

# Interlocked Squares C1 Class 2013-2014

## Welcome letter and resources list

Welcome to C-1 square dancing !!!

When you begin Challenge, you enter a program of square dancing that focuses on puzzles, modifications of calls through use of a range of concepts, and problem solving. It is this puzzle / problem solving aspect that makes Challenge distinct from the programs that come before, and adds to the fun of dancing.

The calls at C-1 range from fairly simple calls to somewhat complex ones—not unlike Advanced, but there are several more concepts, and a number of new formations that are introduced as well. Some of these concepts and formations are easy, but several can be very, “challenging”, as it were. Also, concepts are used much more often.

Teamwork and square cooperation are critical for success in Challenge dancing. We will emphasize this in our class. Dancers must work collaboratively in the square, and solve the puzzles / problems / challenges as a team. All members of your square (your team) have a responsibility to each other to both know the definitions, and quickly apply them to the many unique situations in order for the square as a whole to be successful. It is important to keep pace with the rest of the square.

A second critical component is for dancers moving up to C-1 to have strong skills in dancing the programs that precede Challenge. Thus, we ask all dancers considering this class to do an objective self-assessment in order to determine their readiness for this fast-paced Challenge class.

To do a self-assessment of your readiness for C-1, there are many questions to consider, including:

1. Can I dance Basic, Mainstream, Plus and Advanced with a high level of competency?
2. Do I rarely make errors at Advanced, and when I do, can I understand what didn't work?
3. At an Advanced dance do I dance 90% of the sequences without error? (If the square breaks down it wasn't due to your error)
4. At Plus and Mainstream dances, do I dance over 95% of the sequences without error? (If the square breaks down it wasn't due to your error)
5. Am I able to dance all calls from any position (APD), and do I have a degree of comfort dancing as either a boy or girl?
6. Am I able to quickly assess my position within the square, (e.g., am I a center or an end, a leader or a trailer) and can I use that information when executing a call?
7. Am I able to spend about an hour each week studying the calls and concepts for C-1?
8. Do I like being able to learn to understand calls, and apply that understanding to unique situations?
9. Do I like being challenged to think about calls and concepts in new and unusual ways?

At the C-1 level, knowing the call definitions and being able to quickly recall those definitions, is imperative. Frequently, dancers at the programs below Challenge dance by "feel". At C-1, calls are typically given from a wide range of positions, and dancers must be able to apply the definition to unique setups quickly. For example, the call "Tally Ho", one of the first C-1 calls that will be taught, can

be called from over 30 different formations or setups. Dancers need to be able to recall the definition of Tally Ho quickly and apply it to the formation they are in. The same is true for all calls on the C-1 list.

While it is relatively easy to learn a definition and apply it to a range of situations, it is overwhelming to try to memorize how to do a call from four positions by feel in more than 30 starting formations. Also knowing a definition, and being able to verbalize it, allows you to talk yourself through a call no matter what position you start from.

We realize that there are times when students may have to miss class (illness, vacation, etc). To assist students in this situation, we will hold a 1/2 hour review session before each class. This review is intended to go over the calls / concepts taught the previous week, give added practice to those needing it, and to provide an opportunity to ask questions. Anyone who needs additional review is encouraged to attend the review sessions. Also, students are encouraged to ask questions of the Board members and callers between tips and, if necessary, a square or 4-some can be put together to do a quick review of a call / concept before the next tip.

While we do not want to discourage prospective students, we also want to make the class challenging. Accordingly, if you have previously taken several C-1 classes and still struggle with C-1, then this class is probably not for you. This is by no means reflective of your skill at previous levels or learning ability, just that this C-1 class may just not be the appropriate learning format for you. There is certainly nothing wrong with continuing to enjoy square dancing at other levels, and it might make sense to take a slower paced, less intensive C-1 class.

During the first four weeks of class, the Interlocked Squares Board of Directors will evaluate how well each student is progressing. In doing so, they will consult with the callers. If the Board determines that a student is not progressing in a satisfactory manner, that student will be asked to not continue and will receive a full refund of the class fees. This doesn't mean that a particular student is not capable of becoming a solid C-1 dancer in the future, but indicates that additional time is needed at the Advanced level before attempting C-1 again. Students who miss several classes and are unable to catch up through outside study and the pre-class review sessions will be given a pro rata refund of class fees.

The schedule below teaches C-1 in 28 sessions of 8 tips each. Generally, the first tip is used to review the previous calls, the next 6-7 tips are used to teach 1-2 calls/concepts per tip, and the last tip or two are used for practice and dancing. The schedule teaches most of the concepts in the first few weeks so that students can see how they are applied as they learn new calls. The teach order has the harder calls and concepts at the beginning in order to maximize the time students have to work on them. Students should be aware that the first few classes are the hardest and after that, they get progressively easier. Some review weeks are also built into the schedule.

The teaching order below lists concepts, formations, calls and "glossary terms" (terms that modify how you do a call by giving specific directions). Remember that formations are a set of footprints that you begin working in, such as parallel lines or diamonds. Some formations (such as triple lines / waves / columns / boxes) are also concepts, Concepts are modifiers that change how you do a call.

The teaching and review load is balanced across the sessions. Calls which are easily confused are spaced at least two sessions apart. Calls and concepts which need more practice are located towards the beginning of the teaching order. Not all the variations and extensions of calls will be taught at the time the initial call is taught -- they will be introduced when the dancers have mastered the base call.

Two last notes. First, this is a class, and like all classes, requires that students do some outside studying. We suggest that you consider studying at least one hour per week. This should be broken up into short segments. You will find that it is easier to study one or two things for 15 minutes at a time, rather than cramming a review of all of the calls, etc. into a one hour mind-numbing session just before class. It works well to study with someone, and to verbalize the definitions. Being able to verbalize definitions lets you talk yourself through new calls, and figure out how to do familiar calls from unfamiliar formations. The bottom of this document contains links to helpful aides to assist you to learn C-1. We strongly encourage you to continue to dance full Advanced at least once a week.

We believe teaching and learning must be fun and enjoyable, so come prepared to work, but also to have fun.