



Desert City Swing Community Agreements

*This document was authored by Riley Crozier in partnership with Swing Reports & Restorations
for exclusive use by Desert City Swing 2024.*

For feedback, questions, or policy consultations or development, please email Riley at SwingReports@gmail.com.

Note: *This is a living document, which may be updated in response to consultations and community feedback until Thursday, August 29, 2024. Event participants are responsible for maintaining an awareness of the latest version of this Code of Conduct.*

This awareness can be maintained by reviewing this document upon arrival at the event.

Safety and Incident Reporting Methods

- If you have experienced harm or discomfort,
- If your safety or comfort has been negatively affected by a person or situation,
- If you have experienced or witnessed a violation of the Desert City Swing 2024 Code of Conduct,
- If you would like to request emotional support,
- If you have noticed an issue that limits the safety and/or access of attendees, reporting and request mechanisms are available to you.

To access reporting methods, learn about incident protocols, and familiarize yourself with the material, please visit:

bit.ly/LINK

Code of Conduct: Terms of Engagement

Behaviors that will **not** be tolerated at Desert City Swing 2024

→ Discrimination and bigotry, such as racism, ableism, ageism, queerphobia, transphobia, or any other expression of structural prejudice, will not be tolerated in any form.

→ Deliberate physical harm will not be tolerated.

→ Inappropriate interactions regarding minors will not be tolerated. These include:

- Offering or selling age-restricted substances.
- Requesting contact information or arranging to meet with a minor without guardian consent and supervision.
- Recording video or taking photographs of minors without guardian consent.
- Initiating, implying, or otherwise suggesting any continuing or escalating interaction beyond the container of a social dance or workshop rotation.

→ Violating explicitly stated boundaries will not be tolerated.

→ Threats or intimidation will not be tolerated.

→ No weapons (guns, knives, etc.) are permitted in event spaces.

Any of these actions are grounds for immediate intervention, up to and including loss of access to Desert City Swing 2024 without refund.

Code of Conduct: Values and Praxes

This section reviews the **values** of Desert City Swing 2024.

The **praxes**, or practices, outline how event participants can act in alignment with the event's values.

If an individual acts out of alignment with the following values, does not enact the suggested behaviors, and/or causes harm to another participant, it may result in corrective action(s), such as a conversation or an additional Behavioral Agreement to reduce misalignment and/or future harm.

Values: **Consent**, **Safety**, and Maintaining a **Welcoming** and **Inclusive** Environment.

Consent and Safety

→ Practice Consent

- Get consent before initiating physical contact.
- When asking someone to dance, ask whether they would like to lead or follow (even if you've danced with that person before). Many people dance both roles!
- Anyone may refuse a dance for any reason. No one is required to give an explanation for their 'No.'
- Consent for a dance does not imply consent for anything else, including romantic or sexual escalation.
- Obtain consent before leading higher risk patterns, such as weight supported moves. Lifts are not allowed on the social dance floor.
- Obtain consent before taking or posting pictures or video of the social dance floor, particularly if a specific person or partnership is the focus of the picture or video.

→ Respect Boundaries

- Honor people's boundaries to the best of your knowledge and perceptivity.
- Despite our best efforts, mistakes happen. If someone informs you that you have violated a boundary or made them uncomfortable, the appropriate

response is to apologize, acknowledge that you unintentionally caused discomfort and/or harm, and honor the boundary moving forward.

→ **Respect the Setting**

- Do not teach on the social floor.
- Avoid any unsolicited advice, instruction, criticism, or any comments about a person's dancing or body.
- If you do obtain consent to give or receive feedback about dancing, this must be done off of the social dance floor. Anyone seen giving or receiving feedback in the main ballroom may be approached by a member of the Desert City Swing event team to ensure that all parties consented to the teaching interaction.
- If your dance partner is doing something to cause you harm or hurt you during a dance, please verbally set a boundary with them to protect your safety and comfort or leave the dance.

→ **Be mindful of fragrances and common allergies**

- Please use unscented personal hygiene products when possible. If you are wearing a fragrance that limits another person's ability to participate in the space, you may be asked to leave event spaces until you are able to address the situation.
- Many of our community members may have allergies to certain foods or animals. Please, wash your hands between handling pets or food and dancing.
- If any pet in the ballroom exhibits disruptive behavior, such as aggression or excessive noise, the person responsible for that pet may be asked to remove the pet from event spaces, either temporarily or for the remainder of the weekend.
- If any pet in the ballroom limits another attendee's ability to participate in the event for any reason, such as anxieties or allergies, the person responsible for that pet may be asked to relocate the pet to a pre-designated area of the ballroom to allow for pet-free spaces.
- *No peanut products may be opened in Desert City Swing event spaces.*

→ **Practice Community Health**

- If you are experiencing signs of acute illness (coughing, sniffing, sore throat, nausea, etc.), please wear a mask in public areas and avoid group spaces.

→ **Consume Substances Responsibly**

- If you are too intoxicated to have conversations about safety and/or consent, you are too intoxicated to participate in event spaces.
- If you are too intoxicated to maintain your balance and coordination, you are too intoxicated to participate in event spaces.

→ **Share the Floor**

- If you are repeatedly running into other partnerships, or causing your partners to do so, you may not have the tools necessary to navigate the crowd. Find a less crowded space or take a break and come back when the floor is less dense.

→ **Be aware of others.**

- If you see someone who seems uncomfortable, unsafe, or disoriented, or if you see suspicious or unsafe behaviors, please contact the Safety Liaison, Riley Crozier, by text or call at +1 (408) 766-0043.

Maintain a Welcoming and Inclusive Environment

→ **Respect all Identities**

- Center the safety of people with structurally marginalized life experiences and identities, such as queer, trans, disabled, neurodivergent, and/or BIPOC (Black, indigenous, and people of color).
- Do not assume that interactions between people from a shared experience or identity are a model of what behavior is acceptable for you or others from outside of that shared experience or identity.
 - For instance, people from a shared experience or identity may use language or make jokes with one another about their shared experience or identity. This does not make it okay for anyone outside of that identity to use that language or make that joke.

→ **Prioritize remembering names and pronouns.**

- Use the names and pronouns that people share with you.
- If you don't know someone's pronouns, you can ask "What pronouns would you like me to use when referring to you?" OR simply refer to them by name. This can take practice, but is a learnable skill.
- If you notice you've said the wrong name or pronouns, or if you're corrected on someone's name or pronouns, quickly correct yourself and continue on. Extended apologies and excuses can cause discomfort for the person who has been misidentified or misgendered.
- Desert City Swing expects effort, not perfection. Do your best, accept corrections, and maintain a growth mindset.

→ **Kindness.**

- Engage on a human level. We are all people first, dancers second. Get to know individuals for the whole person they are and treat them with respect during dances or conversations. Curiosity and kindness are key!

→ **Include people in your interactions.**

- Look for opportunities to include people who seem isolated, whether they're new to the community or just used to being left out. Ask about their day, introduce them to your friends, or see if they want to dance.

→ **Be kind to yourself.**

- If your body needs a break, get some water and take it easy on the dance floor.
- If you need rest and comfort, it's okay to reach out to loved ones or just spend your time with friends!

→ **Express appreciation.**

- When you've enjoyed something, let the people involved know! A riveting conversation, a well-taught workshop, a moment during a dance, a great rotation partner in class - express your appreciation whenever you feel inspired to do so!

Acknowledgements:

These policies were developed and authored by **Riley Crozier** (they/them) in partnership with **Swing Reports & Restorations** for use exclusively at Desert City Swing 2024.

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