

UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA

CODE OF CONDUCT

Square Dancers everywhere 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.

Avoidance of alcoholic beverages both before and during dances is essential to insure the enjoyment for 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 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 beginner's class. The best means of achieving this is through example by 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.

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