

Country Two Step Tour (CTST)

Rules

CTST Committee | Rules, Version 2.1
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Version 1.0 of these rules was incorporated into a document that also covered the contest procedures and points calculations. The rules now exist in this stand-alone document.

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I. General Information

- A. The Country Two Step Tour (CTST) was formed in 2012 to promote the enjoyment and advancement of social two step. The CTST seeks to achieve this objective by promoting and assisting in the development of two step jack & jill dance contests.
- B. The CTST has developed a series of documents to assist promoters and directors of dance events, so they may plan and produce jack & jill dance contests that are uniform in the significant aspects of operation and will promote a quality experience for competitors. This document focuses on things competitors are interested in, though event directors and contest coordinators must be familiar with its contents.
- C. For dancers competing in sanctioned two step jack & jill dance contests, the CTST has developed a points-tracking system whereby competitors earn award points for each contest in which the competitor finishes at or near the top of their division. The number of award points earned depends on the number of competitors registered in each division as delineated in the CTST Points Calculations. The award points earned by a competitor determine which skill level the competitor dances in at future events.

II. Two Step Definition

- A. Two step is a smooth, progressive partner dance that moves primarily in a counterclockwise direction around the dance floor with weaved patterns and rhythm accents that separate quicks and slows, emphasizing the slows. Dancers should show typical two step patterns which include weaves, streamlines, and slingshots. These moves constitute the core concepts of the dance.
- B. Lifts where one partner's hips rise above the other partner's shoulders are not allowed in CTST contests and will be subject to disqualification.

III. Competitor Information, Guidelines, and Requirements

- A. CTST-sanctioned jack & jill contests are open and available to anyone regardless of skill level.
- B. Competitors may compete as both a leader and follower in different divisions as permitted by the event. When competitors compete as both a leader and a follower, they will use the same CTST number; however, leader points and follower points will be tracked separately.
- C. All competitors must enter CTST contests in the appropriate division(s) as outlined in the table below. To confirm which division to register for, competitors should refer to the points registry available on the [CTST website](#). If a competitor feels they should compete in a different skilled division, they may file a petition in accordance with the guidelines documented in the [Special Provisions](#) section below.

Skill Divisions		
Division	Registration Requirements	General Skill Level Description
Newcomer	CTST competitors with no points at any skill level (including newcomer)	New to two step; working on two step timing
Novice	CTST competitors with less than 15 novice points. Newcomer points are not required. Cannot have any points in intermediate or above. <u>NOTE:</u> Professional two step dancers may not dance in novice in their primary role. They must file a petition (found on the CTST website) to dance in a higher skill division. Example: A professional leader must dance in intermediate or higher as a leader, but may dance in novice as a follower.	Basic knowledge of two step timing, rhythm, and characteristic patterns. Minimal and/or no prior competition experience is typical.
Intermediate	CTST competitors with at least one intermediate point OR at least 15 novice points	Increased knowledge of two step, core concept “variations,” character, and style, with more refined partnership skills than novice-level. Some competition experience is typical.
Advanced	CTST competitors with at least one advanced point OR at least 30 intermediate points	Advanced knowledge of two step. Able to execute/perform complex patterns on the fly, demonstrating technique and presentation common with highly-skilled dancers. Seasoned competitors are typical.
All Stars	CTST competitors with at least one all stars point OR at least 45 advanced points	Professional knowledge of two step. Dancers have a polished, poised, professional approach, often with musically matched movements. Significant competition experience strongly recommended.
Age Divisions		
Division	Registration Requirements	General Skill Level Description
Sophisticated	Competitors must be at least 35 years of age	Varies; competitors of any skill division (newcomer, novice, intermediate, advanced, all stars) may dance in this division
Masters	Competitors must be at least 50 years of age	Varies; competitors of any skill division (newcomer, novice, intermediate, advanced, all stars) may dance in this division

- D. Competitors are issued a CTST member identification number when they are entered into the CTST database, which generally occurs for all competitors who competed in a final contest heat. Once assigned, the number will remain the same throughout the competitor's association with the CTST. Each competitor is responsible for remembering their assigned number and providing the number to the event each time they register for a CTST contest. Again, when competitors compete as both a leader and follower, these points are tracked separately with unique CTST numbers.
- E. CTST-sanctioned event directors set contest fees and registration deadlines as they see fit. Competitors are responsible for knowing the applicable cut-off dates and times, and for paying applicable contest fees before the registration deadlines.
- F. There are no age restrictions in the skill divisions. Points earned in skill divisions as defined in the table above are recorded by the CTST and count toward the annual points championship.
- G. Points earned in non-skill divisions are recorded by the CTST but do not result in graduation to other divisions and do not count toward the annual points championship.

IV. Annual Points Championship Award

- A. Each year, the CTST will present a year-end points championship award to the leader and follower who have accumulated the most award points in any of the skill divisions during the calendar year. This award is an overall award, not one based on any particular skill level.
- B. The points championship award is calculated using all CTST member events that properly report their results as described in the CTST Contest Procedures document. The award season runs from January 1 to December 31.
- C. In the event of a tie, the award is given to the person with the higher points per event total. If still tied, the award is given to the person with the highest placements (i.e. number of firsts, seconds, thirds, etc.).

V. Special Provisions

The CTST recognizes that no set of rules and procedures can accommodate the needs and circumstances of every competitor, of every contest, or of every event. The following special provisions are included to be used if and when circumstances warrant a resolution outside of normal CTST guidelines:

- A. Petitioning – If a competitor has compelling reasons they believe justifies competing in a CTST skill division above or below the level for which they are currently eligible, they may petition (via the [CTST website](#)) the event for a temporary reclassification. The competitor must initiate a petition request to the contest coordinator prior to the close of contest registration. The contest coordinator decides whether to approve or deny the petition based on the circumstances presented in the petition and in accordance with the rules stated in Section V.A. If the petition is approved, such approval only applies to

the current event. If the competitor does not earn any award points as a result of a granted temporary reclassification, the competitor must re-petition at any future events if desired. However, should the petition for a higher classification be granted, and the competitor earns at least one point in a requested higher division, they shall remain qualified to compete in the higher skill division until they graduate out of the higher division.

- i. First year events may not utilize the petitioning process
- ii. To petition into intermediate, the contestant must do one of the following (or similar):
 1. currently teach two step on a regular basis (monthly, weekly, etc.)
 2. have taught two step in the past for a period of longer than 12 months on a regular basis (monthly, weekly, etc.)
 3. have competed in UCWDC/ACDA ProAm Advanced, ProPro II, or Couples Crown/Royal SuperStars
- iii. Petitioning to advanced should rarely occur; to do so, the contestant must be a current UCWDC/ACDA Couples Open Division I competitor, a current UCWDC/ACDA ProPro I competitor, or a current or past Couples Masters/SuperStars competitor