



Code of Conduct

Last updated: October 8, 2024

Boogie by the Bay is committed to providing a safe, welcoming environment for everyone. To achieve this, we ask you to abide by the following code of conduct during the event.

We reserve the right to handle violations of our code of conduct as we deem necessary. *This may include asking you to leave the event without a refund and/or being banned from future events.* We also reserve the right to refuse admission to the event for any reason.

Treat others with respect

We want everyone to feel comfortable attending our event, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, physical appearance, ability, ethnicity, religion, nationality, or other personal circumstance.

Social dancing should always feel safe. You are entitled to:

- Choose who you want to dance with.
- Choose whether to lead, follow, or switch roles during the dance (if your partner agrees).
- Choose to change partners for the next dance, dance again with the same partner, or take a break.

If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, touches you inappropriately, or hurts you, it is okay to say “no” or “stop.” You have the right to turn down an invitation to dance, or to stop dancing with someone who mistreats you or ignores your wishes. You do not have to give a reason.

If someone says “no” or “stop” to you, honor their request. Never pressure anyone to act against their own feelings. If someone turns down your invitation to dance, move on. If someone refuses several invitations to dance, stop asking and move on.

Thanking your partner will always be appreciated. However, unless someone specifically asks you for feedback, never offer unsolicited advice, teaching, criticism, or comments about physical appearance.

Treat our dance professionals, event staff, volunteers, and hotel personnel with respect. Accept their assistance, guidance, boundaries, and/or instructions. Do not harass or demand the time or attention of our team members.

If you believe a team member is misguided in their instructions, practicing poor conduct, or is not representing the event well, please contact Boogie by the Bay leadership, or Swing Reports & Restorations (see contact info below).

No harassment of any kind

Harassment can be for many reasons and take many forms. At Boogie by the Bay, the why or the how doesn't matter—harassment is not acceptable here.

Any offensive comments, hostile online communications, sexual propositions, unwelcome photography or videography, displays of sexual imagery, unwanted physical contact, physical intimidation, stalking, verbal abuse, disruption of workshops or competitions, or other harassment will not be tolerated.

If you experience harassment during our event, or notice that someone else is being harassed, please contact a member of our event staff right away, so that we can help put a stop to it.

Other behaviors that will not be tolerated

Expressions of discrimination, prejudice, or bigotry in any form, such as racism, ableism, ageism, queerphobia, or transphobia, will not be tolerated.

Deliberate physical harm, threats, intimidation, or violating explicitly stated boundaries will not be tolerated.

Inappropriate interactions regarding minors will not be tolerated. These include:

- Offering or selling age-restricted substances.
- Requesting contact information or arranging to meet with a minor without the consent and supervision of a parent or guardian.
- Recording video or taking photographs of minors without the consent of a parent or guardian (including posting them online).
- Initiating, implying, or otherwise suggesting any continuing interaction beyond a normal social dance or workshop rotation.

Any of these actions are grounds for our immediate intervention, up to and including asking you to leave the event without a refund and/or being banned from future events.

Help keep others safe

We all love trying new dance patterns and movements, but be mindful of the inherent risk of injury. Any movement that increases the danger of hurting your partner (or other dancers) makes for unsafe dancing.

Avoid forceful movements that could cause an injury by yanking or jerking your partner, or making your partner move before they are ready. Avoid lifts, drops, or other dramatic weight-supported moves that your partner may not be prepared for. (For example, don't suddenly throw yourself or your partner into a dip.) You never know when someone might be nursing a tender shoulder, bad back, or cranky hip. You also don't know when your "tricks" could accidentally cause those issues for someone.

Be mindful of other dancers around you to avoid accidental collisions and potential injuries. Be especially careful when the dance floor gets crowded.

If anyone near you falls or is injured, please offer immediate assistance and check if they are okay. If you see that someone needs medical attention, contact a member of our staff immediately, or call the hotel operator and ask for the medical first response team. **In an emergency, call 911.**

Be a good citizen

Dancers of all ages and levels of ability will be at our event. You can help grow our dance community by welcoming beginners and demonstrating to parents that dancing is a safe activity for their children and teens.

Our door monitors are volunteers. Please be prepared to show your event wristband if asked.

Don't solicit our attendees for any cause (no matter how worthy), or sell any goods or services, if you have not received approval to do so from event staff. (A table will be available for other event flyers.)

Per California state law, **NO SMOKING** is allowed in any **indoor** areas of the hotel. **This includes vaping and e-cigarettes.** Smoking is only allowed in designated **outdoor** smoking areas.

Do not attempt to sneak into the event without paying, damage or steal other people's property, or give alcohol to anyone under 21. (This all goes without saying, but we're saying it explicitly for the sake of clarity.)

We will report offenders to hotel staff (or the police) if necessary. We will ask hotel security to remove anyone who appears to be intoxicated or "high" and might be a danger to others, or who engages in disorderly or destructive behavior. Those who cause property damage will be personally liable.

Swing Reports & Restorations

This year, Boogie by the Bay is partnering with **Swing Reports & Restorations**, a harm response and reduction system. You can use Swing Reports & Restorations to report safety concerns/incidents of any magnitude prior to, during, or after the event. The program centers the reporter's needs and requests, prioritizes reporter anonymity and/or confidentiality, and facilitates the restoration of safety whenever possible.

For more information or to submit a report, visit:

<https://bit.ly/BoogieSafety>

If you are approached by the Safety Liaison or a member of the Event Response Team and informed that you have been involved in an instance of harm, you will be expected to respond in a timely manner.

Being informed that you may have caused harm can be distressing. You are allowed to ask for time and space to calm yourself before engaging in conversations and the restorative process. However, your continued access to the event may be limited until you are able to schedule a time to discuss the matter.

Have questions or need help?

Contact one of the Boogie by the Bay event co-directors:

- **Beth Bellamy**, (831) 566-7894, ebellamy@comcast.net
- **Andy Bouman**, (510) 499-1444, andybouman@yahoo.com

If you cannot reach Beth or Andy, ask a Boogie by the Bay staff member at event registration for help.

Thank you for attending Boogie by the Bay and helping us make this a fun, fantastic event for everyone!