

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD ABOUT DANCE FLOOR ETIQUETTE

Why dance etiquette? The principal purpose of dance etiquette is to make sure we all have an enjoyable evening of dance and avoid accidental injury. While Saturday Evening Dance Club's size and diversity is our strength, we need to realize that we have members of all abilities and ages and that collisions can hurt.

At the dance

Conversations on the floor. If you are in the middle of a conversation between dances and the music resumes, please step off the dance floor. It becomes an obstacle to the other dancers who are trying maneuver around you.

Taking a break. Remember to stay clear of the dance floor and out of the way when you are not dancing, even if you only intend to watch the action. This makes it safer and more enjoyable for you and the other participants, and shows that you are considerate. While eating or drinking, please stay away from the dance floor!

Live band etiquette. After they finish a song, be sure to applaud and show them that you enjoy what they are doing. A happy band plays a better performance. If you have a special request, approach the band between songs (not during them) and hand them your written request or speak to them during intermission.

Line Dancing (e.g. electric slide)

Line dancing and ballroom dancing involving traveling steps typically do not mix well, especially when the dance floor is crowded. If both types of dancing are occurring simultaneously (this should be rare) line dancing should take place on the dance floor farthest from the band/orchestra.

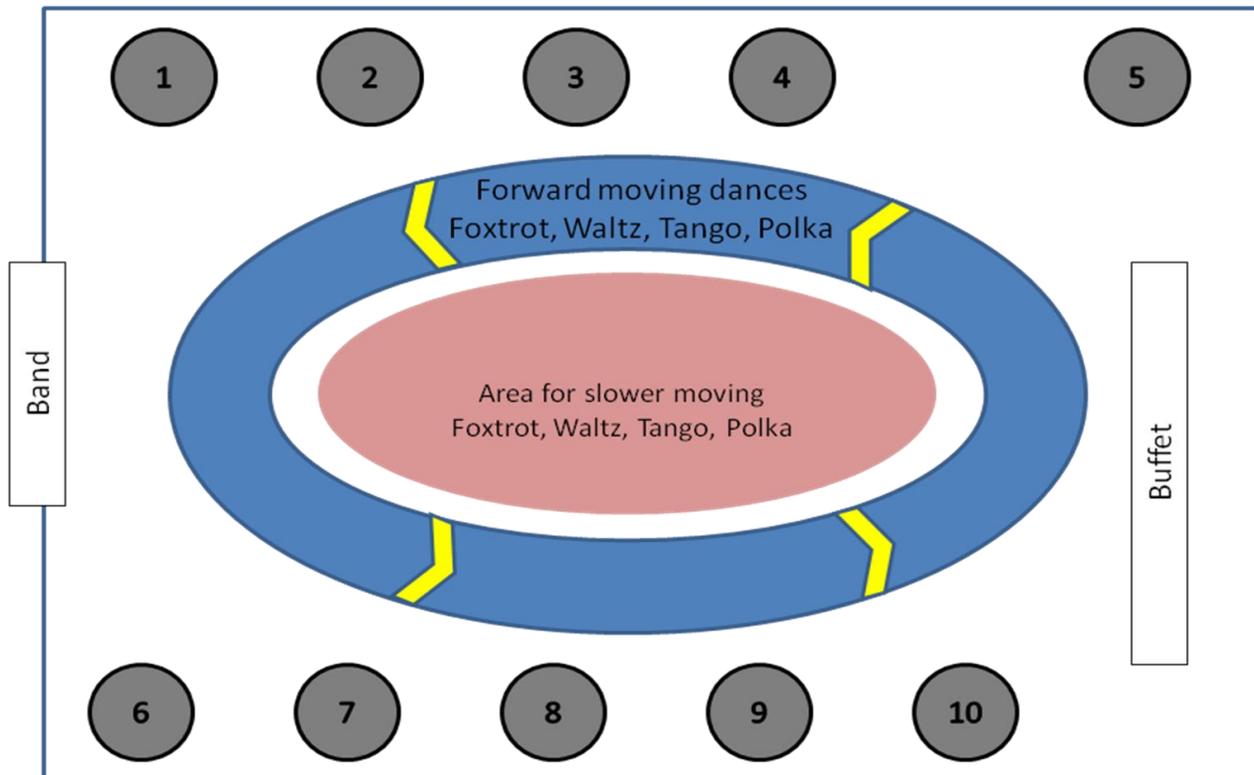
While dancing

Line of Dance. In general, the line of dance for most smooth ballroom styles (Waltz, Fox Trot, Quickstep etc.) moves in a counter clockwise direction around the dance floor. Please adhere to the proper line of dance at all times to avoid injuries to yourself and other dancers. For those that choose to dance in place during smooth dances, please move to the middle of the ballroom floor so those following the line of dance can move fluidly around the perimeter without bumping into stationary dancers.

Bumping into or stepping on other dancers. Be aware of what's going on around you and adjust your dancing to appropriately fit the dance space. If space is tight, take smaller steps and don't engage in wide steps that jeopardize other people's sense of balance and feet. ALWAYS acknowledge and apologize to someone you accidentally bump into or step on. When participating in dances that tend to move in several directions, like Hustle and East Coast Swing, be careful not to monopolize a large

space on a crowded floor or run over others who happen to be in your way. For dances like the Hustle, please keep your hands close to you in a crowd. Extending your arms close to other people's faces without even acknowledging their presence is inconsiderate. Always be considerate of those around you and refrain from showy or flashy moves. Save such moves for times that may be more appropriate, such as in dance competitions or exhibitions.

The Saturday Evening Dance Club – Dance Etiquette



Safety. Men (or lead partners), this is primarily your responsibility. Here is how the lead partner can keep things safe and fun:

1. While escorting your partner onto and off the dance floor, please keep in mind that no dance partner appreciates being walked through the path of another dancing couple. Spinning bodies have elbows that can inflict a variety of injuries to the body, face, and head. Shoes have hard, sharp heels. Legs can trip. Bodies can knock other bodies down or off balance. Avoid making your partner an obstacle and they will not have to confront such objects and the pain they cause.

2. When selecting a location on the dance floor, NEVER choose a spot placing your partner, yourself, or others at risk of injury. If the floor is so crowded that insufficient room exists to dance without colliding into others, wait for the next dance. Show respect by not squeezing in and expecting others to make room for you. This is a dangerous and inconsiderate practice. Lead partners who do this potentially place their partners in jeopardy of sustaining neck and back injuries as they accidentally back into other dancers. Even on an uncrowded dance floor, the lead partner must continuously be alert for the sudden appearance of another person in the partner's line of travel.
3. If another couple squeezes in and dances nearby after you have started, NEVER try to see how closely you can make your partner travel toward the other couple as a way to stake out your space.
4. NEVER BACK UP against the line of dance while ballroom dancing. This is inconsiderate and unsafe.

Many of the dance floor rules are common sense. Beginners and even seasoned or experienced dance couples may accidentally break these rules on occasion. Everyone needs to review these dance rules from time to time because adherence to these rules makes the dance floor safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Thanks! The SEDC board