

On behalf of  
The United States DanceSport Competition Federation,  
you are cordially invited to participate in the 2011  
**USDSF National Qualifying Events**  
for the  
**International Dance Organization World Championships**

These are the “first ever” USDSF National Qualifying Events and will be held in Houston, Texas, on Saturday, April 16, 2011. Three dances are being offered in this first set of qualifying events:

**Salsa      Argentine Tango      Bachata.**

Entering these events gives qualifying dancers the opportunity to become the first official representatives of the United States at the IDO World Championships to be held in the Centrum Babylon in beautiful Liberec, Czech Republic, November 3 – 6, 2011.

Competitors from all over the country are invited to participate in these events, which will be held at The Dance Place, 3300 Chimney Rock, Suite 500, Houston, TX, 77056. This competition will take place during the evening of April 16, 2011. Our program will start at 8:30pm, and will follow the Gulf Coast Stars Dace Tournament, which is a Ballroom competition held in the same venue earlier in the day.

This is a very affordable event for everyone. Spectators are welcome, so invite all your family and friends to come cheer you on to victory. Pricing, conditions of entry, rules, entry forms and other information is listed elsewhere in this booklet.

If you have questions about these USDSF National Qualifying Events not addressed in this information packet, feel free to contact us via [USDSF-Events@theplace2dance.com](mailto:USDSF-Events@theplace2dance.com).

### **Tentative Schedule of Events**

#### **Saturday evening, April 16, 2011**

8:30pm: Welcoming ceremonies, introduction of officials

8:40pm: Warm-up music – everyone enjoy some Bachata

8:50pm: First Round for Bachata

9:00pm: Warm-up music – everyone enjoy some Tango

9:10pm: First Round for Argentine Tango

9:20pm: Warm-up music – everyone enjoy some Salsa

9:30pm: First Round for Salsa

The overall number of entries will determine the final schedule for these events

## **Competition Rules and Information**

### **Eligibility Requirements**

A \$10 per dancer (\$20 per couple) Annual Registration Fee payable to USDSF is a requirement for entering these events.

A \$20 per dancer (\$40 per couple) Competition Registration Fee is a requirement for entering these events. This fee includes 1 admission ticket for the dancer and 1 additional ticket for a coach, guardian or choreographer.

A \$10 per couple entry fee is required for each division being entered.

No distinction is made between “amateurs” and “professionals” in these events.

Only male/female pairings are eligible to enter these Special Couples Division events.

All Contestants, Judges, Officials and Guests agree to abide by the USDSF and IDO Code of Ethics and Conduct for Teachers, Coaches and Choreographers, which may be viewed in full at [www.ido-dance.com](http://www.ido-dance.com)

### **General Format and Entry Divisions**

The ON-DECK system will be used for all events. Contestants should be in or adjacent to the ballroom and ready to dance 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time for the heat in which they are competing.

Any competitors who do not appear on the dance floor by the time the music begins will be disqualified for that event.

All events will be danced to music selected by the Organizer and/or DJ with the exception of the Final Rounds as specified under the rules for each dance.

All Contestants entering the Argentine Tango division should prepare a solo routine for TANGO FANTASIA.

If time permits, a break for costume changes will be provided for couples that will perform TANGO FANTASIA solos.

All music selected by the Organizer and/or DJ will be within the timing parameters specified under the rules for each dance.

The SKATING SYSTEM of judging will be used for this competition.

In events featuring more than one dance, such as Argentine Tango, contestants must perform all dances as specified.

In events featuring more than one dance, the couples will be placed according to their overall scores tabulated from the individual scores received for each dance.

### **Awards**

Medals will be presented to the top three couples in each division.

Ribbons will be presented to the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> place couples in each division.

### **Heats**

Separate heats will be formed for each age division.

Multiple age divisions may be on the floor at one time

When multiple age divisions are on the floor at one time, they will each be judged separately

### **Age Divisions**

Children: 8 thru 11 | Junior: 12 thru 15 | Adult 1: 16 & over | Adult 2: 31 & over | Senior: 50 & Up

Note 1: Persons over 31 may dance in the Adult 1 group, which requires the minimum age of 16 for entry eligibility, but has no maximum age limit.

Note 2: The title of IDO World Champions is only awarded to the Adult 1 age category; All other titles will feature the name of the age divisions, such as IDO Junior World Champions, IDO Senior World Champions, etc.

Note 3: Although all age divisions are available at the USDSF National Qualifying Events, there is no guarantee that all of these same age divisions will be offered at the official IDO World Championships in these Special Couple Division Events

## USDSF National Qualifying Events Entry Form

<b>Male dancer:</b>	First	Last:		
Address		City	ST	Zip
Email address		Phone		
<b>Female dancer</b>	First	Last:		
Address		City	ST	Zip
Email address		Phone		

### Please Circle Appropriate Age Division

Children: 8-11 | Junior: 12-15 | Adult 1: 16 & over | Adult 2: 31 & over | Senior: 50 & Up

### Please Circle the Appropriate Division(s) in the list below. Entry fee per dance = \$10.00

Bachata	Argentine Tango	Salsa
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Please fill out 1 sheet per couple	Male Dancer		Female Dancer	
	USDSF Reg. Fee	\$ 10.00	USDSF Reg. Fee	\$ 10.00
	Competition Reg. Fee	\$ 20.00	Competition Reg. Fee	\$ 20.00
	1/2 total Entry Fees	\$	1/2 Total Entry Fees	\$
	Total due for Male Dancer	\$	Total Due for Female Dancer	\$
USDSF Reg Fees should be on a separate check payable to USDSF.		All other Fees - Competition Reg Fees, Entry Fees and Admission Ticket Fees should be payable to - <b>The Dance Place</b>		

**Mail Entry Forms and Payments to: The Dance Place, 3300 Chimney Rock, Suite 500, Houston, TX, 77056**

<b>Additional Admission Tickets may be purchased for the following fees:</b> (No charge for infants and children through age 6)			Combined total due for this couple: \$ _____
Children ages 7 thru 12 = \$5	# tickets = _____ @ \$5 =	\$	
Youths aged 13 thru 15 = \$10	# tickets = _____ @ \$10 =	\$	<b>Entry Deadline: April 6, 2011.</b>
Adult 1 & Up = \$15	# tickets = _____ @ \$15 =	\$	
Total # tickets = _____		Total Fee for all tickets	

**Note:** There is no fee due for Registered Competitor Admission Tickets

Both Competitors (or parent or guardian for contestants under age 18) must sign this form in order to participate.

**Male:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Female:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Entries will be accepted after the entry deadline for a fee of \$25 and on a “space available” basis.

## **ARGENTINE TANGO (TANGO, MILONGA, TANGO VALS AND TANGO FANTASIA)**

**Music:** Organizer's music in all rounds EXCEPT the final round, where dancers may use their own music for Tango Fantasia.

**Length of Exhibition:** Two (2) minutes long, to conform to the end of the musical phrase, in all rounds EXCEPT the final round of Tango Fantasia. Music chosen for Tango Fantasia final round performances must not exceed three (3) minutes.

**Tempo:** Tango 30 - 32 bars per minute (120 - 128 beats per minute). Milonga (27-32) Tango Vals (48-55)

### **Tango Competition Rules**

**First Round:** One minute of "warming up / presentation to judges" for all couples, which will be repeated in each dance. If there are more couples entered than will comfortably fit onto the floor, the couples will be divided into 2 groups.

### **Order of Dances:**

**First thru Semifinal Round:** Milonga, Tango Vals (Waltz), Tango

**Final Round:** Tango (1 minute of "warm-up" only), Milonga, Tango Vals (Waltz), Tango Fantasia

**Note:** Only normal hold with no lifts and no separations allowed in Milonga and Tango Vals (Waltz) in any round.

Separations and lifts are permitted in Tango and Tango Fantasia, but no lift may be used where both of a dancer's feet are above the other dancer's shoulders.

### **Format of Round One:**

#### **Milonga**

All couples will dance together a 1-minute warm-up session. They will then be divided into heats containing 6 couples each, and these couples will all dance 2 minutes of Milonga together on the floor at the same time.

#### **Tango Vals (Waltz)**

All couples dance together a 1-minute warm-up session before separating into heats of 6 couples each; these couples will dance 2 minutes of Tango Vals (Waltz) together on the floor at the same time.

#### **Tango**

1-minute warm-up session for all couples, then individual heats of 6 couples each will dance 2 minutes of Tango.

### **Semifinal Round:**

A maximum of 12 couples in this round. Depending on the size of the floor, the couples may be divided into two (2) heats comprised of 6 couples in each heat.

#### **Milonga**

All 12 couples dance the 1-minute warm-up together, then separate into 2 heats of 6 couples each and dance 2 minutes of Milonga.

**Tango Vals (Waltz):** As for Milonga

**Tango:** As for Milonga. Some separations and some lifts permitted in TANGO ONLY during this round.

### **Final Round**

All 6 couples start by dancing Tango in a 1-minute warm-up. Lifts and separations may be used.

All couples will then dance Milonga for 2 minutes as the judges place them 1 thru 6.

All couples then dance 2 minutes of Tango Vals (Waltz) while the judges mark them 1 thru 6.

#### **Tango Fantasia**

If time permits there will be a break for costume changes for those couples who wish to change. Afterward, each couple will present a Tango Fantasia solo performance in which they are placed 1 thru 6.

Separations, floor lines, slashes and lifts are permitted in Tango Fantasia; no lift is permitted where both of one dancer's feet are above the other dancer's shoulders.

At least 50% of the performance must be Tango Fantasia; the remainder may be composed of Milonga and/or Tango Vals (Waltz).

Tango Fantasia routines must be no longer than 3 minutes.

## SALSA

1. Organizer's music in preliminary and semi-final rounds, Organizer's music OR music of the dancers' choice in the final
2. **Length of Exhibition:** In all rounds except the final, the length of performance should be 1 1/2 minutes long, to conform to the end of the musical phrase. In the final round, the couple may use music of their choice or the Organizer's music, which must be 2 minutes of music to the end of the musical phrase, but must not exceed 2 minutes 15 seconds.
3. **Tempo:** 48 - 52 bars per minute (196 - 208 beats per minute).
4. **Characteristics and Movement:** Salsa is of Latin-American origin but has developed in different ways over the past several years. There are three main styles of Salsa: The Salsa Cuban style, the Salsa Puerto Rico/New York style (Street Mambo) and the L.A. style. All three styles are accepted for these qualifying events. The Salsa basic consists of a two times three-step pattern taken during 8 beats of music, in a "quick.quick.slow, quick.quick.slow" rhythm. Dancers may break on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> beat in the bar or on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> beat in the bar, but should break on those beats consistently. If one starts on breaking on 1 or 3 one must continue to break on 1 or 3 and not suddenly start breaking on 2 and 4.
5. **In preliminary and in the semi-final rounds,** six (6) couples will dance at the same time, but this is determined by the size of the dance floor. In the final round, each couple performs alone.
6. **Lifts:** Low lifts are permitted and, in the final round, each couple may use one acrobatic figure such as a cartwheel, but only one.
7. At least 75% of the performance should be danced with a hold.
8. **In every round including the final,** all couples will dance an opening minute and a final minute together.

## BACHATA

1. Organizer's music in preliminaries and semi-final, Organizer's music OR music of the dancers' choice in the final.
2. **Length of Exhibition:** In all rounds except the final, the length of performance should be 1½ minutes long, to conform to the end of the musical phrase. In the final round, the couple may use music of their choice or the Organizer's music, which must be 2 minutes of music to the end of the musical phrase, but must not exceed 2minutes 15 seconds.
3. **Tempo:** 28 - 32 bars per minute in 4/4 time signature (112-128 beats per minute)
4. **Characteristics and Movement:** Bachata is of Caribbean origin with a basic action that is rather slow, flowing, romantic and passionate. Patterns are composed of a 3-step movement ending with a lifting/tilting hip moment with no weight transference on 4. The 4th beat is a hip action(lift, drop), counted "and 4", and is NOT a weight transference of "in place, in place" although this Cha Cha-like action/timing with a weight change may be used as an occasional variation. A slight counter sway is often used to compliment the Latin hip movement. Many other rhythms, including syncopations, slows and quicks etc., may be used in interpreting the music. Bachata is a club dance and partners should focus on one another to create an earthy and sensual feeling through the use of close, intricate rotational movements coupled with an almost playful teasing interaction with one another.
5. **In preliminary and semi-final rounds,** up to 6 couples will dance at the same time, but this is determined by the size of the dance floor. In the final round, each couple performs alone.
6. **In every round including the final,** all couples will dance an opening minute and a final minute together.
7. **In the final round,** each couple may use one turning, stationary or spinning low-level lift, but only one.