

Guidelines for walk-throughs at Monthly Parties

Walk-throughs of dances on the monthly party programs serve two important, but conflicting purposes:

1. To help beginners remember what they have been taught in their classes so they can enjoy the subset of dances on the program that they can do with confidence.
2. To help experienced dancers navigate the advanced dances on the program.

Because new dancers can dance fewer dances on the program their needs for walk-throughs take priority. If there is time after the beginners' needs are met, or if there is an additional place for walk-throughs for experienced dancers, effort should be made to address the desires of experienced dancers as well. If there is a need for a walk-through of an advanced dance that there is not time to walk through before the dance begins, then the teacher doing the walk-throughs should recommend to the MC that it be walked through on the dance floor.

Advanced dances can, if necessary be walked through during the monthly party itself, thus reducing the need to cover them beforehand; beginner dances often are only talked through during the party so the beginners lack that help.

Teachers for the walk throughs will need to be prepared to teach both levels of dances. Give priority to the basic dances and determine which ones you will cover. Advanced dancers are better able to assess what they need to have walked through, so the teacher needs to be prepared for their requests.

Walk-throughs should begin 45 minutes before the dance begins and end after 30 minutes to give time for final preparation of the hall and band.

The hosting class should identify teachers to lead the walk-throughs and identify a space for them. Since the band is setting up and doing sound checks in the main venue at this time, it is best if the walk-throughs can be done elsewhere. If walk-throughs must happen in the same room where the sound system, band, and party hosts are setting up, teachers should try to pick a spot for walk-throughs that minimizes interference with those activities.