

# Basic Rules for Improv Workshop

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## **Play by the rules**

*We are playing games. Games are only fun if everyone plays by the same rules.*

*A player who consistently ignores the rules will be asked to sit out until they are ready to play fair.*

## **Yes and (Agreement)**

*Whenever players are on stage they agree with each other and forward each others ideas.*

*For example If player A says "Hi I'm from Mars," and Player B says "No you're not," the scene goes nowhere. If instead Player B accepts player A's initiation and then forwards it (Oh good, I'm from Pluto and I'm a little lost."), the scene can go an infinite number of places.*

## **Any idea is a good idea**

*There are no right or wrong answers. And you don't even need to have an idea you can just walk onstage and see what happens.*

## **Anyone can do it**

*You don't need to have "talent" or any acting experience to be a good improviser. The big trick is to listen as much as you can to your fellow players and build on their ideas.*

## **Keep your focus on the players**

*When you are onstage/playing a game your attention should be on your fellow players.*

*When you are watching/being audience your attention should be on the players.*

*We will want to know what you observed while you were watching.*

## **Brown Bag Fouls**

*Toilet humor lacks creativity. In ComedySportz if audience members make crude suggestions, they get a "Brown Bag Foul," and have to sit in the audience with a brown paper bag over their head.*

*We won't be putting paper bags on anyones head! But, Brown Bag Fouls are not allowed in workshop. If a player repeatedly makes crude jokes they may have to sit out for a bit.*

## **Being Audience**

*Full participation is expected, however if someone is feeling very fearful they can choose to be audience (instead of actor/player). When you are being audience you are participating by staying focused on what's happening, observing closely and sharing what you notice.*

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