role in larger (Tier 5 and 6) preliminary contests to avoid ties. **The following exception for contests is allowed:**
    - i. **New! An Event may assign some or all of the judges in the judging panel to score both roles for contests in Tiers 1-3. Additional songs per round may be needed. A minimum of four (4) scores per role is still required.**
  - b. For final Jack and Jill contests, a minimum of five (5) judges (plus Chief Judge) are required. An even number of judges shall not be used. **The WSDC requires Events use seven (7) judges for finals in Tiers 5-6.**
  - c. The Chief Judge may join the general judging panel only if there is an unforeseen / unavoidable shortage of general judges.
  - d. Self-judging contests are allowed only in the Champions division. Self-judging should occur only if there is an insufficient number of available judges.
  - e. Virtual judging is not permitted.
7. All WSDC Jack and Jill contests must maintain the integrity of random and unbiased selection (i.e., rotating partners, pairing of partners, and music selection). For example, rotation of partners in prelims and the selection of partners in finals should be random; music assignments should be fair to all competitors. Note: a choice of music categories (e.g., slow blues / fast contemporary) for finals may be offered.
8. All WSDC Jack and Jill contests must use the **WSDC-approved** Callback system for preliminary competitions and Relative Placement scoring system for finals.
  - a. Judges are allowed to use paper or an electronic system.
  - b. All events must use a computerized system to calculate scores. Score person and/or Chief Judge may do calculations for contest results by hand (“hand scoring”) only in emergency situations.
    - i. **New! Transfer of judges’ paper score sheet results to computerized systems must be audited by the Chief Judge and/or scoring team approved by the Chief Judge (i.e, verified by a separate person than the Score person inputting the data).**
  - c. Chief Judges must assign unique numerical raw scores to all competitors in preliminary rounds. If necessary, the Chief Judge may raw score one role and assign a Secondary Chief Judge or Raw Score Judge (see Definitions: Secondary Chief Judge and Raw Score Judge) to raw score the other role (e.g., Chief Judge scores Leaders; Secondary Chief Judge / Raw Score Judge scores Followers). (Note: Secondary Chief Judge or Raw Score Judge must also assign unique numerical raw scores to the competitors.)
  - d. Details on the Callback system standardization and requirements are listed in the Appendix (see Section 5: Callback System for Preliminary Contests). Additional information on the Callback system and Relative Placement is available on the WSDC website under Rules ([worldsdc.com/rules](http://worldsdc.com/rules), see Prelim Scoring and Relative Placement, respectively).
  - e. Requirements for computerized scoring systems is listed in the Appendix (see Section 6: Computerized Scoring System Requirements).
  - f. For non-WSDC contests, Registry Events must publish if and for which contest(s) they opt not to use the Callback and/or Relative Placement scoring systems (see Section 3.1. #9).