

Monterey Swing Fest Code of Conduct

Monterey Swing Fest is committed to providing a friendly, comfortable, and safe environment for the dance community and all those that choose to attend our event. Monterey Swing Fest requires all attendees, instructors, staff, and volunteers adhere to and comply with the outlined code of conduct. Please take the time to read through our events code of conduct prior to your attendance. We expect all participants to work with us in achieving a safe environment for all.

We reserve the right to handle any violations of our code of conduct as we see necessary. This may include removal from the event without a refund. We reserve the right to refuse admission to the event for any reason.

Treat Others with Respect

All those in attendance of Monterey Swing Fest deserve the right to a safe environment regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical appearance, nationality, religion, ethnicity, or any other personal circumstance.

Social dancing should always feel safe. This means that you are entitled to:

- Choose who you would like to dance with
- Choose whether to lead, follow, or switch within a dance (so long as you partner agrees)
- Choose to dance with the same person again, change partners, or take a break

Consent is important and it is okay to say “no thanks” to someone for a dance, but please strive to be respectful in the giving and receiving of the “no.” Sometimes people just need a break and they do not have to explain why they are saying “no” to a dance.

If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, hurts you, or touches you inappropriately during a social dance, you have the right to stop the dance without providing a reason. If someone says “no” or “stop” to you, honor their request. Never pressure anyone to continue in a dance or to explain why they have said “no” or asked for the dance to stop.

Whether on the social floor, in the middle of competitions, or during workshops, unsolicited feedback to other dancers is never a good idea. Please do not offer your advice, teaching, criticism, help, or comments on people’s physical appearance to anyone. The goal should be to provide your partner with a fun and enjoyable dance, not to teach or critique them.

Be polite to staff, professional dancers, volunteers, hotel personnel, and attendees for the duration of the event.

Monterey Swing Fest strives to have all attendees thrive in a safe environment. This means that although we want attendees to wear what they feel comfortable in and allows for creative expression through their attire, any actions or clothing that Event Directors view as disrespectful or unsafe towards one’s partner or other dancers, will not be tolerated. Please be mindful of personal hygiene and strong perfumes or colognes.

All workshops at Monterey Swing Fest utilize partner rotation to help dancers in the workshop feel leads and follows of all styles while working on the topic covered by the instructor. If you are uncomfortable with rotating and dancing with all leads and followers in attendance of the workshop, then you may choose to dance with one partner and not participate in the rotation. We ask that if you choose to remove yourself from the rotation that you place yourself and your one partner on the edge of the floor making it easier for others to still participate in the rotation reducing the confusion for other dancers. Dancers will either choose to rotate and dance with everyone or remove themselves with a set partner from the rotation. Your comfort is important to us at Monterey Swing Fest and as an attendee of the event, you are responsible for your discomfort.

No Harassment of Any Kind

Monterey Swing Fest will not tolerate harassment. Harassment can manifest in many ways and forms. Harassment includes, but is not limited to: offensive verbal comments or actions related to gender, age, sexual orientation, ability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, sexual images in public spaces, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of workshops or other events, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome sexual attention.

Respect people's boundaries on and off the dance floor. Continuing with our goal of providing a safe and enjoyable event, we ask that everyone respects each other's boundaries. Crossing boundaries that can make people uncomfortable can look like:

- Unnecessary physical contact (on and off the dance floor)
- Sexually suggestive dance moves
- Continuously pursuing a dancer for multiple dancers
- Unsolicited or explicit advances on social media
- Inappropriate jokes or comments about people, dance styles, clothing, etc.

Participants asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately. Monterey Swing Fest reserves the right to handle instances of harassment as we see necessary.

How to Report a Problem

If you experience harassment during our event, or notice that someone else is being harassed, there are a few ways to handle it: You may email info@montereyswing.com describing the situation and an MSF lead team member will respond within twenty four hours. You may also find a staff member who can locate one of the event directors to help address your concerns.