

Syracuse Social Code of Conduct

Members of the Syracuse Social West Coast Swing Dance Community are expected to conduct themselves in a way that ensures a positive, respectful, safe, and enjoyable dance environment for everyone involved.

Below are guidelines that outline appropriate conduct for all attendees, hosts, instructors, and volunteers while at a Syracuse Social Event.

Respect & Consent :

1. Treat your dance partner with respect and kindness regardless of their skill level.
2. Always ask for consent before dancing with someone ("Would you like to dance?"). Always ask respectfully, and with conversation whenever possible. If they decline or decide to stop the dance at any time, respect their decision and find another dance partner.
3. It is OK to say no to a dance. Always respond (whether saying yes or no) respectfully. If you ever feel uncomfortable while engaged in a dance, it is OK to end the dance at any time.
4. Consent to dance does not equal consent for anything else.
5. Respect other people's boundaries. If you aren't sure of someone's boundaries, ask them. This applies to everything that happens while at the Event, on and off the dance floor.
 - On the dance floor: dips, drops, tricks, close dance holds, etc.
 - Off the dance floor: agreeing to/declining a dance, inappropriate sexual conduct, unwanted flirty conversations, etc.
6. If you misjudge someone else's boundaries and they ask you to stop, then stop. A "no" can be verbal or nonverbal (e.g., facial expressions, tone of voice), so be aware of others' body language and social cues.

Feedback & Instruction:

1. Do not offer unsolicited instruction or feedback on the social dance floor. Feedback is only acceptable when it is solicited and should be given in a courteous manner.
2. Be conscious that people of all skill levels attend our dances and may not be on the same dance journey that you are.
3. Requests for your own safety and comfort are permitted and are not the same as offering someone unsolicited feedback on their dance skills (which is generally considered rude). If you are often the recipient of these kinds of requests for adjustments, or are often uncomfortable in dances, consider reaching out to a teacher or trusted friend for help.

Syracuse Social Code of Conduct

Personal Conduct

1. Social Interaction:

- Engage in friendly conversation and make newcomers feel welcome in the dance community.
- Maintain a positive attitude and supportive demeanor, both on and off the dance floor.
- Any situation which makes another person feel unsafe or uncomfortable to the point of being unable to enjoy the event is unacceptable and can be considered harassment.
- We do not tolerate harassment, threats or hate speech of any kind.
- Anyone asked to stop unacceptable or harassing behavior is expected to do so immediately.

2. Inclusivity:

- This environment is for everyone regardless of race, age, level of dance, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, disability, physical appearance, religion, or anything else.
- We encourage all levels of dancers to be open to dancing with each other.

3. Responsibility:

- Taking responsibility for one's actions, admitting mistakes, and working towards solutions.
- Remember that alcohol and other substances can make it harder to judge boundaries accurately; please be mindful of your limits so that you can keep yourself and others safe.

4. Personal Hygiene:

- Maintain good personal hygiene (e.g., showering, deodorant, no open wounds) to ensure a pleasant dance experience for both you and your dance partner.
- Refrain from wearing strong scents.
- Dress comfortably and appropriately for dancing, consider the venue's guidelines.

Dance Etiquette & Floorcraft:

1. Be aware of your surroundings and the dance space. Avoid collisions with other couples and be considerate of other dancers on the floor.
2. If you bump into someone, apologize. If you hurt someone, apologize and try to figure out how you can keep it from happening again. This might mean not dancing with that dance partner again or talking to your teacher.
3. Keep movements within the boundaries of the dance floor and with the line of dance (usually parallel with the floorboards).

Syracuse Social Code of Conduct

Reporting Misconduct

Be a hero! Help us keep the community safe and inclusive by watching out for each other. If you aren't sure if someone else is okay, please take a closer look: ask them for a dance to draw them away from the situation, or ask, in a friendly way, if they need help.

Please use these guidelines to appropriately report misconduct:

1. Report misconduct in person to a Safe Space Ambassador at the event.

- This is the fastest, most efficient way to solve a problem. See a Safe Space Ambassador to report. We promise to listen and to treat you with respect and confidentiality.
- Safe Space Ambassadors:
 - i. Allison Brown - Call/text (607)331-0396, DM IG@ab_dancin
 - ii. Morgan Ingraham - Call/text (951)445-0852, DM IG@momo_instagramham
 - iii. Mathew Morse - DM IG@matmatcraft91

2. Use the Syracuse Social Misconduct Form

- Find the form [HERE](#)

Consequences of unacceptable behavior:

1. Actions that compromise the safe and respectful environment of Syracuse Social events are not acceptable from any member of our community including attendees, teachers, volunteers and staff.
2. Depending on the severity, event organizers' interventions in response to a problem may range from talking to the offending person and asking them to do or not do something, to asking them to leave the venue immediately without warning, compensation or refund.
3. Repeat offenders will be asked to not return to Syracuse Social Events if deemed necessary.
4. If you see additional problems after an incident has been reported initially, we'd like to hear about them too.

Acknowledgment and Agreement:

These guidelines are designed to foster a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable environment for all attendees of a Syracuse Social Event. Adhering to these principles creates a positive experience for dancers of all levels and backgrounds. As a participant in Syracuse Social Events, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by the Guidelines presented in this Code of Conduct. We are grateful for your help and commitment to making our shared environment safe for everyone.

Sources: Dance Jam Productions Code of Conduct, Austin Westie Academy Code of Conduct, Countdown Swing Boston Misconduct Form