

Let's Play

PRIVATE PLAY PARTY GUIDELINES

BAD GIRLS
PORTLAND



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About These Guidelines

Wow, it's been a helluva time since the last Bad Girls public play party in February 2020. We have been grappling with how to keep ourselves and others safest – first in the midst of a global pandemic and then Monkeypox and now RSV.

While the things we do are not inherently safe, we want to work at being safer playing together. To that end, Bad Girls presents you with this list of guidelines for designing and hosting your own private play party.

THESE GUIDELINES ARE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT FOLKS OF ANY GENDER IN HOSTING A PARTY ANYWHERE. MOST SUGGESTIONS ARE GEARED TOWARD A PARTY HAPPENING IN A PRIVATE RESIDENCE.

IMPATIENT? NEUROSPICY?

SKIP TO THE CHECKLIST FOR A QUICK-TO-READ SET OF STEPS. THEN COME BACK AND READ THE FLAVOR TEXT. IT'S GOOD STUFF, YOU WON'T REGRET IT.

THIS IS A LIVING DOCUMENT.

IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE UPDATED AS WE LEARN HOW TO IMPROVE IT.

THIS IS THE JANUARY 2023 VERSION.

COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS? CHAIR@PDXBADGIRLS.NET

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Decide on the Basics

START WITH THE BASIC CONCEPT.

WHAT KIND OF PARTY DO YOU WANT TO THROW?



If you had a magic wand and could zap the perfect party into existence, what would the guests remember most about it?

Do they remember what a playful and fun time they had laughing, learning, and playing alongside other friends in your living room?

Perhaps you want to create a memorable high protocol evening of fine spirits and cigars.



A black-tie formal affair.

Kinky camping with 8 D/s couples you *kind of* know.

Almost anything can work as long as everyone has the same understanding and expectations.

DECIDE ON THE OVERALL TONE OF THE PARTY

Formal and informal can both work, along with every style in between. The space you have to work with will impact what type of tone you can achieve and at what cost.



It's not impossible to throw a black-tie event in your cousin's empty hay field; however, it will take you a lot more time and money to do this to the standard you want.

If you're new to throwing parties, keep it as simple as you can.

Keep It Simple

AN INFORMAL, FRIENDLY PLAY PARTY CAN BE A NICE STARTING PLACE IF YOU'RE JUST DEVELOPING YOUR PLAY PARTY HOSTING CHOPS.

INFORMAL GENERALLY MEANS LESS EXPENSIVE DÉCOR AND REFRESHMENTS.

INFORMAL PARTIES ARE ALSO MORE ACCESSIBLE TO GUESTS SINCE THERE IS NO FORMAL DRESS CODE TO MEET.

INFORMAL PARTIES ARE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO NEWER PLAYERS SINCE THERE IS LESS NUANCED PROTOCOL TO KNOW IN ADVANCE.



Party Logistics

THE SPACE YOU HAVE TO WORK WITH & THE PEOPLE YOU WANT TO INVITE

The first decision you have to make as the party host is whether or not you'll be playing at the party. All other decisions flow from there.

You *can* throw a party and also play at the party - this will be easiest to do if you have a co-host and a small guest list.

SPACE CONSIDERATIONS

The space you have to work with is going to shape a lot of decisions about your party. Start with these basics:

- How many people can comfortably fit?
- Will there be private play spaces or large group(s) only?
- Will you create "stations" or otherwise designate specific play spaces?
- Are any spaces completely off limits?
- Will there be a social/snack area away from play?
- Is the play space within view of the front door?

TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS (BEFORE THERE'S A PROBLEM)

This isn't as hard as you might think.

Tell them your improv troupe is coming over to rehearse. Your historical reenactment friends are coming over for a party. You just took up LARPing or you're holding a scream contest.

There are lots of plausible reasons to be a noisy neighbor.

Give them a phone number to contact you at and encourage them to text also. Make it easy to contact you instead of the authorities.

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Guest List

WHO IS INVITED?

HOW MANY?

Start with your kinky (and/or sex-positive) friends and well known community members. The more people you already know, the fewer people you have to screen.

Consider how many of your friends might come with their own play partner. How many are likely to come looking to play with someone? Decide whether you want to try to keep a balance.

Some hosts like to balance the numbers of tops and bottoms, and know who switches.

WHO ISN'T INVITED?

Remember to tell your guests who is not invited.

Can they bring a last minute guest?

Can that guest be of any gender?

Are all identities and orientations to power welcome?

(Dominant, submissive, puppy, pig, etc.)

Do all guests need to be vouched for?

What does *vouched for* mean to you?

Is there a dress code?

It's perfectly fine to have types of play or power dynamics that aren't invited to the party. You just have to be clear about it in advance.*

*Obviously we do not mean it's okay to be a bigoted jerk.

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Refreshments & Supplies

AN ACCESSIBLE SNACK TABLE MAKES EVERYONE HAPPY

Unless you know everyone in your group's food allergies, it's best to aim for a mix of snacks that are safe to most people.

Have at least a few snacks that accommodate:

- Gluten free and dairy free
- Soy free
- Tree nut and peanut free
- Egg free

In general folks at play parties want a mix of protein (lunch meat, cheese, hummus, beans, nuts) and sugars (fruit, candy, baked goods, juice boxes).

Provide lots of water.

BE CLEAR WHO IS PROVIDING THE SUPPLIES

Many supply needs are related to your house rules.

If there will be sex at the party, are you providing the safe sex supplies? If you are, make sure to include latex free options.

Are you providing sheets, towels, and other surface coverings or should your guests bring them?

Are there any things guests should bring to ensure they have a good time?

Provide disinfectant appropriate to the types of surfaces in your play space. You may need both spray and wipes.

House Rules

Creating your house rules is one of the most fun and self-reflective parts of party hosting. It's the part that asks you to put aside the things you *like* and *dislike* and to consider what is acceptable within the space you are creating.

SOBER OR NAH?

Many party hosts choose a somewhat moderate path of allowing beer/cider/wine and excluding hard alcohol during the party. Decisions also have to be made about cannabis use.

Whatever you decide, make sure that all partygoers are aware of the rules and expectations around sobriety well in advance.

SEX

If you determine that sex will be allowed at your party you will also need to decide whether sex without barriers is permitted. Be specific.

RISK

Your tolerance for risk will shape many of the house rules for your party. Knives, candles, fire, punching, medical play - these all increase the level of risk at your party. Be clear about blood, urine, scat, and penetration of any kind.

SCENTS

Are scents (perfume, cologne, etc.) allowed within your play space?

Expectations & Conduct

Clearly communicate your expectations around how people can succeed at having a good time at your party.

TIMING

Have a set time that the door will be locked. No one is allowed in after this time. This is especially important if you plan to play at your own party.

Will you be doing introductions and icebreakers? If so, it may be disruptive for folks to arrive after that.

Are there other specific timebound events guests should be aware of in advance?

SOCIALIZATION

Where should people chat and eat that will have the least disruption to ongoing scenes? Is play allowed in that space? Is there a quiet space?

CONFIDENTIALITY

Generally speaking, what happens at the party stays at the party. Make sure you tell people if that's your expectation.

Are phones/cameras allowed?

DON'T BE A JERK

We hope no one will be a creep. Be clear about what happens if someone doesn't behave according to the party standard. Consider whether you want to share your "jerk list" with other local party hosts.

Party Checklist

WHEN YOU JUST WANT TO GET STARTED

The Basics

- Tone or theme
- Dress code

Logistics

- Is the host playing?
 - If yes, who is co-hosting?
 - If yes, keep your guest list small!
- Space Considerations
 - How many people can fit? Comfortably?
 - Private play spaces or large groups only?
 - Stations? Designated play spaces? Free for all?
 - Any spaces off limits? Make signs.
 - Social/snack area away from play?
 - Play space within view of the front door?
- Talk to the Neighbors
- Guest List
 - How many? Tell everyone.
 - Who is/not invited? Be explicit.

Refreshments

- Plan for allergy-friendly snacks.
- Include protein. Include sugar.
- Water. Should people bring a water bottle from home?

Supplies

- Host provides or BYO?
- Surface coverings - sheets and towels.
- Disinfectant appropriate to the surfaces in your space.
- Have supplies that support your rules:
 - If sex allowed, have safe sex supplies.
 - If medical play allowed, have sharps containers, etc.

Expectations

- Time
 - What time are icebreakers and intros?
 - What time is the door locked for the night?
- Social Spaces
 - Is there a no-play or social-only space? Label it.
 - A quiet space? Label it.
- Confidentiality
 - Be explicit about what you mean and expect. No "Vegas rules."
- Accountability
 - Have accountability measures for being a jerk, such as being asked to leave and disinvited from future events.

