Ballroom, Latin & Swing Social Dance Association (BLS)

STANDING RULES

May 2026

These Standing Rules constitute the day-to-day operating rules of the Ballroom, Latin & Swing Social Dance Association ("BLS" and/or "the Association"). Standing Rules and revisions are proposed by members and/or the Board of Directors and are approved by the Board of Directors. Any Board member or Association member in good standing may introduce a proposed change to the Standing Rules. The item must be added to the agenda for the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting date.

SECTION 1. ASSOCIATION EVENTS

A. Regular open public dances for the enjoyment of members and visitors are held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors.

B. The Board of Directors determines event fees based on expected expenses and projected attendance. Members enjoy discounted admission to regular open dance events.

   Free admission is granted a maximum of six people:
   * Facilities Chair
   * Door Handler
   * Board Member On Duty
   * Clean-up Crew (not to exceed 3 people)

C. BLS sponsors special open dance events as approved by the Board of Directors such as theme nights, New Year’s Eve dances, and other holiday / special occasions. Members enjoy discounted admission to all open public dance events.

D. The Board of Directors may approve members-only events; the Board of Directors determines admission price and other details of members-only events.

E. BLS automatically cancels dance events if the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) cancels day or evening classes due to inclement weather.

SECTION 2. DRESS CODE

A. The BLS dress code seeks to enhance our ballroom dances as special, dressy events in keeping with a ballroom dancing atmosphere. Members and guests should wear appropriate upscale attire, always dressing with consideration and respect for others. While we ask everyone to follow our dress code to support our ballroom dance atmosphere, first-time visitors are welcome regardless of attire. The

Board of Directors may deny admittance and/or membership to members and/or guests who repeatedly violate the BLS dress code.

B. **What to Wear at Most Dance Events:** Because we are a ballroom, Latin, and swing dance club, we support our unique, special dance atmosphere by the way we dress at dances. Denim and yard clothes are inappropriate unless part of a designated theme or costume event.

We encourage men to wear tucked-in shirts unless specifically designed to be worn untucked (e.g., Latin shirts or straight-hemmed designs); BLS doesn't allow bare midriffs on the social dance floor (but may be appropriate as part of a formal dance routine costume).

Footwear: Members and guests are encouraged to wear shoes with hard soles. Shoes with rubber soles, casual shoes, and slip-on shoes (flip-flops, slippers, mules, shower shoes, hiking boots, combat boots, boat shoes, or athletic shoes) can make you "stick" or fall. We discourage ladies' street wear high heels that can mark up/make holes in our wooden dance floors.

While BLS will not turn away first-time guests, the following items do not contribute to our unique dance atmosphere and so are prohibited:

- Torn or dirty clothing
- Shorts, athletic attire, "muscle" or tank tops
- Baseball caps
- Jeans or denim clothing
- Casual T-shirts

C. **What to Wear for Special Occasions / Costume / Theme Dances:**

For **"black tie" events**, we suggest that men wear formal tuxedos or dinner jackets; ladies wear formal gowns.

For **"black tie optional,"** men generally wear tuxedos, dinner jackets, or dark suits with ties. Ladies wear formal gowns, cocktail dresses, or other dressy "after-five" evening attire.

BLS announces **relaxed dress codes** in advance for theme or costume events. Prohibited items may only be worn as part of a costume or at theme or costume events.

SECTION 3. CONDUCT

BLS expects that members and guests will conduct themselves with respect and courtesy to others at all BLS dances, events, and meetings. Excessive alcohol use, illegal drug use, foul or vulgar language, or other disruptive behavior is not acceptable. A Board of Directors member may remove offending members or guests from BLS events, dances, or meetings. The Board of Directors may deny

admittance and/or membership to members or guests upon repeated, documented violations our our Conduct policies.

SECTION 4. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS and BENEFITS

A. Applications for membership are accepted by mail, at dance events, and at Association meetings. Completed applications with dues attached are submitted to the Membership Chair, who processes the application and provides the new member with the BLS By-Laws and Standing Rules.

B. Annual memberships run from October through the following September (12 months). If dues are not paid by the end of September, the Membership Chairperson notifies the individual that membership has been terminated.

C. In addition to discounted admission for all dances and events, BLS publicizes member birthdays and anniversaries. Members also receive a monthly newsletter including a dance calendar.

SECTION 5. GUEST POLICY

Guests (non-members) are welcome at any BLS public or special dance event, and pay a non-member admission fee as set by the Board. A guest sign-in list may be used, as the Board of Directors may determine.

We are pausing our past policy of admitting first-time guests for free until our finances and marketing plans allow.

SECTION 6. MEMBER CONCERNS

BLS members in good standing must first discuss issues of concern / topics with one or more BLS Board members and/or Officers, who may determine that the topic(s) is more effectively or appropriately handled at the Board of Directors level. Once the Board is alerted, BLS members should submit the topic(s) in writing to the Secretary at least two (2) weeks before a scheduled Association meeting so the topic(s) can be added to the meeting agenda. Alternatively, any BLS member in good standing can call a regular Association meeting by presenting to the Board a petition signed by 60% of the total BLS membership.

SECTION 7. COMMITTEES

BLS has both Standing Committees and ad hoc (special, one-time only) committees that recruit talented, creative dance club members for sharing the work of creating fun and engaging dance events.

The Chairs of BLS Standing Committee are typically named at the annual November General Membership Meeting and are intended to be in place for at least one year. The BLS President can also

appoint one-time-only committee members and chairs for special events or other purposes. Each Committee Chair recruits committee members from the BLS membership and should attend or submit a committee report for each Board of Directors meeting. Board members may also serve on committees, although we encourage other BLS members to be involved instead.

BLS Standing Committees:

1) **Membership Committee –** Processes applications, tracks renewals, conducts membership drives, welcomes newcomers and distributes the BLS By-Laws and Standing Rules to new members, and provides member information for announcements and newsletters.

2) **Newsletter Committee –** Sends a monthly newsletter with a dance calendar, event schedules, and Association news.

3) **Program Committee –** Develops annual dance calendar, schedules dance instructors and DJs, organizes formal mixers and door prizes, introduces guests, and manages an annual awards program if desired.

4) **Facility Committee –** Ensures facilities and supplies are ready for all events, oversees setup and cleanup, manages door staff, and secures BLS property.

5) **Social Media Committee –** Coordinates publicity, manages online posts, designs promotional materials, and maintains the BLS website.

The President appoints two special committees each year:

1) **Nominating Committee,** per BLS By-Laws ***Article IV, Section 3a***, provides nominations for open Board of Directors positions to the October Board of Directors meeting (before the November General Membership Meeting and Board of Directors election).

2) **Audit Committee,** composed of at least one non-Board member, inspects and reports on BLS financial records at the November General Membership Meeting.

SECTION 8. RECORD OF CHANGES

1. Updated dress code, language, and added Newsletter/Webmaster committees and equipment policy attachment to 9/11/94 Standing Rules *(August 9, 2004)*
2. Dress Code revised *(June 6, 2008)*
3. Added complimentary memberships for Board of Directors and Committee Chairs while serving (*June 6, 2008) (Deleted per #20 below)(March 2026)*
4. Authorized dance cancellations when University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) classes are canceled for weather. *(June 4, 2010)*
5. Amended Program Committee duties to include substitute DJs *(June 4, 2010)*
6. Amended BLS equipment policy (*December 1, 2012*.) *(Deleted per #9 below)*
7. Language changed from "one facility dance (first dance of each month) and two regular dances" to "three regular dances" (Revised December 1, 2012); language changed to reflect "dances on 2nd and 4th Friday" (Revised November 2020)
8. All Board-approved changes to these Standing Rules will be dated in the relevant section. *(November 22, 2019) (Removed per #16 below.)*
9. Deleted BLS equipment policy; see item 1. above *(November 22, 2019)*

   In August 2018, BLS moved from the Bess Chisum Center location to The Ballroom on Shackleford with the former Little Rock Bop Club (Diamond State Dance Club) and the Little Rock Country Dancers (LRCD) and created the Central Arkansas Dance Association (CADA) nonprofit organization. This move made the 12/1/12 equipment policy obsolete.
10. Authorized electronic voting *(November 13, 2020) (Removed as unused /unneeded per By-Laws Amendment #13*) *(March 2026)*
11. Confirmed officers as President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. *(November 13, 2020)*
12. Revised Section 3. Conduct (*March 3, 2025)(Revised March 2026)*
13. Revised Section 2. Dress Code *(June 8, 2025)(Revised March 2026)*
14. Standardized and simplified language in the Standing Rules, including combining redundant language and deleting content that belongs in the By-Laws instead. *(March 2026)*
15. Deleted Section 7, Board of Directors Meetings and renumber last two Sections *(*deleted item is contained in the By-Laws) *(March 2026)*
16. Removed dates of "changes" contained within the body of the text because details are listed in Section 9 (per By-Laws Amendment #14) *(March 2026)*
17. Changed Section 1A to reflect "two" monthly dances(*March 2026)*

18. Sections 5a (regular meetings), 5c (quorum) and the entire Section 6 (“Organizational Structure”) deleted; these items are contained in the By-Laws (*March 2026)*
19. Deleted confirmation of Officers for Board of Directors (Section 9, Item L, 2020 Standing Rules); this item is contained in the By-Laws (*March 2026)*
20. Deleted complimentary memberships language; this item appears in the By-Laws (per By-Laws Amendment #16) (*March 2026)*
21. Added policy to Section 1 specifying who gets in free for working at the dances *(May 2026)*
22. Suspended policy that first-time guests get in free, due to dance expenses running higher than revenue. (Section 5)*(effective May 2026)*