



Hello CJC Team Competitors,

The Des Moines Swing Dance Scene is excited to host the battle for the Cutters' Cup at the Heartland Swing Festival. The event continues to grow and evolve and we hope it does so in the spirit of a fun and friendly contest. The original intent of the contest was to motivate Midwest collegiate teams to hone their craft toward a tangible goal, the Cutters' Cup. While several teams showed interest, only one collegiate team followed through at the first event. Because of this low entry rate, non-collegiate amateur teams were invited. As popularity grew, more teams joined the competition showcasing a variety of swing dance styles and music. It is this atmosphere of diversity that we hope to cultivate in the contest.

There have been several discussions about the quality of the contest; how it is run, how it is judged and other such aspects. Eligibility and rules for the team competition have always been a very loose guideline and we hope to keep this division as unrestricted as possible. This is one of the reasons why there is no entry fee and no cash prize awarded; we want to welcome all groups that are willing to express the joy of Swing Dancing.

We have always had very few "rules" and we have found that, while this is a liberating attribute, it has caused some confusion in the past. The two main rules we have are that dancers must have amateur status and routines must be swing dance routines. Both rules are subjective and have been open to interpretation. We want to make sure everyone feels that they are treated fairly and that the experience is a positive one. We know that it is very difficult to organize a team and get 6- 12 people to practice with consistency. We know that it is even more difficult to create an all collegiate team. For these reasons we will continue to extend our invitation to all amateur dancers. We also believe that inviting more experienced teams raises the bar and makes the event even more exciting. Though the event started as an event aimed to attract Midwest dancers, we hope to invite collegiate teams from all over the country and share our passion for Lindy Hop. We continue to try to improve the event and we hope that you will help us welcome new amateur teams to the event.

We would like to hear your thoughts on this matter. If you have comments and concerns about the Team Division, feel free to email us and voice your opinion. We look forward to your comments and can't wait to see you next spring!

Heartland Swing Festival Planning Committee  
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### **TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

All dancers must have Amateur status at the time of competition. Following are guidelines to clarify eligibility.

### **ELIGIBLE**

- You volunteer as an amateur performer or instructor
- You occasionally participate as an amateur performer for which you receive payment
- You have not placed in the top three in the following national swing dance competitions: ILHC, ALHC, ULHS, NJC (excludes Amateur and Pro/Am divisions)

### **INELIGIBLE**

- You are a full-time instructor in any type of partner dancing for your own studio or some other studio
- The majority of your yearly income is acquired by participating in swing dance performances and/or dance instruction
- You have placed in the top three in any of the following national swing dance competitions: ILHC, ALHC, ULHS, NJC

Remember, these are loose guidelines. We want to give all amateur dancers the opportunity to compete at our event. If you have questions about eligibility, please contact [heartlandswingfestival@gmail.com](mailto:heartlandswingfestival@gmail.com)