

# The “Be Respectful” Rehearsal Rules

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On the next page you will find 5 Rehearsal Guidelines that, if enforced, will significantly limit the “disrespectful” behaviors that negatively impact the flow of a rehearsal.

Constructing the perfect guidelines can be difficult and time consuming. The 5 guidelines that I chose to encourage “Respectful” behaviors might not be the exact 5 guidelines that your program needs. Perhaps your group has evolved and no longer has an issue with one of the specifically addressed behaviors. Maybe one behavior needs to be addressed even more specifically than how I phrased it. As a result, there are 17 additional guidelines that cover many varying behaviors that can help to embody a “respectful” ensemble in varying situations.

*As explained in the article, **“BE RESPECTFUL” is a Bad Rehearsal Rule.***

## Here are the 5 Guidelines for properly choosing our Classroom/Rehearsal Rules:

1. *Both the director and all students must truly understand WHY choir rules exist*
2. *Limit the amount of rehearsal rules to approximately 5*
3. *Use the rehearsal rules To address only the most important concerns*
4. *Avoid negativity*
5. *Make every rule specific and enforceable*

## **Why is “Be Respectful” a Bad Rehearsal Rule?**

Don't get me wrong, “respect” IS something that we should strive for within our ensemble. It is extremely important. The issue is that “respect” is a general behavior; a specific behavior presents itself with clarity among all students and adults equally. As explained in Guideline #5, if we, the teacher, have to use our mental energy to evaluate whether a student is being respectful before administering a penalty, we are taking away from our teaching. The differing views on RESPECT can also lead to verbal disagreements between teacher and student, as the definition can be murky; we would be forced to explain what behavior struck us as disrespectful, which would probably lead the students to explain why what they did was not intended to be disrespectful. Instead, if we address the specific behaviors that we view as disrespectful, we will instill “respect” in our ensemble.

***If it is NOT clear to EVERY STUDENT whether a rule is actually broken or not, it is not a good rule.***

## **5 Rehearsal Guidelines for Having a Respectful Rehearsal**

- 1. Follow directions the first time they are given**
- 2. Please keep your hands and feet to yourself**
- 3. Please raise your hand and wait for permission if you wish to leave your seat**
- 4. Please raise your hand and wait for permission if you wish to speak**
- 5. You may have only your choir materials out during the entire rehearsal**

### **Additional Rehearsal Rules that follow the 5 Guidelines**

These additional rehearsal rules are listed for the purpose of demonstrating both a positive and clear way to address specific behavioral issues. Every rule below would be easily enforceable because there is no gray area. As a result, we do not have to stop our train of thought while teaching to figure out if an infraction has taken place. The total number of rehearsal rules should be 4-6.

- 6. This is a cell-free classroom**
- 7. You must ask for permission in order to have your cell phone out for any reason**
- 8. Please be on time to class**
- 9. Please be seated in your assigned seat before the bell**
- 10. Please place all of your non-choir related belongings under your seat before the bell rings. This includes cellular phones.**
- 11. Please raise one finger if you need permission to leave the room**
- 12. Please wait for the director's direction before you pack up your belongings**
- 13. Please wait for the director's direction for dismissal**
- 14. Please enter the room and find your seat quietly**
- 15. If you are late, please enter the room quietly and immediately find your seat**
- 16. When you hear the sound of the piano, please stop what you are doing to listen**
- 17. Please come prepared with your music and a pencil**
- 18. Please sit in the proper body alignment (as taught in class)**
- 19. Please stand using the proper body alignment (as taught in class)**
- 20. Water is the only acceptable permitted beverage**
- 21. All food must be finished outside the rehearsal room. This includes chewing gum**
- 22. Please keep all food, including chewing gum, outside of the classroom**