

# **WCSMT Code of Conduct**

**Adopted August 2018**

West Coast Swing Montana is dedicated to providing a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for all dancers and volunteers teaching, learning and socializing. Cooperation is expected of all participants, volunteers, teachers and students with the below Code of Conduct to help ensure a safe dance experience for everyone.

West Coast Swing Montana encourages all dancers to avoid assumptions regarding dance roles and to check with their partners about their preferred roles. We support the idea that dance roles (lead and follow) do not need to be tied to the traditional concept that the male is the leader and the female is the follower. Feel free to ask anyone to dance!

## **Bill of Rights**

You always have the right to:

1. Be treated with human decency at all times.
2. Not be discriminated against based on your age, weight, height, sex, race, ability, sexual orientation, etc.\*
3. Personal safety and security, including freedom from sexual harassment, in all places.
4. Decline dances or interactions with anyone, at any time, for any reason.
5. Dance within your ability, safety and comfort level.
6. Refuse to do movements that you don't want to do, or feel uncomfortable or unsafe doing.
7. Speak up in situations or dances that jeopardize your well-being.
8. Leave a dance at any time for any reason.

## **Bill of Obligations**

As a member of the community, you are obligated to:

1. Treat others with human decency at all times.
2. Not discriminate against others.\*
3. Not harass, insult, or assault other members of the community.
4. Accept a "No" given by potential or current partners.
5. Not injure or put your partners at risk during a dance.
6. Respect the limitations or requests of your partners.
7. Ensure your partners are consenting to all activities you do with them, on or off the floor.

## **Best Practices**

Best Practices are different from a right or obligation. These practices are not ‘baseline’ minimums; they are what is commonly accepted as the ‘right’ thing to do etiquette-wise.

1. If you are declining to do something (like a dance or movement), be polite and kind.
2. If your partner says ‘No’ to anything, be gracious and don’t press the matter further.
3. If you say yes to a dance, engage fully with your dance partner – regardless of level.
4. Avoid teaching on the floor whenever possible.
5. Maintain good hygiene.
6. Avoid movements that are widely disliked by a scene, unless you know your partner likes it (for example: touching the face of your partner, lifts, dips and drops).
7. If you see a fellow dancer struggling with a disrespectful partner, ask if they would like help.
8. Develop skills and strategies to deal with dangerous or disrespectful partners.

## **Harassment Policy**

- No forms of harassment will be tolerated. Forms of harassment include, but are not limited to verbal, sexual, discriminatory (related to level of dance, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, sex, race, or religion), interference (related to volunteers’ and Directors’ teaching and administrative duties as well as students’ learning and experience.)
- Participants asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately. If a participant engages in harassing behavior, the event organizers may take any action they deem appropriate, including warning the offender or expulsion from the event with no refund.
- If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact a WCSMT Director, event organizer or volunteer immediately. Our volunteers will be happy to help participants contact the Directors, organizers or local law enforcement to provide escorts or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment to feel safe for the duration of the event.
- We value your attendance and your safety. We expect all participants to follow these rules at dance and workshop events.

The Board of Directors may establish and enforce any and all additional rules and regulations deemed advisable and necessary.

\*You have the right to reject a dance with someone for any reason even if that reason can be considered discriminatory (though you may be widely considered rude for it), but you \*do not have the right\* to discriminate against someone and prevent them from joining a particular activity, dance, team, etc., if they are otherwise qualified to attend.