



Code of Conduct for the German Open West Coast Swing

The German Open stands for diversity, mutual respect, and joyful togetherness through dance. To ensure a safe, inclusive, and positive experience for all participants, we commit to the following principles:

1. Respectful Interaction

- Everyone is welcome – regardless of origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or physical or mental ability.
 - Treat all participants, instructors, and staff with courtesy, respect, and empathy.
 - There is no place for discrimination, harassment, bullying, or exclusionary behavior.
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2. Consent and Personal Boundaries

- Dancing is based on mutual consent. Always ask before inviting someone to dance – a “no” must be respected at all times.
 - Do not force anyone into physical contact or closeness that is not desired.
 - Respect physical, cultural, and personal boundaries at all times.
 - "Stealing" is only appropriate if both dance partners agree to it.
 - Know your limits. Avoid experimental moves that could lead to injury (such as dips or lifts), unless your partner has given full consent.
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3. Safety and Wellbeing

- We do not tolerate aggressive behavior, threats, or physical assault – on or off the dance floor.
 - If you feel uncomfortable or witness an incident, contact a member of the security or organizing team.
 - Alcohol and other substances should be consumed responsibly. Drug use is prohibited on the event premises.
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4. Cultural Sensitivity

- We honor and celebrate cultural diversity. Please choose your clothing with respect and avoid cultural appropriation or political provocation.
 - Openness and willingness to learn are welcome – but there is no room for stereotypes or mockery.
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5. Dance Floor and Shared Spaces

- Be aware of your surroundings on the dance floor – avoid dangerous moves and respect others' space.
 - Shared spaces are for everyone: do not leave bags or drinks on the dance floor or in walkways.
 - Hygiene and personal cleanliness contribute to everyone's wellbeing. Feel free to use the hygiene products provided in the restrooms – but please leave them there for others to use as well.
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6. Responsibility of the Organizers

- The organizing team is committed to listening, offering support, and taking action in case of incidents.
 - Violations of this Code of Conduct may lead to exclusion from the event – without refund.
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7. Together for a Positive Experience

- We dance *with* each other – not *against* each other.
 - Support others, especially beginners – we all started somewhere.
 - Help create an atmosphere where everyone feels welcome and valued.
 - Always remember: if someone isn't dancing at your level, it's not to annoy you – they may simply not be able to do better at that moment. Give your dance partner the chance to grow. That's how we all strengthen the community.
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Thank you for being part of this community – with respect, joy, and a sense of rhythm.

Christian Spengler

Freiburg, 24.07.2025

(Event Director)