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UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

## CODE OF CONDUCT 2019-2020

### **SalsaCraze 305 Dance Laws**

Dance classes and social dance events are places to have fun, make friends, learn how to dance, and socialize. In order to ensure that everyone feels welcome, respected, safe, and comfortable, we are providing guidelines and standards for behavior that we expect everyone to follow for the benefit of all dancers.

This organization and everything we sponsor is meant for everyone to feel welcome, regardless of gender identity, race, physical appearance, ability, age, religion, sexual orientation.

We cannot and will not tolerate harassment of any kind! This includes aggressive, abusive, homophobic, racist, or sexist language or gestures. It also includes unwelcome or inappropriate touching or comments about physical appearance.

## **Say Yes, Say No, Stay Put, or Go**

Anyone can ask anyone else to dance regardless of dance role or level of ability. Everyone can also respectfully say NO to a dance without obligation or excuse. Please do not pressure or guilt anyone into a dance.

## **As Dance Instructors often preach, while social dancing please don't teach**

The social dance floor is meant for social dancing. It is not appropriate to critique, give instructions, or correct your partner while social dancing. That is the job of a qualified instructor.

Dance to the level of your partner, especially if they are beginners, and make your partners feel comfortable so that they leave the floor feeling good about themselves and you as a dance partner. People talk to one another and tell each other who they like as a dance partner and who they do not like to dance with. Think about what kind of partner you want to be.

## **Clean and Dry- Hygiene**

Everyone likes to dance with a partner who smells and looks clean and fresh. As dancing is a close contact physical activity, it is always appreciated when we make the effort to bathe, shower, apply cologne/perfume/deodorant reasonably, and keep our breath fresh with gum/Tic-Tacs. Miami is hot and humid, so we sweat a lot. Consider bringing a second shirt or dry clothes to change into if you know you may sweat a lot. A towel or handkerchief may be of use as well.

## **Wash Your Hands**

Every few dances, or whenever you can, wash your hands, not only after using the bathroom. You are touching a lot of hands, and those hands have touched a lot of other partners' hands. In effect, you are touching everything everyone else has touched. Think about it.

## **Don't be a stranger who puts follows in danger**

Leads, take care of your follows. If you are social dancing, find a safe place. In the rueda, look where you are sending your partner during turns so they don't get hit or stepped on. Don't do dips without consent as some people have neck, back, or shoulder problems. Never lift your partner without consent either. These moves are for performers and performances. They are not safe during social dancing and can result in injuries. Finally, for all dancers, if you step on someone or bump someone (it will happen!), remember to apologize.

### **If the follow isn't yours, be careful where you put your paws.**

For guys especially: do not touch women too intimately on the dance floor. Casino-style salsa is not an intimate and sensual dance form, unlike Bachata. Remember that follows will talk to other follows and warn others against dancing with you. Ladies and follows, you may stop dancing with a partner at any point if you feel uncomfortable. You do not have to endure the entire song if you feel your partner is not respecting your wishes. You never have to dance with a partner if you are uncomfortable or don't wish to.

### **Phone decorum**

Unless it is an absolute emergency, we would appreciate it if you put your phone away for the duration of the class and gave your partner and instructor your full attention. It is inconsiderate to be texting or on social media when instructors are working hard to teach and your dance companions rely on you to learn.

### **Be kind and polite**

Thank your partner politely after each dance and be respectful and courteous to everyone. Above all, HAVE FUN!! That is what SalsaCraze is supposed to be about.

Thank you!

-SalsaCraze Team