

# **WEAPONS & PROPS POLICY - THUNDER BAY RENAISSANCE FAIRE**

## INTENTION OF POLICY

Thunder Bay Renaissance Faire (TB Ren Faire) is invested in the safety of our volunteers, vendors, and guests. TBRF has adopted this policy to ensure that we minimize the threat of injuries associated with weapons or props at our events.

The Thunder Bay Renaissance Faire reserves the right to refuse entry and/or remove guests who do not adhere to the weapons policy, unless the attire can be modified to meet the standards set for the event.

Due to the nature of our event, a series of guidelines for safe weapon and prop rules have been established.

## POLICY

- All TB Ren Faire attendees, vendors and volunteers must comply with all Federal, Provincial and local laws and regulations regarding weapons, imitation weapons and props, as well as their usage.
- Attendees are reminded that while travelling to and from the event, to make sure due care is taken on your behalf to ensure any weapons or props - which could cause public alarm - are stored in a bag or in a storage container.
- TB Ren Faire attendees are not, under any circumstances, allowed to possess or bring to the convention grounds any actual weapons. Unlawful possession of weapons is an offence and will result in denied admission into the convention or prosecution.
- All weapons and props must be in plain sight at all times and are subject to mandatory inspections performed by TB Ren Faire (at the front gate and at the Prop Check Area)
- Any weapon, prop, or item covered in this policy must be inspected by TB Ren Faire staff at the Prop Check Area; these items will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

### *1. Prop Check Area*

TB Ren Faire attendees with a prop may be stopped by TB Ren Faire staff and sent to the Weapons & Prop Check Area. At the Weapons & Prop Check Area, staff will inspect that your weapon and/or prop complies with the below rules and regulations regarding both weapons and props. If approved, your hand will be stamped to show inspection complete and you may enter the Faire with your prop. If not approved, attendees have the option of storing their prop in their car, home or hotel room. For full rules and regulations regarding props, please see below.

### *2. Specific Rules for Various Weapons & Props*

#### General Rules:

1. All weapons and props must clearly appear to not have the ability to harm others or any property. This includes cosplay replica weapons.

2. TB Ren Faire staff reserve the right to refuse entry or remove guests who do not follow these rules.

#### Firearms:

- No firearms or anything resembling a firearm are allowed, which includes: live firearms including airsoft, modern, hunting or historic, either functioning or decommissioned; and replica firearms. Anything that can be mistaken for a firearm, are banned on TB Ren Faire Fairgrounds. No exceptions.
- No props or weapons capable of firing any projectile or powder charge of any kind. This is for the safety of both yourself and the people around you.

#### Swords, Axes, and Daggers and other melee weapons:

- Metal swords, metal knives and other active martial arts weapons are not permitted unsheathed on the fairgrounds. Guests may wear a sword or dagger, but the sword or dagger MUST be sheathed completely with no part of the blade showing and secured in the sheath or scabbard.
- ALL swords and daggers must have a plastic zip tie attached and visible (peace bound or peace tied). At no time may they be drawn from the scabbard or sheath.
- Only swords, axes, and daggers are permitted—no other melee weapons are allowed.
- Failure to comply will result in being banned from the event without refund and local authorities will be contacted. If you buy a metal sword, knife or martial arts weapons from a Vendor at the Faire, please refer to Section 3 below

#### Bows & Crossbows

- Bows and slingshots are allowed, but they must be de-strung. There must be no capacity to fire any object from the bow or slingshot.
- Arrows and other items used in bows or slingshots are prohibited.

#### Toy Weapons:

- Plastic, wood, and foam toy weapons are allowed without being sheathed or peace bound, but may not be wielded in a way that they might accidentally strike another guest or TB Ren Faire staff.

#### Other Weapons

- Blunt weapons such as baseball bats and hockey sticks are prohibited.
- No sharp or pointed objects are allowed on costumes or accessories.
- No items can have sharp points, sharp edges, excessive weight or any other features that could be deemed dangerous to others (E.g. we do not allow metal replica samurai swords, "BB guns/air guns" even if they are not loaded).

Zip Ties: Zip ties are available at the Weapons & Prop Check Area and can be used to modify the access to props and weapons. If you have questions or need to modify your attire, please ask at the front gate or visit the Weapons Check booth near the front archway entrance.

If the items are not approved during security inspection, they are forbidden on fairgrounds. Non-approved items must be stored at the attendee's vehicle or at home. Failure to comply will

result in being escorted off the event premises and banned from the event without refund. Props with an excessive weight are subject to approval by TB Ren Faire staff at the front gate or Weapons & Prop Check Area. There is no set weight limit, however, if it is deemed to be too heavy or unsafe, it will be requested that the item is stored at the attendee's hotel room, vehicle or home for the duration of the event. Please consider how heavy your props are as you are going to either be carrying them all day, or be instructed to check them.

### 3. Items purchased while at TB Ren Faire

Attendees who purchase imitation or replica weapons from the vendor (such as metal swords, knives, or axes) must be 18 years or older. Once purchased from a vendor, the item must not be opened until outside of the Fairgrounds. To use the purchased item as a prop or costume piece, items must be presented immediately to Weapon & Prop Check Area staff in its original packaging. If TB Ren Faire staff approves the item, it may be used in accordance with our props and weapons policy guidelines. Again, if the items are not approved, then they are forbidden on Fairgrounds out of their original packaging. Non-approved items must then be securely stored in the attendee's vehicle until they are leaving the event. Failure to comply will result in being escorted off premises and banned from the event without refund.

### 4. Important Legal Considerations

TB Ren Faire (and by extension, the Oliver Agricultural Society) will not be held legally responsible or liable for any misconduct, damages, injuries or death resulting from the actions of any TB Ren Faire attendee. Any inappropriate behavior or misconduct by any attendee will not be tolerated by TB Ren Faire and may result in expulsion without refund and local authorities being contacted. Please use your best judgment and discretion by refraining from swinging weapons around, or using them in an intimidating or threatening manner.

If you have any more questions or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at [tbrenfaire@gmail.com](mailto:tbrenfaire@gmail.com)