



**Competitors
Information Packet
for the**

**1st Annual
Sapphire
Mini-Match
Competition**

**Saturday, April 1, 2006
This is no April Fool's joke!**

**Sign-Up deadline: Asap
Money due date: March 25th**

1st Annual

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Competitors Information Packet Table of Contents

Table of Contents - Page 1

Competition Details - Page 2

Basic Schedule - Page 3

Take a Break at the Stacill's - Page 3

Ladies' Appearance - Page 4

Gent's Appearance - Page 5

Competition FAQs - Page 6

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Table of Contents - Page 1

Sapphire Mini-Match Competition Details



Date: Saturday, April 1, 2006, 12:30 pm
This is no April Fool's joke!

Sign-Up deadline: Asap

Advance registration encouraged for all activities, though afternoon passes for non-competitors may be purchased at the door. Official entry forms are available at the studio or on our website. You may also e-mail us at info@saphiredance.com and let us know how many heats you plan to enter: be sure to include your level, age category, and partner's name for each heat.

Money due date: March 25th

Cost: Competitors' fees: \$35/person, plus \$10 per entry

Afternoon Pass (11-5pm) for Non-Competitors= \$15

Evening Pass (7pm - close) for Non-Competitors= \$25

Competitors' Fees include:

- Admission for entire event's activities ^a
- Scores and comments from the judge ^b
- Light refreshments through out the day
- "R&R" at Stancill's house after comp ^c
- The Return of the Mini-Match
- An Evening of Social Dancing Fun! ^d

Afternoon Passes include:

- Admission to activities held between 11am and 5pm ^a
- Light refreshments
- "R&R" at Stancill's house after comp ^c

Evening Passes include:

- "R&R" at Stancill's house after comp ^c
- Admission to activities scheduled after the break ^a
- Buffet Dinner
- The Return of the Mini-Match
- An Evening of Social Dancing Fun! ^d

^a See Page 3 for the Schedule of Events

^b See Pages 6-8 for all the information you need to know about competing.

^c See Page 3. We have a place to rest and freshen up before the evening festivities.

^d We'll dance until we drop. This is a great chance to meet fellow dancers from around the region.



A Day of Dancing Fun!

Basic Schedule*

Doors open for warm-up and practice at 11:00am.
Please sign-in by 12 noon.

12:30pm	Smooth/Standard Heats Begin
*2:00 pm	Showcase Routines
*2:30pm	Latin/Rhythm Heats
*5:00-7:00pm	Break (see note below)
7:00pm	Dinner served
8:00pm	Mini-Match
	Open Dancing Until ???

*These times are approximate. If you are missing, when your heat begins, the competition moves on without you, and fees are forfeited. A detailed schedule will be available the day of the Competition.

Take A Break at the Stancill's

Dail and Linda are opening their house to all competition participants for a few minutes of "R&R." Their house is only a few minutes drive from the studio - it's a great opportunity to get to know other dancers in the area and just relax after a hard day's competition. Light snacks will be provided, please bring your own beverage.

Directions will be available at the competition. Open to both competitors and non-competitors.



Ladies' Appearance

Take current style inspiration from professional dancers, & couple it with tasteful age-appropriate coverage, reasonable budget & comfort. Be sure everything will stay put.

Hair: No movement that can get in the way of your dancing, partner or eye sight. Clips should be fail-proof. Same style can be used for all entries.



Make-Up: Go beyond the everyday. Highlight your favorite facial feature. Feeling adventurous? Try tanning spray, fake lashes & bright nail polish.

Jewelry: Costume jewelry makes the simplest outfit sparkle. Use rhinestones, crystals, pearls etc. to adorn the ears, neck, arm or shoes. Be weary of items get in the way of your dancing or get caught on clothing.

Top: Short or long sleeved, sleeveless, tank, halter, spaghetti straps etc. Pick a style & fabric that's flattering to you & allows full range of motion. Create more movement with arm bands in Latin/Rhythm, and scarves or chiffon-type attachments for Standard/Smooth.

Underwear: Pantyhose (flesh-colored usually best) should be sheer-to-waist with cheerleader bloomers or leotard on top (We don't want to see control tops or panties). Flesh-color fishnets are fun for Latin/ Rhythm. Bra support is needed & should be discreet and suitable for the lines/color of the outfit.

Bottom for Latin/Rhythm: Usually a skirt above the knee, though options are endless depending on figure & age. Examples could include full, straight with slanted lines, ruffled, tasseled, longer with slits etc.

Bottom for Standard/Smooth: Full enough to accommodate the largest stride, Length can range from just below the knee to ankle. Flowing materials are ideal. Be sure it does not drag the ground or catch on the heel.

Shoes: Those made for ballroom dancing strongly recommended. Flesh color is best, which takes

attention away from the feet, lengthens leg lines & goes with any outfit. Ideally, wear closed toe for standard/smooth and open toe for latin/rhythm. If you feel comfortable in 2-1/2" heels, wear them. These ideal choices are not required; talk to your instructor about what you have that could work.



Gent's Appearance

Attire choices are simpler than for ladies, but the same principle applies: Couple current styles of professional dancers with tasteful age-appropriate & comfortable clothing. There is no need to buy the expensive tails or clothes specifically designed for dance competition.



Hair/ Make-Up: Up-dos are a must...just kidding. These are probably not issues for men, but if your hair is long ask your instructor for guidance. A fresh haircut would be great!

Top for Standard/Smooth: Professional competitors wear a tux shirt, one of many styles of ties, vest and tails. However, their costumes are specifically designed for dancing so that movement in the coat does not disrupt their top line and overall look. Therefore, even if you own a tux or are willing to rent one, it may not be worth it. We encourage the tux shirt (usually white) and formal-style tie along with a good fitting vest. (No coat) Though not necessary, it can be fun to coordinate your vest with your partner's attire.

Top for Latin/Rhythm: Most men wear black shirts, though almost any color can be good. Short-sleeve, long-sleeve, collared, v-neck, button-down or knit could all be acceptable. Wear something with ease of movement that is also flattering to you.

Jewelry: Guys can wear it too, just make sure it doesn't get in the way of dancing.

Underwear: Just don't let us see it.

Bottom: Most men wear black: you can use the same pants for all styles of dancing. Be sure your pants are hemmed well and the correct length: you want to avoid both "the high water look" and the risk of getting your heel caught in the hem. Straight legged or slightly wider bottoms tend to look better on the floor than tapered. Tux accents, flat front, pleats, hemmed, and cuffed options should be determined based on comfort and what's flattering to you.

Shoes: Shoes made for ballroom dancing are ideal and strongly encouraged. Professional competitors wear a $\frac{3}{4}$ " - 1"

heel, black patent leather for smooth/standard heats; & 1 ½ - 2" heel, black leather for latin/rhythm. One pair of shoes is all that is necessary for you. Ask your instructor for alternatives if you don't have any dance shoes.



FAQs about the Competition: Entries & Judging

1. How long is a heat?

1:20-1:30 minutes

2. How many other couples will be on the floor with me?

At least one, but up to 5

3. Which age categories & levels can I enter?

Levels

NC= Newcomer

BZ1= Bronze 1

BZ2= Bronze 2

SV1= Silver 1

SV2= Silver 2

GLD= Gold

Age Categories

Youth= Below 18

YA= 18-35

A= 36-50

B= 51-66

C= 67-79

D= 80+

You may enter the level that best describes your overall dancing ability plus up to 2 levels higher on certain dances, where appropriate. Many events limit a Newcomer competitor to 50 total lesson hours, though if you have had more but are competing for the first time, we allow you to enter as a Newcomer.

Adults may enter their own age category plus one younger.

All levels may be entered as open or closed, where closed heats require syllabus figures only, and open heats allow for more complex or creative amalgamations.

4. What will the judge look for?

Good frame and confident carriage, clean footwork, and good timing are all very important. He will also want to see you enter and exit the dance floor comfortably and confidently. He will give a score out of 100 for each heat, plus feedback on how to improve.

5. What dances should I compete in? How many heats?

Participate in as many heats as you can comfortably prepare for: you'll have more fun and take your mind off being nervous. Also, there is 10 heat minimum for a student to be eligible for *Top Student Award*. The more you dance the more chance the judge has to provide feedback.



6. What songs will I be dancing to?

For heats, you'll know when you walk out on the floor. You can expect the following tempos:

American Style		International Style	
Dance	Tempo*	Dance	Tempo*
Before Spotlight Routines			
Waltz	28-32 (30)	Waltz	28-31 (29)
Fox Trot	30-34 (30)	Fox Trot	27-30 (28)
Tango	28-33 (32)	Tango	32-33 (32)
Viennese Waltz	50-54	Viennese Waltz	52-60 (58)
		Quickstep	48-52 (50)
After Spotlight Routines			
Carolina Shag	28-35		
Country 2-Step	34-50 (42)		
Night Club 2-Step	Wide Range (33)		
Merengue	55-80 (66) (2/4 time)		
Rumba	26-32 (28)	Rumba	24-28 (26)
Cha Cha	28-32 (30)	Cha Cha	30-32 (31)
Mambo	35-50 (42)	Samba	50
East Coast Swing	32-36 (36)	Jive	44
Bolero	20-26 (24)	Paso Doble	60-62
West Coast Swing	26-32 (28)		
Hustle	27-31 (29)		
Samba	48-52 (50)		
Salsa	40-50 (46)		

* In Measures Per Minute [MPM] or Bars per Minute [BPM] Fast-paced dances may be played at slowest acceptable tempo for Newcomer Entries Note: Numbers in parentheses () are considered the target tempo.

7. What patterns should I dance? Should it be choreographed?

Do patterns that you are already comfortable with, and spend your lesson time on fine tuning. Choreography is usually reserved for Spotlight Routines, but sometimes leaders like to have a sequence in mind.



8. Who will I be dancing with?

Your teacher, spouse, friend...you could choose to dance with all three for various entries. An Amateur/Amateur couple pays only one \$10 entry fee per heat.

9. What do I need to know to perform a Spotlight Routine?

A Spotlight Routine allows you to choose your own song, and have exact choreography planned. It does however mean you will be the only couple on the floor.

-Cost is the same as entering a heat.

- Turn in your audio CD clearly labeled with your name, instructor's name, track number etc. at registration. If possible bring an edited version of your song, so that the DJ has no manual fading to do.

We have no way to play cassette tapes or change the tempo of the song on our sound equipment.

- From entrance to exit the length should be 1:30-2:30 minutes.

- Routines can involve costumes and/or props. For scheduling reasons, let us know as soon as possible how much changing time you will need.

10. What should I wear?

See pages 5-6 regarding competition wear. Attire for the evening is Semi-Formal party dress. In other words, not formal, but take it up a notch or 2 from what you wear at regular dance parties.





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