



# Code of Conduct

*Established June 2018; subject to update at any time. Last updated 15 March 2020.*

## Purpose and Values

Smoothstyle is committed to providing an inclusive, safe, and welcoming group-learning and social-dance experience. All attendees, instructors, staff, volunteers, and guests of our events and classes are required to comply with this code of conduct. The organizers will enforce the code during an event, and we ask for cooperation from all participants.

**We value diversity and we are inclusive.** We welcome all levels of ability, ages, gender identifications, sexual orientations, body sizes, races, religions, and cultural backgrounds to participate. We invite all participants to welcome and dance with everyone! Please dance with people who are not like you, encourage new dancers, and help to model a friendly and inspiring vibe.

## If You Need Help

- Find an organizer in person (during the event) via the cash table, the DJ, or an instructor.
- Email [maria@smoothstyle.ca](mailto:maria@smoothstyle.ca)
- Call or text Maria at (613) 291-4376. This may go to voicemail, but we promise to call you back shortly.

Whichever way you choose to communicate, the organizers will listen to you and work with you to determine the best course of action for the safety and well-being of yourself and all other participants.

## Declaration of Respectful Space

Smoothstyle is committed to provide a respectful and comfortable event experience for everyone. We do not tolerate harassment in any form. This includes:

- **Sexual language and sexual touch.** These are not appropriate at our event, in classes, during social dancing, or on our social media.
- **Violation of personal boundaries.** Our staff, students, and participants must respect each others' personal boundaries. If someone tells you that they do not want to dance with you; asks you to avoid particular types of movements, patterns, or physical contact; or asks you not to pursue a personal relationship with them, you must respect that request.
- **Unlawful or criminal behaviour.** We have a zero-tolerance policy for unlawful activities or substances at our events.

Event participants who violate these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the event without a refund at the discretion of the organizers.

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## Code of Conduct Details

Please read, understand, and follow these codes:

<p><b>Be Respectful and Polite</b>          Assume that everyone is doing the best they can. Respect that everyone is in a different place on their dance journey. Social situations are complex; understand that not everyone may know how to deal with every situation that arises.          To ask for a dance: smile, greet the person, and ask if they'd like to dance. If you don't know each other yet, introduce yourself first.          Smile and make occasional eye contact with your partner while dancing, but don't stare.          To decline a dance, smile and say, "no thank you."</p>	<p><b>Be Clean and Scent-Free</b>          Wear freshly laundered clothing. Brush your teeth before dancing. If you sweat a lot, bring extra shirts, a towel, and deodorant.          Please refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, and scented products. These items cause allergic reactions in many people.</p>	<p><b>Hygiene &amp; Virus Policy</b>          If you are sneezing, coughing, or experiencing other signs of illness, do not come dancing.          If you have recently been exposed to or risked exposure to a known virus, do not come dancing for the government-determined quarantine period.          Thoroughly wash your hands with soap before dancing and after using a bathroom or eating.          Use hand sanitizer throughout the evening.          Avoid touching your "face holes" (eyes, mouth, nose, ears) while dancing; wash your hands or use hand sanitizer if you do touch a hole.</p>
<p><b>Do Not "Help" In Class or on the Dance Floor</b>          Do not give unsolicited feedback or advice to other dancers unless you are specifically asked for it.          If something physically hurts, tell your partner so they know your boundaries. If you think something is going wrong in your or someone else's dance, ask an instructor for their help.</p>	<p><b>Be Mindful of Others</b>          Personal boundaries are individual – be mindful of others' and respect them. Be aware of verbal and non-verbal cues. It's okay to ask if someone is comfortable with a move or situation. It is always okay to say no or let someone know if you are uncomfortable with a move, comment, or situation.</p>	<p><b>Say and Respect "No Thank You"</b>          We encourage you to dance with many different people, but everyone has the right to say "no" to a dance. Say "no" politely, with a smile. If the answer is "no", be gracious – don't try to convince the person to say "yes" or beg them for a reason. Focus on the people who say "yes" to you instead.</p>
<p><b>Practice Good Floor Craft</b>          Be aware of others around you. Be aware of the space that is available to safely dance. When the floor is crowded, keep your dance space small by shortening the length of your arm connection, avoiding traveling patterns and leg sweeps.</p>	<p><b>Use Only Appropriate Touch</b>          Permission to touch a dance partner begins and ends with the dance. Acceptable touch in partner dance is generally limited to hands, arms, shoulders, back, hips, knees. With partners you know well, more connection points may be acceptable.</p>	<p><b>Avoid Weight-Supported Moves and Tricks</b>          Unless you are dancing with a regular and trusted partner, do not lead or follow movements that require either partner to support the other's weight. Avoid tricks, both for reasons of safety and floor craft.</p>
<p><b>Dress Safely</b>          Avoid wearing clothing and accessories that may cause injury to yourself or others while dancing, such as: pointy shoes; spike heels; clothing with holes; loose/dangling jewelry and belts; large rings; sharp or roughly textured watches, wristbands, bracelets, etc.</p>	<p><b>Apologize if...</b>          Social dancing can be unpredictable. When the unexpected happens, apologize immediately; for example: unintended touch, injury (minor or major), unintended words, accidentally running into other dancers on the floor, etc.</p>	<p><b>Do Not Harass</b>          Verbal and physical harassment is unacceptable. Unacceptable actions include but are not limited to: offensive language, intimidation, unwanted physical contact, derogatory comments regarding an individual's characteristics, and bullying.</p>