



## **ScotDance USA Child Protection Policy**

All ScotDance USA members are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Royal Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing Code of Ethics. Physical violence, including pushing, shoving or grabbing as well as theft, verbal insults, drugs and excessive use of alcohol is prohibited at ScotDance USA dance classes and events.

All ScotDance USA members should model kind behavior and are responsible for monitoring the behavior of minor dancers and interceding when necessary. This could include, but is not necessarily limited to, inappropriate verbal and/or physical actions as well as cyber bullying. Parents of dancers who misbehave should be informed of their child's behavior and asked for assistance to stop it.

ScotDance USA encourages its members, when working with a child under the age of 18 years in a non-public situation, to always try to have two adults present or one adult and a parent/guardian of the child. A person who is at least 18 years of age qualifies as an adult.

ScotDance USA encourages its members and parents of underage children to be sure that children move in groups of two (2) or more when not with a parent/guardian or not in plain view of others.

ScotDance USA encourages its members to protect themselves from false accusations at all times. In an effort to help with this, SDUSA encourages its members to limit private, one-on-one contact between adults and underage dancers as much as possible. This would include private lessons. During private lessons, SDUSA feels it is in the teacher's own best interest to have a parent, guardian or another person present during the lesson or leave the classroom door open, in order to avoid any action or conduct being misinterpreted or misunderstood.

At all ScotDance USA sponsored events, one-on-one physical contact between SDUSA members/volunteers and underage dancers is not permitted unless it is in plain view of others. Actions that require personal physical contact, such as adjusting or changing costumes, should be conducted in view of other adults and minors.

Privacy of minors is to be respected. ScotDance USA members who are not the parent or legal guardian of a minor must respect the privacy of underage dancers. Unless the SDUSA member has verbal or written consent from the parent/guardian, in situations such as changing clothes or costumes, the SDUSA member may intrude only to the extent required for the health and safety of the dancers.

Inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, and digital devices is prohibited. While most ScotDance USA members, volunteers, parents and other family members use cameras and other imaging devices responsibly, it has become very easy to invade the privacy of individuals. It is inappropriate to use any device capable of recording or transmitting visual images in changing areas, restrooms, or other areas where privacy is expected by participants.

No bullying is allowed. Verbal, physical, and cyber bullying as well as any type of hazing are prohibited by ScotDance USA.

Discipline used in Highland dancing should be constructive and reflect ScotDance USA's values. Corporal discipline of any kind is never permitted.

Appropriate, modest attire, such as a T-shirt or tank top or other cover up is recommended for all activities at ScotDance USA sponsored events.

Any person witnessing an infraction of the ScotDance USA Child Protection Policies must immediately report the infraction to the proper authorities as stated in the US Center for Safe Sport training, and then the ScotDance USA President.

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