

ASK ARTS # 20

Definition of a Club

By Del Reed
Alliance of Round, Traditional, and Square Dance
(May 10, 2018)

Dear ARTS,

Has anyone come up with an official definition of what constitutes a "club?" I've checked USDA, ARTS, Where's the Dance, and just a general search of the internet by asking "What is a square dance club?" I have not been able to find anything.

Here in Florida there are groups which meet regularly and do promote the activity. There are also groups which do not have officers or do any kind of promoting the activity. There are both Member run and Caller/Cuer run dance groups. There are also Callers and Cuers who run classes but are not affiliated with any organized group.

Any help you can give us would be greatly appreciated.

Curious in Florida

Dear Curious,

Thank you for your question. We also could find not any "official" definition of a Square or Round dance "club." However, the following points resulted from discussions among the ARTS Board Members and others. There are several possibilities when discussing this issue. The following criteria may be applied to any dance group.

Definition Number One -

- 1) Scheduled dances
- 2) Bylaws
- 3) Members pay dues
- 4) Club pays insurance premiums for Members
- 5) Periodic meetings
- 6) Members have badges

Definition Number Two -

- 1) Scheduled dances
- 2) A regular dance place or hall
- 3) Officers
- 4) Bylaws
- 5) Not less than sixteen (16) dancers

Definition Number Three -

- 1) Scheduled dances
- 2) Eight or more dancers
- 3) Regular place to dance
- 4) Be primarily devoted to square, round, clogging, contra, or country western dancing
- 5) Bylaws
- 6) Have appointed or elected officers and delegates

Definition Number Four -

A Caller/Cuer run group which identifies itself as a "Club" using any or all the above criteria

Please note the above definitions are not "official." Each area association, federation, or other group must determine the best definition for their specific circumstances.

Please direct any questions for "Ask ARTS" to Del Reed at

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