

Safe Space Policy

The Bloomington Old Time Music and Dance Group

BOTMDG aims to create a welcoming, safe and comfortable environment for the enjoyment of all participants at its events. In order to support this goal and promote a culture of consent, BOTMDG expects all participants to observe the following guidelines.

The Main Idea:

- Be respectful of other dancers, musicians and callers.
- Be aware and respectful of the needs, personal space and abilities of all dancers.
- All actions on and off the dance floor should be consensual.

Ways you can contribute to a positive dance experience:

- Don't make assumptions about what someone else wants (*e.g. just because someone allows another dancer to dip them, does not mean they are comfortable being dipped by everyone.*)
- Communicate with your partner and other dancers (*e.g. ask if your new partner enjoys flourishes, spins, etc.*)
- Be receptive to feedback from other dancers—this includes honoring any request to cease an interaction which makes someone uncomfortable.

Examples of inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Unwanted close dancing or other unwanted physical contact
- Rough or forceful dancing, including using too much strength to force a turn or flourish
- Dipping other dancers without consent
- Making unwanted advances (goes for all genders)
- Harassment of any type, including prejudiced or otherwise offensive comments, shouting at someone, deliberate intimidation, etc.

If you experience or witness inappropriate behavior, and are uncomfortable addressing it on your own, please let an organizer or board member know so we can help address the situation as needed.

Please note: Engaging in inappropriate behavior may result in actions taken by BOTMDG up to and including expulsion from the dance and/or refusal of admission.