

## Rising Star Tour Rules 2025

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

Rule changes effective May 1, 2025 are highlighted in yellow.

---

### Dancer Eligibility

To participate in the 2025 Rising Star Tour, 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 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 twice.
  6. 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 they run.
- 

### RST Sportsmanship Expectations

Sportsmanship is a fundamental aspect of our competition. Competing for the RST prize fund is a privilege, not a right. The event director may flag a competitor's behavior as unsportsmanlike. Said behavior will be reviewed by the NASDE board at the next scheduled NASDE Board meeting. Consequences for violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Deduction of points.
  - Dropping in level in the overall standings.
  - Removal 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 intentionally discarded, removed, taken away, or brought into a dance by a competitor. Examples include:

- A hat thrown to the floor.
- A cane tossed away.
- Picking up an object from the floor.

The referee will enforce this rule. If a violation occurs, the NASDE Referee will verify and apply penalties.

---

## RST Restart Rules

Restarts are allowed in the Rising Star division if something occurs during the performance that impacts the safety of the competitors. This includes:

1. **Technical problems:** Factors outside the dancers' control (e.g., ballroom lights go out, faulty flooring, music stops suddenly).
2. **Costume malfunctions:** Shoes break or become unfastened, costumes tear or break, and loose items could endanger dancers or expose inappropriate areas.

### Procedure:

- The Chief Judge may stop the performance until the issue is addressed.
- Competitors may stop and request a restart before leaving the competition floor.
- Requests must be communicated to the Chief Judge when the problem occurs.
- If approved, the Chief Judge will arrange for the competitors to restart promptly.

**Judging:** Only the restart performance will be scored. The initial performance will not be considered.

---

## Division Rules

### Points Allocation:

- **5 or more entries:** 1st/10, 2nd/9, 3rd/8, 4th/7, 5th/6.
- **4 entries:** 1st/8, 2nd/7, 3rd/6, 4th/5.
- **3 entries:** 1st/5, 2nd/4, 3rd/3.
- **2 entries:** 1st/3, 2nd/2.
- **1 entry:** 1st/2.

---

## General Rules

1. RST rules apply.
  2. If any event rule conflicts with RST rules, the RST rules take precedence.
  3. A competitive couple must consist of one leader and one follower, maintaining roles throughout the routine, with one allowable role switch not exceeding eight beats.
  4. If fewer than three couples enter at an event, the division may be cancelled or the cash prize money may be reduced at the Event Director's discretion.
  5. For events with over 18 couples, a prelim is recommended, with 10-12 couples advancing to the final.
  6. Couples must use the same music submission for both prelim and final rounds.
  7. Individuals cannot compete twice within the same division.
-

## Specific Rules

1. **Swing Content:** 70% swing content is required, subject to judges' discretion.
2. **Performance Time:** Minimum 2 minutes, maximum 3 minutes. Judging begins with the first dance movement.
3. Competitors select their own music.
4. Costumes are allowed and encouraged.
5. Separate entrances are permitted; couples must join within 32 beats of music.
6. Physical contact must be maintained except during spins, turns, short breakaways, and recoveries, with separations not exceeding 8 beats.
7. A maximum of seven (7) partner weight-support moves are allowed.
8. Both partners must keep at least one foot on the floor during weight-support moves; otherwise, it is considered a lift.

### Rising Star Classic at The Open World Swing Dance Champions:

\* Lifts are not allowed. Dancers must have at least one foot on the ground at all times.

### Rising Star Showcase at The Open World Swing Dance Champions:

\* A minimum of three (3) lifts total are required, one of which must have the followers hips above the leaders physical waistline.

\* A minimum number of ten (10) entries are required to run this division, otherwise it will remind a combined Rising Star division.

---

## Swing Content Guidelines

Please refer to the [NASDE website](#) for detailed swing content guidelines.

---

## RST Event Prize Standards

1. **Minimum prize package:** Event pass and cash. Additional prizes may include products and services.
2. **Prize fund range:** \$100-\$1000 per registered couple.
3. Award a minimum of **top three (3)** placements for 3-7 couples.
4. Award a minimum of **top five (5)** placements for 8+ couples.

---

## End of Tour Prizes

The RST concludes at **The Open** in November. Points will be calculated from the first tour event up to and including The Open. Winners will be announced during The Open's awards ceremony.

### 1st Place:

- RST Champion Swag.
- Event passport with passes to all events in their winning season for the following year.

### 2nd and 3rd Places:

- Event passport with passes to all events in their winning season for the following year.