



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](#)

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.



SECTION 04 · 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.

SECTION 08 · SCORING & RESULTS

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**

 **contact@tunisiabachatafestival.com**

