

MASDA BANNER SWAPPING GUIDELINES

“Banner Swapping” was originated to encourage club visitations. Traveling to other clubs to capture their club banner or to retrieve your own club’s banner generates a lot of friendly fun and fellowship. If your club is going to be a banner thief, be a good one and abide by the guidelines. What is fair for one club should be fair for all the clubs participating in the “art” of being a good banner thief. There are many different banner swapping rules or guidelines throughout the square dance activity, and the following are the guidelines suggested by MASDA.

1. If your club participates in banner swapping, you should make a note of it in your Footnotes ad so other clubs will know.
2. Participating clubs should have two or more banners depending on the club’s ability to retrieve these banners. The club’s official banner could be used, but is not recommended, as this master banner should be available for display at each club function and not hanging in some other club’s hall.
3. To steal a club’s banner or retrieve your own banner, the visiting club must attend a regular dance of the host club with at least one full square representing your club.
4. To steal a banner and also retrieve a banner at the same time requires at least two full squares from the visiting club. The first eight club members count toward retrieval only. The additional eight or more members count toward stealing the banner and are compared to another club’s number of visitors.
5. When two or more clubs arrive at the same dance to steal a banner, the club that has the most members present at the dance is entitled to take the banner. If the clubs have the same number of members present, the club that travels the farthest is entitled to the banner.
6. Clubs should always try to have a banner available or be willing to provide a substitute, i.e. neck scarf, pettipants, paper plate, etc.
7. *A banner may be taken only at a regular club dance. No banner may be taken at a club’s special dance with a national caller or a ribbon dance. Clubs that dance on the same nights cannot swap banners with each other.
8. The utmost in care should be given a “stolen” banner. All “stolen” banners should be displayed at each club dance.
9. To maintain a record of your stolen banners, consider attaching a note to the bottom of your club’s master banner. This will serve as a constant reminder to all club members and provide a record of location of the stolen banner.

Adapted from the USDA’s (United Square Dancers of America) Banner Swapping guidelines.