



UK Performers Code of Conduct

- 1.** Once agreeing a fee and date, comedians and their agents have a responsibility to audiences and promoters, to keep to their diary commitments where humanly possible.
- 2.** Performers are expected to give the best performance of their abilities, unless a new material/preview/warm up slot has been agreed in advance. Acts should respect every gig, regardless of whether there are 2000 audience members or 2.
- 3.** Acts should arrive in plenty of time before their set, unless agreed otherwise with the promoter beforehand.
- 4.** If an act is running late, they should contact the promoter and/or the MC (if known) as soon as they realise there is a possibility they will be delayed.
- 5.** If an act is already performing a show on a night s/he is being booked for, s/he must inform the new promoter of the details at the time of the booking.
- 6.** The act should also inform the original promoter if taking a booking that may affect the agreed arrival time at the original show.
- 7.** Acts and MC's should always stick to their agreed slot lengths on stage, unless the promoter tells them it's ok to be flexible.
- 8.** If a performer runs significantly under time s/he might reasonably expect a conversation with the promoter about their fee, except in circumstances where a performer felt unsafe, or the show management or audience policing made a successful performance impossible.
- 9.** Acts should make the promoter aware of any special technical requirements as far in advance as possible.
- 10.** If a performer needs to cancel a performance for any reason then the promoter must be informed as soon as possible.
- 11.** If cancelling within a week of performance, the performer should offer to make reasonable efforts to find a suitable replacement for themselves, subject to any booking specifications the promoter has, unless the performer is unable to for reasons of emergency.
- 12.** Any replacement act found by the performer must be agreed with the promoter, before confirming with the replacement act.

- 13.** Cancelling within 48 hours of a performance should be an absolute last resort. The motive for cancellation must be reasonable and unavoidable
- 14.** An act headlining at a regional club should not cancel after posters have been printed with their name on, except in exceptional circumstances.
- 15.** An act should never steal another act's material.
- 16.** If a writer is stealing material and passing it to other comedians, those comedians should cease using that writer. Discussions about recompense may be expected.
- 17.** Acts must contribute fairly to petrol costs (unless a promoter has agreed to pay this) and respect the driver's car (eg by leaving it clean & tidy).
- 18.** When sharing a lift drivers will endeavour to drop fellow performers near home when convenient, otherwise at a place where further public transport can be safely accessed.
- 19.** The final decision about where to drop a fellow performer may be negotiated but, provided it is in accordance with the statement above, rests with the driver.
- 20.** Compères should always try to make the atmosphere as positive as possible for performers. Compères should comply with any request from any performer to be introduced in a specific way. Furthermore, the compère should not make any introduction, comment, facial expression, gesture or other perceptible sign to the audience that might create a negative impression based on the act's gender, sexuality, religion, beliefs, age, experience, disability or class – unless such introduction has been specifically requested by the act.
- 21.** Acts should seek their colleagues' permission before inviting friends backstage.
- 22.** Performers should not harass other comedians, staff or audience members.
- 23.** An act must never give a promoter's personal phone number to other acts without getting permission first. Assume the mobile number you have is a personal number unless you definitely know otherwise.
- 24.** Acts are expected to behave respectfully when seeking work and not plague promoters with calls. Take a hint if they're not calling back and leave it a while.
- 25.** This document will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.