

Dance etiquette is simply some do's and don'ts for both Beginner and Experienced dancers. This is even more important at Tailgates where space is so very limited. While every dancer on the floor would always encourage the new dancers to try anything they wanted to try, there is another side to that issue. So, I will address this first.

When you are a new dancer who wants to become an experienced dancer....you really have to do what each and every one of those fantastic dancers you see on the floor have done. There is no shortcut. You have to start at the beginning. Learn the basic steps, work on the beginner (what I call Code Yellow) dances and grow into the harder ones. Use the DWP videos to master some easy ones and then move on from there. Pick one dance a week and work on that and build from there. If you let me know what you are working on, I will do my best to make sure it gets on the play list for our dance night.

If you are new, it is unreasonable to expect that you will be out on the floor for every single dance...especially the harder, intermediate ones. About 1/3 of our dances on Monday night are Beginner Level dances, so I try to provide plenty of opportunities for dances that are geared to newer dancers. Those are the ones that I encourage new dancers to come out and "learn on the floor".

On the other hand, we have some highly experienced dancers in our community and some of the intermediate dances we do are VERY difficult. It is just a fact of life that it is very unlikely that a new dancer would be able to pick those dances up on the floor. Some of us have been doing those dances for a long time. And we didn't get them the first time we had a lesson....let alone learning them on the floor as a beginner. That is not a reasonable expectation for a new dancer.

If a new dancer finds themselves on the floor for a dance that is over their experience level, they need to have the maturity to sit that one out. If anyone wants to freestyle to the music, that is totally fine!! Please just find a corner of the floor where that will not be a distraction or a danger to anyone else on the dance floor. This is just common courtesy.

Please do not get in the middle of the floor for an intermediate dance if you are a beginner dancer. This is dangerous and not fair to those dancers who have invested time and effort into learning those harder dances.

I also need to address drinking and dancing which can be a challenge since our class is in a bar... and I honestly wouldn't have it any other way!! However, with anything regarding alcohol (and I am a big fan of drinking and dancing, so don't get me wrong here!!), we all need to know when to say when. For new dancers, there may be a choice between serious drinking and serious dancing....if the goal is to learn to dance. New people might just want to come out to the bar and drink and have fun, that's totally cool!!! However, everyone needs to be considerate of those committed dancers who are on the floor because that's what they love to do.

Please do not attempt the higher level, intermediate dances if you A) don't know them on some level (you don't have to have them down perfectly to try!! Just be considerate.) or B) you have been drinking to the point that you can't maintain focus and find yourself running into other dancers on the floor. This is a danger to everyone.

It would never be my intention to offend anyone who wanted to learn to dance. I encourage everyone to challenge themselves to grow in their dance ability! However, dance etiquette applies to all of us so I hope anyone reading this will take it in the spirit it is intended. Everyone wants our dance community to be happy and safe and a place where everyone can have a great time!!

#### FOR THE EXPERIENCED DANCER

I need to remind the experienced dancers to be aware of the dance space as well. So many of you like to add spins and stuff to the dances that you have done for years and years and that is totally cool!! Dancing with enthusiasm is also a great thing. At the same time, we need to all be aware of our own personal dance space, the dancers around us and where we are on the floor when throwing variations into the dances. When there are newbies all around - and the space

is tight - those variations can really throw the more inexperienced dancer off. We all just need to be super considerate when our dance space is so crowded.

Thanks to all our wonderful dancers for being willing to always watch out for the other guy!! That's so important!!

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [dancingwithpatti@yahoo.com](mailto:dancingwithpatti@yahoo.com).