

# Keeping Every Dance Awesome for You and Your Partner!

## *An Important Note on Safety & Respect*

### Some Pro Tips for having Awesome Dances

- When **asking someone to dance**, be sure to actually ask them! Go on; just walk up to them and ask them "Would you like to dance?" or "Dance?" or "Next Song?". Easy! Things to **avoid** include holding out your hand to them and not saying anything or staring at them hoping they will ask you to dance. These things are creepy, and no-one likes a creep!
- If they say no, don't sweat it! People have many reasons for not dancing and that doesn't mean they don't want to dance with you. Thank them for their time and politely move along. If someone asks you to dance and you don't want to **you can always say no**, regardless of any reason.
- Ask them **which role they would like** to dance. Leading is not just for Men & Following is not just for Women! Be considerate of your partner and ask them what they would like. Many leads and follows like to switch roles from time to time; it allows us to mix things up or consider our own dancing from another perspective and you might just have fun!
- If you accidentally touch your partner somewhere inappropriate **apologise immediately & sincerely**. These things happen to the best of us. As long as you apologise immediately and mean it, your partner will likely understand and continue the dance with you. If they don't wish to continue, that's okay too and **their decision should be respected**. Regardless, be sure not to do it again. Seriously.
- Be mindful of your surroundings. If you run into other dancers **say sorry, even if it wasn't your fault**.
- **Never lead or back-lead a partner in a Dip or Aerial without their consent**.
- **Never lead or back-lead an Aerial on the social dance floor**. There's a time & place; it's not here.
- **Avoid giving unsolicited instruction** or feedback on the social dance floor. Social dances are for having fun and letting loose, not being critiqued on your dancing.
- If you want to take **photos**, please respect your fellow dancers and **ask their permission**.

### If you feel Uncomfortable during a Dance

- **Tell your partner!** Chances are they are not trying to make you uncomfortable and will stop doing the uncomfortable thing. Things you can say include "I don't feel comfortable doing that" or "Nope!".
- If you feel **Unsafe** at any point, you can **stop immediately!** If you are unsure how to stop safely mid-dance, **tell your partner to stop**. Please also ask an instructor or experienced dancer to show you how. We are always happy to help ensure your safety while dancing!
- If your partner keeps doing things that make you feel uncomfortable or is not acknowledging your requests to stop, then **you can always stop** dancing. If your partner does not get the message or you still feel uncomfortable, then **you can leave the dance floor**. You don't have to continue a dance just because the song ain't over! You are also welcome to talk to a committee member at any time.

### If your Partner feels Uncomfortable during a Dance

- **Apologise immediately!** Don't take it personally (but don't do it again!).
- If you are unsure what you have done wrong, you are welcome to **ask politely** for clarification as to what has made your partner feel uncomfortable. Please note, **they are not obliged to answer** if they don't feel comfortable or don't want to for any reason.
- If you are regularly receiving this feedback, you can always **ask an instructor** for some guidance. Try to be open to their feedback; we all want everyone to grow to be the best dancers they can.

Thank you for choosing to be a part of our safe and inclusive dance scene!

If you would like more information, please see our Formal Safer Space & Grievance Policy.

We wish you many Awesome Dances and hope to see you out on the dance floor soon :D