

North Bay Country Dance: Code of Conduct

We aim to promote **inclusion, safety, and respect**: for your partner, for the line of dancers, for the musicians and caller, for the space, for all members of the community, and for yourself. We believe these are the primary requirements for the reason we're here: to have fun! We hope these guidelines help turn principles into practice.

Everyone is Welcome

We welcome dancers of all ages, genders, gender identities, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, abilities, appearances, and religions. We promote gender-free calling and dancing.

Courtesy Toward All

Be kind and patient with everyone. Respect the caller by listening during the walkthrough. Raise your hand to ask for clarification so everyone benefits. Refrain from making requests directly to the sound tech or caller. Share criticism and feedback with the dance managers. Maintaining positive relationships among all members is key to our programs.

Be Well and Stay Well

To safeguard the health of all, if you are not feeling well, please stay home and join us another time. Once at the dance, frequent handwashing is recommended. Face masks are optional unless otherwise specified by NBCDS.

Clear Heads are Best

Intoxication, whether from alcohol, recreational drugs or prescription medications, poses a safety risk to other dancers as well as yourself, so please participate in a sober but joyous state.

Offer Your Hand

Anyone can ask anyone to dance. Ask which role your partner prefers. We encourage experienced dancers to support newer dancers and invite them to dance. A few of our events are designated as advanced; while less experienced dancers are welcome, they should expect to observe.

It's OK to say No

Everyone has the right to respectfully decline a dance without giving a reason. When you invite someone to dance, be gracious if the answer is "no."

Injuries or Limitations

For your safety, please inform your dance partners about any health conditions that may require special attention. It is okay for you to leave a dance at any time if you feel that continuing would risk injury.

Physical Safety

Ask your partner before you start dancing if they have injuries to be aware of or other preferences to share. All dancers should prioritize safety by using appropriate handholds, which we encourage callers to teach. Ask your partners before doing advanced moves, such as twirls or dips. Do not lift another dancer off the floor, including children.

Clear the Air

Some participants are allergic to fragrances. Please respect their safety concerns by refraining from applying scented products before or at the dance.

Dance Etiquette

Respect your partners and their boundaries. Eye contact and physical contact during a dance does not imply consent to continue connecting after the dance has ended. Say "no" or "stop" if you are uncomfortable with another dancer's actions. Report inappropriate conduct to the dance managers or Board members.

Publicity & Privacy

NBCDS takes photos and videos at our events for publicity purposes. Many community members also value documenting experiences with photography and video at our events. We ask that you respect privacy requests from fellow dancers and avoid intrusive photography.