

KOREAN OPEN WCS Championships

2025 Competition Rules

For more information about the event, visit www.kopenwcs.com. Final decisions 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.
- 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 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 J&J divisions, you must submit a petition in advance or at the event, based on WSDC rules.

The following are the Petition Rules from the WSDC (effective January 1, 2025:)

1. Petitions can be submitted for **one skill level up or one skill level down only**. Competitors may submit petitions for their primary role only. Competitors may not submit petitions for their secondary role.
2. For petitions **DOWN** only:
 - i. The Chief Judge, or qualified individual(s)/committee designated by the Chief Judge, may approve or deny the petition after reviewing competitor's Points Registry record.
 - ii. Petitions are event-specific and not transferable. Competitors must submit a petition at their next event.
3. For petitions **UP** only
 - i. Petitions must be submitted to the WSDC Chief Judges Committee ("CJC") at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the event, along with two (2) videos of the competitor's dancing. Petitions and videos must be submitted via this link: worldsdc.com/level-up-petition. The CJC may approve or deny the petition after reviewing the competitor's Points Registry record and videos.
 - ii. Petitions will be approved for six (6) months and are transferrable to other events.

If you have submitted a successful **petition up** to the CJC, please contact us and include the successful petition information via wcsinkorea@gmail.com. For **petitions down**, 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.

For a more detailed overview of petitions check the updated 2025 WSDC rules here (Page 9, Section 3, Number 6):

<https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/wsdcrules.pdf>

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 qualified panel of judges, chief judge, scorer, MC, chief DJ, and competition DJs.
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 (while still adhering to all WSDC rules) 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 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. If you do not register by the deadline, you cannot participate in the competition.
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. If you enter a division for which you are not eligible, even if our staff misses the error on eligibility checks, you will be disqualified and can not receive the associated rewards (awards, points, etc.)
3. **Being prepared to compete.** 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 relevant competition rounds. If you do not wear 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. If you have questions you may contact our event staff at or after the event.

Dance requirements for competitions

The following dance requirements apply to all our competitions. (*Some of the rules do not apply to Westie Challenge. See below.) 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.

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.
2. **Social dance skills emphasis.** Our J&J and Strictly Swing competitions are designed to showcase good social dance skills in spontaneous swing dancing. 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”).** High level dancers sometimes use partner weight-support moves to add excitement to a performance. Like other patterns, these moves will be judged according to the 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.
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.

We want 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. 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

Emphasized criteria will vary based on each individual division and judge, however 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 & footwork must also 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.

NASDE 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 as well as semis and quarters (when needed)

Jam/Shared Spotlight

- 2~5 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 or quarterfinals if necessary. The number of couples in finals will be determined by the Event Staff 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.

WSDC 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. *A different skill-level division may also be entered with a **successful** petition. (See rules above.) For your Primary Role: (See “roles” below)

1. **WSDC 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. **WSDC 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
 - You have no Intermediate+ points
3. **WSDC 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
 - You have no Advanced+ points
4. **WSDC 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
 - You have no Allstar+ points
5. **WSDC Allstar/Champion 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 **DOES NOT** qualify you to compete at that level in a WSDC J&J.

*Our Invitational J&J is **NOT** an official WSDC Division

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 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 compete in the other role **one** level down (for Intermediate and below) OR **one or two** levels down for Advanced+ **without a petition**.
- However, if you qualify for the same division in both roles, 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 registration staff before registering for competitions. (Contact: wcsinkorea@gmail.com)

WSDC Age-based J&J

1. WSDC 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 WSDC J&J skill level divisions. 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.

2. WSDC 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 WSDC J&J skill level divisions. 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 JNJ 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.

All categories above marked as WSDC divisions are subject to strict enforcement of WSDC Rules. For detailed WSDC competition rules, check this link (updated January 1, 2025): <https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/wsdcrules.pdf>