

Chapter 26 Scheduling Conflicts

26.1 Background

a) The April 2015 Council of Dancers adopted the following motion:-

That EOSARDA within its current structure establish the position of a dancing date scheduler/coordinator for the express and singular intent of eliminating dance date conflicts within the boundaries of EOSARDA.

b) The Board of Directors was directed by Council to determine how best to implement this policy and was asked to report back to Council as soon as possible.

c) The Board established a Scheduling Conflict Working Group which developed a draft policy that was subsequently approved by the November 2015 Council of Dancers.

26.2 Definitions

a) For the purposes of this policy, “dance event” means a special function, held on other than a club’s usual meeting time and/or at its usual meeting place.

Dance events only conflict with other dance events.

A club’s regular dance date is not considered to be a dance event.

b) “Scheduling Conflict” refers to a dance event which will likely significantly impact the attendance at a previously scheduled dance event taking place on the same date.

c) Occasionally, EOSARDA is asked to advertise dance events that might be of interest to our members, but that are hosted by non-EOSARDA organizations (e.g., Contra dancing, USA dance clubs, other clubs from outside of EOSARDA’s geographic area, etc.). Notwithstanding 26.2 b), any event conducted by a non-EOSARDA member organization is deemed to be a scheduling conflict with any EOSARDA member organization’s event occurring at the same time.

26.3 EOSARDA’s Policy on Scheduling Conflicts

a) Clubs are encouraged to avoid holding dance events of any kind on the same date as another dance event.

b) Where a Scheduling Conflict is determined to have occurred, EOSARDA will advertise or promote only the first scheduled dance event or, in the case of events addressed in 26.2 c), only the event hosted by the EOSARDA member. This policy will apply to all advertising in Square Time, all postings on www.eoDance.ca and all EOSARDA Bulletins and any other electronic announcements.

c) The prohibition on advertising and promoting the second scheduled dance event may be waived with the consent of the organizers of the first scheduled dance event.

d) This does not mean eliminating all choices on a particular date. With the exception of events addressed in 26.2(c), dance events that cater to different audiences may still be advertised if the dance levels or styles do not overlap or are not adjacent.

e) For more information, see Paragraph 26.6 below “Guidelines for Recognizing Conflicts”.

26.4 “Grand-fathered” Dance events

a) A number of long-established Open Dances occur at approximately the same time every year. These include:

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| • Mississippi Squares’ Halfway Dance | 2 nd Saturday in January |
| • EOSARDA Frosty Fling | 1 st Saturday in February |
| • Swinging B's Valentines Dance | 2 nd Sunday in February |
| • Riverside Gypsies Mid-Winter Dance | 4 th Sunday in February |
| • Limestone Dancers St. Patrick's Dance | 3 rd Saturday in March |
| • Quinte Twirlers Apple Blossom Dance | Last Sunday in April |
| • Swing into Spring | Weekend of the first Sunday in May |
| • SVSRDA Mother’s Day Dance | 1 st Sunday in May |
| • Capital Carousels’ Capital Caper | Fri & Sat of the last <u>full</u> weekend in Oct. |
| • Harbour Lites Food Bank Dance | 1 st Saturday in November |
| • SVSRDA Christmas Dance | 2 nd Sunday in December |
| • Grenville Gremlins New Year's Eve Dance | December 31st |

The established dates of these dance events are reserved for their use.

b) The above list has been revised (see date below) & any club that believes that it sponsors a dance event that should be grand-fathered may submit a request to the Board to have the event added to the list. The request should include a justification for grand-fathering the dance event.

c) Whether a dance event has been grand-fathered or not, due to vagaries of the calendar year, it is the responsibility of the event organizer to submit a request to the Web Master in order to have the event added to the Dance Calendar on eoDance.ca

d) Events scheduled by EOSARDA clubs will always take precedence over events by any 'non-EOSARDA' clubs should a conflict arise, regardless of who is first to request an entry in the Calendar.

e) Event Organizers should also take note of the following 'non-dance' events that may affect your dance should you chose to schedule it on one of these dates:-

- EOSARDA Board meetings - generally scheduled for the 3rd Sunday of most months.
- Council of Dancers meetings - scheduled for the 3rd Sunday of April & November.
- Ottawa Area Caller's Association (OACA) meetings - generally scheduled for the 1st Sunday of October, November, December, February, March & April.

26.5 Implementing the Policy

a) The Scheduling Coordinator function is a shared responsibility among those who are responsible for the three advertising functions, i.e. Web Calendar, Bulletins and Square Time magazine.

b) Where one or more of the Scheduling Coordinators believe that there is a potential Scheduling Conflict, they will consult with each other. If the Scheduling Coordinators determine that there is a Scheduling Conflict, or if they cannot reach agreement on the matter, the issue will be brought to the Board's attention.

c) If the Board agrees that there is a Scheduling Conflict it will instruct the Scheduling Coordinators to withhold all advertising of the dance event in question.

26.6 Guidelines for Recognizing Conflicts

a) Round Dance Events and Square Dance Events

Square and round dance events scheduled for the same date are not considered to constitute a Scheduling Conflict.

The pool of round dancers is relatively small and many square dancers do not round dance. Therefore, restricting a Square Dance event scheduled for the same date as a Round Dance event would remove the opportunity to dance from many dancers. While it is desirable that such dances not be scheduled on the same date, due to the limited number of people likely to be affected, doing so will not be considered to create a Scheduling Conflict.

b) Dance levels that are not adjacent or overlapping

A Scheduling Conflict only occurs when dances have overlapping or adjacent levels. For example, an A1/A2 dance might draw dancers away from a Plus event, but a C1 dance is not likely to have any significant impact effect on a Basic/Mainstream or Plus event. Similarly, Phase II and III round dancers are not likely to attend a high-level Round Dance featuring Phase IV and V dances.

The definition of overlap or adjacency is not always clear cut and will require a judgement call to determine if the events in question conflict, but as a rule of thumb:

- C1 does not conflict with Plus and below
- A1/A2 does not conflict with Basic/Mainstream
- A round dance does not conflict with a square dance
- A Phase II and III Round Dance does not conflict with a Phase IV and V Dance
- A square dance with Easy Rounds between the tips does not conflict with a Phase II and III Round Dance

But.....

- A1/A2 does compete with Plus
- Plus does compete with Basic or Mainstream
- A dance with a full square and round dance program in separate halls may conflict with a square or round dance if the dance levels are adjacent or overlap

c) One-day Dance Workshops

Some dance events are advertised as “workshops” or “blasts”. Regardless of how they are identified, one-day workshops may conflict with existing dance events if the dance levels are adjacent or overlap.

d) Weekend, Multi-day and Multi-week events

Weekend dance events may conflict with an Open Dance, if the dance levels are adjacent or overlap.

Multi-day and multi-week dance events are not considered to conflict with other dance events and vice versa.

Some dance events such as special courses, teaches and workshops take place over a number of days. These days may be consecutive or sequential. Each day of such an event could be considered separately when looking at possible Scheduling Conflicts. However, it is impractical to delete a specific date or dates from a series of dates. Moreover, it is very difficult to find a location and time-frame that accommodates multiple dates, while exceptions for specific dates can make that task almost impossible. Also, the number of people who attend multi-date events is generally quite small.

e) Club Dates

A club’s regularly scheduled dance activity does not conflict with a dance event.

If held at the regularly scheduled club time and place, special club events such as Anniversary Dances and Theme Nights are not considered to be dance events. Therefore, they are not considered as being in conflict with any other dance event being held on the same date.

f) Distance

Eastern Ontario is a very large geographic area. However, many dancers drive long distances to attend dances. Thus, distance between the location of dance events is not a factor in determining if a Scheduling Conflict exists.