

BOX TIE STUDIO, LLC SUSPENSION POLICIES

1. We are implementing a “color card” system to ensure that those who do not have the minimum skills required to tie or bottom for suspensions are not tying (or bottoming) above their skill level. This is to reduce the risks of something going wrong and somebody getting hurt. You must display your card while doing any scenes on a hard point. If you lose your card, you may ask for a replacement.
 - Tops and self-suspenders: You are required to be vetted in order to do full or partial suspensions. Vetting consists of you doing a partial or full suspension while being evaluated by a Box Tie Studio owner or designated representative. They will assign you a color card based on the result: red for “requires supervision,” yellow for “passes - partials,” and green for “passes - full suspensions.” If you do not get the color card you’d hoped for, you are welcome to try again after improving your skills.
 - Bottoms: You are also required to be vetted in order to be suspended. New and inexperienced bottoms with no rope experience and who have not attended a bottoming class will get a cream/beige card and may not be suspended. Bottoms who have taken a rope bottoming class and who have some floor rope experience and/or 5 or fewer suspensions will get a blue card and may be suspended; however, the top should be extra cautious about the type of suspension they do together, and dungeon monitors (DMs) should pay extra attention to how the scene is going. Bottoms who have taken a bottoming class and who have significant floor rope experience and/or greater than 5 suspensions will get a purple card and may be suspended without supervision.
 - Switches: You are required to have a color card for any suspension activity you do. This means you may need to get two cards, one for topping/self-suspending and one for bottoming.
2. The event organizers and designated dungeon monitors (DMs) reserve the right to end any suspension at any time for any reason, and they also have final say over who is permitted to use the hard points and for how long.
3. Please do not monopolize the hard points; try to keep your scenes to a reasonable length of time and do not do back-to-back scenes on one hard point. If they are in use please be patient. If you feel one is being monopolized, speak up! If you wanted to use one and did not get the chance, please let one of the organizers know and they will try to make sure you get first dibs for the next event you come to.
4. If you have your own portable rig and wish to bring it, you must clear it with us first. We will inspect the rig in person to make sure it holds up to minimum safety standards. Please answer any questions we have about your rig, its design, construction, materials, etc.

5. If you do a suspension on your own without close supervision, you must be familiar with tying your own harnesses, hangers, and uplines, as we cannot guarantee that there will be someone knowledgeable to help you if needed.
6. You are allowed to request the guidance of an experienced rigger if you want to improve your suspension skills at an event. This rigger must hold a green card. However, you will be expected to already have a good comprehension of tying basics, including suspension-worthy harnesses and uplines. Please ask for their help or supervision prior to starting your scene. Trying to find a spotter in the middle of a suspension is not safe. Trying to learn suspension at a rope jam or play party is not an appropriate environment.
7. Suspension monitors reserve the right to ask you to use a spotter. Depending on the situation, you can pick your own or they will assign one to you. If you are asked to use a spotter and you refuse, you will not be allowed to suspend. Please leave egos at the door. If someone questions why you do or did something, you should be able to explain and answer their questions humbly, no matter your skill level. This is a learning environment. Please also be open to feedback and listen to concerns when someone expresses them. This is for the safety of the whole group; we do not wish to shame you or what you do in the privacy of your own home, but we must ensure that safer practices are being modeled in our space.

If you have questions, concerns, or doubts, please reach out to an event organizer or DM at the event, or get in touch with us via email (contact@boxtiestudio.org).