

GALWAY BUSKERS' COMMUNITY CODE OF CONDUCT

AIM:

To take into consideration the needs, well being, responsibilities and contributions of Galway City Buskers, (Street Performers, Entertainers, Musicians and Artists) in relation to busking and its impact on the community as a whole. It is widely recognised that busking is a vibrant and valuable cultural contribution to the public realm. The Galway Buskers' Community wishes to continue the positive and historically established tradition of busking in our city, for the benefit and enjoyment of all. To this end, we have agreed upon and adopted the following code of conduct:

1. In accordance with existing Galway City Bye Lawsⁱ, Street Performance shall only be permitted between the hours of 9 AM and 10 PM during winter months (Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. March); and between the hours of 9 AM and 11 PM during spring/summer/autumn months (April, May, June, July, August, Sept. and Oct).
2. The maximum performance time in any one spot (pitch) shall be two hours. After two hours, a street performer must move to another available pitch if they wish to continue performing, in consideration of local business staff, residents and other buskers. It is important to note that dispensation may be given to certain acts on an individual and responsible basis.
3. Street performers shall respectfully adhere to a queuing system for spots (pitches). This means if busker 'B' wishes to play in an occupied pitch, they will approach busker 'A' (respectfully), and ask when they are finished (the max. time being 2 hours). Busker 'B' will then come back at the agreed time, or wait if it is a short time. If someone else, (Busker 'C') has already asked busker 'A' go next, then Busker B will come back when Buskers C is performing, and ask if they may go after them, and so on. If a performer needs to leave early, then it would be a courtesy to let the next performer know. If a spot is left empty, it is free to play in, regardless of any prior arrangements made.
4. Street Performers shall keep entrances and fire and emergency exits of any business or residence clear and accessible, to the best of their ability.
5. Street Performers shall, to the best of their ability, manage any crowd or audience that gathers to watch their show; endeavouring to ensure that the street is passible and their performance causes no obstructions, as per point four.
6. Regarding audio acts (i.e. music and vocals, whether acoustic or amplified, or acts with backing tracks), sound shall be kept at a level that shall not extend further than 35m away, with consideration given to the specific location and time (i.e. be quieter on smaller and/or less populated streets, and quiet times of day).
7. Street Performers shall be considerate of other performers, setting up no closer than 35m away from another performer, with consideration given to points 4, 5, and 6 above.
8. Street Performers shall be considerate of local businesses and residents, and will endeavour to foster good relationships between all parties concerned, welcoming feedback and communication regarding the shared public space.

This Code of Conduct shall be adhered to and promoted by the Galway City Busking Community, with consideration given to the community at large, and the public realm. We welcome feedback and engagement from all buskers, businesses and the public.

Thank You.

The Galway Buskers' Community

'Our art, our streets, our responsibility.'

ⁱ Galway City Council Street Performance (Prohibited Periods) Bye-Law 2011