

## **Detroit Bondage Club Parties Rules of Play**

1. We play secure\*, sane\*, consensual\*, and with respect. (see definitions section for words marked with an asterisk)
2. Our parties involve safer sex\* only. Condoms are available. Please bring your own lube, gloves, or other safer sex gear.
3. Respect limits. Ask bottoms what they are and are not into before playing; it's a good icebreaker as well a source of information for more enjoyable play for all.
4. Ask before touching. If a Top\* and bottom\* are playing, ask the Top before touching. Never interrupt a scene without permission from the Top. If you are concerned about the direction of a scene, please bring it to the attention of the party hosts.
5. Ask before using someone else's rope, toys, or equipment.
6. Keep talk and comments at a low volume. Noise can be distracting for those playing. Good bondage creates a connection between the Top and the bottom, shifting their mindset into their play scene.
7. If you want to play with someone, ask if he would like to <fill in the activity you're interested in>. Our parties attract both experienced and novice players. We don't want to push someone just starting to explore their BDSM interests into play too fast and scare them from exploring further.
8. For our parties, "stop" is a universal safeword\*. Players may employ other safewords or signals agreed on before they start playing. *Respecting limits includes stopping play as soon as a bottom uses a safeword.* Safewords do not replace good communication between a Top and bottom before and during play. It is OK for bottoms to inform Tops if restraints are too tight when they are being tied up. It is also OK to ask the Top to loosen restraints during play if they are uncomfortable. Remember, if a bottom is worrying about the tingling in his wrists and hands more than in his cock, it makes for a bad experience all around.
9. Offer the bottom water at times during a scene. This helps the bottom stay hydrated and not get overheated.
10. Clean up play equipment and area after use. Sanitation wipes are available.
11. Ask for permission before taking pictures. This includes asking those in the background.
12. For legal reasons, you must be 21 or older to enter our playspace.
13. No illegal drugs allowed.

### *Definitions*

Each of these terms could have a multi-page essay written about them. Here are quick definitions of what we mean when we use these terms in the rules.

- Secure** The mantra of BDSM play for decades has been “safe, sane, and consensual.” We used the word “secure” to include play that is physically, mentally, and psychologically safe and that gives the bottom a feeling of security that he is in good hands and restrained in ways that will not harm him or fail.
- Sane** Often, “sane” refers to being in a sober state of mind before entering into play and not taking advantage of someone who isn’t.
- Consensual** While we play in scenes where a bottom is restrained and “forced” to endure pain or perform sex, this play is only possible because a bottom has consented to it before beginning. If at any point the bottom wishes to stop, he has the right to use his safeword to stop play and the Top must respect his wishes.
- Safer sex** With all the risks to health posed by some forms of sex, BDSM is one of the safest sex practices because bodily fluid exchange is rare. That said, using condoms and other latex barriers are the best ways to limit the transmission of disease, though they aren’t not 100% effective.
- Top** Generally the person directing a scene, applying restraints, tying rope, and in penetrative sex (sorry for the clinical term) doing the penetrating.
- Bottom** Generally the person in bondage and receiving sexual penetration.
- Safeword** Even with Tops and bottoms who’ve played together before, sometimes a Top exceeds the bottom’s ability to continue with play. A bottom, having respect for himself and the Top, will say a pre-arranged safeword aloud to let the Top know that he needs to stop or a pause in the action. A Top, also having respect for himself and the bottom, will immediately stop play and check with the bottom about what he needs.