#### PNTSDF Definitions of Basic Round Dance Terms

**Step Selections** used in the Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival are based upon Roundalab (RAL) "Standards For Round Dancing" July 2019. The RAL manuals are more general and cover the use of all Round Dance rhythms. The PNSTDF uses only a selection of these rhythms. See rule 5327 for PNTSDF Rhythm Selection for each Division. Step Selections to be used in a particular Division are listed in Appendices C2 through C6.

#### **PREFACE**

Specific limitations, if any, are given in the List of **Step Selections** for each different Category.

### Objective:

The objective of the List of **Step Selections** is to provide a clear and concise list of the Terms and Cues used in the PNTSDF. There are seven (7) Components to describe what is happening during a Round Dance.

The specific meanings for each component of a "Round Dance" are (See Roundalab literature for more clarification):

# 1) General Terms (also called Basic Terms)

A Term that applies to any Phase or Rhythm.

# 2) Direction

Facing direction and the direction of movement are described in relation to a "circle" on the dance floor, that is, floor position. Up to Eight (8) floor positions are possible during a Round Dance, in relation to the extremities of the dance floor. Applies to any Rhythm at a particular Phase.

# 3) Position (see also Glossary)

Position, as used in Round Dancing, refers to the relative orientation, including hand-hold of the man and woman (couple), relative to one another, as they execute the Figures. Applies to any Rhythm at a particular Phase.

#### 4) Action

Defined as motion without a weight change. Applies to any Rhythm at a particular Phase.

#### 5) Movement

Defined as motion that requires a step be taken with a resulting change of weight. Applies to any Rhythm at a particular Phase.

# 6) Figure (see also Glossary)

A Figure is a specified movement or series of movements of the feet and body. Various amalgamations of Figures will make up a complete round dance. Figures usually span one measure, but may be defined for less than one, or more than one, measure. Applies to any Rhythm at a particular Phase.

# 7) Styling and Dance Technique (see also Glossary)

The manner in which Figures are danced. Styling should reflect the characteristics of the rhythm being danced and includes any embellishments (not changes) to the prescribed footwork, armwork, and postures that portray the personality and attitude of the dancers. The use of proper styling not only affects how a dancing couple looks to others, but greatly assists in executing Figures properly and easily. The importance of Styling is covered in depth in RAL Manuals.

The specific terms permitted in each Division are detailed in Appendices C2 through C6.

The purpose of the "Roundalab Phase Rating System" is to provide a method for rating basic round dance actions according to the degree of complexity. See RAL Standard page 3; July 2019.

General term definitions, from Roundalab "Glossary of Round Dancing" II. General Terms pages 5-18 included hereafter as Appendices C1-5 to C1-18.

#### 1. Introduction

Is a short series of dance Figures leading into the main part of the Dance.

## 2. Head Cue Lines

Line containing the sequence of Figures (Cues) or key instructions for quick reference.

# 3. Detailed Description

Is an explanation of the Figures in the cue line, containing such essential information as floor alignment, body position, foot work, styling and timing.

# 4. Ending

Is a short series of Figures that finish the Dance.

### 5. Bridge

Is a short series of Figures, not more that Two (2) measures long, that connect major portions of the main part of the Dance.

#### 6. Interlude

Is a series of Figures that also connect major parts of the Dance, but is more than Two (2) measures in length.

# 7. Tag

Is a short version of the Ending, usually One (1) measure.

Note: In addition to Phase and Rhythm, Choreographers should identify a Dance according to one of the following:

EZ EasyAVG AverageDIFF Difficult

# Some other Terms used in Round Dance Cueing

# A) Quick Cue (sheet)

Is a Cue Card that contains only abbreviated Cues sufficient to accurately prompt the Dancers.

# B) Preferred Cue Term (Pct)

Whenever two or more terms are used to describe the same motion, one is identified by RAL to be preferred over the other(s).

# C) Figure Family Concept

Is the amalgamation of Figures in groups that ensures greater success by those learning (particularly at higher levels).

# D) Core (Figures)

Is the grouping of Figures as a focal point for developing a lesson plan to be presented later in any progression.

#### **II. GENERAL TERMS**

# Acknowledge

ack

Courteous recognition of partner performed as dance directions indicate.

Acros

acrs

Movement across the direction of dance.

Action

none

Motion without weight change.

Adjust

adj

See Blend.

**Amalgamation** 

none

A sequential combination of two or more figures.

And

&

Indicates a last half beat, an additional step to a single beat. Alternately may indicate a hold count or a preparatory command to start a dance or a dance figure.

Apart

apt

Movement from partner without progression.

Arch

none

A hand movement in which the man's and woman's designated hands are joined higher than the head in preparation for one or both partners to pass under the joined hands.

Around

arnd

To continue a circular pattern in the direction of movement to a specified ending position and facing direction.

Away

awy

Movement from partner with progression.

Back

bk

Opposite the direction one is facing.

**Backward** 

bwd

Movement in the direction opposite to that one is facing.

Balance

ha

The correct distribution of the weight of the body when dancing. [Also a figure used in various rhythms.]

**Basic** 

bas

A fundamental step and/or position peculiar to a given dance rhythm.

- 5 -

**Basic Class** 

bas class

Sessions in which dancers are taught the positions, actions, movements and figures by use of drills, hash cueing, etc.

Beat

bt

The regularly recurring pulse which constitutes the unit of time measurement in music.

Behind [Direction]

bho

One foot or person crossing or standing in back of the other.

Blend

none

A smooth adjustment from one position to another.

**Body Roll** 

bdy roll

Circular motion of the upper body outside the base

Bounce

none

A rising and falling action usually done with syncopated timing.

**Break** 

brk

To release position or hand hold.

**Bridge** 

brg

A part of the dance routine, not more than two measures, connecting major parts of the dance.

Change of Weight

chg of wgt

The transfer of body weight from one foot to the other.

Chase

chs

Any basic figure where one partner pursues the other.

Checking

ckg

The action of stopping one line of motion in preparation for a new line of motion.

Choreographer

none

One who arranges dance routines.

Choreography

none

The arrangement of steps, figures and patterns into a routine to match the phrasing of a musical arrangement.

Circle

circ

Moving forward in a circular pattern.

Clap Hands

clap hnds

Can be used to mark time in place of steps.

- 6 -

Classic

none

A round dance routine which has been widely accepted and has endured the test of time.

Clinic

none

An in-depth workshop of round dance figures, positions, etc.

Clockwise

CW

Movement to the right or in the same direction as the normal movement of the hands of a clock.

**Closed Turn** 

cl trn

A turn that is danced with the feet closing on the second or third step.

Comma

Denotes the end of a count or a beat.

Commence

comm

To start or begin. May be used in association with a turn, action [e.g., rise], etc. within a movement or figure description. In movement and figure descriptions, the word "commence" should only be used when the described turn or action is started [commenced] on a given beat or weight change and completed on a later beat and/or weight change.

Complete

comp

To finish or end. May be used in association with a turn, action [e.g., rise], etc. within a movement or figure description. In movement and figure descriptions, the word "complete" should only be used when the described turn or action is commenced on a given beat or weight change and finished [completed] on a later beat and/or weight change.

Continue

cont

To proceed or keep going. May be used in association with a turn, action [e.g., rise], etc. within a movement or figure description. In movement and figure descriptions, the word "continue" should only be used when the described turn or action is commenced on a given beat or weight change, keeps going [continues] through at least one more beat/and or weight change and completed on a later beat and/or weight change.

**Contra Body Movement** 

cbm

The moving of the opposite side of the body toward the stepping foot either forward or back.

**Contra Check Action** 

none

Moving forward or backward to a checked position with opposite shoulder lead.

Count[s]

ct[s]

A beat or beats of music.

**Counter Promenade** 

counter PROM

As used in cue terms, it is the ballroom equivalent for Reverse Semi-Closed Position in Round Dance terminology.

- 7 -

Counterclockwise

CCW

Movement to the left or in the direction opposite to the normal movement of the hands of a clock

Counterpart

none

Refers to the woman's part. Depending upon the dance position and footwork specified, woman uses the same or opposite foot as the man and moves in the same or opposite direction.

Couple

cpl

Any two people dancing as a unit.

**Cross Line of Dance** 

XLOD

See Across.

**Cross Reverse Line of Dance** 

**XRLOD** 

See Across.

**Cuban Action** 

none

The displacement of the hip from under the shoulder. The hip movement is usually side and back whether the body movement is forward or back.

**Cue Sheet** 

none

The written description or instructions for a round dance routine. ROUNDALAB Standard Cue Sheet Format should be used.

Cuer

none

A person who prompts round dancers by announcing the upcoming actions, movements or figures of the dance while the dancers are performing the routine. These prompts are given in a timely manner, just prior to the dancers executing the prompted choreography.

Cues

none

Abbreviated instructions for quick reference or to assist the dancer in remembering the routine. Cues are directed to the man with the woman doing the counterpart. Otherwise a cue word combination is used to indicate both parts.

Curve

crv

To dance in a small arc while maintaining the initial forward or backward direction of travel.

Demonstration

demo

Execution of a step, pattern, figure, or dance to show how it should be performed.

Diagonal[ly]

DIAG

A direction between the four major dance directions. See section III.

Down beat

dwn bt

The principally accented note of a measure of music.

-8-

**Drift Apart** 

drift apt

An adjustment from a position close to partner to one where partners still have contact but are apart at arm's length.

End[inc

none

The pattern of steps, figures, or actions that ends a dance routine.

**Exhibition** 

none

A dance routine performed for an audience.

Explosion

none

A sharp movement away from partner, usually with inside hands held, ending in open or left open position. Movement of free arm[s] is optional.

Facino

fca

To have one's front toward or in the direction of something [e.g., man facing Line of Dance]. May also mean partners are in front of each other [front to front]. The phrase "facing position" is sometimes used generically to indicate any position where partners are facing each other, with or without partner contact. This includes, but is not limited to: Butterfly, Closed, Left Open Facing, etc.

**Fallaway** 

falwy

A movement in which both man and woman are moving backward in semi-closed position.

Figure

fig

A combination of dance steps or dance steps and actions that span one or more measures.

Flat

none

No rise.

Float Apart

float apt

See Drift Apart.

Follow

none

To react appropriately to the movements and signals given by the leader, through one or more connections [visual and/or physical]. In dancing, the lead is generally assumed by the man.

Following

none

The responsibility of the woman. The man leads, the woman follows.

Footwork

none

A term to indicate the steps each partner takes.

Forward

fwd

Movement in the direction one is facing.

-9-

Frame

none

The position of the upper body and top line [head, neck, shoulders, arms and hands] while in dance position. A good frame, in conjunction with the proper relationship of the lower body [hips, legs, and feet], provides the dance posture essential for good balance, leading, following, movement and appearance.

Free Foot

free ft

The foot not supporting weight.

Free Hand

free hnd

The hand not in contact with partner.

Freeze

none

To hold; maintaining fixed body and foot position for the number of beats indicated.

Front [Direction]

frnt

One foot or person crossing or standing ahead of the other.

Half Close [Step]

1/2 cl

The free foot is brought almost to the supporting foot with partial weight on the ball of the foot resulting in a transfer of weight to the free foot. Occurs on the "and" count, as in 1&2 or 3&4 or Q&Q.

**Head Cues** 

hd cues

The preferred cue terms that are used in the ROUNDALAB Suggested Classic Cues. They also are on cue sheets above the figure descriptions, usually in 4 measure groups and bold print.

# Heel Turn

heel trn

A turn commencing on the heel of one foot with the free foot directly along side. The turn continues through the heel of the other foot as the second weight change is taken and then the weight is transferred to the ball of that foot [heel to toe] before the end of the figure.

Hesitation

hes

Progression is temporarily suspended and the weight retained on one foot for more than one count.

Hold

A beat of music for which no step or action is taken.

**Hovering Action** 

hvrg action

The moving or turning of the body is checked, while the feet remain almost stationary.

Hyphen

Denotes a hold count or beat.

- 10 -

In Place

in pl

Shifting weight from one foot to the other without progression in any direction.

**Inside Foot** 

insd ft

The foot nearest partner when not facing directly toward or away from partner.

**Inside Hand** 

insd hnd

The hand nearest partner when not facing directly toward or away from partner.

Interlude

intld

A part of the dance routine more than two measures long connecting major parts of the dance.

Introduction

intro

Anything [including a wait] done to the music that precedes the first major phrase of the musical arrangement used for the dance.

Lady

W

The preferred cue for woman that is abbreviated W to avoid confusion with left.

**Lead Foot** 

ld ft

Man's left foot, woman's right foot.

Lead Hand

ld hnd

Man's left hand, woman's right hand.

Leading

ldg

The art of directing a partner through a figure or routine. It is solely the man's responsibility.

Left

L

If movement, to the left side.

**Left Face** 

LF

Turning in a counterclockwise direction.

Line of Progression

line of prog

Direction the movement or flow of the dance is currently moving. May be Line of Dance or Reverse Line of Dance. In general, if the couple is in Closed Position or Semi-Closed Position facing the Wall or Line of Dance then the Line of Progression is counter-clockwise or Line of Dance.

**Looking Circle** 

looking circ

Partners facing Center of Hall, man standing behind and slightly to one side of his partner to observe while instruction is being given.

**Mark Time** 

mark tim

To step in place in time to the music.

- 11 -

Measure of Music [sometimes called a Barl

meas of music

2/4 time	= two [2] beats	= one measure
3/4 time	= three [3] beats	= one measure
4/4 time	= four [4] beats	= one measure
6/8 time	= six [6] beats	= one measure

Mixer

none

A dance routine in which partners are changed at regular intervals.

Modified

mod

Indicates a change from the standard in an action, movement, figure, position, section of dance, music, etc.

# **Modified Action, Movement or Figure**

mod action, mvt or fig

An action, movement or figure whose core execution is identifiable to a Phased action, movement or figure, but has one or more minor changes to the Phased action, movement or figure as it is defined. A Modified action, movement or figure is the same phase as the Phased action, movement or figure upon which it is based.

Examples of changes include [but are not limited to]:

- mixing figures together [i.e. Traveling Box with a Twirl], or interrupting one figure with another [i.e. Lindy Catch with two Sweethearts],
- 2. using part of a figure [i.e. start the Alemana, Hover Cross ending],
- 3. extending a figure [i.e. extended Hover Cross, Rolling Off the Arm with wheel
- 4. truncating a figure [i.e. Left Turning Box ½, "into" a Pretzel Turn],
- 5. changing timing or syncopation [i.e. New Yorker in 4, Syncopated Vine].

The extent of changes shall not alter the character or difficulty of the action, movement or figure. More extensive changes may result in a different action, movement or figure which may be phased or unphased.

#### **Modified Music**

mod music

Modified Music is music with changes to copyrighted material that were made without obtaining proper permission. For example, removing measures from the middle of a song, or rearranging sections of the music.

<u>NOTE:</u> There are acceptable adjustments that can be made to music without qualifying as Modified Music. Starting the music at a point other than the beginning of the music, stopping the music prior to the normal end of the music, and tempo changes are acceptable.

#### Movement

mvt

Motion that requires a step be taken with a resulting change of weight.

# Natural

nat

See Right Face or Clockwise.

#### Number[s]

#

Numbers to the left of a description designate the measures being described. Numbers following cue terms designate the number of steps to be taken.

- 12 -

Open Turn

op trn

A turn in which the third step passes the second step instead of closing.

Opposite

opp

Used to describe counterpart, or footwork, in which, when the man uses his left foot or hand, the woman uses her right.

**Outside Foot** 

outsd ft

The foot farthest from partner when not facing directly toward or away from partner.

**Outside Hand** 

outsd hnd

The hand farthest from partner when not facing directly toward or away from partner.

Overturn

ovrtrn

More than the normal amount of turn in a turning figure.

Phased Action, Movement or Figure

phd action, mvt or fig

An action, movement or figure that has been defined by ROUNDALAB and published in the ROUNDALAB Phase Booklets.

**Phrase** 

none

Commonly a passage of two or more measures of music.

Phrasing

none

A group of steps or figures choreographed to the musical phrase.

Picture Figure

picture fic

An action or movement where the majority of the activity centers around the frame of the couples dance position.

Position

pos

A standard couple relationship used in round dancing and described in Section IV of this Glossary.

**Preferred Cue Term** 

пот

The word or series of words designated as the ROUNDALAB official cue. Preferred Cue Terms are used when cueing to dancers and in the Head Cues on a cue sheet. The Preferred Cue Term for each Action, Movement or Figure is found on the far right side of the top line of each entry in the Phase Booklets and in the Listing of Phase Rated Figures by Phase and Listing of Phase Rated Figures by Rhythm.

Progressive

proq

Movement either forward or backward along the Line of Dance or Reverse Line of Dance.

Promenade

**PROM** 

As used in cue terms, it is the ballroom equivalent of a tight [compact] "V". Semi-Closed Position in Round Dance terminology.

- 13 -

Quick [as used in timing]

Q

A step or action taken on a given beat or fraction of a beat of music and followed without a hold by another step or action.

Reverse

rev

See Left Face or Counterclockwise.

Reverse Line of Progression

rev line of prog

The opposite direction the movement or flow of the dance is currently moving. May be Line of Dance or Reverse Line of Dance. In general, if the couple is in Closed Position or Semi-Closed Position facing the Center of Hall or Reverse Line of Dance then the Reverse Line of Progression is counter-clockwise or Line of Dance.

Rhythm

none

Uniform movement with the beat of the music. The characteristic musical pattern that establishes the dance form such as Waltz, Foxtrot, Cha Cha, etc.

Right

R

If movement, to the right side.

**Right Face** 

RF

Turning in a clockwise direction.

**Round Dance** 

R/D

The choreography of dance movements performed in a circle formation to a specific piece of music. A gathering for the purpose of Round Dancing.

**Round Dancing** 

R/D

Couples dancing in a circular formation using choreographed routines to definite arrangements of music, all couples doing the same steps at the same time. Many rhythms from folk and other dances are used.

Round of the Month

ROM

A round dance selected by a dance organization to be taught during a month in the area of the organization's influence.

Round of the Quarter

ROO

A round dance selected by a dance organization to be taught during a three month period in the area of the organization's influence.

Running

none

Execution of a figure that includes an extra step with syncopated timing.

NOTE: Figures may include Open Natural, Hover, Spin Turn, etc. with the following timing: 1,2,&3; 1,&2,3&; or SQ&Q; SQQ&; S&QQ, etc.

- 14 -

Same

none

Used to describe counterpart or footwork in which the man and woman use the same foot or hand, i.e., both right or both left.

Semicolon

;

Denotes the end of a measure of music.

Seminar

none

In round dancing, a meeting in which one or more persons conducts a presentation involving audience activity with the aim of developing talent and knowledge which will enhance the round dance activity.

Sequence

sec

The order in which figures or dance actions are to be performed.

Shape

none

Shape is a general term used to describe the use of sway, stretch and on occasion slight rotation to move one side of the body toward or away from the partner, or to angle the body core towards or away from the partner. The specific usage of shape differs depending on position, figure and/or choreography. Shape is used to enhance the appearance of a figure or to facilitate the transition to another figure. If the shaping is unknown to the dancer and/or is not accomplished, it would not prevent execution of the action, movement or figure that follows.

Side

sd

To one's left or right, in the direction of the free foot.

Side by Side

sd by sd

Partners are beside each other and are usually facing the same direction. The phrase "side by side position" is sometimes used generically to indicate any position where partners are both facing the same direction and are beside each other, with or without partner contact. This includes, but is not limited to: Open, Left Open, etc.

Slash

1

Denotes a split beat.

Slot

none

The term applied to a rectangular area on the floor in which one couple dances. It is usually slightly wider than the woman's shoulders and several feet long. West Coast Swing is an example of one rhythm that uses a slot.

Slow [as used in timing]

S

In 4/4 time a step taken on one beat lasting through the following beat.

**Smile** 

none

The raising of the corners of the mouth.

NOTE: As the level of concentration increases, this action may become more difficult to perform.

- 15 -

Soft

none

A way of holding or moving the body or a part of the body in a relaxed, non-rigid position. In relation to knees, soft means relaxed or slightly flexed, not locked. Soft, in relation to arms, means toned but not rigid, tense or over-extended. Soft, in relation to styling, means a relaxed, smooth and graceful preparation, entry and exit to figures, movements and actions, as opposed to sharp or staccato motion.

Solo

none

Partners execute steps of figure without contact.

Spot

spt

A directive to perform the indicated figure without progression.

# Spot Pivot

A pivot with no progression. May be any number of steps. A couple movement.

# Spot Turn

spt trn

Individual turn with no progression.

Springing

none

Taking a step by moving suddenly and rapidly.

**Staccato Action** 

none

Sharp, rapid movement in the feet, body or head.

# Standard Introduction

std intro

A Standard Introduction has a two measure wait and two measures for [in the appropriate rhythm] a step apart, point; step together to designated dance position and facing direction, touch;.

Stretch

none

The elongation of the body, generally one side more than the other.

Styling

none

The manner in which figures are danced. Individual and distinctive positions and movements accompanying the actual step placement.

**Supporting Foot** 

supporting ft

The foot bearing weight.

**Syllabus** 

none

A grouping of cue sheets and/or pertinent educational information about the material being taught at a weekend/festival/convention/etc. Other information may also be included [e.g., dance program, instructor biography, attendee list, etc.]. A syllabus is generally distributed in a paper or electronic format [e.g., CD].

- 16 -

Syncopation

sync

Temporary displacement of the regular metrical accent, caused typically by stressing the weak beats [e.g., 4 steps in 3 beats of music]. A figure with this timing can be cued "syncopated".

Tag

none

See End[ing].

Tempo

none

The speed at which music is played.

Tilt

none

To lean or slant the body.

Toe Spin

toe spn

A turn on the ball of one foot in which the body weight is kept slightly more forward than a normal spin. For example, the lady uses this technique on steps 5 and 6 of a Telespin.

Together

tog

Movement toward partner.

Top Line

none

A line created by the head, neck, shoulders, arms and hands. A top line occurs in many dance positions.

Trail

trl

As applied to Hand or Foot, the opposite of Lead.

Transition

trans

A change from opposite footwork to same footwork or from same footwork to opposite footwork.

Traveling

trav

To proceed or advance in any direction. May also be used to describe a modification to a base figure, where the figure now includes additional movement and/or progression of the dancers and possibly one or more additional steps.

**Triple** 

trpl

The portion of the standard timing of a rhythm consisting of three steps taken on two beats of music [Q&Q or QaQ] as is characteristic of Jive, Cha Cha and other rhythms. Syncopations, like the chasses in Waltz and Foxtrot, are not considered to be triples.

Turn

trn

A change of direction as indicated.

Turn Awa

trn awy

An individual movement turning right or left face from partner.

Turn In

trn in

To turn toward partner or toward Center of Hall

- 17 -

**Turn Out** 

trn out

To turn away from partner or toward the Wall.

Underturn

undrtrn

Less than the normal amount of turn in a turning figure.

**Unphased Action, Movement or Figure** 

unph action, mov or fig

An action, movement or figure which is neither a phased action, movement or figure nor a modified action, movement or figure.

Up beat

up bt

An unaccented beat in a musical measure, especially the last beat of the measure.

Woman

W

Lady is the preferred term or cue. Confusion with the abbreviation for Left is avoided by using W for woman.

Workshop

none

A session at which round dance routines are taught to dancers who are generally familiar with the round dance basic steps in the routine.