



## Competition Rules and Policies

Welcome to the world of same-sex partner dance competitions! Hopefully the rules and definitions below will answer all your questions about this competition. Please feel free to contact us if you need further information or have other questions about any aspect of this event.

### I. In the Ballroom

- All seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- There is NO SMOKING anywhere inside Just Dance.
- Food and/or drinks are not allowed on any ballroom floor or in the changing areas. Only water may be brought into the main ballroom.
- Dancers must be dressed, ready to dance and in the ballroom at least 60 minutes before their scheduled heat event begins and must be in the on-deck area when their event is called.
- A signed Release Form implies you have read these rules and agree to abide by them.

### II. Dancers

This competition is open to same-sex couples and to mixed couples dancing in non-traditional roles (female leader and male follower). Everyone is welcome to compete regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and we welcome people who identify as queer and/or transgender. There is a place on the registration form to indicate each dancer's gender identity. Male and female couples will be judged separately. Mixed gender couples will be judged separately from same-sex couples, and the female must lead at least 75% of the time. A transgender person should dance in the role appropriate to the gender that he or she uses to live and function in public and should dance with a partner of the appropriate gender identity for that category.

Same-sex couples have the option of switching roles between leader and follower both between and within particular events. Switching roles demonstrates a higher level of skill and will be viewed as such by the judges. For reverse-role couples, the woman shall lead and the man shall follow for a minimum of 75% of each dance.

Deadline for Early Bird registration is March 18, 2012. Deadline for entries is April 22, 2012. After April 22, 2012, entries will not be accepted (except for line dances).

April Follies 2012 has been authorized by NASSPDA (North American Same-Sex Partner Dance Association) as the 2012 California State Championship Same-Sex Competition. All graded events, the Formation Team event, and the Show Dance event will be championship events. Except for the Show Dance and Formation Team events, men's and women's California State Championship titles will be judged and awarded separately. Couples must consist of two people of the same gender or gender identity regardless of sexual orientation. Authorized titles in any graded multi-dance category will be awarded to the highest-ranking eligible couple in grade "A".

The following couples are not eligible to win a California State Championship titles:

- (a) A couple in which one dancer is paying the other to dance with them in any part of the competition.



(b) A couple that has entered any other dance event in this competition as a Pro-Am couple.

Please note that the Show Dance competition and the finals of the A-level graded events will be held in the evening. Competitors in these events are not required to purchase evening tickets.

An individual can enter with as many different partners as he/she wants but may enter an individual event with only one partner. The Show Dance event is the only event for which an exception to this rule will be made. Both dancers must have registered for a particular event as dance partners in order to compete together in that event.

Eligibility in Proficiency Events is determined by experience (see definitions and detailed rules below). A couple may only enter one proficiency level in a particular dance style. However, an individual may enter different proficiency levels of the same dance so long as it's with a different partner. A couple will be disqualified from a proficiency one-dance event if their combined experience level is not within the limits prescribed below. Pro-am couples (see definition at the end of this section) will compete in one-dance proficiency events based on the proficiency level of the student partner but will be judged separately from non-pro-am couples in those events.

A couple may enter both Proficiency One-Dance Events and Graded Event in the same style.

A couple may compete in as many different styles as they wish subject to restrictions mentioned elsewhere in these rules.

A Senior Division 2-dance event will be held for International Standard and Latin and for American Smooth and Rhythm. Both dancers in a couple must be at least 45 years young to be eligible.

If an individual who has danced in the Proficiency One-Dance Events wishes to enter a Graded Event in that same style, that person must enter either with a different partner or with the partner with whom he/she danced at the highest proficiency level in that style. Example: If you entered Beginner One-Dance American Smooth Waltz with Chris and also entered Intermediate One-Dance American Smooth Tango level with Dana, then you can enter the Graded American Smooth Event with Dana (having danced with Dana at the higher proficiency level). Chris could still dance the Graded American Smooth, but would have to do so with a different partner.

The organizers reserve the right to eliminate or merge any group competition with fewer than 3 entrants.

Pro-am couples are welcome and encouraged to participate. A couple is considered to be Pro-Am if (a) one dancer is paying the other to dance with them during any part of the competition and/or (b) a couple self-identifies as a Pro-Am couple by entering as such in any April Follies competition event. Pro-am couples must identify themselves as such in the appropriate spot on the Competition Registration Form and will be judged separately from other couples in all Proficiency One-Dance events. Each pro-am couple entering a one-dance proficiency event is required to identify whether they belong in the beginning, intermediate, or advanced level based on the proficiency of the STUDENT. The couple will dance in the heat corresponding to that proficiency level and will be judged based only on the student dancer's performance. Separate multi-dance pro-am events will also be held (see list of events below). Pro-am couples are not



eligible to win the California State Championship titles. No distinction will be made for Pro-Am couples in the open or luck-of-the-draw events (see below for lists of these events).

### III. Events

#### A. Event List

The following is a list of the events we intend to offer. If you are interested in competing in an event not listed here, please contact us prior to close of registration. If there is sufficient interest, we may be able to add events to the schedule. Please note that each graded event (International Standard/Latin and American Smooth/Rhythm) will be held only if there are least 3 couples competing.

#### Open Events (see definition and rules below)

<i>Swing Events:</i>	West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop
<i>Country/Western:</i>	Country Western Two-Step, Country Western Waltz
<i>Other Events:</i>	Argentine Tango, Salsa, Merengue, Hustle, Nightclub Two-Step
<i>Luck-of-the-Draw:</i>	West Coast Swing, Nightclub Two-Step
<i>Line Dances*:</i>	Beginning/intermediate: <a href="#">Wonderland Waltz</a>
	Intermediate/advanced: <a href="#">Walk the Line</a>

\*Step lists for line dances can be found at [www.sundancesaloon.org/linedances.html](http://www.sundancesaloon.org/linedances.html)  
Please note that the version of Walk the Line to be judged will be the one published on the Sundance Saloon site and may be slightly different from the one you know.

#### Proficiency One-Dance Events (see definition and rules below)

<b>Style</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Proficiency Levels</b>
<i>American Smooth:</i>	Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, Viennese Waltz	Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced
<i>American Rhythm:</i>	Cha-cha, Rumba, East Coast Swing, Bolero, Mambo	Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced
<i>International Standard:</i>	Waltz, Tango, Quickstep, Foxtrot, Viennese Waltz	Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced
<i>International Latin:</i>	Cha-cha, Samba, Rumba, Paso Doble, Jive	Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

#### Multi-Dance Events

<i>Beginner Two-Dance Events:</i>	International Standard (waltz, quickstep), American Smooth (waltz, tango) International Latin and American Rhythm (cha-cha, rumba)
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<i>Mentor Two-Dance Events:</i>	International Standard (waltz, quickstep), American Smooth (waltz, tango) International Latin and American Rhythm (cha-cha, rumba)
<i>45+ Two-Dance Events:</i>	International Standard (waltz, quickstep), American Smooth (waltz, tango) International Latin and American Rhythm (cha-cha, rumba)
<i>Pro-Am Three-Dance Events:</i>	International Standard (waltz, tango, quickstep) International Latin (cha-cha, rumba, jive) American Smooth (waltz, tango, foxtrot) American Rhythm (cha-cha, rumba, East coast swing)
<i>International 10-Dance</i>	Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot, Quickstep, Cha-cha, Samba, Rumba, Paso Doble, Jive
<i>American 9-Dance</i>	Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Cha-cha, Rumba, East Coast Swing, Bolero, Mambo
<i>Team Match</i>	Waltz, Quickstep, Cha-Cha, Jive

### Graded Events (see definitions and rules below)

<i>American Smooth</i>	Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, Viennese Waltz
<i>American Rhythm</i>	Cha-cha, Rumba, East Coast Swing, Bolero, Mambo
<i>International Standard</i>	Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot, Quickstep
<i>International Latin</i>	Cha-cha, Samba, Rumba, Paso Doble, Jive

### Formation Teams and Show Dance (see definitions and rules below)

## B. Event Definitions and Rules

### Open Events

An Open Dance Event is an event in a particular dance or group of dances that is not syllabus restricted and in which all couples compete against each other at the same time. If we get a large number of entries for a particular style, we might choose to run it as a Graded Event (see below). If you don't see something you would like to dance in the list of Open Events above, let us know. Maybe we can add it.

### Luck-of-the-Draw Events

A Luck-of-the-Draw event is an event in a particular dance that is not syllabus restricted and in which all couples compete against each other at the same time. Partners will be chosen at random on the day of the event. We will have two such events: West Coast Swing and Night Club Two Step.



## Proficiency One-Dance Events

Each proficiency one-dance event will be a single dance, danced in competition against other couples of the same proficiency level. Proficiency One-Dance Events have a style and a level as explained below:

Styles: International Standard, International Latin, American Smooth, American Rhythm

Levels: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced as defined below:

Couples are encouraged to self-assess their chosen proficiency level using the [guidelines](#) below. A couple may be at different proficiency levels for different styles or dances.

**Beginner level:** This level is intended for dancers with little to no competitive ballroom dance experience and could include couples with less than 2 years ballroom dance experience and/or less than 3 competitions who would normally place in levels D or C in graded events.

**Intermediate level:** This level is intended for dancers with a moderate amount of competitive ballroom dance experience and could include couples with less than 5 years ballroom dance experience who have competed in same-sex competitions, are practicing regularly, and would normally place in levels C or B in graded events.

**Advanced level:** This level is intended for dancers with an extensive amount of competitive ballroom dance experience and could include couples with more than 5 years dance experience who continuously compete and train and who would normally place in levels B or A in graded events.

Proficiency one-dance events will be unrestricted in syllabus, meaning steps will not be restricted to a particular syllabus in any of the events listed above

We encourage dancers to enter at the level appropriate to their ability and experience. Pro-am couples should enter these events at the level appropriate to the proficiency of the student dancer, and these couples will be judged separately from non-pro-am couples. All couples are expected to abide by the definitions of proficiency levels and will be disqualified if they enter an event at an inappropriate proficiency level.

## Multi-Dance Events

Competitors must dance multiple consecutive dances. Each dance is scored separately, and an average score determines all the final placements. Multi-dance events are not syllabus restricted. Whenever the number of couples in an event is large enough to require multiple heats, a system of "revolving heats" will be used, meaning that the couples assigned to particular heats (e.g., 1, 2, 3, etc.) shall be different for each of the different dances. Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- ❑ **Beginner Events:** Both dancers must be new to competition (one year or less) or to competing in said style of dance (one year or less).
- ❑ **45-Plus Events:** Both dancers must be at least 45 years young.
- ❑ **Mentor Events:** In this category, a beginner dancer can dance with a more advanced dancer. The beginner must be new to competition (one year or less) or to competing in said style of dance (one year or less). The partner of the beginner can be any



proficiency level, except for professional. If you dance with a professional partner, please enter the Pro-am multi-dance or single dances.

- Pro-am Multi-dance: This event is offered for Pro-am couples (same sex or reverse role) in International Standard and Latin and American Smooth and Rhythm. All styles consist of three dances.

## Team Match Event

A team consists of 4 different couples (8 different people) from the same studio. Each couple must be either a same-sex or reverse-role couple. An individual dancer can be a member of only one team. Each team should identify a liaison/instructor associated with the studio, and this person is not allowed to compete in this event. Team members are not otherwise restricted by proficiency level or experience. Each of the 4 couples will dance in only one of the 4 international-style heats: waltz, quickstep, cha-cha, jive. The Team Trophy will be awarded to the studio with the highest marks across all 4 dances.

The Team Match event will take place as part of the daytime competition and is considered a one-dance event for the purposes of registration.

## Richard Lamberty Trophy

The Richard Lamberty Trophy will be awarded this year to a person who has contributed significantly to the same-sex dance community and who best embodies the spirit of same-sex dancesport. This trophy is designed to honor Richard's contributions to these ends. The winner will be decided by a committee based on information provided to April Follies. Anyone can be nominated, and any person can nominate whomever they believe deserves this honor. Specific submission instructions and deadlines will be posted on the April Follies website.

## Graded Events

A Graded event is a multiple dance competition in which your proficiency level is determined only after you dance for a panel of grading judges on the day of the event. Being in a specific graded level at another competition will not guarantee you being in the same level at this competition. Steps and patterns are not restricted to syllabus figures. A graded event will be held only if at least 3 couples have entered that event, although there may be fewer than 3 couples classified into a particular grade level. Ideally, dancers will be classified into at least 3 grades within each style. Whenever the number of couples in an event is large enough to require multiple heats, a system of "revolving heats" will be used, meaning that the couples assigned to particular heats (e.g., 1, 2, 3, etc.) shall be different for each of the different dances. This will apply to both grading rounds and judging rounds.

**Grading rounds** consist of all entrants in a particular style dancing two or three dances in randomly selected groups. There may be some very experienced dancers on the floor at the same time as some very new dancers. The judges' job is to separate dancers by demonstrated proficiency levels or "grades". Once the initial grading is done, each grade may be asked to dance again for the grading judges so they can confirm their grading decisions. Adjustments to proficiency levels may be made at this time.



Competitors will be asked to state their expected grade level at the time of registration. Couples are expected to register themselves consistently and fairly based on personal experience and previous competition results. This self-assessment serves the purpose of enabling organizers to create a rough timetable for competition events and to provide the judges with a guideline for the expected number of couples in each class. However, details of self-assessment shall never be shared with the judges.

The following is a list of dances that will be used to do the grading.

Standard: Waltz, Tango, Quickstep (1st round); Waltz, Quickstep (2nd round if needed)

Latin: Cha-cha, Rumba, Jive (1st round); Cha-cha, Rumba (2nd round if needed)

Smooth: Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango (1st round); Waltz, Foxtrot (2nd round if needed)

Rhythm: Cha-cha, Rumba, East Coast Swing (1st round); Cha-cha, East Coast Swing (2nd round if needed)

Graded competition will generally have from 3 to 5 grades depending on the number and ability level of competing couples. Once the couples have been graded, the formal competition begins. The required dances for each grade are listed in the table below. Male couples and female couples will be judged separately in all graded events.

<i>International Standard</i>	Lowest grades: C,D,E	Waltz, Tango, Quickstep
	Middle grade: B	Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Quickstep
	Highest grade: A	Waltz, Tango, V Waltz, Foxtrot, Quickstep
<i>International Latin</i>	Lowest grades: C,D,E	Cha-cha, Rumba, Jive
	Middle grade: B	Cha-cha, Samba, Rumba, Jive
	Highest grade: A	Cha-cha, Samba, Rumba, Paso Doble, Jive
<i>American Smooth</i>	Lowest grades: C,D,E	Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango
	Middle grade: B	Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, V Waltz
	Highest grade: A	Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, V Waltz
<i>American Rhythm</i>	Lowest grade: C,D,E	Cha-cha, Rumba, East Coast Swing
	Middle grade: B	Cha-cha, Rumba, East Coast Swing, Mambo
	Highest grade: A	Cha-cha, Rumba, East Coast Swing, Bolero, Mambo

A couple may be placed in a higher grade than expected and asked to do a dance they haven't prepared. Couples may stand at the side of the floor during the dance for which they're not prepared. Do not leave the floor until all the dances in the graded event have been completed. Couples standing on the side will be marked last in that dance by the judges. All decisions of the judges will be considered final.

Winners of all grades (except "A") are invited to compete in the next highest grade level.

## Formation Team Events

Formation Team Events are subject to the following: restrictions:

- Routine must be at least 3.0 minutes long but no more than 5.0 minutes, including entering and exiting the dance floor.
- Routine may include changes in rhythm, but such changes are not mandatory.



- Routine must include at least (2) changes in formation.
- Routine must have a minimum of (3) couples or 6 individuals.

There will be 2 categories of Formation Teams. These categories will be judged separately. Open Dance Routine: Teams desiring to perform routines primarily for entertainment with significant dance content.

Couple Dance Routine: Any routine that is performed as couples dancing together in a joined configuration throughout the routine except for: entrance, exit, transition, separation where partner changes are made, or a movement is executed where the perception of partnership is maintained. A Couple Dance Routine must be primarily partner dancing. The majority (60%) of the time spent couple dancing must be same-sex or reverse role.

Most routines are based on one particular dance, but multi-dance routines are also fine. The dance does not have to be one of the International or American 10 dance forms--in other words, salsa, hip hop, Argentine Tango, West Coast Swing, etc, are all OK.

Formation Teams can and generally do provide their own music. Please bring the music for your formation team routine in a CD format and include in writing any special instructions about where and when to start and stop the music. Formation Team rules allow the incorporation of lifts.

## Show Dance Events

No distinction will be made in show dance events regarding proficiency, type or performance, choice of dance, or gender. Only same-sex or reverse-role couples may enter. However, only same-sex and non-pro-am couples are eligible to win a title in this event. Show Dance rules allow the incorporation of lifts. Show Dance competitors must provide their own music to the competition organizers.

## IV. Judging, Shoe Policy, and Disclaimers

### Chairperson of the Judges

The Chairperson of the Judges (or Head Judge) shall be responsible for overseeing the judging panel and shall be responsible for decisions regarding any problems with marking, ties, or adjudication decisions. The Chairperson's decision shall be final.

### Shoe Policy

All shoes worn by competitors must not have the capacity to damage or alter fundamental characteristics of the floor. In particular, shoes should be non-marking and non-gouging. Shoes with suede soles (i.e. actual ballroom dance shoes) are recommended but not required.

All competitors should note that at **no** time are they allowed to apply powder, oil, or other dance aids to their shoes in an attempt to alter the coefficient of static and kinetic friction between their shoe's soles and the floor. Dance aids on the shoes will transfer to the floor and over the course of a competition will seep and become ingrained into the floor, making it unsuitable for dancing and other activities. Please familiarize yourself with this policy to avoid the frustration of getting pulled from an event due to a shoe policy infraction.



## Disclaimers

No responsibility for loss or theft of articles left in the changing areas or ballrooms can be accepted by the organizers of this event, nor can they be held liable for any injury sustained by persons attending this event. Everyone attending does so at his/her own risk. All persons attending this event, whether as spectator, competitor, official, or guest of the organizers, shall be bound by April Follies rules and policies and, by participating in this event, automatically become obligated to adhere to them.

April Follies reserves the right to cancel any event(s) and/or change the schedule at any time.

Competitors and spectators should be aware that, during the course of competition, anyone in the ballroom may be photographed or videotaped by any variety of people for private or public viewing. Everyone attending this competition hereby consents to be photographed or videotaped by their attendance at the competition.