

PCDC Safe Dancing Policy

Welcome!

The Portland Country Dance Community (PCDC) is an association of people who gather for social dancing. This is our policy regarding acceptable behavior in and around our dance venues.

We want to cultivate an atmosphere of fun and good will at our dances. Dancers expect our dance events to be a safe place, free from harmful influences. This is why we require sober dancing in a smoke-free environment. Rough or inappropriate touching is not acceptable, nor is foul, abusive, or suggestive language, nor the appearance of insobriety. Dance etiquette and our policy about personal conduct require dancers to act respectfully and peacefully toward everyone they encounter at the dance.

Additionally, as a private organization, we do not allow weapons at our events.

Because country dancing is a vigorous contact activity, we expect everyone to consider both the safety of others and the limits of reasonable personal space. Do not lift others off the dance floor. This can cause issues for dancers in the line needing to get out of your way as well as creating a strong possibility of physical harm to the person lifted.

We reserve the right to expel anyone who does not choose to meet our guidelines and act within the limits of good behavior. Any warning about unacceptable behavior needs to be taken seriously.

If a person is expelled from a dance, the PCDC Board will decide whether that person will be allowed to return to PCDC dances, and when.

Some of our dancers are hypersensitive or allergic to highly scented products such as perfume and aftershave. Please do not wear scented products to a dance. Good personal hygiene and clean clothing are expected of everyone. Shoes should not damage the floor.

Both women and men may ask for partners. While we hope that everyone is open to dance with a variety of other dancers, people may tactfully and kindly decline a request to dance. If you are turned down for a dance, smile and seek another partner.

Adults are responsible for any children they bring to the dance.

Dancing should be fun and enjoyable. If your partner is doing something that hurts or makes you feel uncomfortable or embarrassed, don't hesitate to let them know. Let the dance manager, someone at the front table, or a committee member know about inappropriate behavior and, if needed, ask them for assistance.

Do you have questions about our contra or English country dance? Had an uncomfortable experience? Have suggestions for improvement? Email one of our Contra Committee or English Committee members (current list on the newsletter) or talk to one of them at a dance.

It is our fervent hope that all dancers will feel welcome and safe. We wish for everyone to have a good time and practice good behavior.

Adopted 7/21/14

(Adapted with permission from a document produced by the Bay Area Country Dance Society and the Chico Country Dance Society.)