FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(September 2026)

* * * * * * * * * * S T A R T * * * * * * * * * *

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

CALLERLAB

The International Association of Square Dance Callers

TIPPP

Frequently Asked Questions

Transitionary Implementation Phase of the Program Policy

New program lists take effect September 1, 2026

Complete reference for callers, clubs, dancers, and associations

CALLERLAB Home Office | Updated September 2026

callerlab.org/tippp

Contents

Click any section to jump to it.

Start Here: The Short Version
Section 1: Background — What Changed and Why
Section 2: September 1 and the Transition Period
Section 3: What Changed in the Programs
Section 4: Teaching and Classes
Section 5: Questions from Dancers
Section 6: Resources
Section 7: Feedback and Getting Involved
Section 8: Quick Links

Start Here: The Short Version

If you read nothing else in this document, read this.

September 1, 2026 is an implementation date. It is not a deadline for dancers.

Beginning September 1, callers should teach from the new CALLERLAB program lists.

Dancers are not expected to know the new calls on that date. New material must be taught, and dancers need time to learn it, practice it, and become comfortable with it.

CALLERLAB anticipates a transition period of approximately six months to one year following the effective date. Callers should exercise professional judgment throughout that period and keep dancers successful, informed, and comfortable on the floor.

Everything else in this document follows from that.

Section 1: Background — What Changed and Why

1. What is TIPPP?

TIPPP stands for the Transitionary Implementation Phase of the Program Policy. It is the phase-in period between the membership's approval of a revised Program Policy Statement and the date the new program lists take effect.

During TIPPP, CALLERLAB finalized a new entry-level list and a subsequent list, developed recommended teaching orders, created teaching guides and supporting materials, updated existing documents, and worked to prepare callers, clubs, and dancers for implementation.

2. What did the membership actually approve?

On May 29, 2025, CALLERLAB members approved a revised Program Policy Statement by a vote of 336 to 112. The proposal received a 92 percent approval rating at Convention and a 75 percent approval rating from the full membership.

The most significant provision is that dance program size is determined by the committees, with two exceptions: Mainstream must be 50 calls or fewer, and Plus must be 50 calls or greater.

3. Why was the change made?

The previous entry path asked a great deal of new dancers before they could take part in club dancing socially. A shorter entry-level program shortens the time between a person's first lesson and their first real dance with experienced dancers.

It also gives clubs flexibility. Rather than starting classes once a year, a club can start whenever local interest justifies it.

4. Is the new policy in effect now?

Yes. The Program Policy Statement became official CALLERLAB policy upon approval in May 2025. The new program lists that follow from it take effect September 1, 2026.

5. Why will Plus no longer serve as the entry program?

The Plus Program was never intended to be an entry program. Under the new structure it expands and grows in complexity, becoming what it was always meant to be: a program for dancers who dance more frequently and want greater complexity in their dancing.

Section 2: September 1 and the Transition Period

6. What happens on September 1, 2026?

September 1 is the implementation date for the new CALLERLAB program lists. Beginning that date, teaching should be based on the new lists.

CALLERLAB recognizes that there will be a transition period while callers and dancers adjust to the new definitions and program content.

7. Do dancers need to know the new calls on September 1?

No. September 1 is the date the new lists take effect. It is not the date by which every dancer is expected to know every call on those lists.

New calls have to be taught. Callers should begin teaching from the new lists while recognizing that dancers need time to learn and become comfortable with the changes.

8. Does everything change on September 1?

No. The program lists change on September 1. That does not mean dancers must perform every new call perfectly on that date. The implementation date starts the transition; it does not complete it.

9. Is September 1 a deadline for dancer proficiency?

No. It is an implementation date only. CALLERLAB anticipates a transition period of approximately six months to one year following the effective date, and callers are encouraged to exercise professional judgment throughout that period.

10. What should callers do differently beginning September 1?

Begin teaching from the new program lists. At the same time, recognize that dancers may not yet know all of the new material, and use professional judgment as you introduce and reinforce the changes.

Teach the new calls, give dancers time to learn them, and keep them successful on the floor.

11. Should callers stop calling the old calls on September 1?

Callers should begin working from the new lists while using professional judgment during the transition. The goal is to help dancers learn the updated program, not to catch dancers who have not yet learned something.

12. What if my dancers do not know a new call yet?

Teach it. Introduce the call, explain it, practice it, and gradually incorporate it into your dancing. That is precisely what the transition period is for.

A call appearing on the new list does not mean dancers have already learned it.

13. How long is the transition period?

CALLERLAB anticipates approximately six months to one year following September 1, 2026. This is guidance rather than a fixed rule. Local circumstances vary, and callers should use their judgment about the pace their dancers can absorb.

Section 3: What Changed in the Programs

14. What is changing for Mainstream?

Mainstream becomes the entry-level program and contains 50 calls or fewer. Single Circle to a Wave is added. Several calls previously associated with Mainstream move to the Plus Program.

15. What happens to calls that moved out of Mainstream?

They move to the Plus Program. They are still danced and still taught — what changed is the point at which dancers learn them, not whether they learn them.

16. Which calls moved from Mainstream to Plus?

The following calls move to the Plus Program:

- Allemande Thars
- Shoot the Star
- Slip the Clutch
- Circle to a Line
- Cloverleaf
- Dixie Style to a Wave
- Do Paso
- Eight Chain Thru
- Pass to the Center
- Spin Chain Thru
- Turn Thru
- Walk and Dodge
- Walk Around the Corner / See Saw

17. What if my group previously danced SSD only?

Teach or workshop 1/4 Tag the Line, 3/4 Tag the Line, and Spin the Top. Do not call Circle to a Line.

These calls are not expected to be mastered before September 1. Teaching and learning continue throughout the transition.

18. What if my group previously danced Mainstream only?

Include Single Circle to a Wave, and do not use the calls that have moved to Plus. See the list earlier in this section.

Current Mainstream dancers are not expected to walk into a dance on September 1 already knowing everything that has changed.

19. What if my group previously danced Plus only?

Existing Plus dancers already know the calls added from Basic and Mainstream. Refer to the current published Plus list for the finalized program.

20. Is Plus changing as well?

Yes. Plus is now defined as 50 calls or greater and absorbs the calls that moved out of Mainstream. The Plus Committee has published the new Plus list along with a recommended teaching order, and a Plus Program Supplement Guide is available.

Section 4: Teaching and Classes

21. Is there a recommended teaching order for the new Mainstream Program?

Yes. CALLERLAB's Mainstream Committee has approved a recommended teaching order, and a Mainstream Dance Program Teaching Guide is available with structured lesson plans and guidance.

These resources exist to help callers teach the program well. They are not intended to create a race to the finish line.

22. Do I need to completely redesign my classes for September 1?

No. The new lists should guide teaching beginning September 1, but you do not have to reinvent everything overnight.

Use the recommended teaching order and the published teaching resources and introduce new material at a pace your dancers can absorb.

23. Will CALLERLAB provide teaching materials?

Yes. A full set of resources has been developed throughout TIPPP, including program lists, recommended teaching orders, the Mainstream Dance Program Teaching Guide, the Plus Program Supplement Guide, timing charts, the Dancer and Caller Transition Guide, definitions, and supporting materials.

24. Can a club really start a new dancer program more than once a year?

Yes. This is one of the principal benefits of the new entry-level program. Clubs can start classes when it makes sense locally — once, twice, or several times a year, depending on interest and opportunity.

25. What resources are available to help callers?

The following are available at callerlab.org/tippp:

- The new Mainstream and Plus program lists
- Recommended teaching orders for both programs
- Mainstream Dance Program Teaching Guide
- Plus Program Supplement Guide
- Mainstream and Plus timing charts
- Definitions and supporting materials
- Press releases, several available in German, Japanese, Italian, and Chinese

Section 5: Questions from Dancers

26. What should I expect at a dance after September 1?

Some material will be familiar and some will be new. Callers will begin teaching and calling from the new program lists, but you should not expect to know every new call immediately.

There will be a learning curve, and that is expected. Be patient with yourself and with the dancers around you.

27. Will new dancers be able to dance with experienced dancers right away?

That is the point of the change. Mainstream is now a universal entry program worldwide, and new dancers learn the most widely used core calls first. The shortened program lets them invite friends, dance alongside experienced dancers sooner, and feel part of the club right away.

28. Do I have to relearn everything I already know?

No. The calls you know are still the calls you know. What changed is the order in which programs are structured and the point at which newer dancers learn certain calls.

29. What is the most important thing to remember?

September 1 is the beginning of the transition, not the end.

Callers: begin teaching from the new lists. Dancers: do not worry if you do not know everything yet. Clubs: give your callers and dancers time to adjust. Everyone: be patient, keep learning, and keep dancing.

Section 6: Resources

30. Where do I find everything?

All TIPPP materials are on the CALLERLAB website at callerlab.org/tippp. The page is updated as new resources are released.

31. How do I hear about new materials as they are published?

CALLERLAB members receive email news blasts throughout the process. Non-members may subscribe to the free press releases through the CALLERLAB website and will receive an email when new information is available.

32. Are materials available in other languages?

Yes. Press releases for the major TIPPP milestones have been published in German, Japanese, Italian, and Chinese, and are available on the TIPPP page.

33. How do clubs promote classes under the new program?

CALLERLAB has created many marketing resources available free online at callerlab.org/marketing/. Check out the promotional videos, website, and Marketing Manual.

Section 7: Feedback and Getting Involved

34. How can I tell CALLERLAB how the transition is going?

The TIPPP webpage includes a feedback form with three options:

- Success Story — what is working well: a successful class, a dancer who mastered a new call, a teaching approach that worked
- Suggestion — an idea, resource, or approach that could help callers, dancers, or clubs
- Feedback — what you are experiencing, what is working, and what is challenging

Responses help CALLERLAB understand what is happening on dance floors and identify where additional guidance or resources would help.

35. Can I join a committee?

Yes. CALLERLAB members may request to join committees through the CALLERLAB website. The New Mainstream, Plus, Definitions, and Choreographic Applications Committees have collaborated closely throughout TIPPP.

36. Who do I contact with a question this document does not answer?

CALLERLAB Home Office

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

Phone: (785) 783-3665 | Toll-free: 1-800-331-2577

Email: info@callerlab.org

Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern, Monday through Friday.

Section 8: Quick Links

CALLERLAB Quick Reference Documents

	Mainstream	Plus	Advanced
List	Mainstream List	Plus List	Advanced List
Teaching Order	Mainstream Teaching Order	Plus Teaching Order	Advanced Teaching Order
Definitions	Mainstream Definitions	Plus Definitions	Advanced Definitions
Checklist	Mainstream Checklist	Plus Checklist	Advanced Checklist
Playbook	Mainstream Playbook	Plus Playbook – *in development* Plus Supplement	