**Spring Fling 2024 Code of Conduct**

We look forward to welcoming you to Spring Fling! In order to ensure that everyone enjoys the weekend we ask all participants to adhere to this Code of Conduct.

**Physical safety**

* If you are injured, seek help at once. First Aiders will be present at all Spring Fling locations.
* If a doctor or physiotherapist has given you advice to help you recover from or avoid injury, follow their advice. If doing so would significantly impair your ability to participate in the class, notify the teacher as far in advance as possible. It will always be possible for you to participate in the class in a way that does not hurt you.
* Ensure that you are dressed appropriately for dancing. In particular, ensure that any jewellery and accoutrements (including sgian-dubhs) will not pose a hazard to you or dancers around you. If a shoelace comes undone, it is always OK to stop and tie it before continuing.
* If a collision occurs on the dancefloor, apologise and ensure that the other person is not seriously hurt. If they are injured, accompany them to seek assistance.
* So that everyone can enjoy embellishments (birls, twirls, spins etc.), only add variations that you can dance safely within the musical phrase and when you are sure others in your set will not be confused by the embellishment. If your variation requires other dancers to change how they dance the dance, ensure you have their prior agreement.

**Creating a positive environment**

* We welcome everybody regardless of gender/gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, physical appearance or employment status. Abuse based on these characteristics is unacceptable.
* We do not tolerate sexist, homophobic, transphobic, ableist or racist language.
* We do not tolerate bullying (including name-calling, belittling, giving only negative feedback, hitting, shoving, stealing, damaging belongings, spreading rumours, making threats, sending/posting hurtful messages, and intentionally leaving people out).
* If you witness discrimination or bullying and feel comfortable to do so, challenge the behaviour. Whether or not you feel comfortable to challenge the behaviour, you can ask a member of the Committee for support, both for you and for the person or people affected.
* If you don’t want to dance with someone, you can say “no, thank you” - you don’t need to explain. You may then ask or say yes to someone else if you want to. You can stop dancing with anyone at any time.
* If you ask someone to dance and they say no, respect the decision and ask someone else. No one is obliged to dance with you.
* If you feel harassed or are made to feel uncomfortable, find a member of the Committee, who will be happy to help you. If you see someone who looks uncomfortable or upset, ask them if they are OK and see if they need your help. If they do not wish for your help, respect their decision.

**Safeguarding**

Safeguarding - protecting children from maltreatment and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes - is everyone’s responsiblity. Our safeguarding policy can be viewed in full here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WZ8e3OpGY4EtUu_7UyF5uWHRJmOGjhi8Zgvj4peIo3c/edit?usp=sharing> . In summary:

* **If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or young person or concerned about an adult’s behaviour towards a child or young person you must act.** Report your concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL for the event is Saskia Frisby. She can be reached throughout the event on **+44 7443 435888**. If you want to speak to someone else, you can contact the RSCDS Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer, Katie Haigh, at cwpo@rscds.org . In an emergency, if neither of those people are available, contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) at LADO@cambridgeshire.gov.uk .
* Do not assume that someone else will help the child or young person - safeguarding children is everyone’s responsibility.
* If you have a concern, do not allow a worry that you may have “got it wrong” to stop you from acting. A trained team including the DSL will assess your concern - you do not need to evaluate how serious it is by yourself.
* Do not worry that you cannot share identifying information because of the need to protect personal data. The Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulation are not barriers to *justified* information sharing on a need-to-know basis to prevent harm to children.
* Do not assume that abuse does not take place in affluent or “quiet” groups or contexts.
* Do not worry that you will damage the reputation of the RSCDS or Spring Fling by reporting a concern.

**Etiquette**

* In a class context, listen to the teacher’s instructions. If you would like to clarify something, ask politely.
* Do your best to arrive on time to classes. If you are going to be significantly late to class, contact a member of the Committee so that they can notify the teacher.
* Ask someone to dance before joining a set.
* You may want to clarify with someone which side they would prefer to dance on when you ask them to dance.
* Wait for the music to begin, or for the recapper to announce the dance, before forming sets. This helps dancers to intermingle throughout the hall.
* When you join a set, join from the bottom. Do not form complete sets before joining a line - just go up with your partner. This means that dancers can intersperse and that everyone can feel included.
* If you would like to be first couple in order to walk the dance through, or you would like to avoid being first couple so that you can watch the first few times, wait for the sets to be counted and then ask the other members of your set whether this would be possible - people will usually be happy to support you. Make sure that you are in the final order before the recap begins so that you can plan what you are about to do.
* Unless they specifically ask for feedback, don’t correct people’s dancing on the dance floor. Compliments, on the other hand, are welcome!