

NSDC NATIONAL SHAG DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

Rules:

1. Non-Pro winners upon their next nationals will dance in the Senior or Pro divisions.
2. To enter Pro or Senior division one member of the couple must have moved to Pro status. This means they may have reached Pro status
3. Records must be brought to the 4:00 p.m. Finals & Prelims meetings with N.S.D.C. form. Forms will be turned in. Contestants will dance one record from the Preservation List Thursday, one record Friday and one record on Saturday if in the final cut. Masters dance Friday & Saturday night. Length — 3 minutes each night. Prelims – Friday- 2 minute record with required steps & a 2 minute record on Saturday night for Prelim competitors and all finalist competitors. (** Only exception is the Master division where the record length will now be a minimum of 1 minute 30 seconds but not exceed three minutes)
4. Attendance at the pre-contest meeting is mandatory by at least one of the competing partners.
5. Should there not be enough qualified dancers in either Junior division then both shall become one division. The overall Junior award is given to the couple placing the highest of both divisions.
6. Masters Division — The female must be at least 49 years of age and the male at least 50 years of age by the last night of competition. Their combined age must be at least 100 years of age. Age is not the only criteria. They also must show they have “mastered” the artistry of the dance through their dancing career. One of couple composition must be an inducted member of the Shaggers Hall of Fame.
7. Each couple will be composed of one male and one female.
8. Judging for the Preliminaries and the Finals will be the National’s placement system.
9. Scoring for Finals will be cumulative for Judges’ final decision — all three dances (two for the Masters) will decide Judges’ championship placement.
10. The overall winner from Pro, Non-Pro, Juniors and Seniors Divisions will be determined by the judges ranking the divisional winner #1- #4 in preference.
11. Any contest rulings will be governed by a majority vote of the N.S.D.C. Board of Directors.

12. The entry fee is \$75.00 per couple. Make checks payable to the National Shag Dance Championships.
13. Juniors must not have reached their 21st birthday by the last night of competition for Division II and not reached their 15th birthday by the last night of competition for Division I.
14. The Nationals committee reserves the right to disqualify or give a year's probation — disallowing him/her to compete the following year (s) for exemplifying un-sportsman-like conduct.
15. The entry deadline is listed at the bottom of the application form. Application and entry fees must be in the hands of the Nationals by the deadline, not postmarked by that date. Any applications received late will be returned, no exceptions.
16. Requirement steps – Compulsory! – For 1st Round – Friday night (Prelims) and Thursday night (Finals), Masters are exempt – The following shag steps must be done by male and female at the same time:
 - Basic – Facing each other.
 - Pivot – full
 - Duck Walk – on one foot, the other – male and female simultaneously.
 - Boogie Walk – kick and boogie, boogie – male and female simultaneously.
 - Belly Roll – at least one complete belly roll; with male lead (his left on a 1-2 count, then 3-4 count on his right, then 5-6).Judging auditors (2) will check off requirement steps.
For each step not performed – each judge's placement will drop the couple one position for the first night's score. Example: If a judge places you third and you omit the belly-roll and a pivot, you would be placed fifth on the judge's ballot.
17. Each dancer is limited to dance in one division.
18. Senior Division – The female must be at least 49 years of age and the male must be at least 50 years of age by the last day of finals. Judged on smoothness, togetherness, repertoire, execution and degree of difficulty.
19. N.S.D.C. Board and Committee members are eligible to enter any division, but will not serve on “The Judges Selection Committee”.

20. A list of classic shag recordings is available to all Pro, Non-Pro, Seniors and Juniors to select from for their Thursday night requirements record. The list was selected by many Disc-Jockeys in order of preference #1 – #25 and the top 173 comprise the list. The list is on this website. Dancers may fax or e-mail their Thursday night letter of preference ASAP (prior to sending in their application). NO record will be danced to more than once on that night. The first faxed or e-mailed times and dates will be the couples to use the record. This is to avoid hearing the same record more than twice.

21. When a Non-Pro dancer wins his or her third C.S.A/S.P.A (combined) contest they move into the Pro Division of the Nationals even if they have not danced Pro in C.S.A

Divisions:

****Update to Rules as of July 2021****

We have rules and think we have everything covered. We want to be “Fair” – thus, the rules. Sometimes new circumstances arise, such as back in 2017...if a couple is not in the building and their number is called to dance, can they still dance? Didn’t have a rule – now we do.

This coming year, we will clarify a few divisional rules.

Any person who has placed 4th or higher in Junior II is not eligible to dance in the Non-Pro Division. The dancer is now eligible to move directly to the Pro Division. Our Junior II finalists are very talented and have many years of experience as do our Pro competitors!

If any male or female dances in the Masters Division, they cannot dance in the Non-Pro Division in the coming years. It already exists for the Pro and Seniors Divisions! We neglected to include the Masters Divisions.

These decisions are made with advice from our Advisory Board of Directors. We try to be Fair. Before now, there was no written rule – most people assumed once you danced in an elevated division, you could not go back: Done!

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION:

Any person who has danced in a Professional Shag contest, specifically in the Competitive Shaggers Association. Masters and Seniors can enter this division. Must be 21.

NON-PROFESSIONAL DIVISION:

No professional competitors or winners of Junior Overall. Novice, amateur and beginners who are 21 years of age and older and have never danced in any professional Shag

contest. Dancers who have previously danced in the NSDC Senior, Masters, or Pro divisions are ineligible to compete in the Non-Pro division.

MASTERS DIVISION (Invitational):

The female must be at least 49 years of age and the male 50 years of age, but with a total of at least 100 years combined. These ages must be reached by the last night of the finals in March. No novices or amateurs in this category. One dancer must be a Hall of Fame member. They will be judged by Hall of Fame Dancers. Judged on smoothness, togetherness and showmanship.

SENIOR DIVISION

The female must be at least 49 years of age and the male must be at least 50 years of age by the last day of finals. Only pro dancers are eligible in this division.

JUNIOR DIVISION I:

14 years and under.

JUNIOR DIVISION II:

15-20 years of age. Anyone who wins Junior Overall will be ineligible to dance in the Non-Pro Division. Anyone who places in the top 4 of Junior II Division must dance in Pro when they turn 21 – they will not be Non-Pro eligible.

***All age requirements by the last night of the finals in March.**