

Contra in the Couve! Safe Dancing Policy

Welcome!

Contra in the Couve! is an informal 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 group, 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. To help prevent issues for dancers in the line needing to get out of your way and to minimize the possibility of physical harm to other dancers, do not lift others off the dance floor, and keep arms and legs fairly close to the body when swinging or spinning. **Always be aware of the space you occupy and the effect you may have on other dancers around you.**

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 organizing committee will decide whether that person will be allowed to return to our 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.

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

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.

Dancing should be fun and enjoyable. If your partner is doing something that hurts you, or makes you feel uncomfortable or embarrassed, don't hesitate to let them know. Saying "ouch!" is a quick and effective way to communicate discomfort. 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 dance? Had an uncomfortable experience? Have suggestions for improvement? Email our organizers at info@ContraInTheCouve.org 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.

(Adapted with permission from a document published by the Portland Country Dance Community.)

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