



ECTA Dresscodes all Dance Forms / Councils

Version 1.0

History of changes / Änderungshistorie

| Report of the conducted change(s) | Change(s) raised by | Approval accorded by/ date |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| v0.1 initial release compiled from all council decisions | ECTA President | draft compiled March 25, 2011 |
| v1.0 minor changes/revisions | ECTA President | released May 22, 2011 |
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I About this Document

This document was compiled on the basis of the decisions of the four ECTA councils for Square Dance, Round Dance, Clogging and Contra & Traditional upon the request of the Jamboree task force to develop easy definitions of required dress codes for dance events.

II Dresscode - Background

Already since the year 2000 the international Square Dance Caller Association CALLERLAB proposes a three-step dress code for Square Dancing to meet the requirements of different interest groups among the dancers and to allow hosts of dance events to adopt the strictness of the dress code according to the character of the event.

ECTA has explicitly been supporting this proposal for years. The aim of this article is to improve the knowledge about the dress code issue among dancers and hosts of dance events and to provide answers to open questions.

Because of the unique structure of ECTA gathering four traditional American dance forms under one common roof, we felt the need to examine the CALLERLAB dress code according to its functionality for the other three dance forms and to adopt it where necessary. Therefore, the following pages show partly different terms and regulations for the four different dance forms.

We highly appreciate a common identity and mutual respect among the dancers of the four dance forms supported by ECTA. Consequently we support respecting different dress codes for different dance forms, especially on joint events with more than one dance form. By spreading the different regulations for the different dance forms, we would like to help to avoid misunderstandings and to contribute to the joy of dancing together.

We believe that the clear communication of regulations can help each single dancer to dress according to the required dress code. Therefore, we recommend each host of a dance event – be it a club night or a special dance – to clearly state the requested dress code on the flyer. Distinguishing requirements for single program parts are possible. A reference to this article is welcome. We would like to emphasize that it is the freedom and responsibility of the hosts to choose the required dress code and to handle violations at their own discretion. Since there is one aspect we should never forget: The fun and joy of dancing together should never be lost!

If you have further questions or comments on this topic, please contact the ECTA President.

III Square Dance (SD)

The Dress Code recommended for consideration and adoption for Square Dance programs is:

Traditional Square Dance Attire:

"Traditional" square dance attire provides a connection to the history of our activity, adds to the visual enjoyment of participants and spectators, enhances individual dancer styling included in individual calls, and provides for the protection and mutual comfort of dancers i.e. shoes, long sleeved shirts, petticoats, etc.. The "Prairie Skirt" is also included in the category of "Traditional Attire". We support the choice of dancers, clubs and festivals selecting "traditional" as appropriate attire.

Proper Square Dance Attire:

Traditional attire can at times be an inconvenience to dancers, and even deter people from joining and/or participating altogether. At these times a code of "Proper" could be used. This includes slacks and dress jeans for men and women and short sleeved dress or polo shirts for men. T-shirts for men do not fall into this category. It should be noted that even if an event is advertised as "proper" attire, "traditional" attire is always appropriate.

Casual Square Dance Attire:

Although proper attire may allow for a wide variety of choices, there may be times when travelling, weather and other conditions would discourage dancers from following either traditional or proper

Dress Codes. In that event, leaders are encouraged to advertise those dances/sessions/festivals, etc. as "casual" attire. It should be noted that if an event is advertised as "casual" attire, "traditional" and "proper" attire are always appropriate. Irregardless of the code that is desired for a particular dance, the attire should always be in good taste.

Clubs and leaders who run dances and weekend festivals are encouraged to specify "traditional attire", "proper attire", or "casual attire" for their individual dances, sessions and events. A policy of tolerance and encouraged by all square dance leaders and participants should be supported. The opportunity of fun and friendship should not be lost irregardless of the code that is selected.

IV Round Dance (RD)

The ECTA Round Dance Council defined the following dress codes to be distinguished for Round Dancers programs:

“Traditional”

- for gentlemen: long trousers (preferably dress pants), long-sleeved shirt
- for ladies: skirt with petticoat or longer skirt (prairie skirt), at least knee-covered, blouse or T-Shirt (shoulders covered)
- Ladies that are dancing the man’s part are allowed to wear long trousers and long-sleeved.

“Proper”

- for gentlemen: long trousers (Jeans are OK), short-sleeved shirts or Polo-shirts (emphatically no T-Shirts)
- for ladies: skirts and blouse / T-shirt (shoulders covered).

V Clogging (CL)

The ECTA Clogging Council decision of September 2010 defined the following dress codes to be distinguished for for Clogging programs:

Clubs who run dances are encouraged to specify “festive”, “smart-casual” or “casual” attire for their individual events or even for single session. A policy of tolerance should be supported. Fun and friendship should not be lost, regardless of the selected dress code.

The dress code consists of three levels. Please note, a dressier level is always appropriate.

Regardless of the code that is desired for a particular dance, the attire should always be in good taste.

Festive Clogging Attire

- This category is designed for a joint evening program of the different sections at a Jamboree.
- It adds to the visual enjoyment of participants and spectators.
- It can also provide a connection to the common history of North American folk dances.

It includes

- All kinds of not too short skirts (minimal length: a couple of inches above the knee)
- Slacks and dress jeans for gents and ladies
- Blouses, lady-shirts and dress or polo shirts
- T-Shirts do not fall into this category

Smart-casual Clogging Attire

- This category is designed for the Saturday evening program at the Clog Convention or the day program at joint events.
- Due to our dancing style's being a sport after all in this level it is appropriate to wear more comfortable clothes than in the „festive“ attire

In addition to the „festive attire“, this category includes:

- Decent long training trousers for ladies and gents
- Pantskirts for the ladies
- Decent t-shirts (covering shoulders)
- Uniform club-outfits

Casual Clogging Attire:

- This category is designed for all special dances and the day program at the Clog Conventions.
- There may be times when travelling, weather and other conditions would discourage dancers from following either festive or smart-casual dress codes. In that case, those dances/sessions/festivals should be advertised as “casual” attires.

In addition to the other categories, it is allowed to wear

- Short trousers (no Hot-Pants)

VI Contra/Traditional (CT)

The Contra/Traditional Council decision of September 04, 2010 defined the following dress codes to be distinguished for Contra/Traditional programs:

Festive (F) attire, required for the ball and if announced in the event schedule:

- Ladies: skirt or dress, minimum length is below knee; blouse with short or long sleeves, not strapless, not backless; proper shoes, no high heels.
- Gents: full length trousers, no blue jeans, no slacks; shirt with long sleeves; proper shoes, no sandals.
- General: traditional attire from other dance types are accepted, festive historic clothing is accepted.

Appropriate (A) attire defines the minimum requirements, requested at all contra and traditional SD sessions, if (F) is not required:

- Ladies: skirt or pants, minimum length is below knee; T-shirt, polo-shirt or blouse, not strapless, not backless.
- Gents: trousers, minimum length is below knee; T-shirt, polo-shirt, shirt, short shirt sleeves are accepted.

(A) defines the minimum requirements as a suggestion.