

The Rising Star Tour (RST) aims to

- Give intention, structure, and consistency to the global Rising Star (RS) division
- Promote events participating in the tour
- Celebrate and recognize the next generation of Classic and Showcase competitors
- Promote, grow, and facilitate the RS division

Benefits of Participation

- Website & Social Media Promotion
- Inclusion on the events list on RST website
- Consistency and clarity of rules
- Competitors motivated to attend for points, not just cash prizes

Event Eligibility

To be an event in good standing on the RST, each event must annually:

- Provide at least one pair of event passes to be awarded to the couple who wins the RST high points award.
- Must hold a contest with three (3) or more couples each year. If there is no contest held for consecutive two (2) years, the event will be removed from the tour.
 - An event may re-apply to enter the tour after holding a Rising Star contest with at least three (3) couples for two (2) consecutive years
- Follow the RST contest rules.

Additional Participation Requirements

- Actively promote the RST and RS division.
- Use the RST logo on flyers, website and social media.
- Schedule the RS division during a peak ballroom time.
- Assign qualified judges.
- Include RS division in the video live streaming, if available.
- Report contest results to scores@risingstartour.com no later than seven (7) days after the end of the event

Dancer Eligibility

To compete in the 2018 RST, each dancer must:

- Be eighteen (18) years or older by the end of any qualifying event during the tour year. Please check with individual event directors if they will allow dancers 15-17 years old to participate in the division without tour points.
- Never have placed or made a qualifying final of a NASDE Classic or Showcase division.
- Not have Champion or Invitational WSDC points within the last ten (10) years.
- Never have won the RST top point award in previous years. *
- Never have placed top three (3) in the US Open RS division. *

To graduate the 2018 RST:

- Win the RST top point award.
- (or) Place top three (3) in the 2018 US Open RS division.
- (or) Choose to dance in the NASDE Tour in the hopes of acquiring NASDE points.

Division Rules

General:

- A couple consists of one leader and one follower.
 - At the discretion of the event director(s), a couple may be other than a male leader and female follower.
- At the discretion of the event director(s), contestants may be as young as fifteen (15) years by the end of the event to participate.
- The maximum number of entries in each division is at the Event's discretion. Minimum number of entries = three (3). If there are less than three (3) couples, the event shall offer the competitors the opportunity to perform an exhibition with judges' feedback.
- Expected swing content of any style is 70%. It is at the judges' discretion to determine that the swing content has been met.

Specific:

- Performance time is a minimum of two (2) minutes and maximum of three (3) minutes.
- Competitors select their own music.
- Costumes are required.
- No props.
- Time and judging starts at first movement of performance with or without music.
- Separate entrances are permitted, but must come together within thirty-two (32) beats of the music intro.
- Break-a-ways and side-by-side patterns are permitted, not longer than eight (8) beats.
- Lifts are optional but not required.
- Maximum five (5) partner weight support moves with at least one foot on the ground.

WCS Rising Star Tour 2018

Restart Guidelines:

Couples may request a restart in the following cases:

- The DJ plays the wrong music for your routine.
- The sound system fails.
- Shoe breaks, costume malfunction, or loss of a vital piece of clothing.
- Lights go out in the ballroom during the performance.

Contestants may NOT request a restart in the following cases:

- Dissatisfied with their dance order.
- Dissatisfied with their performance.
- Dissatisfied with their partner.
- Dissatisfied with their music.
- Failure to remember part of the routine.
- If a contestant is injured during their performance. This is for safety concerns.

If a couple completes their routine, but believes they should be allowed to restart due to special circumstances, they MUST make their request to the Chief Judge (CJ) prior to leaving the competition floor.

- If the CJ approves the request, the couple may elect to perform their routine again with the previous performance scores voided.
- If the CJ denies the request, the performance that was completed will count towards scoring the contest.

If a couple has not completed their routine, but believes they should be allowed to restart due to special circumstances, they MUST make their request to the CJ prior to leaving the competition floor.

- If the CJ approves the request, the couple may restart their routine with the previous performance scores voided.
- If the CJ denies the request, the couple will be scratched from the contest.

The CJ may call a restart without the request of the couple if the CJ believes it is fair and in the best interest of the contestants and their fellow competitors. In this case, the couple will be allowed to restart after the next couple in dance order or at the discretion of the CJ.

- The couple may decline the option to restart if they are satisfied with their completed routine.
- If they did not complete their routine, and opt out of the restart, the couple will be scratched from the contest.

Judging

The purpose of Rising Star Tour is to support newer routine competitors through competition opportunities with a standardized rule set. Rising Star routines should be designed to push the dancers to grow, rather than playing it safe. However, routines should not be so far beyond the dancers' skill levels that they are struggling to authentically own the dance.

Beside the rules, judges' scores should take into consideration:

- The amateur status of the competitors.
- The wide variety of regional expressions of Swing dance.
- The appropriateness of the song and choreography choices for the skill level of the dancers.
- The difficulty level and complexity of the dance skills.

Judging & Judging Staff Guidelines

- All scores count. No scores can be thrown out.
- Judges are encouraged to scribe competitors feedback in addition to scores.
- Chief Judge will make judges sheets transparent and available after awards upon request.
- Judges' feedback comments will be made available upon request to competitors for educational purposes.
- Minimum of seven (7) Judges.
 - No more than three (3) of the seven Judges should be Tour Event Directors.
 - No more than three (3) of the seven Judges should be from the same Region (micro-region), Club or Studio.
 - If possible, at least half the Judges be those who have competed in a routine division before.
- A Referee Judge will be included on the Judging panel. A qualified Judge already on the panel may be the Referee Judge.
- Events are discouraged from assigning Significant Others to serve on the same Judging panel, with the exception that one of the partners is a Judge and one is a Referee Judge.
- Mock Judges should not be on the floor with official Judges, so that there is no confusion about who is judging.
- No current RST competitors may serve as Judges.

Placement Reporting

Placements should be reported by the event or whoever handles the event's scoring to scores@risingstartour.com no later than seven (7) days after the end of the event.

If contestants under the age of eighteen (18), but at least fifteen (15) years by the end of the event, danced in the contest, please indicate which couples included these contestants with "M" for minor.

Event Prize Standards

- Minimum prize package should include trophy, event pass, and cash. Additional prizes can be offered in the form of products & services.
- No more than \$1,000 cash prize pot, and no less than \$100 per couple registered.
 - Last couple to place should win no less than their contest registration cost.
 - Prize fund should not be equal to or exceed that of Classic or Showcase.
- Award at least up to 5th place if there are more than ten (10) couples in the contest.
- Award at least up to 3rd place if there are three-ten (3-10) couples in the contest.
- May offer coaching services from current NASDE routine competitors not directly tied to the event in lieu of cash prize (i.e. event director, event coordinator, event consultant).
- Trophies to be awarded in alignment with the NASDE divisions.

Points Awarded

- Points will be awarded in single point increments, starting with one (1) point for last place. This ensures every couple's result is registered, and points increase with the size of the contest.
Example, in a contest with nine (9) couples:
9th/1, 8th/2, 7th/3, 6th/4, 5th/5, 4th/6, 3rd/7, 2nd/8, 1st/9
- No points (performance only) when less than three (3) couples
- Each dancer must be eighteen (18) years or older by the end of the qualifying event to earn points towards graduation during a tour year.

End-of-Tour Prizes

The RST will conclude at the US Open Swing Dance Championships in November over Thanksgiving weekend. Points will be calculated from the 1st tour event up to, and including, the US Open. Winners will be announced and awarded during the awards ceremony at the US Open.

1st place

- Trophy
- Passes to all events on the tour for the following year
- Winners' prize package, which may include: sponsors' swag, donated lessons, and services

Other

- Additional prize packages will be announced as we accumulate sponsorship

Contact

<http://risingstartour.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/risingstartour>

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