

# Beyond the Rainbow Events Consent & Code of Conduct Guidelines

Beyond the Rainbow Events is a welcoming and enjoyable environment to socialize, play, connect, and explore. Our events are sex-positive and kink focused. All gender identities, sexual orientations, relationship styles, races, ethnicities, body shapes, roles, and experience levels are welcomed and celebrated in these spaces.

Beyond the Rainbow Events has themed immersive events, highlighting workshops, new presenters, performers, featuring skill-shares by members of our community, as well as interactive icebreakers that blend friendly connections with a touch of sensuality.

We welcome newbies and experienced players alike to come learn and share. In order to keep our event friendly and fun it is every attendees responsibility to familiarize themselves with and respect the rules applicable to the event they are participating in. It's crucial that we all adhere to the event rules and consent guidelines. Please note that these rules are subject to possible changes at any given time.

By attending Beyond the Rainbow Events you are agreeing to comply with the rules as well as abiding by any instructions given by the Event Hosts or appointed Playspace/Dungeon Monitors. If you are not contributing in a positive way to the space you will be asked to leave and you may be uninvited from future events. Please show up in a positive way to contribute to the community.

- Beyond the Rainbow Events actively supports <u>consent culture</u> at our events, and in general.
- Attending Beyond the Rainbow Events is a privilege, not a right.
- One credible, first-hand consent report is enough to ban an attendee.

## Consent is key at Beyond the Rainbow Events:

Consent is a choice! At Beyond the Rainbow, ensuring a safe and respectful environment takes precedence. "Consent" signifies an individual's voluntary, informed, and enthusiastic willingness to partake in a specific act. Adherence to these guidelines ensures a positive experience for everyone. Consent is specific, ongoing AND revocable at any time!

• **Voluntary** - consent must be given freely with no force, pressure or manipulation. Be aware of power dynamics (age, position, experience, etc)

- Informed means a person should be in the right state of mind to make decisions.
   Inform one another if you are under the influence of any substance that could affect your decision, for example medication, alcohol, mind altering substances, cannabis, etc. This also pertains to subspace.
- Wholeheartedly or Enthusiastic Yeses Yeses must be positive and enthusiastic.
   Everyone's enthusiastic level is different. Make sure to get a clear YES. Enthusiastic consent does not mean the absence of a NO. If someone says maybe that is not wholehearted or enthusiastic consent.
- **Specific** when negotiating be specific! For example: no sexual touch and only a specific kink activity may be wanted. Discuss touch, power exchange, relationship dynamics, boundaries, activities, safewords, etc.
- Ongoing and Revocable consent can be taken away and/or renegotiated at any time.
   Make sure to check in. If consent is revoked then STOP, if it is ignored then consent has been violated.

It is important to make sure that everyone involved is comfortable with the proposed activity before, during, and after. <u>FRIES</u> is a good example of a consent model that makes it easier to remember the key aspects of consent.

#### **Dos and Don'ts**

- DO NOT touch any person or a person's items without prior permission. Obtain explicit, voluntary, informed, and enthusiastic consent before any form of touch, including non-sexual ones like hugs or tapping. Seek consent every time, even if prior consent has been granted.
- DO Treat everyone as equals, this is a safe space! No matter what their race, body type, gender, religion, sexual orientation, etc.
- DO Maintain respect for the space, equipment, and fellow attendees.
- DO RESPECT pronouns and identities. Aren't sure of a person's pronouns... then ask!
   Address others using respectful language. Avoid honorifics, pet names, or potentially
   offensive terms without explicit prior consent. Example do not address someone as Sir,
   Baby Girl, Mistress, etc. unless you were given prior permission.
- DO NOT participate in any activity without receiving consent.
- DO NEGOTIATE your scenes. Be clear and precise about the activities that will take place and make sure that all parties are enthusiastic.
- DO NOT attempt to negotiate with a person
  - that has already stated their nos and their boundaries
  - that is already in an active scene
  - that is in an altered state of mind
- DO NOT join a scene in progress unless you have prior consent.
- DO NOT interrupt a scene in progress. Only interrupt for absolute emergencies. Express safety concerns to a Playspace Monitor or Event Host.
- DO Inform an Event Host or Playspace Monitors of activities that may appear non-consensual.
- DO CHECK IN during your scene, make sure that all parties are still enthusiastic.

- DO NOT do any activities that could seriously injure someone even where the participant gave consent.
- DO Seek explicit prior permission from Event Host or Playspace Monitor for activities like breath play, flame-related activities, audio/visual recording, photography, and play equipment usage.
- DO NOT be creepy!! For example: Don't linger too long unless you have consent to watch. Don't narrate a scene, for example "Mmmm yeah that's hot, give it to them."

#### Sample reasons a person may not be allowed to attend Beyond the Rainbow Events:

- sexual assault
- intentionally injuring a play partner without negotiated consent
- repeated racist or misogynistic statements
- aggressive cruising or harassment
- grabbing, pushing, or striking anyone without consent
- excessive drinking or drug use
- reckless or life threatening behavior
- intentionally outing or doxing an attendee to the public, family, and/or workplace
- refusing to abide by event rules or Event Host decisions

Please remember that attending and participating in kink and sex positive events is a high-stakes activity. Risk is present everywhere. It is everyone's job to try and keep the space safe, but it is not absolute. Beyond the Rainbow Events wants everyone to be risk aware and reduce harm, please take care of yourselves and one another.

#### **Consent Was Violated**

Thank you for speaking up. Having your consent violated can be a traumatic experience and taking this step can be difficult. Everyone at Beyond the Rainbow Events is sorry you have this experience, we at Beyond the Rainbow Events are here to listen and support you.

There are multiple ways to contact us

- Speak to an Event Host directly
- Email us at beyondtherainbowevents@gmail.com
- Complete this form: <u>Beyond the Rainbow Events Incident Report Form</u>

Our team will review the report and have a designated person reach out. If there are any conflicts of interest we will assign another person to follow up on the incident report.

## **Incident Report Process**

 A Beyond the Rainbow Events Host will attempt to discuss the incident with the person whose consent was violated, either in writing, by phone, or in person, whatever the person prefers.

- The alleged violator may be asked to leave the event. The victim will have special consideration although the Event Host will have the final say.
- If the complainant requests the alleged violator will be followed up with by a Beyond the Rainbow Events Host. The complainant can remain anonymous or choose to release their identity.
- Beyond the Rainbow Events reserves the right to temporarily uninvite anyone from events pending this process.
- Decisions will never be made public.
- If the Beyond the Rainbow Events team cannot agree (by majority vote) on the credibility of a given report, the issue will be reviewed with a team that handles consent issues.

## **Incident Report Resolution**

#### Possible options:

- Record the information but recommend no action at this time
- Issue a warning to the reported person
- Temporarily or permanently ban reported person

Beyond the Rainbow's private events grant entry at our discretion. We may remove anyone who disregards rules, engages in harmful behavior, ignores consent, or disrupts safety. Removal decisions rest solely with Event Hosts, and no refunds are provided in such cases.

If someone is uninvited from Beyond the Rainbow Events it does not mean they can never return. If the person can demonstrate that accountability has been taken and give good reasons why they should be allowed back and then it can be considered. It is important to seek accountability and repair when people fail to live up to community standards. When non-consensual behavior happens, which is part of life, we expect those who cause harm to do everything they can to change their behavior, they need to be accountable for the harm they caused and participate in an accountability process if needed. We reinforce the community's container of trust when we successfully repair harm done.

What are some steps to show accountability?

- Initiate an accountability process
- Attend a class or workshop
- Write a public letter to the community
- Check-in with current friends and partners to see how your actions may have harmed or impacted them
- Have repair conversations with the parties that were involved (if they are open to those conversations)
- Have a accountability chaperone to events
- Report back to the organizers the steps that have been taken

Completing the above is not guaranteed access back into Beyond the Rainbow Events, they are just suggestions to the beginning of an accountability process. We need to see that you are really putting the work in, that your current actions show empathy, acknowledgement of the wrong that was done and taking responsibility. Beyond the Rainbow Events wants to create a

safer space and is not about punishment, we want to create a culture of consent and accountability.

By entering, you agree to these rules and follow guidance from Event Hosts, Playspace/Dungeon Monitors and Venue Staff. Your compliance ensures a positive, safe experience for everyone involved.

## **PAL System**

Beyond the Rainbow Events engages you to be responsible to and support each other. Rather than relying on "party police," every person who participates in an event is encouraged to manage their own behaviors and to encourage awesome behavior in others. When people have a friend to support them at an event, everyone tends to be more at ease and better able to navigate and negotiate responsibly. In order to help maintain a safe, playful, and responsible playspace, we use an approach called the PAL system (Pervy Activity Liaison). Whatever your gender, if you want to come to most events at Beyond the Rainbow Events the following rules apply:

- Please arrive & leave with a trusted friend (not necessarily a date) as your PAL.
- Your PAL can be the same gender, a different gender or even a couple or a group.
- You are responsible for your PAL's behavior and they are responsible for yours!
- You can't PAL someone you don't know. You must know them and trust them.
- If either of you violate consent or the event agreements, you will both be held responsible.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

What does it mean to be a PAL? You and your PAL need to know each other well enough that you have an idea of each other's character enough to say "yes, I trust that this person will be a good and trustworthy event attendee." Arrive together and make sure you and your PAL understand the event agreements. PALs should plan how to best to support each other, how often to check in, and when they will leave. PALs are required to leave together.

How can I be a great PAL? PALs can expand their conversation to the things that will help them be very supportive of each other. Anticipate difficulties such as feeling awkward and shy, or drinking. The best PALs will bravely give each other feedback if one is "overdoing it" or being a wallflower, and will be gracious in paying attention to feedback. If your PAL is having a difficult time keeping the event agreements, do what you need to do to stop the problem behavior and don't be afraid to ask for help from the event staff! You can often easily support a PAL by just doing things together: attend a playshop, dance, meet new people, go for a walk around the space or visit the garden. Make a point of introducing your PAL to the people you meet and include them in your conversations. When PALs are doing these things they become not just good PALs to each other, but great event attendees!

I am a single guy. Can my PAL be another single guy? YES! As long as you know and trust them, you can testify to their good character and agree to keep an eye on each other, your PAL can be any gender.

We are a couple and we have a single friend--can we bring them with us? YES! Please do!

I am a single female. Do I really need to bring a PAL? YES! They can be another person of any gender, a couple, or a group.

I am a single guy. Am I welcome? YES! You and your PAL are very welcome! Please be respectful, understand and follow the event agreements, meet the event dress code, and participate creatively.

I am a genderqueer/non-binary person. Am I welcome? YES! People of all genders, identities, and sexualities are very welcome at Beyond the Rainbow events.

Can I meet someone online, arrive with them, and then go off and party? NO! You must know your PAL, be able to testify to their good character, and trust them. To come to the event with someone you don't know and trust is disrespectful to our community and compromises the safety of the event and the other attendees. And when you try to circumvent the PAL system, and even when do not stay in contact with your PAL, you are not being responsible to and with them, nor can you help to keep each other responsible to the event.

What if I am new in town, single and don't know anyone? Check out our Facebook group or Plura Group, go to an event that doesn't require a PAL, take classes, join a support group, go to munches – make some new friends and invite them to come with you to our events. Invite someone from your life who is willing to try out something new and different--your agreement with them can be "let's check it out and if either of us is uncomfortable we'll leave." Whoever your PAL is, make sure you get to know them before you bring them to an event as your PAL. You MUST know and trust your PAL.

Can I make last minute plans, call my friend who is already there, and get them to meet me at the door and be my PAL? YES! As long as they can meet you at the door when you arrive or let the front door staff know to expect you. DO NOT expect our volunteers to go in and find them!

**If I arrive 15 minutes before my PAL can I hang out till they arrive?** YES! But we will ask you to wait at the entrance so that you are there when they arrive.

**Can I come with a group of three or more PALs?** YES! As long as the first two arrive together, all agree to support and be responsible for each other, and the last two leave together.

Why do you require that PALs leave together? The PAL system is in place so that all PALs have someone to support them, stay in touch with them through the event, and be responsible for each other. This goes from the time you arrive until you both leave. How would you be responsible for and to another person if one of you is not there?

The ONLY way you can leave without your PAL is if you really trust them to be responsible AND make an agreement with someone else to support them as their PAL after you leave.

What happens if my PAL misbehaves? The best way to resolve and prevent inappropriate behavior is for you and your PAL to check-in throughout the event, before things get out of hand. As the person's PAL you have an agreement to be responsible to each other and the event, so your feedback can help correct possible problems early. Often just mentioning what you observe and gently talking about it will make a difference early on: "Hey, you hit the sauce a little hard, let's have some water and take a walk to sober up, ok?" or "Your flirting isn't getting you anywhere with this person, let's go do something else for a while."

When an inappropriate behavior is noticed or reported, someone from the event team will talk to your PAL and will find you and talk to you. Consequences will be appropriate to the level of problem.

**Will I get kicked out if my PAL misbehaves?** You might. So help your PAL be an awesome and respectful guest!