

Dance Etiquette

We want you to have great time dancing. To help be sure that everyone does, please remember these following rules of dance etiquette:

Lessons and dances work best if dancers rotate partners so that everyone gets a chance to dance. Dancing with one partner the entire evening should be avoided.

For many people, particularly beginners, being declined for a dance can be difficult, therefore, declining a dance should be avoided under most circumstances. The only acceptable ways of declining a dance are (a) you are sitting out the dance for a rest, (b) you do not know the dance, or (c) you have promised the dance to someone else.

It is perfectly fine for a woman to ask a man to dance. We're all here to dance.

There is no smoking in the building

Attire: for swing dancing, loose comfortable clothes that allow a full range of movement are best. Shirts with short sleeves and dresses that are not too short or tight are a big advantage, and an extra shirt on warm nights is advisable. Avoid any accessories that may snag or injure a partner such as belt buckles, long necklaces, big rings, or brooches.

We welcome dancers of all levels, from beginners to experienced. We ask experienced dancers to welcome newcomers and help them learn.

Food and beverages should be kept off the dance floor.

On the dance floor, the line of dance is counterclockwise around the perimeter of the floor (Waltz, Foxtrot), with stationary dances (East Coast, Jitterbug) towards the center of the circle. For slotted dances (West Coast Swing, Cha-Cha) slots should be parallel. Be aware of other peoples' lines of dance.

It is the leader's responsibility to avoid mishaps and to make his partner look good on the dance floor.

Aerials and choreography should be avoided on the social dance floor, particularly when the floor is crowded. Aerials require training by a qualified instructor and should only be attempted by individuals who have had proper training.

Never blame a partner for missed executions or other mishaps. The better dancer bears a greater responsibility and accepting the blame is always welcome. Better dancers should always dance at the level of their partners.

Make sure your partner enjoys the dance, escort them off the floor, and thank them.

Please wear soft soled shoes on the dance floor.

Introduce yourself to new people, dance, smile and have a terrific time.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please tell the dance manager(s). We welcome hearing from you.