



Scotia Dancers of New York Attendance Policy & Code of Conduct

Scotia Dancers of New York is committed to fostering an inclusive dance community that provides a fun and safe environment for everyone. Scotia Dancers expects that everyone attending its events will conduct themselves courteously and with appropriate respect for other participants. “Events” includes but is not limited to all Scotia-sponsored classes, workshops, balls, performances, public gatherings and meetings.

Respect. Give the instructor your full attention. Listen attentively and refrain from side conversations. If you are sitting out a dance, please take any side conversations into the Fellowship Room (where we have tea). We want to show full respect to our teachers, and our hall is very resonant making it hard to hear instructions over other talking.

Partnering. Anyone may ask anyone to dance. At Scotia, we generally change partners for each dance. Folks of any gender may dance any role. It is polite to ask your partner which role they prefer to dance, and to let your partner know if you have a preference.

Consent. You are always free to say no when someone asks you to dance. You do not need to give a reason, just a polite “no, thank you.” If you ask and receive a “no” answer, respect their decision and move on.

While Scottish Country Dance is a social dance practice and social aspects of dancing such as eye contact and smiling are encouraged, all dancers should be mindful of respecting one another’s personal boundaries.

Children and Spectators. Children under 18 may attend if supervised full-time by a parent or guardian, or on a case-by-case basis by another adult with written parental permission. Spectators may watch the dancing if space is available, but must remain clear of the dance floor and not be disruptive to the dancers.

Anti-Harassment. Scotia Dancers stresses a welcoming environment for our participants regardless of gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical appearance, body size, race, and religion. Any derogatory language, harassment, intimidation, unwanted attention, or verbal or physical threats or abuse will not be tolerated and offending parties may be subject to sanctions. Sanctions may include a warning, removal from an event, or a temporary or permanent ban from Scotia events.

Alcohol. New York State law prohibits the consumption of alcohol by anyone under the age of 21 and imposes severe penalties for supplying alcoholic beverages to such a person. Scotia Dancers expects all participants to comply with New York State law, and may deny participation in the event or in future events to anyone who violates this policy.

Adopted April 2019

How to register a complaint:

1. Talk to a board member at an event. The person at the front table collecting money or the person making announcements at the break will be able to direct you to a board member.
2. Email Scotia at ScotiaDancers(at)gmail.com, providing details of the alleged incident, including what happened, when the alleged incident happened, and were there any witnesses.
3. The Scotia Board will investigate and decide what actions (if any) may be appropriate.

All reports will be held in confidence unless the complainant grants permission for the Scotia Board to use their name in making inquiries about the alleged incident.