

## 66th National Square Dance Convention – Competition Squares Rules

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1. All individuals of the group (each square) must be registered for the convention and wearing the 66<sup>th</sup> convention badge.
2. Each group must have a registration form submitted to the Coordination Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Junior Ball Room C & D) by noon on Friday. Registration forms can be pickup at the Information Booth on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor main concourse.
3. The registration form will require the name of the group, the name of a group leader, the name of each individual plus 66<sup>th</sup> NSDC registration number participating in the square, and the name of a 9<sup>th</sup> person to be that group's contribution to the judging team.
4. There will be no practice times scheduled. It is recommended the group practice in the DBD hall.
5. The competition will be called at the Mainstream level.
6. The contest will be a two-step process. There will be a first heat on Friday afternoon that will be a timed event. The final heat will be during the closing ceremonies. It will be judged as last man standing.
7. For the first heat, all contestants must be in place Friday in Exhibit Hall B 1<sup>st</sup> Floor by 1:30 pm for a 1:45 start. The gathering point will be on the east front side of the stage.
8. The final heat will be called during the Closing Ceremonies in Hall B. Please make your way to the front right of the stage. The participants will be announced earlier in the ceremonies.
9. 1<sup>st</sup> heat, timed event:
  - a. There will be three (3) Ten (10) minute sessions. There will be a 5 minute rest between each session.
  - b. During the sessions, the amount of down time will be clocked. The winner will be the group with the least amount of down time.
  - c. Down time starts to be measured when the square breaks down until it either starts dancing again or until the square is in dance position. Dance position will be: two couple facing lines along head walls with a beau to the left of a belle. If a dancer starts the square as a beau they must go to facing lines in the beau position. The same rule applies for belles.
  - d. You will not be assigned the judge you brought. At the end of each session, the judges will rotate. It is the responsibility of each group to ensure they do not have a judge from their state.

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- e. At the end of each session, down time will be recorded on your team's score sheet. At the end of the heat, the group's score sheet will be submitted to the judges table. Scores will be tallied.
  - f. The number of groups moving to the final round will be determined during the competition and will be dependent upon the number of original submissions. We would like to have a final four for the Closing Ceremonies.
10. The final heat at the Closing Ceremonies will be a last man standing competition.
- a. This dance will be more like recent year's competitions.
  - b. Each group will square up and the caller will start easy and get harder.
  - c. When a square breaks down they will be timed until they start dancing or return to Dance Position.
  - d. If they are not dancing or not in Dance Position for more than 10 beats of music, they will first be yellow carded. On the second break down they will be red carded and like soccer, you are out of the competition.
  - e. Groups must agree to stop dancing and leave the floor if the judge gives the red card, even if some members of the group do not agree with the ruling. Groups should move to the judges table for additional instructions and for final awards.
  - f. You will not be assigned the judge you brought. At the end of each session, the judges will rotate. It is the responsibility of each group to ensure they do not have a judge from their state.
  - g. The competition will continue until only one square is left.
11. In both heats, the callers will start with standard teach position choreography to give dancers and judges time to become comfortable with the program. As calling continues, the choreography will become more challenging.