

Smoky Mountain Pro/Am Challenge

Competition Rules and Information

This is the pro-am/mixed proficiency level competition for dancers of all ages and skill levels, and we welcome all dancers. Your interest is greatly appreciated. Tim McGhee & Associates is the event organizer. This booklet is designed to explain the plans for the event and to facilitate your registration to participate.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

A partnership is eligible to dance in this competition if one of the partners is a professional/amateur coach and one is an amateur. A professional is anyone who holds him/her self out as a professional and/or accepts personal compensation for teaching any form of partnership dance. Amateur dancers should be aware that professionals are customarily compensated for their time based upon arrangements worked out privately between the student, professional and/or studio. For the purpose of this competition, a coach is a superior level amateur serving as the amateur's trainer. The professional or coach will not be judged; only the amateur with whom he/she dances is judged. An example of an amateur serving as a coach might be one who is performing at the amateur championship level dancing with an amateur at the bronze level.

All competitors certify by signing the entry form that they are eligible to compete in the events they have marked on the entry form. You do not need to be a Tennessee resident to register. A competitive couple consists of a male and female dancing in a partnership. You need not dance with the same partner for all events; however you may dance with only one partner per event. If you are dancing with more than one partner, a worksheet is attached to help you organize your entries. This worksheet need not be turned in with your registration packages; however a registration form is required for each couple. For example, an amateur dancing with two pros is required to send in two registration forms with one fee sheet. Registration forms will not be accepted unless the personal information is completed and signed by both the gentleman and the lady.

Although the 2007-2008 USA DanceSport Rulebook is being used for some of the technical aspects of this competition, it is not necessary that a participant be a member of USA Dance, (formerly USABDA) The rulebook is available for viewing and/or printing on the USABDA Web site at:

www.usabda.org/dancesport_competitors/rules-policies-bylaws/index.cfm.

GENERAL FORMAT AND RULES

All events are danced in freestyle format with the exception of Routines, which are choreographed to prearranged music selections. Events consist of one, two, three, four or six dances in succession. The best combined score for all dances in the event will determine places in that event. The scoring system used is the skating system.

For all multi-dance events, couples must dance each dance in the event. Events may be separated into two or more heats at the discretion of the Chairman of Judges. Depending upon the number of couples entered, some age groups may dance at the same time as others, even though each group is being judged as a separate event. **The Competition Organizer reserves the right to combine or cancel events for which there are an insufficient number of entries.**

The on-deck system will be used for all events. Competitors must be in the ballroom and ready to dance 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time for the event in which they are competing. They must report to the Deck Captain two heats prior to their event. Any competitor who does not take the floor by the time the music begins will be disqualified from that event.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Awards will be presented to the top three amateurs in each event. Scholarships shall be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The amount shall be determined by the number of entries in the event.

EVENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

Competition events are organized into Restricted Syllabus (Newcomer, Intermediate & Full Bronze, Beginning, Intermediate & Full Silver, Beginning, Intermediate and Full Gold) and Open events which includes Above Gold. Newcomers are allowed to enter both the Newcomer events and Bronze I events. "Beginning" level events are restricted to the first five steps of that syllabus level. Dancers may not compete in more than two consecutive skill levels in a particular dance style except syllabus level dancers may compete in Open. Dancers are allowed to compete in two consecutive age groups, i.e.; Senior competitors may dance their age division and the next lower age group. Youth and Pre-teen competitors may dance their age division and the next higher age division.

An amateur shall not compete in any classification below the minimum proficiency level for which he/she is eligible. While an amateur can enter events above his/her proficiency level, this is not advised. Professionals are asked to guard against such entries, as they could be embarrassing to his/her students.

DANCE STYLES AND PROFICIENCY LEVELS

American Smooth, American Rhythm, International Standard, and International Latin are the dance styles offered in this competition. Within the competition, the following dance levels will be offered. A list of allowable syllabus steps is available through the USABDA Web site at www.usabda.org, click on *Dancesport Competitors*, then *Syllabus*. Also, commonly accepted American Syllabi are allowed.

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Syllabus levels are:

Newcomer Amateur dancers in this division must not have competed in a competition before. In addition, they are restricted to dancing the first five steps of the Bronze level. Dancers presenting more advanced steps will be penalized.

Pre-Bronze Amateur dancers in this division are restricted to dancing the first five steps of the Bronze level. Dancers presenting more advanced steps will be penalized.

Int & Full Bronze The Bronze syllabus should be adhered to with "closed footwork" in the smooth dances. Dancers presenting Silver, Gold or other work will be penalized.

Beg, Int & Full Silver The Silver syllabus should be adhered to; continuity styling is expected in the smooth dances. Beginning Silver is restricted to dancing the first five steps of the Silver level. Dancers presenting Gold or other work will be penalized.

Beg, Int & Full Gold The Gold syllabus should be adhered to, continuity styling is expected in the smooth dances. Beginning Gold is restricted to dancing the first five steps of the Gold level.

Non-conforming entrances and exits and theatrical elements are prohibited in Syllabus. Violations will be reported to the Chairman of Judges by the Invigilator. The couple involved will be given a verbal warning if the violation occurs in a round prior to the final round or reduced to last place in a final round.

Open In this category, dancers may present figures from the Bronze, Silver and/or Gold dance levels as well as any other work of their choosing. Dancers should be aware that all work should adhere to the basic character of the dance presented.

HEATING OF ENTRIES

Events with fewer than three couples may be combined with other events. If unable to combine with other events, the couple will be offered an opportunity to select another entry. This is intended to make the competition as competitive as possible. Dancers may compete in as many events as they are eligible to enter, but must abide by the rules of each event. For instance, Gold steps are not allowed in Silver or Bronze. Entry into multiple age and skill levels may result in shorter than normal break times between heats.

AGE CATEGORIES

- Pre-Teen: 11 or less
- Youth: 13 – 18
- A1: 19 or older
- A2: 35 or older
- B1: 45 or older
- B2: 55 or older
- C1: 65 or older

Amateurs should select their appropriate age group on the entry form. For purposes of eligibility at this competition, the age of an individual is determined by the age reached during the calendar year, whether or not it precedes the date of the competition. For example, a dancer who will turn 45 in August

2009 is considered to be 45 for purposes of dancing in the Senior II category, even though this competition is held in February.

Adult dancers are allowed to dance down one age category, but not up in age categories. Youth and below are allowed to dance up one age category, but not down in age categories.

Age restrictions do not apply to professionals/coaches dancing in partnership with the Amateur.

DRESS CODE

At all levels, competitors are permitted but not required to wear costumes. If costumes are worn, the following guidelines apply:

Smooth & Standard events – Costumes should be ball gowns for ladies and tuxedos, tail suits or other formal wear for gentlemen.

Rhythm & Latin events – Appropriate costumes may be worn.

FLOW OF COMPETITION

International Standard will be presented first followed by American Rhythm. International Latin will be next followed by American Smooth.

FLOOR

The floor is a seamless premium hardwood birch veneer, 72' x 40'. Ladies are requested to wear Protective Heel Savers to help protect the floor from damage due to scratching/scaring.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 21, 2010 – (All Amateur)

USA Dance Smoky Mountain DanceSport Champ.

- 10:00am Registration Pick-up / Ballroom Opens
- 1:00pm Competition Begins
- 5:00pm Dinner Break
- 7:00pm Competition Resumes

Saturday, May 22, 2010 – (All Amateur)

USA Dance Smoky Mountain DanceSport Champ.

- 7:00am Ballroom opens
- 8:00am Competition Resumes
- 12:00pm Lunch Break
- 1:00pm Competition Resumes
- 6:00pm Dinner Break
- 8:00pm Social Dance

Sunday, May 23, 2010 – Pro Am

Smoky Mountain Pro Am Challenge

- 7:30am Ballroom opens
- 8:00am Competition Begins
- 12:00pm Lunch Break
- 1:00pm Competition Resumes
- 5:00pm Competition Ends

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Competitors MUST be in the ballroom and ready to dance 30 minutes prior to a scheduled event. COMPETITION WILL NOT BE DELAYED IF COMPETITORS ARE LATE..

ENTRY DEADLINES

Entries will not be accepted beyond May 9, 2010. To avoid possible rejection of entry, participants are urged to register early so that any problems may be resolved by the deadline.

NO ADDITIONS WILL BE ALLOWED AFTER THE DEADLINE.

Checks should be made payable and mailed to:
Tim McGhee & Associates
PO Box 331119
Murfreesboro, TN 37133

ON-LINE REGISTRATION

Registration is available on-line at: www.timports.us

REFUND POLICY

A full refund is only available prior to the May 1, 2010 deadline.

TOP TEACHER AND TOP STUDIO

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Awards for the Top Teacher and Top Studio. Points are: 2pts/event; 6 pts-1st place, 5 pts-2nd place, 4 pts-3rd place, 3 pts-4th place, 2 pts-5th place, 1 pt-6th place.

VIDEO & PHOTOGRAPHY

Video and Photography Vendors will be available to capture your dancing during the competition. Please sign-up with these vendors prior to the start of your events. Private videotaping and photography will be allowed, however, Please be courteous and do not obstruct the view of others. No one is allowed on the floor.

VENDORS

Vendors will be available during the competition to care for your dancing needs.

ADVERTISING SALES

Program advertising is available at the following rates:

Back Cover Color	\$200	Inside Cover B&W	\$175
Full Page	\$150	Half Page	\$100
Quarter Page	\$ 60	Business Card	\$ 25

To become an advertiser in the competition program contact Tim McGhee & Associates at 865-386-7843 or by email at tim@timports.us.

SPONSORSHIPS

You are invited to become a sponsor of our Smoky Mountain Pro/Am Challenge and be recognized in our competition program. All donations to the Smoky Mountain Pro/Am Challenge are tax deductible at their fair market value under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. You can specify that your donation be used for scholarships or for general purposes. To become a sponsor, contact Tim McGhee & Associates at 865-230-7100.

HOTEL

Our host hotel for the *Smoky Mountain Pro/Am Challenge* is the beautiful downtown Marriott located at 500 Hill Ave SE, Knoxville, TN.

We have reserved a block of rooms for competition participants and spectators. The Group Rate is \$99.00 plus tax (\$116.08 total). Check-in is 3:00 pm; checkout is 12:00 p.m. Cut-off date for the Group rate is May 9, 2010. Free parking is available at the Hotel. Should you make your hotel reservations through the Chapter when registering online and have to cancel, you will receive 100% refund on your hotel if cancelled 72 hours in advance.

Call 1-800-36-8031 or 1-865-637-1234.

Tell the reservationists that you are with **USA Dance**. Reservations made after the deadlines will be accepted on a date and rate available basis.

Sign up early!

TRANSPORTATION

American, Delta, Independence Air, Northwest, U S Air, and United Airlines fly into McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS) located in Alcoa, TN. Rental cars, taxis, and limo service are available at the airport. The Knoxville Marriott is located 20 miles from the airport. See our website for driving directions.