

# SCVSDA General Dance Program

## Calling Guidelines

*In addition to making use of a limited list of calls, "GDP Level" dances are intended to be accessible to as many dancers as possible who have learned those calls. To achieve that purpose, callers for GDP Level dances are requested to respect the following guidelines:*

- (1) Applications of the calls on the GDP list should be generally limited to what CALLERLAB refers to as "standard applications". Dancers attending GDP dances should *not* be expected to be familiar with "extended applications", "APD", or "DBD".
- (2) Any use of less-common applications should be (a) explained or cued for the benefit of anyone present who is not familiar with it, (b) limited in duration, and (c) not allowed to become the focus of the dance. These are intended to be "dances", not "workshops".
- (3) Similarly, if a caller chooses to make use of a call *not* on the GDP list as a "gimmick" or for any other reason, it should be taught and used in only a limited way, as something "extra". (This applies equally to any call that is part of another program, e.g., Mainstream, and to any "old time" call, e.g. Rip and Snort.) The main focus of the dance should be on dancing the calls with which dancers are already familiar.
- (4) In order to ensure that dancers who come late or sit out a tip are not at a disadvantage in subsequent tips, any teaching necessary for them to be able to dance anything new should take place during the same tip when it will be used.
- (5) These dances are intended for dancers who have already learned the GDP level (or more). While some may have very recently learned the calls, these are not "student" dances for people who have seen only some of the calls. As at any dance, a limited amount of review or explanation may be appropriate in some situations, but this should not be allowed to crowd out the "dancing".
- (6) While we expect every GDP dance to be attended by dancers with a wide range of experience, care should be taken to make those who only dance the GDP Level comfortable, even if they are in the minority. The goal should be to allow anyone who *has* learned all the calls to be successful, while still making the dance enjoyable for everybody. GDP-only dancers should never be put in a position where they feel they are out of place.
- (7) Specifically, with respect to anything that goes beyond the list or common applications, it would not be appropriate to ask "is there anybody who doesn't know X?". People who don't know X may be uncomfortable saying so, or if they see that most other people already know X they may get the impression that they are at the wrong dance. If X is not part of GDP and it is going to be used for any reason, it should be introduced *as if* there are people who don't know it, whether anybody admits it or not.
- (8) The speed of calling should be what a typical adult dancer who is familiar with the calls can comfortably handle. These dances are not intended to be "high energy" or to challenge people physically in other ways. On the other hand, the calling should not be slowed down just to accommodate someone who hasn't actually learned the calls. These are intended to be "dances", not "classes" or "workshops".