

March 31 – April 1, 2023

TEXAS BALLROOM presents THE AUSTIN OPEN 2023
Texas Union (Shirley Bird Perry) 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. A professional dancer dancing with an amateur. *Only the amateur will be judged.*

* Please note that each partner must fill out an entry form and pay the entry fee.

Costs

<i>Competitor pass – adult / community members</i>	\$50
<i>Competitor pass - collegiate</i>	\$45
<i>Competitor pass - Youth</i>	\$25
<i>Workshop</i>	\$10
<i>Add for Late Registration up to day prior:</i>	\$5
<i>Add for Late Registration at the door:</i>	\$10
<u>Pre champ and championship competitors receive complimentary admission</u>	

**** Spectating is always free! Bring your friends****

PRIZES:

Ribbons will be offered in all events.

FORMAT AND GENERAL RULES:

1. All events will be danced in the freestyle format to music selected by the DJ / organizers. There will be no solo exhibitions.
2. There are no syllabus restrictions. Dancers will be judged based on quality of dancing.
3. Anyone may lead or follow, however leaders and followers must maintain the same role for the duration of each entry

LEVELS OFFERED:

Newcomer

Beginner (approximates to Bronze)

Intermediate (approximates to Silver)

Advanced (approximates to Gold)

Novice, Pre-Championship, and Championship / Open*

**Certain styles only. See Registration website for more information.*

There are no syllabus restrictions. Dancers will be judged based on quality of dancing.

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PROFICIENCY LEVELS:

Newcomer Events: open to people who started dancing after August 1, 2022. To be eligible for Newcomer, this must be the competitor's first partner dance competition.

Competitors may dance at two consecutive proficiency levels for each dance style entered. Acceptable combinations of proficiency levels are:

Newcomer* and Beginner

Beginner and Intermediate (plus Novice if desired)

Intermediate and Advanced (plus Novice if desired)

Advanced and Novice

Novice and Pre-Championship

Pre-Championship and Championship

*Newcomers are encouraged to enter Beginner as well.

Ballroom and Country Proficiency

1. Proficiency is by style of dance.

For each style of dance entered, a competitor is restricted to

- a. Two consecutive proficiency levels OR
- b. Two consecutive non-open proficiency levels plus Novice.

For example, a person who is dancing both Intermediate and Advanced Standard Waltz must also complete in Intermediate and Advanced Standard Tango, but would be eligible to dance Beginner and Intermediate levels in the Latin dances (S / CC / R / Pa / J). This person would also be eligible to compete in Novice in both Standard and Latin.

Mixed Proficiency entries where the competitor is dancing as the unjudged higher-level partner do not count towards the two consecutive level limit (see rules for Mixed Proficiency entrants in the Eligibility section above)

2. **Novice Events.** Novice is the first open level and is open to any competitor who is competing in the pre-open levels of the same style or in Pre-Championship. Championship dancers are not eligible to compete in Novice.

Social Dances Proficiency

For the social competition ONLY, competitors are welcome to dance in any two consecutive proficiency levels PER DANCE.

Example: a couple could dance Beginner + Intermediate Salsa and Intermediate + Advanced Argentine Tango.

General Proficiency Notes:

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

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2. Competitors may register for as many styles of dances as they would like.
3. **If you have been placing regularly in a given proficiency level at previous competitions, we strongly urge you to dance up to the next level of proficiency rather than dancing down. This provides a more fair competition for newer dancers, and also challenges each competitor to continually develop his or her dancing.**

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.

AGE CATEGORIES

Three age categories will be offered at this year's Austin Open for Mixed Proficiency and Am-Am. These categories will be

Youth (up to 17)

Collegiate/A1 (18-34)

A2 (35+).

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

We reserve the right to disqualify any couple or individual found to be competing in an unsportsmanlike manner. If any inappropriate behavior is seen on the day of competition, we strongly urge witnesses to find one of the Competition Directors immediately to report the incidents so that proper measures may be taken.

SYLLABUS

There are no syllabus restrictions. Dancers will be judged based on quality of dancing.

COSTUMES AND DRESS CODE:

Costumes:

Costumes are permitted, but not required, in any level of competition.

Jeans: No jeans

Embellishments: ***No glitter.*** This is a restriction imposed by the venue. Competitors wearing costumes with glitter will not be permitted to enter the ballroom. Other embellishments such as rhinestones, sequins, etc. are permitted.

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

Shoes: Dance shoes are required. No flip flops, slides, crocs, or street shoes. Dance boots are permitted in Country Western events.

Hats: Hats are permitted in Country Western events only.

Suggested dress for Newcomer events*:

*Note: anyone may lead or follow for the duration of an event. There is no dress code for leaders or followers. The traditional options are described below for information.

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American Smooth and International Standard Events: (traditional option)

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

Followers: Leotards and wrap skirts or party or cocktail dresses (NO GLITTER). Longer skirts suggested but not required. Rhinestone jewelry is permitted.

American Rhythm and International Latin Events: (traditional option)

Leaders: Dark slacks and black or white shirt, black T-shirt without logos or designs, or black turtleneck.

Followers: Same as for Smooth/Standard. (NO GLITTER) Shorter skirts are suggested for ease of movement but not required.

ENTRY RULES AND DEADLINE

Early Registration Deadline:

Entries must be received online by 11:59 PM on Friday March 24.

** Late registration and late payment will be accepted according to the deadlines below**

Registration Deadlines:

Country Western Events: must be complete by 6 pm Friday, March 31.

Syllabus Ballroom Events: must be complete by 6 pm Friday, March 31.

Social Dance Events: must be complete by 10 am Saturday, April 1.

Novice, Pre-Championship, and Championship Events: must be complete by 2 pm, Saturday April 1.

Late Registration / Adds:

Late registration or adding events on Friday evening will add a one-time \$5 late fee per person to your registration.

Late registration or adding additional events on Saturday morning will add a one-time \$10 late fee per person to your registration.

Note: Once the competition has begun, late entries will be accepted only if they do not adversely affect the competition schedule.

Payments:

1. All payments must be made prior to or during check-in at the competition.
2. Texas Ballroom accepts online payment or cash.
3. Visit texasballroom.org for latest information on registration costs and payment options.

Please print and sign waivers prior to the event to expedite check-in.

Registration is required to compete in all categories and events.

*****The organizers reserve the right to combine or cancel events when necessary.*****

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Please Note: All entry fees/payments are final and non-refundable

WORKSHOP

Our esteemed judges Viktoria Belova Soto will offer a workshop on Friday evening. This workshop will be followed by our Welcome Dance / Rounds practice. Prices are shown in the prospective schedule below.

FORMATION TEAMS

While no formal Formation Team competition will be offered, we invite any interested teams to perform their routines on Friday night during the Welcome Dance for spectators and other teams. If interested, please contact us at uttexasballroom@gmail.com by March 24th so that we can plan accordingly.

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.

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 and must sign a waiver prior to competing.

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.

*PROSPECTIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS***

Friday, March 31st, 2023– Belmont Hall Room 402 (BEL 402)

7:00 PM Workshop with Viktoria Belova Soto, \$10 per person

8:00 PM – 10:00 PM Check in, late registration, and Rounds / Welcome Dance

Saturday, April 1st, 2023– Texas Union (Shirley Bird Perry) Ballroom (UNB 3.202)

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM Check-In & Late Registration/Warm-Up

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM Session I – Country Western

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM Session II – International Standard

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Session III – American Smooth

-----*SESSION I – III AWARDS*-----

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM General Dancing/Break**

3:00 PM – 4:15 PM Session IV – International Latin

4:25 PM – 5:45 PM Session V – American Rhythm

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Social Events (Saturday- Session II)

Salsa	West coast swing
Bachata	Hustle
Merengue	Jitterbug
Argentine	Lindy Hop

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. Missing competitors will scratch their events.

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

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.

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS

Bellmont Hall (BEL) (Friday Workshop and check in / rounds is located _____

The Texas Union (**UNB**) is located just south of the intersection of Guadalupe and 24th Street on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin. The building may be entered from the North on Level 3 (same level as the Ballroom) or from the South (West Mall) on Level 2

Texas Union 2247 Guadalupe St, Austin, TX 78713

<https://maps.utexas.edu/#/utm>

PARKING

The nearest garage to the Union Ballroom (**UNB** – see **Map 1**) is San Antonio Garage (**SAG**) located at 25th and San Antonio.

Parking: Some parking is available on streets on and near campus, however this parking is generally metered and heavily enforced. 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 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.

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FOOD / RESTAURANT OPTIONS

Texas Union: There are some restaurants in the Union, however their hours of operation are limited.

Off Campus Options There are many off campus options on Guadalupe and 24th streets, directly across from the Union.

Map 1 UNB- Union Building and San Antonio Garage



Texas Ballroom may be able to arrange limited housing accommodations for student competitors, especially those coming in from out-of-state. Please email txb.competitiondirectors@gmail.com for

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more information. Accommodations will be on a first come, first served basis.