



ABOUT US

Hello, and thanks for booking your big night out with us, whether you've booked privately or through an agency.

We're Riproar Comedy - the new brand of Jesters Comedy Club which was established in Bristol in 1995. As Jesters we've had plenty of household names perform at our venue during their days as circuit comedians. To name a few: Peter Kay, Bill Bailey, Catherine Tate, Russell Howard, Matt Lucas, Sarah Millican, Jimmy Carr, Shappi Khorsandi, John Bishop, Alan Carr, Mark Bridges and even Russell Brand. These days we continue to book the people we think that you'll be watching on tv very soon, much as we did when we booked the names above. The comedians we use are full-time professionals who gig all over the UK at the country's biggest and best clubs. This is our way of doing the best we can to ensure that you'll be paying to see the best that there is. Whilst we're a local, independent club, owned solely by people that live in Bristol, we very much punch above our weight when it comes to attracting the best acts on the circuit.

Our aim is to allow everyone that attends our comedy shows the opportunity to watch these comedians in a fantastic, intimate atmosphere.

As you're a large, (6 plus) predominantly single-sex group booking you become subject to our behaviour bond policy which we'd like to explain to you here.

First of all, don't panic. There is nothing onerous about this. It is designed to protect the interests of the show for all customers, and to protect you from any unruly group that may be disturbing your enjoyment of the show.

THE BOND ITSELF

Well run comedy clubs are a delight to be part of. We pride ourselves on making this so at Riproar. We also pride ourselves on making you feel safe and secure in an environment you can kick back, relax and laugh your socks off. If there was a group preventing you from doing any of this you'd want us to do something about it, right? Well that's where the bond comes into play.

The bond is a deposit only. It is important to understand that we're not trying to charge you extra ticket money, or penalise you for being a single sex group. All we ask is that each member of your group hands over £10 in cash upon arrival at the front desk which we will hold for you until you leave. We will give you a receipt for the total amount. You sign a copy of the bond (next sheet or overleaf) which forms a contract between you and us, offering your commitment to behave appropriately.

In 18 years of running comedy shows, taking an average of ten bonds per week, (some 9,300 in total), we have kept just nine in all that time. This is a record we're very proud of, and we hope it demonstrates to you that it is never our intention to keep your bond; we only ever do so as a final resort or to cover damage a group may have caused.

That's it really. There's a bunch of FAQs and answers on the right. It should cover everything you need to know. If not, call us on 0117 985 6767 between 12 and 5pm during the week, or email us at info@riproarcomedy.co.uk

FAQs

We're a group of (*insert perceived-high-status-profession here*), older gents/ladies on the stag/hen's fifth wedding etc etc. Why do WE need to pay the bond - we're bound to be well behaved?

Clearly it would be prejudicial of us to make a judgment call about any group based on their perception of who they are. So we just don't. If you are predominantly a single sex group, we will ask for the bond regardless.

What do you mean by 'predominantly'?

A 70/30 split in favour of either sex. If there are 20 of you and 14 or more are either men or women, you will EACH need to deposit £10.

It's a comedy club, so surely we can heckle?

By all means - we fully expect you to be able to interact with the compere's questions, or make the odd jibe to other comedians. What we're trying to avoid is the drunken idiot that won't shut up. We also don't tolerate one group trying to dominate the evening at everyone else's expense. Please be aware that stand-up comedy is NOT meant to be a gladiatorial contest between the comedian and audience and we will make our best efforts to ensure that any audience member does not try to make this so.

Is it okay to talk while the comedians are performing?

Simply put, no. Chatting amongst yourselves while comedians are performing will disturb and irritate those around you. It is very common for people to believe that they are talking quietly and not disturbing anyone. Trust us - this is almost never true. If you really need or prefer to chat while the comedy is on, please do so outside performance space where you won't be heard. The same applies to phone calls and texting.

How many warnings will we get before we lose our bond?

Our security team is well-versed in letting you know when you're disturbing others' enjoyment. You will be asked a number of times before we have to consider our other options. Often it is just one or two in a group that are the problem, so we may just ask them to leave to allow the rest of your group to stay on at no penalty. If it is time to ask your whole group to leave we will usually give you the option to leave amicably and peacefully. Providing you do so we will return your bond and wish you a good night.

What else can we lose our bond for?

The things you would most likely expect, such as fighting (even amongst yourselves), persistent rudeness or aggressive behaviour towards other customers or our staff, damage to the venue, vomiting anywhere in the venue, (other than into a toilet pan), or doing anything else that is anti-social, annoying to others, or we deem inappropriate for the venue.

What if we absolutely don't want to pay your behaviour bond?

It is a condition of your booking as a predominantly single-sex group that you pay the bond. Your refusal to do so will mean we will refuse entry on the night of the show regardless of how many tickets you have booked and what you have paid for them. Should you refuse, we will not provide refunds or credits of any sort. Please only book tickets for your group if you are ALL prepared to pay the bond

How do we get our bond back at the end of the night?

Just ask one of the security or the duty manager.

THE RIPROAR BEHAVIOUR BOND CONTRACT

1. I understand, agree and accept the following:

That as a large (six or more), predominantly single sex group, we are subject to a behaviour bond deposit of £10 per person, payable in cash upon arrival at the club's reception, and before we will be allowed into the main part of the venue. There is no facility for taking this payment by card, and the venue absolutely will not accept a cheque.

If our group is larger than 5 and weighted more than 70/30, in favour of one gender we will all be required to pay the bond.

This behaviour bond is a condition of our booking, and we will not be allowed into the venue until it has been paid in full, in cash. Claiming not to know about the bond, is not an excuse or reason we will be allowed not to pay it. We understand that we will NOT have ticket monies or pre-paid meal monies returned, should we refuse to sign this contract and pay the bond in full.

(Note: Whether you booked online, via telephone with us, or via an events agency, every booking channel we use identifies large single sex groups, and explains this bond to them, either verbally, or in writing and in most cases, both).

2. We agree that during the show we will NOT:

Persistently heckle the comedian trying to perform.

Talk amongst ourselves whilst a comedian is performing.

Photograph or film any part of any comedian's performance.

Chant, sing, bang the tables, walk on the tables, or damage the venue's fixtures and fittings in any way, at any time during the evening, not just during the show.

Act aggressively or rudely to any member of the club's staff or security team at any time.

Unduly upset or disturb other members of the audience, in any way at all. This is not exclusive to just talking whilst the comedians are performing.

3. Whilst the comedians are performing we agree to:

Turn our mobile phones to silent, or off.

Step outside of the auditorium area, if we wish to text or talk on our phones, or talk to anyone else.

Listen to and act upon any instructions given by the club's security team if we are transgressing any of the bond's requirements.

If we are asked to be quiet because we are talking too loudly, we agree to comply. *Note: This is the most frequent reason we have for addressing any audience member while the show is underway.*

4. We accept that we will lose our bond deposit if:

We persist in talking amongst ourselves whilst the show is underway and refuse to comply with requests to desist.

Generally, we breach any of the agreements in section 2 previously.

More specifically:

We cause, or are involved in, a fight with any other audience member, member of staff, or security. By 'fight' we mean any act of aggression or violence.

We refuse to leave the club if asked to do so.

Any member of our party vomits in the club area.

Any member of our party is caught defacing, tagging, or damaging any part of the venue, or its fixtures or fittings. Under these circumstances, if our bond does not cover the full cost of repair, we will be charged for the difference, and the venue will pursue legal channels to this end if needs be.

Any member(s) of our party is (are) found in areas of the club marked 'Private' or in areas designated only for staff or comedians.

Note: We usually give disruptive parties the option to leave amicably upon return of their bond. This is always our last resort after repeatedly asking them to desist from the activity that has caused us to ask them to leave. Failure to comply at this point will mean that we eject forcibly, and keep the bond.

DATE OF SHOW.....

GROUP NAME & SIZE.....

SIGNATURE.....

I sign as group leader and take full responsibility for the behaviour of my party at all times whilst in the venue.

PRINT NAME.....

TOTAL BOND AMOUNT £.....

SIGNED BY CLUB MANAGER.....

NAME OF CLUB MANAGER.....