

BVCA Code of Conduct – Attendance at events

The BVCA is committed to bringing members together in a professional environment to collaborate and network. It is important to the BVCA that everyone attending one of our conferences and events has a positive and rewarding experience and we invite all sponsors, volunteers, speakers, attendees and others ("Participants") to create a safe, respectful, and positive experience for everyone.

The BVCA has established this Code of Conduct to provide guidelines to Participants and to ensure that all Participants understand what behaviour is expected, and what behaviour will not be tolerated at an BVCA event. The BVCA expects all Participants to abide by this Code of Conduct at all events. This includes conference-related social events at off-site locations, and in related online communities and social media.

The BVCA will take all reasonable steps to provide a harassment-free and inclusive event experience for everyone regardless of gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disabilities, neurodiversity, physical appearance, body size, ethnicity, nationality, race, age, religion, or any other protected category. Participants asked to stop any harassing behaviour are expected to comply immediately.

Expected behaviour

The BVCA expects that Participants will:

1. Be considerate and respectful to all participants.
2. Refrain from demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behaviour, materials, and speech.
3. Speak up if they observe anything at an event that conflicts with this Code of Conduct. If you are being harassed or feel uncomfortable, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact a member of the BVCA event staff immediately.

Unacceptable behaviour

Unacceptable behaviour from any Participant will not be tolerated. Unacceptable behaviour includes, but is not limited to:

1. Intimidating, harassing, abusive, discriminatory, derogatory, or demeaning speech, materials, or conduct by any Participants of the event and related event activities.
2. Violence, threats of violence, or violent language directed against another person.

3. Sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic, or otherwise discriminatory jokes and language.
4. Personal insults, particularly those related to gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, or disability.
5. Inappropriate photography or recording.
6. Taking of photos within the event environment for use on social media, without the prior permission of the individuals or owners of the content therein.
7. Any boisterous, lewd, or offensive behaviour or language, including but not limited to using sexually explicit or offensive language, materials or conduct, or any language, behaviour, or content that contains profanity, obscene gestures, or racial, religious, or ethnic slurs.
8. Failure to obey any rules or regulations of the event venue.

Consequences of unacceptable behaviour

Unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated. Anyone asked to stop unacceptable behaviour is expected to comply immediately. If a Participant engages in unacceptable behaviour, the BVCA may take any action it deems appropriate, including warning or expelling the offender from the event with no refund. For more serious displays of unacceptable behaviour, the BVCA may, in its reasonable discretion, temporarily ban or permanently expel a Participant from the community.

What to do if you witness or are subjected to unacceptable behaviour

If you are subjected to unacceptable or unwelcome behaviour, notice that someone else is being subjected to unacceptable or unwelcome behaviour, or have any other concerns, please notify BVCA event staff or contact the BVCA Director General as soon as possible. BVCA event staff will be available to assist those experiencing unacceptable behaviour to feel safe for the duration of the event. All reports will remain completely confidential.

Thank you

This Code of Conduct is the product of the BVCA's commitment to support a welcoming, respectful, and collaborative community, and we thank our Participants for sharing our commitment.