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**I. ORGANIZER**

JL Productions is the "Organizer" of this event. Final decisions on all matters pertaining to these competitions rest solely with the Organizer.

**II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANIZER**

**A. STAFF**

The Organizer will select a panel of Judges, a Chief Judge, a Ballroom Coordinator and a Contestants' Representative. The names of the individuals in these positions will be available prior to the event. In case of an emergency, such as illness or transportation difficulties, the Organizer reserves the right to substitute a qualified person, and will announce that substitution as soon as it occurs.

**B. SCHEDULE**

The Organizer will determine the date and time for each competition, and will announce this information prior to the event. The Organizer reserves the right to cancel a division if the number of entries is under the posted minimum, and to rearrange the schedule if necessary. Cancellation of a division would result in the refund of any applicable competitor entry fees.

Any schedule or location changes will be noted on the Liberty Swing Dance Championships' (LSDC) website ([www.libertyswing.com](http://www.libertyswing.com)) if they occur prior to the event. If the changes occur during the event, they will be announced or posted in the foyer.

**C. AWARDS**

The Organizer will determine and award all prizes and money. Monetary awards will be given in the form of a check at the Awards Ceremony.

**D. POSTING OF SCORES**

The results of the competitions will be posted for Finalists to review after the Awards Ceremony.

**E. PRELIUMS, SEMI-FINALS, FINALS, AND HEATS**

At any time prior to the Competition, the Organizer reserves the right to determine whether or not a division will consist of a Semi-Final and a Final, and whether or not Finals will dance in heats or a spotlight. This decision will be communicated as soon as possible through announcements at the event.

**III. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE**

**A. COUPLE**

A couple consists of one leader and one follower.

**B. REQUIREMENTS**

All who plan to compete must adhere to the following requirements in (i) thru (iv):

- i. Hold a full weekend package ticket to LIBERTY SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS (Except for Cabaret).
- ii. Pay the required entry fees.

- iii. Sign the waiver or online "Agreement." No Competitor will be allowed to compete without a signed Waiver/Agreement, and every member of a Team or Cabaret Act must sign the Competition Waiver. Competitors under 18 years of age must have a parent or guardian sign their Waiver and any other required forms
  - a. The complete Entry Form
  - b. The signed Waiver or online "Agreement" for each competitor
  - c. Payment for Entry into the competition(s)/division(s)
- iv. Meet all the specific requirements outlined in these rules.

**C. DIVISION RESTRICTIONS**

A dancer may compete in Classic, Showcase or Cabaret Divisions with the same partner. Strictly swing requires a different partner.

**IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETITORS**

**A. BEHAVIOR**

All Competitors must demonstrate courteous and professional behavior at all times at the LIBERTY SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS, both on and off the competition floor. Failure to adhere to these standards could cause disciplinary action by the Organizer, or penalties from the Judges.

**B. RULES**

All Competitors are responsible for reading and understanding the rules prior to the event. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules whether or not they have been read.

**C. COMPETITORS' MEETING**

Unless prior arrangements are made with the Event Organizer, Competitors are required to attend the appropriate Competitors' Meeting throughout the weekend. Location and times to be announced/posted at event.

**D. REFUND OF COMPETITION ENTRY FEE**

Competition fees will not be refunded for any reason other than cancellation of a division.

**V. SWING CONTENT (Statement of Swing)**

- A. Because LSDC is a SWING Dance Championship, the Judges will expect to see Swing content in all competitions except Cabaret and Team divisions. Specific guidelines about Swing content required in each division are discussed under the rules for that division.

The statement that Judges will use to identify the presence of Swing content is as follows:

"Swing is an American Rhythm Dance that is identified primarily by 6-beat and 8-beat patterns that incorporate a wide variety of rhythms. Six-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, pass, underarm turns, push-breaks, and open-to-closed/closed-to-open position patterns. Eight-beat patterns include, but are not limited to, whips, swing-outs, Lindy circles, and Shag pivots.

**VI. JUDGING CRITERIA**

- A. The Relative Placement System will be used to judge all the competitions at the LIBERTY SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS. In all divisions, the amount of Swing content will be evaluated.

All Competitors will be judged using the following criteria:

**B. TIMING**

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

**C. TEAMWORK**

Swing is a connected, partner dance. The demonstration of this connection and the appearance of lead/follow or action/reaction between the partners is an expected part of any competition. One partner ignoring or out-dancing the other, or jeopardizing the safety of the other (or other Competitors), indicates poor teamwork.

**D. TECHNIQUE**

How well the Competitors execute the movements comprising their dance constitutes technique. This includes control of balance and weight, foot placement, bodylines, and spins.

**E. CHOREOGRAPHY**

The selection and order of movements and transitions executed during a dance comprises choreography. Good choreography demonstrates an intimate connection with the music and its phrasing, as well as variety and contrast.

**F. PRESENTATION**

To create an atmosphere of excitement by inviting and generating interest in a performance is the desired effect of good presentation. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, a good show is not a substitute for good dancing.

- G. In Cabaret, the criteria of timing, teamwork, technique, choreography, and presentation will also apply as appropriate for the dance being performed.

- H. Judges decisions are final.

**VII. ERRORS, VIOLATIONS, AND PENALTIES**

- A. If the rules outlined in this document are broken, the judges will assign penalties depending on the severity of the breach.

**VIII. BEGINNING AND ENDING A ROUTINE**

**A. ENTRANCES AND EXITS**

Choreographed entrances to and exits from the dance floor are permitted, but not required, in choreographed routines. Timing and judging will begin from the first movement of the performance, with or without music or sound. If a choreographed exit is used, it will be included in judging and timing requirements.

**B. RESTARTS**

A restart will be allowed only if the music system falters or an unforeseen catastrophe occurs. Events such as a broken dress strap, untied shoelace, etc. does not warrant a restart.

**IX. COSTUMES**

A. It is the position of the LIBERTY SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS that colorful, decorative, dramatic attire enhance the entertainment value of the performances. Therefore, costumes are required for Showcase, Classic, Cabaret, and Formation Teams Divisions. Costumes are not allowed in Strictly or Jack & Jill Divisions, but dramatic, tasteful dance clothing is accepted - and encouraged.

**X. PROPS**

The Organizer must approve the use of all props in advance.

**XI. MUSIC**

**A. SUBMITTING YOUR MUSIC**

A one-track CD copy of your music must be submitted at the Competitors' Meeting unless prior approval is obtained from the Event Organizer. **NO TAPES WILL BE ACCEPTED.** If a Competitor is performing in two competitions, music must be provided on two separate CD's. Each Competitor will be responsible for retaining practice copies.

Your music can be reclaimed at the DeeJay table after your competition.

**XII. TIME LIMIT**

Performances must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes in every division except Teams and Cabaret. In Teams and Cabaret, performances must be between 3 minutes and 4 minutes. Choreographed Floor Entrances and Exits are included in the time limit. A five-second buffer will be allowed to accommodate differences in music equipment. Not adhering to time limit requirements will be considered a violation. Failing to meet minimum or maximum standards will result in a drop in placement.

**XIII. QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE RULES**

Please call the LIBERTY SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS (973-251-2606) or e-mail John Lindo at [info@libertyswing.com](mailto:info@libertyswing.com) with any questions about these rules.