

Dances With Owls 2016

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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).

Pro/Am 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 Agnes Jiang (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. Rates are shown in the table below.

This year's DWO competition registration is on O2CM. A whole dance team should register all the competitors from only one account. Registration will be available online via <http://danceswithowls.com/> and <http://ballroom.rice.edu/>. Early registration will close at 11:59 PM on Tuesday, October 25, 2016.

The online registration will also be available from 5:30 PM to 11:59 PM on Friday, November 4. The staff at the door during the welcome dance night will be able to help you with registration. However, on November 5, the competition day, we will **not accept new couples' registration** anymore; we will only allow registered competitors to change their entries during 8:00 – 8:30 AM. There will be **no additional entries** permitted after 8:30 AM.

All payments must be made online. Failure to do so will make you an unregistered competitor. O2CM requires competitors to pay right away by Credit/Debit card in order to be officially registered. All entry fees/payments are final and non-refundable. It is advised that you take a screenshot once you are officially registered, in case the system has technical glitches.

Competitors registering on Friday night will pay the “Nov. 4th Registration Fee” listed below.

Competition: November 5

Competitor Type	Early Registration Fee	Nov. 4th Registration Fee
Student	\$35	\$45
Non-student Adult	\$45	\$55

Students are expected to present valid student ID on the day of the event.

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.

Please understand that in the registration, “Am.” stands for “American,” “Intl.” stands for “International,” and “Country EC Swing” stands for “Country East Coast Swing.”

Welcome Dance and Master Class

There will be a welcome dance night on Friday, November 4. We will have two classes — a ballroom master class (Waltz & Rumba) with John Elsbury and a beginner level west coast swing lesson with Kristen Humphrey and Brandon Parker — followed by social dancing and a dance showcase.

If you have any music requests for the social, email them to riceballroomteam@gmail.com by October 25!

Admission is \$5 for Rice students, \$10 for all other students, and \$15 for the general public. Admission includes the social, the dance showcase and the two 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 4

- 5:30PM Online competition registration opens again
- 6:30PM Ballroom Master Class, Beginner WCS class, Dance Showcase, and Social (Please see Facebook event for the exact times.)

SATURDAY, November 5

- 8:00AM – 8:30AM Check in and add/drop entries
- 8:15AM – 9:00AM Warm up
- 9:00AM – 2:00PM Session One
- Country Western Events
American Smooth Events
International Standard Events
Awards from Session One
- 2:00PM – 3:00PM Break (lunch) and General Dancing
- 3:00PM – 8:00PM Session Two
- Social Dance Events
American Rhythm Events
International Latin Events
- 8:00PM – 11:15PM 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					Category Type	
Country Western	Beginner	CHA	W	2S	ECS	PK	single dance	
	Intermediate/Advanced (Int./Adv.)	CHA	W	2S	ECS	PK	single dance	
American Smooth	Newcomer	W	T	FT			single dance	
	Newcomer Pro/Am	W	T	FT			single dance	
	Bronze	W	T	FT	VW		single dance	
	Silver	W	T	FT	VW		single dance	
	Gold	W	T	FT	VW		single dance	
	Championship	W	T	FT	VW		multidance	
International Standard	Newcomer	W	T				single dance	
	Newcomer Pro/Am	W	T				single dance	
	Bronze	W	T	VW	FT	QS	single dance	
	Silver	W	T	VW	FT	QS	single dance	
	Gold	W	T	VW	FT	QS	single dance	
	Novice	W	T	QS			multidance	
Championship	W	T	VW	FT	QS	multidance		
American Rhythm	Newcomer	CHA	R	ECS			single dance	
	Newcomer Pro/Am	CHA	R	ECS			single dance	
	Bronze	CHA	R	ECS	B	M	single dance	
	Silver	CHA	R	ECS	B	M	single dance	
	Gold	CHA	R	ECS	B	M	single dance	
	Championship	CHA	R	ECS	B	M	multidance	
International Latin	Newcomer	CHA	R	J			single dance	
	Newcomer Pro/Am	CHA	R	J			single dance	
	Bronze	CHA	R	J	SA	P	single dance	
	Silver	CHA	R	J	SA	P	single dance	
	Gold	CHA	R	J	SA	P	single dance	
	Novice	CHA	R	SA			multidance	
Championship	CHA	R	J	SA	P	multidance		
Social Dances	Beginner	ME	BA	AT	S	H	WCS	single dance
	Intermediate/Advanced (Int./Adv.)	ME	BA	AT	S	H	WCS	single dance

Abbreviation	Dance	Abbreviation	Dance
2S	Two Step	P	Paso Doble
AT	Argentine Tango	PK	Polka
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
ME	Merengue		

Proficiency Levels

Competitors may dance in **two consecutive proficiency levels for the same event**, except for Country Western and Social Dances events. Acceptable combinations of levels are:

Newcomer and Bronze

Newcomer Pro/Am 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, 2016**. 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.

Pro/Am: Pro/Am events will be judged separately. The less experienced dancer will be judged, and he or she may **not** enter both the Newcomer Pro/Am 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 Pro/Am entries. For example, a competitor may dance in Gold, Novice, and as a more experienced dancer in Newcomer Pro/Am within the International Latin style. Please note that in the registration, **Pro/Am Ladies event requires the Lead to be the more experienced dancer while Pro/Am Gents event requires the Follow to be the more experienced dancer.**

Competitors may only dance in one level (Beginner **or** Int./Adv.) for Country Western and Social Dances events.

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. All the syllabi have been updated after USA Dance National 2016, so make sure that you check them to keep your routines up-to-date.**

Formation Team Rules and Regulations

Registration Regulations

Formation teams need to pre-register by contacting Agnes Jiang (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. 5 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. Any competitor who is wearing a costume will not be allowed to compete in 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: Country Western (hats only).

Awards

Ribbons will be distributed as listed below:

Dance Category	Ribbons Distributed
All Single Dances	Top 6 couples per dance
Newcomer Pro/Am	Top 6 Newcomers per dance
Gold and Championship Multidances	Top 6 couples overall

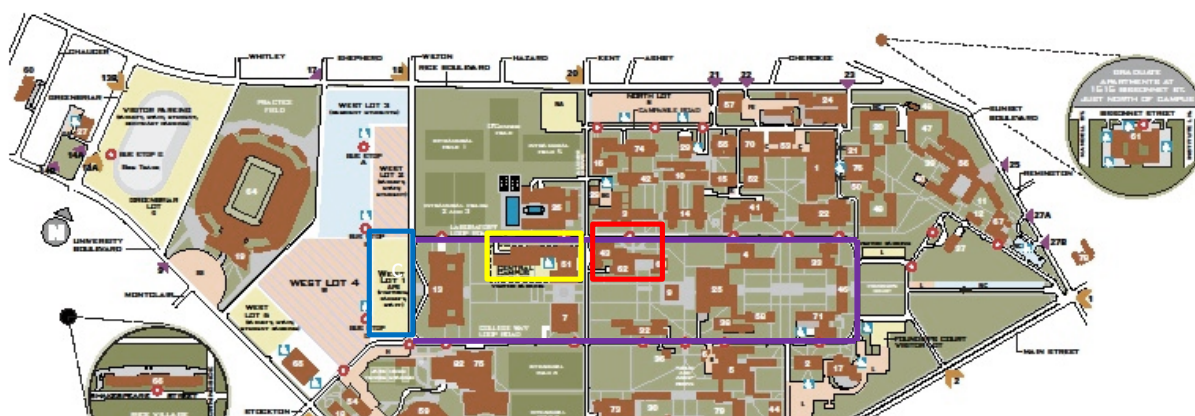
Team Match

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; however, Rice Coffeehouse will be open from 10 AM to 5 PM. We will be selling pizza at the competition during lunch (first come, first served). **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. 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 minutes' 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.

Disability Support

Special requests to accommodate disabilities are made on a case-by-case basis. Contact Agnes Jiang at riceballroomteam@gmail.com prior to October 5, 2016 to discuss special accommodations.

Contact

For competition questions, comments, and concerns, please contact the competition coordinator:
Agnes Jiang (riceballroomteam@gmail.com)