

Submission by: Michael McCrory

Galway City Street Performers Code of Conduct

Galway City Council recognises that street performance and busking are time honoured art forms which enhance the attractiveness and colour of the City. They make an important contribution to our cultural life and are greatly enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Galway is renowned for its artistic and cultural life and Galway City Council actively encourages performers to showcase their talent in the City.

The Council is also committed to providing an accessible, safe and welcoming environment for all who live in, work in or visit Galway City. While acknowledging the valuable contribution street performance and busking make to the vitality of the City, the Council also recognises the importance of having in place a means of maintaining the amenity and ambiance of the public realm and to minimise complaints and other issues that arise.

Freedom of expression and assembly are protected by the Irish Constitution. As such, this Street Performers Code of Conduct provides a framework to assist Street Performers, businesses, visitors and residents alike in enjoying these rights in a manner consistent with overall public interest.

1. Pitches may not be saved by early arrival. A Performer must begin performing once the pitch is established. The maximum time a Performer may use a pitch is 2 hours.
2. Performers cannot monopolize a pitch. If another Performer requests your pitch, you must relinquish your pitch to the new Performer within 90 minutes of the request. If a Performer must stop performing because of inclement weather at the pitch and does not abandon the pitch, the Performer may resume performing at that pitch once the weather permits, subject to the maximum performance time allowed.
3. A Performer shall not perform within 50 metres of another performer. When a Performer relocates it must be to a different pitch at least 50 metres from his or her previous location.
4. Amplifiers must be kept at a reasonable volume and must not be so loud as to interfere with nearby street performances, or as to create a nuisance.
5. Doorways to shops must be kept clear by Performers and their audience. It is the Performer's duty to reasonably inform their audience of this.
6. In accordance with the Street Performers (Prohibited Periods) Bye Laws 2011, Street Performance is prohibited between the hours of 10.00 pm and 9.00 am during the months of November, December, January and February, and between the hours of 11.00 pm and 9.00 am during the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September and October.
7. Street Performers may not charge members of the public a fee but may receive donations for their performance. Persistent or aggressive solicitation of donations is not permitted.
8. **A Street Performer's failure to comply with this code of conduct may constitute an offense under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 (Noise) Regulations, 1994 (S.I. No. 179/1994) or other applicable law and may subject the performer to sanction up to and including a fine or arrest.**