

MERI SQUARES MODERN SQUARE DANCING CLUB

DANCER ETIQUETTE

Revised: January 2021

Square dancing is a social function and we all have an obligation to treat others in a way that will facilitate friendship and enjoyment for all. Many of the rules of etiquette for square dancing seem obvious or a matter of common sense. That should make them easy to follow!

1. **Be on time:** If you are not there on time, someone else may be forced to sit out a tip because there are not enough people to make a square
2. **Clean body and clothing:** Square dancing can be a vigorous activity. Please ensure personal hygiene is in order. Please remember to follow the rule that no scent is good sense.
3. **Make everyone welcome:** Be welcoming of dancers to the club and to your square. Square dancing is as much about friendships as dancing.
4. **Forming squares:** When the music starts, it's time to dance. Remember these key points:
 - Form squares quickly
 - Don't dance with the same people all the time – get to know everyone
 - Invite new dancers into your square—we were all new dancers once upon time
 - If you need a partner – join a square and raise your hand. A partner will join you. If not, the caller will notice your hand and indicate a partner is needed.
5. **Never leave a square:** It is an insult to the members of the square if you leave the square once you have established a spot in it. It is equally disrespectful to leave a square before the tip ends or before saying thank you to the other dancers. Of course, this does not apply if there is an injury or emergency.
6. **There is only one caller:** Only the caller should be giving directions to the dancers. Laughing and smiling are fun. Even singing along or the occasional whoop or holler is acceptable. However, loud talking or loud direction of other dancers are unwelcome.
7. **Don't get upset about someone else's mistake:** We all make mistakes! No one is perfect! Quickly reform the square and be ready to start when the time comes. Be helpful, not critical!
8. **Don't forget the caller:** The caller is at the dance for a good time too. Talk to him or her and remember to thank them at the end of the dance. Without them, none of us would be having such a wonderful time!

ABOVE ALL, HAVE FUN!