A group of people, mostly young adults, are in a dance studio. They are holding hands and standing in a large circle, facing each other. They are dressed in casual clothing like t-shirts, jeans, and leggings. The studio has large windows in the background with curtains. The overall atmosphere is communal and active.

Rising Floor Standards: A Commitment to Ethical Dance

The Rising Floor Standards represent a shared commitment to fairness, safety, dignity, and equality in partner dance. Members publicly sign on to uphold these standards, displaying the Rising Floor badge and being included in a public directory. This allows dancers to make conscious choices based on shared values and provides a framework for accountability and improvement in the dance community.

Shared Commitments for All Members

1

Fair Pay & Respect for Labor

No unpaid work or "for exposure" arrangements. All roles must receive fair, transparent compensation according to contribution and experience. Unpaid work devalues professionals and reinforces systemic pay gaps.

2

Safe and Inclusive Environments

Everyone deserves to feel safe and respected. Members must help create this atmosphere through active intervention and support of clear codes of conduct.

3

Zero Tolerance for Predatory Behavior

Members will not work with, support, or protect known predators. Abuse and harm will not be ignored or minimized.

Organizer Standards

Ethical Hiring and Equal Pay

- Both leads and follows must be hired with similar skill levels
- Negotiations must involve both teachers directly
- Each teacher receives their own contract with fair pay
- Equal pay regardless of gender, fame, or dance role

Safe Event Environments

- Written code of conduct visible to all participants
- Active monitoring and intervention for unsafe behavior
- Zero tolerance for known predators
- Prompt removal of those violating safety standards



Transparency and Representation



Clear Contracts

All professionals receive terms outlining pay rate, expectations, travel provisions, and cancellation policies. No hidden or unpaid work requirements.



Equal Visibility

Marketing materials reflect gender balance and diversity. Both members of teaching couples receive equal marketing visibility and teaching opportunities.



Professional Treatment

DJs and artists paid fairly with clear agreements. Events intentionally provide equitable access to opportunities for women and underrepresented artists.

Teacher Standards

Fair Pay and Equal Treatment

Teachers must decline solo bookings that exclude or underpay partners. Equal pay is non-negotiable for couples of similar skill. Payment must reflect all working time including preparation.

Shared Voice and Visibility

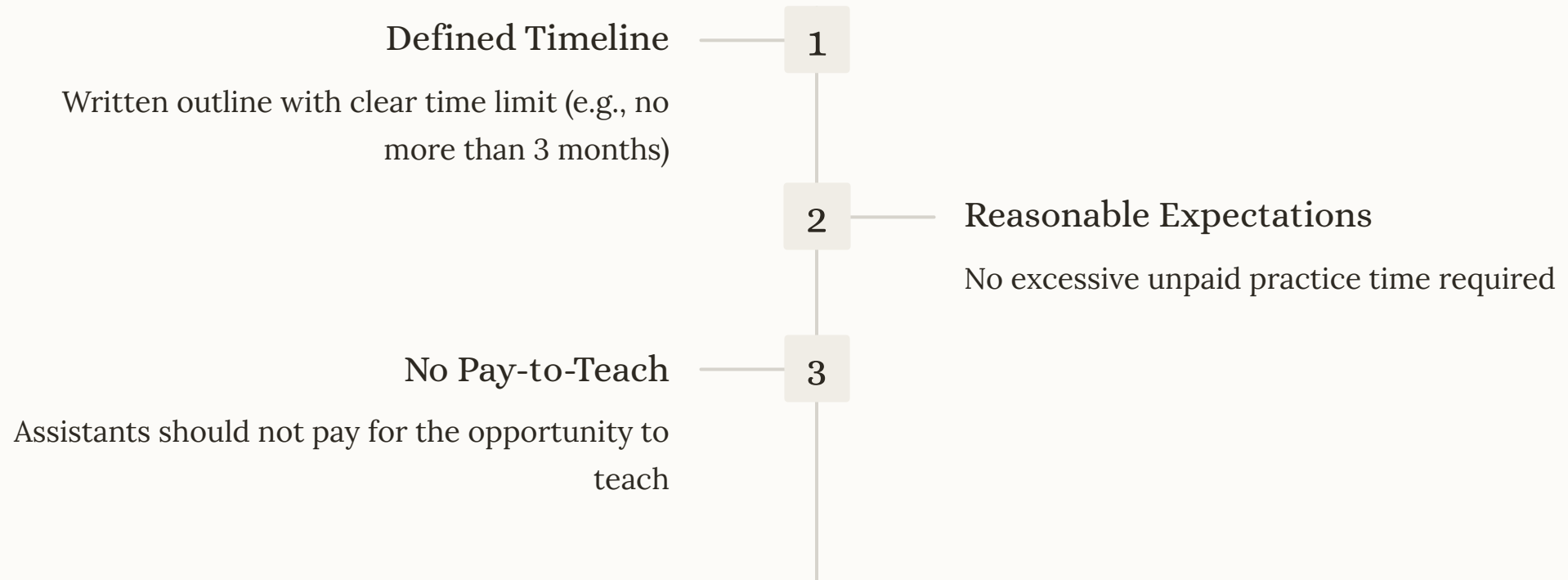
Both teachers must receive equal microphone access, speaking time, and visible authority. Dismissing or overshadowing a teaching partner is unethical.

Professional Conduct

Teachers must maintain professionalism throughout events, including social hours. They must avoid excessive drinking, inappropriate flirtation, or pursuing students.

Ethical Assistantships and Mentorship

⚠ Teachers agree not to exploit assistants or students under the guise of mentorship. Assistants who contribute meaningfully to class delivery must be paid or have a clearly defined training agreement.



Dancer Standards

Conscious Support

Dancers agree to support teachers, DJs, and events that uphold Rising Floor standards. They commit to withdrawing support from individuals or events that violate ethical principles or include known predators.

Speaking Up

Dancers agree to speak up when witnessing unethical behavior, providing respectful and constructive feedback. They hold themselves accountable for creating a respectful atmosphere.



Respect on the Dance Floor

Consent First

No means no - the first time, whether delivered verbally, through action, or through withdrawal of engagement.

Respect Boundaries

Accept boundaries without question or debate. Avoid giving unsolicited feedback unless explicitly requested.

Human Connection

Treat every partner as a human being, not a prop or performance. Don't pressure others into dances or use social status to manipulate.

Cultural Integrity

Learn about cultural roots of dances. Be respectful about music, language, and movement, acknowledging cultural spaces.

Implementation and Support

"This is more than a set of rules. It's a cultural shift toward transparency, equity, and respect, where good actors are empowered and consumers can clearly see who stands where."

Public Commitment

Members display the Rising Floor badge, link to standards, and are included in a public directory.

Transition Support

Rising Floor provides tools, guidance, and community examples to help close the gap between intention and action.

Ongoing Development

Consultation process to develop clear guidance on minimum rates, pay structures, and ethical practices.



Join the Movement

Members who aren't yet in full compliance may submit a statement outlining a clear plan and timeline for meeting the standards. Rising Floor will support this transition process.

Organizers

Event producers, festival organizers, school owners, and team operators who shape the culture and safety of dance spaces.

DJs & Artists

Music providers and performers who deserve fair treatment, clear agreements, and professional respect.



Teachers

Solo instructors, teaching couples, and team directors who uphold fairness, shared voice, and ethical working conditions.

Dancers

Students and social dancers who support ethical practices through their choices, voices, and actions on the dance floor.

Every time a community member makes a values-based choice about where to dance, who to support, or what to tolerate, they help raise the floor for everyone.