



Expectations Promoting Safety and Comfort for All Dancers

Delaware Valley Swing Club is open to everyone regardless of race, age, level of dance, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, disability, physical appearance, religion, or any other attribute. The organizers of this non-profit dance event reserve the right to establish and enforce policies that promote a safe environment for everyone.

Guidelines:

Be respectful of those around you on the dance floor and of other people's safety and boundaries. Clarify any boundaries.

- **Safety First:** Dancing in a manner that hurts or disregards the safety or comfort of other dancers is not acceptable. Respect others' personal dance space and potential physical limitations. Be aware that your partner's comfort zone may be different than yours. Ask before attempting moves such as dips or drops. Please ask/tell your partner about any serious physical limitations. **Respect 'No':** Every dancer has the right to decline to interact with another dancer, on or off the dance floor, without explanation or repercussion. Persistently ignoring or challenging another dancer's expressed wish NOT to interact during the course of an evening is harassment, and is not acceptable. Predatory or intimidating behavior or refusing to abide by the above rules is grounds for exclusion from the dance.
- **Clarify Boundaries:** Dancing should be fun and enjoyable for everyone. If anyone makes you feel unsafe, uncomfortable, hurt, endangered, or embarrassed, please don't hesitate to **let them and us know** immediately.
- **Report Concerns:** If you witness behavior occurring that might seem unsafe for another, or someone seems uncomfortable or distressed, please check in with them or just ask them to dance. Also make a board member aware of your concerns.
- **EVERYONE has a role in prevention.** If you are concerned about a sensitive situation, please ask to speak to a director, you do not need to specify why*. We will ask you how you wish the situation to be handled. We promise to listen and to treat you with respect and confidentiality.
- **Personal Responsibility:** Our goal is to make the event as fun yet as safe as possible for everyone in our community. We cannot achieve this if we are not aware of safety concerns. **Please tell us.** Again, confidentiality and respect for guest safety is our first concern. Awareness of any risky situation is helpful so we can better protect you and other guests from any type of harm or injury, whether it be a spill on the floor or unwanted attention.
- **Purpose:** This policy was designed by the event organizers to increase awareness and support for respect and safety during our events. In reality it takes **all of us working together** to decrease risks. As a volunteer organization, we do not have resources to address issues beyond responding to any behaviors that cause discomfort to anyone during the course of an event. NOTE: If the concerning behavior is occurring outside of our dance, we still consider this a breach of our policy and will proceed to address it the same as if it occurs during our dance if those involved are attending. The purpose of this policy is that all who wish to attend our events have the right to do so and feel safe and protected. We can walk people to and from their car as well as address any issues of anyone not respecting the policies we have established during our functions, however we can only enforce these policies during our dances. This policy is designed to encourage **all** attendees to take responsibility for the safety and comfort of self and others in the community. This club attempts to

provide a safe environment to the best of our ability. We encourage everyone to stay aware enough to recognize and avoid risky situations and to ask for help if needed.

- **Consequences:** Any attendee or member failing to adhere to the rules or guidelines in this document will be approached about the problem (assuming the board is made aware). Depending on the severity of the issue, the organizers may first speak to the person(s) involved and give suggestions to correct the problem (to do, or not do a behavior). Participants asked to change any dangerous or harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately. Repeated or blatant disregard for these guidelines will result in the person being asked to leave the event immediately and without compensation or refund. Should this happen, the board will meet to determine if the behavior warrants a temporary or a permanent ban from this dance. If a situation is troubling enough that we feel it is appropriate to ban someone, and if we feel that for the safety of those involved it is appropriate, we reserve the right to make our sponsoring partners (local promoters who support the club) aware of the action taken so that they can also monitor safety at their events as they see fit.

General Suggestions and Requests: (Dance Etiquette)

A guide for newcomers & a reminder for us all...

- **Consideration:**

- When in doubt, ask permission- not forgiveness.
- Please don't dance out of control. If you run into other dancers more than once or twice in an evening, you are probably dancing too "big" for the space available.
- If you knock into someone, apologize quickly. Accept others' apologies graciously.
- Refrain from 'teaching' on the dance floor! Please don't assume your partner needs or wants 'fixing'. You may view it as being helpful. Your partners view it as being rude. Many newer dancers have not returned as a result of this behavior.
We have a strict no teaching during social dancing policy. We will enforce this policy.
If someone is looking for further instruction please refer them to our website where we list our sponsors: most offer either group or private lessons for reasonable pricing. Club membership offers further discounts on lessons!
- Although we support every dancer's right to refuse a dance, please be generous and inclusive especially to newcomers and alert to ask anyone sitting for a while. We were all new once. Our club mission is to be welcoming and inclusive to all!

- **Hygiene:**

How to become a more sought after partner:

- Please **refrain** from using **perfume or cologne**, as more people are sensitive/allergic to scents than we realize. Some even to the point of hospitalization. Awareness of breath odor and body odor and appropriate preventive measures are always appreciated.
- If you tend to become overheated, please bring dry clothing to change into as needed.

- **Self Care:**

Wash your hands frequently to stay healthy and prevent transmission of illnesses.

Avoid isolated locations alone or with anyone you don't know well.

If you ever do not feel safe, ask us and we will walk you to your car.

.

Thank you in advance for YOUR help in making DVSC a safe and welcoming environment!