



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SWING DANCE EVENTS (NASDE)

Judging Criteria for Classic & Showcase Divisions **(updated 01/01/2026)**

- There must be a minimum of five (5) Judges for both Classic and Showcase divisions.
- No more than two (2) of the five (5) Judges should be NASDE Event Directors.
- Events are discouraged from assigning Couples (significant others) to serve on the same Judging panel for Classic and Showcase, with the exception that one of the partners is a Chief Judge and one is a Referee.
- A Referee will be included on the Judging panel for Classic and Showcase competitions. The **NASDE Referee System** will be utilized.
- All scores count. No scores can be thrown out. The Chief Judge's scores are not utilized when calculating the results for any finals contest unless an emergency situation occurs with a judge on the panel. Ties are resolved by the judging panel using relative placement.
- No current NASDE competitors (who compete in Classic or Showcase) may serve as Judges for these Divisions. *(i.e., If a competitor has an active Showcase or Classic partnership and is actively pursuing the year end prize, they are a current NASDE competitor.)*
- Judges' scores should be based solely on the quality of the performance and on swing content. Judges' scores should NOT include violations unrelated to swing content. All other rules will be monitored by the referee, and if flagged will be considered by a review panel for a final decision on any violation and drop in placement. (Please see the NASDE Referee System link above for more info on the review process.)
- Mock judges should not be seated alongside official judges to prevent any confusion regarding the individuals responsible for the actual judging process.

Swing Violation Criteria

Swing Content is the responsibility of each judge, NOT the REFEREE. Any violations or warning regarding Swing Content is reflected in the individual judge's score or so noted on their individual score sheets. A "SVW" (Swing Violation Warning) indicates no drop in score and "SV" (Swing Violation) indicates the judge dropped their placement 1, 3 or 10 places for Swing Content within their individual score. Judges are to use the following criteria when giving a "SV" (Swing Violation):

Classic Division:

Below 70%: judge's issue "SVW" indicates no drop in score or "SV1" indicates one (1) drop in placement.

Below 60%: judge's issue "SV2" indicates three (3) drop in places within their individual score.

Below 50%: judge's issue "SV3" indicates ten (10) drop in places within their individual score.

Final score sheets that get posted should show the above values.

Example:

Competitor A 3rd placement SV-1

Showcase Division

Below 60%: judge's issue a "SVW" indicates no drop in score or "SV1" indicates one (1) drop in placement

Below 50%: judge's issue a "SV3" indicates ten (10) drop in places within their individual score