

# *Zouk Dance Academy Code of Conduct*

Zouk Dance Academy (ZDA) is dedicated to providing a safe, inclusive, and comfortable dance experience for everyone, regardless of dance skill or background, gender identity or expression, age, sexual orientation, ability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, or any other characteristic or trait. We are expecting cooperation from all participants to help ensure an inclusive, safe dance experience for everybody.

We are committed to preventing injuries before they happen. We reserve the right to ask any participant not to lead or follow particular movement types if we deem the execution unsafe, or the dancer inadequately trained. We hope to help all students explore the wide range of movement that Brazilian Zouk offers, but we emphasise strong basics.

Please use your full range of senses on the dance floor to avoid accidental collisions and injuries. Leads are responsible to stay attentive and prevent, to the best of their ability, their follow being led into a collision. It is especially important to keep floor-craft in mind when leading advanced movement types while the follow's head and neck are in a particularly vulnerable state. At socials that are crowded, we advise avoiding leading or following head movement.

ZDA is not liable for any injuries that occur at our events and the participants understand that they take responsibility for their own personal safety in regard to injuries.

By participating in ZDA events, you agree to abide by the following:

1. Injuries frequently occur as a result of unsafe dancing, which we deem as any movement that puts anyone at an unnecessarily high risk of physical injury. You are expected to **refrain from unsafe dancing**, which includes, but is not limited to, yanking or jerking your partner around (aka "arm-leading"); using unnecessarily forceful movement when leading or following; the lead bending over the follow during a cambre (a dip) or head movement variations; or doing any lift where both of your partner's feet go above your knees. If you are unsure what constitutes unsafe dancing or have concerns about the safety of a dance partner's movements, please talk to Jean.

2. While close physical connection is a beautiful part of Brazilian Zouk, consent must be given by both parties and dancers should engage in a way that is respectful to both. If you have not learnt the style of Zouk that involves close physical connection, please do not try to engage in close physical connection without consent. Complaints about forced/ unwanted physical intimacy, boundary crossing, or excessive verbal persuasion to try intimate holds or connection will not be tolerated and may result in your removal from ZDA events. If you are biologically male, please tuck left and wear secure underpants (if you do not know what is meant by that statement, please feel free to ask Jean).
3. Please do not offer unsolicited advice to fellow dancers. Each person's learning style is different. Unsolicited advice can often be distracting from or disheartening for a student's learning. Worse, it may be confusing and erroneous.

We expect participants to follow these rules at all ZDA practicas, classes and events. Violations of the Zouk Dance Academy Code of Conduct are taken very seriously and we reserve the right to deny entrance to any practicas, classes or events if a participant violates these codes. Any violations can be reported in person to Jean.

Thank you for your understanding.