

BRANCH EVENT POLICIES

All regularly scheduled classes and their special parties are RSCDS Boston Branch events, but there are other special events scheduled throughout each year that are Branch events because they are covered by the Branch's insurance policy or receive other financial assistance from the Branch.

Non-discrimination Policy

The Boston Branch is committed to at all times providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members and guests. To that end, the Branch does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), national origin, age, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, genetics, disability, marital status, or military service, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, the selection and hiring of teachers and musicians, the selection of volunteers and vendors, and election to and termination from its Executive Board.

Participation Policy

Events and classes sponsored by the RSCDS Boston Branch are intended to be pleasurable occasions for learning and enjoying the performance of Scottish country dancing. To foster those goals and to ensure the safety of all, the Branch expects that everyone attending a Branch event will conduct themselves courteously and with appropriate respect for other participants and in compliance with the rules or regulations of the venue.

Physical contact and flirting are integral parts of Scottish country dancing, but it is important to be sure that everyone involved is a willing participant, both on and off the dance floor. If someone is making you uncomfortable by touching you, flirting with you, making suggestive comments, following you, etc., you are encouraged to inform the event organizers or any member of the Executive Committee, so they can address the issue.

The RSCDS Boston Branch reserves the right to deny participation to any person who is unable to conform to these standards and whose behavior is determined by the event organizers to be offensive, dangerous, disruptive to the enjoyment of the event by other participants, or in violation of the venue's rules or regulations. If a person is required to leave an event for these reasons, no refund of registration or other fees will be made.

This policy will be published on the Branch website as well as printed in documents such as the Pinewoods booklet. It will also be mentioned in the first night announcements at events such as ESCape and Scottish Sessions at Pinewoods, and members of the Executive committee attending that session will be asked to identify themselves.

The following information on procedures for implementing the participation policy will be distributed to all Event Organizers. Event organizers who are advised or observe that a person attending an event is engaging in behavior that is offensive, dangerous, disruptive to the enjoyment of the event by other participants, or in violation of the venue's rules or regulations will meet with that person to discuss their concerns.

The person's continued participation in the event shall be conditioned upon compliance with a written agreement specifying what actions or behaviors must be modified. If the person is unable or unwilling to comply with those conditions, they may be required to leave the event immediately and may be denied admission to future events.

Policy Regarding Youth Participation

The Branch wants to encourage the participation of children* and other young people in Scottish dancing since they represent the future. However, we want to make sure that this participation can be conducted without causing emotional or physical harm to vulnerable participants. The Branch requires that children may only attend a Branch event when accompanied by a parent or designated guardian. If anyone observes a child being threatened with abuse in anyway at a Branch event, they should immediately report the incident to the parent or guardian who is present at the event. In addition, the Branch shall appoint a *Safety Liaison* who is a member of the Branch and (if possible) a member of its Executive Committee. If anyone observes a young person or other vulnerable adult being threatened with abuse in anyway at a Branch event when a parent or guardian is not present, they should report the incident to the Safety Liaison as soon as possible. It will be the responsibility of the Safety Liaison to bring the incident to the attention of the Executive Committee of the Branch.

* Defined in all states covered by the Boston Branch as individuals under the age of 18.

Alcohol Policy

State laws prohibit the consumption of alcohol by anyone under age 21 and impose severe penalties for supplying alcoholic beverages to such a person. It is the policy of the Boston Branch to ensure that participants in events it sponsors comply with state law.

Participants in Branch events who consume alcohol in violation of state law may be denied participation in the event or in future events. Anyone over age 21 who supplies alcohol to or otherwise enables its consumption by participants in Branch events who are under 21 violates Branch policy and consequently may be denied participation in Branch events.

This policy will be published on the Branch website as well as printed in documents such as the Pinewoods booklet.

The following information on procedures for implementing the alcohol policy will be distributed to all Event Organizers:

Event and class organizers who are advised or observe that 1) a person attending who is under age 21 is consuming alcohol; or 2) that a person over age 21 is supplying alcohol to or otherwise enabling such consumption, shall take action to ensure the immediate termination of the illegal activity. Such actions include confiscation of any remaining alcohol, notice to the adults responsible for the minor, and immediate notice to any person over 21 that the illegal activity must be discontinued. For any person at the event who violates the policy, continued participation in the event is conditioned upon compliance with a written agreement that the illegal activity will cease immediately, and no further violations will occur. If the person is unable or unwilling to comply with those conditions, he or she may be required to leave the event immediately and may be denied admission to future events.