

Code of Conduct

SwingIn-Festival

Being part of the West Coast Swing community or any community in general means being with people. This on the other hand means having to get along so everyone can feel safe and valued. A code of conduct is intended to help assure an environment for people to feel safe and respected in. You will find examples of what is ok to do and what you can do if you do not feel safe or even threatened in any way.

General Behavior

There are certain points to be noted when interacting with people on a dance event because everyone is different. Hence, if you do not know each other very well, always be cautious about the other person experiencing situations differently.

- Respect
 - Floor craft and small accidents. It may happen when you accidentally hit someone on the dancefloor. What would be an appropriate reaction: Please apologize and be even more mindful of the dancers around you.
 - Boundaries are to be respected. You may dance crazy dips, ducks, lifts with your partner at home. You may have someone else do them. However, this does not apply to everyone. Please respect their individual boundaries. Pay attention to their nonverbal and verbal expressions. Lastly, if you are unsure about it, ask them whether they feel ok with certain patterns.
 - Flirts and intimacy. It should not be necessary to state it but close dancing is by no means the same as romantic interest. Yes, there are exceptions but be wary that dancing is a moment. If you are interested in a person approach them with respect and do not take it to the dance floor. Talk to them, respect boundaries.
 - Talk to one another. It may happen that you do not feel like dancing when someone asks you for a dance. Saying “no” is ok! Receiving a “no” is ok! There is no need for further explanation. Do not take a “no” personally as there are so many reasons possible.
 - Feeling uncomfortable on the dance floor. Talk to your partner, be open about feeling uncomfortable. Maybe they are not aware of it and do not intend to make you uncomfortable. It is fine to ask them to adjust their dancing to your needs or even to stop dancing. Your own comfort and well-being always comes first. This is not considered unsolicited feedback!
 - Feedback. If you want to give feedback to someone on a social, please do not do so freely. Feedback is usually given in a class/private. This is where people come to learn. However, a social is usually a place to relax and enjoy dancing. You may ask someone if they want feedback but refrain from giving it if they do not want to hear it right now.
 - Alcohol and other substances. Always be wary of the fact that those things lower your control and attention. Always make sure it does not lead to possible discomfort or even danger of other dancers.

- We include everyone! Always be aware of us not tolerating any kind of harassment or threatening. We include everyone who wants to join our community no matter what religion, physical appearance, sexual orientation, age, gender/gender identity, race, dance level and so on. If you disagree with our idea of a wholesome community and disrespect this by hurting others feelings and making them feel unwelcome: You may leave and will be asked to.

Experiencing or witnessing intolerable/harassing behavior

Take care of each other as this community is intended for everyone to feel safe at any time. If you are unsure about someone else being in a bad condition or situation, reach out to them. Do they need help?

If you are the subject of harassing/unsafe behavior or witness it or have any concerns, contact us!

- You can always find a member of the event organizing team either at the registration desk, the DJ booth or you can find them running around in the venue wearing a name tag.
- We have one staff member (male and female) appointed to be in charge. You can find their contacts in the restroom or at the front desk.
- Text us on Facebook/Instagram to always reach us.
- Anonymous feedback: We provide a feedback box at the event. Please bring anything up that does not need to be solved right away by writing a letter.

We take everything seriously and promise you to take action as soon as possible. We treat you respectfully and want you to feel safe at any time.

Consequences

It does not matter who we are talking about. It may be an attendee, a judge, a contestant, a teacher, a staff member, a volunteer, even an event director. Everyone is in charge of providing a respectful and safe environment for everyone. A problem brought up to us will lead to several possible actions being taken. Depending on the severity it can reach from talking to the person up to immediately asking them to leave the event without providing any kind of compensation or refund. It may even lead us to talking to other event directors and other community leaders.

Please continue talking to us even after we take care of a problem. If you see any insufficient follow up, make sure you inform us so we can re-evaluate it.

Contact info:

Fabian Stein (Event director) - +49 157 81829634

Judith Buschfeld (female in charge) - Phone number will be posted at the event

Luca Sawalies (male in charge) - Phone number will be posted at the event

Staff Members - How to act at SwingIN-Festival

Staff members (teachers, DJs, volunteers, judges etc.) should be aware of the position they are in. Their influence on the community is vast. Therefore, they are asked to follow our expectations.

Contests

Judges are asked to concentrate fully on their contestants. It is of utmost importance to never even seem like not paying attention.

- It is not allowed to talk to fellow judges while judging. Only exception being the Chief judge (CJ) for reporting issues, consulting on matters.
- Do not use your phone while judging. It is ok to take a picture of your score sheets after the judging is done though if you need it for providing feedback.
- Judge at your full potential. If you feel ill or in any means unable to judge, ask the CJ to replace you.
- Judge sober. Consuming any substances impairing your judgment will lead to you being taken off the panel.
- Dress accordingly. We do not ask you to judge in black tie. However, we want your clothes to be tidy, clean and appropriate. It is not allowed to judge in short or ripped trousers, Flip-Flops or shirtless. If you have any questions on your outfit, ask your CJ for advice.
- Stay on time. Check in with your CJ approximately 15 min prior to your assigned judging session.
- Show respect for your fellow judges/staff members. It is intolerable to talk badly about fellow judges' judgments in front of contestants.
- Placements and judgments are not to be discussed prior to the official results.

Professional Role and Responsibilities

- Bias. Any sort of bias has to be reported to your CJ. If you are in a romantic relationship or on bad terms with any contestant your judgment is impaired. It is for the CJ to decide on whether to put you on a different division. Please help us keeping the biases as low as possible to ensure the best judgments possible.
- Be mindful of the power your position provides you with. Any misuse has to be refrained from!
 - It is unethical for judges to force contestants into any kind of unwanted contact like private lessons or even sexual contact.
 - Always think twice of whether any consent is freely given or might have been given because of your position.
- Read our Code of Conduct to ensure you know all about our event's ideas on a safe community on and off the dance floor.

Fulfilling all of the responsibilities stated above is part of your job as a team member of SwingIN-Festival. If you do not meet them willingly or unwillingly and continue to do so even after being asked to change your behavior, you may be dismissed from our team.

Bonn, 01.03.2024



If at any point of the event you have any concerns about attendees or fellow staff members, please reach out to your Event Director or CJ.

If you happen to have any questions regarding your role, feel free to talk to us. We are happy to have you and therefore happy to help.