

Friday, April 11 – Saturday, April 12, 2025

TEXAS BALLROOM presents THE AUSTIN OPEN 2025

Shirley Bird Perry Ballroom in the Texas Union (UNB) at 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.

Early Bird Pricing (through March 31, 2025)

Competitor pass – adult / community members	Early Bird \$65 / Full price \$75
Competitor pass - collegiate	Early Bird \$65 / Full price \$75
Competitor pass - Youth	Early Bird \$25 / Full price \$35
Workshop	included in registration fee

**** PLEASE NOTE: Registration closes at midnight on Wednesday, April 9. Contact austinopencoordinator@gmail.com for any special circumstances****

Pre champ and championship competitors receive complimentary admission

**** 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.

PROFICIENCY LEVELS:

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Newcomer Events (Ballroom Styles): open to people who started dancing after August 1, 2024. 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 ballroom 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 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, competitors may dance in one proficiency level PER DANCE.

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

Country Dances Proficiency

Country competitors may enter at the Beginning, Advanced or Open levels. For the country competition, competitors may dance in one proficiency level. Register for the level based on the following criteria:

Beginning Country: open to people who started dancing after August 1, 2024. To be eligible for Beginning, this must be the competitor's first partner dance competition.

Advanced Country: open to competitors with some country competition experience, including those who dance in Newcomer at UCDWC and ACDA competitions or have competed in country events at collegiate competitions.

Open Country: Intended for competitors who compete in Novice or above at UCDWC and ACDA competitions.

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

Two 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)

Adult (18+)

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.

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. Costumes are 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

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turtleneck.

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

ENTRY RULES AND DEADLINE

Early Registration Deadline:

Entries must be received online by 11:59 PM on Monday, March 31. Contact austinopencoordinator@gmail.com for any special circumstances

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 www.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.*****

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

WORKSHOP

Esteemed judge Ryan Lewis will offer a workshop on Friday evening. We anticipate following this workshop with our Welcome Dance / Rounds practice. Prices are shown in the prospective schedule below.

JACK AND JILL

An informal Jack and Jill including West Coast and Bachata will be offered at the Friday night dance

VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Texas Ballroom encourages participants to bring their own video and photography equipment. In addition, a University photography club will be present taking event photos. 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.

TBA MATCHING

Please use the following link or message austinopencoordinator@gmail.com if you desire TBA matching.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1k8MmoZubdB4gR4oZL-EIM-_PMgyVff05J1nj-K4pDug/edit?usp=sharing

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*PROSPECTIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS***

Friday, April 11, 2025 – Shirley Bird Perry Ballroom (UNB 3.202)

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Check in and Rounds

7:00 PM Workshop with Ryan Lewis

8:00 PM – 10:00 PM Check in and Rounds / Welcome Dance / Jack and Jill

Saturday, April 6, 2024 - Shirley Bird Perry Ballroom (UNB 3.202)

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Check-In & Warm-Up

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Session I

- Country Western
- International Standard
- American Smooth

-----SESSION I AWARDS-----

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

3:00 - 9:00 PM Session II

- International Latin
- American Rhythm
- Social
- Novice, Pre-champ, and Championship Events and Open Level Country Western
- Team Match **TIME PERMITTING**. See below for rules and proposed format. Please note that Austin Open typically runs on a very tight schedule and that the venue gives us a hard end time. Texas Ballroom will make every effort to run the team match, however we reserve the right to cancel without notice in the event that we are running out of time.

-----SESSION II AWARDS-----

9:00 PM End of Competition

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

LIST OF OFFERED DANCES

Notes:

1. Not all dances are offered at all proficiency levels
2. Dances may be offered in single and multi-dance events, depending on proficiency level
3. Refer to entry form for more information.

Country Western Events (Saturday– Session I)

Triple two step

Night club

Polka

Two step

Waltz

(Note: Cha cha and east coast swing will be offered in American Rhythm. West Coast Swing will be offered in Social events.)

International Standard Ballroom (Saturday– Session I)

Waltz

Viennese Waltz

Tango

Foxtrot

Quickstep

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American Smooth Ballroom (Saturday- Session I)

Waltz	Tango
Foxtrot	Viennese Waltz

International Latin (Saturday- Session II)

Cha Cha	Rumba
Samba	Paso Doble
	Jive

American Rhythm (Saturday- Session II)

Rumba	East Coast Swing
Cha cha	Bolero
	Mambo

Social Events (Saturday- Session II)

Salsa	Hustle
Bachata	Jitterbug
Merengue	Lindy Hop
Argentine tango	Zouk
West coast swing	Cumbia

Team Match (Saturday- Session II)

The Team Match will be in the following format:*

**Due to potential time constraints the format is subject to change without notice.*

1. Four Couples per Team. Only one open couple per team. Multiple teams per school can be made.
2. Six dances. Each Newcomer couple will dance twice. The remaining couples will dance once.

Waltz (newcomer recommended)	Samba
Tango	East Coast Swing
Cha cha (newcomer recommended)	Salsa

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

Friday and Saturday: The Texas Union (UNB) 2308 WHITIS AVE, AUSTIN, TX 78712

Friday evening Parking:

San Antonio Garage (SAG), 2420 SAN ANTONIO ST, AUSTIN, TX 78705

<https://trece.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=697c20f19d2841d3a13965918>

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Parking: Some parking is available on streets on and near campus, however this parking is generally metered and heavily enforced. Please refer to the online 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” or “ANY UT” 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.

*FOOD / RESTAURANT OPTIONS**

Texas Union: There are a few fast food venues in the lower level as well as a coffee shop. In addition, there are ample off-campus food options across Guadalupe Street from the Union.

***The organizers recommend that each team bring snacks, or coordinate among team members to make a food run, as the lunch break will be limited to one hour.

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Map UNB- Union Building and San Antonio Garage

