

# NJHC Competition Rules and Definitions

*Welcome competitors! Thank you for reviewing the information below and for participating in the 2024 NJHC event as a competitor.*

## Rules

- All competitors must purchase one of the three, full weekend access ticket in order to compete in any division. In addition, competitors must register and pay entry fees before the deadlines.
- Competitors are responsible for reading, knowing and following all contest guidelines; taking special note of the specifics for the different divisions and levels.
- Competitors must check in and be ready to dance 15 minutes before a division.
- All contestants and attendees must sign a liability release, acknowledge their compliance to the NJHC guidelines and consent to unrestricted use of their photos, video and names which may appear in the event videos, websites and future promotions.
- Good sportsmanship must be exhibited at all times.
- A couples consists of one leader and one follower, no gender restrictions.
- Judges will be evaluating competitors on the following skills: timing, technique, connection/lead/follow/partnering, content difficulty, musicality, and overall presentation. In solo routines divisions these will also be evaluated: costumes, showpersonship, choreography, and specialty moves/tricks permitted in the division.
- In solo routine divisions: routines may not exceed 3minutes and 30 seconds including an entrance and an exit.
- In Salsa divisions, competitors may “break” “on 1” or “on 2”.
- You cannot compete at NJHC as a Professional and an Amateur. You are either one or the other.
- Judges will mark down any competitor(s) dancing higher level material in a lower level division. Competitors must read the level descriptions and dance within each level’s description. This is for the equity of all competitors.
- All music for choreographed routines must be a single track on a MP3 or flash drive and clearly labeled. Turn in your music to the DJ at least 60 minutes prior to your division. If you need your music’s tempo altered, started in the middle of the track or an early fade out, please have someone edit your music in advance.
- During non-routine competitions, competitors must wear their bib numbers assigned to them upon registration check in. Bib numbers for amateur partnerships should be worn by the leader. For Jack and Jill divisions, all dancers should wear their bib numbers.
- Competition entry deadlines are by 9PM the night before, with the exception of the Sunday Jack and Jill divisions, which have a deadline of 1 hour before.
- Competitors should stay in the ballroom during the entire session of the divisions in case of last-minute adjustments and announcements.
- Costumes are recommended for Pro-Am, Am-Am and Routine divisions. Costumes not required for Jack and Jill divisions. Costumes are required for the “Hustle for the Hounds” competition fundraiser but may be simple.
- Competitors should use the level definitions included below (or ask a reputable dance professional) to determine their level for competition.
- Specific times are available for competitor floor trials: Friday at 5:00PM; Saturday at 9:00 AM and Sunday at 10:00 AM.
- The consequence of breaking any of the above rules is either a lower placement or disqualification.

- The head judge will resolve any scoring or judging disputes. Those decisions are final.

## **Definitions**

**Amateur** – As an amateur, dancing is strictly a recreational activity or a competitive sport. You cannot receive financial gain for teaching or performing in any form of dance, full-time or part-time. However, money may be accepted as “scholarship funds” and must be used to further your dance education.

**Age definitions** Competitors may register for two different age categories within the same competition. (Ex. Open and Masters Novice Hustle) In Pro-Am divisions, age is determined by the amateur. In Am-Am divisions, age is determined by the older of the dancer in the couple.

**Open** All ages

**New Gen** under 40

**Masters** between 41 – 50 years old

**Legends** 51 years and older

**Professional** – If you teach any partner dance style, you are considered to be a Professional. Whether you teach partner dance full-time or part-time and work in another profession you must register as a professional in all divisions.

## **Divisions**

### **Jack and Jill**

\*Register as an individual leader or follower. \*Randomly paired with a partner. \*Competitors may lead in one level and follow in a different level and may do two different ages within each level = no more than four entries per competitor.

### **Hustle/WCS/Salsa/Bachata**

\*Register with a partner. \*DJ provides the music. \*Danced in heats. \*No routines. \*Competitors choose skill level based on descriptions. \*Competitors may dance “up” one level as well. \*Competitors may dance in two age levels that they qualify for by their age. \*Each entry requires a separate fee. \*No lifts, aerials, or drops are permitted. \*Evaluation criteria: timing, technique, connection, social dancing skill, presentation, lead, follow, and content’s difficulty.

**Hustle Routines: Classic or Theater Arts:** \*Routines must consist of 50% Hustle. \*Competitor supplies music. \*Costumes highly recommended. \*Routines must be no longer than 3.5 minutes long including an entrance and an exit.

\*Classic Content Permitted: side-by-sides, dips, leaps and jumps (unassisted by partner), drops (drops must have one foot of both dancers on the floor at all times). \*No lifts or aerials allowed but dips are permitted.

\*Theatre Arts Content Permitted: lifts, aerials, drops, dips, anything goes, etc. \*Evaluation criteria for Hustle Routines: timing, technique, musicality, choreography, connection/partnership, presentation/showpersonship, lead, follow, costumes, and content difficulty.

## **Pro/Am Hustle/WCS/Salsa/Bachata and Pro/Am Triple Threat**

\*A Pro (teacher) dances with an Amateur (student). \*DJ provides music. \*Competitors choose skill level based on descriptions. \*Competitors may dance “up” one level as well. \*Competitors may dance in two age levels that they qualify for by their age. \*Each entry requires a separate fee. \*Danced in heats. \*Lead and follow only; no routines. \*No lifts, aerials or drops allowed. \*Dips permitted in Pre-Advanced and Advanced levels only. \*Evaluation criteria: timing, technique, connection/partnering/ lead/follow, social dancing skill, presentation, and content difficulty.

### **Team Showcase**

\*Non-competitive showcase. \*Any single dance style or combination of styles may be presented. \*Open to all ages, combination of genders and levels. \*Consist of 3 or more dancers. \*Costumes strongly encouraged. \*Routines limited to 4.5 minutes including an entrance and an exit. \*Judged as a group. \*Music will be provided by team.

## **Suggested Level Definitions**

### **Newcomer**

\*Entry level; minimal competition experience. \*Good basic dancing. \*Rotation limited to  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  turns for both leader and follower. \*Connection must be maintained with one or two hands. \*Both feet must be on the floor at all times.

### **Novice**

\*1-2 years dance experience. \*Rotation limited to  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 1 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  turns for both leader and follower. \*Connection must be maintained with one or two hands. \*Both feet must be on the floor at all times.

### **Pre-Intermediate**

\*2+ years dance experience. \*Rotation limited to  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 2 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  turns for both leader and follower. \*Connection may be released for 1-2 beats. \*Both feet must be on the floor at all times.

### **Intermediate**

\*2+ years dance experience. \*Rotation limited to  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 2 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  turns for both leader and follower. \*Connection may be released for 1-2 beats. \*Both feet must be on the floor at all times.

### **Pre-Advanced**

\*3+ years experience. \*Rotation limited to  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 2 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  turns for both leader and follower. \*Connection may be released; side by sides permitted. \*Both feet must be on the floor at all times. \*No lifts, aerials, or drops are permitted.

### **Advanced**

\*4-5 years experience. \*Rotation unlimited for both leader and follower. \*Connection may be released/side by sides permitted. \*Both feet must be on the floor at all times. \*No lifts, aerials, or drops are permitted but dips are allowed.