

# Competitor's Handbook

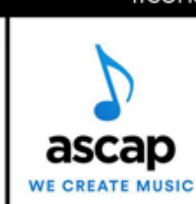
Marriott Hotel, Burbank, CA  
*November 26 - 30, 2025*



**THE OPEN**  
WORLD 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 Open World Swing Dance Championships ("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](#).

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## 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):

- **Music Submissions are due no later than November 19, 2025** via The Open's Music Submission Form, included [here](#). It is recommended that music submissions are in MP3 Format for the best results.
- 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.

### Program Photos (OPUS Division Competitors Only):

- **Photo Submissions are due no later than October 10, 2025** to be featured in the program.
- **Photo Guidelines:** Submit a headshot of the partnership (not a full-body shot), ensuring both partners are clearly visible and centered in the photo.
  - **Formatting:** JPEG (.jpg) or PNG File, with a minimum 300 dpi resolution; Photo Size must be at least 2" x 2" at 300 dpi (or 600 x 600 pixels) or larger
  - **File Name:** "RoutineDivision\_First-and-Last-Name-Leader\_First-and-Last-Name-Follower.jpg"

### Awards:

- Please see the [Event Schedule](#) for times.
- **Dress Code:** Semi-Formal/Formal

### Wristbands:

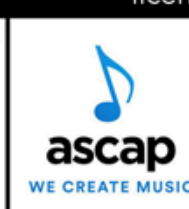
- We highly encourage wristband to be worn during the Jack & Jill and Strictly Divisions.
- Competitors in the Routine Divisions do not have to compete with their wristbands. Wristbands should only be removed by the Green Room Staff. After competing, please allow the Green Room Staff to replace your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



Demery Leyva  
**Chief Judge Assistant**  
 Email [Demery](#)

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