

Competitor's Handbook

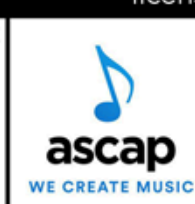
Marriott Hotel , Burbank, CA



THE OPEN
SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Through the National FastDance Association,
our dance activities are properly and legally
licensed by:

PROUD MEMBERS
OF THE FOLLOWING
ORGANIZATIONS/
TOURS



Treating Others with Respect

The US Open ("The Open") and the West Coast Swing Community are committed to providing a safe, welcoming environment for everyone, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, physical appearance, ability, ethnicity, religion, nationality or other personal circumstances. We ask that all competitors be kind and friendly towards one another, show good sportsmanship towards all competitors, and refrain from the use of crude or abusive language with competitors, judges, and spectators. Failure to adhere to the standards set forth by The Open may cause disciplinary action by the Organizer and/or the Judges.

For more information regarding The Open Code of Conduct, click the link [here](#).

Preparing for Competition

Rules:

- Please read all rules. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with your division and event rules. To view the rules for The Open, please click on the link [here](#).

Competitors' Meeting (Contestants' Meeting):

- The Competitors' Meeting (also referred to as the Contestants' Meeting) is a great way to reconnect with old friends & make new ones! Here you'll have the opportunity to meet the Event Director & Chief Judge.
- This is also an opportunity to see the ballroom from the audience's perspective.

Opening Ceremony:

- This is a chance for you to represent your division and state/country, so we encourage all competitors to attend (even if you have already previously danced). Those wishing to participate must meet 30 minutes prior to the Opening Ceremonies in the Competitors' Hallway.
- **Dress Code:** Cocktail/Semi-Formal is encouraged

Music Submissions (Routines Only):

- We encourage those competing in Routines to submit their music prior to the event following the instructions located under the Rules & Competitions section of the rules, which is included [here](#).
- Please submit your digital music file in MP3 Format to music@usopenswing.com with the subject line "2024 The Open Swing Dance Championships (YOUR DIVISION)". Please label your submission file as "2024usopen"_"(divisions)"_"(Names of Competitors)".mp3
- Competitors will be responsible for their own practice music as you will not have access to your music except during the Main Ballroom Open Practice Schedule/scheduled floor trials.

Awards:

- Please see event schedule for times.
- **Dress Code:** Semi-Formal/Formal

Wristbands:

- We highly encourage wristband to be worn during the Jack & Jill and Strictly Divisions.
- Competitors in the Routine Divisions do not have to compete with their wristbands. Wristbands should only be removed by the Green Room Staff. After competing, please allow the Green Room Staff to replace your wristband.

Floor Trials:

- The Pasadena Ballroom will be available for practice when the room is not in use for workshops/other "The Open" activities.
- Main Ballroom Practice Schedule - Priority is given to the divisions competing that day. Please see the schedule for details.

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Resources

| Across the Street | Up the Road (Car/Rideshare Needed) |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Starbucks | Walmart |
| Denny's | Target |
| Panda Express | TJ Maxx |
| Del Taco | Marshall's |
| Fish Dish | Ulta (Beauty Supplies) |
| Greek | Wendy's |
| McDonald's | Jamba Juice |

The Green Room

Items Available for Competitors in the Green Room:

- Dance Floor for Warm Ups
- Dancer Essentials (Bobby Pins, Hair Spray, Safety Pins, Needle & Thread, Tissues, etc.)
- Green Room Staff - Contestant Coordinators who are available to answer questions, assist with wristband removal/replacements (routine competitors only) & to make sure you get sent to the stage on time.

Competitor Liaison:

- The Open provides you a competitor liaison for you to utilize should you have any questions about rules, competition times, floor trials, or anything in general that pertains to you competing at The Open, even concerns regarding any conflict of interest. Please contact them.

All competitors are required to check in at the Competitors Service Desk to receive your bib. Then, at the Competitor's Green Room, please check in with the Competitor Coordinator 30 minutes prior to your competition time.

Please always remember to be kind, and treat others with respect.

Contact Information

Please read all rules, for it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with your division and event rules. For more details as for competitor's rules, please visit The Open's Competitor's Page, included [here](#).



Yvonne Antonacci
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Email [Yvonne](#)



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