

Shag Etiquette

Asking a partner. It is equally permissible for a woman to ask a man as it is for a man to ask a woman. Take your partner's hand onto the dance floor and at the end of the dance, thank your partner.

If you don't want to dance, say "No thank you." Don't dance with someone if you just turned down a request. If someone says "no thanks" don't be persistent; take them at their word.

It is not polite to correct your partner on the dance floor. Remember, this is a social club (have fun).

It is not polite to offer instruction to someone in a social dance setting (or in a dance class if you are not the instructor). Unless they ask for help or are hurting you, don't teach. If your partner requests help, take them off to the side away from the other dancers.

Dancers bump into the nicest people. Be aware of the dancers around you! It's a fairly accepted practice that when a collision occurs, apologize, even if it wasn't your fault.

Use selective floor placement - Find your Spot and keep your Slot! The first person on the floor usually has the right to set the slot of the dance. Dance Small! If you require half the floor to do your thing, you need to change your thing! Nobody likes to be pushed around the floor. Save the arm waving, clapping and hand dancing - they may end up in another person's face. Remember, you're not the only one on the floor.

Please step off the dance floor if you're not dancing. If you are drinking a beverage of any kind or smoking, keep off the dance floor.

Leaders: if dancing with a less experienced partner, keep the steps simple at first and build to the level your partner can handle. Leading should be defined as "the art of making your partner comfortable." Work as a team, don't showboat.

Leaders, protect your partner's safety.

Leaders, if you must count and give verbal leads, keep it low enough that just you and your partner can hear. It can confuse those around you.