

INTRODUCING and TEACHING STYLING

Teaching a person the Basics of square dancing is one thing; teaching comfortable dancing and correct styling is something else. It is much easier to teach correct styling in the very beginning of a class (after they pay) than it is to try to correct bad styling later on. CALLERLAB has recognized that there are regional differences in styling BUT it does not recognize roughness!

The only way to teach Swing is to teach it correctly in the very beginning. This applies to EVERY CALL on the program list. SHOW and TELL is very important. Use a good demo square or couple to show how the calls *should be done*. Teaching timing is also important to styling. Clip timing encourages poor styling because the dancers cannot keep up. Slow timing creates stop-and-go styling which is not good either.

The teacher and partner should get out on the floor and practice dancing with every new dancer. You will be surprised how much this will help. The teacher must be completely knowledgeable with the correct styling, where the hands go, how many steps are required and which way to face – **FOR BOTH POSITIONS**.

The teacher should have good knowledge of body mechanics (Kinesiology). Dancers should be taught good posture, move smoothly and to the music, proper hand positioning and grips.

Good styling makes someone a more pleasant person to dance with. Good styling eliminates jerks and bumps and reduces the amount of black-and-blue spots.

The competent teacher knows that it takes no longer to teach the correct styling method. Emphasize smoothness from the very beginning. There is nothing worse than dancing with a dead fish! Teach proper counter-dancing and why it is important.

All callers/teachers should be the very best and most stylish dancers in their area! You must teach properly, dress properly and act properly!!!