

Chapter 14 - Banner Stealing Rules

As an aid to its member clubs, the Metropolitan Chicago Association of Square Dancers publishes Banner Stealing Rules. These rules are to be followed by all clubs who participate in Banner Stealing. To avoid confusion please display these rules on the sign-in table at your dances.

Six or more paying club members must attend a club's regular dance to steal or retrieve a banner. There is to be no stealing or retrieving, or credit for the Friendship Award at special ticket dances or six-shooters. It takes one visit to steal and another visit to retrieve. If the host club has your banner, your club is not eligible to steal their banner before you have retrieved your banner.

Your club caller, attending only as a paid dancer, may participate in banner stealing and retrieving as a part of a square.

STEALING:

To be eligible to steal a banner, at least six members of the stealing club must be registered and present before the THIRD tip starts. If more than one club is stealing, the host club shall make a slip for each and a drawing shall be held in full view of the floor to determine which stealing club takes the banner. If no stealing club is present with six paid members at the start of the THIRD tip, the first stealing club to arrive with six paid members takes the banner.

All member clubs may offer only one banner for stealing purposes at any given club dance. Offering two or more banners by the same club at the same time is NOT allowed. Should multiple clubs join together to sponsor a dance, then each club may offer one banner at that jointly sponsored dance. A crying towel, earned after four unsuccessful stealing attempts, is exempt from this rule and may be given out in addition to the one banner given out for stealing.

- One slip of uniform size and uniformly folded should be placed into a reasonable size container for **each** visit a club has made in the current dance session (Sept. 1 – June 30) and has not won the banner. The first name drawn shall be the winner.
- If a club is still unsuccessful after four such attempts to steal, a courtesy crying towel or other token should be given (which counts as a successful steal) and the host club should retrieve it.
- Clubs may call ahead to determine if there is a banner available for stealing. No club shall have a banner available for stealing on their last dance of the season.

- In the event that your banner is not available on your scheduled night of

dancing a club token will be given to the eligible club. When the token or crying towel is retrieved, the retrieving club will take their regular or traveling banner to put on display for the evening.

- No banner shall be taken except the host club's banner.
- If available, a club must retrieve their own banner from a holding club before they make an attempt to steal a banner from that club.
- A club that steals a banner must hold it until the owner club retrieves it. Due to storage problems over the summer, it is suggested that every effort be made to retrieve all banners during the current dance season.
- A club shall not take a club's banner more than once in a dance season.
- The banner shall be presented to the eligible club before the last tip.
- No club shall be entitled to another club's banner when said club regularly dances on the same night as the host club.
- A free ticket or pass for admission from the host club will be honored as a paid regular admission for stealing or retrieving.
- A stealing member must have on the stealing club's badge and must pay regular admission to the host club. He must also register as a thief in the host club's guest book.

RETRIEVING:

To be eligible to retrieve its banner, the club must have six registered dancers present; however, it is not necessary that they all be present at the start of the first tip.

Note: if you're going to participate in stealing and retrieving, abide by the rules.