

Code of conduct

A dancers etiquette



As a non-profit organisation Zouk Dance Enschede is committed to provide a safe space for dancing, but participation in or a visit of a Zouk Dance Enschede event is entirely at the risk of the participant.

We adhere to the following code of conduct, to create a safe and enjoyable environment for every dancer.

Be welcoming to all

- We are open to dancers from every background, with any lifestyle, beliefs and views.
- We welcome new people that might show up to our classes or social dances and make them feel accepted.
- We love to dance with people of any skill level.
- When we notice that one or more dancers might be feeling left out, we will do our best to include them.
- We do not tolerate discrimination or expressions of racism, sexism or homophobia.

Asking for a dance

- When asking someone to dance, approach them in a friendly way, make eye-contact and use a question (either verbally or with a gesture).
- After an invitation is accepted, you might want to let each other know what your expectation of the dance is: What role would you like to take? What style of dance? What is your energy level? Etc.
- You are always allowed to decline a dance!
- Decline a dance in a nice way. You might give a reason, but this is not required.
- Always be truthful to yourself. If you are not in the mood to dance, or have any reason why you might not want to dance with a particular person at that particular moment, don't do it.
- Do not think it is your right to dance with someone. If someone declines your dance, accept this in a graceful way.
- Do not start single-handedly grabbing another person before them accepting the invitation.

Safe and consensual dancing

- You should be mindful of how your partner reacts to certain movements and know their limits.
- Be respectful of what kind of dance connections your partner is comfortable with and is not comfortable with.
- Make a dance work for both dancers. Try to be aware of what kind of movements your partner would like to do or not do and see if you can accommodate.
- You should be aware that participating in a dance can result in injury for you or your partner. Caution is advised.
- Do not use force to move your partner in any way if it is not needed for a dance move, if your partner is not ready for it or if your partner is not Ok with it.
- Take special care with dips and lifts or any other movements that have an increased risk of injury.

How to communicate

To communicate your limits and wishes while dancing, you can use the following options. These are from least to most straightforward. If it did not have the right effect, try a more straightforward option.

- Indirect & nonverbal: By stepping away, changing a movement, changing the connection or using a gesture, without interrupting the flow of the dance.
- Direct & nonverbal: Using a blocking method or any of the methods above in a way that will interrupt the flow of the dance.
- Indirect & verbal: By telling your partner in a kind way what you would like to see changed. Or make a suggestion to your partner of what to do more, less or not at all.
- Direct & verbal: By clearly telling your partner to stop doing something.
- Stop the dance: If you are not comfortable with the dance and your partner does not listen, stop the dance and walk away!

Beware of other dancers

- There are other dancers on the floor besides you and your partner. Look out where they are and make sure to not obstruct them or hit them.
- Beware of the space you use and adjust your dancing when the floor gets crowded.
- If you accidentally bump, hit or kick other people: make sure everyone is alright, stop dancing when needed and if appropriate make an apology.

Hygiene

- A dancer maintains good personal hygiene when they go to a class or social dance.
- Use deodorant, bring breath mints and bring extra shirts if this is needed.
- Do not go to a class or dance when you are sick and believe you might spread germs.
- Wash your hands regularly.

Do's and don'ts

- Only film other people dancing if they have your permission.
- Before posting any pictures or video on social media, make sure you have permission from the people in the picture or video.
- On a social dance, do not teach or correct other people's dancing, without them asking for it.

Unacceptable behaviour

- Verbal or physical intimidation and aggression are not acceptable.
- Unwanted and inappropriate physical contact is not acceptable.
- Unwanted sexual attention is not acceptable.

In case of an incident or a problem

Is there an incident that has occurred that made you feel unsafe or do you have a problem with another dancer regarding this code of conduct?

- Talk to an organiser, teacher or someone in the role of a confidant. They will listen to you and decide (with your wishes in mind) on any steps that would need to be taken.
- An organiser, teacher or confidant can give a perpetrator advice, a warning or demand them to leave.
- When an incident or problem has occurred at an external event and you are unable or unwilling to talk to the organisers of that event, you are still welcome to talk to someone from Zouk Dance Enschede.
- In very grave cases of unacceptable behaviour, contact the police.