

YOUR WEDDING

TIPS & 'RULES'





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P H O T O G R A P H Y

Why hello there!

I'm 'Kate Maclean Photography' - a Garden Route based photographer, mom to two GORGEOUS fur babies, champagne lover - and I LOVE what I do!

Now for business!

In this resource, I'll briefly go through tips & 'rules' for the bride, groom, bridesmaids, ceremony as well as some traditions & ideas!

So, get reading and let's get planning!



The Bride

BRIDE WEDDING MORNING 'RULES'

It's your wedding day, and time is about to fly past!

Here are a couple of 'rules' to keep in mind to ensure your photos are as GORGEOUS as possible

**Give this list to your bridesmaids too!*

1. No Bras.

Bras make lines on your back and shoulders, which leads to those lines being in all your getting ready photos and so forth. Be free for the morning of the wedding!

2. No hair ties on your wrists.

This is one of the most easily overlooked little things. But believe me, not only will they leave marks on your wrists, but you could forget them on and then BOOM, the dreaded hair ties will be in every.single.photo.

3. No socks.

Same with the hair ties and bras, socks leave lines. Which means your carefully chosen shoes will be accompanied by those lovely little sock lines!

4. Hanger.

Choose a nice wooden, labelled or unique hanger for your wedding dress. It's all for the photos!

5. Buttons or Slip Offs.

Bride & bridesmaids matching robes are fab in my opinion. Cute matching photos of you and your girls. But make sure they either have buttons or you can slip out of them - nothing overhead!

Lifting your PJs over your freshly done hair and make-up is a NO NO.

And lastly, take your time. It's YOUR day!



The Groom

GROOM WEDDING MORNING 'RULES'

1. Two Shirts.

Let's start with probably the most important one: Have 2 shirts.

Yes, this is an added expense, but should you spill something on it, sweat through it, whatever it may be, it never hurts to have a spare shirt!

2. The Shave.

Don't try new ideas with your beard on the day of the wedding.

Don't surprise the bride and shave off your full beard right before the ceremony. Have a plan as to where your shave line is, how many days you're going to grow it out for and possibly get your bride's opinion on this too!

Also, if you are shaving the morning of the wedding then do it early. This gives time for any redness, razor burn etc to subside.

3. The Shots.

This 'rule' is for your groomsmen: No shots before the ceremony!

Have your tequila shots at the reception. We don't want the groom to be 2 stepping down the aisle. Save the celebration for later in the day.



The Bridesmaids

BRIDEMAIDS WEDDING MORNING 'RULES'

It's your bestie's wedding day, and there are some absolute musts for you as her "Bride Tribe"

1. Don't put the bride last for hair and makeup.

You don't want to be running out of time and have the most important person still in the chair!

2. Make sure the bride eats.

Yes, it's just magical to have mimosas and champagne whilst your bestie is getting ready for her big day. But ensure she has some snacks and water throughout the morning. Last thing you need is a tipsy or faint bride!

3. Clean the room where the bride is getting ready.

The room can become cluttered and messy so quickly and this shows in the photos. Every now and then just chuck all unnecessary items out the room.

4. The veil.

Make sure one of the bridesmaids knows how you remove the veil.

5. Extras.

Have lipstick & make-up extras for the bride for those touch-ups throughout the day.

6. Steam early.

There's lots to do on the day of the wedding, so ensure you have steamed the dress the night before. That way touch ups on the day are quick and easy!

Then these last 2 'rules' are for the bridesmaids at the ceremony:

7. Leave space between bridesmaids when walking down the aisle.

This gives the photographer time to get an individual snap of each bridesmaid walking down the aisle

8. Look involved whilst standing during the ceremony.

This is not the time to zone out. Watch your bestie tie the knot - we don't want far-off stares happening. Be involved!

And most importantly, have an amazing day celebrating your bestie!



To Remember

SOME EASILY OVERLOOKED THINGS!

1. Stationary copies.

One of my favourites is doing a lay flat with your wedding stationary along with your shoes, rings etc. You spend so much time and effort creating the perfect wedding invitations, menus etc – bring a copy of all your wedding details the morning of to incorporate in the lay flat photos (example below)

2. Bridal details.

Following on from the above, have a bridesmaid in charge of keeping all the bridal accessories together (both for photos and so nothing is forgotten / lost). This applies to a groomsmen for the groom's details too! Items include shoes, perfume, veil, jewellery, bouquet, wedding rings, cufflinks etc.

3. Width of aisle.

If you are getting married in a chapel or building, consider the width of the aisle to ensure it is wide enough for both the wedding dress & person accompanying you down the aisle.

4. Break in your shoes.

Break in your shoes before the Big Day. Trust me, both of you, just do it!

5. QR code.

Your guests generally take tons of photos at your wedding – most of which you'll never see! Consider downloading an app / registering on a wedding website, and print out copies of the generated QR code so guests can upload their photos from the day to one shared webpage / app.



More To Remember

SOME EASILY OVERLOOKED THINGS!

6. Face each other at the ceremony.

Once you have walked down the aisle and guests have taken their seats, hand your bouquet over to your bridesmaid closest to you – then turn to face your soon-to-be husband / wife. Facing each other makes for great photos but also helps for the nerves!

7. Confetti handout.

Put someone in charge of handing out the confetti to your guests at the end of the ceremony. As the photographer, I'll help direct your guests to form a tunnel for you to walk through, but it always helps to have someone handing out the confetti to guests.

8. Cake cutting song.

Some bridal couples enter the Reception to their chosen song and go straight into their first dance or cake cutting. If you are not doing this, and instead cutting the cake later in the evening, remember to choose a specific song for this!

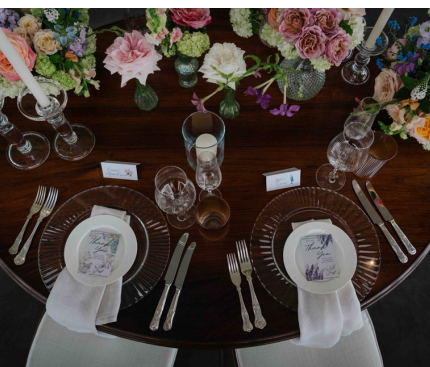
ALSO, you spend so long finding the perfect cake but often the bridal couple hardly has any of it on the wedding day. So when the venue is cutting the cake to serve, ask them to keep two pieces aside in a takeaway box for you!

9. Tall arrangements.

A big mistake is putting tall flower arrangements / candles directly in front of the bride & groom's table settings. This makes it hard to get photos of the couple at the table, as well as makes it harder for the bridal couple to see the speakers during speeches.

10. The gifts.

Put someone in charge of taking the gifts for you at the end of the night – I would suggest either a bridesmaids or groomsmen. You don't want to leave all those thoughtful gifts at the venue!





Traditions & Ideas

MAKE YOUR WEDDING DAY "YOU"!

Every wedding is different. And every wedding couple is different.
So, make it YOUR day.

1. Have a first look.

I love watching the groom's face when he sees his bride for the first time. BUT. Why not make this an occasion for just the two of you?
The First Look.

2. A unique Reception entrance.

I absolutely love these! From entering to your favourite hip hop song and absolutely crushing it on the dance-floor, to playing flip cup with the bride & bridesmaids against the groom & groomsmen. Make it your own.

3. Children at weddings.

This is always a highly contested topic. For couples that don't want kids at their wedding, perhaps hire a few professional babysitters at the venue - this way the kids aren't at the wedding but are close enough for parents to check in on them. Additionally, a babysitter, some movies and pizza may work out a tad cheaper than adding them to the wedding guest list!

4. Wedding Favours.

If you have an idea that you love, then absolutely! But don't be pressured to give wedding favours just for the sake of it.

5. Bridesmaids dresses.

Your bride tribe will generally differ dress preferences. Imagine one bridesmaid looking like a goddess, whilst the other feels like a peach milkshake. Give them a colour palette and some freedom on design. You can reach a middle ground that both you and your bridesmaids are happy with.



Traditions & Ideas

MAKE YOUR WEDDING DAY "YOU"!

6. The confetti circle.

For small and intimate weddings where there aren't enough guests to make a tunnel, have them all stand around you in a circle and all throw at the same time.

GORGEOUS!

7. Transportation.

For weddings that are a slight drive from your main town or area, perhaps book a minibus or transportation for your wedding guests. This avoids drunk drivers and allows every guest to have a couple of celebratory drinks with you!

8. Possibly my favourite: The Request.

When using an RSVP action on your wedding website or cards, have a question for your guests' song requests. That way you know what songs you guests will want to hear, plus they get super excited when they hear "their song" come on!

Family Photos

MAKE THAT LIST!

Family photos are a must on your wedding day, but without planning, they can take a huge chunk out of your celebrating!

Here are a couple of 'rules' to keep things following smoothly!

1. Have a set list of family photo combinations you want.
Mom, dad, bride. Mom, dad, bride, groom. Be specific!
2. SHARE the list with the rest of the family so they know they are involved in the family photos.
3. Give the list to your MC or someone with a loud voice.
It will be their job to rally the troops.
4. Keep that list short!



The Ceremony

TIPS FOR THE CEREMONY

This part of your day absolutely flies by!

1. Walk slowly down the aisle.

You're going to look SO GOOD. Give your guests a chance to see you.

2. Look up when walking down the aisle.

Yes, you are going to be nervous BUT take your time down the aisle and try look up as you're walking. Look at your future husband / wife, your guests. Take it all in.

3. The give away.

Traditionally, the father of the bride walks his daughter down the aisle and shakes the groom's hand. But is he hugging the bride? Is he lifting her veil? Is he just shaking hands with the groom or giving him a hug too? I would recommend practicing or even just discussing this. We don't want half hugs, half handshakes or the 3 of you just staring at each other not knowing what to do next!

4. Empty the pockets of the groom and groomsmen.

Phones, lighters, etc all show in the photos.

5. Bridal party.

Perhaps my favourite is putting the bridesmaids behind the groom and groomsmen behind the bride. This is so that both the bride and groom can see their "bridal tribe" during the ceremony.

6. THIS ONE. Asking your officiant to move out the way for the first kiss.

Often the photographer will ask the officiant to move out the way for the first kiss, but it generally helps if the bridal couple also discusses this with them before the ceremony too!



The Ceremony

MORE TIPS FOR THE CEREMONY

7. The rings.

When putting the rings on, hold them from the underside so they are visible to the photographer.

8. HOLD THE KISS!

You are now married - hold that kiss so the photographer can get a good couple of snaps!

9. Don't fear the confetti.

It's so easy to pull your head back when your guests are throwing confetti. Granted, there are petals / leaves being hurled at you! But try as best you can to not pull your head back (yes, the dreaded double chin) or close your eyes or cover your face with your arm. Take it all in. It's only a couple of seconds of hurtling petals!

10. Something different.

Following on from the above, pause whilst walking down the aisle through the confetti – and if you want to be extra fab, then a dip and kiss is a stunning photo op. This makes for GORGEOUS photos, but please give your photographer a heads-up beforehand so they can be sure to get the shot!

11. Phones.

And lastly, ask your MC or officiant to remind guests to “keep their phones like their underwear” - HIDDEN for the whole ceremony!



Let's get Planning

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