

Scottish Country Dance Etiquette



We want everyone to have a great time when they're out dancing. Here are some of the ways we can help to create a safe and comfortable place to dance.

Be inclusive.

There's room for everybody in Scottish Country Dance

We want every dancer and musician, of every level of experience, to feel comfortable and safe at our events. We welcome everybody regardless of gender/gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, physical appearance or employment status.

Women's side, Men's side or both

We encourage all dancers to explore dancing on both sides of the dance. While you may develop a preference for one side, being able to dance on either side is a useful skill. Be aware that you may want to clarify with someone which side they would prefer to dance on when you ask them to dance, just to avoid confusion.

Be respectful.

Don't give feedback

Unless they specifically ask for feedback, don't correct people's dancing on the social dance floor and leave it to the teacher in class.

Mind your language

Don't be inappropriate. Do not use sexist, homophobic, transphobic, ableist or racist language.

Dance safe.

Keep your eyes open on the dance floor and be aware of the other dancers and sets around you. If you accidentally bump into or hit someone, **SAY SORRY** and **MAKE SURE THEY ARE OK**.

Add variations safely

Many people enjoy adding extra birls, twirls and spins... no one likes being crashed into or lost in a dance they thought they knew. Only add variations **YOU** can dance **SAFELY** within the musical phrase and when you are sure others in your set will not be confused by the embellishment. If your variation requires other dancers to change how they dance the dance, ensure you have their prior agreement.

Respect boundaries.

Always respect people's personal boundaries. They are different for everybody. If someone tells you that you are making them uncomfortable, listen to them and respect their need for personal space.

Look out for each other

If you feel harassed or are made to feel uncomfortable, contact the event director/organiser immediately. If you see someone who looks uncomfortable or upset, ask them if they are ok and see if they need your help. **REMEMBER, NO MEANS NO!**

It's ok to say no

If you don't want to dance with someone, you can say "no, thank you" and you don't need to explain. You may then ask or say yes to someone else, if you want to. You can stop dancing with anyone at anytime.

When someone says no

If you ask someone to dance and they say no, respect the decision and ask someone else. No one is obliged to dance with you.