

CONSENT POLICY

Fai Jai festival is dedicated to a culture of active, enthusiastic consent, grounded in community care, mutual respect and individual autonomy. In alignment with our core principles, we believe in co-creating event spaces where everyone can feel safe and empowered to set boundaries, express themselves freely, and hold each other accountable. Consent is central to every interaction from group activities to individual encounters, and is an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of respect, empathy, and solidarity.

Remember the F.R.I.E.S rules. Consent is only consent if:

- Freely given - without coercion or manipulation
- Reversible - consent can be given or withdrawn at any point
- Informed - All parties must know what they are consenting to
- Enthusiastic - If it's not a 'Heck Yes', it's a no.
- Specific - Consent is specific to a moment and activity, not a future

Flow arts, circus and movement practices can involve close proximity, high energy exchange and physical contact. Consent is essential, here is how we uphold it:

Active, and Ongoing Consent

Check in regularly, we encourage short 'consent checkpoint' pauses throughout group activities and workshops to allow personal reassessment of comfort levels. Consent can change based on energy, comfort or mood. Pay attention to body language and non verbal cues. Silence or hesitation isn't consent. When in doubt, ask directly.

Personal Boundaries and Respect for Autonomy

Everyone has the right to set personal boundaries for touch, space and communication. Respect everyone's physical and emotional boundaries and autonomy. This includes pronouns, names, personal space and limits on emotional and physical engagement. Do not assume anyone's gender identity, sexual preference, survivor status, economic status, background, health, etc. Ask first before touching, spotting or adjusting someone and listen and change your behavior if someone tells you that you are making them uncomfortable.

Consent to Watch / Record

Not everyone feels comfortable under intense focus or being recorded. Ask someone, before recording, if they consent. Ask someone, before sharing any footage of them, if they consent. If someone expresses discomfort with being watched, respect their space and enjoy their art from a respectful distance.

Alcohol and Substance Awareness

Flowing under the influence of any substance can impact awareness and judgement. In states of altered consciousness, it is crucial to keep consent top of mind. Prioritize caution, safety and clarity around any close contact interactions and only engage if everyone can give clear, informed consent. Respect the possibility that informed consent may not be possible. When in doubt, flow independently!

Emotional and Physical Safety in Art and Expression

Check in before discussing topics that might be triggering (e.g. sexual abuse, physical violence, racism, transphobia etc). Performance pieces with a political or social message, that reference, portray or comment on any potentially triggering topics must be carefully vetted beforehand. If accepted, the audience must be given the opportunity to give informed consent or exit. The same applies for performances with potentially triggering physical and pyrotechnic effects or lighting.

The right to exit a space or situation should be respected. No one is obligated to participate in any activity, conversation or interaction, regardless of previous consent. If someone feels uncomfortable or overwhelmed, respect their need to withdraw or take space without pressure or questioning.

Mutual Aid and Community Support

We encourage mutual aid as part of our consent culture! Support fellow festival attendees in maintaining a safe, respectful environment and look out for each other. If someone needs assistance, volunteer to help if you can, or connect them with others who can and are qualified to assist. However, don't assume someone wants hands on help or guidance. Clearly communicate before offering physical support, if someone says they are fine without help, do not insist, respect their choice.

Non Hierarchical Accountability

Accountability is community driven – not reliant on rigid authority figures and systems of punishment. We aim to practice it as a collective, through compassionate dialogue, active listening and self reflection. Each participant is responsible for their actions and open to being called in if boundaries are crossed. Be aware that your actions have an effect on others, despite what your intentions may be. If a boundary is crossed, communicate respectfully and listen openly. If you are called out for problematic behaviour, do not be defensive. Your intentions and character are not under attack, just the behaviour that is being challenged. Be open to learning and understanding the role your behaviour has in other people's experiences of oppression.

Our Conflict Support and Harm Reduction Team is available for support, mediation, conflict resolution, and incident reporting, if needed. We prioritise repair and rehabilitation, with remedial and restorative actions, not retribution. However, this is still subject to our Safer Spaces Norms and Code of Conduct. For more info on these processes check out C.o.C, SSN, CRF. RJF

By attending the Fai Jai Flow Fest, every participant is committing to upholding our value of consent and respect. We are all co-creating this space together, so your active participation is crucial. Let's flow together with fun, intention, trust, clarity and care!

*We acknowledge and thank Bass Coast, the NAC (neighbourhood anarchist collective), the Montreal Anarchist Bookfair Collective and Planned Parenthood for all their incredible work and their influence on our own consent policies.