

Sweden Westie Gala 2018

Event Rules

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About our event

Sweden Westie Gala (SWG) is an annual dance convention located in the Stockholm area in Sweden and is organized by the company Vesterli & Co AB. For more information about the event, visit wcs.dance/swg.

Final decision on any matter related to our competitions rests with the event director, **Eva Vesterli**, on behalf of Vesterli & Co AB.

Sweden Westie Gala is a member of **World Swing Dance Council (WSDC)** and the competition is a WSDC Points Registry event.

General rules for competition

Eligibility requirements

To compete at our event, you must:

- Have a Full Pass (national, international or a free Full Pass).
- Register for competition by the official entry deadline.
- Pay any required fees.
- Meet all other specific entry requirements outlined in these rules.

Our verification of your eligibility

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. See swingdancecouncil.com for details about points.

If you have concerns that other contestants are entered in an incorrect division or are ineligible, please inform our competition director or chief judge privately, as soon as possible. We will investigate and take appropriate action, if necessary.

If we determine before or during a competition that you have 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 discover your error after the finals, we may drop you (and your partner) out of awards. If we made the error and assigned you incorrectly, no penalty will be applied.

Clarifying directives from WSDC

1. Each Competitor **can only enter one level Jack & Jill at any one event.**
2. You are allowed to choose the role (leader or follower), but each Competitor must choose if they want to compete as a Leader or a Follower, they cannot do both. They cannot enter two "level" Jack & Jills at any one event.
3. Each Competitor must compete at their current competitive level in either role - Leader or Follower. Exceptions to level are allowed for petitioning (one level down or up).
4. Each Competitor will get points (if they make qualified finals) in whichever role they choose for the one level Jack & Jill.
5. The WSDC will record (and display) the points separated between Leader and Follower. Each competitor still only has **one** WSDC ID number and only listed once in the database, but points will be separated between Leader and Follower.
6. The points will be **totalled** in order to advance that competitor to the next level.

Our responsibilities as the organizer

1. Appointing a competition director.

Event director Eva Vesterli will be our competition director. The competition director in consultation with our chief judge and other competition officials will clarify any competition.

2. Selecting the competition staff.

Chief judge: Mario Robau.

Judges: Stephanie Mcpherson-Robau, Irina Puzanova, Glenn Ball, Andrew Navolotsky, Ibirocay Regueira.

More judges might be added later.

Our MC will announce the judges for each competition at the start of the competition.

There will be a minimum of 5 judges for all competitions.

The judges will get a brief summary of what and how to judge each division.

Scorer: Piotr Wiśniewski.

Competition DJ: Jenny Laine.

3. Determining the rules and schedule.

The rules for our competitions is below this section. We will also post a full weekend schedule listing the times for all meetings, competitions, and awards. We will follow our posted schedule as much as possible. If we need to make any last changes we will post it outside the ballroom.

4. Registering contestants and verifying eligibility.

We will collect entries from eligible competitors in advance (using our online registration system) and at the event (during contest registration times listed on the weekend schedule).

We will verify that you are eligible for each competition you enter. We will assign bib numbers to all the contestants.

5. Holding all competitions, 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 (for example, by combining divisions) if we receive insufficient entries. If we must cancel a competition, we will refund your entry fee, and we may invite you to perform an exhibition instead.

6. Scoring the results.

Our qualified scorer is Piotr Wiśniewski. We will use call-backs for all preliminary and semi-final heats, and relative placement for all finals. Our scorer will post scores for public examination for approximately 1 hour after the announcement of the results and presentation of awards.

7. Announcing the results and presenting awards.

We will announce the results of all competitions at our awards ceremony.

Your responsibilities as a competitor

1. Planning ahead.

You need to register for competition to scorer in time before competition registrations is closed. Even if you have pre-registered online in advance, you still need to pick up your bib number at the event before competition registrations is closed.

Be sure to check for any last-minute changes to the schedule.

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 them at the contestant meeting or contact our competition director or chief judge ahead of time.

3. Being prepared to compete.

You should be in the ballroom at least 10 minutes before your competition.

If you are too late we can withdraw you from the competition.

Remember to bring your bib number. If you lose your bib number, we will charge you for a replacement. If you miss the competition or if you 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, and the event itself with respect. Demonstrating a poor attitude by behaving in ways that our competition director, chief judge, judging panel, or other competition officials deem inappropriate or disrespectful may result in a violation penalty or 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 at the contestant meeting or in private discussion with our competition 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 other competition official, we may disqualify you and may also ban you from competing at our events in the future.

6. Reviewing your scores.

Our scorer will post scores for public examination for approximately 1 hour after the announcement of the results and presentation of awards. You may review this information to see how you did.

7. Competition fee.

You can register for competition at the event.

The fee for competition is 150 SEK or €15 for each person for the Jack & Jill. Competitors in Newcomer pay 100 SEK or €10 per person.

You need to pay cash during the registration **and** you need a Full pass to compete.

Dance requirements for competitions

The following dance requirements apply to our competitions. If our judges determine that you have failed to meet one or more of these requirements, they may assign a violation penalty or even disqualify you from the competition. A violation penalty can drop your placement with one or two places or even remove you from the finals.

1. Minimum swing content guidelines.

This is a swing dance event. Therefore, our judges will expect to see recognizable swing content from both partners. Guidelines about swing content are provided under the Format section. Our judges will determine whether or not you have met our swing content requirement.

2. Social dance skills emphasis.

Our Jack & Jill competitions are designed to show good social dance skills in spontaneous swing dancing. All dancing in these competitions should consist of lead/follow moves.

3. Connection.

Swing is a connected partner dance. You must maintain physical contact with your partner throughout the dance, except for spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries.

4. Partner weight support moves (“tricks”).

Advanced dancers sometimes use partner weight support moves to add excitement to a performance. Like other patterns, these moves will be judged according to the standard criteria of timing, teamwork and technique.

“On the ground” moves are allowed.

However, any moves that our judges deem unsafe may earn a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.

In “On the ground” moves leader and follower have contact with the floor, drops, leans, leveraged slides and splits are example.

5. Appropriate behavior and attire.

It is our desire to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing quality of dancing and good taste. 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.

Keep in mind that all ages (including young dancers) will be present at our event, and that your performance might be streamed live online or recorded of the audience.

Any action that our judges believe would make them uncomfortable in social dancing, such as inappropriate touching or simulating sexual behavior, may earn a violation penalty or even disqualification from the competition.

Our judging criteria

You will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Timing.

Swing is danced beginning on the downbeat. Good timing includes not only dancing on the correct beat but finer distinctions such as whether a competitor is dancing to the syncopated “swing” of the music and whether a competitor is fractionally ahead or behind the beat. Your syncopations and footwork also need to be on time and your timing of the steps should be consistent.

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, out-dancing your partner or jeopardizing the safety of your partner indicates poor teamwork. Compensating and 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.

Choreography is the selection and order of movements and transitions during your dance. Such choreography must be spontaneous in the Jack & Jills. 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.

5. Musical interpretation.

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.

6. Presentation.

Creating an atmosphere of excitement by inviting interest in your performance is the desired effect of good presentation. Good presentation begins with your selection of appropriate attire. While providing a good show is one aspect of presentation, it cannot substitute for good dancing. You should aim primarily for demonstrating positive chemistry 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.

Format

1. Our judges will expect to see at least 80% recognizable swing content. The swing content must be West Coast Swing.
2. You and your partner must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short breakaways (see the Definition section), and recoveries.
3. “In the air” partner weight support moves (lifts, aerials) and acrobatic maneuvers are **not** allowed.
4. “On the ground” support moves (such as drops) are allowed. However, you and your partner must both maintain physical contact with the floor during support moves.
5. Support moves must be lead/follow social dance patterns that take the safety of your partner and other couples into consideration. Any moves that our judges deem unsafe may give a violation penalty. When in doubt, leave it out.
6. Costumes and props are not allowed. However, competition outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable. Appropriate attire is required.
7. During the preliminary and semifinal rounds, you will dance in heats with several partners selected randomly. Although you will be judged individually on a callback basis, you must demonstrate good teamwork with all your partners to advance to the next round.
8. If there is an imbalance in the number of leaders and followers, some contestants will dance twice. However, even if your name is not called, you should remain in the ballroom throughout the competition, in case any additional competitors are needed at the last minute to dance again.
9. Our chief judge will determine the exact number of finalists after our scorer has tallied the results of the callbacks.
10. In the finals, we will use a random drawing (or some other random method) to determine your partner. No redraws will be permitted for any reason – it’s luck of the draw. Finalists will be judged as couples.
11. The chief judge will determine if couples in the finals will dance in spotlight for each division. There will not be spotlight in Newcomer division.
12. Eligible finalists in all divisions will earn WSDC points according to current WSDC policies. See swingdancecouncil.com for details.

Competition music

Our competition DJ will select all music for our Jack & Jill competitions.

The exact time of fade out is left to the DJ's discretion to maximize the effectiveness of the music. If our judges need more time to determine callbacks or final placements, our chief judge may ask our competition DJ to play additional music.

Definitions

1. Acrobatic maneuver.

An acrobatic maneuver is any move where a dancer independently passes his or her legs or body over and across the plane of either partner's head. Acrobatic maneuvers illustrate gymnastic abilities that are not normally part of swing patterns in social dancing. Back-flips, cartwheels, and deep backbends are examples.

Acrobatic maneuvers are **not** allowed in Jack & Jill competitions.

2. Aerial.

An aerial is any move where one partner is lifted with the assistance of the other partner and the head and torso of the lifted partner is in a position higher than the waist of the supporting partner.

Aerials are **not** allowed in Jack & Jill competitions.

3. Breakaway.

A breakaway is any set of symmetrical or complementary movements or footwork executed after a couple intentionally breaks contact. Breaking contact for free spins or turns is not considered a breakaway. Short breakaways are allowed in all our competitions. However, our judges may mark down excessive use of breakaways.

Breakaways less 10% of one dance is allowed.

Breakaways more than 10% of one dance may give a penalty.

Breakaways more than 25% of one dance may lead to disqualification.

Disclaimer and copyright notice

We will make every effort to conduct all competitions in accordance with these rules. However, we reserve the right to make any changes that we deem necessary for any competition. If we need to make any changes to our competitions or to these rules, we will post them on our website (if possible) or announce them at the event.

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If you have questions about our competitions, or would like to request permission to reproduce or adapt these rules, contact to our competition director, Eva Vesterli, at eva@vesterli.se.