

Guidelines For The Certified Square Dance Caller Program



CALLERLAB

The International Association of Square Dance Callers
(Revised 03-02-2023)

494 S Emerson Ave, Ste H1
Greenwood, IN 46143-1953
(785) 783-3665

The following table shows the changes made to this document since October 2001

Changes have been made as follows:

Change Date	Change Made
03/07/2006	Deleted Subscriber, replaced One Night Stand with Square Dance Party, Added Challenge Dancing, changed the accreditation fee
06/11/2009	Changed addresses to Topeka
10/21/2009	Converted to Word and Century Schoolbook font, lines converted to tab lines, double spaces in the middle of sentences removed.
10/22/2009	Changed Application to include Country, reformatted Name Address, Email
07/08/2019	Changed name to be Certified Square Dance Caller
03/02/2023	Updated CALLERLAB Home Office Address

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Caller Certification Program

Certify – To make (a thing) certain; to guarantee as certain, attest in an authoritative manner; to give certain information of (Oxford English Dictionary Online)

Members of many professional organizations seek certification so those who desire their services will have an indication as to their competence. The CALLERLAB Certified Square Dance Caller Program provides this same measure of assurance to square dance clubs and other organizations that use our services. CALLERLAB Certified Square Dance Caller recognizes the attainment of professional responsibility and competence in the calling and teaching of square dancing and related fields.

Any square dance caller may seek the CALLERLAB Certified Square Dance Caller. Membership in CALLERLAB is not a requirement. Callers must be re-certified every six years to maintain continuous certification.

A caller seeking certification must be certified first as a General Caller. Once qualified as a General Caller, he/she may also opt to be certified in any or all five specialty skill categories. These categories include: 1) Square Dance Party, 2) Rounds, 3) Contra, 4) Advanced Dancing, and 5) Challenge Dancing.

Certification is accomplished by obtaining the signatures of three CALLERLAB Members or Associate Members in good standing. The Member or Associate Member does not have to be certified to sign a Certification Application. CALLERLAB Apprentice Members or Associate Licensees may not sign as certifying an application.

Certification is based on a point system, with 20 points being required for Certification. The areas in which a caller can qualify for points are: 1) Primary Calling Skills (maximum of 5 points), 2) Experience (maximum of 15 points), 3) Training (maximum of 1 point), and 4) up to five Specialty Calling Skills (maximum of 1 point in each of five skills or a total of five points maximum). A caller who qualifies in the Primary Calling Skills area may earn the point for training by having a CALLERLAB Accredited Caller-Coach certify that the applicant has completed a program of caller training based on the curriculum recommended by CALLERLAB. This field of caller training is the only exception to the three certifier rule.

In the Experience category discussed above, the certifier who signs the application certifies that he or she has personal knowledge that the applicant has demonstrated an acceptable level of competence in the primary square dance calling skills and has been calling for the number of years indicated. The lowest number of years of any of the three certifiers is used to compute the points. For example, if one caller will attest to the applicant's competency for 4 years, another for 5 years, and the third for 6 years, the lowest common point of agreement would be 4 years, and the applicant would receive 4×3 or 12 points. This fact is often misunderstood and, in the example cited above, some believe that the points awarded would be $4+5+6$ or 15.

Certifiers cannot exchange signatures. That is, a caller cannot sign the application of another caller if that caller has been one of his/her certifier.

Re-certification is a simple process, requiring the signature of only one certifier to verify that the applicant has continued his standing as an active caller during the six (6) years since his or her last certification.

Certification by CALLERLAB recognizes acceptable standards of performance in the skills and techniques of square dance calling. A caller's signature on a certification application is his or her assurance to CALLERLAB that the applicant is qualified and therefore worthy of certification.

Qualified callers are encouraged to seek CALLERLAB certification. Callers who sign certificate applications are reminded that their signatures are a valuable commodity and are not to be given lightly.

The certification or re-certification fee is \$25.00. All fees received from certification are used to fund the Education Grants Program, whereby caller associations may apply for a grant to help defray the cost of conducting a caller training seminar or school. Associations may receive up to \$150 per day, to a maximum of \$450 per seminar or school.

Certification Applications are available by contacting:

CALLERLAB
494 S Emerson Ave, Ste H1
Greenwood, IN 46143-1953
(785) 783-3665
E-mail – info@CALLERLAB.org

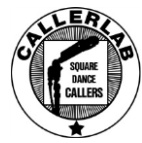


APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED SQUARE DANCE CALLER

General Caller

(Revised 07-08-2019)

Please print or type the way you want certificate to read



Name _____

Address _____
City State Zip Country

E-mail Address _____

NOTE: It is important for both applicant and certifiers to read and understand the special instructions printed on the reverse side of this form.

ALL CERTIFIERS MUST FOLLOW THEIR SIGNATURE BY PRINTED OR TYPED FULL NAME

Section 1. PRIMARY CALLING SKILLS (Signatures of 3 certifiers needed: 5 earnable points)		MAX 5
I hereby certify that I am currently a CALLERLAB Member or Associate Member and that the above named applicant has demonstrated, to my complete satisfaction, an acceptable level of skill and competence in the primary square dance calling skills.		
Signature	Please Print Name	
1. _____	_____ Date _____	
2. _____	_____ Date _____	
3. _____	_____ Date _____	
TOTAL PRIMARY SKILLS POINTS		

Section 2. EXPERIENCE (Signature of 3 certifiers needed; earnable points: 3 points per year).		MAX 15
I hereby certify that I am currently a CALLERLAB Member or Associate Member and that the above-named applicant is currently calling, and to my personal knowledge, has been actively calling for not less than the number of years indicated after my signature. Points are awarded on the basis of the lowest number of years attested to by any of the three certifiers.		
Signature	Please Print Name	
1. _____	_____ No. of yrs. _____ Date _____	
2. _____	_____ No. of yrs. _____ Date _____	
3. _____	_____ No. of yrs. _____ Date _____	
TOTAL EXPERIENCE POINTS		

Section 3. TRAINING (Signature of one certifier needed: 1 earnable point)		MAX 1
I hereby certify that I am currently accredited as a CALLERLAB Caller-Coach, and that the above-named applicant has successfully completely under my direction, a program of caller training based on the curriculum recommended by CALLERLAB.		
Signature	Please Print Name	
1. _____	_____ Date _____	
TOTAL TRAINING POINTS		

Section 4. SPECIALTY SKILLS (Signatures of 3 certifiers needed: 1 earnable point per category)		MAX 5
I hereby certify that I am currently a CALLERLAB Member or Associate Member, that I am qualified in the area(s) indicated below, and that the above-named applicant has demonstrated, to my complete satisfaction, an acceptable level of skill and competence in the specialty field(s) bearing my signature.		
Section 4a.1. _____ Square Dance Parties 2. _____ 3. _____	_____ Date _____ _____ Date _____ _____ Date _____	
Section 4b.1. _____ Round Dancing 2. _____ 3. _____	_____ Date _____ _____ Date _____ _____ Date _____	
Section 4c. Contra Dancing 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____	_____ Date _____ _____ Date _____ _____ Date _____	
Section 4d.1. _____ Advanced Dancing 2. _____ 3. _____	_____ Date _____ _____ Date _____ _____ Date _____	
Section 4e.1. _____ Challenge Dancing 2. _____ 3. _____	_____ Date _____ _____ Date _____ _____ Date _____	
TOTAL SPECIALTY POINTS		

TOTAL POINTS EARNED: _____

DECLARATION: I hereby affirm that the above information is accurate and factual to the best of my knowledge and that the signatures of all certifiers shown above are genuine. I understand further that Certified Square Dance Caller by CALLERLAB may be immediately withdrawn should the above information or the signature of any certifier be proven to be false.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

The data on the application form reflects the certification requirements that were established by CALLERLAB at its 1976 convention and subsequent changes. To become certified as a GENERAL CALLER, an applicant must earn an overall total of twenty (20) points as provided in the various sections of the application. Note that points earned in any combination of sections may be used to achieve the required twenty point total, except that the single point earnable in Section 3 (Training) may count only if an applicant has already qualified in Section 1 (Primary Calling Skills).

CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE

1. Complete the application form and collect the appropriate number of valid signatures.
2. Sign the declaration at the bottom of the form and indicate the date. This is the date that will be used as the basis for earning points in Section 2 (Experience).
3. Attach the certification fee of \$25.00 (U.S. Funds) to the application form (check or money order payable to CALLERLAB). Note: the certification fee will be refunded in the event certification is not granted.
4. **Mail the completed application form and the certification fee to:**

CALLERLAB
494 S Emerson Ave, Ste H1
Greenwood, IN 46143-1953

5. Application forms cannot be returned. An applicant desiring a copy of the application form for his or her personal files should make a copy of the original form, or prepare a second or duplicate original (complete with signatures) for their own records.
6. Do **not** send in an incomplete or partial application. No application will be considered unless the total number of points required for certification has been signed off.
7. When certification is granted, a certification certificate will be mailed to the applicant. Once granted, certification is good for a period of six years

NOTE TO CERTIFIERS: All Signature Lines Must Also Include Printed or Typed Full Name.
You may serve as a certifier under the following conditions:

- 1) That you are currently a CALLERLAB Active Member or Associate Member.
- 2) That you agree to serve as a certifier only when you have personal and firsthand knowledge of an applicant's skills and abilities in a given category or section, and only when you are qualified to perform those skills. You may not, for example, certify an applicant's ability to teach and cue round dances unless you yourself are able to teach and cue round dances.
- 3) That you do not serve as a certifier for any applicant who has served as a certifier on your application for certification.

Please note the following guidelines:

Section 1 (Primary Calling Skills) Your signature in this category means that the applicant has personally demonstrated to your complete satisfaction, his or her ability to perform all of the universally accepted calling skills or qualifications (such as teaching, timing, music, diction, command techniques, leadership techniques, choreography, programming, etc.).

Section 2 (Experience): Your signature in this section means that to your personal and firsthand knowledge, the applicant is currently an "active caller." An "active caller" is defined as one who has called at least 12 dance events each year for the prior three years. Your signature here also means that the applicant, to your personal and firsthand knowledge, has been actively calling for the number of consecutive years you have indicated after your signature. Points are awarded on the basis of the lowest number of years attested to by any of the three certifiers.

Section 3 (Training): Only those callers who have been accredited as Caller-Coaches by CALLERLAB may serve as certifiers in this section.

Section 4 (Specialty Calling Skills) (4a) **SQUARE DANCE PARTIES:** Your signature in this section means that the applicant has demonstrated, to your personal satisfaction, his or her ability to provide a full evening of square dance entertainment to non-dancers, and that you yourself possess these skills, (4b) **ROUND DANCING:** Your signature in this section means that the applicant has demonstrated, to your personal satisfaction, his or her ability to teach and cue round dances and to effectively combine squares and rounds in an overall dance program, and that you yourself possess these skills, (4c) **CONTRA DANCING:** Your signature in this section means that the applicant has demonstrated, to your personal satisfaction, his or her ability to teach and prompt contra dances, and that you yourself possess these skills, (4d) **ADVANCED DANCING:** Your signature in this section means that the applicant has demonstrated, to your personal satisfaction, an acceptable level of skill and competence in the calling and teaching techniques associated with the Advanced Program and that you yourself, possess these skills, and (4e) **CHALLENGE DANCING:** Your signature in this section means that the applicant has demonstrated, to your personal satisfaction, an acceptable level of skill and competence in the calling and teaching techniques associated with at least one of the Challenge Programs and that you yourself, possess these skills.