

# **NEW DANCER HANDBOOK**

Live Lively -



**Square Dance!**

Compliments of  
The Florida Federation of Square Dancers

Updated by Penny Green  
June 1, 2024

*This booklet is provided by the Florida Federation of Square Dancers. The target audience is new Square and Round Dancers, but seasoned dancers are encouraged to read it too. In this booklet, you will find information about the various Square and Round Dance organizations in the United States, how Florida is split into regional associations, tips, history, conventions, acronyms, etc.*

*Now that you have learned to dance, you can dance anywhere in the world i.e. Japan, China, Germany, etc. Learning the language we use in our activity is like learning a whole new language. No matter where you go in the world, we all use the same square dance language, so if you go to a dance in Japan, even if you don't speak Japanese, you know the square dance language. If a Chinese dancer comes to the United States and doesn't speak English, they would still be able to square dance.*

*So, let's get started!*

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## **MESSAGE TO DANCE LEADERS AND INSTRUCTORS**

The information in this booklet gives new dancers an overview of the Square and Round Dance community in Florida. However, there are some things that are specific to a club or area of the state that you need to provide to your new dancers.

Below is a suggested list of questions to answer. Please consider preparing a sheet with these questions and answers and including it in this booklet.

Q. What is the history of the club?

Q: What is expected of us as club members?

Q. How should we dress for the club dances?

Q. What is your club's dance schedule?

Q. Are there other clubs with new dancers? Will we be able to dance with them?

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<sup>1</sup> This is no longer an association and is not represented on the Florida Federation Board.

# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

## **FOR “SQUARE AND ROUND DANCERS”**

You are part of a great activity, rich in heritage and dedicated to the enjoyment of its participants. This booklet contains information that will help you get the most from square dancing.

Square dancing is an American folk dance. It was born in the days when our country was young, carried westward by our pioneer forefathers, and is a treasured heritage of our American culture.

In the 1930s, Lloyd “Pappy” Shaw introduced western square dancing to thousands of Americans with exhibitions by his students from the Cheyenne Mountain School in Colorado. Since then, square dancing has become a favorite leisure-time activity for millions of dancers around the world. It has kept pace with many of the styles, types of music, and technological advances of our society while remaining wholesome family fun.

Square Dancers pride themselves on being friendly and courteous to both dancers and non-dancers alike on and off the dance floor. It is good square dance manners to join the nearest square needing a couple. Introduce yourself (A stranger is just a friend that you haven't met yet). After a tip, applaud the caller and thank your fellow dancers - AND - most important, "HAVE FUN AND SMILE".

**JOIN A CLUB:** Clubs are needed to organize dances and establish a means to enjoy the fellowship of square dancing. To survive they need an active membership where everyone helps. **VOLUNTEER, DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED.**

Be sure to **WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE.** It enables us to be on a first-name basis which furthers friendly fellowship. You, the new dancer, are the lifeblood of our activity. Only with your enthusiasm and ideas can square dancing continue to flourish.

Square and Round dance events do not JUST HAPPEN  
They are cased to happen and  
They need your active participation.  
JOIN AND SUPPORT A CLUB AND AN ASSOCIATION.

## Logo



In an effort to change our image of being old-timers, cowboys, farmers, etc., this logo has been replaced with a new one.



Our new image is that square dancing is for everyone (children included). It's not cowboys and farmers. Our dancers are from all walks of life and professions, from company presidents to department store clerks, teachers, medical personnel, etc. There is no longer a requirement to wear cowboy shirts and hats, big fluffy skirts, bolo ties for the guys; wear what you want. There are some that still enjoy wearing the big fluffy skirts. It's like our uniform for square dancing. Square dance attire is admired but not required.

## Finding a Dance

Usually, the problem of where to dance is easily solved when the new dancer is planning to dance locally but can be a difficult problem when away from home. We recommend that you prepare for your out-of-town visits by using the tips below.

- **Internet:** Input 'square dancing' and the area you are interested in.
- **Square Dance Shops:** Usually the friendly folks in the square dance shops can put you in contact with someone who has local dance information. Unfortunately, many of the square dance shops have gone out of business but there's still a few around.
- **Chamber of Commerce:** Some square dance clubs are members of their local Chamber of Commerce, or they have left dance and class information with them.
- **Local Newspaper:** Many clubs advertise their dances and classes in the local newspaper. Check under Entertainment or Calendar.
- **Local Parks and Recreation Departments:** Many clubs hold their dances and classes in city recreation centers.
- **Western Wear Shops:** If you cannot find a square dance shop, someone at a local western wear shop may be able to help.
- **Bumper Stickers and Square Dance Decals:** on cars, trucks, or campers. The occupants of these vehicles are usually a gold mine of information.
- **Oh! By the way...** When all else fails – ask everyone. When you pay at the checkout line at the grocery store, or pay your check at the restaurant, or hand your credit card for a gas purchase add, Oh! By the way, do you know where they square dance around here? – Or – Do you know any square dancers?

**REMEMBER** – Always be sure to ask for the dance level of the club you plan to visit. Don't embarrass yourself by attending a dance above your capability.

## **Guidelines for New Dancers**

*The following text is from Tel-Star, October 1995*

1. **Belong to a club.** Clubs are needed to organize and establish a means of enjoying the fellowship of square dancing. To survive, they need an active membership where everyone helps. Volunteer...don't wait to be asked.
2. **Dance to other callers.** During lessons, you are tuned into the caller who taught you, and you will always have a special place for him or her. Every caller has a different style...that is part of the fun.
3. **Dance in the front of the hall.** The tendency for the new dancer is to hide in the back of the hall, where they think the caller can't see their square break down. A good caller watches the whole floor...including the back squares. Don't be afraid to dance in the front square.
4. **Dance with experienced dancers.** Sometimes an outreached hand from a more experienced dancer is all your square needs to keep going. Everyone dancing today was a new dancer at one time and can remember how it felt.
5. **Touch hands after every move.** Establish your position by touching hands after every move. If you're lost, at least you'll have company. As one caller I heard years ago say..."AT&T" – reach out and touch someone".
6. **Keep Dancing.** To use all the information you have learned, and to make it become second nature, it is important to practice, practice, and practice.
7. **Be aware of your level.** Look for dances advertised at the level you know.
8. **Stay at your level for a while.** The level you dance at has nothing to do with how good a dancer you are. It has to do with how much time you are willing to devote to your hobby. You may never choose to move to another level, and that is fine. Don't let anyone rush you to go to a higher dance level!
9. **Square dance for fun.** The odds are pretty good that someone is going to make a mistake (even a caller makes one sometimes!). Don't worry about whose fault it was...it doesn't matter. Regroup, and keep smiling.
10. **Finally...jump right up when the music starts.** Get in the first open square, don't pass one up! Introduce yourself, smile, and have fun! Thank everyone when the tip is over.

Reprint from *American Square Dance* – March 2013

## **SQUARE DANCING IN THE PROPER SPIRIT**

By Caller Chuck Durant, Titusville, Florida

Dr. Lloyd "Pappy" Shaw, the name and the man, is most likely unknown to most new square dancers today. Shaw is generally recognized as the father of modern square dancing. In Colorado, in the early 1900s it was Shaw who revived a sagging interest in square dancing that was on the verge of extinction. His "Cowboy Dances", a 1939 collection of almost 100 calls of that time, emphasized "dancing in the proper spirit".

What is the proper spirit? Is it dancing with the corner of our mouths turned down? No! The spirit means smiling – showing the pleasure received from dancing with good friends. Does it mean being critical about our fellow dancers' imperfections when the square falls apart? No! The spirit means laughing together – accepting the fact that we are human: and being human we will err.

Does it mean ignoring those who we've decided do not dance as well as us? No! The spirit means understanding – to be tolerated and less judgmental of others. After all, all of you came into square dancing for the same reasons – fun, fellowship, and harmony. These three ingredients help square dancing grow into a community of an estimated 7 million dancers. The absence of these ingredients could also destroy the community.

Are you still friends with those who invited you to an open house to promote classes? If the Proper Spirit exists, you are graduated, are dancing regularly, and have become much closer friends. The Proper Spirit is present, if, after having shared a 30-40<sup>2</sup> week learning experience, you find a special kindred ship among the group.

Square dancing without the Proper Spirit would be a cold experience, indeed. No smiles, no laughter, no handshaking; in fact, no friendly acknowledgments at all. As a new dancer, you have a responsibility to carry on the friendly virtues of square dancing as much as the seasoned dancer does. By your example, you will have many opportunities in square dancing to influence others to dance in the proper spirit.

Show your friendly colors and share your joy in the dance with the other 7 dancers in your square. Get the Spirit! "Pappy" would have wanted it that way.

REPRINTED FROM *"The Square Dance Bulletin"*

## **SQUARE DANCE CODE OF ETHICS**

### **I. DEFINITION OF ETHICS**

Ethics is basically defined as rules or standards for governing the relations between people to benefit all concerned, with mutual respect for the needs and wants of all parties involved.

The essence of ethical behavior is:

- A. To conduct all relations between parties in friendliness, honesty and good faith;
- B. To honor fully, in word and in spirit, all agreements, once made, and
- C. To confine any critical comments to a reasoned and temperate discussion of actions and practices.

### **II. DANCERS RIGHTS**

- A. Dancers should realistically evaluate their own dancing abilities and dance within those abilities.
- B. Dancers should be aware that some of their dancing habits may be uncomfortable or undesirable to other dancers in the square and should make every effort to avoid such actions.
- C. Dancers should treat other members of the club and its visitors and guests with courtesy, friendliness, and helpfulness. They should assist the less experienced dancers.

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<sup>2</sup> These days it's 20 hours of learning to be a social square dancer.



- D. Dancers should enthusiastically take part in the activities of any club that extends to them the benefits and privileges of membership and should accept all the responsibilities of a club member.
- E. Dancers should be concerned that the relations of their club with callers, other dancers, and other organizations are conducted in an ethical manner.
- F. Dancers should keep within the club any criticism of the conduct of club members, club officers, or club caller or teacher. Any such criticism should be offered in a constructive manner.
- G. Dancers who feel they can no longer accept the rules and practices of the club should resign from the club.
- H. Dancers should not wear the badge of a club if they are not members in good standing of the club.

### III. ETHICS FOR CLUBS AND CLUB OFFICERS

- A. Club officers should have as their primary purpose and concern the welfare of the club and the square dance community as a whole.
- B. Club officers should conduct all club business and honor all club contracts in an ethical manner. An honest effort should be made by the club officers to resolve any problems prior to dismissal of a caller or employee of the club.
- C. Upon change of club officers, the new officers should be made fully aware of any outstanding club commitments. The new officers should consider themselves and the club to be legally and morally bound to fulfill any official commitments made by the previous officers on behalf of the club.
- D. In contractual matters, club officers should assure that all expectations and requirements, such as schedules, fees, expenses, etc., are clearly stated in writing and are understood by all contracting parties prior to signature.
- E. Clubs should plan and sponsor beginner classes to promote and perpetuate the square dance activity. Graduating dancers should be accommodated by the club, or the club should provide information regarding dancing opportunities in the area.
- F. Clubs should ensure that visitors and invited guests are informed of club admission policies, such as attire and admission fees, as well as dance levels.
- G. Clubs should discourage "set squares" and cliques, in order to promote the fun and fellowship of square dancing.
- H. Clubs should use officially defined dance levels and should conform to the official definitions of the level.

## **DANCERS CODE OF CONDUCT**

Square Dancers anywhere are encouraged to comply with an appropriate Code of Conduct that will enhance the public image and the pleasure of the movement to all dancers and non-dancers, as well.

Among the unique aspects of this wholesome activity is the attractive attire that is an intrinsic part of the image of the square dance. Accordingly, the wearing of appropriate apparel is as important to the enjoyment of the participants as it is to those watching. Not only should the clothing of the

dancers be appealing to the eye, but also functional to the others within the square. It is generally recommended that this includes the wearing of long-sleeved shirts for the men and full or prairie skirts for the ladies as local customs and events may require.<sup>3</sup>

Avoidance of alcoholic beverages both before and during dances is essential to ensure the enjoyment of everyone. A single drink can severely diminish the response time required to execute the intricate moves of the dance. Square Dancing in itself has the capability of providing sufficient exhilaration to warrant abstinence from alcohol on dance nights.

Courtesy to others is important at all times. This includes personal cleanliness, as Square Dancing is an energetic recreation that creates sweat and can be offensive should adequate precautions not be taken.

The welcoming of others into the dance and into the squares is an integral part of the social aspect of Square Dancing. Walking out of a square at any time is considered a severe insult. At the end of the dance, no one should leave the square before thanking everyone who contributed to the joy and the fun of dancing together.

Conforming to the accepted and generally taught hand positions and maneuvers for execution of the movements help to eliminate any uncertainty among the other dancers. Proper styling while dancing is as important to the enjoyment of the Square Dance as is the proper execution of the movements themselves.

Adherence to these guidelines should be encouraged from the very early stages of beginners' class. The best means of achieving this is through the example of experienced dancers and leaders and by the incorporation of ethics into the educational process during the class.

It is felt that through the reaffirmation of these long recognized rules of conduct, dancers everywhere will be reminded of the importance of courtesy, friendliness and personal hygiene. All of these things are an integral part of the Square Dance activity.

Reprint from "Dancers Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct" brochure – IS-066. This brochure can be printed directly from the USDA web site at [www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org).

## **WHY DO WE ...**

Author Unknown

Some things are worth repeating (many times) because we need to be reminded and new people join our activity.

Why do we ...

- **Not drink alcoholic beverages at dances?** Alcohol inhibits our ability to listen and perform. Alcohol reduces our reaction time making us a poorer dancer. In addition, dancing is a wholesome, family-oriented activity.

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<sup>3</sup> Casual attire is appropriate in these days and times. Check with the club and the convention/festival committee to determine what their preference is prior to attending.

- **Belong to a club?** Clubs are needed to organize dances and establish a means to enjoy the fellowship of square dancing. To survive they need an active membership where everyone helps. Volunteer, don't wait to be asked! (EDITOR'S NOTE: I have been asked several times if you can belong to more than one club. YES! By all means; you can belong to as many clubs as you like. But don't belong to so many clubs that you can't support them with your attendance at the dances and on banner raids and retrievals.)
- **Stay non-competitive?** In square dancing we want everyone to have fun, so without winners and losers, this can be accomplished.
- **Overlook mistakes by others?** We all make mistakes. Everyone is trying to do it right. Encourage them!
- **Wear name badges?** Badges enable us to be on a first name basis which furthers friendly fellowship.
- **Welcome new dancers?** New dancers are the lifeblood of our activity! Only with their enthusiasm and ideas can dancing continue to flourish!

Reprint from DANCERgram – January 19, 2009

## **Miscellaneous Questions**

### **Q: What should we wear to the dances?**

A: The dress code is flexible and depends on the event being sponsored. Some groups allow casual attire and some request traditional square dance attire. At weekend dances, they will sometimes state casual during the day but request square dance attire in the evenings. Casual is jeans, leggings, t-shirts, knee length shorts, or capris. It is sometimes stated that tank tops and short shorts are not allowed. Footwear: most dancers wear whatever is comfortable for them; but for safety reasons, flip flops and open toed or heeled footwear are not recommended as toes and heels can be stepped on, and flip flops can fly off your feet while you are dancing. Like many activities, traditional square dance attire is like a uniform for square dancing. If you wear traditional attire into restaurants and stores, you are sure to attract attention, but that's your chance to promote square dancing! If you are visiting a dance for the first time, be sure to find out what their preferred attire is.

### **Q: How should we dress on weekends or at State or National Square Dance events?**

A: The advertising material and registration forms usually state what the preferred attire is. If you can't find it, communicate with someone on the committee.

### **Q. What other Square Dance programs are available to me?**

A. There are several levels of competency – Social Square Dancing (SSD), Mainstream, Plus, Dance by Definition (DBD), A-1, A-2, C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4.

Social Square Dancing (SSD) was developed as an alternate entry-level destination dance program, intended for use without requiring any change to any other dance program. Beginners can learn it (Standard Application) in 18 to 22 hours. Dancers are encouraged to dance that program, and to recruit their friends, with no pressure to move up to higher programs. SSD is a shorter, easier entry program to make square dancing more marketable to new dancers. If you are an SSD dancer, don't go to a Mainstream dance thinking you can dance that level; you can't. You haven't learned enough

to dance at that level. You will only break down squares and end up with a bad reputation that you can't square dance.

If you want to dance a higher level, then you need to go to a class to learn the movements for that level. You have to learn Mainstream first. When you are comfortable with that level, you can move up to Plus, then Advance, and then Challenge. You are not required to move up levels; if you want to stay at Mainstream, that is fine, but only dance when they are doing Mainstream.

Many clubs alternate Mainstream and Plus. In other words, there will be one tip of Mainstream, then sometimes two Rounds, then a tip of Plus. They alternate that way through the entire dance.

**Q: What other Round Dance programs are available to me?**

A: In Round Dancing there are different phases – Phases 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. These levels are determined by the complexity of the dance moves. There are also different rhythms – Two step, Waltz, Rumba, Foxtrot, Cha, and Tango. At the dances, the cuer will announce the phase and rhythm they will be cueing. If they announce Phase 3, there will be movements that you have not learned in Phase 2. You are welcome to get up for a higher phase, but stay away from the dance circle and the dancers who do know the higher phase.

**Q: How long should we dance at a certain level?**

A: It is best to dance at least one year at each level so you can become familiar with everything you have learned before you move on. Just because you have moved from Mainstream to Plus, doesn't mean you stop dancing at Mainstream level. You can angel at classes and you can dance the Mainstream level; all of this reinforces what you have learned. And don't forget what it was like when you were learning; a lot of people helped you learn. Now it's time to pay it forward.

**Acronyms and Definitions**

	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
2 X 2		Alternating a tip (two songs) with two Rounds or two Line Dances
A1, A2		Advanced square dance level
ACA	American Callers Association	the second largest association of square dance callers in the United States; a non-profit organization; has members in the United States, Canada, Europe, and New Zealand
ADV	Advanced	a square dance level
After party		A party after the end of a convention or festival. Sometimes there is more square dancing, skits, jokes, and refreshments

Arky		Arky movements, in general, involve one set of active couples who are half sashayed working with the other two pairs who are in regular partner arrangement (lady on man's right). A great many Arky style movements will see men working with men and girls with girls. In some circles, the dancer in the man's position (on the left of a pair) is called a "Beau" while the dancer in the girl's usual position is called a "Belle."
ARTS-Dance	Alliance of Rounds, Traditional, and Square-Dance	An organization created to promote square, round, and traditional dance
ASCAP	American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers	licenses public performances of its members' musical works in business spaces. ASCAP collects and distributes fees for the public performances of their members.  All callers and cuers must be BMI/ASCAP licensed, which they receive as part of their membership fee to their national organization, i.e. CALLERLAB, American Callers Association, and ROUNDALAB.
Banner Raid or Retrieval		Several clubs have a banner with their logo, club name, and location. Other clubs can come "steal" the banner and take it back to their club. There are different rules for this i.e. you have to have a complete square for the first and last tips of the dance and you have to go a certain distance. A lot of clubs have stopped doing banner raids.
Beau		The left side of a couple (usually a man)
Belle		The right side of a couple (usually a woman)

BMI	Broadcast Music Inc.	<p>Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI) licenses public performances of its members' musical works in business spaces. BMI collects and distributes fees for the public performances of their 1.3M members.</p> <p>All callers and cuers must be BMI/ASCAP/SESAC licensed, which they receive as part of their membership fee to their national organization, i.e. CALLERLAB, American Callers Association, and ROUNDALAB.</p>
C-1, 2 or 3	Challenge	square dance levels
CALLERLAB		The largest international professional association of square dance callers
Central Association		A regional Square and Round Dance organization for the dancers in central Florida (The Villages to the Space Coast)
CONTRALAB		... an international organization that was established to assist contra callers in improving their skills and to act as a forum for the exchange of ideas. It is an organization for contra callers who desire to retain, maintain, promote and perpetuate the contra dance.
DBD	Dance by Definition	Generally considered to be dancing with the expectation that any and all calls may be called from any and all formations and/or dancer arrangements which meet the CALLERLAB definition of the call.
ER	Early Rounds	30 - 60 minutes of Rounds before the start of a square dance
FANSDC	Florida Association of National Square Dance Campers	A camping association for Florida square dance campers
FCA	Florida Callers Association	A professional association for callers that call and/or teach square dancing in Florida

FSSRDC	Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention	An annual weekend for Square and Round Dancers – dancing, instruction, workshops, and vendors. It is usually held the third weekend in January.
GSI	Grand Square International	An international organization created to extend efforts to bridge the language gap – a way to better share our common thread of dance.
Hex		Dancing in a six couple square
Home Club		The club that sponsored your square dance class and is the first club you join; always remember to come home and support your “Home Club”
Hot Hash		...dancing with the normal four couple square but it is called very fast
I.A.G.S.D.C. ©	International Association of Gay Square Dance Club	... a non-profit association created to promote square dancing; enhance the image of Gay and Lesbian people, especially with the square dance community; encourage the growth of square dancing within the Gay and Lesbian community, and provide opportunities for friendship, social interchange, and the exchange of ideas among member clubs
	Lloyd Shaw Foundation	... formed in 1964 to preserve and promote all forms of American and associated folk dance. The archives produce records, books, and dance curriculum kits, sponsors university workshops to train teachers to teach dance, and maintains a square dance archive that is recognized by the Library of Congress.
MS/Mainstream	Mainstream	a square dance level
NEC	National Executive Committee	A committee of the past National Square Dance Convention chairpersons who guide the committee for the current convention

NEFSRDA	Northeast Florida Square & Round Dance Association	A regional Square and Round Dance organization for the dancers in northeast Florida (Jacksonville area)
NSDC	National Square Dance Convention®	Thousands of dancers from all 52 states and many foreign countries meet at a different location in the USA each year to learn about every phase of the square dance hobby as well as to meet and dance with their many friends who also come yearly. The convention is sponsored each year by a different square dance organization in a different location. Guidance for all of the national conventions is provided by the National Executive Committee (NEC) whose members are all previous convention chairpersons.
NSDCA	National Square Dance Campers Association	A national organization that provides an opportunity and encourages those interested in both modern western square dancing and camping, to combine the two activities for mutual enjoyment.
NWFSRDA	Northwest Florida Square & Round Dance Association	A regional Square and Round Dance organization for the dancers in northwest Florida (the Panhandle)
OBS	Orange Blossom Squares	A square dance club in The Villages
ODA	Overseas Dancer Association	...nonprofit organization devoted to the concept of friendship through square dancing around the world. Its members either live outside the American continent (overseas) or learned to dance overseas or who have danced overseas for at least six months on a regular basis. The ODA maintains contact between these dancers upon their return to the United States or Canada
Pre-Rounds or Pre Dance Rounds		30 or 60 minutes of Rounds before the start of a square dance
P/PL/Plus	Plus	A square dance level



RDCF	Round Dance Council of Florida	A professional state association for cuers that cue or teach in the state of Florida
Ribbons		your “ticket” into a convention or festival
ROUNDALAB		Platform for the dissemination of information pertinent to the round dance activity
SCCA	Suncoast Callers & Cuers Association	A professional association for callers and teachers on the west coast of Florida.
SEA	Southeast Association	A regional Square and Round Dance organization for the dancers in southeast Florida (Miami area)
SESAC	Society of European Stage Authors and Composers	<p>... is a PRO<sup>4</sup> founded in the 1930s. At the company's founding, it focused on works that European firms published. Over time, that focus shifted to include American publishers. Now, the company works with a variety of artists, such as these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Avett Brothers</li> <li>• Bob Dylan</li> <li>• Neil Diamond</li> <li>• Mumford &amp; Sons</li> <li>• RUSH</li> <li>• Adele</li> </ul> <p>SESAC works a little like an intermediary for the artists it serves. The artists form an agreement with SESAC, and the organization enforces copyright on the artist’s behalf. Money brought in is distributed to the artists.</p>
Square Dance Weekend		A convention or festival that runs Friday through Sunday, i.e. Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention

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<sup>4</sup> Performing Rights Organization

SSD	Social Square Dancing	(previously known as Sustainable Square Dancing) was developed as an alternate entry-level destination dance program, intended for use without requiring any change to any other dance program. SSD is a fun yet meaningful dance program. Beginners can learn it (Standard Application) in 18 to 22 hours. Dancers are encouraged to dance that program, and to recruit their friends, with no pressure to move up to higher programs. SSD is a shorter, easier entry program to make square dancing more marketable to new dancers.
Tip		..a “set” of dancing comprised of two segments. The first segment is hash, which is the caller calling with no singing. The second segment is a singing call, which is calling with music. The length of a tip varies; it can be approximately 10 minutes at a lower level and go to 20 minutes at the very high levels.
Trail End Dance		a square and round dance on the Thursday night before the start of the state convention
Trail In Dance		a square and round dance on the Thursday night before the start of the state convention
USDA	United Square Dancers of America	This nonprofit organization serves to represent the Square Dancer in decisions that are made relative to the development of the square dance activity.
W/S	Workshop	is for dancers who dance at the advertised level and wish to improve their skills at that level. Dancers attending an A-1 workshop should know the complete A-1 program. They will get practice with some of the trickier calls, for example or explore calls from unusual positions or less common choreography.

WCA	West Coast Area	Formerly the West Coast Association - A regional Square and Round Dance organization for the dancers on the west coast of Florida. This association folded in 2022
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## TAMINATIONS

Taminations are the Square Dance animations of the Tam Twirlers Square Dance Club. Here you will find animations for calls from Mainstream through C3B. Most calls have several animations from different starting positions. Taminations is written and maintained by Brad Christie, webmaster of the Tam Twirlers Square Dance Club.

<https://www.tamtwirlers.org/tamflash/info/inde.html>

## WHERE TO DANCE IN FLORIDA

Everything you want to know about Square and Round Dancing in the state of Florida can be found at [www.floridasquaredance.com](http://www.floridasquaredance.com).

## DANCER ORGANIZATIONS

### FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS



Many people and organizations are at work to enable you to enjoy this fine recreation. You are aware of your local club, and the members of your group will no doubt inform you of your area association.

But you may not hear a great deal about the organization which ties all dancers of Florida together: THE FLORIDA FEDERATION OF SQUARE DANCERS.

What is the Florida Federation of Square Dancers and of what use is it to you as dancers?

The state of Florida is divided into five regional associations – Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and West Coast<sup>5</sup>. There is one representative from each association, except for West Coast) serving on the Board of the Florida Federation of Square Dancers. Each person starts as the treasurer, and each year they progress up one chair to the secretary, vice president, and president.

The purpose of the Federation is to:

- Promote public awareness and interest in square and round dancing as a healthful form of enjoyable recreation. This includes the distribution of funds to organizations that qualify under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- Encourage and assist in the formation of square and round dance clubs.
- Be in contact with dancers in other states through The United Square Dancers of America (USDA).
- Serve as a clearinghouse for information among the unaffiliated dance groups and as a liaison with square dancers elsewhere in the world.
- Bring a spirit of cooperation among the callers, teachers, and dancers elsewhere in the world.
- Sponsor the annual Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention in coordination with the Florida Callers Association and the Round Dance Council of Florida where dancers from all over the state can meet, enjoy dancing to outstanding callers and cuers from every section of the state, make new friends and renew old friendships.

The Federation sponsors a display in the Showcase of Ideas at the annual National Square Dance Convention<sup>®</sup> that publicizes square and round dancing in the state of Florida. The Florida exhibit is generally recognized to be one of the best and most popular at the convention. Florida has sponsored a display for 25+ years.

The Federation is a co-sponsor of the Florida State Square and Round Dance Hall of Fame at Strawberry Square Dance Center in Plant City to honor dancers, callers, cuers, publishers, teachers, organizers, promoters, and/or vendors who have made outstanding state-wide contributions to promoting square and round dancing in the state.

For additional information, go to <http://www.floridasquaredance.com/index.html>.

## **FLORIDA'S FIVE REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**



**CENTRAL FLORIDA SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION (CENTRAL)** – The purpose of CFSRDA is to promote square and round dancing in Central Florida through dances, publicity, and training programs, and to bring about a spirit of cooperation among dancers, callers, and cuers. Membership is open to all persons interested in square and round dancing in **Brevard, Indian River, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia** counties. The Board of Directors is elected officers, immediate past president, and area directors

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<sup>5</sup> The West Coast Association is only a legal entity partnering with the Suncoast Callers and Cuers Association (SCCA) to promote square dancing on the west coast of Florida.

with husband and wife serving jointly. Members pay annual dues with a discount at regular dances. Meetings and dances are usually held each fifth Saturday. The Association publishes *Keepin' Posted*, a magazine highlighting square, and round dance activities in the Central Florida area. For additional information on Central, go to <http://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/central/index.html>.



**NORTHEAST FLORIDA SQUARE AND ROUND DANCERS' ASSOCIATION (NEFSARDA)** – NEFSARDA does not accept individual memberships, but any square or round dance club can apply for membership. The Association strives to promote the growth of our hobby and sponsor Association dances such as Fifth Saturday Dances, and the annual Fall Festival. The Association provides information through its monthly publication *The Grapevine*. It encompasses the counties of **Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Levy, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee, and Union**. The Association publishes the *New Dancer Book* to provide useful information for the new dancer and often sponsors benefit dances. For additional information on Northeast, go to <http://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/northeast/index.html>.



**NORTHWEST FLORIDA SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION (NWFSRDA)** – The NWFSRDA's purpose is to promote the growth of square, round, contra, and line dancing activities to the people within northwest Florida. The association encompasses twenty-one counties in northwest Florida – **Bay, Calhoun, Dixie, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington**.

Through the United Square Dancers of America (USDA), the association provides accident, medical, and liability insurance to members. In October of each year, the association sponsors the Round-Up – a two-day event for all dancers. Northwest Association also provides local, regional, state, and national information to members in a quarterly publication, the *Panhandle Press*. For additional information on Northwest, go to <http://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/northwest/index.html>.



**SOUTHEAST FLORIDA SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION (SEA)** – The SEA is a communications link between dancers and members of the Florida Federation, and provides information to our dancers through United Square Dancers of America. Insurance is provided to the dancers through USDA Insurance. There is a visitation twice a month to all area clubs. The counties SE covers are **Broward, Dade, Hendry, Martin, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie**. For additional information on Southeast, go to <http://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/southeast/index.html>.



**WEST COAST AREA (WCA)** – The West Coast Square and Round Dancers’ Association’s purpose was to promote square and round dancing activities in a fifteen-county area on the west coast of Florida. This Association is now a legal entity partnering with the Suncoast Callers and Cuers Association (SCCA) to promote dancing on the west coast of Florida. This Association folded in 2022 and is now referred to as the West Coast Area.

The publication for this area is the electronic *DANCERgram*, which includes the *Planner* (weekly); *This & That* (once a month); *Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies* (as needed), and the *Directory* (as needed).

The counties in the West Coast Area are **Charlotte, Citrus, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota.**

For additional information on West Coast, go to <http://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/westcoast/index.html>.

For dance information in the West Coast Area, go to [www.dancergram.com](http://www.dancergram.com).

## **Florida Square and Round Dance Hall of Fame**

The Hall of Fame was organized to honor dancers, callers, cuers, publishers, teachers, organizers, promoters, and/or vendors for their contributions made to the dance activity statewide. The hall is managed by the Florida Federation. Nominations are made by members of the Florida square and round dance community. For additional information, go to <http://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/halloffame/index.html>. The Hall is located at Strawberry Square Dance Center, 4401 Promenade Boulevard, Plant City, Florida. For a pictorial view of the Hall, go to <http://www.dancergram.com/HallofFame/HallofFameMain.html>.

## **Extra Mile Award**

This is a recognition program for those Callers and Cuers that go that Extra Mile without personal gain in giving freely of their time and talents to the square dance community. Nominations are made by the Florida square and round dancers. For additional information, go to <http://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/documents/ExtraMileAwards/extra-mile.html>.

## **United Square Dancers of America (USDA)**



The UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA, INC. (USDA) was formed on June 26, 1981, during the National Square Dance Convention held in Seattle, Washington, and grew in size to represent several thousand dancers throughout the United States. USDA is an organization formed by dancers, for dancers, and is under the

operational control of dancers. The purpose of the organization is to:

- Promote and perpetuate the total Square Dance Movement which includes Square, Round, Contra, Clogging, Line, and Folk Dancing.
- Establish a line of communication from the individual dancer to a recognized unified body so that an expression of varied opinions can establish or influence policy for making decisions at the national level.
- Provide for education to further the growth and enjoyment of Square Dancing.
- Encourage cooperation between member clubs, state associations, councils, federations; national and international organizations; or other groups involved or interested in the promotion of Square Dancing.
- Provide a forum for implementing the benefits of membership in the UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA and assist members in any way possible.
- Represent Square Dancing to the general public as a wholesome, enjoyable family-type recreation.
- Strive to provide benefits for the entire Square Dance community:
  - Economical dancer accident and club liability insurance coverage
  - Youth scholarships
  - Handicapable Dancer Assistance

For additional information go to [www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org).

### **USDA Insurance Program**

Every square dance organization needs General Liability and Accident Medical Expense coverage while conducting and sponsoring dance activities. As closely as safety rules are followed, accidents can and will happen. This insurance program, specially designed for USDA dance groups, the USDA provides Accident Medical insurance, which helps protect club members from financial loss due to a covered accidental bodily injury, and Liability insurance, which protects the club and its members and association officials from financial loss due to unforeseen incidents which may develop into litigation against members and dance organizations. You must be a member of a club participating in the USDA Insurance Program. For additional information, go to [www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org). For information on reporting an accident or injury, go to Page

### **USDA – Centennial Award Program**

Purpose: As the world’s largest square dance association, the Executive Committee of USDA is proud to provide a “Centennial Award” program for this group of dancers.

The qualified recipients will be given a nice framed “Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation” signed by the president of USDA and the vice-president of their region. They will also receive a “United Square Dancers of America Centennial Award” lapel pin. This award will be presented to them by a member of the Executive Committee at a dance attended by the

recipient when possible. Should the recipient not be able to attend the USDA Board of Directors meeting the day before the National Convention, USDA will pay their Convention registration.

Finally, our *USDA NEWS* will honor them in a special “Feature Article” about them. When available, we also include pictures of them receiving their awards from a USDA representative.

Qualifications: We have tried to keep the qualifications for earning the Centennial Award simple. The most difficult part is reaching the age of 100.

That is the number one criterion on the list of qualifications. Once you have met the age requirement, you are well on your way.

Requirement number two is that you are still active in the square dance community. This does not require that you still dance, but you must still attend dances regularly and be involved in the club in some way. This may be sitting at the front table and welcoming dancers as they come in. Requirement number three is that you must have a minimum of five years of membership in your club.

Once you have qualified for the Centennial Award, you must notify USDA by completing the Qualification Form and sending it to the editor of the *USDA News*.

## USDA – USA TRAVELER PROGRAM



**Purpose:** To promote visitation between dancers in all 50 states. To encourage visitations of square dancers to regular club dances, festivals, and state or national square dance conventions across state lines and around the United States.

**Goal:** To attend a club dance, a state or national convention, or a local festival in all 50 states.

**Levels of Achievement:** A badge and a bar will be awarded to the participant(s), at no charge to them, after they have visited at least 12 states, and have a form signed and returned to USDA to be verified. Additional

different colored bars will be awarded as follows:

12 states	Red bar	48 states	Silver bar
23 states	White bar	50 states	Gold bar
36 states	Blue bar		

No duplication of states is permitted. You must visit each of the 50 states.

The couple this badge belongs to is on their third time around the United States!



Badges and bars will be presented at the annual USDA meeting which is held during the annual National Square Dance Convention.

Any participant who visits 48 or 50 states will also be awarded paid admission(s) to the next National Square Dance Convention.

USDA will maintain records of all participants so you may check to see which states you have or have not visited.

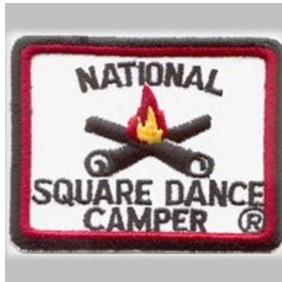
Participants traveling as a couple only need to fill out one form, with both names on it.

Dancers that have received the Gold bar for visiting all 50 States may go for the second time around. After visiting the next 12 states and sending in the form. Dancers will receive a bar SECOND TIME AROUND and the red bar for 12 states to add to your badge.

All dance dates on the Second Time Around must be after the date you received your 50 states bar. *Copied from USDA brochure.*

For information, contact [Traveler@usda.org](mailto:Traveler@usda.org).

## **FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CAMPERS (FANSDC)**



The Florida Association of National Square Dance Campers is a part of the National Square Dance Campers Association. There are five chapters in Florida that are comprised of square dancers who also enjoy camping. Each chapter has their own Caller and Cuer and they meet once a month at various camping resorts in Florida during the Florida dance season. Even if you aren't a camper, you are welcome to join the dances. They spend the weekend dancing in the evenings and other activities during the weekend. Each event usually starts on Friday and ends Sunday morning. For more information, please go to <https://fansdc.net>. You will find a link to each of the Florida chapters and schedules for each one.

## **CALLER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **CALLERLAB**



CALLERLAB is an international organization of square dance callers. Its mission statement is "To foster the art of square dance calling, and improve caller skills". They fulfill this mission by providing guidance and education,

certifying caller coaches, maintaining standardized lists of calls and definitions, and generally promoting the square dance activity. Caller education is a primary focus for CALLERLAB. We offer schools, online resources, caller coaching, and an extensive library of convention sessions.

CALLERLAB is an involved organization with its members taking an active part in committees, convention assignments, and special projects. It accomplishes many tasks that could only be done by a group of professionals working together. Membership is open to all square dance callers worldwide. Our annual convention is held each spring and all are welcome to join us!

One feature the square dancer is most familiar with is their Quarterly Selections for all square dance programs. These are special movements that are provided to the square dance communities throughout the nation and are taught at dances for extra fun. You are not required to memorize these movements for future reference. Any caller using these Quarterlies will teach them whenever used. They are fun and add to the square dance and round dance programs.

Additional information about CALLERLAB can be found at [www.callerlab.org](http://www.callerlab.org).

## **AMERICAN CALLERS ASSOCIATION (ACA)**



The American Callers Association was created to promote square dancing and keep square dance fun. It serves to make caller licensing easier and more inexpensive and provides liability insurance to callers.

For more information on the American Callers Association, please contact the ACA office at American Callers Association, P.O. Box 2406, Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35662, [loulet@aol.com](mailto:loulet@aol.com), 256-383-7585, [www.Americancallers.net](http://www.Americancallers.net).

## **FLORIDA CALLERS ASSOCIATION (FCA)**



The Florida Callers Association is a state organization that provides education and guidance to people who wish to become callers and receive ongoing education for established callers. In cooperation with the Florida Federation of Square Dancers and the Round Dance Council of Florida, we stage a two-day state convention once a year during the Winter season.

There are five (5) regional callers' associations. These are Central Florida Callers Association (Orange, Volusia, Seminole, Brevard, and Flagler counties), Gateway Callers Association, Rural Callers Association, Suncoast Callers and Cuers Association (SCCA) and Tri-County Callers and Cuers Association (Lake, Marion, and Sumter counties). For additional information on FCA, go to <http://www.flcallersassoc.org/>.

# ROUND DANCE ORGANIZATIONS

## ROUNDALAB



The International Association of Round Dance Teachers, Inc. is also known as ROUNDALAB. We serve as a platform for the dissemination of information pertinent to the round dance activity. ROUNDALAB focuses on education for dance leaders through a comprehensive educational program. ROUNDALAB works to educate leaders through an annual convention, MINILABS, and sessions conducted at the National Square Dance Convention. MINILABS are held at requested locations throughout the United States and abroad. Some of the material available for our members includes Teaching Manuals, Guidelines for various aspects of the activity, and descriptions and videos of each of the dance figures in all phases of Round Dancing.

ROUNDALAB also provides a \$1,000,000 comprehensive bodily injury and property damage liability insurance policy for all teaching and cueing activities for its United States members. ROUNDALAB has entered into a music performance licensing agreement with BMI, ASCAP, and SESAC<sup>6</sup> to license its members to use copyrighted music at all Round Dance activities. Each year the organization offers several scholarships for members interested in attending institutes for Round Dance leaders. For additional information, please contact the ROUNDALAB office at [roundalab@roundalab.org](mailto:roundalab@roundalab.org).

## WHAT IS ROUND DANCING?

*By Tim Eum*

**Round Dancing is fun.** Round dancers spend time with their partners and friends, enjoying and moving rhythmically to great music. Round dancers participate purely for the fun of it—there are no competitions, no judges, and no dance awards. Round dancers are rewarded with lifelong friendships.

**Round Dancing is an exciting social activity.** Round dancers form clubs and gather together to dance at places like schools, community centers, church recreation halls, YMCA's, and fraternal organization halls. Most clubs only charge \$4 or \$5<sup>7</sup> per dancer for the entire evening, and most allow spectators to watch for free. Often clubs combine to put on even larger and longer events. There are clubs and round dance events all over the world. Round dancers can even spend an entire week round dancing at special mountain resorts or romantic ocean cruises.

**Round Dancing is choreographed, cued couples dancing.** Round dancing is like ballroom dancing and uses ballroom figures, but there are two major differences—it is choreographed ahead of time and then cued to the dancers like the way square dance callers direct square dancers.

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<sup>6</sup> Callers can obtain this license through ROUNDALAB due to an agreement between ROUNDALAB and CALLERLAB.

<sup>7</sup> This is now approximately \$8 per person.

Choreographers choose wonderful music and then choose the different movements and figures to fit the music exactly. If the music swells and pauses briefly, then a dance step that rises and stretches is put into that place. If there is a little syncopation in another part of the song, then a quick little step is inserted. The creation of a piece of choreography is like designing the interior of a home, with every piece of furniture and artwork in just the right place to give the best feel and enjoyment. Dances have been choreographed to a myriad of Rhythms – waltz, two-step, cha-cha, rumba, jive/swing, foxtrot, tango, bolero, mambo, samba, merengue, salsa, west coast swing, paso doble, quickstep, and others.

The “Cuer” or Round Dance Leader stands with a microphone and the sound equipment at one side of a dance hall. As the music plays, and just ahead of when the dancers must respond, the Cueur names each dance figure of the choreography to be done in proper order. Since dances are cued, dancers need not memorize choreography and can thus dance hundreds of different routines. On a two-hour club night, the dancers could typically dance over thirty choreographed dances. Since all the dancers are doing the same figures in the same direction at the same time (or at least are supposed to), the choreography can become quite elaborate. The dancers can move great distances with many changes of direction without fear of running into another couple.

ROUNDALAB, the International Association of Round Dance Teachers, Inc., has defined six phases of dance figures with phase one (I) generally being the easiest in difficulty and phase six (VI) comprising the most difficult figures. Most round dance clubs do not try to do all phase levels and thus as a dancer, you can choose clubs that cater to the level that you are most comfortable at. Couples form up and generally progress counterclockwise in a circle around the dance floor—thus the name “Round Dancing”.

### **Modern Dancing is part of the Modern Square Dance Movement.**

Modern Round Dancing grew along with Modern Square Dancing through the second half of the twentieth century. Although pure round dance clubs exist as do pure square dance clubs, many clubs offer what is called a two by two program. A caller will call square dance patten for about 6 minutes and then sing a singing call for about 4 minutes. Then a Cueur will cue two round dance routines, taking about 8 minutes. Then the caller comes up again. Then the Cueur and so on until the evening has been fulfilled. There are State and National Square and Round Dance Conventions where both activities are conducted. Many local caller associations and round dance teacher associations are combined as one organization. There continues to be a mutual symbiosis between square and round dancing. A great many square dancers first learn of round dancing from the two-by-two clubs and conventions and thus many round dancers were at first square dancers. Since round dance music is of all types (big bands, rock & roll, easy listening, and many others) it complements what is predominately the country-western square dance sound at square dance events. Square dancers tend to retain the whoop and holler spirit of dancing, while round dancers tend to dance with greater precision and thus help to improve the overall smoothness experienced by all in the intertwining square dance movements. Round dancing really does “ROUND” out the square dance experience.

**Round Dancing is a healthy exercise.** Round Dancing is an active activity. Most of the time, you will be on the floor dancing. There are short breaks most leaders allow you to rest whenever you want – but the norm is to dance. The more you do it, the more you can do it. Not only does your

heart pump, but your mind is also exercised in trying to remember how to do all the figures that the Cues cues.

## **ROUND DANCE COUNCIL OF FLORIDA (RDCF)**



An organization formed to promote and correlate American Round Dance activities in the state of Florida; to act as a clearing center for the receipt and dissemination of current Round Dance news, information, or any item of interest to Round Dance teachers, cuers, and dancers; foster and promulgate a spirit of friendliness, cooperation, and non-competitiveness among leaders and participants in Round Dance activities; encourage and provide motivation and sponsorship for both area and statewide participation in the event of interest to dancers; and publicize in every way possible the preceding aims and purposes. Membership is open to anyone actively cueing and/or teaching Round Dancing in the state of Florida. The Council hosts two-weekend clinics a year, which are open to everyone. For additional information, go to <http://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/rdc/index.html>.

## **MISCELLANEOUS ORGANIZATIONS**

### **ALLIANCE OF ROUNDS, TRADITIONAL AND SQUARE-DANCE (ARTS)**



The Alliance for Round, Traditional and Square-Dance (the ARTS) was formed to bring together the diverse groups making up the 'greater' American Folk Dance community. This coalition offers all dance organizations a chance for affiliation on a balanced and representative basis. For additional information, go to <https://www.arts-dance.org/>.

This is the place to find promotional materials for squares, rounds, and contra. The materials include videos, flyers, etc. This site is hosted by ARTS.

**[www.ARTS-DanceTravel.com](http://www.ARTS-DanceTravel.com)**

Another ARTS sponsored program where donations are made to ARTS. Go to this website and make your travel reservations. A portion of the travel commission is automatically donated to ARTS.

## **CONVENTIONS AND FESTIVALS**

### **NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION® (NSDC)**

Once a year, usually the third week in June, a national square and round dance convention is held in a different location each year. Dancers from all over the world attend these conventions. Each year it is hosted by a different state. This is a four-day convention with lots of dancing and workshops, vendors, seminars, tours, and a fashion show. There is always a Caller College just before the convention. There are halls for every level of dancing. The convention is sponsored each year by a different square dance organization in a different state. Guidance for all of the national conventions is provided by the National Executive Committee (NEC) whose members are all previous convention chairpersons. You can find more information at <https://www.72nsdc.com/>. This website address basically is the same each year; you have to change the numbers for the year of the convention you are searching for. Seventy two is for the 2023 convention; the next one is 73.

### **FLORIDA STATE SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE CONVENTION (FSSRDC)**

The state of Florida has an annual state convention the third weekend of January. It is co-sponsored by the Florida Federation, Florida Callers Association, and the Round Dance Association of Florida. The convention starts on Thursday night with a Trail In Dance. The actual convention is from Friday to Saturday night. There are separate halls for each level of dance, vendors, and entertainment. For additional information, go to <http://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/convention/index.html>.

### **NORTHEAST FALL FESTIVAL**

This is an annual festival hosted by the Northeast Association. It is usually held in November in the Jacksonville area. The weekend starts on Friday night and ends on Saturday night. For additional information, go to <http://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/northeast/dances.html>.

### **NORTHWEST ROUNDUP**

The Northwest Association hosts the Annual Roundup. It is usually held at the end of October and is held in the Panhandle. The weekend starts on Friday night and ends on Saturday night. For additional information, go to <http://www.dancergram.com/aa-FWS/northwest/flyer1.html>.

## **FLORIDA SQUARE DANCE CAMPOREE**

This is an annual event in Florida that is usually held the final weekend in October. It is four days of dancing, fellowship, games, crafts, and more. Campers come from all over the country. For more information, go to <http://nsdca.org/contacts.php>.

## **NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CAMPOREE**

This is an annual event for all the campers that are held during the summer. It is seven days of dancing, fellowship, games, crafts, and more. It is held in a different location each year. For more information, go to, <http://nsdca.org/camporees.php>.

## **ACCIDENT PROCEDURES**

Below are the procedures for injury and non-injury incidents that occur at functions where square dancing is involved.

1. If someone is injured or falls at a dance, only the square with the downed dancer should stop dancing. Everyone else should continue dancing. If the downed dancer needs medical attention, the person in charge should ask for a medically trained person to assist.
2. The other members of the square with the downed dancer should form a circle surrounding the downed dancer and lock hands. The downed dancer can decide if they want to get up and leave the floor, get up and return to dancing, or stay down and request further assistance. If the dancer decides to stay down, the circle raises their hands in the air to signal to the caller to stop the dance for medical assistance.
3. An Accident Report should always be completed at the time of the incident. It is at the discretion of the downed dancer and the person in charge if a report is filed. If there is no injury, then no accident report is required to be submitted but the hosting organization should keep the completed accident report on hand as it could be needed in the future. Completing an accident report is the responsibility of the President (or otherwise appointed person) who is in charge of the dance at which the incident occurs and should be done as soon as possible.
4. The person in charge should clearly explain that they have 48 hours (and even more time if needed) after the incident to submit an accident report.

5. Filling out and filing an accident report does not constitute an automatic insurance claim. The accident report is filled out and submitted to the Federation or Association Insurance Coordinator who then submits it to the USDA Insurance Coordinator. If the dancer required medical attention, then the USDA Insurance Coordinator will require additional paper work to be filled out by the dancer. This paper work is then submitted to the insurance carrier and will be followed up with the dancer. Most accident reports do not result in insurance claims because the costs are usually mitigated by the dancer's primary insurance carrier.
6. Training the dancers on the procedure for incidents is the responsibility of the individual clubs within the association. Insurance Chairmen are responsible for providing any updated information on recommended procedures to the clubs that is provided by the USDA Insurance Coordinator and to be available for questions that the leadership of the individual clubs might pose. The clubs should train and/or review the procedures periodically with their members, and at least once with each student during class time.
7. "Common sense" prevails as the number one guideline for handling incidents that occur at the square dance functions. Common courtesies such as following up with a phone call the next day after a slip and fall to make sure that the dancer is ok, minimizing the drama at the event, not moving a downed dancer with a back injury, and respecting the wishes of the downed dancer, are just to name a few courtesies that are important.

## **SEE 'YA ON THE DANCE FLOOR!**

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