

Questions and Answers

Q- Is this a new teaching order for the Mainstream program?

A- No. This is merely a recommended cut-off list for open dances.

Q- Must I restrict my teaching so as not to get ahead of this list?

A- No. It is expected that callers will normally be 5 to 7 calls ahead.

Q- If I am behind the advertised cut-off, will my dancers have difficulty

A- Yes. But you can tell your dancers they are not ready and should wait or if possible contact the caller doing the dance and advise him/her that your dancers are not quite there and maybe adjust the list to accommodate them.

Q- If callers are normally ahead of this cut-off why bother with this list

A- It has always been the goal to give the dancer the best possible experience at a Hoedown. By reigning back slightly we give dancers 2 to 3 weeks of reinforcement at classes before they are tested.

Q- Has this list been approved by Callerlab or coordinated with any other callers association?

A- No. However, there has been no modification made to established Callerlab lists or anything taught out of order in any way.

Q- How is this list used?

A- An example as how to use this list is as follows: A club or association desires to sponsor a newer dancer Hoedown. If in this example the third week of March is selected and both January and September dancers are to be invited. The advertisement for this dance shall have printed in its narrative the following information:

“January Dancers Calls B1 – B26” and “September Dancers Calls B1 – MS8 “

Q- What’s wrong with the way things are now and how does this enhance the dancing experience?

A- Generally speaking the way advertisement is handled now provides little information for the new dancer. The flyer will indicate January or September beginners. What does that really mean? For the hired caller it can mean many different things. First of all is the caller even teaching classes this season? Does the caller tend to teach fast or slow? Are the dancers younger or older? Is the class large or small? Are the dancers alert and energetic or not? All these factors determine what level the dance will be called at. A few new dancers will be successful others will fail and leave overwhelmed and frustrated. Another factor that disguises the new dancer’s problems is higher level dancers that try to fix problems by grabbing, pushing, pulling, yelling, etc (you get the idea).By clearly identifying the level of the dance it provides direction for the hired caller and information to the new dancer to help them determine if this dance is for them. They can look up the advertised calls and refresh or practice what will be expected. And for the most part the calls are not ones they just learned last week. They have been taught, reviewed and drilled for probably 3 weeks. The new dancer is more confident and the end result is a better experience all around

Q- What is SSD

A- SSD is a Social Square Dance System which has been developed as a DESTINATION program to more quickly integrate new dancers into the Square Dance Activity. It is a selected subset of calls to be taught in 12 to 14 week classes. The end product dances these calls exclusively. It does not include all of the callerlab Basic or MS lists. It is not considered a stepping stone to MS or Plus. It is to be considered a stand alone program. In the event a dancer would like to proceed to MS, Plus or other levels they

must first bridge the gap of the missing calls on the MS and Basic list not taught in SSD and strengthen their abilities prior to attempting additional levels of dancing..

Q- Why SSD

A- The point of SSD is to bring in more dancers per teaching cycle. At present our dance cycle per year is usually one class. By limiting the list and teaching in 12 to 14 weeks it is possible to start several classes per year and in fact the success of SSD depends on this.

Q- Can SSD dancers attend and dance comfortably at the MS Level

A- No. As mentioned previously there are a number of calls SSD dancers have not been taught to dance at the MS level. SSD dancers must look for inclusion of the SSD program on Flyers and pick ONLY dances that specifically designate SSD.