

Dances With Owls 2015

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Eligibility

Amateur - Amateur Events are open to all amateur dancers. There are no age group distinctions (youth, collegiate, and adult amateur dancers all compete in the same events).

Mixed Proficiency Events will be available at the **Newcomer level only**. A more advanced amateur or professional can partner with a newcomer dancer in specific events, and only the newcomer dancer will be judged.

Formation Teams must consist of amateur members only. Please email Nicole Moes (riceballroomteam@gmail.com) if you would like to enter your team in the competition.

Competition Fees and Registration

The competition fee includes participation in all competition events and a complimentary, surprise souvenir. Rates are shown in the table below.

Registration will be available online via <http://danceswithowls.com/> and <http://ballroom.rice.edu/>, online registration will close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, November 6, 2015.

Registration will also be available at the social on Friday, November 13 and the morning of the competition on Saturday, November 14. Competitors registering on Friday night or Saturday morning will pay the “At Door Registration Fee” listed below.

Competition: November 14

Competitor Type	Online Registration Fee	At Door Registration Fee
Student	\$35	\$45
Non-student Adult	\$45	\$55

Students must present valid student ID at the door to receive the student rate. This applies as well to competitors registering online: each is expected to bring their student ID at the day of the event.

Only cash will be accepted. No credit cards or personal checks will be accepted. Withdrawals can be made at the Chase ATM in front of the event venue.

Number Deposit: Leaders must deposit a valid ID in order to pick up their number, and it may be retrieved upon return of the number.

Welcome Dance and Master Class

There will be a welcome dance social on Friday, November 13. This year, we will have both the usual ballroom social and a separate west coast swing/country western social. We will also have two classes: a ballroom master class and a beginner level west coast swing lesson. The style for the ballroom master class and the instructors for both lessons will be announced on danceswithowls.com and ballroom.rice.edu prior to the event.

If you have any music requests for either social, email them to riceballroomteam@gmail.com by November 7!

Admission is \$5 for Rice students, \$10 for all other students, and \$15 for the general public. Admission includes both socials and both classes. **Only cash will be accepted, and students must present valid student ID to receive the student rate.**

Schedule

This schedule is tentative and subject to change. All times are approximate. Events may run earlier or later than the tentative schedule. Events will not be delayed if the competition runs ahead of schedule. Competitors should be ready to dance 30 minutes before their event, and must be registered before they compete. A more detailed schedule of heats will be posted the day of the event.

FRIDAY, November 13

6:30 – 7:00 PM	On-site competition registration
7:00	Master Class, Beginning WCS class, Welcome Dance (exact times TBA)

SATURDAY, November 14

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Check in and on-site registration
8:15 AM – 9:00 AM	Warm Up
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Session One Country Western Events American Smooth Events International Standard Events Awards from Session One
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Break (lunch) and General Dancing
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Session Two Social Dance Events American Rhythm Events International Latin Events
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Formation Team Performances Team Match Fun Dances Awards from Session Two

Competition Events

There are six dance categories: Country Western, American Smooth, International Standard, American Rhythm, International Latin, and Social Dances. The specific dances in each category and proficiency level are included below, followed by a key for the dance abbreviations.

All events in the Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels are single dance events, and couples may dance in some or all of the styles in that category. However, all Novice and Championship level dances are multdance events; a couple dancing at the Novice or Championship level must dance in all of the styles in that category.

Participants in each event will dance simultaneously to music selected by the DJ. If there is only one couple registered for an event, it may be run simultaneously with another event. Unless there is only one pair of competitors in an event that cannot be run simultaneously with another event, there will be no events requiring solo exhibitions. Also, if two or fewer couples register for either the Novice or Championship events, these may be run at the same time.

Style	Level	Dances
Country Western	Beginner	CHA W 2S ECS PK
	Intermediate/Advanced	CHA W 2S ECS PK
American Smooth	Newcomer	W T FT
	Newcomer Mixed Proficiency	W T FT
	Bronze	W T FT VW
	Silver	W T FT VW
	Gold	W T FT VW
	Championship*	W T FT VW
International Standard	Newcomer	W T
	Newcomer Mixed Proficiency	W T
	Bronze	W T VW FT QS
	Silver	W T VW FT QS
	Gold	W T VW FT QS
	Novice*	W T QS
American Rhythm	Championship*	W T VW FT QS
	Newcomer	CHA R ECS
	Newcomer Mixed Proficiency	CHA R ECS
	Bronze	CHA R ECS B M
	Silver	CHA R ECS B M
	Gold	CHA R ECS B M
International Latin	Championship*	CHA R ECS B M
	Newcomer	CHA R J
	Newcomer Mixed Proficiency	CHA R J
	Bronze	CHA R J SA P
	Silver	CHA R J SA P
	Gold	CHA R J SA P
Social Dances	Novice*	CHA R SA
	Championship*	CHA R J SA P
Social Dances	Beginner	ME BA AT S H WCS
	Intermediate/Advanced	ME BA AT S H WCS

*this category is a multdance

Abbreviation	Dance	Abbreviation	Dance
2S	Two Step	ME	Merengue
AT	Argentine Tango	P	Paso Doble
B	Bolero	QS	Quickstep
BA	Bachata	R	Rumba
CHA	Cha-cha	S	Salsa
ECS	East Coast Swing	SA	Samba
FT	Foxtrot	T	Tango
H	Hustle	VW	Viennese Waltz
J	Jive	W	Waltz
M	Mambo	WCS	West Coast Swing

Proficiency Levels

Competitors may dance in two consecutive proficiency levels for the same event. Acceptable combinations of levels are:

- Newcomer and Bronze
- Newcomer Mixed Proficiency and Bronze (for the less advanced dancer)
- Bronze and Silver
- Silver and Gold
- Gold and Novice (in Standard and/or Latin)
- Novice and Championship (in Standard and/or Latin)
- Gold and Championship (in Smooth and/or Rhythm)

Newcomer: To be eligible to compete in a Newcomer division, both partners must have started dancing ballroom no earlier than **January 1, 2015**. Additionally, if one or both partners placed in the top 6 of Newcomer division in a different competition, it automatically disqualifies them from entering the Newcomer division again; they must enter Bronze division or higher.

Mixed Proficiency: Mixed-proficiency events will be judged separately. The less experienced dancer will be judged, and he or she may **not** enter both the Newcomer Mixed Proficiency events and regular Newcomer events. This does **not** apply to the more experienced partner who may dance in two consecutive proficiency levels independent of the Mixed Proficiency entries. For example, a competitor may dance in Gold, Novice, and as a more experienced dancer in Newcomer Mixed Proficiency within the International Latin style.

NOTE: To create a fun and competitive environment, we ask that if you have consistently placed in the top three couples of an event, please dance in the next higher level for that event. To facilitate this, any couple who has previously placed in the top 3 couples in a Bronze event at DWO may not compete in that dance in the same level this year. This applies only if the event was not a straight final, i.e. if there were multiple rounds of the event. For example, if a dancer competed in Bronze Standard at DWO in 2013 and placed first in Waltz, fifth in Tango, third in Viennese Waltz, fourth in Foxtrot, and fifth in Quickstep, he or she may not register for Bronze Standard Waltz or Viennese Waltz this year. The dancer would still be eligible to register and compete in

Bronze Tango, Foxtrot, and Quickstep.

Competitors who have accumulated proficiency points on the USABDA, Collegiate, or NDCA circuits are requested to abide by those categories. By registering for the competition all competitors certify that they are eligible to compete in their chosen events.

Syllabus Steps

All single dance categories will be closed syllabus events. There will be an invigilator to enforce this rule. Any steps from a nationally recognized syllabus (ISTD, NDCA, DVIDA) will be accepted. In a given level, competitors may dance syllabus steps from lower levels; however, they may not dance steps from a higher level syllabus. For example, Silver steps are not allowed in the Bronze level. Only closed Bronze steps are allowed at both the Newcomer and Bronze levels. **Dancing higher level steps than the category allows may result in disqualification from the event/competition.**

Formation Team Rules and Regulations

Registration Regulations

Formation teams need to pre-register by contacting Nicole Moes (riceballroomteam@gmail.com). Teams must be amateur-only in order to compete. Dancers on the team must all be registered for the competition in general, even if they are not competing in any other event. Each team must have a minimum of four couples on the floor in order to compete.

Performance Regulations

Teams may perform a maximum of two routines. Music and routine may not exceed 5 minutes in length. The length of music and routine must be specified at registration, as well as the style(s) of dance to be incorporated into the routine.

Currently, all formations will be judged together. There is no division between Smooth/Standard and Rhythm/Latin.

Props are not permitted; costumes are highly recommended.

Music Regulations

The team captain or coach must provide the DJ with music for the routine by 10AM on Nov. 14 and make sure that it works with our speaker system. Music may be provided in the form of a flash-drive, iPhone, iPod, or laptop. Team captains/coaches are responsible for ensuring that the DJ has the music at the time of the performance and for having someone present during the performance to tell the DJ when to press play.

Dress Code

Costumes

Costumes are not permitted at the Newcomer level. Costumes are permitted, but not required, for other levels. Jeans are not considered proper attire (except for Country Western events), but will not be a reason for disqualification.

Suggested Attire for Competitors without Costumes

International Standard Events:

Leads: Dark slacks and white button up collared shirt, optional tie and vest.

Follows: Leotards with wrap skirts, cocktail dresses, long full skirts, jewelry is optional

International Latin Events:

Leads: Dark slacks, black or white collared shirt, black T shirt with no logos or black turtleneck

Follows: Similar to Standard dress code. Shorter skirts or dresses are acceptable.

General Rules

Lifts

No lifts will be allowed at any level. Competitors must keep one foot on the ground at all times.

Dips and Drops

Dips are permitted only at the Open level. Drops are not allowed at any level.

Props

Props are not permitted. Exceptions: Formation teams, country western (hats only, Bronze level and above)

Awards

Ribbons will be distributed as listed below:

Dance Category	Ribbons Distributed
Single Dances	Top 6 couples per dance
Newcomer Mixed Proficiency	Top 6 Newcomers per dance
Open Multidances	Top 6 couples overall

Team Match

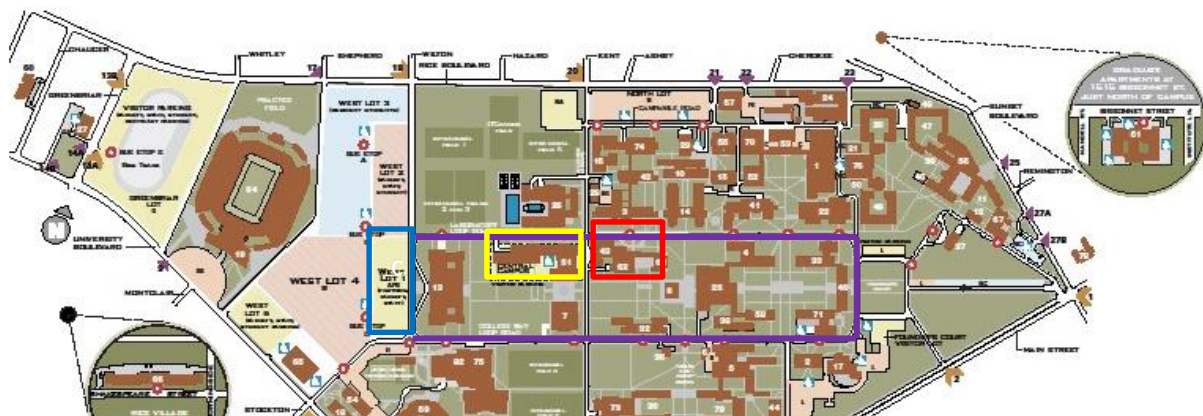
The team match will consist of Cha Cha, Slow Waltz, Tango, and Swing. On the day of the event, each university will sign up four couples, one per dance. Each college can only enter one team of four couples. There may also be one team formed from all of the dancers who did not attend as a part of a university team. There are no proficiency levels within the team match, so teams will select their best couple for each dance. The couples will compete against one another, and the

judges will score each round. The team with the highest aggregate score will be crowned the champion.

Location and Parking

All events will take place in the Grand Hall of the Rice Memorial Center (also known as the Ley Student Center). This is marked in red on the map below. For directions to the venue, refer to <http://studentcenter.rice.edu/>.

Paid parking is available in the Central Campus Garage (yellow) and West Lot 1 (blue). See the campus map below and at <http://www.rice.edu/maps/> for locations. Rates can be found at <http://parking.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=177>. Do not park on the Inner Loop road (purple).



Please note that the Student Center restaurants will not be open on Saturday. We will be selling pizza at the competition during lunch (first come, first serve). There are also restaurants in Rice Village, which is the shopping center to the far west of campus, across Greenbriar. Rice Village is a 10-15 minute walk from the student center.

Miscellaneous

Liability

All competitors compete at their own risk. Rice University and the Rice Ballroom Team cannot accept liability for any injuries sustained by persons attending this competition. Rice University and the Rice Ballroom Team are also not responsible for any theft of articles left in the competition venue

Accommodations

We are able to offer some overnight accommodations. Collegiate competitors seeking accommodations should contact Nicole Moes as soon as possible, as space is available on a first come first serve basis.

Disability Support

Special requests to accommodate disabilities are made on a case-by-case basis. Contact Nicole Moes at riceballroomteam@gmail.com prior to October 1, 2015 to discuss special accommodations.

Contact

For competition questions, comments, and concerns, please contact the competition coordinator:

Nicole Moes (riceballroomteam@gmail.com)