

UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA

SQUARE DANCING 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 comment to a reasoned and temperate discussion of actions and practices.

II. Dancer 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.
- 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 a 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.

SQUARE DANCING CODE OF ETHICS *(cont)*

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 assure 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 with the official definitions of the level.