

### **III. SPORT OPERATIONS**

#### **a. RULES**

None are available at this time.

#### **b. EVENT OPERATING RULES:**

##### **i. HOST RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 1. STAFF** - The Organizer will select a panel of Judges, an Information Manager, a Chief Judge, and a Contestants' Representative. The names of the people in these positions will be available prior to the event. In case of an emergency such as illness or transportation difficulties, the Organizer reserves the right to substitute a qualified person, and will announce that substitution as soon as it occurs.
- 2. SCHEDULE** - The Organizer will determine the date and time for each competition and the location for the Competitors' Meeting, and will announce this information prior to the event. The Organizer reserves the right to cancel a division if the number of entries is under the posted minimum, and to rearrange the schedule if necessary. Entry fees are non-refundable.
- 3. AWARDS** - The Organizer will determine and award all prizes.
- 4. POSTING OF SCORES** - The results of the competitions will be posted for Finalists to review after the Awards Ceremony.
- 5. PRELIMINARIES, SEMI-FINALS, FINALS, AND HEATS** - At any time prior to the Competition, the Organizer reserves the right to determine whether or not a division will consist of a Preliminary, Semi-Final and a Final, and whether or not rounds are danced in heats or as spotlight. This decision will be communicated as soon as possible, on the website or through announcements at the event.

#### **c. COMPETITION**

##### **i. CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION:**

###### **1. DIVISION RESTRICTIONS**

(all age requirements apply)

- a.** A Competitor may enter only one of the following couples divisions: Young Adult or Youth.
- b.** A Competitor may enter into a couples division and both the Formation Team and Strictly Swing Division. Competitors entering the Strictly Swing Division must dance with a different partner

##### **ii. RULES/RESTRICTIONS:**

###### **1. RULES**

All Competitors are responsible for reading and understanding the rules prior to participating in the competition. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules whether or not they have been read.

**2. DANCE ORDER**

The event organizer will create and post the dance order of all competitors for each event.

**3. PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK**

Scores will be visible posted for all Competitors to review.

**4. 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. These decisions will be made solely at the discretion of the Organizer.

**5. CONTENT** - Since this is an amateur SWING Dance

Championship; the Judges will expect to see Swing content in all competition events, including Formation Team divisions. Specific guidelines about Swing content required in each division are discussed under the rules for that division. The statement that Judges will use to identify the presence of Swing content is as follows: "Swing is an American Rhythm Dance that is identified primarily by 6-beat and 8-beat patterns that incorporate a wide variety of rhythms. 6-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, passes, underarm turns, pushbreaks, and open-to-closed/closed-to-open position patterns. 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 rhythm breaks may be incorporated to phrase the music, to extend a pattern, and/or to accent breaks." This statement will be used only to identify the presence of Swing content in a performance. It is not intended to be a full definition of Swing, nor to be used to evaluate the quality of the performance. Each Judge will evaluate the presence of Swing content, which will be one of the criteria that determine a final score.

**6. JUDGING CRITERIA** - The Relative Placement System will be used to judge all the competitions. In all divisions, the amount of Swing content will be evaluated. All Competitors will be judged using the following criteria:

**7. TIMING** - Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Timing extends too much finer distinctions than a single beat. It includes fractionally ahead or behind the beat, as well as matching the syncopated "swing" of the music.

**8. 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. One partner ignoring or out-dancing the other, or jeopardizing the safety of the other (or other Competitors), indicates poor teamwork.

- 9. 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.
- 10. 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.
- 11. PRESENTATION** - 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 good dancing. Judges decisions are final.
- 12. ERRORS, VIOLATIONS, AND PENALTIES** - If the rules outlined in this document are broken, the judges will assign penalties depending on the severity of the breach. There are two breach levels:
- a. AN ERROR** - An error is a minor and apparently unintentional breaking of the rules. It is a mistake. For example, a dancer unintentionally loses contact with his or her partner, when the rules state that they must keep contact. Each error will be penalized at the discretion of the Judge who observed the error, and will be factored into the judge's final score.
  - b. A VIOLATION** - A violation is a serious, and apparently intentional, breach of rules. A violation shows disrespect towards a partner, the Judges, other dancers, the Organizer, the audience, or the rules. The penalty for a violation is disqualification. Examples of intentional violations could be: a pre-choreographed routine in Strictly Swing, the lack of enough Swing content, an inappropriate costume in a Junior Division, a performance that runs overtime, or a move that causes injury. Recognize, that each of these examples do not necessarily always qualify as a violation.
- 13. BEGINNING AND ENDING A ROUTINE**
- a. 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 exit is used, it will be included in judging and timing requirements.
  - b. RESTARTS** - A restart will be allowed only if the music system falters or an unforeseen catastrophe occurs. Events such as a broken dress strap, untied shoelace, etc... does not warrant a restart.
- 14. FORMATION TEAM DIVISION**
- This division consists of teams of eight or more dancers comprised of any combination of gender, age, and skill-level. They will be judged as a group.
- a.** This division requires Formation Routines to be based on "Couples Dance(s)."

- i. Examples of "Couples Dances" include, but are not limited to, Swing, Shag, Hustle, Salsa, and Waltz.
  - ii. Examples of dances recognized as "Non-Couples Dances" include but are not limited to, Jazz Dancing, Line Dancing, Hip-Hop, and Break Dancing.
- b. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, break-always, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are all allowed.
- c. A Competitor can be a member of only one Formation Team.
- d. 4. All team members can no exceed the event age limit of 20 years of age.
- e. A team member is allowed to enter a Couples Division and/or the Cabaret Division.
- f. Routines must be a minimum of three-minutes and a maximum of four minutes in length.
- g. Formation Teams select their own music.
- h. Costumes are required.

## **15. YOUNG ADULT DIVISION**

This division is for Competitors age 14 through 20-years of age.

- a. The rules governing this division are the same rules that govern the Showcase Division with the following exceptions:
  - i. Lifts & aerials that have 1 partner's torso rise above the other partner's shoulders are not allowed.
  - ii. All other partner weight support moves are optional.
- b. Age requirements:
  - i. If partners have competed previously but one partner is older than 17-years of age, that couple may petition the Organizer for an exception to the age restrictions rule. The intent of this rule is to allow youngsters who have formed a partnership and advanced their dancing together to continue to compete together in the Young Adult Division.
  - ii. If one partner has reached the age of 14, and the other partner is under the age of 14, this couple must compete in the Young Adult Division.
- c. Routines, choice of music, and costumes must be in good taste and appropriate for this age group.
- d. Routines will be a minimum of two-minutes and a maximum of three minutes in length.
- e. Competitors select their own music.
- f. Tasteful, age appropriate Costumes are required.

## **16. YOUTH DIVISION**

This division is designed to feature young dancers age 6 through 13-years of age.

- a. The rules governing this division are the same as the rules that govern the Showcase Division with the following exceptions:

- i. Lifts & aerals that have 1 partner's torso rise above the other partner's shoulders are not allowed.
- ii. All other partner weight support moves are optional.
- b. Competitors must have reached the age of 6-years old in order to compete. If one partner is 14years of age or older, and the other partner is under the age of 14, this couple must compete in the Young Adult Division.
- c. Routines, choice of music, and costumes must be in good taste and appropriate for this age group.
- d. Routines must be a minimum of two-minutes and a maximum of three minutes in length.
- e. Competitors select their own music.
- f. Tasteful, age appropriate Costumes are required.

#### **17. JUNIOR STRICTLY SWING DIVISION**

This division is designed to highlight social Swing dancing skills with an emphasis on lead/follow technique.

- a. This division is for Competitors age 6 through 20-years of age.
- b. Recognizable Swing content, as described in the Statement of Swing, must be present throughout the performance.
- c. Semi-Finals will be danced in a group format. Finals may be danced in a Group and/or Spotlight format.
- d. This is a "lead/follow" dance.
- e. "In the air" partner weight support moves, such as Lifts, aerals, and acrobatic moves are not allowed.
- f. "On the ground" 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.
- g. Short break-aways (breaking of contact, immediately followed by an effort to re-establish physical contact) are allowed.
- h. Music will be randomly selected by the Event Organizer. It will not be previewed in advance by the Competitors.
- i. Costumes are not allowed, but dramatic, tasteful dance clothing is encouraged.

#### **18. CABARET**

Any style of dance, other than swing, is allowed in this event. Dancers will be evaluated in their overall music interpretation and execution within their selected dance style. Contestants will be allotted a maximum time limit of 4 minutes from the time the music begins to the time the music completely ends.

## **Dancesport/Ballroom**

### **II. SPORT POLICIES**

#### **a. ENTRY FORMS:**