

# Mountain Magic 2009 – Final (11/4/09)

## Competition Rules & Guidelines

(WSDC & IHDA Member Event)

- **NOTE:** World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) & International Hustle Dance Association (IHDA) points will be awarded as applicable. Their respective RULES and GUIDELINES also apply to the contests.

### A. CONTEST CATEGORIES

#### 1. Jack & Jill

West Coast Swing Novice  
West Coast Swing Intermediate  
West Coast Swing Advanced  
West Coast Swing Masters (50+yrs)  
West Coast Swing Champions  
Hustle Novice  
Hustle Intermediate  
Hustle Advanced  
Night Club 2-Step Novice  
Night Club 2-Step Open (Int/Adv)  
Open Triple Challenge (WCS+Hustle+NC2)  
New West Coast Swing 101 (*Newcomers only*)

#### 2. Couples

Strictly Swing A (Advanced/All-Star/Champion/Pro)  
Strictly Swing B (Novice/Intermediate)  
Just Hustle A (Advanced/All-Star/Champion/Pro)  
Just Hustle B (Novice/Intermediate-Amateur)

#### 3. Open Cabaret (solo, couple, group or team)

“Anything goes” division ... any dance including swing!

#### 4. Pro/Am

Novice WC Swing (male, female)  
Intermediate/Advanced (Open) WC Swing (male, female)  
Novice Hustle (male, female)  
Intermediate/Advanced (Open) Hustle (male, female)  
Novice Night Club 2-Step (male, female)  
Intermediate/Adv (Open) Night Club 2-Step (male, female)  
Overall Top Pro/Am Student Award (male, female)

### B. General Contest Requirements

1. All contestants are responsible for reading these rules and guidelines and adhering to them. There will be one contestant information meeting on Friday evening, where Contest Rules and format will be discussed. Contestants with any questions should inquire at this time.

#### 2. All Contestants must:

- have a weekend VIP ticket
- complete registration and waiver form
- register by the contest entry deadline
- pay the required entry fees & comply with these rules
- be at least 18 years of age or have signed parent/legal guardian's consent form.
- meet the specific requirements outlined in these rules

3. Jack & Jill contestants may dance in one Swing, one Hustle and one NC2 division. (**Note: Masters WCS may also dance their respective skill level**) Contestants may also dance in the divisions of Open Cabaret, one Just Hustle and one Strictly Swing but must dance with a different partner in each

division. Pro/Am contestants may compete in one skill level per dance.

4. Contestant Bib numbers will be assigned for the weekend. You must wear this number for your competition(s).

5. Contests may be combined or cancelled if **fewer than 5 couples** are registered in a division. The Event Director may elect to redistribute or retain un-awarded prizes.

6. Contestants must demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times, both on and off the dance floor. Inappropriate behavior and poor sportsmanship may result in disqualification from all competitions for the weekend and possibly future events.

7. **If you are not in the ballroom for your competition (with your bib number) when your name is called, you will NOT dance.** Please be aware of your competition time and check the Main Ballroom “Marker Board” for any schedule changes.

8. Scores will be posted following the Sunday awards.

9. World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) points are awarded for Jack & Jill swing divisions. International Hustle Dance Association (IHDA) points are awarded for hustle divisions.

### C. JACK & JILL

Jack & Jill competitions have been designed to demonstrate competitors' social dance skills in spontaneous dancing and their ability to dance well with a variety of partners.

#### 1. Divisions

These division descriptions have been created as guidelines. The WSDC “points” apply to swing divisions. Any competitor unclear about their category status should check with the Contest Registration Desk or the Chief Judge for proper classification prior to the registration deadline of the contest in question. Should a competitor not meet the guidelines of a particular contest, they may submit a petition to the Chief Judge to dance at that level. Final decisions rest with the Chief Judge.

#### a\*) Newcomer West Coast Swing 101

This special division is for new dancers with no competition experience. Dancers must not have earned any WSDC points. **14 Basic Patterns include: Triple Rhythm Break & Anchor, Left Side Pass, Underarm Turn, Underarm Turn w/Hand change, Right Side Pass, Right Torque Turn, Turning Basic, Throw-Out, 4-beat Starter Step, Basic Tuck (closed), Push Break (Sugar Push), Two-Hand Tuck Turn, Release Whip, Walking Whip (closed)**

See details on website <http://www.swingworld.com/wcs.htm>

### a) Novice

This division is intended for dancers with limited or no competition experience. Competitors are expected to know the basic steps as listed in the dance content section of General Definitions (section G). A competitor should stay in Novice until they have earned at least 20 points in Novice. In addition, a competitor may stay in the Novice division until they have at least 20 Novice points AND a first place win in Novice.

### b) Intermediate

This division is intended for dancers with some competition experience at the National level\*. A competitor should stay in Intermediate until they have earned at least 25 points in Intermediate. In addition, a competitor may stay in the Intermediate division until they have at least 25 Intermediate points AND a first place win in Intermediate.

### c) Advanced

This division is intended for advanced dancers with significant competition experience at the National level\*. You should have at least 25 points and a first place win in Intermediate in order to move into the Advanced division.

### d) Masters

This division is intended for intermediate and above dancers AND must be at least 50 years of age. (No WSDC points earned)

### e) Champion

This division is intended for the top level dancers. You may dance here if you have danced in a National\* Invitational, Champion or All-Star division OR if you have at least 40 Advanced points including 3 or more 1st place wins in an Advanced or higher division at a 3-day National event\*.

### f) Open

Open to all skill levels Novice through Champion.

#### *\*Examples of 3-day National events include:*

Boogie By the Bay, Capital Swing, Dallas Dance, Fresno Dance Classic, Grand Nationals, Grand Pacific Dance Championships, Hustle USA, Int'l Hustle & Salsa Competition, Paradise DF, Portland Dance Festival, Summer Hummer, Swing Fling, Swingfest, Swingthing, South Bay Dance Fling, U.S. Open Swing Dance Championships, etc.

### 2. Guidelines

- a) All Jack & Jill dancing is to be "traditional lead/follow" with a male leader and a female follower, paired at random, dancing to music pre-selected by the Competition Committee.
- b) There must be a minimum of 90% recognizable content for each respective dance.
- c) Partners must maintain contact throughout the dance, except for free turns, spins, side-by-sides, and short breakaways.
- d) **Not allowed:** drops, lifts, aerials, gymnastic maneuvers, entrances, exits, and routines. (see general definitions)
- e) **Champion Jack & Jill: drops are allowed.**

### 3. Format

#### a) Preliminary & Semi-final rounds (if necessary)

1. Contestants will dance grouped in heats. Number of heats will be determined based on the number of contestants.

2. There are no restrictions on drawing one's partner, spouse or relative.
3. Music selection and the order in which it will be played will be pre-selected by the Competition Committee.
4. Contestants will be judged individually, on a callback basis, and must demonstrate good teamwork with all their partners. Should there be an imbalance in the number of leaders or followers, some contestants may dance twice.

#### b) Final round

Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Masters & Open divisions will dance in a group heat format. Champions will dance in a spotlight format and include a group review dance. An uneven balance of contestants may alter this format.

### **D. COUPLES: STRICTLY SWING / JUST HUSTLE**

This division is designed to highlight lead/follow social dance skills in spontaneous partner dancing. Competitors enter as a couple (selecting the partner of their choice - *there are no gender restrictions*) and dance to music randomly selected by the Competition Committee.

#### 1. Divisions

- a) **Strictly Swing A** – open to full or part-time Instructors skilled at the Advanced level or above, OR you have danced in Champions/All-Stars divisions, OR you have placed in the top 5 of an Advanced division at the National level\*. (Pro/Champion/All-Star/Advanced skill levels)
- b) **Strictly Swing B** – open to Novice or Intermediate dancers with some or no competition experience who have never been a finalist in an Advanced, or above division at the National level\*.
- c) **Just Hustle A** – open to Pro/Champion/All-Star/Advanced.
- d) **Just Hustle B** – same format description as Strictly Swing B.

#### 2. Guidelines

- a) There must be a minimum of 90% recognizable content for each respective dance.
- b) All dancing is to be "lead/follow", **no routines allowed**.
- c) Couples must maintain contact except for spins, turns, side by sides, and short breakaways.
- d) Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner support moves.
- e) At most, 5 partner weight support moves are permitted.
- f) Elements **not allowed** include, but are not limited to, lifts, aerials, gymnastic maneuvers, routines, and formal entrances & exits (see general definitions section).
- g) Costumes are **not allowed**; matching attire is acceptable.

#### 3. Format

##### a) Preliminary rounds (if necessary):

1. Couples will dance grouped in heats. Number of heats will be determined based on the number of couples entered.
2. Couples will be judged on a call-back basis.

##### b) Final round:

1. Finalists will dance in group heat format.

### **E. OPEN CABARET**

This "anything goes" division is open to any style of dance (including swing routines) with **any number** of competitors

(solo, couple, group or team). You may enter more than one routine however you may not enter this division more than once with the same group, couples partner, or more than one solo dance. You may not dance with the same partner you danced with in Just Hustle or Strictly Swing.

1. Dancers supply their own music and perform a prearranged choreographed routine. Costumes are required.
2. Lifts, aerials, drops, gymnastic/acrobatic moves, side by sides, and breakaways are all allowed – anything goes.
3. Performance time must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 4 minutes. Time and judging starts at first movement of dancer(s), with or without music.
4. Contestants will draw for dance order (at DJ booth) Saturday at 5:30 pm or after last afternoon contest. Contestants must submit their music to DJ by this time.

## **F. PRO/AM**

This just dance division for the Dance Teacher and their Students is designed to highlight lead/follow social dance skills. Each Pro Teacher is allowed a **maximum of 5 Student entries per division**. There is no gender or lead restriction (e.g. a female teacher may dance with a female student, etc.)

### **1. Divisions:**

- a) Novice WCS (male, female)
- b) Novice Hustle (male, female)
- c) Novice Night Club 2 (male, female)
- d) Int/Adv WCS (male, female)
- e) Int/Adv Hustle (male, female)
- f) Int/Adv Night Club 2 (male, female)
- g) *Overall Top Student Award* – must dance all three dances: WCS + Hustle + Night Club to qualify for this award.

### **2. Guidelines:**

Are the same as Strictly Swing/Just Hustle (see section D)

### **3. Format: Final Only**

Couples will dance grouped in heats. Number of heats will be determined based on the number of entries.

4. Top Male and Female Teachers receive awards.

## **G. GENERAL DEFINITIONS**

### **1. Dance Categories**

#### **a) *Swing*** (WSDC guidelines apply)

West Coast Swing, East Coast Swing, Carolina Shag, Lindy, Lindy Hop, Push, Whip, Hollywood Swing, Imperial Swing, Jitterbug, Jive, and Hand Dance are some of the recognized styles of swing.

#### **b) *Hustle*** (IHDA guidelines apply)

Hustle styles using a basic rhythm of "&1,2,3" or "1,2,&3" are recognized by this event. Whichever rhythm is selected, that rhythm must be danced throughout the entire dance.

#### **c) *Night Club Two Step***

NC2 styles using a basic rhythm of QQS [aka *Nite Club 2*] (1&, "2") or SQQ [aka *Slow or Romantic NC2*] ("1", 2&) are recognized by this event. Whichever rhythm is selected, that rhythm must be danced throughout the entire dance.

*Additional dance styles may be considered prior to contest.*

### **2. Dance Content**

**a) *Swing*** - Competitors are expected to be familiar with the ten basic patterns, including but not limited to: starter step, basic throwout, underarm pass, push break/sugar push, tuck and turn, right and left side pass, turning basic, basic whip, hand change patterns, and some exposure to spins & turns.

**b) *Hustle*** - Competitors should be familiar with basic patterns, including but not limited to: release/throwout, cross body lead, hesitation/time step, underarm pass, wheel, wraps, shadow turns, right and left side pass, hand change figures, New York walks, & some exposure to spins & turns. (IHDA rules apply)

**c) *Night Club Two Step*** - Competitors are expected to be familiar with basic patterns, including but not limited to: basic step, underarm turn, left turn, right turn, open breaks, hand change figures, and some exposure to spins/turns/rolls.

### **3. Drops**

***Are allowed in all divisions except Novice, Int, Adv and Masters J&J.*** Any maneuver during which one of the competitor's heads is below their partner's waist level is considered a drop. (e.g. splits, neck drop, layout)

### **4. Lifts & Aerials\***

***Not allowed except for Open Cabaret!*** A lift or aerial is any maneuver lasting longer than a fraction of a beat of music during which a dancer's weight is NOT supported primarily through their own feet.

This definition ***does not include*** the following:

- a) flea hops, b) bunny hops, c) kicks, d) leveraged body leans, e) heel clicks & jumps (done solely by the individual and not assisted by the partner)

### **5. Gymnastic/Acrobatic Maneuver\***

***Not allowed except for Open Cabaret!*** A gymnastic maneuver is any move that serves to illustrate a type of acrobatic ability that is not part of a recognizable dance pattern. Gymnastic-type maneuvers include, but are not limited to, cartwheels, back-flips, etc

*\* The intent of prohibiting lifts, aerials, and gymnastic-type maneuvers is to discourage the use of any moves that might endanger the well-being and safety of another competitor. Please dance safely and use good judgment.*

### **6. Side-by-Sides**

***Are allowed - however restrictions apply!*** A side-by-side is a set of symmetric or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple. Any footwork combinations recognized by the judges as components of Carolina Shag, or any of the listed recognizable swing styles, are allowed as long as they do not exceed 16 beats of music. Excessive use of side-by-sides improperly phrased to the music are considered a routine and are not allowed.

### **7. Breakaways**

***Are allowed - however restrictions apply!*** A breakaway is a set of symmetric or complementary movements or footwork executed by a couple who intentionally break contact (except for spins and turns and should not exceed 16 beats of music).

### **8. Routine**

***Not allowed... except for Open Cabaret!*** Any segment which, in the opinion of the judges, consists of prearranged choreography

in excess of 16 beats of music is considered a routine and therefore not allowed.

### **9. Entrance & Exit**

*Not allowed... except for Open Cabaret!* An entrance and exit are formal, generally choreographed segments at the beginning and end of a performance, respectively.

### **10. Costumes**

*Not allowed... except for Open Cabaret!* Matching or complementary attire suitable for social dancing are not considered costumes and are allowed in Strictly Swing, Just Hustle, Pro/Am and Jack & Jill.

## **H. JUDGING CRITERIA**

All competitions will be judged using the relative placement scoring system and based on the following criteria:

### **1. Timing**

Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Timing extends to much finer distinctions than a single beat. It includes whether a competitor is fractionally ahead or behind the beat as well as matching the syncopated rhythm of the music.

### **2. Teamwork**

Swing, Hustle, and NC2 are connected partner dances. The demonstration of this connection and the appearance of "lead/follow" or "action/reaction" between the partners is an expected part of any competition dance. One partner ignoring, "out-dancing", disrespecting, or jeopardizing the safety of the other (or other competitors) demonstrates poor teamwork. Do not dance at the expense of your partner or any other competitors participating.

### **3. Technique**

How well the competitors execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. This includes aspects such as control of balance, weight changes, foot placement, body lines, follow-through & extension, spins and turns.

### **4. Choreography**

The selection and order of movements and transitions executed during a dance comprise choreography. Good choreography demonstrates a close connection with the music as well as variety and contrast in movements. This includes a couple's ability to match or compliment their patterns, syncopations, and actions to the music including musical phrasing, accents, breaks, character, texture, mood, and tempo. Degree of difficulty is also evaluated.

### **5. Presentation/Showmanship**

Creating an atmosphere of excitement by inviting and generating interest in a performance is the desired effect of good presentation. While showmanship is one aspect of presentation, it cannot substitute for good dancing.

*Note 1:* It is the Event's intent to permit expressive and exciting performances without sacrificing the quality of dancing for showmanship. Any action that the judges believe would likely make them feel uncomfortable in a social dance setting is prohibited and subject to penalties.

*Note 2:* All Judges' decisions are final.

## **I. PENALTIES**

Breach of these rules shall result in penalties being assessed in accordance with the severity of the breach. The penalties assessed will be determined by each individual judge. Judges are directed to lower the contestant's score as much or as little as they determine is necessary based on the nature of the violation. In addition, if a violation is noted by a majority of the judges on their score sheets, the couple shall be placed out of the award money by the Chief Judge.

### **1. Error**

An error is a mistake - an apparently "unintentional" breach of these rules. An example of an error includes, but is not limited to, a brief unintended loss of contact between the partners.

### **2. Violation**

A violation is an apparently "intentional" breach of these rules. Examples of violations include, but are not limited to, a lift in a Jack & Jill, a routine in Strictly Swing or a maneuver that endangers another competitor.

## **J. MISCLASSIFICATION**

### *1. Misclassification by Competitors*

If a misclassification is discovered before the start of the competition, the competitors in question will be given the option to reclassify themselves or withdraw. If the error is discovered after the start of the competition, the competitors will be disqualified and their placements/awards given to the next in line.

### *2. Misclassification by the Event*

If the Event incorrectly classifies a competitor, no penalty will apply to the competitor.

## **K. RE-STARTS**

Restarts will only be permitted in the case of music system failure or other catastrophic failures such as, but not limited to, shoe or clothing failures. Restarts will not be permitted for reasons such as contestant dissatisfaction with their music, performance or partner draw.

## **L. DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Event Director retains the right to make any changes. Changes, if necessary, will be posted at the Registration desk. These rules are subject to change. Final decisions on any matter rest solely with the Event Director.

## **M. AWARDS**

### **Prize Money**

Prize money will be split 50/50 between the partners. Groups should designate how their award will be assigned should they receive one. Contests may be combined or cancelled if fewer than 5 couples are registered in a division. The Event may elect to redistribute or retain un-awarded prizes.

It is the responsibility of the contestant to pick up any awards. The event will not mail awards after the event.

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