

# CAPE TOWN TANGO COMMUNITY

## Code of Conduct

At Cape Town Tango we embrace the joyful and inclusive nature of the dance. This is a dance full of passion, smiles and general good times. It is an intimate dance and absolute respect is required for each other. This includes respecting your partner's level, the moves that they feel comfortable with and the closeness of the embrace.

As such, we welcome everyone to our classes and events, regardless of gender/gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, ability, physical appearance, religion and dance experience.

We strive to create a space where all can express themselves freely in a welcoming, respectful and safe environment — and to that aim, we have a set of guidelines for behaviour at our classes and milongas.

### General Agreement

1. This space is for everyone: we welcome you and we expect you to do the same for everyone else.
2. We will not tolerate harassment of any kind. Please help us to maintain the safety of this space by reporting any harassment you observe or experience. We will honour your bravery in doing this by respecting your confidentiality.
3. We will not tolerate prejudice of any kind. In line with this, please do not use language that is racist, misogynist, homophobic, transphobic, crude or otherwise alienating.

Anyone who does not abide by these rules will be asked to leave and may be permanently banned from our space.

### Dance Floor Etiquette

In order to ensure that everyone can have a good time on our dance floors, it is important that we welcome visitors and respect the following:

- Feel free to ask everyone to dance, especially new dancers and visitors. This is how we help make everyone feel welcome.
- The preferred method of invitation is the “Cabaceo” for men and “Mirada” for ladies.
- Say yes. There is nothing better than an enthusiastic agreement to a dance.
- Say no (thank you). This is your right, and requires no explanation or apology.
- If someone declines a dance, that's okay! Don't take it personally – just say “Sure, maybe next time!”
- It is respectful and courteous to dance a full tanda, unless you feel uncomfortable. If so, say “thank you” at the end of a dance and move on.
- Say STOP if anyone touches you inappropriately, or makes you uncomfortable IN ANY WAY. Tell them to stop and inform the host/hostess if they do not.

- No high boleos or lifts on the social floor. Keep these for show dances or competitions.
- Dancing is sweaty. Bring extra clothes to change into, or bring a small towel.
- Oral hygiene is very important. Freshly brushed teeth are good and tobacco or bad breath can be controlled with mints.
- If you do not wish to be photographed/filmed please inform the organiser on arrival. Do not use flash photography. Do not film classes without the teacher's consent.
- Be careful and respectful of other dancers on the floor. If you knock/bump/step on or kick someone accidentally, immediately stop dancing, check that they are ok and apologise.
- Be aware of the line of dance. Keep strictly to the "Ronda". No zig-zagging across the floor and no leading towards oncoming dancers. Also, leaders please be aware of the space behind you before taking a backward step.
- Be conscious of nonverbal signals and respect your partner's personal boundaries. Seek consent within the dance, e.g. not everyone feels comfortable in the closed embrace.
- Do not give unsolicited advice. In fact, leave advice off the social floor entirely. If someone wants your input they will ask for it.
- Also do not criticize your partner on the dance-floor.
- Deliberate isolation of people in the community through gossip and social manipulation is seriously discouraged.
- Respect for different tango styles is important. There is not one "right" or "wrong" tango style. Although the close embrace seems to be the most popular, please respect your partner's preferences.

#### **Responsibility of organisers:**

- We will do everything in our power to protect our dancers and will tolerate no harassment whatsoever.
- We reserve the right to remove anyone from our classes and events.
- Minor offences will result in a single warning.
- Repeat offences or major offences will result in expulsion and banning from all future Cape Town Tango events, and where appropriate, will be referred to the police.

**This Code of Conduct is supported and subscribed to by Tango event organizers and teachers in Cape Town, be they at classes, practicas, milongas, marathons or festivals.**

Latest update – September 2018

Please find the link to the South African law on harassment below  
[www.justice.gov.za/legislation/acts/2011-017.pdf](http://www.justice.gov.za/legislation/acts/2011-017.pdf)