

KOREAN OPEN WCS Championships

2024 Competition Rules

For more information about the event, visit www.kopenwcs.com. Final decision on any matter related to our competitions rests with the event directors, Sungjae Byun and Heejung Jung. All J&J competitions follow the rules set by the World Swing Dance Council – worldsdc.com.

General Competition Rules

Eligibility requirements

To compete at our event, you must:

- Have a full weekend pass. (Domestic, International, Newcomer Pass, etc. are all eligible)
- Register for each competition before registration closes. (Registration closing times will be listed on the final schedule.)
- Pay any required entry fees.
- Meet all other specific entry requirements outlined in these rules for specific competitions

Role/gender inclusiveness

Korean Open welcomes persons of any gender to dance as a leader or follower. We encourage you to register for the role you prefer in our competitions. (See specific rules for each competition for any additional requirements.)

Multiple registrations

Registrations for multiple competitions are allowed. You may choose to enter any competitions for which you meet the specific entry requirements. For Strictly Contests, you may enter multiple Strictlies provided they are not in the same level, each is with a different partner, and no partner has pointed out of the division based on WSDC rules. For J&J, see the limitations based on WSDC rules in the J&J section below.

Eligibility verification

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. In some cases (for example, if you submit a petition or do not have the required WSDC points), we may reassign you to a different division. If you have concerns that other contestants are entered in an incorrect division or are ineligible, please inform our staff or chief judge privately, as soon as possible.

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, we may drop you (and your partner) out of awards. If we made the error and assigned you incorrectly, no penalty will be applied. If you wish to enter a J&J division for which you are not eligible you must submit a petition. (See next section.)

Submitting a petition

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 in advance or at the event. To petition in advance, download and fill out the WSDC petition form:

<https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2018.1D-WSDC-Petition-Form.pdf>

Please include your contact information (an email address that you check regularly) so our competition staff can reach you during the event with our decision. Our chief judge will review your petition and approve or deny your request. Our competition staff will notify you as soon as possible of the decision. You should be prepared to compete in the original division if your petition is denied.

Here is some additional guidance from WSDC regarding Jack & Jill petitions:

- If you have petitioned to dance in a higher or lower division at one event, this does not “carry over” to the next event. You may need to petition at the next event as well.
- **You should petition only to dance one level up or down, or to stay in your current division.** If you compete more than one level above or below your qualified skill level, and you make the finals or place in that division, you will **not** receive any WSDC points for that competition.
- Once you have competed and earned points in a higher division, you should stay in that division (if you continue to qualify).

Organizer Responsibilities

1. **Answering Competition-related questions.** If you have any questions regarding the competitions prior to or at the event, email us at wcsinkorea@gmail.com or ask any staff member. We will try to answer the questions as quickly as possible.
2. **Selecting the competition officials.** We will select a panel of judges, chief judge, scorer, MC, chief DJ, and competition DJs. Our MC will announce the judges for each competition at the start of the competition.
3. **Determining the rules and schedule.** The rules are reported in this document and posted publicly on our website. If there are changes, we will update the document and notify attendees. We will also post a full weekend schedule listing the times for all competitions and awards and follow our posted schedule as much as possible. If we need to make any last-minute changes, we will announce them at the event and online.
4. **Registering contestants and verifying eligibility.** We will collect entries from eligible competitors in advance (using the online registration system danceconvention.net) and at the event (whenever the registration desk is open and until listed deadlines). We will verify that you are eligible for each competition you enter. We will assign bib numbers to Strictly leaders and JNJ leaders and followers.
5. **Holding all competitions as planned or modifying them if necessary.** We will do everything we can to hold all competitions as planned. If necessary, we may extend the registration deadline or change the eligibility requirements (if we are allowed to do so) if we receive insufficient entries. If we must cancel a competition, we will refund your entry fee.
6. **Scoring the results.** We will select a qualified independent scorer. Our scorer will use callbacks for all preliminary and semifinal heats, and relative placement for all finals. (A detailed explanation of relative placement scoring is available here: <https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Relative-Placement-12-20-20-Rev-5-1-10-1.pdf>) Our scorer will post all the scores for public examination for a limited time (at least 1 hour) after awards. Scores will also be posted online.
7. **Announcing the results and presenting awards.** We will announce the results of all competitions at our awards ceremonies.

Competitor Responsibilities

1. **Planning ahead.** You may register for competitions in advance (using danceconvention.net) or at the event (up until the deadline listed on the schedule). Be sure to check for any last-minute changes to the schedule.
2. **Knowing the rules.** You should read the rules carefully prior to the competition. You are responsible for following the rules whether or not you have read them. If you have any questions, you should ask the event staff or chief judge ahead of time.
3. **Being prepared to compete.** You should be in the ballroom at least 15 minutes before your competition. For Strictly Swing and JNJ competitions, remember to bring your bib number. (If you lose your bib number, you may be charged for a replacement.) You must wear your bib number for all competition rounds including finals. If you are not wearing a bib number, you may be disqualified. If you are disqualified, miss the competition, or withdraw after the registration deadline, you will forfeit your entry fee.
4. **Demonstrating good sporting conduct at all times.** You must demonstrate good sporting conduct at all times, both on and off the competition floor. This includes treating your partners, other competitors, competition officials, spectators, event staff, and the event itself with respect. Demonstrating a poor attitude by behaving in ways that our event staff, chief judge or judging panel deem inappropriate or disrespectful may result in a disqualification.
5. **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 a private discussion with our event director or chief 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.
6. **Please be kind and safe.** Many competitions necessitate dancing with dancers you have never met or have not danced with often. Please be considerate of this when dancing and don't dance in a way that is potentially harmful to other dancers. If your actions are deemed harmful by event or judging staff, you may be disqualified or banned from competing at future events.
7. **Reviewing your scores.** Our scorer will post scores after the announcement of the results and presentation of awards. You may review this information to see how you did. (You may also take photos of the scores for your personal use.) If you are unable to review your scores at the event, you also may view posted scores online or contact our event staff after the event.

Dance requirements for competitions

The following dance requirements apply to all our competitions. If our judges determine that you have failed to meet one or more of these requirements, it will affect your scores. In the case of minor errors, the judge may or may not penalize you. In the case of larger violations of the rules, judges will not send you to the next round or will lower your rank in finals. In extreme cases, you may be disqualified, removed, or banned from competitions. (*Some of the rules do not apply to Westie Challenge. See below.)

1. **Minimum swing content guidelines.** This is a swing dance event. Therefore, our judges will expect to see recognizable swing content from both partners. A definition of swing content is provided as a guideline below, but as a WCS event, we are expecting competitors to dance West Coast Swing. Our judges will determine whether or not you have met our swing content requirement, and it may affect your scores.
2. **Social dance skills emphasis.** Our J&J and Strictly Swing competitions are designed to showcase good social dance skills in spontaneous swing dancing. All dancing in these competitions should consist of lead/follow moves. No prearranged choreography.
3. **Connection.** Swing is a connected partner dance. You must maintain physical contact throughout the dance, except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.
4. **Partner weight-support moves (“tricks”).** Advanced dancers sometimes use partner weight-support moves to add excitement to a performance. Like other patterns, these moves will be judged according to the standard criteria of timing, teamwork, and technique. Any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn lower scores.
 - **“In the air” support moves**, where both feet of one partner are clearly off the floor (e.g. lifts, aerials, and some acrobatic maneuvers) **are not allowed**.
 - **“On the ground” support moves** where both partners maintain physical contact with the floor (e.g. drops, leans, circular movements, leveraged slides, and splits) **are allowed** in all competitions, provided they are **done safely**. However, any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn a lower score. When in doubt, leave it out.
5. **Appropriate behavior and attire.**

There is no dress code, but please be smart and wear clothing that is safe (avoid sharp accessories or clothing that is likely to snag). No costumes/props.

It is our desire to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing quality of dancing and safety. 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. Keep in mind that people of all ages may be present at the event and dance recordings will be available online for the general public. If the judges find any action to be inappropriate, you may earn lower scores and in extreme cases, a warning, disqualification, or event ban.

Judging Criteria

Judging is generally based on the following factors:

1. **Timing.** Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Good timing includes dancing on the correct beat as well as finer distinctions such as whether you are dancing to the syncopated “swing” of the music. Syncopations and footwork also need to be on time.
2. **Teamwork.** 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. Adjusting for your partner is an expected part of good teamwork.
3. **Technique.** 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, and spins and turns.
4. **Choreography & Musical interpretation.** At our event, choreography, the selection of order of movements and transitions, will be spontaneous. Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and the ability to match patterns and syncopations to the phrasing of the music. It also includes identifiable swing patterns in order to provide variety and contrast. 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.
5. **Presentation.** Creating an atmosphere of excitement by inviting interest in your performance is the desired effect of good presentation. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, it cannot substitute for 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. A lack of good sporting conduct may result in penalties.

Swing Definition

NASDE statement of swing. (To be used to identify the presence of swing content in the NASDE Showcase and Classic competitions.) “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.”

Format

All competitions will be held in one or more of the following formats, at the discretion of the Event Directors, depending on the number of competitors in that division:

All-skate

Couples dance to the same song at the same time, as selected by the competition DJ.

- Dancers are divided into multiple heats depending on number of participants.
- This format will be used for all prelims and semis (when needed)

Jam/Shared Spotlight

- Up to 5 couples dance to the same song at the same time, as selected by the competition DJ.
- Couples may be cycled through on the same song (jam) or each “heat” of couples may dance to a different song (shared spotlight) depending on time/number of couples.

Spotlight

- One couple at a time dances to 1-2 songs selected by the competition DJ.

We follow WSDC recommendations for number of rounds. Most competitions will have multiple heats for prelims, and smaller competitions may go directly to finals. If many competitors enter, we may have semifinals if necessary. The number of couples in finals will be determined by the Event Directors and Chief Judge based on number of participants and callback results. Total number of heats and round formats are at the discretion of competition staff.

The chief judge may request additional all-skates, whenever necessary to ensure fair and complete judging.

Competition music

1. Our chief DJ will appoint a competition DJ to select music for each J&J and Strictly Swing division. All music will be at the discretion of the chief DJ and competition DJs.
2. Music for finals spotlight dances will be approximately the same length of time for each couple. The exact time of fade out is left to the DJ’s discretion to maximize the effectiveness of the music.
3. If our judges need more time to determine callbacks or final placements, our chief judge may ask the competition DJ to play additional music for added all-skates.

J&J Competitions

J&J competitions are designed to highlight skills in spontaneous West Coast Swing dancing with a variety of partners and music. A bit of “luck of the draw” comes into play as well. Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected by the DJ. If you are under 18, you must have the consent of your parent or guardian to enter.

Skill-based J&J

We use the World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Points Registry (see worldsdc.com for details) to determine eligibility for each WSDC Jack & Jill skill level division. *Any skill-level division may also be entered with a **successful** petition. (See rules above.)

1. **Newcomer J&J.** Enter this division if:
 - You registered for a Newcomer Pass
 - You are relatively new to competition, and you haven’t earned any Newcomer or Novice points at previous events
2. **Novice J&J.** Enter this division if:
 - You did not register for a Newcomer Pass
 - You have earned fewer than 15 Novice points; or
 - You have earned 16-29 Novice points but wish to remain in this division
3. **Intermediate J&J.** Enter this division if:
 - You have earned 16 or more Novice points (optional; you are required to move up to Intermediate with 30+ Novice points); or
 - You have earned 1-29 Intermediate points; or
 - You have earned 30-44 Intermediate points but wish to remain in this division
4. **Advanced J&J.** Enter this division if:
 - You have earned 30 or more Intermediate points (optional; you are required to move up to Advanced with 45+ Intermediate points); or
 - You have earned 1 to 59 Advanced points; or
 - You have earned 60-89 points but wish to remain in this division
5. **Allstar J&J.** Enter this division if:
 - You have earned 60 or more Advanced points

Note: Some competitors may be required to compete in a higher division in Strictly Swing, because their partner qualifies the partnership for the higher level. Competing or placing in a higher level Strictly Swing doesn’t qualify you to compete at that level in a WSDC J&J.

Roles

There are no restrictions on role, but there are restrictions on the number of entries. You may choose to enter as either a leader or follower. You may enter up to two skill level J&Js in different roles, based on the current WSDC rules:

- Your leader and follower points are now tracked separately in the WSDC Points Registry
- You qualify for your primary dance level based on either your leader or follower points, whichever is higher.
- You may enter only one WSDC skill level division (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, All-Stars, or Champions) in your primary role.
- You may also choose to compete in the other role one level down, as long as you don't qualify for both roles at the same level. (No petitions will be approved for dancing more than one level down.)
- For WSDC divisions, you are not allowed to enter both roles in the same division. You must choose one role and remain in that role throughout the competition (preliminaries, quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals); switching roles during your dances is not allowed.

If you are unclear about which J&J division is right for you, check with our event staff or chief judge when you register for competitions or with a reasonable amount of time before competing at the event.

Age-based J&J

Masters J&J

This is an age-based J&J intended for competitors who are at least 50 years old. It is open to all skill levels. Competitors in this division may also enter one WSDC J&J skill level division (Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, or AllStar.) You may enter only once in your preferred role, which may be a different role than your skill-based J&J. You may enter multiple age-based J&Js.

Sophisticated J&J

This is an age-based J&J intended for competitors who are at least 35 years old. It is open to all skill levels. Competitors in this division may also enter one WSDC J&J skill level division (Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, or AllStar.) You may enter only once in your preferred role, which may be a different role than your skill-based J&J. You may enter multiple age-based J&Js.

All-level J&J

All Korean J&J

This competition is open to all levels.

In this competition, dancers of any skill or age are paired up randomly and compete with the same partner throughout prelims and finals to music selected by the competition DJ. This competition is open to anyone eligible to participate in competitions at our event.

Strictly Swing

Strictly Swing competitions are designed to highlight skills in spontaneous swing dancing (any recognized style) with a chosen partner. Competitors enter as couples and dance to music selected by the appointed competition DJ. Levels are based on WSDC J&J skill levels.

Skill-Based Strictly Swing

You may choose to enter Strictly Swing as either a leader or a follower, but not both IN THE SAME DIVISION. Your level (Newcomer/Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, AllStar) is determined by your J&J level in that role. However, if your chosen partner is required to compete in a higher level J&J based on WSDC rules, then you and your partner should enter the higher level Strictly.

(Note: Competing or placing in a higher level Strictly Swing doesn't qualify you to compete at that level in a J&J competition.)

If you qualify for a different Strictly level in your other role, you also may enter Strictly Swing a second time **(with a different partner)** in the same or a different role, as long as your partner in each division also qualifies at that level (or below) in their role. If you enter more than one Strictly Swing division, you must enter with a different partner each time.

Westie Challenge

Westie Challenge is a for-fun, tournament-style competition, judged by both qualified judges and spectators. Because the emphasis is on fun, there is less emphasis on traditional West Coast Swing dance technique and more emphasis on presentation. However, it is still inherently a West Coast Swing competition, so entirely throwing away the fundamentals is generally not rewarded. While some rules are less applicable, any extreme, dangerous, or inappropriate behavior can result in disqualification, and in extreme cases other actions will be taken, so please be smart and respectful, and don't get carried away.

All competitions results are at the discretion of our judging staff and Event directors. All decisions are final, and appeals will not be accepted. Any concerns or feedback are welcome at wcsinkorea@gmail.com.