

DANCE PATTERN with Ken & Myrna

Competition Squares

Hello! This is your Program Chairmen, Ken and Myrna, again. This month we would like to write about the Competition Squares.

In Cincinnati the competition is going to be handled differently than during the past few years. In Des Moines the competition started with 10 squares and they used a last man standing approach. If the square broke down, the square was timed until it restarted or it was in dance position, whichever was shortest. If the square took too long, it was yellow carded. On the second breakdown, when the square exceeded the time limit it was red carded and then it was out, as in soccer. As the calling got harder, the squares began to drop out and then eventually there was only one square remaining; thus the name "Last Man Standing". It was the 1st place winner.

I am not going to go over all the rules in detail, but I do want to summarize what we are going to do in Cincinnati. First, the competition will be done in two heats. The first heat will start with all of the competition registered squares. In this heat we will use a different approach to determining the winners. The tips will be 10 minutes long, with a break of 5 minutes between tips. There will be 3 tips during this heat. During the tip, the judges using stop watches, will measure the amount of time each square is not dancing. Yes, the calling will start simple and the callers will get tougher as they proceed through the 30 minutes of dancing. The stop watch will start when the square breaks down and continue until the square is dancing again or until in dance position whichever comes first. Dance position will be: two couple facing lines along head walls with a beau to the left of a bell. At the end of each tip, the judges will record the down time. At the end of the three tips, the judging sheets will be given to the Director of Competition. During the closing ceremonies, the down selected squares will be announced, called to the floor for the final heat, and the Last Man Competition will be held to determine

the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners. The number participating in the evening will depend upon the number of squares in the early heat, but if we start with 10 squares again, we will have a Final Four for the final round.

The competition will be called at the mainstream level. For practice, we suggest you spend time in the DBD hall.

Registration forms will be available at the 66th website: <http://66nsdc.com/>. A complete set of rules will also be on the web site. Both will also be available at a table outside of the Dance Leader's Coordination Room (3rd Floor Junior Ball Rooms C & D), after lunch on Thursday. Submission of the registration forms will be at the same location. All forms must be submitted by 7 pm Friday evening. Just a little about the form, your group will need a group name along with the name of the eight contestants. This year, we are requiring that each square provide a 9th person to become a member of the judging pool. The submitting square will not be assigned the judge they brought. Watch the schedules and posting for the exact time and location of the two competition heats.

Yes, there will be prizes for first, second, & third place and it will be smaller than the National Hockey League's Stanley Cup. It will probably be something that will hang around your neck to allow for bragging rights during the remainder of the convention. So get your square together; complete your registration form; and come to the 66th In Cincinnati!!!