

GULF COAST STARS DANCE TOURNAMENT



Come Do Houston in a Star-Spangled Manner!

Join us for our exciting SPRING event

****** Saturday, April 18, 2015 ******

The Dance Place

713-266-0066 thedanceplace.zhang@gmail.com

Guoyong Zhang and HuanHuan She

cordially invite you to participate in the

Gulf Coast Stars Dance Tournament

to be held in the main ballroom of

The Dance Place

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Come on, dancers, get ready and “do” Houston in a Star-Spangled Manner!

The **Gulf Coast Stars Dance Tournament** offers a mixture of competitions for dancers of all ages and skill levels. American Rhythm and Smooth/Ballroom, International Latin and Standard/Ballroom and even a “Novelty/Solo” division are all available. The “Novelty/Solo” Division is for individual solos, couples, formations and teams, where you can really show off your creative choreography and your dance skills in all areas of dance, including those outside of the normal Ballroom or Latin genre. Awards will be given for FIRST, SECOND and THIRD place in all single-dance events at all levels, Newcomer through Advanced Open divisions.

Competitors from all over the country are invited to participate in this event, which will be held at **The Dance Place, 3300 Chimney Rock, Suite 500, Houston, TX, 77056**. We expect to start at around 10:00am, and the event will run as long as needed to complete all competitions. Breaks will be scheduled for costume changes, meals and practice.

Spectators are welcome! The event is very low cost, so bring all your friends and family members to cheer you on to victory! Pricing information is listed elsewhere in this booklet, but you will find that this is a VERY affordable competition for everyone.

The Dance Place is Houston’s oldest and largest continuously operated Ballroom dance studio and has the best “floating” dance floor in the city. The teachers and students who “hang their hat” at The Dance Place are terrific people who have helped create one of the most unique studios you will ever experience. You’ll find that everyone here at **The Dance Place** is super friendly and ready to show you the **Texas** version of “Southern Hospitality”.

If you have questions about this event that are not addressed in this information, feel free to contact us. Guoyong Zhang may be reached via 713-266-0066, 832-851-5433 or thedanceplace.zhang@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Guoyong Zhang and HuanHuan She
Owners, The Dance Place and Championship Ballroom Dance, Inc.

Gulf Coast Stars Dance Tournament

Tentative Schedule of Events

Saturday, April 18

9:00am – 9:50am: Registration; Ballroom open and available for practice

9:50am: Introduction of Officials

10:00am – 11:45am: Session 1 – American Rhythm, including American Rhythm Scholarships*

Closed & Open events in Cha-Cha, Rumba, East Coast Swing, Bolero, Mambo, Samba, Merengue, Salsa, Hustle & Paso Doble; Rhythm section of American 6-dance & 9-dance Challenges; Closed-to-Syllabus and Open Rhythm Scholarship events

11:45am – 11:55am: Awards for all Session 1 Events / Costume Changes

11:55am – 1:40pm: Session 2 – International Ballroom (Standard), including International Standard Scholarships*

Closed & Open events in Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot & Quickstep; Ballroom (Standard) section of International 6-dance & 10-dance Challenges; Closed-to-Syllabus and Open Ballroom (Standard) Scholarship events

1:40pm – 1:50pm: Awards for all Session 2 Events

1:50pm – 2:50pm: Break for Lunch

2:50pm – 4:10pm: Session 3 – American Ballroom (Smooth), including American Ballroom (Smooth) Scholarships*

Closed & Open events in Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Peabody, Argentine Tango & “American” Quickstep; Ballroom (Smooth) section of American 6-dance & 9-dance Challenges; Closed-to-Syllabus and Open Ballroom (Smooth) Scholarship events

4:10pm – 4:20pm: Awards for all Session 3 Events / Costume Changes

4:20pm – 6:00pm: Session 4 - International Latin, including International Latin Scholarships*

Closed & Open events in Cha-Cha-Cha, Samba, Rumba, Paso Doble & Jive; Latin section of International 6-dance & 10-dance Challenges; Closed-to-Syllabus and Open Latin Scholarship events

6:00pm – 6:10pm: Awards for all Session 4 events.

End of 2015 Gulf Coast Stars Dance Tournament.

* Refer to page 7, Scholarship Eligibility, for entry requirements.

Also see page 4, Scholarship Awards and page 5, # 8

Gulf Coast Stars Dance Tournament

Competition Rules and Information

Eligibility

In **Pro-Am events**, a couple is eligible to dance in the available divisions if one of the partners is a professional/teacher and one is an amateur/student. Advanced Amateurs may also partner newer dancers in this division. They will act as “non-judged partners” and must make known to the organizers that this will be their function in such entries. A person who is known to teach for monetary compensation on a regular basis is not eligible to enter the Pro-Am competitions as an amateur. Pairings in which one partner is a professional under the criteria outlined above CANNOT enter the Am-Am events, which are reserved for partnerships comprised of two amateur competitors.

Note: In Pro-Am competitions, amateur dancers should be aware that professionals are customarily compensated for their time based upon arrangements worked out privately between the amateur/student, the professional and/or the studio with which the professional is associated.

Females may dance as leaders: Female professionals and Advanced Lady Amateurs may enter the Pro-Am events as the leader with their female students/partners.

In the **Am-Am events**, couples are eligible only if both partners are amateurs and do not declare themselves as professionals by word or deed. A person who is known to teach on a regular basis may not enter as an amateur dancer in the Gulf Coast Stars Dance Tournament.

Note: Membership in USA Dance, IDSF or NDCA is NOT required in order to enter the Gulf Coast Stars.

Scholarships

Through the generosity of our sponsors, we are pleased to announce that scholarship prize money will be provided in various levels and dance styles. We invite you to **become a scholarship sponsor** and join us in promoting ballroom dancing by rewarding the achievements of the amateur competitors who work so hard at perfecting their craft.

Note: All sponsors will be formally recognized in our event program. However, we do not hold non-profit status and your contributions will not be tax deductible.

Scholarship Awards

Awards will be given for each 1st, 2nd and 3rd placement in each scholarship event but only the 1st place winners will receive scholarship funds in the CLOSED scholarship events. Scholarship funds will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of the OPEN scholarship events.

Note 1: Rules for CLOSED SCHOLARSHIP EVENTS should be read very carefully as each CLOSED division will be strictly monitored and “out of category” infractions will result in disqualification.

The **USISTD American Style Syllabus** (available via the sales department at www.usistd.org) is preferred for American style dancing, but any syllabus approved by the National Dance Council of America (NDCA) will be accepted.

Use the **ISTD International Style Syllabus** for Standard/Ballroom & Latin categories.

Note 2: Scholarship events lacking competition will be cancelled.

General Format and Entry Divisions

1. Other than “Novelty/Solo” routines, all events will be danced in a “freestyle” format in which the competitors will dance to music selected by the Organizers and/or the DJ.
2. The skating system of judging will be used for this competition.
3. The ON-DECK system will be used for all events. Competitors must be in the ballroom and ready to dance 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time for the heat in which they are competing and must report to the Deck Captain 2 heats prior to their event. Any competitor who does not take the floor by the time the music begins will be disqualified for that event.
4. Couples must dance all dances listed in a Multi-dance event.
5. Except for “overall” events (See 6 & 7 below), multi-dance events consist of 2, 3, 4 or 5 dances which must be danced in succession as specified.
6. “Overall” events featuring styles requiring different costuming, such as International 10-dance or American 9-dance events, etc, will be split into 2 heats, one for the Smooth/Standard/Ballroom dances and one for the Rhythm/Latin dances. Each heat will be danced in its “normal” section, allowing ample time for costume changes between sessions.
7. In any event consisting of more than one dance, the couple with the best combined score for all dances in that event will be the winner for that event.
8. In Scholarship events, International 10-dance and American 9-dance “Challenges”, gender is set aside. In these “unisex” events, male and female amateurs compete against one another.

Awards

Ribbons will be awarded to the top 3 couples in 1-dance events, 1 ribbon for the amateur in Pro-Am events and 1 ribbon for each partner in Am-Am events. Medals will be presented to the top 3 couples in each multi-dance event, 1 medal for the amateur in Pro-Am events and 1 medal for each partner in Am-Am events.

Scholarship funds will be awarded to the amateur partner(s) in designated events. Only the 1st place winner of a CLOSED scholarship will receive scholarship funds; the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of an OPEN scholarship will receive scholarship funds. Awards will be presented at the end of each session throughout the day.

Scholarship Events with fewer than 3 couples entered will be canceled.

Events

Competition events are organized into Restricted-to-Syllabus (CLOSED) events and Non-Restricted (OPEN) events. **Failure to stay within category in Restricted-to-Syllabus events will result in disqualification.** The USISTD syllabus (*available via the sales department at www.usistd.org*) is preferred for American style dancing, but any syllabus approved by the National Dance Council of America (NDCA) will be accepted; use the ISTD syllabus for Standard/Ballroom & Latin categories.

Heats

1. Events with fewer than three couples may be combined with other events.
2. Scholarship events with fewer than 3 couples entered will be canceled
3. Heats may be comprised of several couples who are not actually competing against each other but who will all dance on the floor at the same time. For example: Gentlemen “A” competitors may be on the floor with Ladies “B” competitors or even with Amateur Couple “C” competitors.

Gulf Coast Stars Dance Tournament

Levels and Syllabus Figure Information

Newcomer: Restricted to Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) Student Teacher figures in all International dances and to the first 6 NDCA-approved¹ Bronze figures in all American dances.

Note: The NEWCOMER category is reserved for new to dancing competitors who have had 50 or fewer lessons.

Bronze 1: Restricted to ISTD Associate figures in all International dances and to only NDCA-approved Bronze figures in all American Dances.

Bronze 2: Restricted to ISTD Associate figures in all International dances and to only NDCA-approved Bronze figures in all American Dances.

Beginning Silver: Restricted to ISTD Associate + Licentiate figures in all International dances and to NDCA-approved Bronze + Silver figures in the American dances.

Silver I: Restricted to ISTD Associate + Licentiate figures in all International dances and to NDCA-approved Bronze + Silver figures in the American dances.

Silver II: Restricted to ISTD Associate + Licentiate figures in all International dances and to NDCA-approved Bronze + Silver figures in the American dances.

Beginning Gold: Restricted to ISTD Associate + Licentiate + Fellow figures in all International dances and to NDCA-approved Bronze + Silver + Gold figures in the American dances.

Gold I: Restricted to ISTD Associate + Licentiate + Fellow figures in all International dances and to NDCA-approved Bronze + Silver + Gold figures in the American dances.

Gold II: Restricted to ISTD Associate + Licentiate + Fellow figures in all International dances and to NDCA-approved Bronze + Silver + Gold figures in the American dances.

Open Bronze: No Lifts, Drops or Slashes, but otherwise not restricted; material should be within the dancer's skill level. **Floor Lunges** are permitted.

Open Silver: No Lifts, Drops or Slashes, but otherwise not restricted; material should be within the dancer's skill level. **Floor Lunges** are permitted.

Open Gold: No Lifts other than "assisted leaps" which may not last for more than 2 beats of music; otherwise not restricted. **Drops, Slashes and Floor Lunges** are permitted.

Advanced Open: No Lifts other than "assisted leaps" which may not last for more than 2 beats of music; otherwise not restricted. **Drops, Slashes and Floor Lunges** are permitted.

1. The NDCA (National Dance Council of America) lists its "competition approved" syllabus on the www.NDCA.org website. It is acceptable to use any syllabus from any NDCA member organization listed on that web site.
2. The **USISTD syllabus** (*available via the sales department at www.usistd.org*) is preferred for American style dancing, but any syllabus approved by the NDCA will be accepted; use the **ISTD syllabus** for International Standard/Ballroom & Latin categories.

Entry level eligibility

Newcomers may enter both the Newcomer events and the Bronze I events and may also enter the OPEN Bronze single-dance events. Other than the OPEN Bronze single-dance events, Newcomers may not enter any event higher than Bronze I although they may enter in 2 age levels.

All other competitors may enter 3 consecutive levels of dance in 2 age levels, but may not enter the Newcomer events. This means that a competitor could enter Bronze I, Full Bronze and Beginning Silver, but, having done so, this competitor could not enter Silver I. However, he or she could enter both the Open Bronze and the Open Silver events.

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Multi-dance Eligibility

1. Multi-dance competitors must enter at least 1 matching entry in the 1-dance (single dance) division for each different dance they enter in the multi-dance section. If entering a 2-dance CC+S and a 2-dance R+J, the competitor must also enter CC, S, R and J in the 1-dance section..
2. This requirement only has to be met 1 time, but there must be at least 1 single-dance entry for each multi-dance “dance”. If a 3-dance requirement is met and the couple enters a 4-dance event featuring a “new” dance, perhaps the Paso Doble, they must also enter that “new” dance in the 1-dance division.

Scholarship Eligibility

1. The dancer(s) must compete in the same dances in single-dance (1-dance) divisions as are offered in the Scholarship division. To enter a 2-dance scholarship event consisting of Waltz+Tango, the competitor(s) must have entered the 1-dance Waltz and the 1-dance Tango at the level of the Scholarship, such as Closed Bronze, Closed Silver, etc. **NOTE: This rule is not the same as for multi-dance events. It applies to all scholarship divisions and the requirement must be met for **EACH** scholarship division entered.**
2. Gold and above students may not enter the Bronze + Silver Scholarship division.

Age Levels

Pre-school: up thru age 5 | **Pre-teen 1-a:** 6 thru 8 | **Pre-teen 1-b:** 9 thru 10 | **Pre-teen 2:** 11 thru 12 | **Junior:** 13 thru 15 | **Youth:** 16 thru 17 | **Young Adult:** 18 thru 21 | **Adult A:** 22 thru 30 | **Adult A1:** 31 thru 40 | **Adult B:** 41 thru 50 | **Adult B1:** 51 thru 60 | **Adult C:** 61 thru 70 | **Adult C1:** 71 thru 80 | **Adult D:** 81+

Age Level Note 1: Beginning with the Pre-teen 2 age category, our young competitors may dance “up” one age level. For instance: Pre-teen 2 competitors may dance “up” in the Junior category; Junior competitors may dance “up” in the Youth category; Youth competitors may dance “up” in the Young Adult category. They may not dance “down” a category.

Age Level Note 2: Beginning with the Adult A level, our Adult competitors may dance “down” 1 age level but they may not dance “up” an age level.

Dress Code

At all levels, competitors are permitted – but not required – to wear costumes. If costumes are worn, the following guidelines apply:

Smooth & Standard events – Ball gowns for Ladies; Tuxedos, tail suits, slacks with vest and tie or other suitable costuming for gentlemen.

Rhythm & Latin events – Appropriate costumes may be worn, but should be within the bounds of good taste.

Attire for non-competitors may be casual, but men should not wear shorts or sleeveless shirts; women should not wear shorts; no bare midriffs (Please keep tummies covered).

Entry Deadline: Saturday, April 11, 2015

Entries will be accepted after this deadline, but will be assessed late fees as shown on page 8.

NOTE: Entries received after the deadline may not appear in the printed program.

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Registration Fee, Entry Fee & Admission Ticket Information

There is no registration fee for professionals/teachers entering with students or for Advanced Amateurs partnering with less advanced amateurs in Pro-Am divisions. The fees are outlined in the table below:

Registration Category (Includes Admission Ticket)	Fee		Late Fee (After Apr 11)
Professionals dancing in Pro-Am events	\$0		N/A
Adult Amateurs age 22+	\$60	per person	N/A
Young Adult Amateurs 18-21 COLLEGE STUDENTS thru age 24 WITH VALID ID	\$35 \$25	per person per person	N/A
Junior & Youth Amateurs 13-17	\$20	per person	N/A
Pre-teen Amateurs thru age 12	\$15	per person	N/A
Amateur Couple >Age 22+ only< ** Special Price Break ** <i>Must register as a couple. Either partner may then dance with other partners, amateur or pro.</i>	\$80	per couple	N/A
Entry Fees			(After Apr 11)
Age 17 and under ALSO FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS thru age 24 WITH VALID ID	\$10 \$15 \$20 \$35	Per 1-dance Per 2 & 3-dance Per 4 & 5-dance Per 9 or 10 dance Challenge	+ \$3 = \$13 + \$5 = \$20 + \$7 = \$27 +\$10 = \$45
Under 18 Scholarship events	\$25 \$30 \$35 \$40	Per 3-dance event Per 4-dance event Per 6-dance event Per Open 4 / 5 dance event	+\$10 = \$35 +\$10 = \$40 +\$10 = \$45 +\$10 = \$50
Age 18 and over NON-Scholarship Events Categories & Prices listed below are for Ages 18 & Over	\$15 \$20 \$30	Per 1-dance Per 2 & 3-dance Per 4 & 5-dance	+ \$3 = \$18 + \$5 = \$25 + \$7 = \$37
9 & 10-dance Closed NON-Scholarship Events	\$40	Per 9 or 10 dance event	+ \$10 = \$50
Closed 3-dance Scholarship Events	\$30	Per 3-dance event	+ \$10 = \$40
Closed 4-dance Scholarship Events	\$35	Per 4-dance event	+ \$10 = \$45
6-Dance Challenge Closed Scholarship Events	\$40	Per 6-dance event	+ \$10 = \$50
Open 4 & 5-dance Scholarship Events	\$45	Per Open 4 or 5 dance event	+ \$15 = \$60
Novelty or other "Solo" Showcase Entries (all ages)	Refer to entry form for this event for price information		
Admission Tickets for Non-competitors			
Infant through age 5	No charge		
Children 6 thru 12	\$10		
Youths 13 thru 17	\$15		
Adults age 18+	\$20		

Entry Deadline: Saturday, April 11, 2015