

Dance floor etiquette should not be viewed as a bunch of rules being forced on the dancers, but rather as a way to fully utilize the dance floor so that EVERYBODY has fun.



If each dance is done in its proper area and if the band or the DJ provides guidance, there will be room for everyone to dance. In effect, Dance Floor Etiquette serves to increase the available dance space on the floor.

### **THE HARDWOOD DANCE FLOOR SHOULD BE TREATED WITH CARE**

Drinks, food, cigarettes, chewing gum or any other foreign substance should never be brought onto the dance floor. This can be both dangerous and unpleasant. It's not cool to stand on the dance floor to socialize!

### **DANCERS SHOULD MOVE AROUND IN A COUNTER-CLOCKWISE DIRECTION**

This is generally referred to as the "Line Of Dance".  
Avoid traveling against the Line Of Dance  
(i.e. DO NOT travel clockwise around the dance floor).

## **THE DANCE FLOOR IS USUALLY DIVIDED INTO CONCENTRIC LANES (See above)**

The outside lane is described as the FAST lane and this is where you see Two Steppin' or Waltzin'. Depending on the size of the dance floor there may also be an INNER lane for slower dances such as Schottisches or Ten Steps. If you are doing a slow dance, you should stay in this inner lane and let other dancers pass you on the outside. The closer you go to the center, the slower you may go. Line and Swing dancers are usually located in the CENTER of the floor so it is not wise to go too close to the center if you are doing a slow dance. When Line Dancers are not on the floor then Swing dancers should take the CENTER or if the floor is not large enough, the OUTSIDE CORNERS of the dance floor.

## **LINE DANCERS SHOULD NEVER OCCUPY ALL THREE LANES AND PREVENT OTHER DANCERS FROM TAKING THE FLOOR**

This is not only the height of ill manners but it gives line dancing a bad reputation. Likewise, those in the INNER & FAST lanes should never cut into the CENTER of the floor as some line dance step moves may seriously damage your health. Please don't be wise after the event. DO NOT travel into the CENTER of the floor when Line Dancers are present.

## **LINE DANCERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THOSE AROUND THEM AND AWARE THAT PROGRESSIVE DANCERS MAY BE COMING AROUND THE EDGE OF THE FLOOR.**

The faster the song, the smaller the steps! In other words, be careful not to kick someone, step on someone's foot so they can't dance next week-end, or trip some lady who is spinning so fast in the fast lane that she doesn't see your fancy legwork stickin' out there!

## **DANCE THROUGH THE SNEAKING CORNERS!**

We've all been there. You're doing a popular line dance and you are on the corner of the center area. And you see it coming....Mr. Two-Step approaches the corner and across. Cutting off some partner dances. They have to retreat or retaliate. So you are now in their way. They glare at you, you glare back and hold your ground, so they try to reclaim their ground and the clown who started the whole mess, Mr. Two-Step, now glares at the folks in the slow lane. OK, so you're mad, the partner dancers are pissed at you AND Mr. Two-Step; the 2-steppers move off cussing about the clown who was in HIS way. Now Nobody is havin' fun. But, if we use the corners, once again we virtually increase the size of the dance floor by reclaiming the part we've never used before.

## **LINE DANCERS, USE SELECTIVE FLOOR PLACEMENT.**

The first person on the floor usually has the right to set the dance they want to do. However, as a courtesy so everyone has the opportunity to do what they want, if you think lots of folks know the dance you place yourself in the center of the floor. If however, you feel very few know the dance you want to do, line up on the edge of the line dance area. This give us better use of the floor by not having people all around you trying to do a different dance than the one you're doing.

## **FACE THE LONG EDGE OF THE FLOOR.**

Many dance floors have a short edge facing the bandstand or the DJ. The initial logical feeling is to face the music. Dancers joining lines have a tendency to join an already existing line rather than form a new one. Lines facing the longer edge can stretch out farther.

## **ALWAYS BE COURTEOUS TO OTHER DANCERS ON THE FLOOR.**

If you are partner dancing always try to shield the lady from bumps and bangs on the floor. She probably can't see what's coming while you can! If there is a collision always apologize (even if it isn't your fault); this usually prevents unnecessary unpleasantness and often leads to the forging of some great new friendships. However, don't make a habit of making new acquaintances in this way. If you collide with other dancers in a competitive environment you will be heavily penalized by the judges.