

European Swing Dance Championships 2015

GENERAL RULES

1. Organiser

EUROPEAN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS LTD. is the Organiser of this event. Final decisions on all matters pertaining to these competitions rest solely with the Organiser.

2. Responsibilities of the Organiser

SCHEDULE: The Organiser will determine the date, time and location for each competition, sign-up deadlines, competitor check-in deadlines, and will announce this information prior to the event.

The Organiser reserves the right to cancel a division, or combine two levels into one division, if the number of entries is too low, 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 European Swing Dance Championships website (www.europeanswing.com) if they occur prior to the event. If the changes occur during the event, the website will be updated and they will also be publicly announced and/or posted on noticeboards at the event.

AWARDS: The Organiser will determine and award all prizes and money. Monetary awards will be given in cash, in the GBPE Pound Sterling currency, at the Awards Ceremony. No other form of payment can be provided.

POSTING OF SCORES: The results of the competitions will be posted for review after the Awards Ceremony, at the event and on the website (www.europeanswing.com).

COMPETITION FORMAT: The Organiser reserves the right to determine the format of each competition division, including whether it consists of preliminary heats and/or finals, and whether the competition is danced in all-skate, phrase-battle or spotlight formats. These decisions will be communicated on the website before the event, and any changes will be announced as soon as possible on the website or through announcements at the event.

3. Age Requirements

Competitors must be **at least 18 years old** to compete in all competition divisions.

The Competitor must meet the age requirement specified in these rules on or before Thursday, 15th October 2015. Proof of age may be requested.

Competitors under 18 years of age will only be allowed to compete with special permission granted from the ESDC Organisers, and will need to provide parental permission, and have a parent or guardian present at the event.

4. Eligibility to Compete

Competitions are open to dancers of all nationalities, worldwide.

A "couple" consists of one leader and one follower. Leaders and followers may be of any gender.

REQUIREMENTS: In order to be eligible to compete, each competitor must meet ALL of the following requirements:

1. Hold a Ballroom Pass for the 2015 EUROPEAN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS, paid in full. A Ballroom Pass must be held for each day on which a competitor is competing.
2. Have paid the required competition entry fees
3. Register by the official entry deadline, using the official online registration system or at the Competition Desk at the event.
4. Meet the entry requirements of each individual competition division (eg: as regards to dance level, length of routine, etc.)
5. Meet all the specific requirements outlined in these rules

5. Responsibilities of Competitors

RULES: All Competitors are responsible for reading and understanding the rules prior to the 2015 EUROPEAN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS. Competitors are responsible for adhering to these rules whether or not they have been read.

BEHAVIOUR: All Competitors must demonstrate safe, respectful and courteous behaviour at all times at the EUROPEAN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS, both on and off the competition floor. Failure to adhere to these standards could cause disciplinary action by the Organiser, or penalties from the Judges.

CHECK-IN: Competitors are required to check-in for each day's competitions, before the advertised Check-In Deadlines. The check-in is to confirm you will be competing that day. Check-in is compulsory. You must check-in for every day you are competing. Failure to check-in may result in disqualification from competing in that day's contests, without a refund of entry fee. A single representative of a team or a couple can check-in on behalf of that team or couple. If you cannot check yourself in, please arrange for someone else to check you in on your behalf.

DANCE ORDER: Drawing for dance order will take place at the Competition Desk and will be posted on the Competitors' noticeboard. Competitors are required to be familiar with their assigned dance order and be prepared to be announced and to compete in this order.

PUNCTUALITY: Competitors are required to be in attendance at the competition venue, and ready to compete, 15 minutes before the scheduled start time of each competition division. Competitors must signal their arrival to the Competition Ushers for each competition division, and failure to do so may result in disqualification from competing in that division, without a refund of entry fee.

DEADLINES: Failure to comply with deadlines may result in disqualification from competing in the event without a refund of entry fee. These decisions will be made solely at the discretion of the Organiser.

6. Costumes

Costumes are not mandatory, however tasteful, neat and appropriate clothing and safe footwear is required. For the appreciation of the audience and judges, we encourage you to dress in a vintage (1920s to 1940s) style, or in colourful or dramatic dance attire, but this is not compulsory.

7. Competitor Numbers

Competitor numbers will be provided and must be worn for all divisions except the Showcase Divisions. For couples competitions, only the leader needs to wear a number. The number must be pinned at all four corners. The number must be worn on the torso (back, hips or bottom) – not on the legs or arms.

8. Competition Music

COMPETITION MUSIC: Music played during all competition divisions (except showcase divisions), will be selected by the event Organisers and their appointed DJs or bands. Music will be swinging jazz and blues music, predominantly from the 1920s, 30s and 40s, in a variety of tempos. Musical phrasing may be 32-bar swing phrasing or 12-bar blues phrasing.

SUBMITTING YOUR MUSIC: For showcase divisions, it is your responsibility to submit your music to the Competition DJ, no later than the day before your competition. You can submit your music on a USB thumb-drive at the Competition Desk, or it is greatly preferred if you email it to contests@europeanswing.com well in advance of the competition.

9. Judging

JUDGING SYSTEM: A criteria-based scoring system will be used to judge all the competitions at the 2015 EUROPEAN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS. Judges will score the contestants on three criteria, and the highest overall score will win. The Relative Placement Scoring system will no longer be used. Judges decisions are final.

JUDGING CRITERIA: All competitions will be judged using three criteria. The exact interpretation of these criteria is at the discretion of individual judges. The three criteria are:

Technique - execution, connection, lead-follow, partnering, timing, coordination, quality of movement, mastery, floorcraft, precision, mechanical strength, clarity.

Artistry – creativity, originality, style, quality of improvisation or quality of choreography, musicality, rhythm, repertoire, inspiration, uniqueness, individuality, interestingness.

Showmanship - presentation, performance, stagecraft, costume, audience impact, entertainment, expression, projection, theatricality, characterisation, professionalism, polish.

10. Competition Cancellations & Withdrawals

Competition entry fees are NON-REFUNDABLE. However, they are fully transferable. If you cancel your entry in a competition division, you can apply the fees you have paid to a different competition, or transfer the entry into someone else's name. No refunds will be given under any circumstances, no exceptions. No credits will be given - unused funds, if not used at the 2015 event, cannot be transferred to a future event.

Competitor Guidelines

NEW: Competitor Check-in

- In 2015, there are no compulsory Competitors Meetings
- Instead, you will need to **check-in** for your competitions. It's just like checking in for a flight – there will be *Competitor Check-In Deadlines* published in the schedule and you must check-in for your contests before the relevant deadline or you can't compete.
- You can check-in by visiting the Competition Desk **before** your deadline. Do not wait until the last minute, as there may be a queue.
- At the desk you will check-in to confirm you are competing that day, confirm your details are correct, confirm the DJ has your Showcase music, find out which heat you are in, find out your assigned order and be told any changes or announcements.
- If you have any questions about the rules or formats for your contests, the Competition Desk staff will be able to help.
- Other methods for check-in might be announced later.

Before each competition:

- Please be waiting in the competitor's area, at least 15 minutes before your competition.
- The schedule is very tight, so don't be late! If you are late, you will lose your place!
- Signal your arrival to the Competition Ushers
- Be quiet and listen to the staff instructions in this area.
- The Ushers will line you up, in order, to be called for the competition. Pay attention to your position in line (try to remember who is next to you).

When you are called out for your competition:

- Walk quickly onto the dance floor when you hear your name or number
- Stand in a line on the dance floor, and display your number to the judges, while you wait for the music
- Pay attention to the MC for information about the competition!

At the end of each competition:

- When you stop dancing, return to your line in the original order you were called out in.
- Display your number to the judges and wait for the MC's instructions to leave.

Preliminary Results:

- After the preliminary rounds, the list of Finalists for each division will be posted up on the public notice boards, at the Competitors Desk, and announced on the website and Facebook group.
- Please check to see if you are in the finals for any of your competitions.

Competition Levels

The official levels at ESDC (for workshops and competitions) are: Beginner, Beginner/Intermediate, Intermediate/Advanced, Advanced and Masters. Unfortunately the event is not large enough yet to have a separate contest division for each level, so these levels are often combined. The three most common levels you will see at ESDC 2015 are **Open**, **Advanced** and **Masters**. If a competition doesn't have a level specified, then it is open to all levels.

Advanced

- Advanced will suit you if you are an experienced dancer that has been dancing for some years. You are respected in your hometown as one of the more adept and stylish dancers in your scene. You have years of social dancing practice and you are popular on the social dance floor. You have probably social danced outside of your home city. You have probably attended international swing events and workshops with international instructors, and took the higher level classes at those events. If you have competed in the past, it has probably been at a high national or international level.
- If you were in the top 5 of any "Open" level competition at previous ESDCs, you **must** compete in the Advanced level at ESDC 2015.

Masters

- Masters is the level for champion and master dancers that are experienced competitors, and compete at the highest level at international competitions.
- ESDC instructors and official judges (past and present) will compete in this level.
- If you have competed in the "All-Star" or "Invitational" contests at a previous ESDC then this is the level for you.
- You should also register for this level if you have competed in the Pro, All-Star, Champion or Invitational contests at: Snowball, Lindy Shock, ILHC, CSC, Lonestar Championships, Camp Hollywood, ULHS, Camp Jitterbug, or Korean Lindy Hop Championships.
- If you were in the top 5 of any "Advanced" level competition at a previous ESDC, you are welcome to compete in Masters level at ESDC 2015.

Open

- If a division says "Open" in the name, it means this is the level for everyone lower than Advanced.

Note: *If a contest type has more than one level, but registrations are too low, then two levels may be collapsed into one. For example, Open+Advanced or Advanced+Masters levels may be collapsed into one division if not enough people register to run both.*

Competition Formats

All ESDC competitions are based around four formats:

1. **Showcase:** competitors perform a 2-4 minute choreographed routine to their own music.
2. **All-Skate:** this is a social dance format. All competitors dance on the floor simultaneously.
3. **Phrase Battle:** this is a jam session format. Competitors take turns, dancing one at a time in an assigned order, for a set number of phrases each, until the song ends.
4. **Spotlight:** couples are “spotlighted” by social dancing one at a time, for 1.5 minutes each

Questions?

First please read the Frequently Asked Questions page at www.europeanswing.com/faq

If you still have a question, email contests@europeanswing.com