Praise Dance Fest

Code of Conduct and Participant Safeguarding Policy

Effective date: 20261013
Event dates: 20270422-20270425
Event Owner: Shayne Crum - Rhythm Swing
Event Director: Shayne Crum
Designated Welfare/Safeguarding Lead: [Name and role]
Contact: [Email] | [Phone]
Emergency services: 911 in the United States

1. Purpose

Praise Dance Fest is committed to providing a safe, respectful, inclusive, and professionally managed environment for social dancing, instruction, competitions, and other event activities.

This policy establishes behavioral expectations, prohibited conduct, reporting channels, response procedures, confidentiality expectations, anti-retaliation protections, and potential sanctions.

The policy is intended to support the integrity of the event and compliance with applicable CSDC Registry Event standards.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals participating in, working at, or providing services to the event, including:

- Attendees, spectators, and ticket holders.
- Competitors and dance partners.
- Instructors, performers, and workshop presenters.
- Event Owners, Event Directors, and event leadership.
- Judges, Chief Judges, competition coordinators, scorekeepers, and volunteers.
- Vendors, contractors, sponsors, photographers, videographers, and DJs.
- Any person participating in an official event activity or using event-controlled spaces.

Participation in the event constitutes an agreement to comply with this policy, subject to applicable law and the event's published registration terms.

3. Expected Conduct

All covered individuals are expected to:

1. Treat others with dignity, courtesy, and respect.
2. Respect personal boundaries, consent, and the right to decline a dance, physical contact, photograph, or interaction.
3. Follow venue rules, safety instructions, and reasonable directions from authorized event staff.
4. Compete honestly and respect judges, scoring procedures, and competition outcomes.
5. Refrain from intimidation, retaliation, harassment, discrimination, and abusive behavior.
6. Report safety concerns, suspected misconduct, and competition-integrity violations in good faith.
7. Respect privacy and avoid publishing another person's private information without authorization.
8. Use event facilities and equipment responsibly.

4. Prohibited Conduct

The following conduct is prohibited at event activities, in event-controlled spaces, and in event-related interactions where reasonably connected to participation in the event.

4.1 Harassment and discrimination

Harassment, discriminatory conduct, unwanted sexual attention, stalking, repeated unwanted contact, or conduct that creates a threatening or hostile environment is prohibited.

Discrimination based on characteristics protected by applicable law is prohibited.

4.2 Abuse and intimidation

Physical assault, threats, coercion, bullying, intimidation, deliberate humiliation, and unwanted physical contact are prohibited.

4.3 Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a good-faith report, participates in an investigation, requests assistance, or declines unwanted contact is prohibited.

4.4 Unsafe behavior

Reckless dancing, intentional collisions, unsafe lifts where prohibited, interference with emergency access, tampering with safety equipment, and refusal to follow reasonable safety instructions are prohibited.

4.5 Competition misconduct

Bribery, collusion, score manipulation, tampering with scoring systems, improper attempts to influence judges, falsifying eligibility information, and prohibited wagering on CSDC-pointed competition outcomes are prohibited.

4.6 Disruptive or inappropriate behavior

Threatening, abusive, or materially disruptive behavior toward participants, officials, vendors, or venue personnel is prohibited.

Profanity or vulgarity in competition music lyrics or competitor clothing is prohibited where applicable under the event's published competition and dress policies.

4.7 Substance-related conduct

Individuals must not participate in a manner that creates a safety risk due to impairment. Illegal activity and conduct prohibited by applicable law or venue policy are not permitted.

4.8 Privacy violations

Unauthorized disclosure of confidential complaint information, deliberate publication of another person's private information to intimidate them, or unauthorized access to event registration or scoring data is prohibited.

5. Consent and Dance Etiquette

- A person may decline a dance or end a dance at any time.
- Consent to one interaction does not imply consent to another.
- Dancers must respect verbal and nonverbal boundaries.
- Coaching, physical corrections, lifts, dips, and other potentially sensitive physical interactions should be approached with appropriate permission and regard for safety.
- Disagreement about a dance or competition result must not become harassment or intimidation.

6. Reporting Channels

Reports may be made through either of the following channels:

In-person reporting: Contact the identifiable Welfare/Safeguarding Lead or designated event staff member [[[Travis Swartzlander]]], or Melody Sanson .

Written reporting: Email praisedancefest@gmail.com or through the Praise Dance fest instagram.

Urgent danger: Contact emergency services first when immediate assistance is required. Notify event staff when safe to do so.

A report may be made by an affected person or a witness. Reports should include, when available, the date, location, people involved, a description of the conduct, witnesses, and supporting evidence.

Anonymous reports may be accepted. The event will assess the information available, recognizing that anonymity may limit its ability to investigate.

7. Response and Investigation

Upon receiving a report, the event will, as appropriate:

1. Assess immediate safety and medical needs.
2. Take reasonable interim steps to prevent further harm.
3. Identify the person responsible for handling the report.
4. Preserve relevant evidence and document actions taken.
5. Provide the responding person a reasonable opportunity to respond when appropriate and safe.
6. Determine findings based on the information reasonably available.
7. Apply appropriate corrective measures or sanctions.
8. Document the outcome and any follow-up actions.

The Event Director or designated decision-maker may remove a person from an activity or event space when reasonably necessary for safety or event operations.

Competition-related eligibility, scoring, and disqualification decisions remain subject to the applicable CSDC rules and the authority of the Chief Judge.

8. Confidentiality and Anti-Retaliation

Reports will be handled as discreetly as reasonably practicable. Information may be shared with individuals who need it to assess safety, investigate, determine corrective action, comply with legal obligations, or respond to a legitimate CSDC review.

Absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

Retaliation for good-faith reporting is prohibited. Knowingly false statements or deliberate fabrication of evidence may result in disciplinary action; an unsubstantiated report alone does not establish that a report was made in bad faith.

9. Sanctions and Remedies

Depending on severity, available evidence, applicable law, and prior conduct, the event may impose one or more of the following:

- Verbal direction or written warning.
- Required modification of conduct or separation from another person.
- Removal from a class, dance, competition, or event area.
- Disqualification from a competition when authorized by applicable rules.
- Revocation of event access or removal from the event.
- Restriction from future event participation.
- Referral to venue security, emergency services, law enforcement, or other appropriate authorities.
- Referral to CSDC where required or appropriate.

Refunds, points consequences, and future participation decisions will be governed by the published event terms and applicable CSDC rules. No sanction will be represented as a CSDC-imposed sanction unless CSDC has actually imposed it.

10. Decision Authority and Conflicts

The Event Director or designated safeguarding decision-maker administers this policy. A person implicated in a report must not control the investigation or final decision on that report.

Where a report concerns the Event Director or Owner, the matter should be referred to an uninvolved senior event representative or an appropriate independent authority.

Competition matters within the Chief Judge's assigned authority will be handled under the applicable competition rules. Where the Chief Judge has a conflict, the applicable CSDC recusal and replacement procedures will be followed.

11. Emergency and External Reporting

Nothing in this policy prevents a person from contacting emergency services, law enforcement, a regulatory authority, or another appropriate external organization.

The event will cooperate with lawful requests and applicable reporting obligations.

12. Acknowledgment

All participants are expected to review and comply with this policy. Staff, officials, and volunteers may be required to acknowledge their responsibilities separately.

Policy owner: Praise Dance Fest
Last reviewed: 20261013
Next review date: 20270331
Reporting contact: Shayne Crum, Melody Sanson