

SWING DANCE NT CODE OF CONDUCT V2

Swing Dance NT want to create an environment that is fun, safe and inclusive. In order to do this, we need your help. When you enter our community and take part in our events, we ask and expect that you follow and respect our community guidelines. This Code of Conduct is a living document, and will evolve from time to time. If changes are made, the most recent version will be posted to the Swing Dance NT Facebook page.

1. RESPECT

All dancers, regardless of their level of experience or dance ability, are welcome and entitled to respect both on and off the dance floor. We ask that you respect the boundaries of others, and remember that they may not be the same as yours. Anyone can ask anyone to dance as a lead or a follow, regardless of gender. It's ok to ask people's preferred role in a dance; it may not be what you expect.

2. ASK FOR CONSENT

You are free to accept or decline dances with whomever you wish. If you politely decline a dance, you are under no obligation to offer a reason. If someone declines to dance with you, respect their decision. Accepting a dance does not mean you have agreed to all individual aspects of that dance and you are free to decline any aspect of that dance (e.g. close embrace) at any stage.

Tell your partner if they are making you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or are physically hurting you. Listen to your partner and stop what you are doing if your partner tells you it is making them feel uncomfortable, unsafe or physically hurting them.

3. PRACTICE GOOD DANCE ETIQUETTE

Share the dancefloor mindfully with other dancers, and apologise if there's an accident. Save aerials, high kicks and other tricks for competitions, jam circles or performances. Be mindful of your body and stay aware of others on the dance floor. Accidents may happen. If they do, ask if everyone is okay.

4. LOOK AFTER YOUR HYGIENE

Dancing is hot and sweaty in the Top End, so remember the letters S.B.S. (sweat, breath and smell). Before and during dancing events, have a towel on hand or have additional clean shirts / clothes to change into, brush your teeth and have mints handy, and use deodorant.

5. UNSOLICITED ADVICE

The social dance floor is for social dancing. If someone asks for advice, feel free to give it. If they don't, then don't assume they need, want or invite it. Many people come to dance just to have fun and enjoy themselves. If however someone is hurting you or you think they are a danger to others, please speak up and say something, to the person in question, or to Swing Dance NT teachers and organisers.

6. HARASSMENT-FREE ZONE

Sexual or other types of harassment will not be tolerated at any time. If a person asks for you to not engage with them, do not engage with them. If you continue to engage with someone after

you have been asked not to, your actions may be seen as harassment and steps will be taken accordingly.

7. ZERO-TOLERANCE TO ASSAULT

Physical or sexual assault is against the law and will not be tolerated.

8. ISSUE RESOLUTION

Safety is our number one priority. We want everyone to feel comfortable to report any inappropriate behaviour that they see or experience. You are not obligated to dance with anyone and nobody is obligated to dance with you. If you feel comfortable, speak directly with the person(s) first and try to resolve the issue. If you do not feel comfortable speaking with the person on your own, or for more information about how complaints will be handled, please speak to a member of the Swing Dance NT committee, one of the class leaders, or an organiser.

If you have any queries, or want to talk to someone regarding this code of conduct or anything that relates the code, please don't hesitate to contact Kathryn at Swing Dance NT at swingingindarwin@gmail.com

Thanks to Danielle Kendall-Hall for taking the time to compile the code for Swing Dance NT