



2017 USA GRAND NATIONAL DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION RULES

(Anything in red reflects “New”- updated May 2017)

Mission Statement

“To provide a fun, friendly, and organized competitive dance environment where separate dance communities can become inspired by the other to share, create, and merge into one dance while maintaining the integrity of each dance individually”

Competitor Organizer

USA Grand National Dance Championship is sponsored by Michael and LeAnn Productions LLC. Final decisions on any matter pertaining to these competitions rest solely with the Organizer.

General Competition Requirements

Competitor Eligibility:

- Must purchase a weekend pass
- Must sign a waiver (if you are under the age of 18, your parent or guardian must sign for you)
- Register by entry deadline(s)
- Must complete entry form and pay entry fee prior to event or not considered “registered”
- Must follow individual division guidelines as outlined in this document

Age Requirements:

- Are outlined in the specific qualification for each division
- Competitors must meet age requirement by the event date
- Competitors under the age of six are not allowed to compete at this event
- All attendees under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

Waiver Forms:

- Every competitor must sign the appropriate waiver before being allowed to compete
- Competitors under the age of eighteen must have a parent or guardian sign any required forms
- Every member of a team or cabaret act must sign a waiver

Partner Restrictions:

- Eligible competitors are not allowed to enter multiple routine divisions with the same partner (except team division or cabaret).
- Eligible competitors may choose to enter one Jack & Jill level, one Strictly Swing level, one Cabaret act, or one Team act.

Responsibility of Competitors

1. Be prepared for the weekend by checking all weekend schedules, attending all mandatory meetings, turning in music on time, and arriving for competition on time. Competitors must be present in ballroom 10 minutes prior to their competition. Remember: Event schedule is subject to change.
2. Read and adhere to the rules for their competition prior to dancer’s meeting.

3. Demonstrate good sportsmanlike conduct.

4. Competitors must turn-in music at DANCERS MEETING on FRIDAY.

Cancellations

Any contestant(s) who wish to cancel their application prior to May 15, 2017 will receive a refund of their entry fee. Cancellations received after that date will not receive a refund.

Dancer's Roll Call

The dancers' meeting will be held in the Chambers Auditorium at 4:45 pm on Friday of the event. All competitors should plan to attend (except Pro-Am, Jack and Jills, and Non-Professional Shag). Dance positions will be drawn at 4:45 pm and roll call will be at 5:00 pm. If you are not there to draw your position number prior to roll call, a number will be drawn for you.

Referee Judging

Contestants will be judged by a panel of 5-7 judges. All judges decisions are final. GNDC may utilize a Referee judge to monitor and flag rules in question. A video review may be required by a 3 person judging panel. If 2 or more agree a penalty or violation may result. See Appendix 1 for Referee Rules.

Scoring Review

Competitors' dance scores will be available for review immediately after the awards ceremony on Sunday evening in the Ascot Room off the Atrium. **This review is for competitors ONLY please; however, parents of junior dancers may accompany their children into the review room. No cameras will be allowed in the scoring room!** The Head Judge, as well as other judges, will be asked to be available for questions.

2017 USA GRAND NATIONAL DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION RULES

Junior Shag I:

This division is designed to feature young Carolina Shag dancers who are under the age of 14

General:

1. Competitor couples will be comprised of one male and one female.
2. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division is 5.
3. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
4. Props are not allowed.

Specific

1. Contestants must be between the ages of 6 -14 by the end of the event to participate.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes.
3. Competitors select their own music.
4. No choreographed routines or lifts allowed.
5. No costumes allowed although tasteful, age-appropriate, matching or complimentary outfits are allowed.
6. No choreographed entrances or exits.

Junior Shag II:

This division is designed to feature young Carolina Shag dancers who are older than 15 but under the age of 21

General:

1. Competitor couples will be comprised of one male and one female.
2. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division is 5.
3. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
4. Props are not allowed.

Specific

1. Contestants must be between the ages of 15-20 by the end of the event to participate.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes.
3. Competitors select their own music.
4. No choreographed routines or lifts allowed.
5. No costumes allowed although tasteful, age-appropriate, matching or complimentary outfits are allowed.
6. No choreographed entrances or exits.

Carolina Masters Shag:

This division is designed to feature Carolina Shag dancers who are over the age of 45

General:

1. Competitor couples will be comprised of one male and one female.
2. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division is 5.
3. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
4. Props are not allowed.

Specific

1. Contestants must be 45 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes.
3. Competitors select their own music.
4. No choreographed routines or lifts allowed.
5. No costumes allowed although matching or complimentary outfits are appropriate.
6. No choreographed entrances or exits.

Team:

This division is designed to feature synchronized couples dancing of any genre of "swing" with a minimum of two couples

General:

1. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division are 4 teams.
2. An individual is only allowed to compete on one team, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Must be approved by event director if an individual is competing on more than one team.
3. Props are not allowed.

Specific

1. Contestants must be 6 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 3 minutes and a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Competitors select their own music.
4. Choreographed routines are required. No line dances allowed.
5. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, break-aways, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are all allowed.
6. Costumes are required.
7. Choreographed entrances or exits are allowed. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the Chief Judge.
8. Guidelines for expected swing content: 50% in Team. It is at the judges' discretion to determine the swing content requirement has been met.

National Association of Swing Dance Events (NASDE) Rules

NASDE rules apply to Classic & Showcase Division ONLY

Update effective: March 1st, 2016

<http://nasde.net/rules.php>

NASDE Statement of Swing:

NASDE Statement of Swing is used to identify the presence of swing in the NASDE 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.

NASDE Sportsmanship Expectations:

Sportsmanship is a fundamental aspect of our competition. Competing for the NASDE prize fund is a privilege, not a right. The event director may flag a competitor's behavior as un-sportsman like. Said behavior will be reviewed by the NASDE board at the next scheduled NASDE Board meeting. Redress for violations can include but are not limited to deduction of points, dropping in level in the over all standing, or removal of competitor from the NASDE list.

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. NASDE rules apply. If any Event rule conflicts with published NASDE rules, the NASDE rules take precedence.

General

1. Contestants must be 18 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
3. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the Event's discretion. There is no minimum number of entries. If fewer than ten couples enter a division, NASDE points will still be awarded.
4. Guidelines for expected swing content are: at 80% in Classic. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
5. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.

Specific

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the chief judge.
2. Competitors select their own music.
3. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
4. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
5. Separate entrances are permitted but the couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music.
6. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and

recoveries. Break-away in Classic Division to be no more than 8 beats **effective January 1, 2009.**

7. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves. At most five partner weight support moves are permitted.

Showcase Division:

Swing dancing that allows choreography with flair toward lifts and other partner weight support moves. NASDE rules apply. If any Event rule conflicts with published NASDE rules, the NASDE rules take precedence.

General

1. Contestants must be 18 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
3. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the Event's discretion. There is no minimum number of entries. If fewer than ten couples enter a division, NASDE points will still be awarded.
4. Guidelines for expected swing content are: at 60% in Showcase. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
5. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
6. Props are not allowed.

Specific

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the Chief Judge.
2. Competitors select their own music.
3. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
4. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
5. Separate entrances are permitted.
6. Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted.
7. At least three partner weight support moves are required with the partner at knee level or above.
8. At least one partner weight support move is required with the partner above the waist.
9. There are no lift maximums.

Young Adult Swing Dance Association (YASDA) Rules

YASDA Statement:

The Young Adult Swing Dance Association was created to support young people in pursuing the art of swing dance. Traveling and competing across the USA is very expensive for families and we hope to assist families in offsetting these cost by providing such things as travel scholarships and prize money at existing National Swing Conventions that support and encourage participation of young people under the age of 18. The organization will provide needed resources that will expand the number of young people that participate in national events and inspire other young people to explore dance as a means of creative expression.

YASDA Rules and Guidelines:

1. All competitors must be under the age of 18.
2. Should an individual in an established partnership turn 18, they may petition the event to continue to dance in the Young Adult Division until such time as the youngest turns 18 or the eldest turns 20. At such time they would no longer be eligible to dance in the Young Adult Division.
3. An individual aged 18 or older, while eligible to dance (see rule 2) will be eligible for the year end prize as long as they are still eligible to dance at the time of the final event of the tour, which is the US Open Swing Dance Championships.
4. All other rules are at the discretion of the particular event (see below).

YASDA Points allotted:

Tier # of couples points(1st-5th)

1. 1-5 couples 5,4,3,2,1,0
2. 6-10 couples 7,6,5,4,3 (6-10=1 pt)
3. 11-15 couples 9,8,7,6,5(6-15=2 pt)
4. 16-20 couples 11,10,9,8,7 (6-20=3 pt)

Young America:

This division is designed to feature young dancers from the ages of 6 – 13.

General:

1. Competitor couples will be comprised of one male and one female.
2. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division is 4.
3. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
4. Props are not allowed.

Specific

1. All competitors must be at least 6 years old but under 13.
 - a. Competitors must have reached the age of 6-years-old by the end of the event in order to compete. If one partner is 14-years of age or older, and the other partner is under the age of 14, this couple must compete in the Young Adult Division.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the Chief Judge.
3. The rules governing this division are the same as the rules that govern the Showcase Division with the following exceptions:
 - a. Lifts & aerals that have 1 partner's torso rise above the other partner's shoulders are not

allowed.

- b. All other partner weight support moves are optional.
4. Competitors select their own music (age appropriate).
5. Tasteful, age-appropriate costumes are allowed and encouraged.
6. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
7. Separate entrances are permitted.
8. Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted.

Young Adult:

This division is designed to feature young dancers from the ages of 14 – 17.

General:

1. Competitor couples will be comprised of one male and one female.
2. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division is 4.
3. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
4. Props are not allowed.

Specific

1. All competitors must be at least 14 through 17 years of age.
 - a. If partner have completed 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 is to allow youngsters who have formed a partnership and advanced their dancing together to continue to compete together in the Young Adult Division.
 - b. If one partner is 14-years of age or older, and the other partner is under the age of 14, this couple must compete in the Young Adult Division.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the Chief Judge.
3. The rules governing this division are the same as the rules that govern the Showcase Division with the following exceptions:
 - c. Lifts & aerials that have 1 partner's torso rise above the other partner's shoulders are not allowed.
 - d. All other partner weight support moves are optional.
4. Competitors select their own music (age appropriate).
5. Tasteful, age-appropriate costumes are allowed and encouraged.
6. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
7. Separate entrances are permitted.
8. Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted.

Shag Jack and Jill Divisions

The Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight social dance skills in shag dancing and the ability to dance well with a variety of partners.

Format

Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected in advance by the Competition DJ. Depending on the number of entries, preliminary, semi-final, and final rounds may be held and will be danced in a heated format. Each division must have at least 5 leaders and 5 followers. There is no maximum number of competitors.

General

1. Each competitor may enter only one skill level Jack & Jill competition.
2. Competitors must be at least fourteen (14) years of age.
3. Male competitors must enter as "leaders" and female competitors must enter as "followers."
4. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
5. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves (at least one foot on ground).
6. No lifts.
7. Props are not allowed.

Shag Division Qualifications

Our qualifications for entries promote fairness and competitor enjoyment by grouping dancers of similar ability in the same division. It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to the appropriate classification using the honor system.

Non-Professional

1. Competitors must be at least fourteen (14) years of age.
2. Newcomer, amateur, or novice shag dancers who have never competed in OR won a professional shag dance competition.
3. Junior, Senior, or Master competitors who have won or placed in the top three in any national shag dance competition are encouraged to dance in the experienced division.

Experienced

1. Competitors must be at least fourteen (14) years of age.
2. Competitors who are considered "experienced" dancers who do not meet eligibility requirements for the non-professional Jack & Jill. Competitors may be shag instructors, hall of fame designees, or experienced social dancers.
3. Junior, Senior, or Master competitors who have won or placed in the top three in any national shag competition are encouraged to dance in the experienced division.
4. Competitors are encouraged to assign themselves to the appropriate classification using the honor system.

World Swing Dance Council – Event Rules

Updated July 1st, 2015

<http://www.worldsdc.com/library/rules/>

Swing Jack and Jill Divisions

The Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight social dance skills in spontaneous swing dancing and the ability to dance well with a variety of partners.

Format

Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected in advance by the Competition DJ. Depending on the number of entries, preliminary, semi-final, and final rounds may be held and will be danced in a heated format. Each division must have at least 5 leaders and 5 followers. There is no maximum number of competitors.

Competition Rules:

1. **Each competitor must enter his or her appropriate skill level.**
2. **A competitor may enter only one WSDC skill level Jack and Jill as either leader or follower.**
3. Masters J&J, an age category, may dance in Masters AND one other Skill level.
4. **Competitors must be at least 14 years of age, and if you are under age 18 you must have the consent of your parent or guardian)**
5. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
6. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves, (one foot on the ground).
7. Props are not allowed.

Swing Division Qualifications

Our qualifications for entries promote fairness and competitor enjoyment by grouping dancers of similar ability in the same division. Our rules are based on the World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) recommendations. It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to the appropriate classification using the honor system. A competitor may petition to dance one level up or down only, or to stay in a current division. A committee, including the Chief Judge, will review the requested reclassification/petition after reviewing the dancer's record.

Novice:

1. Competitors with fewer than 15 novice points should dance in this division.
2. Competitors with 15 or more novice points may continue to dance in this division until they have a first place win in novice.
3. Competitors with 15 or more novice points AND a win in novice must dance in a higher division.

Intermediate:

1. Competitors with 15 or more novice points, but fewer than 30 intermediate points should dance in this division.
2. Competitors who have earned at least 30 Intermediate points may continue to dance in this division until they have a first place win in intermediate.
3. Competitors with 30 or more intermediate points AND a win in intermediate must dance in a higher division.
4. Competitors with fewer than 15 novice points who have any intermediate points may, but are not

required to dance in this division.

Advanced:

1. Competitors with 30 or more intermediate points should dance in this division.
2. Competitors with fewer than 30 intermediate points who have any advanced points may, but are not required to, dance in this division.
3. Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational J&J held at a qualifying major event are not eligible for this division.

All-Star:

1. Must have a minimum of 10 couples to be a valid contest. Less than 10 couples, contestants will be automatically registered in the Advanced Division.
2. Competitors with at least 45 or more advanced points should dance in this division(must be within last three years).
3. Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational J&J held at a qualifying major event are not eligible for this division.

Masters:

1. Must have a minimum of 10 couples to be a valid contest. Less than 10 couples, contestants will be automatically registered into their appropriate level jack and jill.
2. Competitors must be at least 50 years of age or older to dance in this division
3. Master competitors may also dance in one other level of Jack & Jill

Points are recorded as follows: When number of competitors is uneven, points will be recorded separately by leader/follower.

Tier and/or # of Competitors	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place	Additional
Tier 1 = 5 - 15	5	4	3	2	1	0
Tier 2 = 16-39	10	8	6	4	2	6 to 10 th 1pt
Tier 3 = 40+	15	12	10	8	6	1pt all finalists

TIER 1 = 5 to 15 Competitors **(Could be run as a "finals only", or perhaps semi and final)**

TIER 2 = 16 to 39 Competitors **(Should be run as a semi/final, but could be prelim / semi / final)**

TIER 3 = 40+ Competitors **(With this number of competitors, should be 3 rounds prelim / semi / final)**

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.

General:

1. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
2. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. There is no minimum number of entries.
3. Guidelines for expected swing content are 90% in Strictly Swing. It is at the judge's discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
4. An individual is not permitted to dance in both Open and Champions Strictly Swing.

Specific:

1. Contestants must be at least fourteen (14) years or older by the end of the event to participate, and if you are under 18, you must have the consent of your parent or guardian.
2. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion.
3. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable.
4. This division will be danced in heats for preliminaries, semi-finals, and for finals.
5. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
6. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
7. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves (at least one foot on ground).

Division Qualifications:

It is the Organizer's goal to encourage all competitors to assign themselves to a fair and appropriate classification using the honor system.

Open:

1. Open to all competitors except Champions.
2. Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational J&J held at qualifying major event **may not** dance in this division.

Champions:

1. Competitors may, but are not required to, dance in this division if they have any earned Professional (PRO), Champions (CHMP), Invitational (INV) or Teachers (TCH) points.
2. Competitors who have placed 1st-5th in a Champions or Invitational J&J held at qualifying major event must dance in this division.

Pro-Am Divisions

The Pro-Am divisions are designed to give the amateur the opportunity to be showcased with their professional instructor for critique and feedback.

Pro-Am Lead/Follow General:

1. Amateurs may enter in one Division Level: Novice or Intermediate
2. Each professional shall have no more than 5 Amateurs in each Division Level (Novice and Intermediate)
3. A student/teacher relationship must exist between the competitors defined as at least one hour of private instruction in the previous 6 months.

Specific

1. Length of performance is at the promoter's discretion. Music will be chosen by the Organizer.
2. Costumes are not allowed. However, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable
3. This division will be danced in heats.
4. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
5. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
6. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves (at least one foot on the ground).

Pro-AM Routine Spotlight (Showcase rules)

General

1. Competitors must consist of one "amateur" and one "Professional".
2. The maximum and minimum number of entries is at the Event's discretion.
3. Guidelines for expected swing content are 60%. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
4. Each professional shall have no more than 5 amateur routines.

Specific

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the chief judge.
2. Competitors select their own music.
3. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
4. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
5. Separate entrances are permitted
6. Lifts are allowed but not required.

Rising Star (RISING STAR TOUR)

The Rising Star division is designed for the couple that would like to dance against non-pro/advanced level competitors. **Rising star couples must have never placed, made a final, or earned NASDE points in a NASDE Classic or Showcase point category.**

To graduate the 2017 Rising Star Tour:

- Win the Rising Star Tour
- (or) Place top three (3) at the US Open
- (or) reach the All-Star time limit
- All Stars are eligible for one (1) full tour year after they start competing in Rising Star or All Star

General

1. Contestants must be **15 years** or older by the end of the event to participate (**new rule per Rising Star Tour**). if you are under 18, you must have the consent of your parent or guardian.
2. Competitors will be one Male Leader and one Female Follower.
3. The maximum and minimum number of entries is at the Event's discretion. **If there are less than 3 couples, the event shall offer the competitors the opportunity to perform an exhibition, with judges' feedback.**
4. Guidelines for expected swing content are 70%. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met.
5. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same **or in another NASDE division.**
6. Props are not allowed.

Specific

1. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the Chief Judge.
2. Competitors select their own music.
3. **Costumes are required.**
4. Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
5. Separate entrances **are permitted up to 32 beats of music.**
6. Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted, not longer than eight (8) beats.
7. Lifts are optional but not required.

Cabaret

This division is considered "open" to any style of dance other than swing. However, a slight amount of swing is permitted.

General:

1. The maximum number of entries in each division is at the event's discretion. The minimum number of entries for this division is 4.
2. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division.
3. Props are allowed but must be approved by the event directors prior to the event.

Specific:

1. Contestants must be 6 years or older by the end of the event to participate.
2. Performance time is a minimum of 2.5 minutes and a maximum of 4.5 minutes.
3. The performance must display a Cabaret element, which is not present in the other dance divisions.
4. Any style of dance other than swing is permitted however a slight amount of swing is permitted defined as a maximum of 32 beats of swing patterns.
5. Competitors select their own music.
6. Choreographed routines and costumes are required.
7. Any entry may consist of a solo performer or multiple performers (ex: team)
8. Lifts, aerials, acrobatic moves, drops, slides, break-aways, switching of partners, and reverse lead/follow are all allowed.
9. Theatre Arts routines are appropriate for the Cabaret Division.
10. Choreographed entrances or exits are allowed. The clock begins when the performance starts as determined by the Chief Judge.

APPENDIX 1

The Wayne Bott Referee System – updated 1.17.2017(as voted by NASDE)

Overview of Referee System:

1. Review current NASDE and local competition rules for consistency.
 2. A Referee sits on the judging panel watching for rules adherence. The Referee uses a Referee Rules Checklist.
 3. If all couples Pass, a Panel Review is unnecessary.
 4. If any couple Fails, a Panel Review is necessary and should occur immediately or ASAP, after all judges have scored the contest.
 5. The event must have a video of each performance for review.
 6. A review panel is formed, consisting of the chief judge and two (2) other judges.
 7. The referee will have a checklist for each couple during their performance.
 8. If a referee flags a performance for review, the referee will acquire the video and review the video any number of times.
 9. If the referee determines a violation possibly occurred, the review panel will be assembled to review and determine final judgement
 10. The referee presents the video and possible violation to the review panel and will answer any questions from the review panel.
 11. The review panel reviews the video as many times as necessary to determine if violation occurred. Verbal interaction between panel members is encouraged. Be concise, get to the point, give opinion, and move on.
 12. At the conclusion, each panel member indicates “Pass” or “Fail” for each couple in question. There is no need for panel members to agree. Majority opinion (2 out of 3) carries. The results are recorded on a Panel Review Sheet and the couple is given an overall “Pass” or “Fail”.
 13. If couple “Fails”, the panel determines if the violation was an “error” or “penalty”. An “error” signifies that the violation was not a deliberate action against the rules. Errors include the drop already being part of the judges’ scores or a drop of up to two (2) placements. A “penalty” signifies that the violation was a deliberate action against the rules. Penalties include not being called-back for the next round or dropped to last place in a finals round.
 14. Any and all Panel Reviews taking place should be noted on the scoring sheets with a “VR” (Violation-Review) when posting scores, even reviews that passed. Any drop in placement is noted with a “VP” (Violation-Penalty), on the posted scoring sheets, using VP1 or VP2 to further define the number of placements dropped.
 15. The details of the Referee Panel are NOT to be posted. All Panel Review Sheets and Referee Rules Checklist are turned into the chief judge to be included in the Scoring Book for future review and archiving.
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1. **Note: Swing Content** is the responsibility of each judge, NOT the REFEREE Judge. Any violations or warning regarding Swing Content is reflected in the individual judges score and noted on their individual score sheets. Any Swing Content Warnings and Violations are posted by the Scorer on Sunday.

*Author: Wayne Bott/created & implemented in 2006 for the US OPEN
Latest revision/Sharlot Bott 5/21/2017*