



# DANCESPORT AUSTRALIA

## **Parents & Spectators Code of Conduct**

**Approved 19 January 2022**

### **Introduction**

DanceSport Australia is committed to providing a safe environment for participation for all its members. Aggressive, threatening, or other inappropriate behaviour by anyone attending an event registered with DanceSport Australia will not be tolerated; event organisers reserve the right to remove any Parent and/or Spectator not adhering to this code of conduct.

The Parents & Spectators Code of Conduct outlines the expectations of those who attend DanceSport Australia registered events. Any parent or spectator who attends a DanceSport Australia registered event agrees to be bound by the Parents & Spectators Code of Conduct.

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. DanceSport Australia is committed to providing a safe environment for participation. Aggressive, threatening, or other inappropriate behaviour by anyone attending an event will not be tolerated.
- 1.2. These behaviours are outlined in our Code of Conduct and specifically include:
  - a) Using bad language.
  - b) Harassing or ridiculing competitors, coaches, officials, or other spectators.
  - c) Making racist, religious, sexist or other inappropriate comments to competitors, coaches, officials or other spectators.
  - d) Any threatening behaviour or physical altercation between spectators and competitors, coaches, officials, or other spectators.
  - e) Putting undue pressure on children, berating them, or putting down their performance.
  - f) Drinking excessively at an event.
- 1.3. DanceSport Australia will:
  - a) Provide members, parents and all attendees with our Code of Conduct and make clear what is expected and the consequences of non-compliance.
  - b) Where possible, bind non-members by prominently displaying conditions of entry to facilities and by requiring spectators to abide by the Parents & Spectator Code of Conduct.
  - c) Reinforce messages of fair and respectful behaviour by displaying signs and posters around facilities (where possible) and providing information on our website, in our newsletter and through other methods of communication.
  - d) Encourage coaches and officials to complete training to develop their skills.
  - e) Consult with local police and seek support and advice on how to handle issues involving inappropriate behaviour by spectators prior to, at or after an event.
  - f) Encourage the reporting of incidents and investigate inappropriate behaviours as outlined in this policy and take disciplinary or whatever other actions as are deemed necessary (e.g. appoint an official to monitor behaviour).
  - g) Encourage competitors, coaches, officials, and spectators to call the police if they are concerned about escalating behaviour and their safety or the safety of others.
- 1.4. Those attending DanceSport Australia registered events are encouraged to:
  - a) Help create a positive atmosphere for competitors, officials, and other spectators by showing respect for competitors, officials, and other spectators.
  - b) Abide by this Code of Conduct and refrain from using bad language, harassing, or ridiculing others, or behaving in a threatening or violent manner.
  - c) If you are aware of inappropriate spectator behaviour and you feel confident to do so, speak with the person and ask them to stop. If the organiser or an official is present, ask for their assistance.

- d) Report any inappropriate spectator behaviour to the organiser or someone in a position of authority.
- e) Call the police if you are concerned for your safety or the safety of others.

## **2. Code of Conduct**

2.1. It is a condition of entry as a spectator to all DanceSport Australia registered events that spectators must:

- a) At all times act in a sportsmanlike manner and while in public must not act in a way that brings DanceSport or DanceSport Australia into disrepute.
- b) Not connive in a breach of these rules by making false statements, by withholding information about a competitor's age, grade, qualifications, or other matters that would result in their being ineligible to enter an event.
- c) Not encourage or use physical violence, or act in a way that uses the threat of physical violence as intimidation towards competitors, adjudicators, coaches, officials, or other spectators.
- d) Never ridicule a couple for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- e) Respect the organiser's rules and the adjudicator's decisions.
- f) Encourage competitors to always abide by the rules.

2.2. Parents are urged to abide by the following Code of Conduct:

- a) Do not force an unwilling child to participate in DanceSport.
- b) Remember that children are involved in DanceSport for their enjoyment and fulfillment, not yours.
- c) Encourage your child to always abide by the rules.
- d) Teach your child that honest effort is as important as winning so that the result of each competition is accepted without undue disappointment.
- e) Encourage your child to work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Provide unconditional support and never ridicule your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- f) Have realistic expectations for your child and his/her partner – do not expect more than they can give. Be honest, but generous with your praise when it is deserved.
- g) Remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good performances by your child's opponents.
- h) Do not publicly question the adjudicator's judgement and never their honesty.
- i) Appreciate the contribution and commitment of coaches.
- j) Ensure that your child is adequately supervised at all times.

- 2.3. Children are to be photographed or videoed while at a DanceSport registered event only if:
  - a) The context is directly related to participation in DanceSport;
  - b) The child is appropriately dressed and posed; and
  - c) The image is taken in the presence of others.
- 2.4. A parent or spectator must not distribute images or videos (including as an attachment to an email) to anyone outside DanceSport Australia other than the child photographed or their parent, without organisational knowledge and approval.
- 2.5. Images (digital or hard copy) are to be stored in a manner that prevents unauthorised access by others and will be destroyed or deleted as soon as they are no longer required.
- 2.6. Images are not to be exhibited online or in publications without parental knowledge and approval (through a signed image consent form), or such images must be presented in a manner that de-identifies the child. Any caption or accompanying text may need to be checked so that it does not identify a child if such identification is potentially detrimental.
- 2.7. The use of camera phones, videos and cameras inside changing areas, showers and toilets is strictly prohibited.

### **3. Non-Compliance**

- 3.1. A parent or spectator who is found to have behaved inappropriately, and who are members or have agreed to abide by the Parents & Spectators Code of Conduct, may face disciplinary action as outlined in our Member Protection Policy.
- 3.2. A parent or spectator who is found to have behaved inappropriately, and who are members or have agreed to abide by the Parents & Spectators Code of Conduct, may be asked to leave a DanceSport Australia registered event immediately, at the organiser's discretion.
- 3.3. A parent or spectator who does not abide by this Code of Conduct may be banned for a period or permanently, from attending DanceSport Australia registered events, by a decision of the Branch Ethics and Conduct Committee. The procedure for complaints against parents or spectators who are not members of DanceSport Australia and any disciplinary action and appeal arising there from, shall be the same as for competitors (including the quantum of the appeal fee).