



TUNISIA *Bachata* FESTIVAL

24-28 SEPTEMBER 2026 · GAMMARTH, TUNISIA



# SANDSTORM

SOCIAL DANCE COMPETITION

JACK & JILL

## COMPETITION GUIDELINES

African Qualifier · Bachata Social World Cup  
Carthage Thalasso Resort · Tunisia Bachata Festival

# 01

## SECTION 01 · INTRODUCTION

# JACK & JILL

Jack & Jill is an improvised social dance competition where leaders and followers are randomly paired. The focus is on **connection, musicality, adaptability, technique, and creativity** rather than choreography.

**Please read this document in full before the competition.** It explains who can compete, how the rounds work, what the judges look for and how the results are calculated.

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## 02 SECTION 02 ELIGIBILITY

TBF 2026 presents the **African Qualifier** of the Bachata Social World Cup.

### QUALIFIER

#### African Qualifier

The official intercontinental qualifier for Africa. Listed under **Qualifiers** on the Bachata Social World Cup website.

- **Everybody is allowed to compete.**
- You may compete as a **leader** or as a **follower**, but not in both roles.

## 03 SECTION 03 REGISTRATION

125

LEADER SPOTS

125

FOLLOWER SPOTS

- Registration is done through the **Bachata Social World Cup** website, under **Qualifiers → Africa Qualifier**.
- There are spots for **125 followers and 125 leaders**.
- You are required to have either a **Full Pass** or a **Party Pass** to join.

 **Register · Africa Qualifier**

 **Get your pass**

[bachatasocialworldcup.com/qualifiers/africa-qualifier-2026](https://bachatasocialworldcup.com/qualifiers/africa-qualifier-2026)

### Stay informed

#### Competitors' WhatsApp group

Heat lists, call times, schedule changes and results are posted here first.  
Join as soon as you have registered.

 **Join the Competition group**



# 04

## SECTION 04

# COMPETITION FORMAT

The competition consists of **four rounds**. Partners are assigned randomly throughout.

### 1 Preliminary Round

- Divided into two or three heats.
- Approximately 7–10 songs will be played.
- Randomly assigned partners, with 1–2 partner changes during each song.

### 2 Quarterfinals

- Divided into one or two heats.
- Approximately 6–8 songs will be played.
- Randomly assigned partners, with 1–2 partner changes during each song.

### 3 Semi-Finals

- Approximately 6–8 songs will be played.
- You continue dancing with randomly assigned partners, with 1–2 partner changes during each song.

### 4 Finals

- A **spotlight final**: one full song per couple.
- Couples are randomly chosen, but you are still judged **individually**.

In the preliminary, quarter-final and semi-final rounds, **additional songs may be added** at the judges' discretion if needed.

### General notes

- Partners are assigned randomly throughout the competition.
- The DJ, together with the festival organization, will select the music, which will **not be announced in advance**.
- The organizers and judging panel reserve the right to adjust the number of songs or the competition format if necessary to ensure fair judging.

# 05

## SECTION 05 JUDGING CRITERIA

During the competition, each dancer will be judged **individually** in their role as a leader or follower, based on the following criteria:

**1****Fundamentals**

Base & technique. Timing, body control, balance, precise & clean movement. Solid basics & fundamentals that create a safe and comfortable social dance.

**2****Connection**

Clear leading & following with communication, adaptability and shared intention. The ability to create a comfortable, fun, enjoyable and collaborative dance experience.

**3****Musicality**

Understanding and interpreting rhythm, timing and musical nuances. Dancing in a genuine conversation with the music and in harmony with the partner.

**4****Creativity & Style**

Personal expression, originality and use of space. It's about enhancing the music and connection, while respecting the partner and the social essence of dance.

**5****Attitude**

Presence, confidence, enjoyment & positive energy. It's the emotional impact the dancer brings to their partner and the dance floor.

## 06 SECTION 06 SAFETY RULES

- **No dangerous lifts.** Lifts with both feet off the ground are **strictly prohibited**.
- Respect your partner's physical limits.
- No aggressive leading.
- Maintain awareness of other couples.

In the event of a breach of these safety rules, **judges may deduct points** for unsafe dancing.

## 07 SECTION 07 CODE OF CONDUCT

- Show respect towards your partner, fellow competitors, the judging panel, and the staff.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship throughout the competition.
- Refrain from unsportsmanlike behavior or criticism towards other competitors, partners, or judges.
- Respect and accept the judges' decisions.

In the event of a breach of this Code of Conduct, the organization reserves the right to take appropriate action, including **warnings, removal from the event, or disqualification**, depending on the severity of the violation.

 **Festival Code of Conduct**

# 08

## SECTION 08 SCORING & RESULTS

Please read this through before the competition.

The competition uses the **Bachata Social World Cup scoring system**, based on **Relative Placement**, also known as the **"Skating System."**

Judges will score each competitor on a scale from **1 to 10**. However, the final result is **not determined by simply adding up the scores**. Instead, each judge's scores are converted into their individual ranking of the competitors, and placements are determined based on the overall agreement between the judges.

### How it works

#### 1 Judges score each competitor

Each judge evaluates every competitor and gives them a score from **1 to 10**, based on the competition's judging criteria.

#### 2 Scores are converted into rankings

Within each judge's scorecard, competitors are ranked from highest to lowest score. The highest-scoring competitor becomes that judge's **#1**, the next becomes **#2**, and so on.

This means that judges can use the 1–10 scale differently without affecting the fairness of the final result. What matters is each judge's **order of preference**, rather than the absolute number they give.

#### 3 The majority determines each placement

The system looks for a **majority of judges** agreeing on a competitor's placement. For example, with three judges, if two judges rank a competitor as their **#1**, that competitor has a majority and will be placed **1st**.

If no competitor receives a majority at **#1**, the system looks at the next level (for example, **#2** or better) until a majority is reached. The same process is then repeated to determine 2nd place, 3rd place, and so on.

#### Callbacks

During the preliminary round, the judges' rankings will determine which competitors **advance to the next round**. The number of competitors receiving a callback will be determined by the judging panel and competition format.

#### Final ranking

In the final round, the same Relative Placement system is used to determine the final ranking. If two or more competitors are tied at a particular placement, predetermined tie-breaking rules within the Bachata Social World Cup scoring system will be applied. If competitors remain inseparable after all tie-breakers have been applied, a shared placement may be awarded.

**Important.** Your final placement is **not based on the total number of points** you receive. Instead, it is based on how the judges **rank you relative to the other competitors**. This ensures that every judge's opinion carries equal weight, regardless of whether they tend to give higher or lower numerical scores.

## 09 SECTION 09 DISQUALIFICATION

We hope that disqualification will never be necessary. However, to ensure a safe, fair, and respectful competition for everyone, the organizers reserve the right to disqualify a competitor in cases including, but not limited to:

- Dangerous or reckless behavior.
- Unsportsmanlike or disrespectful conduct.
- Failure to follow instructions from the organizers, judges, or staff.
- Missing your assigned heat or failing to be present when called.
- Cheating or attempting to gain an unfair advantage, including deliberately skipping a partner or changing the assigned order.
- Any other behavior that significantly compromises the safety, fairness, or integrity of the competition.

The organizers and judging panel reserve the right to make the **final decision** regarding disqualification.

## 10 SECTION 10 ORGANIZER'S RIGHTS

The organizers reserve the right to make reasonable adjustments to the competition when necessary to ensure a smooth, fair, and enjoyable experience for all participants.

- The competition schedule may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances, time constraints, or other logistical reasons.
- The organizers reserve the right to modify the competition format, number of songs, heats, or partner changes if necessary.
- The organizers may make decisions regarding the running of the competition based on circumstances that arise during the event.
- The judges' decisions regarding callbacks, placements, and final results are **final**.
- Any changes or important decisions affecting competitors will be communicated as clearly as possible by the organizers or event staff.

By participating in the competition, all competitors **agree to respect the decisions and instructions** of the organizers and judging panel.



SEE YOU ON THE FLOOR

# WHERE THE SAHARA MEETS THE SEA, **THE DANCE BEGINS.**

Questions? Find the organization team at the info desk, ask in the Competition WhatsApp group, or write to us. Rules, schedule and registration live on the competition page.

 **Competition WhatsApp group**

 **[tunisiabachatafestival.com/competition](https://tunisiabachatafestival.com/competition)**

 **[contact@tunisiabachatafestival.com](mailto:contact@tunisiabachatafestival.com)**

