



Quarterly

Newsletter

New Registry Events

We would like to welcome the following new Registry Events that have been approved in 2023:

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|---|---------------------|
| Sea Q-Fest in Anapa Russia | September 1-8, 2024 |
| Spooky Westie Weekend in Singapore | October 25-27, 2024 |
| Swingside Invitational in Liege, Belgium | October 25-27, 2024 |

Message from the President

Happy New Year! We wish everyone best wishes in the new year! We thank the dance community for being so supportive and sharing - the growth in our swing dance world would not happen without all of the wonderful and hard work done by so many of you! Our thanks go out to all our event directors, instructors, judges, scorers - and you, our dancers!

We want to congratulate our 3 newly approved Registry Events! As a reminder, this past September the WSDC decided not to approve new Trial events in Russia while travel is restricted by war. While we will allow the previously planned WSDC Registry and trial events scheduled to take place in Russia to go forward, we do so not with the intention to support Russia as a nation state, but in the hope that these continuing events will help to support avenues of international communication between dancers, and give those Russian dancers who condemn the actions of their own government connections to an international community that can support them in their anti-war convictions in the face of significant and ongoing state propaganda.

The WSDC released its rules for 2024 which are available at:

https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-Registry-Event-Rules_vFRER-Version-2024.1A.pdf

Thanks to everyone who provided input on our drafts along the way (our Rules committee, our external reviewers, international Advisory Committee (IAC), Chief Judges committee, and individual dancers). Also, we look forward to another year of support from our IAC members, most of whom are returning for another year!

Finally, we want to acknowledge that this last year brought tough times too - and we lost some amazing dancers, including our very own Annie Hirsch, one of the WSDC co-founders. Besides helping to build this dance community, Annie loved to dance! So we hope this year brings great joy with lots of dancing in your life!



Skylar Pritchard - Winner of the 2023 Annie Hirsch Award

The World Swing Dance Council is delighted to announce the winner of the inaugural Annie Hirsch Award is Skylar Pritchard!

The Annie Hirsch Award is given to the competitor with the highest number of Registry Points awarded in skill level contests for the past year*. Skylar placed or won 21 WSDC Jack and Jill skill level contests for a total of 121 Registry Event points! The Award included a ticket to 2023's The Open Swing Dance Championships (where the award was presented) and a cash prize of \$2,000.

Annie Hirsch was one of the co-Founders of the WSDC itself, and created the competitor skill levels that competitors all over the world use to track their progress in the West Coast Swing dance community. Annie passed away in 2023. The WSDC Board has created this award to honor her.

**Time period for the award covered October 2022-September 2023.*

Registry Events

January—March 2024

WSDC Trial Events are shown in Blue

- **COUNTRY DANCE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**
Dec 31, 2023 –Jan 7, 2024
- **BUDAFEST OPEN WCS CHAMPIONSHIPS**
January 3-7, 2024
- **MONTEREY SWINGFEST**
January 10-15, 2024
- **AUSTIN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS (ASDC)**
January 11-14, 2024
- **AVIGNON CITY SWING**
January 12-14, 2024
- **DERBY CITY SWING**
January 18-21, 2024
- **FREEDOM SWING DANCE CHALLENGE**
January 19-21, 2024
- **AUSTRALIAN CLASSIC WCS DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS**
January 19-21, 2024
- **MUNICORN SWING**
On Hiatus
- **SWING RESOLUTION**
January 26-29, 2024
- **CHARLOTTE WESTIE FEST**
February 1-4, 2024
- **SWING & SNOW**
February 1-4, 2024
- **PARIS SPRING CLASSIC**
February 2-4, 2024
- **SWINGTZERLAND**
February 8-11, 2024
- **WESTER OZ SWING**
On Hiatus
- **EURO DANCE FESTIVAL**
February 13-18, 2024
- **SWING CRUSH**
February 16-18, 2024
- **VALENTINE SWING**
February 15-18, 2024
- **CAPITAL SWING DANCE CONVENTION (NASDE)**
February 16-19, 2024
- **WINTER COAST SWING**
February 22-25, 2024

Top 10 placements for the 2024 Award as of 1-5-2024

1st	Christina Landowski	50 - 16L, 34F	6th	Neil Joshi	38 - 38L
2nd	Ngoc Anh Walter	45 - 14L, 31F	7th	Krista Young	37 - 37F
3rd	Taylor Linahan	44 - 44F	8th	Joel Gibson	36 - 36L
4th	Izabela Szewczyk	42 - 21L, 21F	9th	Teddy Sanchez	35 - 35L
4th	Aaron Nuno	42 - 42L	9th	Melodie Paletta	35 - 35F
5th	Sabrina Seyfferth	41 - 25L, 16F	10th	Fernanda Dubiel	34 - 34F

*Time period is October 2023—December 2023. See the complete ranking list of 1 - 100 at:

<https://www.worldsdc.com/annie-hirsch-award/ranking>

To learn more about Annie Hirsch, please check out the Annie Hirsch Tribute and Memories link from our September Newsletter at

<https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Annie-Hirsch-Tribute-and-Memories.pdf> or visit her Hall of Fame bio at <https://worldsdc.com/about/hall-of-fame/annie-hirsch-1996>.

2023 Skippy Blair Excellence in WCS Award



Congratulations to the 2023 winners, Keerigan Rudd and Felicia Hoepfner! The Skippy Blair Award is presented to a Rising Star Couple who demonstrate excellence in West Coast Swing and the principles of Skippy Blair's Universal Unit System, (SBUUS). The Award is sponsored by Bob Armstrong, Skippy's son and Sarah Grusmark.

November 2023 Membership Meeting

Thanks to all who attended (live or online) our November General Membership meeting! We appreciated the lively discussion on our rules and other topics. As a result, the Board has added / tweaked a few items in our rules (see section on Rules in the newsletter). (Note: we acknowledge the difficulty hearing and seeing participants at times and plan to address that in our next meeting.)

Rules 2024

The WSDC Registry Event Rules for 2024 are final! They are on our website at

https://www.worldsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-Registry-Event-Rules_vFRER-Version-2024.1A.pdf

As a reminder, these rules do not apply to events held over the New Year's holiday. Worlds is a week long event and December 31, 2023 is only a dance party. Contests are held in January 2024.

New rules and edits are highlighted in yellow in our 2024 rules. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please let the Board know by sending an email to info@worldsdc.com.

New rules (not previously announced):

Restrictions on contest entries:

To help events with their scheduling, especially if they are running two contests concurrently, events may restrict the number of J&J contests a competitor may enter. This must be published in their rules. For example, if an event is running Novice and Intermediate contests at the same time, the competitor may be required to choose which contests to enter; the event (and Chief Judge) does not need to change/delay its contest rounds or schedule so that competitors can compete in both.

Petitions (2nd sentence added):

Petitions shall not be approved for the purpose of making a Tier (i.e., to meet the minimum number of required competitors for a Tier). Competitors added to a contest through the use of petitions will not count towards meeting a Tier 1's minimum requirements (i.e., the contest could not be held if the petition was not approved)

Registry Events

WSDC Trial Events are shown in Blue

- **ROSE CITY SWING**
February 22-25, 2024
- **AROUSA WESTIE FEST**
February 23-25, 2024
- **MID ATLANTIC DANCE JAM MADJAM (NASDE)**
Feb 29-March 3, 2024
- **SWINGVASION**
March 1-3, 2024
- **WEST IN LYON**
March 7-10, 2024
(Unconfirmed)
- **HIGH DESERT DANCE CLASSIC**
March 8-10, 2024
- **SWING ESCAPE**
March 8-11, 2024
(Unconfirmed)
- **ALL STAR SWING JAM**
March 14-17, 2024
- **CHICAGO CLASSIC (NASDE)**
March 14-17, 2024
- **WESTIE SPRING THING**
March 14-17, 2024
(Unconfirmed)
- **ANCHOR FESTIVAL**
On Hiatus
- **KING SWING**
March 21-25, 2024
- **5280 WESTIVAL**
March 21-25, 2024
- **SAN DIEGO DANCE FESTIVAL**
March 21-24, 2024
- **BOSTON TEA PARTY**
March 21-25, 2024
- **NOVICE INVITATIONAL**
March 22-24, 2024
- **EASTER SWING**
March 28 - April 1, 2024
- **BY-TOWN ONTARIO OPEN (BTO)**
March 28-31, 2024
- **TULSA SPRING SWING**
March 29-31, 2024

Conflicts of Interest Updates:

The WSDC Board agreed that Event Owners / Directors' spouses and immediate family may not perform Chief Judge or Scoring duties, but are not subject to all of Event Owners / Directors' restrictions. Also, non-profit shareholders or Board members are not considered Event Owners, although, depending on their role, they may fall under Event Director restrictions.

Quick recap of previously announced rules for 2024:

- Events must have a Code of Conduct policy
- Formal definition of conflicts of interest between judges and competitors
- Update to our Time/Distance rule for European events (only)
- Addition of exceptions to our Time/Distance rule (globally)
- A return to our competitor minimums (80 unique competitors), with an allowed exception for designated WSDC growth regions (60 unique competitors and 100 attendees)
- Fairness in contests also applies to music and partnering (e.g., random selection of partners and music)
- WSDC Champion J&J contests must include competitors with 10 Champion pts or 150 AS points
- Age-based WSDC contests must be "open to all" who meet the age requirements
- Competitor rounds flexibility for scheduling - when the number of competitors pushes the contest into a higher tier
- Updates to our computerized scoring system requirements, and limits to "hand scoring" for emergencies only
- CJs must call any contest "restarts"

Help us keep our WSDC calendar up to date

As a reminder, Member events need to fill out an event form every year with their prospective dates and event details. We need your event listed and your partnership in keeping the calendar accurate not only to inform our dancers about your event, but also to assist new events that are applying for membership. We want to see your spot on the calendar, so that new events are able to select locations and dates that comply with our time distance rules.

If we do not hear from you, your event will be listed as unconfirmed and we will use your original event date (or agreed upon date, if an approved change has been made during your tenure as a Registry Event) as the basis to determine what dates to use for your event on the current calendar. We would prefer to have dates that reflect your calendar update form.

Help us eliminate unconfirmed dates from our calendar by sending us your event information annually.

Thanks!

General Questions

info@worldsdc.com

Registry Points Issues

points@worldsdc.com

WSDC Membership

membership@worldsdc.com

Surcharge and Payments

treasurer@worldsdc.com

New Events

wsdcnewevents@worldsdc.com

Ombudsman Committee

ombudsman@worldsdc.com

#worldswingdc

#worldsdc

#westcostswing

#wswing

Mission:

To inspire swing dancing around the world and guide events in creating the ideal environment to promote community growth.

Vision:

WSDC is non-profit organization focused on promoting and growing swing dance, by

- Honoring the past, supporting the present, and developing the future
- Providing resources to educate, expand, and connect the swing dance community
- Strengthening, guiding and maintaining the integrity of WSDC Registry Events