

PNTSDF Definitions of Basic Square Dance Calls.

Basic Calls used in the Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival are based upon Callerlab "Basic Dance Program Definitions". [11/19]

PREFACE

Specific limitations, if any, are given in the List Of Basic Calls for each different Category.

Objective:

The objective of the List of Basic Definitions is to provide clear, concise and simple explanations of the terms and calls used in the PNTSDF.

The specific meaning for each component of a "Formation" are: (See Callerlab literature for more clarification.)

1. Formation

Defines the geometric placement of the dancers, and their relative facing directions. It says nothing about boy-girl arrangements, partner pairings, etc.

2. Position

Names a specific place or places within a formation. E.g. the ends of a line. It does not name specific dancers, such as "Head Men". Rather it identifies a dancer by the spot he/she occupies.

3. Setup

Describes the exact location of all eight dancers at an instant in time. To specify a setup, you must name the formation, state the boy-girl arrangement, and identify the dancer in each position within the formation.

Positions within “Formations” have names. The ones the Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival are concerned with are:

4. Partner

Is the dancer beside you in the relevant two-dancer formation. Note that formation is relevant. E.g. if the centers are directed to work together they ignore the outsides when finding their partners.

5. Points and Centers

(in diamonds, hourglasses and galaxies) The points are the non adjacent dancers in the formation, while the centers are the nearest adjacent (central) dancers.

6. Leaders and Trailers

In any tandem (1 x 2) formation, those facing into the formation are trailers, and those facing out of it are leaders.

7. Centers, Ends and Outsides

The dancers closer to the center of the formation are centers and the others are ends or outsides. Note: “Ends” should be used only with Lines and Waves while “Outsides” should be used with all other formations.

8. Very Centers

This term is only used when exactly two people are adjacent to the center. These will be the two dancers closest to the flagpole center of the set.

9. For purposes of PNTSDF this is left blank.

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11. Starting Formations

Starting formations are listed for each of the defined calls, either in this list or on the List of Basic Calls for any given category. The smallest basic formation has been listed herein. Multiples of this formation may be possible. For example, the minimum number of facing dancers required to do a DoSaDo is two. It is possible however, to have four dancers in a line facing four dancers in an opposite line ready for a DoSaDo. In this case, there are four multiples of the basic formation.

The following are accepted general rules:

12. Facing Dancers

Facing Dancers, unless otherwise specified may be any combination of men and women.

13. Couples

Couples, unless otherwise specified, may be any combination of men and women.

Standard Couples shall be defined as a couple that consists of a man and lady facing the same direction with the man on the left and the lady on the right. (Also known as Normal Couples, but for the sake of consistency Standard Couple will be used throughout this text.)

14. Passing Rule

Whenever two dancers are walking toward each other and are about to collide, they pass right shoulders and continue.

15. Same Position Rule*

Whenever two dancers are walking toward each other and are required to occupy the same position, they join right hands in a mini-wave sharing that position.

*NOTE: For the purposes of the PNTSDF, commands that require the use of this rule, except when it is an essential part of a given movement herein, are NOT acceptable.

16. Crossing Rule

Whenever two dancers are facing the same direction and are required to cross, the righthand dancer passes to the left in front of the lefthand dancer, while the lefthand dancer passes to the right behind the righthand dancer.

17. Facing Couples Rule

Some calls which normally start from ocean waves, can also be done when dancers are in facing couples (ie: Swing Thru, Spin the Top, Fan the Top, etc.). In this case, the dancers first step to a momentary right ocean wave and complete the call, unless the Caller specifically directs a lefthand call (ie: Left Swing Thru, etc.) in which case the dancers step to a momentary left ocean wave and complete the call.

Exceptions to this rule are listed in the body of the definitions.

This rule also applies when calls which require two parallel ocean waves (ie: Spin Chain Thru) are called with the dancers in an Eight Chain Thru formation.

18. Ocean Wave Rule

Some calls which normally start from facing couples can be done when dancers are in ocean waves (ie: Right & Left Thru, Box the Gnat, Square Thru, etc.) In this case, the dancers have already stepped forward toward the facing dancer and are ready to complete the remaining action of the directed call.

For the sake of dancer comprehension and teaching purposes, it may be necessary initially to have the dancers back up into facing couples, than step back into the wave and complete the call.

This rule also applies when calls which normally start from two facing dancers (ie: Turn Thru) are called from a mini-wave.

19. Split

When an 8 - Dancer formation is to be "split" into groups of 4 to do the call.

20. Box

When either - there is only a single box circulate formation which can do the call (e.g. the center 4 of parallel two-faced lines) or

- when the center 4 dancers are to do the call (e.g. from parallel waves)

Either way the dancers must be told to do the call.

21. Flip

The term "Flip" is used to mean an action where the designated dancer(s) will roll 180° in either direction, assuming the position that was originally adjacent to him. It is the same action that would occur if the designated dancer ("Flipper") was asked to do a Run Around an imaginary adjacent dancer and into the imaginary adjacent dancer's position on the floor.

There are descriptive terms that have not been formally defined before. For convenience some common ones are:

22. Directional Call

Any physical motion that can be directed by the caller and executed by the dancers (ie: Forward, Back, Face Left, Turn Right, Half Way, etc.) Call Definitions

23. Line

(Unless otherwise specified) any kind of four dancer line - one faced, two faced, etc.

24. Face In

Means turn 1/4 in place, turning toward the center of the set.

25. Face Out

Means turn 1/4 in place, turning away from the center of the set.

26. Adjacent

Two dancers are said to be “adjacent” if they are close to each other with no intervening space or other dancers, regardless of the dancers’ facing directions.

[END OF SECTION]