

FESTIVAL GUIDELINES

The heart of the Square Dance movement is its worldwide friendship. This friendship starts at the local level and is enhanced and nurtured by events of a larger scale. These events, known worldwide as Festivals are essential to foster and maintain the Square Dance movement. The Federation is an avid proponent of Provincial Festivals.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Birth: The first B.C. Square and Round Dance Festival was held in Vancouver in 1985. An odd numbered year was chosen so as not to conflict with the National Convention that was already being held every two years on the even numbered years. The 1985 Festival was used as a trial run in consideration of B.C. bidding for a National Convention.
- b. Levels & Genre: The original concept included as many levels and genres from the square dance activity as possible based on the number of dancers registered.
- c. Leaders: Leaders were all those callers, cuers, prompters who registered for the Festival and were willing to call, cue, prompt, and/or conduct seminars at the Festival. This provided an opportunity for all leaders to gain visibility and recognition. The leaders volunteered their time and paid the same registration as all other dancers.
- d. Frequency: Future Festivals were to be held every two years, on odd numbered years, in a different Region each time. This would permit dancers to travel to the various Regions and have each Region assume the responsibility of hosting the Festival.
- e. Federation Responsibility: The Festival was financially underwritten (see definition/interpretation below) by The Federation. This meant that each and every dancer in B.C. contributed to the financial viability of the Festival through their membership fees.

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Any surplus funds from the Festival, after expenses, were to be split 50/50 between the Region Association(s) hosting the Festival and The Federation. The goal of the Federation was to build a Festival Fund of \$20,000.00 to underwrite future Festivals.

- f. Underwrites....”undertake to finance or support”. In this document The Federation assumes full financial responsibility for the Festivals. If a Festival operates at a loss, The Federation assumes the liability.

2. FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE

- a. Festival Facilities: The Festival has been a successful event since its inception in 1985. The concept of providing a large enough venue to accommodate as many levels and genres as dancer registration and numbers warranted continued through the 2005 Festival. This has taken an enormous amount of work to organize enough suitable floor space, including the very labour intensive task of laying wood floors over concrete or carpet.
- b. Finances: The Festivals have all been profitable and The Federation has achieved and maintains a \$20,000.00 fund to underwrite future Festivals. The leaders continue to donate their time and talents and this contributes to the financial success of the Festival. However, declining attendance endangers the financial viability of a large festival.
- c. Locations: The Festival has been held throughout the Province, meeting one of the original goals of having it hosted by different Regions. When the time arrives to bid on / host a Festival, however, it has become more difficult to get Regions to accept the responsibility due to a variety of factors, including: a lack of large facilities, lack of facilities with acceptable non-cement floors, shrinking numbers of volunteers, and a reluctance to take responsibility as a Chairperson.
- d. Cancellation Date: The Festival Committee should establish a date in their Initial Plan where the Festival would either proceed or be cancelled if insufficient registrations are received by that date.(A.G.M. Aug. 5, 2011)

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FESTIVALS – POST 2005

a. Objective: The following guidelines are intended to provide this flexibility to sustain Festivals that will bring together dancers of all Regions of B.C., other Provinces and other Countries for a *multi-day dance event* promoting the various genres of Square Dancing in a spirit of fun, fitness and friendship. Festivals may be one of three general formats, as outlined below and must have the Federation's approval to be called a Festival:

- i. **B.C. Square & Round Dance Festival (Format #1)** A Biennial festival of traditional design, to be staged in odd numbered years, incorporating multi levels of Square Dancing, multi phases of Round Dancing, Clogging and Contra and may include such events as; Show Case of Rounds, Dance Clinics, Square Dance Workshops, Caller/Cuer training, seminars, a Fashion Show, and Opening and Closing Ceremonies.
- ii. **B.C. Square and Round Dance Mini Festival (Format #2)** A Festival incorporating at least two types of dancing and limited to the levels and extras that could be accommodated in the chosen facilities. For this kind of Festival there may be featured callers and cuers for the main evening dance; or
- iii. **B.C. [named – type of dance] Festival (Format #3)** A Festival of one dance type with one or more levels or phases and providing workshops or clinics as part of the Festival.

b. Leaders;

- i. **B.C. Square & Round Dance Festival (Format #1)** This type of Festival should continue to provide an opportunity for all registered leaders to participate in the program. Leader participation will be without monetary compensation. The leaders would pay the same registration fee as the dancers.

- ii **B.C. Square and Round Dance Mini Festival (Format #2)** This type of Festival may compensate featured Callers and

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Cuers. Other Leaders would not be compensated and would pay full registration fees.

- iii **B.C. [names – type of dance] Festival (Format #3)** This type of Festival will be staged solely upon the discretion of the organizers and may only involve one type of dancing. Up to two (2) Format #3 Festivals, each of a different dance type, may be held in any one year, but shall not be held in the same year as a Format #1 Festival.

- C. Bidding / Selection: An application by Regional Associations or Sponsoring Clubs must be submitted to The Federation for Executive approval. If appropriate, applications can be presented for approval (or denial) at the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting or at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Federation Executive / BOD / AGM will deny / approve the applications based on the merit of each individual application. The applications should be submitted with sufficient lead time to permit approval time and publicity time before the event. Applications for each type of Festival should be submitted with the following lead times;
- i. **B.C. Square and Round dance Festivals (Format #1)** a minimum of 18 months ahead of the proposed date of the Festival;
 - ii **B.C. Square and Round Dance Mini Festivals (Format #2)** a minimum of 6 months ahead of the proposed date of the Festival; and
 - iii **B.C. [named – type of dance] Festivals (Format #3)** a minimum of 6 months ahead of the proposed Festival date.
- d. Dates: The dates/years selected for the Festivals will be as follows:
- i. **B.C. Square & Round Dance Festival (Format #1)** Once every two years on the odd numbered years, unless the Canadian National Convention is not held on an even numbered year;

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- ii **B.C. Square and Round Dance Mini Festival (Format #2)** Any year, except on the year of a BC Square & Round Dance Festival (Format #1): and
 - iii **B.C.. [named – type of dance] Festival (Format #3)** Any year, including, but not within 6 months of a BC Square & Round Dance Festival and not within four months of, a B.C. Square and Round Dance Mini Festival.
- e. Federation Support:
- i. The BC Federation will underwrite the Festivals up to a maximum of \$10,000.00 (15? 20?) and provide start up funds of up to \$1,000.00 repayable from profits at the conclusion of the Festival. (If the Festival loses money, this start up money will be forfeited); and

- ii A member of the Federation Executive, or a Delegate from the host Region appointed by the executive and reporting to the Executive, shall be an ex-officio member of the organizing committee for format #1 and format #2 festivals.

f. Accountability:

- i. **BC Square & Round Dance Festivals (Format #1)** shall be sponsored by a Regional Association or Associations. Any profit, after repayment of start up funds, at the end of the Festival will be split 50% to the BC Federation and 50% to the hosting organization(s);
- ii **BC Square and Round Dance Mini Festivals (Format #2)** shall be sponsored by a Regional Association or Associations. Any profit, after repayment of start up funds, at the end of the Festival will be split 50% to the BC Federation and 50% to the hosting organization(s); and
- iii **BC [named – type of dance] Festivals (Format #3)** may be sponsored by a Regional Association(s), a club or clubs. The split of profits, after repayment of start up funds, may be negotiated between the Federation and the sponsors.

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6. EQUIPMENT AND "DIGITAL MUSIC DEVICES"

- a. General: The activity is in the throes of change from vinyl to digital music. Digital music may be on various equipments; mini disc, laptop, MP3 player, cell phones, etc. Both organizers and leaders will need to ensure both formats maybe used and a quick transition can be made from one format to the other.
- b. Turntables: Hilton turntables are recommended as the main source of amplification. They are the most common amplifier in use and will accommodate both vinyl and digital format.
- c. Interface equipment: Cable connections are different on various amplifiers and various digital devises. A multi-input interface box provides quick changing from one music source to another. The interface box should be hooked to the Hilton and one or two cable variations be provided on the input side.

- d. Callers / Cuers: To avoid having dancers waiting, Callers / Cuers should do the following:
 - I Have your tip/dance “fingertip” ready when it is your turn;
 - ii Check ahead of your time as to what amplifier is being used and what cable connection you will need;
 - iii Be sure **you** know how to hookup **your** music source – the MC may not have this knowledge;

- e. Microphones: although microphones are a rather personal item, the following is suggested:
 - i A “house” microphone should be available in each hall for use by the MC

 - ii A second microphone and cable should be available for leaders who may not have their own microphone; and

 - iii Organizers should mention in the advertising that leaders bring their own microphone and cord.

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