

# The Historical Tea & Dance Society

## Code of Conduct

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### Bill of Rights

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#### **You always have the right to:**

- › Be treated with human decency at all times.
- › Personal safety and security, including freedom from sexual harassment, in all places.
- › Decline dances or interactions with anyone, at any time, for any reason.
- › Dance within your ability, safety, and comfort level.
- › Communicate with your dance partner any movement limitations that you have for each dance.
- › Speak up in situations or dances that jeopardize your well-being.
- › Leave a dance at any time for any reason.

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### Dance Obligations

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#### **As a member of the community, you are obligated to:**

- › Treat others with human decency at all times.
- › Not discriminate against others.
- › Not harass, insult, or assault other members of the community.
- › Accept a ‘No’ given by potential or current partners.
- › Not injure or put your partners at risk during a dance.
- › Respect the limitations or requests of your partners.
- › Ensure your partners are consenting to all activities you do with them, on or off the floor.

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### Dance Etiquette

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#### **Different from a Right or Obligation, Etiquette is commonly accepted practices in our community:**

- › If you are declining to do something (like a dance or movement), be polite and kind.
- › If your partner says ‘No’ to anything, be gracious and don’t press the matter.
- › If you say ‘Yes’ to a dance, engage fully with your dance partner – regardless of skill level.
- › Avoid giving verbal instructions during a dance (unless you are the Caller).
- › Maintain good hygiene and avoid powerful fragrances.
- › Avoid extra movements unless your partner agrees (for example: touching the face of your partner, lifts, dips, and drops).
- › If you see a fellow dancer struggling with a disrespectful partner, ask if they would like help.
- › Develop skills and strategies to deal with dangerous or disrespectful partners.