

**GRAND RIVER SQUARES**  
**CODE OF ETHICS**  
**Saturday, January 31, 2009**  
**(Revised November 10, 2009)**

# Code of Ethics

**I. Definition of Ethics** - Ethics is basically defined as rules or standards for governing the relations between people to benefit all concerned, with mutual respect for the needs and wants of all parties involved. The essence of ethical behavior is:

- A. To conduct all relations between parties in friendliness, honesty and good faith;
- B. To honor fully, in word and in spirit, all agreements, once made; and
- C. To confine any critical comment to a reasoned and temperate discussion of actions and practices.

## **II. Dancer Rights & Responsibilities**

- A. Dancers should realistically evaluate their own dancing abilities and dance within those abilities. Dancers should not feel obligated to progress to the next level. This should be a personal decision. If a dancer is unsure whether to progress, they should ask an instructor or caller.
- B. Dancers whose dancing habits may be uncomfortable or undesirable to other dancers in the square may be politely informed and should make every effort to avoid such actions.
- C. All dancers and club visitors and guests should be treated with courtesy, friendliness and helpfulness.
- D. Experienced dancers should assist the less experienced dancers.
- E. Dancers are encouraged to enthusiastically take part in all activities of the club and should accept all the responsibilities of club membership.
- F. Criticism of the conduct of club members, club officers, or a club caller or teacher should be offered in a constructive manner and kept within the club.
- G. Dancers may wear the badge of the club as long as they are members in good standing of the club.
- H. Dancers who cannot accept the rules and practices of the club should approach the executive board with concerns or suggestions.

### **III. Ethics for Clubs and Club Officers**

- A. Club officers should have as their primary purpose and concern the welfare of the club and the square dance community as a whole.
- B. Club officers should conduct all club business and honor all club contracts in an ethical manner.
- C. Upon change of club officers, the new officers should be made fully aware of any outstanding club commitments. The new officers should consider the club to be legally and morally bound to fulfill any official commitments made by the previous officers on behalf of the club.
- D. In contractual matters, club officers should assure that all expectations and requirements, such as schedules, fees, expenses, etc., are clearly stated in writing and are understood by all contracting parties prior to signature.
- E. The Club should plan and sponsor beginner classes to promote and perpetuate the square dance activity. Graduating dancers should be accommodated by the club, and the club should provide information regarding dancing opportunities in the area.
- F. The Club should ensure that visitors and invited guests are informed of club admission policies, such as attire and admission fees, as well as dance levels.
- G. The Club should promote the fun and fellowship of square dancing, and guard against/limit the use of set squares and cliques.
- H. The Club should use officially defined dance levels and should conform with the official definitions of the level.