

CCJ Document – WSDC Rule Changes for Chief Judges – Effective January 1, 2025

This module will discuss the rule changes made by The World Swing Dance Council regarding Chief Judges' responsibilities, effective January 1, 2025. Understanding these changes is crucial.

Section: 1.1. Chief Judge Responsibilities

Numbers 1-3 are not new, but there has been some confusion about whether or not a Chief Judge, Secondary Chief Judge, and Raw Score Judge may or may not compete.

1. The Chief Judge may not compete.
2. The Secondary Chief Judge may not compete.
3. The Raw Score judge does not determine the number of callbacks/cuts to finals or any other contest structure decisions.

Numbers 4, a. and b. Explain the primary and secondary roles in more detail than the original rules.

1. A competitor's primary and secondary roles are based on the number of points in the WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart (Chart 3).
 - a. The primary role is the one in which they have points at a higher skill level or, if they have points in both roles at their highest skill level, the one in which they have more points.
 - b. The secondary role is the one in which they have points only at a lower skill level or if they have points in both roles at their highest skill division, they have fewer points.

Section: 1.2. Registry Event Structure

The following are New Rules! There are significant changes from 2024.

1. **NEW!** Registry Events must offer at least two (2) skill levels WSDC Jack and Jill contests at Tier 2 size. *The Tier Size has changed from one to two.*
2. **NEW!** Have a minimum of 120 competitor entries in WSDC Jack and Jill contests. (New! Contest entries include all WSDC skill-level and age-based contests. Individuals competing in multiple contests will count per contest, not per person). *The number of competitors necessary to qualify as a Registry Event has increased. However, in the pasts, events only counted unique competitors.*
 - a. Registry Events in a "designated WSDC growth region" may meet an alternate required minimum of eighty (80) WSDC Jack and Jill competitor entries and one hundred (100) attendees.
 - b. If the event has fewer than the required minimum competition entries, the Registry Points will be posted, and Registry Points will be awarded. However, the Registry Event will be placed on probation for one (1) year and must meet the required minimum number of competitors.
 - c. If the event has fewer than the required minimum competition entries during the probation year's event, the event will lose its Registry Event status. Competition results during

CCJ Document – WSDC Rule Changes for Chief Judges – Effective January 1, 2025

probation will be posted, and Registry Points will be awarded. The member may reapply for Registry Event approval.

Section: 1.3. Trial Events and New Registry Events

Numbers 1-2 are new rules.

1. **NEW!** Trial Events must use a WSDC Certified Chief Judge.
2. **NEW!** Points will be awarded to competitors during the Trial Event.

Section: 3.1. Competition Requirements

Contest Structure / Format Requirements

Numbers 1-3 and 5 are New Rules. Numbers 4 and 6 are clarifications to previous rules.

1. **NEW!** Events may restrict their staff from participating in Jack and Jill or other contests.
2. **NEW!** Events must clearly state in the Event's rules which contests qualify for WSDC points.
3. **NEW!** Competitors may submit petitions for their primary role only. Competitors may not submit petitions for their secondary role (see Section 3.2 #7.).
4. **CLARIFICATION!** Registry Events may combine divisions. The WSDC recommends avoiding combining skill-level divisions. Still, limitations may be imposed due to a lack of entrants, time/schedule constraints, judges' fees, and award costs being recognized.
5. **NEW!** Registry Events must publish their contest rules on their **website** before the event.
6. **CLARIFICATION!** Registry Events must post contest results at the event, which shall be available to all competitors for at least 30 days. *This includes J & J Champion Scores.*

Contest results include contest rounds (e.g., prelims, semis, finals), placements, and score reports. (Judges may be listed anonymously (e.g., as Judge 1, Judge 2, etc.) on the score report at the Event Director / Owner / Chief Judge's discretion.)

If results are inaccurate (e.g., scoring issues, violations), corrected results must be posted.

Section: 3.2. Competitors: Skill Levels and Points Registry

The following are new rules. Newcomer rules are clarified in more detail.

1. **NEW!** Competitors may submit petitions to dance one level "up" or "down" for their **primary role only** (see Section 3.1 #6.) **Competitors may not submit petitions for their secondary role** (see Section 3.2 #7.)
2. **NEW!** Competitors may dance one (1) or two (2) levels down in their secondary role as indicated on the Points Registry, with the following clarifications:
 - a. The division a competitor selects for their *primary role* at the Event determines what

CCJ Document – WSDC Rule Changes for Chief Judges – Effective January 1, 2025

level they may compete for their secondary role.

- i. WSDC *recommends* competitors dance one (1) level down,
- ii. but based on their skills, competitors *may* dance two (2) levels down from their primary role unless they are *required* to move up based on the WSDC Skill Level Jack and Jill Advancement Chart (Chart 3) for their secondary role (i.e., based on their points in their secondary role).
- iii. **NEW! Petitions are not allowed for secondary roles.**
 1. For example, a competitor with 63 Advanced points as a leader can dance in Advanced or All Star as a leader in their primary role.
 2. If they choose to dance in Advanced as a Leader, they may dance in Novice or Intermediate as a Follower;
 3. if they decide to dance in All Star as a Leader, they may dance in Intermediate or Advanced as a Follower.
 4. However, if they have 1+ Intermediate points, they *must* dance in Intermediate as a Follower, even if they choose to dance in Advanced as a Leader.)

Exception: To maintain the intent of the Newcomer division, competitors competing in Intermediate in their primary role may not compete in Newcomer (i.e., Intermediate competitors may only dance down one level in their secondary role).

3. **CLARIFICATION:** Competitors may dance in Newcomer in the following scenarios:
 - a. In either their primary or secondary role, if they have **no** points in **either** role or
 - b. In their secondary role, if they compete in Novice in their primary role and have no points in Newcomer or Novice in their secondary role.
4. **NEW!** The WSDC has eliminated the rule requiring competitors to maintain the same skill level at an Event across all contests.
 - a. *Example:* A competitor allowed to dance in Intermediate or Advanced as a Leader may enter as an Advanced Leader in the WSDC Jack and Jill and as an Intermediate Leader in the strictly swing contest if the Event's rules allow it.
 - b. Competitors should review Events' rules on non-WSDC contests (note: different Events may have different rules, and it is the competitor's responsibility to follow them).

Section: 3.3. Contest Tiers, Points Awarded, and Competition Rounds

1. **NEW!** Tier 4 Placements in Finals are 1 up to **12th** Place.

Section: 3.3.2 Contest Tiers, Points Awarded, and Competition Rounds

1. **NEW!** Tier 6. Quarterfinals are **optional**.

CCJ Document – WSDC Rule Changes for Chief Judges – Effective January 1, 2025

Section: 3.4. Contest Oversight: Staff Requirements, Conflicts of Interest, Scoring

1. *NEW!* Staff members are responsible for providing conflicts of interest to the Chief Judge and/or Event Directors.
2. *CLARIFICATION!* A judge with a conflict of interest to a competitor may judge the opposite role to that competitor during Jack and Jill's preliminary rounds.
3. *NEW!* For Preliminary Jack and Jill contests, **a minimum of four (4) judges per role** (plus Chief Judge) are required. The following exception for contests is allowed:
 - a. An Event may assign some or all of the judges in the judging panel to score both roles for contests in Tiers 1-3. Additional songs per round may be needed.
 - b. A minimum of four (4) scores per role is still required.
4. *NEW!* Jack and Jill Final contests:
 - a. Must have an odd number of judges.
 - b. Must have a minimum of five (5) judges (plus the Chief Judge) for Tiers 1-4.
 - c. There must be a minimum of seven (7) judges (plus the Chief Judge) for Tiers 5- 6.
5. *NEW!* All WSDC Jack and Jill contests must use the WSDC-approved Callback system for preliminary competitions and the Relative Placement scoring system for finals. Note: Approved systems are listed on the WSDC website:
6. *NEW!* Transferring judges' paper score sheet results to computerized systems must be audited by the Chief Judge and/or the scoring team and approved by the Chief Judge (i.e., verified by a separate person other than the Score person inputting the data).

Section: 4. WSDC Enforcement Policy and Penalties

1. *NEW!* All events must post their Code of Conduct on their website.
2. *NEW!* The WSDC is developing a new collaborative process for addressing issues (e.g., rule violations) at Registry Events.
 - a. Events may implement a mutually agreed upon and approved Action Plan to address the issue(s).
 - b. The draft Action Plan addressing the issue should be submitted within 10 days of notice and be approved by both the Event and the WSDC Board within 30-60 days.
 - c. The Action Plan should address the following:
 - i. What happened
 - ii. Who was impacted
 - iii. How to repair what happened (including communication plan to impacted parties)
 - iv. How to prevent it in the future

CCJ Document – WSDC Rule Changes for Chief Judges – Effective January 1, 2025

- v. Follow-up reporting on the implementation of the repair and proposed prevention (accountability follow-up)

When an approved Action Plan is implemented and followed, the Registry Event is no longer considered in violation or default.

The Action Plan may be implemented by the Event Owner(s), Event Director(s), the Certified Chief Judge Committee, and/or other relevant parties.

3. **NEW!** Members and/or Chief Judges who violate Registry Event rules and/or fail to implement the Action Plan fully will be in default. Default may result in one or more of the following options:
 - a. Warning or Probation
 - b. Loss of Registry Event status
 - i. Events that lose status can reapply for Registry Event approval, including a new Trial Event.
 - c. Drop in or Loss of Certified Chief Judge status.

NEW! Chart 6: WSDC Penalties for Registry Event Rules Violations

Level	Possible Penalty	Description of Issue
One	Warning or Probation (1 year)	Did not know or understand current WSDC Registry Event Rules. Minor impact on the reputation of the event.
Two	Probation (1 year)	Knew, or by exercising reasonable diligence, should have known that the act or omission did not follow current WSDC Registry Event rules. Moderate impact on event participants and/or the integrity of the event/contests.
Three	Probation (1-2 years) and Fine	Displayed conscious, intentional failure or reckless indifference to following WSDC Registry Event rules. Major impact on event participants and/or the integrity of the event/contests
Four	Loss of Registry Event status	Exhibited purposeful intent or indifference to current WSDC Registry Event rules. Extreme impact on event participants and/or the integrity of the event/contests.