

Midland Swing Open 2019 Competition Rules

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."

General Rules:

1. Competitors must purchase a weekend pass to be eligible compete.
2. An individual may not compete in the same discipline more than once, except age categories. For example, a dancer may compete in Novice & Sophisticated Strictly, but not compete in Novice & Intermediate Strictly.
3. Dancers are allowed only one WSDC entry, except age categories.
4. Competitors must sign up before competition registration closes which is usually 1 hour before the division is due to compete.

Strictly Swing Division: 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.

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. In 2018, MSO has joined the Rising Star Tour and this division will now be governed by their rules.

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, workshps, 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.