

Organizer Guidelines for Safer Skate Events



These Organizer Guidelines are designed to help skateboarding event teams uphold best practices for inclusivity and to prioritize the safety of all attendees, whether your event is a festival, competition, jam, quiz night, or conference.

We encourage you to review these guidelines with your organizing team. Then, use our [Community Guidelines template](#) to tailor a version specific to your event. This customized version can be shared online before the event and distributed as printed materials on-site.

Notes and disclaimers:

- We are using the word **'safer'** instead of **'safe'** because we cannot guarantee that any event open to the public/in a public space will be safe.
- **Everyone's definition of a safe space is unique** and subject to change
- It should be the **responsibility of all individuals involved in organizing, attending, or participating in skate events to uphold these or similar. guidelines** through thoughtful and active participation in creating safer spaces. Allies are also an important part of this process rather than distributing all the responsibility and labor on non-traditional skaters and marginalized groups who may be most at risk.
- **As organizers of public events it is our responsibility to do everything we can to ensure that everyone feels welcome and able to participate.** We won't always get things perfect, though, which is why it is important to ask for feedback from attendees and team members. There is always room for improvement for next time.



Why is it important to have community guidelines?

- They demonstrate a conscious effort to create an event where **all attendees and workers/volunteers feel safe and heard**.
- To communicate that **everyone is welcome at your event**, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, physical appearance, body size, race, ability, religion, age, and any other personal conditions and choices.
- So that all attendees and staff know how to deal with/report an incident and who to go to if they feel unsafe or mistreated.
- Crucially, the guidelines give a good impression of what the event will be like, so that people can make informed decisions about whether they want/are able to attend — especially in terms of accessibility (more info below).
- Given that skate events are oriented towards an ever-growing and diverse skateboarding community, it is important that the guidelines are respected and encouraged in order to ensure a collective and welcoming environment.

In the designing and advertising of your event, we encourage organizers to:

- **Communicate respectfully about your event**, using language that is inclusive and free of stereotypes or derogatory terms.
- **Use diverse symbols when advertising your event** i.e. photos/illustrations of different body types, nationalities, abilities etc.
- Communicate the language the event will be held in and **inform people whether there will be comprehension support options**, such as subtitles/live interpretation, sign language interpreters, printed materials etc.
- **Find a suitable venue which is fully accessible**. In the case that this is not possible, **always provide accurate information of the accessibility of the space** when you first promote your event. That way, people can know from the outset if they are able to attend or fully participate.
- *For example: “The festival site is accessible by wheelchair and has accessible toilets in two locations. The skatepark is accessible and has a variety of low obstacles, although the bowl is not accessible. Participants should be aware that the festival site will be noisy with music (and skaters!) and there will be a large volume of people. We will, however, have a designated quiet space which will be indoors and will be open for the duration of the festival for people to wind down and regulate if necessary.”*
- **Consider having your event as a substance-free space** or controlled (in certain areas/after a certain time) environment, especially during family-friendly events, to maintain a safer space.



- **Create a document for recording incidents**, ensuring transparency and accountability while protecting the anonymity of the reporter.
- **Gather email addresses of all event attendees** (through a registration form or similar), so that you can send all attendees a [post-event feedback form](#). Alternatively, share a QR code linked to the feedback form at your event. Make sure to give the option for people to leave feedback anonymously.

For the duration of your event, we encourage organizers to:

- **Notify attendees where recording and photography will take place** (e.g. signage, announcements on PA, in registration forms and event promos) and especially for individual shots and one-on-one cases, seeking consent before initiating photos, or recording videos of others. If you have a registration table, you can also give people the option to wear a different colored name tag to indicate that they do not wish to be photographed/filmed.
- **Everyone to be welcoming and supportive**, especially to those who are new to the skateboarding community. Let's work together to ensure that everyone feels included and valued.
- Understand that **inclusive language is a learning process** and a new concept to many people. As the event organizers it is important for you to set the tone of inclusion: [try to call people in rather than calling them out](#); if you witness anyone using exclusionary language you can take them to one side see if they are open to engaging in a conversation about some terms which would be more inclusive.
- **Promote a respectful and clean environment** by ensuring that you have the appropriate waste bins and recycling collection areas. Where possible, be mindful of using sustainable materials for food and drink containers.
- **Have designated support people onsite for the entire duration of your event.** Make sure these people are easily recognizable and that attendees are aware that these are the people to notify in case of an incident or emergency. Many local councils/municipalities will have professional services which you may be able to hire for free for your event – in any case, it doesn't hurt to ask! If you will be relying on volunteers or your own team, see some guidance in the next section.
- **Ask for consent before initiating physical contact** (yes, even if you are a skate coach!) and being aware of giving people space regarding physical boundaries. Respect personal boundaries at all times and ask first if you are unsure about someone's boundaries.

- If your event involves skateboarding or any other physical activity, **have medical services available or team members trained in basic first aid.**
- **Provide emergency contact details** (e.g. local authorities, medical services) and the location of first aid stations.
- Use [injury waiver forms](#) (to ensure you are not liable if any injuries occur) and make sure parents/guardians sign for people under the age of 18.
- **Have gender-neutral bathroom facilities** if it's feasible.
- Consider using **anonymous comment boxes at the event itself or an online form** accessible throughout the event.

As a follow-up from your event, we encourage organizers to:

- **Conduct a post-event debrief** with all organizers and volunteers, to hear everyone's perspectives on what they thought went well and which aspects need improvement for next time.
- **Review all (if any) reported incidents** and discuss with your whole team the actions that were taken and ensure everything is recorded accurately. This documentation can also help to **improve future safety measures.**

We discourage organizers from:

- **Making assumptions based on appearance or identity.** For instance, if your event is specifically for non-traditional skaters and someone arrives in the space who you perceive isn't within this community, a way to manage this is letting everyone who arrives know who the event is intended for, and that way anyone who turns up can self-determine if it is an event for them or not.
- **Using underrepresented groups purely for promotional purposes without providing meaningful inclusion.** For instance, featuring diverse skaters in promotional materials but failing to create a welcoming environment for them at the event.

Guidance for safety protocols:

- **Designate a sufficient number of team members to be "Floor Angels".** The Floor Angels are **dedicated safe space keepers**; trained stewards who the attendees may approach if they feel unsafe or witness unsafe behavior. **Ensure that these people can be easily recognized.**
- Where possible, the **Floor Angels should be trained on [de-escalation techniques](#)** to handle heated situations calmly and effectively.
- Make sure you **communicate to attendees that it is not their responsibility to intervene in any situation they witness**, the best thing is always to report the incident to the Floor Angels, who will deal with it accordingly.



- **Allocate a safe phrase or code** that can be used for people who feel uncomfortable or unsafe reporting an incident, to discreetly ask for assistance. An example is “Ask for Angela”. Ensure volunteers and staff members at your event will understand this phrase so that the appropriate action can be taken.
- **All Floor Angels should be trained to follow a clear investigation process for dealing with reports of unsafe or exclusionary behaviour.** The first step should be to call the reported individual in and engage them in an open dialogue in a quiet space. The second step (for more serious or repeat incidents) should be to remove them from the event. The third step (for incidents with intent to harm) should be to immediately report to local authorities. In any of these cases, the person who reported the incident and the person who was subject of the report should be either kept aside or in company of two or more Floor Angels whilst the situation is dealt with.
- Always ensure the person reporting an incident that **their confidentiality will be respected** if they wish to remain anonymous.

Now we ask to hear your feedback and improvements for these Organizer Guidelines:

Our community guidelines are living documents that can be updated and modified locally as needed to better serve the diverse communities in skateboarding. Your input is valuable in this process. We welcome feedback and collaboration to continually improve the safety and inclusivity of how we as a community go forward.

Please share your ideas with us by emailing_info@goodpush.org

ROLL
models

Skate
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Planner

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GOODPUSH

RESPECT

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baby g
experience
sb