

ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURE

(For Australian National Square Dance Conventions)

Part One:

(a) TRAINEE CALLERS

As a forerunner to becoming eligible to call at Australian National Square Dance Conventions, a trainee caller needs to have completed the following tasks:

- 1) A recognised or documented traineeship/sponsorship from a recognised caller
- 2) Presented at the ACF Callers Get-Together over a two-year period with both hoedown and singing calls.

(b) NEW CALLERS

The next step for those who have undertaken the ACF Get-Together calling requirements is to fulfil the requirement for standard eligibility (as noted in the following section). New callers currently involved in this goal may also be presented as a “New Caller” within the confines of an Introduction of New Talent within the guidelines of the National Convention:

The section of the By Laws for the Operation of Australian National Square Dance Convention states: **118.7 a) Sunday afternoon shall incorporate a segment for up and coming Square Dance Callers.**

Once this eligibility requirement has been met, the new caller must undergo an initial assessment at his/her first eligible National Convention. This first calling allocation shall be a full bracket (patter and Singing Call) within an afternoon session where an assessment is to be carried out by at least 50% of the current ACF Board membership. (rationale: this is a logical first step, based on a full specific assessment, rather than a pot-luck allocation)

NOTES: It is also possible for a New Caller (who has not been involved in a traineeship/sponsorship programme, but who is in the process of fulfilling the requirements for eligibility as a Caller) to be presented at the Callers Get-Together.

Part Two: ALL CALLERS

A) MAINSTREAM

To be eligible to call Mainstream a caller must complete 200 hours of Mainstream calling within the confines of a recognised Mainstream Club. This must be done across a minimum of 3 years.

For a caller to keep their eligibility they must call at least 40 hours of Mainstream per year.

If a caller does not call at least 40 hours of Mainstream per year for two consecutive years they are no longer eligible. To regain eligibility, they simply must resume calling at least 40 hours per year.

B) PLUS

To be eligible to call Plus a caller must complete 100 hours of Plus calling within the confines of a recognised Plus Club and have fulfilled the requirements of Mainstream Eligibility.

For a caller to keep their eligibility they must call at least 35 hours of Plus per year

If a caller does not call at least 35 hours of Plus per year for two consecutive years they are no longer eligible. To regain eligibility, they simply must resume calling at least 35 hours per year and have fulfilled the requirements of Mainstream Eligibility.

NOTES:

There are clubs that dance a split level basis with both Mainstream and Plus called on the same night. Providing the dance is advertised as a split level club, denoting both MS and Plus, it would fit within the general definition of a recognised Plus group. The main proviso here is that the dance must be a 50/50 split and not just a MS dance with an occasional Plus bracket.

C) ADVANCED (A1 & A2)

To be eligible to call A1 a caller must complete 100 hours of A1 calling and have fulfilled the requirements of Mainstream and Plus Eligibility .

To be eligible to call A2 a caller must complete 100 hours of A2 calling and have fulfilled the requirements of Mainstream, Plus and A1 Eligibility.

For a caller to keep their eligibility they must call at least 35 hours of Advanced per year and have fulfilled the requirements of Mainstream and Plus Eligibility.

If a caller does not call at least 35 hours of Advanced per year for two consecutive years they are no longer eligible. To regain eligibility, they simply must resume calling at least 35 hours per year and have fulfilled the requirements of Mainstream and Plus Eligibility.

NOTES:

It is recognised that there are many groups that are dancing the Advanced Program (and some Plus groups) that are only able to run on a fortnightly basis. The aim here is to give ALL callers who are able to call the Advanced Program the opportunity to be eligible for calling at a National Convention. The hours noted as a minimum (35) equate to at least 16 dances per year (based on a 2 hour dance).

GENERAL NOTES

The expectation for all callers regarding eligibility is that he/she is calling on a regular basis at a recognised club (e.g., one that is in regular operation and noted in a State listing).

For a caller to be eligible to call at any given program, it is a requirement that he/she fulfils the FULL requirements for that Program (e.g. to be eligible to call Advanced, the caller must not only fulfil the requirements for that Program, but also fulfil the yearly requirements for the preceding programs – Plus and Mainstream).

Verification of the eligibility of all callers (including non-ACF members) is to be carried out by the ACF State co-ordinator in the caller's home state.

Part Three: CALLERS WHO DO NOT FIT THE STANDARD CRITERIA

It is recognised that there are some callers that may be actively involved as square Dance Callers but do not fit into the specific requirements as noted. Such callers would have been eligible (based on above criteria) in the past.

Exceptions may be made based on:

Active involvement in other areas such as Education, Training, Coaching, etc. as well as amount of calling done at events outside of regular clubs.

The keynote here is demonstration of commitment to the activity over a lengthy period of time. A caller who would fit into this activity should also have previously demonstrated, and be recognised, as having the abilities necessary to call these programs within the framework and expectations of a National Convention.

Part Four: VETERAN CALLERS

VETERAN CALLER: A caller who has fulfilled the initial eligibility requirements for a recognised) Caller and maintained such eligibility for a period of 25 years, but has become inactive in any or all of the programs (Mainstream, Plus, Advanced). Such caller may be active in one or more programs and simultaneously inactive (retired) in a “higher” program. As an example; Active in Mainstream but inactive, after 25 years calling in the Plus program. This provision will exclude a caller from being active in Plus but inactive in Mainstream.

Veteran callers who are no longer active but attending a National Convention, may be recognised for their input by being allocated a calling spot(s) on the program. This is purely at the discretion of the Program Manager after consultation with the ACF Board. Such consultation would look at various factors...assessments, previous eligibility, program enhancement, recognition of service, etc., however it should not be a ‘given’ that a Veteran automatically retains his active eligibility.

DEFINITIONS

- 1) *TRAINEE CALLER*: A caller who is currently undergoing a training process, within a regular club/dance situation, sponsored by a recognised caller.
- 2) *NEW CALLER*: A caller who is currently involved in regular club calling, but has not yet fulfilled the full requirements of initial eligibility requirements.
- 3) *RECOGNISED CALLER*: A caller who has fulfilled the necessary eligibility requirements.
- 4) *VETERAN CALLER*: A retired (inactive) Caller who has fulfilled the initial eligibility requirements