

The Additional Couple in the Set

There appear to be two ways of providing for the extra couple in the room when making up sets for a three couple dance usually done in a four couple set. One is to create a five couple set where couples 4 and 5 only have one turn each. The other is to ask the band to play the dance 10 times through!

When there are five couples for 8 times through, how should the set dance the seventh and eighth time? Which is the fairest way?

If, as many MCs request, the fourth couple stay in second place for the final turn while the fifth couple have their turn as first couple, the analysis showing the involvement of each couple during the dance is:

Time Through	Dancing couple	Resting couple	Number of times couples dance/rest
1st	1,2,3	4,5	1st couple 5/3
2nd	1,3,4	2,5	2nd couple 3/5
3rd	2,3,4	5,1	3rd couple 5/3
4th	2,4,5	3,1	4th couple 6/3
5th	3,4,5	1,2	5th couple 5/3
6th	3,5,1	4,2	
7th	4,5,1	2,3	
8th	5,4,1	2,3	

This shows the second couple get short changed. If the fourth couple, after their one turn as dancing couple slip to the foot of the set, then all couples dance 5 times during the 8 ties through; except the second couple who dance 4 times – that is better than only 3 times!

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