

April 17, 2010

TEXAS BALLROOM *presents the* AUSTIN OPEN 2010

Texas Union Ballroom, on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin

COMPETITION TERMS AND INFORMATION PACKET

ELIGIBILITY

Amateur-Amateur Events are open to ALL amateur dancers.

Mixed Proficiency events are open to any combination of:

- 1) A more advanced amateur dancing with a less-experienced partner. *Only the less-experienced partner will be judged.*
- 2) Two amateurs from different age categories dancing together. (For example, an adult could dance with a youth or collegiate dancer in a mixed proficiency collegiate category.) *In this case only the designated partner would be judged.*

Please note that both partners must fill out an entry form and pay their entry fees if not Texas Ballroom members.

Unlimited Entry Admission Per Person

Texas Ballroom Member Entry Fee: None

UT Students Entry Fee: \$5

General Competitor Entry Fee: \$20

PRIZES

Prizes will be offered in selected events. Trophy awards will only be offered in multi-dance categories. Ribbons will be offered in all events. More information will be forthcoming.

FORMAT AND GENERAL RULES

All events are danced in the freestyle format to music selected by the DJ. There will be no solo exhibitions.

Places in multi-dance events will be determined by the best combined score for all dances in that event.

Dance events will be offered at the following levels:

Newcomer

Bronze / Beginner

Silver / Intermediate

Gold / Advanced

Pre-Championship & Championship*

**Some events only. See Registration website for more information.*

Dance events may be added if sufficient interest is conveyed by email to the Competition Director. See texasballroom.org for contact information.

Costumes: No costume restrictions. See page 4 for more information.

Lifts: No lifts will be permitted in any category. Dancers must have at least one foot on the floor at all times.

Dips and Drops: Dips will be permitted. Drops will not be permitted in any category.

Props: No props will be allowed in any category, except for hats in Country Western and Lindy Hop events.

Salsa: Must break primarily on 1

Mambo: Must break primarily on 2

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PROFICIENCY LEVELS

Newcomer Events are open to anyone who started dancing after September 1, 2009. **To be eligible for Newcomer, this must be the Competitor's first competition.**

Competitors may dance at the same two consecutive proficiency levels for all dance genres entered. Acceptable combinations of levels are

Newcomer* and Bronze

Bronze and Silver

Silver and Gold

Gold and Pre-Championship

For all styles entered, the competitor is restricted to the same two consecutive levels. Dancing outside these two levels requires a Mixed Proficiency entry (see rules for Mixed Proficiency entrants in the Eligibility section above).

Competitors who have accumulated proficiency points on the USABDA, Collegiate, or NDCA circuits are requested to abide by those categories.

All competitors certify by signing the entry form that they are eligible to compete in the events they have marked on the entry form. If a competitor is under 18, a parent or guardian must sign the entry form.

***We encourage Newcomers to enter at the Bronze level as well.**

****Competitors may register for as many styles of dances as they would like.**

AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

Youth: 14-17

Collegiate: 18-35

Adult: 35 or older

Youth and Adult competitors may enter up to **two consecutive** age restricted proficiency levels in any given style. For example, a youth couple may dance in both Youth and Collegiate events, and an Adult couple may dance in both Adult and Collegiate events.

Eligibility for Adult is determined by the age of the younger partner. Eligibility for Youth is determined by the age of the older partner.

A competitor's age eligibility is determined by the age reached during the calendar year whether or not it precedes the date of the competition.

SYLLABUS STEPS

Steps from any nationally recognized syllabus will be acceptable for syllabus events.

Dancers dancing in a syllabus category may dance material from that category plus any lower category. For example, a couple dancing Silver may dance both Silver and Bronze material. Couples dancing Newcomer or Bronze must confine themselves to Bronze material only. To clarify: It is always permissible to dance material from a lower category in a higher category. It is never permissible to dance material from a higher category in a lower

April 17, 2010

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category. **Dancing material from a higher category than the registered level may result in a warning or removal from the dance/competition.**

All categories and events are subject to registration. The organizers reserve the right to combine or cancel events when necessary.

April 17, 2010

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DRESS CODE

Costumes will be permitted, but not required. Jeans will be permitted in **Country Western Events** only.

Suggested dress for Newcomer events:

American Smooth and International Standard Events:

Males: Dark slacks and white shirt closed at the neck, tie optional.

Females: Leotards and wrap skirts or party or cocktail dresses. Rhinestone jewelry will be permitted.

American Rhythm and International Latin Events:

Males: Dark slacks and black or white shirt closed at the neck, tie optional, or black T-shirt without logos or designs, or black turtleneck.

Females: Same as for Smooth/Standard.

Shoes: Competitors should select appropriate shoes. **No slides or flip-flops will be permitted in any event.** Boots will be permitted in Country Western events. Dance shoes appropriate to the style of dance are recommended.

Props: No props will be permitted in any event except for hats used for Country Western and Lindy Hop Dances. Examples of prohibited items are wands and capes.

ENTRY RULES AND DEADLINE

Entries must be received online by midnight April 15, 2010 in order to ensure that the competitor's name appears in the program. Competitors are urged to register early. If you miss early registration you can register on the day of the competition and at the welcome dance. **Late registration or adding additional events *on the day of the competition* will add a one-time \$5 late fee per person to your registration.** Once the competition has begun, late entries will be accepted only if they do not adversely affect the competition schedule. **All payments must be made on the day of the competition, by either cash or check. Make checks payable to Texas Ballroom. UT affiliates MUST show a UT ID in order to receive the UT registration entry fee.** Visit <http://texasballroom.org/comp.php> for latest info on registration costs and payment options.

All entries must be paid in full prior to competing.

Refund Policy

****All payments are final and nonrefundable.**

April 17, 2010

TEXAS BALLROOM *presents the* AUSTIN OPEN 2010

Texas Union Ballroom, on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin

Liability

Texas Ballroom and the University of Texas cannot accept liability for injury sustained by persons attending this event: all competitors compete at their own risk.

Texas Ballroom and the University of Texas accept no responsibility for loss or theft of articles left in changing rooms, hotel rooms, or at the competition venue.

April 17, 2010

TEXAS BALLROOM *presents the* AUSTIN OPEN 2010

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, April 16, 2010- Texas Union Ballroom

- 7PM Free Open International Tango Workshop feat. Denis Generalov
- 8PM Competitor Welcome Dance
- 11PM Goodnight, see you tomorrow!

Saturday, April 17, 2010- Texas Union Ballroom

(All times are approximate)

- 10:00AM-11:30AM Check-In & Late Registration
 - o **ALL COMPETITORS MUST CHECK IN BY 11:30 AM**
- 11:30-11:55AM Warm-Up

12:00-2:00PM Session 1

- Country Western
- American Smooth
- International Standard
- Awards. End of Session.

2:00-3:00PM General Dancing/Lunch Break

03:00-7:00PM Session 2

- International Latin
- American Rhythm
- Social
- All Open Dances
- Fun Dances & Awards

07:00PM End of Session. Thanks for coming, see you next year!

****Times and events are subject to change.**

*** All competitors MUST check-in by 11:30AM**

Note: The organizers will make every effort to allow time between rounds of any one event; however, this time will be used to run other events. Competitors should be aware that entering multiple events may result in a shorter break.

Notification of Events

Please note that all times are approximate. Competitors should be in the ballroom and ready to dance 30 minutes prior to the scheduled event. Events may run earlier or later than scheduled. Events will not be delayed. Competitors should remain aware of the progress of the events.

April 17, 2010

TEXAS BALLROOM *presents the* AUSTIN OPEN 2010

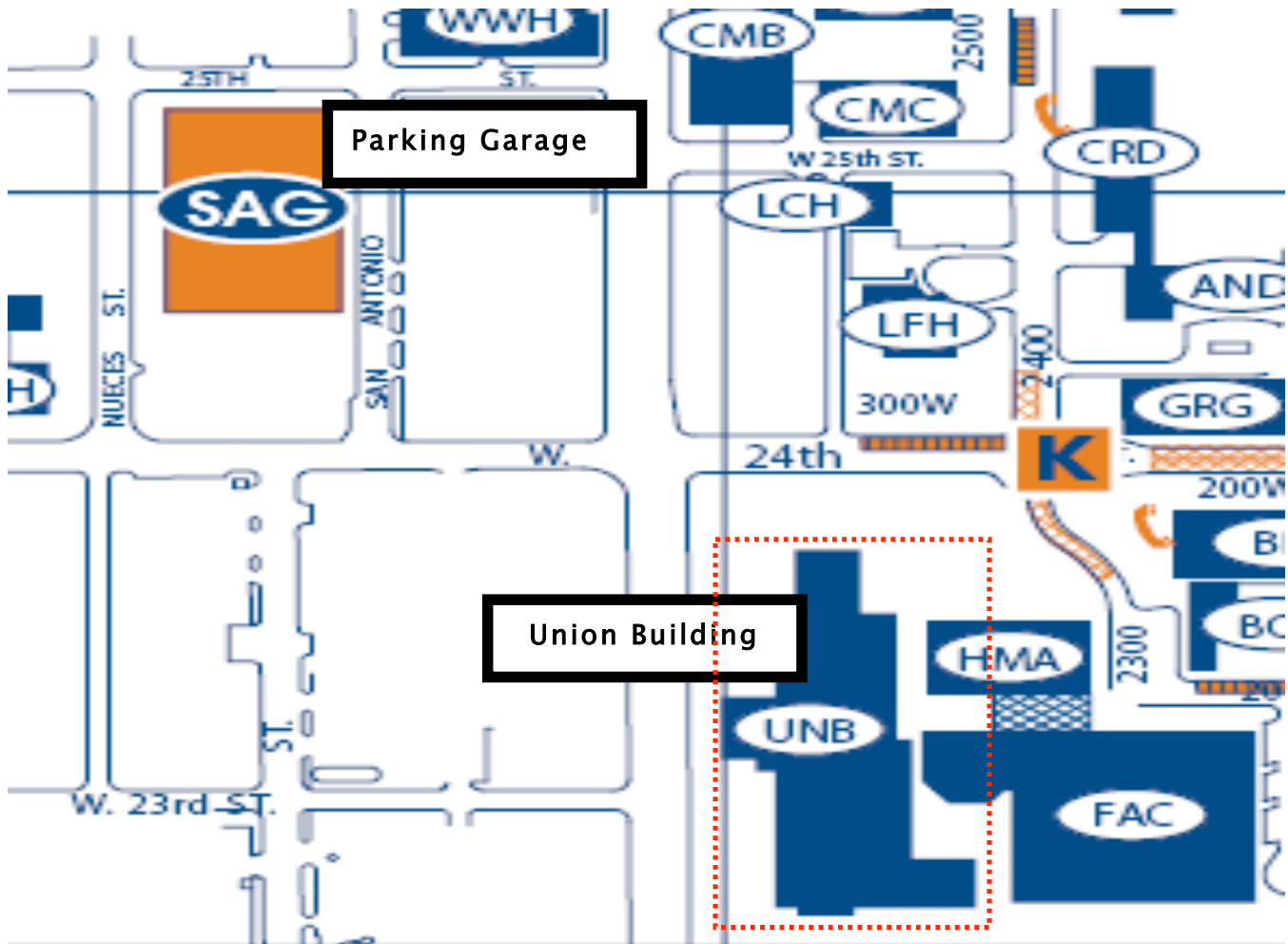
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Please note that this schedule is preliminary. Check the posted heat list for the final schedule of events at the competition.

TRAVEL, PARKING, FOOD, AND ACCOMMODATIONS

DIRECTIONS

The Texas Union Building is just south of the intersection of Guadalupe and 24th Street on Guadalupe, just across the street from the University Co-op on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin.



From Houston, take I10 to 71 North to I35. Go North on I35. Take the exit for Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Go left (west) on Martin Luther King. You will see the UT campus on your right. Turn right (north) on Guadalupe Street.

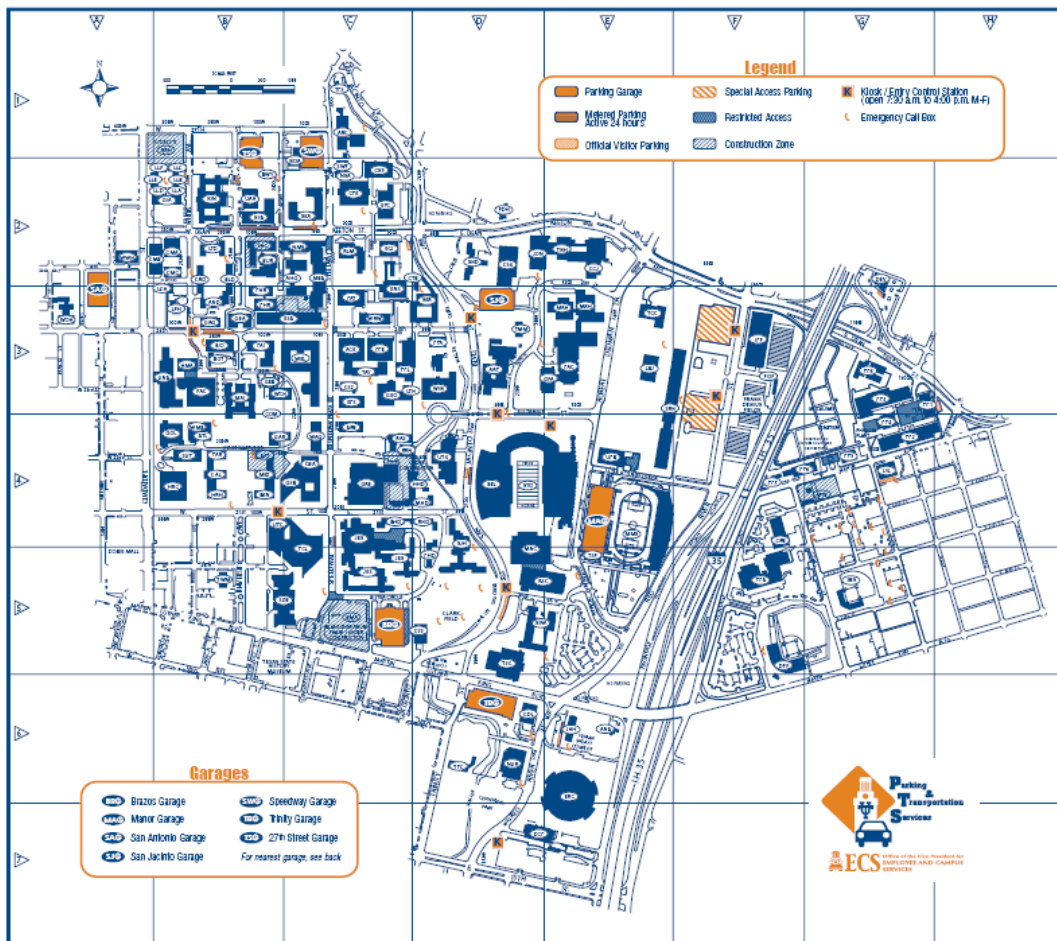
From Dallas, take I35 south to Austin. Take the exit for Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Go right (west) on Martin Luther King. You will see the UT campus on your right. Turn right (north) on Guadalupe Street.

April 17, 2010

TEXAS BALLROOM *presents the* AUSTIN OPEN 2010

Texas Union Ballroom, on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin

Once on Guadalupe Street, continue northbound for several blocks to 27th Street. Turn left (west) on 27th Street. Continue on 27th Street until it dead-ends into Nueces. Turn left on Nueces, and continue down Nueces until you reach the garage between 25th and 24th streets. The San Antonio parking garage (SAG on the map) will be on the left. From the garage, walk south to 24th Street and go east (left). Continue on 24th Street, crossing Guadalupe into campus. The Union (UNB on the map) will be on the right. The Ballroom is on the 3rd floor. See <http://www.utexas.edu/maps/> for more information.



Parking: Some parking is available on the Guadalupe Street, and on streets on campus, however attendees should be aware that this parking is extremely limited. Please refer to the map above. In addition, the University of Texas Home Page, <http://www.utexas.edu/parking/maps> has an interactive parking map which indicates additional locations of visitor parking.

Important note concerning all parking on the University of Texas Campus: There are a number of signs describing parking restrictions both in lots and on the street. Please pay careful attention to the signs. In

April 17, 2010

TEXAS BALLROOM *presents the* AUSTIN OPEN 2010

Texas Union Ballroom, on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin

particular, **NEVER** park near a sign bearing the text “**AT ALL TIMES**” as this parking is always restricted to a specific category of user. The University Police are extremely zealous in enforcing parking regulations! Texas Ballroom cannot take any responsibility for parking issues associated with this event.

April 17, 2010

TEXAS BALLROOM *presents the* AUSTIN OPEN 2010

Texas Union Ballroom, on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Austin has a wide variety of hotels in a number of price ranges. The hotels listed below are all within an easy 5 to 10 minute drive of the competition venue. Most of them are on or near I35. Rates given are approximate – please contact the hotels in order to confirm rates prior to making reservations.

Rodeway Inn – Austin (University) (0.7 miles from campus),
2900 N I-35 Austin, TX 78705. (512) 477-6395
Starting at: \$60 per night plus tax.

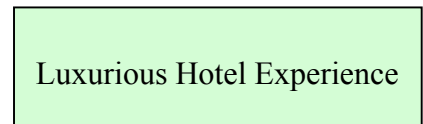
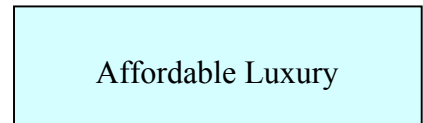
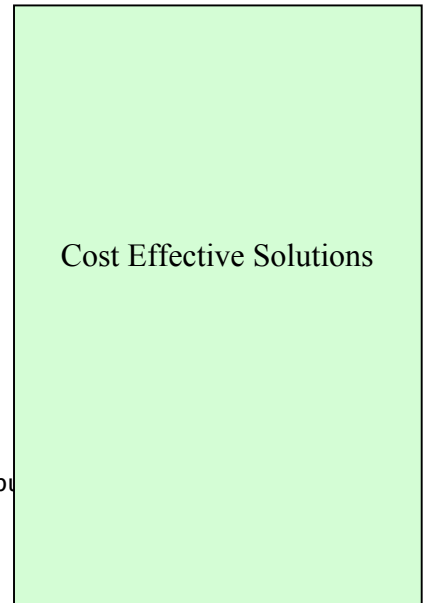
Super 8 Central/Downtown (1.3 miles from campus),
1201 N I-35 Austin, TX 78702. (512) 472-8331
Starting at: \$65 per night plus tax.

Days Inn University Downtown (0.7 miles from campus),
3105 N I-35 Austin, TX 78722 (512) 478-1631
Starting at: \$77 per night plus tax.

Doubletree Club Hotel Austin University Area (1 mile from campus),
1617 N I-35 Austin, TX 78702, (512) 479-4000
Starting at: \$88 per night plus tax.

Doubletree Guest Suites Austin (1 mile from campus),
303 W 15th St. Austin, TX 78701 (512) 478-7000
Starting at: \$171 per night plus tax.

The Driskill (0.7 miles from campus),
604 Brazos St Austin, TX 78701 (512) 474-5911
Starting at: \$295 per night plus tax.



Please contact these hotels directly to confirm rates and availability, and to obtain driving directions.

***Texas Ballroom cannot arrange accommodations for any competitors.**

Food and Restaurants

There are a number of restaurants on and near Guadalupe Street (within walking distance of the competition).

April 17, 2010

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Texas Union Ballroom, on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin

Video and Photography

Texas Ballroom encourages participants to bring their own video and photography equipment. No plans have been made for commercial services. Please note that tripods must not be set up on or near the dance floor.