

## **Policies for Tango Colorado Teachers**

### **Purpose:**

It is Tango Colorado's intent to improve and maintain the floor craft, navigation and dance technique of Argentine Tango within the community by providing a clear and consistent, learning foundation necessary to achieve that goal.

Tango Colorado provides an opportunity for learning and dancing Argentine tango. We require teachers to follow the guidelines outlined by TC, incorporating fundamental social tango vocabulary, and technique. The goal is to enable all dancers to have a solid grounding in Argentine tango as a step towards further advancement in the dance.

In the spirit of inclusion, unity, and mutual appreciation, Tango Colorado offers your style of dance and teaching as one of many options. There are many ways people learn, so new dancers should sample as many styles of tango and teaching before they give up, or box themselves into a narrow way of dancing. You are expected to show respect toward other teachers' styles of dance and instruction.

### **1. Lesson Logistics:**

1.1 Arrive early enough to prepare. Please start and end class on time.

1.2 Introduce yourself and welcome the students on behalf of Tango Colorado. Please invite students to introduce themselves as well.

1.3 The teacher is in control of the music throughout the lesson. Please select music that has a clear, definable tango beat to help students hear and feel the rhythm

1.4. Minimize talking during the lesson and get the students dancing as much as possible.

1.5 You are encouraged to populate your lesson with your present and past students.

1.6 There will be various skill levels of the students: teach to everyone.

1.7 Review basic tango vocabulary and technique at the beginning of each class.

1.8 You are welcome to end each lesson with a brief demonstration of the material presented, and what's to come next week. This will help students to retain, review, practice and look forward to new material.

1.9 At the end of the lesson, a TC representative will welcome the students and give them some basic information about TC and the Practica.

1.10 We suggest you to remain after the lesson to answer individual questions, and encourage students to stay for the practica to reinforce their learning and enjoy the community mixer. This increases the likelihood they will return the following week.

## **2. Lesson Content:**

### **Fundamentals I**

2.0 Simple body warm up exercises such as stretching. Describe how strength and flexibility are essential for balance and maintaining one's axis for both leaders and followers in tango.

2.1 Weight change. The goal is for leaders to clearly communicate weight shifts and for followers to feel the weight shift by matching it with their own.

2.2 Floorcraft and walking in line of dance. Describe how line of dance is the way the dance flow order is maintained. Describe floor etiquette by establishing eye contact with couples when entering line of dance. Describe and practice the cabeceo in class.

2.3 Musicality/hearing, feeling and walking to the beat. Exercises to walk on the strong beat.

2.4 Embrace/explain open, close and practice embraces; encourage communication about comfort and sense of safety.

2.3 Connection/active following and active leading

Describe how connection in tango is achieved by slowing down rather than speeding up. How music and embrace provide opportunities to slow down and connect with your partner. Describe how each person is actively present to each other in the dance.

### **Fundamentals II**

2.6 Simple warm up exercises as described in Fundamentals I.

2.8 If you have returning students review tango vocabulary and technique taught in Fundamentals I.

2.9 Walking in cross and parallel systems

2.10 Pivoting & dissociation

2.11 Walking to the cross (La Cruzada)

2.12 Ochos

2.13 Molinete (Grapevine Turn)

2.14 Continued emphasis on floorcraft and safe navigation

## **3. Tango Colorado Membership:**

You must be a member of Tango Colorado in order to teach lessons at the TC Practicas.

#### **4. Tango Teaching:**

Experience:

Teachers should have experience presenting tango in a group setting. They need to convey information clearly and effectively. They should have the ability to engage as well as adapt to student groups that are comprised of different ages, backgrounds and abilities.

#### **5. Ongoing Education:**

Teachers need to be active learners and demonstrate that they are evolving and updating their own technique and skill levels. To be considered to teach at Tango Colorado, candidate teachers will be asked to provide a list of courses in their tango development over the last three months.

#### **6. Sound system certification at the Turnverein:**

If you are using the Turnverein's sound system when teaching at the Denver Practica, you must be certified in using the system by the Turnverein manager.

#### **7. Teacher Attitude & Compartment:**

We are looking for teachers who can provide a positive and enjoyable learning experience for those venturing to take their first step in Argentine Tango. This means being professional, sensitive, kind, appropriate, friendly and positive.

\*Please see "Code of Professional Conduct" under TC Policies and Docs, currently available by clicking on the Resources page of the TC website.

Tango Colorado teachers are outgoing, friendly and active members of the tango community and participate in, support, help, and promote Tango Colorado, its practicas and events.

#### **8. Documentation of Credentials:**

An application will be made available to anyone who would like to apply or to teach on behalf of Tango Colorado. These applications should be submitted to a board member and will be reviewed by the Board of Directors or its designees to determine whether applicants are qualified to teach for Tango Colorado and their position in the teacher rotation.

Please see Appendix A for a copy of the application.

#### **9. Teacher Scheduling and Pay Requirements:**

Tango Colorado takes a number of considerations into account when scheduling teachers: teachers who participate in, support, help out and promote Tango Colorado, its practicas and events, draw, availability, reliability, retention from week to week and qualifications.

Please commit to teaching only if you feel certain you will be able to honor the commitment for the full series. If you will not be able to teach during a period for which you committed, please notify as far in advance as possible. Please feel free to contact another accepted instructor for availability so, if necessary, you can recommend an accepted instructor substitute to the

The series consist of a 2 month commitment for Fundamentals I & II  
1 month commitment for Intermediate  
1 month commitment for Technique

After each lesson, it is the teacher's responsibility to sign-off on the number of students in each class. If he or she does not provide evidence of discrepancy in count, pay will be based on the number of students on the sign-in sheet at the front desk. Board members are allowed to take class for free.

When teaching for TC, be proactive by promoting your TC lessons on your website with a link to the TC website (per the TC link-link policy posted on our website) and using various social media, including the Tango Colorado Facebook page.

Teachers are also encouraged to invite the students to study beyond the TC practica classes with them or other teachers. Inform the students the importance of long-term, ongoing study to refine and learn the many nuances the tango has to offer, and the benefit of learning from a variety of teachers.

Teaching individuals or couples will be paid 50% of the class fee for the Fundamental I, Fundamental II and Intermediate classes. The Technique class pays \$5 per student. Typically, you will be paid during the first 2 weeks of the month following teaching. TC teachers are independent contractors.

Tango Colorado reserves the right to require teachers to give up to one class per month (usually Intermediate or Technique) to traveling teachers. TC teachers will be notified in advance.

## **Tango Colorado Teacher Application Form**

Please answer all of the questions below, preferably by editing a copy of this document and emailing your response to the Board at "TCBoard@tangocolorado.org". **Handwritten responses will be not accepted.**

Applying as an individual \_\_\_\_\_

Applying as a couple \_\_\_\_\_ (Please fill out TWO forms, one for each.)

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If applying as a couple, Partner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website connected to your tango teaching: \_\_\_\_\_

Specify other social media pages related to your tango teaching (e.g., Facebook):

### **Teaching Experience**

1. Where and when did you get your tango training?
2. How long did you train before beginning to teach?
3. How long have you been dancing and teaching tango?
4. Have you had an opportunity to dance tango in practicas and milongas in Buenos Aires?
5. Describe in a few sentences, how that experience does or does not inform your teaching experience.
6. Have you had an opportunity to teach at tango practicas and milongas at other tango cities apart from Buenos Aires? (e.g. New York City, San Francisco, Portland, Berlin, Paris, Istanbul, etc.)?
7. Describe in a few sentences, how those experiences do or do not inform your teaching experience.
8. Have you taught group lessons?

9. What is the average size of your classes?
10. Do you have any ongoing group classes now? When and where and how often?
11. Are you currently teaching private lessons?
12. Have you taught tango in other cities outside of Colorado? Where and what did you teach?  
(if available on your website, a link is sufficient).

### **Teaching Style**

1. In your opinion, what is the most important concept (not vocabulary i.e. figures and steps) for beginners to learn?
1. Describe your tango teaching "style".

### **Ongoing Training**

1. How do you continue to improve your dance and teaching skills ?

### **Testimonials**

Please attach 3 testimonials from former or current students, or from your teachers.

### **TANGO COLORADO MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION**

1. Are you a member of Tango Colorado?
2. I regularly (at least once a month) attend:  
\_\_\_ the TC Denver practicas?  
\_\_\_ TC Milongas/Events
3. Besides attending events, how do you to support Tango Colorado events and social dancing at the club?

Thank you for applying for a teaching position with Tango Colorado!

I certify that the above statements in this application are true and correct to the best of my ability.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: