

## Divisions and Rules

### Responsibilities as a Competitor

You may register for competitions in advance using our online registration system, or at the event during the contest signup times listed on the schedule. If you registered in advance, you should plan to pick up your Bib Number(s) at event registration. Be sure to check for any last-minute changes to the schedule.

1. General Rules. Competitors must have a full weekend pass (a Day Pass is accepted for competing in the Shooting Star Tournament and Total Eclipse J&J), pay any required entry fee, and sign the liability waiver (if you are under 18, your parent or guardian must sign for you).
2. Knowing the rules. You should read the rules carefully prior to the competition. You are responsible “for following the rules” whether you have read them or not. If you have any questions, you should contact us at [Contest@MichiganClassicSwing.com](mailto:Contest@MichiganClassicSwing.com) ahead of time..
3. Being prepared to compete. You should be in the Main Ballroom at least 15 minutes before your competition. If you are not in line when the division is announced, you will not be permitted to compete.
4. You must wear your bib number for all competition rounds including finals (unless our competition officials tell you it is not needed). If you are not wearing a bib number, you will not be allowed to dance. If you are disqualified, miss the competition, or withdraw after the registration deadline, you will forfeit your entry fee.
5. You must demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. This includes treating your partners, other competitors, competition officials, spectators, event staff, volunteers, and the event itself with respect. Demonstrating a poor attitude by behaving in ways that our competition director, Head Judge, judging panel, or other competition officials deem inappropriate or disrespectful may result in a disqualification or expulsion from the event.
6. Using appropriate channels to communicate your concerns. If you have questions or concerns about our competitions, you should use appropriate channels to share your concerns, such as in a private discussion with our Contest Coordinator or Head Judge. You are not allowed to confront, pressure, challenge, or argue with individual judges. If you harass or verbally abuse a judge or any other competition official, we may disqualify you and may also ban you from competing at our events in the future.
7. Scores will be posted on the SwingDancer app and a link will be provided on the website proceeding the final contest of the weekend.
8. Appropriate behavior and attire. It is our desire to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing the quality of dancing and good taste. To maintain this balance, we encourage you to put on a good show (including humor where appropriate) but within the context of presenting solid dance fundamentals.
9. Age Appropriate. Keep in mind that all ages (including young dancers) will be present at our event, and that your performance will be recorded and could be posted online. Any action

that our judges believe would make them uncomfortable in social dancing (such as inappropriate touching or simulating sexual behavior) is not permitted.

## **Registration**

Online registration opened Jan 1st.

1. The Organizers can cancel any division due to lack of entries.
2. If a division does not have the required number of entries, the Organizer may choose to cancel that division. If a division is canceled, the entry fees will be refunded. Competitors will be notified prior to the event about a canceled division.
3. Multiple registrations are allowed. You may choose to enter any competition for which you meet the specific entry requirements. However, if you enter more than one couples competition (Strictly Swing, ProAm, and Rising Star), you must compete with a different partner each time.

## **Submitting Music prior to Event via email:**

Email your digital music file in MP3 format to [Music@MichiganClassicSwing.com](mailto:Music@MichiganClassicSwing.com).

Subject line: 2024 Michigan Classic - (YOUR DIVISION).

Please list divisions specifically, as this is how they will sort to ensure the deejay can locate your music.

- Rising Star
- ProAm
- Show

You will receive confirmation that the music was received.

## **Eligibility - Verification Process**

1. We will verify that you are eligible for the competitions you enter by checking the World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Points Registry and other sources of information, if applicable.
2. If you are concerned that other contestants are entered in an incorrect division or are ineligible, please inform our Contest Coordinator or Head Judge privately, as soon as possible. We will investigate and take appropriate action, if necessary.

If we determine before a competition that you registered for the wrong division or are not eligible, we will reassign you to the correct division (if possible) or allow you to withdraw. If we do not discover until after finals that you misrepresented your status and were not eligible, you will be disqualified. If we made an error and assigned you incorrectly, no penalty will be applied.

## **Petition**

It is our goal to encourage you to compete with your peers. If you are unclear about which competition or division is right for you, check with our Head Judge at [Contest@MichiganClassicSwing.com](mailto:Contest@MichiganClassicSwing.com) before you register. If you want to enter a competition for

which you do not meet the entry requirements, or want to change divisions, you must submit a petition.

1. To petition in advance: Complete the [Petition Application](#) and email it to [Contest@MichiganClassicSwing.com](mailto:Contest@MichiganClassicSwing.com).
  - a. Your petition **MUST** be received 24 hours before the start of your contest block.
2. Our Head Judge will review your petition. Based on past decisions and what is best for that division, your petition will either be approved or disapproved.
3. The Head Judge will notify you of the decision. The Head Judge's decision is Final.
4. For information regarding Jack & Jills petitions, please go to: [WSDC - Points Registry Rules](#)

### **Judging Criteria**

You will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Timing. "How Your Body Connects to the Music." Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Good timing includes not only dancing to the correct beat but finer distinctions such as whether you are dancing to the syncopated "swing" of the music. Your syncopations and footwork also need to be on time.
2. Technique. "How Well You Do What You Do." How well you execute the movements in your dance constitutes technique. Good technique includes clean execution and completion of dance elements such as control of balance and weight, foot placement, body lines, spins and turns, and control of arms and hands.
3. Teamwork. "How Well You Work Together." Swing is a connected partner dance. Demonstrating this connection through lead/follow or action/reaction with your partner is an expected part of any swing dance competition. A balanced performance of give-and-take with your partner should be your goal. Ignoring, disrespecting, or jeopardizing the safety of your partner indicates poor teamwork. Compensating and adjusting for your partner is an expected part of good teamwork.
4. Content/Choreography. "What You Do." 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 of movements. Choreography must be tasteful and respectful to the audience.
5. Showmanship/Presentation. "How Well You Sell What You Do." Creating an atmosphere of excitement by inviting interest in your performance is the desired effect of a good presentation. A good presentation begins with your selection of appropriate attire and shoes (shoes are required while social dancing and competing). While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, it cannot substitute good dancing. You should aim primarily for demonstrating positive dance chemistry together as a couple. Gratuitous mugging to the audience or the judges may result in a lower score. Good sporting conduct before, during, and after your dance is also an expected element of good presentation.
6. Musical Interpretation. "How Well You Interpret the Music." Good musical interpretation consists of adjusting the flow of your dance to fit the style, tempo, mood, and rhythm

variations in the music. You should strive to demonstrate the ability to hear and interpret nuances in the music throughout your dance.

7. Level of Difficulty. "How Difficult is the Performance." Depending on "the degree of difficulty" that is executed will keep the audience engaged and the performance exciting. An elevated level of difficulty includes intricate and innovative movements that should be maintained throughout the performance and the execution should not appear "difficult."

To View the guidelines for "Swing Content" for the West Coast Swing Routine Dancers, please go to [NASDE - Swing Contest Guidelines](#).

#### Dress Code

1. Performance attire is required for all routine divisions.
2. Performance attire/costumes are NOT allowed in the Strictly and Jack & Jill divisions, however matching and/or dressy dance clothing is encouraged.
3. Please "Dress to Impress – Perform to Win." Clothing and costumes should be in good taste and suitable for dancing in all divisions.
4. Shoes must be worn in all competitions.

#### **Pro-Am Routines**

This division will follow the Rising Star rules with the exceptions listed below. Please go to the following link for current [Rising Star Tour Rules](#).

Exceptions:

1. Costumes are encouraged, but not required.
2. To qualify for a partnership in our Pro-Am, there must be an instructor/student relationship.
3. Amateurs are defined as anyone who does not teach West Coast Swing on a regular, ongoing basis
4. A Professional is defined as someone who earns a significant amount of income teaching or performing West Coast Swing.
5. A couple must consist of one PRO follower and one Amateur leader, or one Pro leader and one Amateur follower.

#### **Strictly Swing Divisions**

Michigan Classic will be offering the following Strictly Swing Divisions: Novice, Intermediate, Masters,, Advanced, and Allstar/Champions

1. Competitors are to enter the division associated with their WSDC ranking. If your partner is of a higher WSCD ranking you must dance in the higher division (e.g., a Novice competitor may dance in an Advanced strictly swing with an Advanced partner, and dance in Novice in the Jack and Jill). Note: WSDC only records points for WSDC Jack and Jill contests.
2. If you compete in more than one Strictly Swing Division, you must compete with a different partner in each division (including both level and age divisions).

3. All competitors must have purchased a full weekend Pass to compete.
4. The DeeJay will randomly select the Music. It will not be previewed in advance for competitors.
5. Preliminary rounds will be heated.
6. Lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
7. Short breakaways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed with an 8 beat maximum.

### **Jack & Jill General Rules**

Michigan Classic is proud to be a member of the World Swing Dance Council. We are offering the following WSDC divisions: Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Sophisticated, Masters, All Star/Champions, Total Eclipse, and Switch Role. Jack & Jills highlight social dance skills with an emphasis on lead and follow, timing, technique, and teamwork.

1. Please review the current [WSDC - Points Registry Rules](#).
2. The music will be selected by our deejay staff.
3. Each competitor must have a Weekend Pass.
4. Lifts, aerials, and acrobatic moves are NOT allowed.
5. Support moves, such as drops, slides, and splits are allowed (but not required) to the degree that they would be considered safe and appropriate on a social dance floor.
6. Switching roles is not permitted except in the Switch Role Jack & Jill.
7. Competitors enter as individuals and will be randomly assigned partners.
8. Depending on the number of entries in each division, there may or may not be a preliminary or semi round. The Head Judge and the competition coordinator will determine rounds.
9. Prelims and Semis will be danced in heated format. Finals may or may not be danced in a heated format and will be determined by the Organizers and Head Judge.
10. Competitors are encouraged to register online prior to May 1st..

### **Total Eclipse Jack & Jill**

This division is open to competitors of all levels and you may enter in the role of your choice. Role switching within this competition is NOT allowed. The contest is centered around fun and will be judged as such. The couple showcasing a mix of solid dance technique, showmanship, and joy will be selected as the winners. The winning couple will each receive a certificate for a complimentary pair of dance shoes from Shoes By Stephane.

### **Switch-It-Up Jack & Jill**

This Division is open to dancers who can **BOTH** lead and follow. In the preliminary round(s), dancers are evaluated individually based on their skills as a leader AND a follower, as well as their ability to switch between roles. Dancers are judged as a couple in the final round of the competition.

### **Shooting Star Tournament**

This division is open to competitors of all levels and you may enter in the role of your choice. Role switching within this competition is NOT allowed. In the preliminary round, you will be randomly paired with someone of the opposite role and will be judged as a couple (you will NOT rotate partners). Sixteen (16) couples will move to the tournament-style final.

In the tournament 2 couples at a time will go head to head in a semi spotlight. The winning couple will return to the line to compete in the next round. When 4 couples remain the bottom two will battle it out for 3rd place.

The final two couples will be given time to impress the audience and judges one at a time, followed by a final battle.

\*Last Updated: December 24, 2023\*