

## PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY MINI-CON RULES AND REGULATIONS

### PHOTOGRAPHY

By entering Portsmouth Public Library's (PPL) Mini-Con, all attendees agree to have their photos taken by event staff and volunteers for promotional purposes. PPL agrees not to use the photos in any other manner besides promotion and not to sell the photos to any third party.

Photography is allowed and encouraged at the convention! However, if someone does not wish their picture to be taken, refrain from photographing them. Also, if you need to take a picture, be quick about it and do not block hallways or entrances.

Please refrain from using photographic devices in any showing room or main movie presentation. You are welcome to take many pictures during events such as the cosplay contest or retro gaming tournament.

### CHILDREN

At PPL, we pride ourselves on being a family friendly environment. We encourage all guests to bring their kids or young friends.

However, the library might become crowded and it is recommended that an adult accompany all minors at all times. There is an announcement system, so if you should have a problem with a lost child, please contact any staff member of volunteer and they will help in any way they can.

### BEHAVIOR

We know that a convention is about having a good time, but for our attendees safety, disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, such as fighting/sparring (fake or real, including sword swinging), heckling, impeding traffic flow, offensive behavior, failure to observe basic hygiene, public inebriation (or similar intoxication), or any other failure to follow the rules.

PPL can and will take action against any type of disruptive behavior, even beyond the behaviors mentioned. Attendees that cause these types of problems may be warned or asked to leave.

Attendees of PPL's Mini-Con attend at their own risk. PPL takes no responsibility for any damages incurred to property or person of guests, artists, dealers, or attendees. Smoking is not permitted inside any buildings. Offensive or revealing attire is not permitted.

PPL takes no responsibility for lost items. All lost items will be turned into the lost and found at the reference desk.

PPL **prohibits signs** or other materials that are not part of a specific costume. This includes (but is not limited to) “Hugs for a quarter”, “Free glomps”, and “Spank a catboy for \$1”. PPL reserves the right to confiscate and destroy any and all signs (at the discretion of PPL).

PPL’s Mini-Con is an all-ages event, and as such prohibits extremely revealing costumes and attire. A good rule of thumb is full-coverage bikini top + shorts for women and shorts and shirt for men. If men are cosplaying a shirtless character, we ask that they only remove their shirts for photos.

Due to safety issues, roller skates, bare feet and stilts are prohibited on PPL grounds. Blocking doorways or heavy traffic areas **for any reason** not limited to photography, dancing, standing with an expansive costume in a crowded area and other obstructions is strictly prohibited.

## ADVERTISING/SALES

NO SALES are permitted on the premises outside of the specified vendor/artist areas. In these areas, only paid vendors or artists who have a copy of their respective contracts on file with PPL will be allowed to sell wares/art.

Anyone found posting, pasting, taping, or pinning material on convention property that is not an artist or vendor will be immediately removed from the convention grounds. Artists and Vendors are to adhere to the policies for their respective rooms. There will be a table on convention grounds for leaving flyers and other advertisements, but advertisements MAY NOT be placed anywhere else or handed out in an open area (with exceptions for fan table groups). Rest assured that ANYONE found placing stickers on property will IMMEDIATELY be escorted off the premises.

## PROP WEAPONS

REAL FIREARMS/WEAPONS ARE **NOT ALLOWED** ON THE GROUNDS OF PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY.

### Firearm Prop Specific Rules

- No actual projectile firing weapons are allowed.
- No full metal firearm replicas are allowed.
- **No functional projectile weapons/toys that are modified into props are allowed (i.e Airsoft Guns, Waterguns, Bubble shooters, Spark guns BB Guns, Crossbows, Nerf guns etc). For disabled projectile weapons/toys, see below.**
- **Disabled projectile weapons/toys that have been modified into props and are completely incapable of firing a projectile are only allowed if they adhere to these additional guidelines (broken out by type).**
- Prop bullets and shells are allowed in bandoleers or holders but they CANNOT be inserted weapons or loaded into magazines or clips even if either one are NOT inserted in a firearm prop.

## Prop Weaponry Specific Rules (Note the more realistic, the more likely it will be inspected)

- **No actual weaponry regardless if it is sheathed, holstered or peacebound.** This includes (but is not limited to): firearms, knives, bludgeons, stun guns, brass knuckles, bows strung with tense string/capable of firing, bullets, grenades, landmines etc.
- No "Live Steel" defined as any metal that can: hold a bladed edge (regardless if sharpened or not), or shaped in a way that has sharp edges or spikes. Any actual metal used in a piece must be rounded and curved and not be the 'edge' portion of a prop blade). Examples of prohibited items in this category include real metal swords or axes with blunted blades.
- You may not point at a person or brandish the weapon in a threatening manner outside of posed photos.
- All props that have a removable pin (grenades) must have it zip-tied (white or orange) or electrical taped in (white or orange).
- Realistic looking grenades, bombs, mines (explosives) must have a strip of orange electrical tape visible wrapped around the body of the device unless it already has one thru the pin as stated immediately above.
- Chains and ropes are limited to 3ft in length if they are uncoiled or used to attach to prop weapons (example: kusarigama, morning stars). They cannot hang in such a manner as to pose an entanglement or trip hazard. They cannot be swung and must be under control at all times. Ropes/chains completely integrated into clothing or coiled into bundles (not hanging loosely) are not limited to 3 feet.
- Chains cannot be of heavyweight metal gauges; lightweight plastic linked chains are available via a variety of sources.
- Arrows and bolts must be made of a soft material such as foam or rubber.

## General Prop Rules:

- **Props may be inspected at any time, even if they are not listed in this document specifically.**
- Oversized props that pose a mobility hazard through doors, stairways or elevators are prohibited. Recommended dimensions less than six feet in any direction; items in excess will be judged on a case by case basis.
- Any prop, outfit, or armor piece must not be made of a material that can injure a passerby via a sharp edge, point, spike or stud. If those shapes are required use cloth or foam not metal or hardened/reinforced plastics.
  - No explosives or chemicals including, but not limited to, fireworks, smoke pots, flash paper, etc.
  - Objects that can generate excessive noise, light, smoke, or confetti are prohibited on convention grounds.
  - Props cannot be thrown, tossed, shot, or swung regardless of its construction and functionality. They must be under the holder's control at all times. **No exceptions will be made for boffer/LARP weaponry or sparring equipment.**
  - Sports equipment is allowed so long as they are not used to strike items (balls, pucks, etc) and held under control at all times. They are subject to all the size, weight, and material restrictions listed above. Props must be secured to a costume or held in a manner in such that they do not endanger others. Be aware that the convention may become quite crowded and take appropriate precautions.

**Portsmouth Public Library reserves the right to escort anyone from library grounds at any time.**