

# ECCHI EXPO

## **COSPLAY FAQ'S**

### **Costuming, Props and Dress Code**

*Cosplay is highly encouraged, but some restrictions apply:*

**Footwear is required (do not come barefoot).**

**No cosplay (nude) is NOT a cosplay. This is an anime convention, not a nudist gathering.**

Costumes that are deemed to be indecently revealing (the “no cosplay is not a cosplay” principle), as well as costumes or props that are deemed to be offensive or otherwise unacceptable by public standards are prohibited outside of the designated convention area. A Coat-Check at no cost is available at Registration for attendees who need to enter the hotel proper. Do not enter the hotel in lewd attire.

An attendee who is wearing a costume or carrying a prop that does not meet these requirements may be asked to change into either street clothes or another costume.

All large props or any props resembling weapons (including guns, swords, spears, whips, bows, etc.) must pass through weapons check and be verified and peace-bonded by the Fandom Events Weapons Master to ensure they are safe. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the convention without refund. Please refer to our Weapons Policy for more detail.

### **Props and Weapons Policy**

Please keep in mind that rules regarding weapons are designed to keep everyone safe.

Fandom Events is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all persons attending the convention. Any item that Fandom Events believes may be a weapon must be immediately taken to Weapons Check for examination. Weapons that Fandom Events determine are admissible will be marked with an identifying tag and may be brought into the convention. Any weapon that Fandom Events considers to be inadmissible must be stored at Weapons Check or immediately removed from the convention. Any prohibited (illegal) weapon must be removed from the convention. The decision of the Weapons Master, or their designate, is final and will be strictly enforced to ensure a safe environment for all attendees.

Failure to respect any of the weapon rules may result in any or all of the following:

- Confiscation of weapon or item, without return;
- Loss of admission to the show without refund;
- The involvement of law enforcement agencies; and/or
- Other actions deemed appropriate by Fandom Events.

## **Definitions**

Weapon is defined as any item or object that the Criminal Code, the Fandom Events Weapons Master, or their designate, considers to be a weapon.

Weapons Master is the representative of Fandom Events who implements and enforces the Weapons Policy- either directly or via designated staff. The decision of the Weapons Master, or their designate, is final.

Prohibited and/or illegal Weapon: A prohibited weapon is one that the convention does not allow on its grounds. An illegal weapon is one that is not allowed to be possessed, displayed, or sold in Texas. These prohibited and/or illegal weapons are banned from Fandom Events and must be immediately removed from the convention center. Fandom Events reserves the right to notify law enforcement agencies.

Inadmissible Weapon is a non-prohibited (i.e. legal) weapon that has been examined by the Weapons Master, or their designate, and is not permitted to be brought into the convention. A legal weapon may still be considered an inadmissible weapon at Fandom Events (e.g. a metal sword). The weapons must be stored at Weapons Check or immediately removed from the convention. Some weapons sold by Exhibitors are inadmissible and are subject to the procedures in the Special Circumstances section below.

Admissible Weapon is a weapon that has been examined by the Weapons Master, or their designate, and is permitted to be brought into the convention. A small identifying tag will be affixed to the weapon to identify it as admissible.

Weapons Check is the area, or areas, at Fandom Events where all items that may be considered weapons are inspected by Fandom Events and determined to be either prohibited, inadmissible, or admissible.

## **Examples of Prohibited and/or illegal Weapons**

If it is illegal outside the convention, it is illegal inside the convention- and therefore banned from Fandom Events

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Firearms of any kind;
- Bali-song (“butterfly knife”) or switchblade/drop blade style knives;
- Brass knuckles or knives/blades attached to brass knuckles;
- Spiked wristbands;
- Morning Stars or flails;
- Concealed knives or blades in normally innocuous items that are less than 30 cm in length;
- Hand crossbows;

- Nunchucks, tonfas, shurikens, or similarly prohibited martial arts weapons (foam replicas of these items are admissible); and,
- Law enforcement items such as batons, Tasers, or mace.
- Arrows, bolts, and other projectiles used in bows, crossbows, or slingshots are inadmissible.

Note: Although some types of cane swords, umbrella swords, and similar items may not be prohibited in the event State, ALL such items are banned from display, sale, or possession at Fandom Events.

The following list provides some examples of Inadmissible Weapons.

Fandom Events reserves the right to determine the admissibility of any item or weapon.

### **Examples of Inadmissible Weapons**

- Projectile Weapons
  - Airsoft pistols, rifles or other similar devices;
  - Pellet guns, BB guns, or similar devices;
  - Flintlock or muzzle loading weapons or similar devices (which are not considered “firearms” under the law);
  - Decommissioned firearms of any kind;
  - Replica firearms made from metal, solid resin/plastic/rubber;
  - Close imitations are allowed if they are made of acceptable materials and as long as they cannot fire like an actual replica (e.g. a musket that does not have the proper firing chamber, or a pistol that does not have a bored barrel);
  - Any prop, item or weapon that is capable of firing any projectile or powder charge of any kind;
  - All other projectile weapons are required to have orange safety tips at all times on convention grounds, however, they can be removed for photography or competition purposes if they are reattached when moving around the convention;
  - Nerf guns and other foam dart guns are admissible, but they must not have any foam darts loaded at any time;
  - Bows, crossbows (but not hand crossbows- they are Illegal Weapons), and slingshots are admissible but only if they are de-strung or strung with light string, yarn, or a similar material and cannot fire a projectile; and,
  - Arrows, bolts, and other projectiles used in bows, crossbows, or slingshots are inadmissible.
- Swords, Blades, Knives and other Melee Weapons
  - Hard plastic replica weapons made from polypropylene or similar items;
  - Cane swords, umbrella swords, or similar items;
  - Metal swords, metal knives and other active martial arts weapons;
  - Metal weapons purchased at the convention are subject to the policy direction in the Special Circumstances section below;
  - Metal chains or other similar items;
  - Costume swords are admissible if they are secured in such a fashion that they cannot be drawn;

- Blunt weapons (made of wood, hard plastic, or metal) such as baseball bats, cricket bats, and hockey sticks.
- Butterfly trainers
- Shields and Armor
- Wooden, plastic, and metal shields are inadmissible if they contain: sharp metal edges; metal, wood, or hard plastic spikes, or other protrusions; and/or any other feature or characteristic determined to be inadmissible.
- Armor is inadmissible if it contains: sharp metal edges; metal, wood, or hard plastic spikes, or other protrusions; and/or any other feature or characteristic determined to be inadmissible.
- Lightsabers: Lightsabers are permitted if their blade/bulb is not made of glass.
- Wheeled/Tracked/Jumping Devices
- Skateboards, rollerblades, roller skates, unicycles, bicycles, hoverboards, scooters and similar devices
- Pogo sticks, spring shoes, jumping shoes, kangaroo shoes, and similar devices.
- Prop Weight, Shape and Material Restrictions
- Any items with sharp points, sharp edges, excessive weight or any other features that are deemed dangerous to others by Fandom Events.
- There is no set weight limit for items, but Fandom Events reserves the right to prohibit heavy items on a case-by-case basis.
- Lasers: Fandom Events prohibits all laser pointers in the convention. If a prop or weapon includes a laser pointer, it must be rendered non-functioning (e.g. batteries must be removed).

### **Restricted items**

Note that the following weapons and/or items can be sold at the event but cannot be displayed during the event. It is recommended that if you wish to sell these items that you make a pamphlet with images of the items for customers to see what items you have in stock.

- Butterfly combs or similar
- Butterfly bottle openers

### **Procedures**

Fandom Events reserves the right to require that any item entering the convention, or which is found to be anywhere within the convention, be made available at any time for examination by Fandom Events staff to determine the item's admissibility status. Non-compliance may result in expulsion without refund from the event.

Any item that Fandom Events determines may be a weapon must be immediately taken to Weapons Check for examination (or examined on the convention floor by the Weapons Master, or their designate, if they are circulating around the event). Weapons that already have a tag may be re-sent to Weapons Check to validate the tag. Fandom Events staff may escort the weapon to Weapons Check.

The Fandom Events Weapons Master, or their designate, will examine the weapon to determine its admissibility.

Admissible weapons will have a small identifying tag affixed to the weapon- in a location determined by the Weapons Master, or their designate. The tag must remain on the weapon for the duration of the convention. Tampering, altering or removing the tag during the convention may result in the weapon being determined as inadmissible and/or the removal of the person from the convention.

Inadmissible weapons must be stored at Weapons Check or immediately removed from the convention.

Prohibited weapons must be immediately removed from the convention center. They cannot be stored at Weapons Check. Fandom Events reserves the right to notify law enforcement agencies.

Illegal weapons may be reported to law enforcement agencies if seen.

Any inappropriate behavior with a weapon, which puts the safety of any person or property at risk, will not be tolerated. This includes horseplay, mock fighting, or other activities deemed inappropriate by Fandom Events.

Refer to the Special Circumstances section below for the procedures related to Inadmissible Weapons that are displayed, offered for sale, and purchased at the convention.

Inadmissible Weapons stored at Weapons Check will be returned to individuals as they are leaving the convention.

Failure to respect these requirements may result in the weapon being confiscated without return.

It is the individual's responsibility to pick up their checked weapons as they exit the convention. Any props or weapons left with the Weapons Master beyond the closing of Weapons Check on Sunday become the property of Fandom Events.

## **Special Circumstances**

### **Inadmissible Weapons Purchased from Exhibitors**

- Inadmissible weapons on display and/or being sold by Exhibitors must be safely secured to the display surface if they are within reach of attendees (i.e. attendees must not be able to pick up the weapons). As part of normal shopping behavior, attendees are permitted to handle inadmissible weapons- but must remain under the direct supervision of the Exhibitor.

- Exhibitors may only display (including under the counter displays and items stored out of sight) or sell weapons or any other items that are permitted to be sold by all applicable provincial and federal laws and regulations (i.e. they are not prohibited) and only to persons who are legally entitled to purchase and/or possess the weapon or item.

The display or sale of prohibited (illegal) weapons or items may result in an Exhibitor being removed from the convention and/or other actions deemed appropriate by Fandom Events.

### **Demonstrations**

For safety reasons, Exhibitors must not conduct demonstrations of inadmissible weapons or other items in the aisles or other similar areas. Such demonstrations must be conducted behind the counter, table or within the allotted booth space, and must be supervised by the Exhibitor.

### **After the Sale**

Once a weapon has been sold, it must be securely wrapped in thick paper or cardboard and cannot be taken out of such packaging at the convention. Exhibitors must remind the attendees buying weapons that if they are found opening the packaging on the convention hall floor, the weapon in question will be confiscated. It is the Exhibitor's responsibility to inform attendees of the requirement to keep their purchased weapons securely wrapped while at the convention.

### **Admissible Weapons Purchased from Exhibitors**

- The Exhibitor must inform the attendee purchasing the weapon to bring said weapon or item to the Weapons Check at the entrance and have it tagged as an admissible weapon. Exhibitors are required to explain to attendees that if the weapon is not tagged, it may be confiscated.
- If an Exhibitor wants to arrange for mock battles to show off their LARP weapons during convention hours anywhere on the convention site, they must have prior approval from Fandom Events. Such requests should be directed to [info@fandomevents.org](mailto:info@fandomevents.org)
- Exhibitors are reminded that all participants in mock battles must not damage convention center, Fandom Events, or other Exhibitor property and must be extremely careful not to endanger or injure bystanders.

### **Contacting Fandom Events about the Weapons Policy**

If you have any questions regarding the Weapons Policy, please contact Fandom Events prior to the convention at [cosplay@fandomevents.org](mailto:cosplay@fandomevents.org)

For any questions regarding weapons, which weapons can be sold in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Oklahoma,, and what constitutes proper wrapping, please contact the Weapons Master via the contact information provided above.

While the Weapons Master may offer advice prior to the convention on which weapons are appropriate, Fandom Events reserves the right to determine the admissibility of any weapon at the time of the convention, regardless of any prior information provided.

# ***COSPLAY CONTEST***

Cosplay is highly encouraged, but some restrictions apply:  
Footwear is required (do not come barefoot).

Costumes that are deemed to be indecently revealing (the “no costume is not a costume” principle), as well as costumes or props that are deemed to be offensive or otherwise unacceptable by Fandom Events standards are prohibited. An attendee who is wearing a costume or carrying a prop that does not meet these requirements may be asked to change into either street clothes or another costume.

All large props or any props resembling weapons (including guns, swords, spears, whips, bows, etc.) must pass through weapons check and be verified and peace-bonded by the Fandom Events Weapons Master to ensure they are safe. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the convention without refund. Please refer to our Weapons Policy for more detail.

## **Craftsmanship**

- Contestants must have altered or constructed more than 50% of their own costumes. Store-bought costumes are allowed in the show but will not qualify for placement.
- If the Contestant's cosplay was made by someone else, that person must be present at the competition. The cosplay creator will win the award, if any, not the cosplay model.
- Cosplay staff and judges may disqualify any entrant at any time for not meeting craftsmanship requirements.

## **Pre-Judging**

- Contestants are required to be pre-judged before the contest begins. Contestants who fail to appear for pre-judging will not be allowed to walk the stage.
- All contestants are required to sign up online by following the Cosplay Contest link. There are no walk-ups.
- To preserve the quality of the cosplay, the contestant may be brought in on a hanger or mannequin and is not required to be worn during pre-judging.
- Contestants who have not been pre-judged when lineup begins for the competition will be disqualified for placement.

## **Cosplay Contest**

- Contestants will receive an email notification of prejudging time no later than 12pm Saturday. Pre-judging is typically around 3pm on Saturdays for all conventions.
- When it is time to walk the stage, in person instructions will be given to all contestants.
- When it is your turn to walk the stage, be sure to take your time and show off all your hard work to the audience! Character poses are always a fan favorite. Skits are not allowed due to time constraints.
- Please remain in the post-staging area while the judges deliberate until we announce the winner. Please do not wander off to the bar to grab a drink to find out you won the contest but we didn't know where you went.. Yes, that has actually happened.

- All decisions are final and the sole discretion of the Cosplay Judges. Our judges have years of experience and have won multiple awards at the masters' level. Additionally, the owners of Fandom Events are also masters-level award winning cosplayers. Trust the process, even if you did not agree with the placements. The winners undoubtedly worked very hard, just like all contestants.
- Cosplay contestants who publicly disparage the Cosplay Contest winners, judges, or the convention are subject to being banned from all Fandom Events conventions. We are here to support each other. Badmouthing the winners or the judges is unacceptable.