



COMPETITION ORGANIZERS/PARENTS/VOLUNTEERS/DANCERS:

ScotDance Canada has implemented new policies in response to our Child Abuse Protection Program. These changes, regarding change areas and volunteer interaction with dancers, are to be implemented at all competitions. It is important for all involved to be aware of these policies.

Competition Organizers must provide separate change areas for female and male dancers. As well, a separate area from the change areas must be designated for warming up. It needs to be enforced that dancers will not be permitted to change in the warm-up areas or visa versa. One shared warm-up area will suffice for female and male dancers.

Dancers will not be permitted to change in public areas, nor will dancers be permitted to be in the competition area only wearing bra tops or sports bras with dickies. Dancers must wear their jackets/vests, hoodies, studio jackets or tank tops over any bra type top used for dancing whenever they are outside the designated change area. This is just one of the many policies to result from ScotDance Canada's Child Abuse Protection Program; it starts with the dancers and the parents. Everyone must be more aware of inappropriate attire in our public dancing venues.

Also included in this program is a "no touching" policy for all volunteers. All competition volunteers for each association must be adult members of the association or teachers registered with ScotDance Canada. This requires that the Competition Organizers have contact information for all volunteers and volunteers are known to organizers, teachers and other parents. Volunteers will not be permitted to physically touch any dancer for any reason. Parents, please ensure your child is properly attired before they continue to line up area. Volunteers will no longer help to button up jackets, adjust kilts, tie shoelaces or fix falling numbers. Volunteers will only be permitted to assist with untied shoelaces or numbers not affixed to the kilt in the presence of another volunteer should the parent of the dancer not be accessible. If the parent will not be in

attendance, please ensure you have an adult responsible for your child during the competition in the event of illness, accident or other emergency. This includes all minors.

Under the Child Abuse Protection Program, ScotDance Canada now requires all Professionals to submit an Enhanced Canadian Police Records Check before the renewal of their membership for September, 2010. All new Professional members will be required to submit an Enhanced Canadian Police Record Check prior to joining ScotDance Canada. ScotDance Canada has implemented a Code of Ethics which applies to all Professionals, dancers, parents and volunteers. The Code of Ethics was drawn up with the protection of all who are involved with highland dancing in mind. Please take time to read through the attached Code of Ethics. This Code of Ethics is in addition to the SOBHD Code of Ethics all families must agree to abide by with the signing of their Annual Dancer Registration.

With today's society, we can no longer pretend that every environment is safe for our children or ignore the importance of rules and guidelines which are made to protect them. The greater our awareness, the better we can work together to ensure the safety and welfare of our children. The more we make our children aware, the more capable they will be as adults to ensure their own safety.

This email is not intended to be alarmist in nature. Nor is it a reaction to any specific problem or incident. It is a responsible and proactive approach to ScotDance Canada's Code of Ethics.

ScotDance Canada Risk Management Committee
December, 2010.