

## Rising Star Tour Rules 2024

The objective of the Rising Star Tour is to provide a platform for amateur dancers to grow and improve their swing dancing skills in the context of choreographed routines.

### Dancer Eligibility

To participate in the 2024 Rising Star Tour (RST), each dancer must:

1. Be fifteen (15) years or older by the end of any qualifying event at which they are competing
2. Never have placed or made a qualifying final of a NASDE Classic or Showcase division
3. Not have Champion or Invitational points within the last ten (10) years
4. Never have won the RST top point award in previous seasons
5. Never have placed top three (3) in the Open Rising Star division
6. Dancers retain eligibility separately for each role, leader/follower
7. Event directors may participate as competitors in the tour, however they may not compete at an event that they run

### RST Sportsmanship Expectations

Sportsmanship is a fundamental aspect of our competition. Competing for the RST prize fund is privilege, not a right. The event director may flag a competitor's behavior as un-sportsman-like. Said behavior will be reviewed by the NASDE board at the next scheduled NASDE Board meeting. Redress for violations can include but are not limited to deduction of points, dropping in level in the overall standing, or removal of competitor from the RST list.

### RST Prop Rules

To ensure the safety of competitors and the audience, **no props** are allowed in NASDE routines. A prop is defined as any article or object that is intentionally discarded, removed, taken away, or brought into a dance by a competitor. This includes, but not limited to, a hat that is thrown to the floor, a cane that is tossed away, or picking up an object from the floor. The referee will be designated as ensuring this rule is enforced. If the referee determines a violation occurred, the NASDE Referee will be used for verification and applying penalties.

### RST Restart Rules

Re-starts will be allowed in NASDE Classic or Showcase divisions, if something occurs during the performance that would **impact the safety** of the competitors.

This includes:

**1. Technical problems** — factors outside the dancers control (e.g., lights in ballroom go out, flooring is faulty or damages, music suddenly stops)

**OR,**

**2. Costume malfunctions** — shoe breaks or becomes unfastened or untied; costume tears or breaks, and loose items could endanger dancers or expose a part of body that would not normally be exposed in a public setting. If such a problem occurs during a performance, the Chief Judge may stop the performance, until the problem can be addressed and rectified at the time of the competition. The competitors may also willingly stop their performance and ask the Chief Judge for a Re-start.

## **RST Restart Rules (cont.)**

The competitors must request the re-start prior to their departure from competition dance floor. They must speak to the Chief Judge when the problem occurs.

If it is determined that a Re-Start is allowable, the Chief Judge will then make a decide based on their situation and ask the couples to dance/restart as quick as possible.

Staff Judges will be instructed by the Chief Judge to judge the competitors on the repeat performance only. The performance that occurred before the Re-Start will not be counted toward the competitor's overall ranking.

## **Division Rules**

**(Place/Points: 1/10, 2/9, 3/8, 4/7, 5/6)**

### **General**

1. RST rules apply
2. If any Event rule conflicts with published RST rules, the RST rules take precedence
3. A competitive couple must consist of one leader and one follower. They must remain in their respective roles throughout the entire routine with an allowable exception of an 8 count maximum of role switching
4. If a member event offers a RST competition and there are fewer than 3 couples, cash prize money can be reduced at the discretion of the Event Director.
5. If a member event has more than 18 couples in the RST competition, a prelim is recommended with a callback of 10-12 couples to the final
6. If a final is run, couples must use the same musical submission for both the prelim/final
7. An individual is not permitted to dance twice within the same division

### **Specific**

1. Guidelines for expected swing content is 75%. It is at the Judges' discretion to determine that the swing content requirement has been met. Please refer to NASDE swing content guideline (<https://nasde.net/swing-content-guidelines/>).
2. Performance time is a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 3 minutes. The clock begins and judging starts at the first dance movement of the performance, with or without music.
3. Competitors select their own music.
4. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
5. Separate entrances are permitted, couple must physically join together within 32 beats of music.
6. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-aways, and recoveries. If combined, separation cannot be more than 8 beats of music. For example, if a competitor does a free spin or a turn, is not connected to their partner, and goes straight into a side by side break-away, the entire separation cannot be more than 8 beats of music.
7. A maximum of seven (7) partner weight-support moved are permitted, with up to three (3) of them seven (7) available as optional lifts.
8. Both partners must keep at least one foot on the floor during weight-support moves. If the foot comes off the floor, it will be considered a lift.

## **RST Event Prize Standards**

1. Minimum prize package should include event pass and cash. Additional prizes can be offered in the form of products and services
2. Prize fund maximum is \$1000 total and the minimum is \$100 per registered couple.
3. Award a minimum of top three (3) placements if there are between three and seven (3-7) couples.
4. Award a minimum of top five (5) placements if there are eight (8) or more couples in the contest

## **End of Tour Prizes**

The RST will conclude at The Open in November over Thanksgiving weekend. Points will be calculated from the first tour event up to and including The Open. Winners will be announced and awarded during the awards ceremony at The Open.

### **1st Place**

1. RST Champion Swag
2. Event passport with passes to all events in their winning season for the following year
3. Additional winnings could include sponsored swag, lessons, and services

### **Other placements**

Additional placement prize packages could be added pending sponsorships