

A Void Collective Etiquette Guide

A simple list of things we'd like to happen to make the whole event fun for everyone.

1. Please don't book another gig in Northampton in the same week. We live or die on attendance, and splitting your audience could stop us altogether.
2. Please try to be on time for the soundcheck. We'll try to ensure we don't ask you to turn up four hours before we need you, so please do your best to be on time. If something happens and you can't be there, please let us know.
3. When soundchecking, please listen to what the sound person has to say; it will make the whole process much quicker and more effective. Also, please don't use the soundcheck to rehearse your entire set. Ideally, you'll be able to get everything done within a couple of songs. Remember, if you're taking a long time to soundcheck, that time is being denied to the bands who haven't had a chance yet, and that stolen time can soon add up to the last band (usually the opening act) not getting to soundcheck at all, which isn't fair.
4. When you play, please stick to the time you've been given. We try to give everyone the same amount because everyone is equally important, so don't steal minutes from your fellow musicians.
5. When you are done, please pack up as quickly as you can. If you want someone to give you a helping hand, just ask one of the organisers, and we'll do what we can!
6. Please be patient while waiting for the previous band to clear the stage. Do not get onto the stage to start setting up until they are clear of it. Looming over someone as they try to pack up a pedalboard will do nothing but create anxiety - don't do it. As with point 5, help can be given if you need it.
7. When it comes to lending equipment, we adopt the rule "If you break it, you replace it or get it fixed". If you want to borrow that valve amp be sure to ask before the show, then listen when the owner shows you how to use it, and be sure you can afford to fix it if you break it. We'll be on hand to help if something goes wrong, including restringing guitars if necessary (we'll probably be able to chuck you a spare so you can complete your set).
8. We're not going to provide a 'green room' for a reason—too often, bands spend the whole evening in there and don't support the other acts (and eat/drink the entire rider). That doesn't create a community, and we *want* to create a community of mutually respectful and supportive musicians.
9. We'll do our best to record the show if possible. Please don't be upset if the result isn't like 'Later... with Jools Holland', we're not the BBC.
10. At the end of the evening, please ensure you only take your stuff home with you. Any cables that aren't yours are not up for grabs, and there's nothing nice about stealing.
11. If you've used another band's drum kit, help their drummer get it to their car at the end of the evening. Don't leave them to do all the work. In fact, that applies to all shared gear - help if you've been helped.
12. Please be respectful if there are quieter acoustic acts on the bill, it's not nice to play to a room filled with loud conversations. We'd really like you to hang out and support all the other acts, but if you can't, please go and talk away from the stage.
13. Some bands will get their audience moving, and that's great, but we all need to be aware of others in the audience. If your audience starts slam dancing or moshing, please remind them to be conscious of those around them. We've had audience members falling into innocent bystanders in the past and it's not cool. Spatial awareness costs nothing and no one should feel unsafe at a gig.
14. If someone has to leave early, don't give them a hard time - you don't know why they're going so just accept they've got a reason.
15. Lastly, be nice to everyone, and everyone will be nice to you.