

Midland Swing Open 2023 Competition Guidelines

Competition Organiser

Midland Swing Open (MSO) is sponsored by West Coast Swing Events UK Ltd. Final decision on any matter pertaining to these competitions rests solely with the organiser. The Organiser will make every effort to conduct all competitions in accordance with these rules. However, the Organiser reserves the right to make any changes in schedule/format deemed necessary for any competition.

General Competition Requirements

Divisions need a minimum of 5 contestants in each Role to go ahead.

All Competitors must have a weekend pass to be eligible to compete.

Role/Gender Requirements: MSO is open to persons of any gender dancing either lead or follow, as they prefer, and we encourage you to register in whichever role you would like to when dancing in any contest.

Appropriate Behavior and Dress Code: It is the desire of the Organiser to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing quality of dancing and good taste. To encourage this balance, any action that the judges believe would make them uncomfortable in a social dance setting (such as wearing inappropriate attire or showing disrespect toward ones partner, other dancers, or the event) is prohibited. Competitors should check with the Organiser or Head Judge in advance if they have questions regarding the acceptability of their routine/competition attire.

Responsibilities of Competitors

1.Planning Ahead: Competitors should check the weekend schedule in advance in order to arrive in time to meet registration deadlines. They should bring appropriate competition attire. They should also plan ahead so as to be on time for all meetings and competitions. Competitors are responsible for checking at the event for any changes to previously announced schedules, which are always subject to change.

2.Knowing the Rules: All competitors should read these rules carefully prior to their competition. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules whether they have read them or not. Questions about the rules should be addressed in advance to the Organizer or the Chief Judge.

3.Being Prepared to Compete: Competitors should be present in the ballroom at least 15 minutes prior to the start of their competition. Competitors are responsible for their bib numbers. Any cancellation by a competitor or couple after the registration deadline will result in the loss of the entry fee.

4.Demonstrating Good Sporting Conduct: Competitors must demonstrate good sporting conduct at all times, both on

and off the competition floor. Competitors may not speak to judges regarding their placements or scores until after the awards have been given. It is bad sportsmanship to badger or argue with judges about placements and scores. Competitors must also refrain from any behavior that the judges deem inappropriate. Failure to adhere to this code of behavior may result in disqualification.

Judging Criteria

Timing: Timing points are determined by the ability of the dancer to dance on the down beat of the music and to include syncopations that are also on the beats of the music.

Technique: "How Well You Do What You Do": We are looking for good footwork, balance, control, frame and line and how well turns & spins are executed. Well controlled arms and hands.

Teamwork: The ability of the partners to work together as a team. One person should not be obviously "out dancing" the other. TEAMWORK with action-reaction is essential in good dancing.

Content: "What You Do": the content is the CHOREOGRAPHY, planned or spontaneous, and musical interpretation through physical movement. Showing variety and contrast will enhance your dance performance.

Showmanship: "How Well You Sell What You Do": showmanship/presentation is the ability of the dancers to keep the audience's attention for the entire length of the performance.

NASDE Statement of Swing to be used to identify the presence of swing in the Midland Swing Open competition divisions. "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."

Division Qualifications: Our qualifications for entries promote fairness and competitor enjoyment by grouping dancers of similar ability in the same division. Our rules are based on the World Swing Dance Council recommendations, please refer to the WSDC Registry Rules document to determine which level(s) you qualify for: <https://www.worldsdc.com/wsdc-points-registry-rules/>

Masters: For competitors who are at least 50 years old at the beginning of the event. Competitors may also dance in up to 2 skill levels in other Jack & Jill divisions per WSDC rules.

Sophisticated: For competitors who are at least 35 years old at the beginning of the event. Competitors may also dance in up to 2 skill levels in other Jack & Jill divisions per WSDC rules

WSDC Jack & Jill divisions: Will follow World Swing Dance Council rules, <https://www.worldsdc.com/wsdc-points-registry-rules/>

Strictly Swing Divisions:MSO 2023 Strictly Swing Divisions

Novice | For those without Intermediate WSDC Points

Intermediate | At least one Partner should have Intermediate WSDC points

Open | Everyone over the age of 18 with any partner. Can be same partner as other Strictly Swing skill divisions.

Swing dancing that encourages lead and follow partner dancing at its best. Although swing includes amalgamations and patterns that are familiar to many dancers, the essence of lead and follow must be maintained in and out of these patterns. Strictly Swing division is not meant for long and extended pre-choreographed phrases. Choreography "on the fly" is the objective. 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. Champions division is exempt from this rule.

1. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion.
2. Costumes are not allowed. Matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable
3. This division will be danced in heats and/or spotlight at the promoter's discretion.
4. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways.
5. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
6. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
7. At most five partner weight support moves are permitted.

Showcase Division: Swing dancing that allows choreography with a flair toward lifts and other partner weight support moves.

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.
2. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
3. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
4. Separate entrances are permitted.
5. Break-a-ways and side by side patterns are permitted.
6. At least three partner weight support moves are required with the partner at knee level or above.
7. At least one partner weight support move is required with the partner above the waist.
8. At most five partner weight support moves are permitted with a partner not maintaining floor contact.

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. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes.
2. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
3. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
4. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music.
5. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways (16 beat maximum), and recoveries.
6. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
7. At most five partner weight support moves are permitted.

Rising Star: This division merges both Classic and Showcase styles of contest for couples that are seeking to gain experience before dancing in the Professional divisions. There is no lift requirement but there also no need to keep the feet 'on the ground'. There is no minimum or maximum requirement of weight support moves or lifts. There is a 60% swing content requirement.

Pro-Am Routines: This division is considered a Classic format and encourages 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.

Definition of a Pro is someone who teaches WCS as a lead Instructor in anyway e.g. classes, workshops, private tuition & receives payment.

Definition of an Am is someone who does not teach WCS as a lead instructor in classes, workshops, private tuition but may be an assistant. Ams should not receive payment for any dance teaching of WCS.

1. Performances time is a minimum of 1.30 minutes and a maximum of 2.15 minutes.
2. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
3. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
4. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music.
5. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways (8 beat maximum), and recoveries.
6. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.
7. At most five partner weight support moves are permitted.