

Square Dance Etiquette 101

Consideration of other dancers is a must.

Square dancing, like all forms of dancing, has its own set of guidelines. These guidelines are necessary to provide a safe, fun welcoming environment for all our dancers. In Square Dancing you have 8 dancers all moving to the caller's directions here are a few key considerations:

Dance at Your Level If you are attending mainstream lessons dance at class/club level dances until you have graduated, if you haven't completed all the Plus lessons, don't expect to dance in a Plus tip at a dance unless you are explicitly invited.

Square Up Promptly - When the music starts, quickly get on the dance floor. You should try to join the square nearest you. It is considered "bad manners" to: walk through a square, pass a square needing dancers, push a single dancer from a square or cut in front of other dancer(s) already squared up.

If a square needs dancers, members of the square have their hands raised with # dancers needed.

If a square is missing dancers and there are no hands up, they are waiting for someone who has promised to dance with them, it is rude to cut into their square.

Dancer Considerations - introduce yourselves to each person in the square, be aware of "do not swing/twirl" badges. Some dancers have a difficult time lifting their arms and use a tap of the hand instead. Be careful to not hold hands too tightly.

Emergency Call for Medical Aid (ECMA) - If a dancer goes down, a second dancer attends to him. The remaining couples join hands and take a step backward and raise joined hands as high as possible in the form of an arch. This will alert the caller a dancer is down and to stop the dance. If medical help or an ambulance is needed make sure a spotter is outside the building to help the EMT team find the location.

Additional Square Dance Manners

Sitting Out - You are not required to dance every tip but also make sure you give others a chance to dance. Check with the dancers sitting out if they have had a chance to dance. Make sure your visitors are getting to dance; you want them to like your club and come back.

Dance With Lots of Different People - Do your best to avoid dancing with the same group.

Mistakes Happen - The goal of square dancing is to have fun and we all make mistakes. If the entire square breaks down, it is best, depending on the experience of the dancers to form lines or square your set.

Treating others how you want to be treated is a good rule of thumb. Each person who attends a dance should be able to leave saying they were treated with courtesy, friendliness and helpfulness.