

# The Atons of Minneapolis

## Code of Conduct

Membership in the Atons of Minneapolis and attendance at events is a privilege. Violation of this code of conduct may result in penalties including but not limited to expulsion from the event, a temporary or permanent ban, and/or revocation of membership, including revocation of club colors. A lack of awareness of this code is not an excuse for violating the code.

This code of conduct applies to:

- All members and their guests at Atons of Minneapolis events.
- All members at other community events.
- online and in-person communication pertaining to Atons of Minneapolis business.

Some Atons of Minneapolis-sponsored spaces may have additional rules which will be made clearly available to all in attendance.

Full Atons members are empowered to immediately deal with any violations they witness at Atons of Minneapolis events. You must comply immediately if a full Atons member tells you to stop doing something at an Atons of Minneapolis event.

Interpretation and application of this code is at the sole discretion of the full members of the Atons of Minneapolis acting individually or collectively.

## Disclaimer

Every reasonable effort will be made to enforce this code, but the Atons of Minneapolis make no representations or guarantees about its ability to do so. All members and their guests retain full and sole responsibility for their safety and the safety of others with whom they interact.

## Respect and inclusivity

- Always treat your fellow members and guests, the event venue, and equipment with respect.
- Do not touch other people or personal property without permission.
- Do not assume the identity, history, or status (age, race, beliefs, sexuality, gender, disability, role, etc.) of others. Exercise consideration and respect in your speech and actions.
- Only engage in verbal role-play if you have permission. Be aware of and respect established power exchange relationships.
- Do not assume someone else's power exchange role applies to you (e.g. a submissive or dominant is not your submissive or dominant). No one is expected to use honorific titles unless previously agreed to.

## Confidentiality

- Outing of people, private event locations, or activities observed at an event is prohibited, except as necessary to protect others from abuse.
- Photographs are allowed as long as permission is obtained from all subjects in the photograph, people in the background, and the owner/manager of the venue. It is your responsibility to clearly negotiate with all of these parties what will happen with a digital image or film negative once the photograph is taken.
- Do not tag other people via social media (e.g. Facebook, FetLife, Instagram, etc.) without their explicit permission.

## Personal Responsibility

- Everyone assumes and acknowledges ownership of their actions at all times.
- Everyone is responsible for being aware of and communicating their boundaries and comfort levels.
- Be aware of the affects your behavior has on others. If you make a mistake, accept responsibility for it and be receptive to constructive criticism. Respectfully confront others for their mistakes.

## Consent

- Negotiate the scope of your scene prior to the activities. Before the scene begins, it must be clear that all parties have given consent to the proposed acts.
- Each participant is responsible to make sure everyone involved has the mental and emotional ability to give informed and voluntary consent during their negotiation for the scene. This applies to all scenes, including those between repeat partners and between people in a relationship.
- Anyone can withdraw consent at any time during a scene. Once consent is withdrawn, the activity must stop immediately. Prior to beginning a scene partners need to share with each other what safe words or safe signs are being used to prevent consent violations. Everyone is responsible for being clear and unequivocal when withdrawing consent.
- When a person is in subspace or otherwise not in a clear state of mind, informed consent can be compromised. Renegotiation during a scene may risk a consent violation. Trespassing a partner's boundaries in such a way will be considered a consent violation if said partner reports to the organization.
- Consent can be verbal or nonverbal. Do not assume that social norms apply in all situations (e.g. hugs, handshakes, etc.).
- Accept the granting or refusal of consent with grace.
- Consent cannot be withdrawn after a scene ends.

# Harassment

Harassment and bullying of any kind are not permitted. Examples of this include but are not limited to:

- Offensive or discriminatory comments and jokes related to gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, mental illness, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, etc.
- Deliberate misgendering or use of a rejected name or names.
- Threats of violence, intimidation, or stalking (online or in person).
- Repeated unwelcome sexual attention. This includes sexualized comments or jokes, inappropriate touching, and groping.
- Pattern of inappropriate social contact, such as unwelcome requests for or assumptions of intimacy.
- Continued one-on-one communication after a request to cease.
- Posting or threatening to post other people's personally identifying information.
- Advocating for or encouraging any of the above behavior.

Please note: Any of these behaviors that have been consented to within the context of a negotiated scene will not be considered harassment.

## Reporting Guidelines

- In the case of a question, concern, problem, dispute, or if you witness unacceptable behavior at a Atons of Minneapolis event, please approach a full Atons or email [officers@atons.net](mailto:officers@atons.net) to address the issue.
- If your consent is violated at Atons of Minneapolis event we invite you to tell a full Aton member as soon as you are able, doing so either in person or via [email to officers@atons.net](mailto:email.to.officers@atons.net).
- Depending on the situation, we may request a written follow-up report and/or conduct an investigation.
- There is no time limit for notifying the Atons of Minneapolis of a consent violation.
- The Atons of Minneapolis will support an individual who wishes to report a consent violation to the police and will cooperate with any police investigation of a consent violation.

## Addressing Grievances

If you feel you have been falsely or unfairly accused of violating this Code of Conduct, you should notify a full Atons member with a concise description of your grievance. You may also submit your grievance via [email to officers@atons.net](mailto:email.to.officers@atons.net). All grievances will be acknowledged by the Atons of Minneapolis.

A copy of this code of conduct shall be provided to each member of the Atons of Minneapolis. A copy shall be available at all Atons of Minneapolis events.

# References

This code of conduct is based in part on:

- [NCSF Consent Counts](#)