

Etiquette and Information guide for the graduated square dancer BBB square dance club

1. Arrive on time whenever possible or better yet, a little early to help set up.
2. Form a circle or set up squares promptly when the music starts or at the caller's request. Bear in mind that one can be prompt without running.
3. Join the nearest square that is forming. If all nearby squares are filled, hold your hand up high so the caller can either guide you to a square where you are needed or get some other couple to join you.
4. It is considered bad manners to walk through the middle of one square to get to another. It is equally as bad to pass a square in need of a couple. Never leave a square once you have joined it.
5. Introduce yourself to others in the square. You will not only acquire a reputation for being friendly but you will meet many new and interesting friends.
6. There is often a shortage of men. You may have come as a couple, but be sure that everyone including single ladies all get a chance to dance. Single ladies will often have "dance cards" to record partners for the nights tips.
7. There is no acceptable excuse for rough handling of fellow dancers! Some older ladies prefer not to twirl. They may announce this or wear a sign. Regardless, the man may raise his arm and give an opportunity to twirl, but never coerce it. Be aware of physical disabilities in your square and give others time to catch up if necessary. Callers should accommodate as well. A gentle nudge in a direction for a new dancer that is confused may be OK, but never a grab and pull or a push. Use a hand signal or voice if you must.
8. As you improve, remain forgiving of fellow dancers who make mistakes, just as they are forgiving and helpful toward you as a beginner.
9. At the end of every dance be sure to thank the others in your square. They contributed to your fun.
10. Men wear long-sleeved shirts so the ladies do not have to grab bare, hairy arms. Western is traditional but not required. (Try Tractor supply, Walmart, etc.) Women may wear short square dance skirts or longer dresses. Each square dance club has their own "colors". Ours does not currently have matching outfits, but the club color is purple. Club colors are only worn when visiting. Used square dance clothing is often available (cheap – usually \$5) at clubs.
11. Special multi club dances will have vendors selling clothing and other square dance paraphernalia

12 Refreshment duties will be assigned. Take note of your turn and volunteer to help out at special events as needed.

13 Check the BBBB website and calendar for events. Check HSRDC when and where as well. Make it a point to visit other clubs and dance to other callers.

14. A friendship card is given out at graduation. If visiting a club other than your home club, you can get it signed. After twenty signatures, MAKE A COPY and send the original to the Friendship Director. (One of the appointed officers in HSRDC) Currently this is Nic Prado. After 20 signatures, you will earn a friendship badge. Additional signatures (completed cards) wins you numbers to display under the badge. Don't worry after sending it in (as long as you keep a copy). It takes a while and is given to the club quarterly.

14. Yes this is a dance club, but it is also a social club ! Be friendly, attend social events and make the most of it !