

Shades is a private community event and our goals and intentions are to create a space that anyone should feel welcome in. As a community with diverse backgrounds and norms, we ask that all attendees come with an open mind and a willingness to collaborate in building our community.

When it comes to safety we have a zero tolerance policy. If you are found to make one or more members of our community feel unsafe physically, emotionally, or otherwise you should expect to be asked to leave or be denied entry. This policy applies to behavior at our venue as well as in the community at large.

All of our hosts are empowered to unilaterally opt to ask someone to leave, and if you are asked to leave the night of a dance our policy is to offer a refund, and also that we do not in that moment take the time to explain our position. Afterwards any additional communication is entirely at our discretion, although you are welcome to reach out.

In addition to this requirement to participate, we have some suggestions for behavior that will ensure you have a great time:

- Practice accepting and saying 'no' to dances, without giving or requiring a reason. There are many reasons not to dance, and nobody should ever for any reason feel pressure to have a particular dance.
- Tell your partner if you have an injury or requirement in the dance before it begins. Ask if your partner has a preference for role: lead, follow, or switch. Direct communication is always better than guessing, and even if their answer is what you expect, your dance partner will appreciate the consideration.
- During the dance, pay attention to the body language of your partner (and actual language), these will often be your first sign if your dance partner has a discomfort or preference that did not occur to them to mention before the dance. This is a learned skill, and if asked by a host to pay closer attention, please consider it with the intent to improve the quality and quantity of your dances!
- Lifts and Dips. These can be dangerous! And fun! If you're going to do them please ask your partner before the dance and make sure you have plenty of space around you. If it's a busy night, we'd appreciate it if you consider them off-limit. Even if you're an expert, someone dancing next to you might not be and do something you don't expect.

*We consider this a living document that will evolve with feedback and with the community over time. Updates will be announced.*