

S.T.E.P.S. SAFETY, TRUST, ENGAGEMENT, PREVENTION, SUPPORT

This code emerged from the collaboration of a number of swing dance organisations in the UK and was intended as a point of reference for dancers who may need to find redress, and as a way for scene leaders to be held accountable.

We will adopt these principles for the Summer Tyne Swing event as the basis for our code of conduct and these guidelines apply to all team members, contractors and attendees.

We aim to be a welcoming, supportive and friendly organisation. We acknowledge that instances of inappropriate behaviour sometimes happen and wish to deal with these appropriately. This document is designed to acknowledge that we all have a responsibility to build safety and inclusivity into events, and to contribute to the wellbeing of the whole community. We love to dance, and we want you to love it too!

We will be NICE to everyone and treat all people with due respect.

We will not discriminate according to sex, gender expression or sexual orientation, nor race, religion, or nationality. We will treat everyone fairly, regardless of age, disability, neurodivergence, physical appearance, lifestyle, dance experience or dance role.

We will be RESPONSIBLE for our own physical safety and that of others nearby.

We will practise safe floor-craft and say sorry if we accidentally bump into another person. We will not offer unsolicited advice or instruction, dip our partner without consent, or perform aerials on the social floor. If drinking alcohol, we won't drink to excess or needlessly endanger ourselves, nor our partners.

We will be RESPECTFUL and acknowledge that the personal boundaries of others may not be the same as our own.

We will be mindful of the appropriateness of language that some may find offensive. We will not touch anyone without consent and we will apologise immediately if we unintentionally touch someone inappropriately.

We TRUST that all reports of inappropriate behaviour will be taken seriously. We expect that failure to comply with this code, or participating in any kind of verbal, physical or sexual abuse will be dealt with. This may result in proportionate consequences, including, but not limited to, being asked to leave without refund; and exclusion from future events, both locally and further afield. Information regarding actions taken may be shared with other members of our wider community.

We will be INCLUSIVE and encourage each other to dance, and we will be gracious in turning down or being turned down for a dance.

We may say no without giving a reason, but we will be polite when doing so.

We will take CARE of our own personal hygiene.

We'll bring towels, spare clothing and deodorant if necessary. We will wear appropriate footwear and choose clothing accessories etc. with everybody's comfort in mind.

Team members will PROMISE to take all reasonable steps to ensure that any report of inappropriate behaviour is treated with sensitivity and respect.

We encourage anyone who has experienced or witnessed intimidating or inappropriate behaviour to tell an organiser.

At the Summer Tyne Swing event we will have a dedicated safe space and wellbeing representatives available through out the weekend if you have any concerns or need any support.