



## Rules and Regulations for Spa-Con

Regarding the following Convention Policies: *You're here to have fun. We're here to make it possible for you to have that fun. For all that to happen, Spa-Con has some rules that are necessary for the safety and comfort of everyone. Please comply so that you and everyone else can enjoy the convention.*



### Airspace (Balloons, Drones, etc.)

No devices may be flown or tethered within the confines of the Exhibit Hall or at any Spa-Con function in the Convention Center. This includes helium balloons and helium filled products, drones, or any lighter than air objects either powered or unpowered.

### Badges/Passes

Always wear your badge/pass and hang onto it! You will need it to attend any Spa-Con function, including all daytime and nighttime panels and events at the Convention Center and all convention- sponsored parties, and browsing or shopping in the Exhibit Hall. Keep your badge visible so attendants do not stop you. If you're asked to show your badge, please do so. Badges are non transferable once they are in your possession (from registration pick-up forward). Please do not give your badge to a friend or to people outside the Convention Center when you leave Spa-Con.

### Code of Conduct

Attendees must respect common sense rules for public behavior, personal interaction, common courtesy, and respect for private property. Harassing or offensive behavior will not be tolerated. Spa-Con reserves the right to revoke, without refund, the membership and pass of any attendee not in compliance with this policy. Persons finding themselves in a situation where they feel their safety is at risk or who become aware of an attendee not in compliance with this policy should immediately locate the nearest member of security, or staff member, so that the matter can be handled in an expeditious manner.

During show hours you can always find a Spa-Con staff member if you have any concerns or questions.

### Cosplay (and Conventioneering) Is Not Consent

As Fans ourselves, we understand the importance of creating a safe space for all attendees. Spa-Con, in affiliation with Visit Hot Springs, is continually dedicated to striving towards making a harassment-free convention experience for all. Spa-Con has a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY for harassment of any kind—Spa-CON is not CONsent.

We are in perpetual pursuit to educate ourselves and share what we've learned to help engender a harassment-free convention for everyone. We ask that attendees, staff and guests hold one another accountable for "good behavior" as well as seriously taking into account the perspectives of others should an issue arise. Anyone can report harassment. If someone's behavior has made you uncomfortable, or if you witness the same thing happening to someone else, you should immediately contact Staff.

Harassment includes but is not limited to:

- Stalking
- Intimidation
- Offensive verbal comments
- Physical assault and/or battery
- Inappropriate physical contact
- Harassing or non-consensual photography or recording
- Sustained disruption of Panels, Signings, and other events
- Bathroom policing

Unwelcome physical attention in relation to, but not limited to:

- race
- color
- national origin
- gender
- gender identity
- gender presentation
- sexual orientation
- age
- body size
- disability
- appearance
- religion
- citizenship
- pregnancy

Remember: Keep your hands to yourself. If you would like to take a picture with or of another fan, always ask first and respect that person's right to say no. When at Spa-Con, be respectful, be nice, be cool and be kind to one other.

*To report an incident, locate Spa-Con organizers who may be found at the registration desk.*

If a person engages in harassing behavior, staff will take prompt action in any form they deem appropriate, including expulsion from the convention with no refund. Our policy applies to EVERYONE at the convention. Exhibitors, fans (attendees), speakers, guests, professionals, press, staff, volunteers, and security are all subject to our anti-harassment. If necessary, we will contact local law enforcement, provide escort, offer a safe place or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment to make sure they feel safe for the rest of the Con.

Spa-Con understands that codes of conduct can themselves be used to perpetrate abuse. We will not tolerate the “weaponization” of our code to “police,” silence or deride any person regardless of race, color, creed, ethnicity, gender or gender identity. We just want everyone to come in and have a good time—again, if you see something that needs reporting, report it. Again, we’re fans just like you—and like you, we’re not fans of hate, harassment or abuse.

## **Costume Weapons and Props Policy**

### **Banned Items:**

Real weapons, sharp items, explosive devices, functional weapons, projectile weapons, and ammunition.

*Firearms or other weapons are prohibited. It is unlawful for any person other than a law enforcement officer or security guard to carry a loaded firearm or other deadly weapon in a publicly owned facility (per ACA 5-73-122).*

### **Weapon Rules:**

All weapons must be checked in at registration before being allowed into the general convention.

Melee weapons are permitted. Examples include staves, scythes, shields, theatre items, foam weapons, and aluminum swords with no edge.

Metal or replica guns or any metal replica firearm that approximates the real thing are prohibited. If your costume requires a “firearm” it must be plastic and be shown to be imitation only.

Airsoft or Nerf guns are permitted if they are empty of ammunition.

Live steel is required to be zip-tied into a sheath for the duration of the convention.

Functional (real) arrows are required to have their tip removed and be zip-tied to the quiver for the duration of the convention. Target arrows with non-removable tips may have their tips taped into a blunt circle (blue painter’s tape is recommended) and the arrows must still be zip-tied to the quiver for the duration of the convention.

Simulated or costume weapons are allowed as a part of your costume, subject to prior approval by security and compliance with the following:

- All costume weapons must be inspected at the Weapons Check Desk at the registration desk.
- All costume weapons must conform to state and federal law.
- Projectile costume weapons must be rendered inoperable.
- Costume swords must be tied to your costume in such a way that they can't be drawn.

- After each person's costume weapon has been checked, it will be tagged by security.
  - If you do not want to have your costume weapons inspected or tagged, or if you are not willing to comply with these policies, please do not bring your costume weapons to Spa-Con.
- Attire and costume must be suitable for a public setting and must be worn at all times.
- Nudity is not permitted.
- Props and costumes cannot emit smoke or fog.
- Attendees will not use their props to threaten other guests, partake in play fighting, or run with their props. If so, they will be escorted off the property.
- No wheeled items such as roller skates, skateboards, or similar recreational items are not permitted.
- Items that people normally carry are allowed. Examples include umbrellas or walking sticks.

#### **No Handcarts, Trolleys, Rolling Luggage, or Oversized Strollers in the Exhibit Hall**

Please be aware that, due to safety reasons, no handcarts, trolleys, rolling luggage, or oversized strollers are allowed in the Exhibit Hall. Attendees found on the exhibit floor with these items will be removed from the Exhibit Hall.

#### **No Live Streaming of Any Program or Event in Any Programming Room at Spa-Con**

The usage of live streaming apps and software on any electronic device (smart phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) is not allowed in any onsite or offsite official Spa-Con Program and Event rooms.

#### **No Pets Allowed**

If you have pets, including iguanas, parrots, boa constrictors, or other nonhuman critters, please leave them at home. The Convention Center will not allow animals into the building, except for service animals.

#### **No Sitting in Exhibit Hall Aisles**

By order of the fire marshal, sitting in the Exhibit Hall aisles is not allowed. Seating is located throughout the Convention Center and near concessions for your convenience.

#### **No Smoking, Including E-cigarettes and Vaping Products and Devices**

No smoking is allowed in the Convention Center at any time and in any location. No smoking at Spa-Con includes traditional cigarettes, pipes, cigars, plus E-cigarettes and any vaping product or device. This policy includes the Exhibit Hall, all the Programming Rooms, and Club Cosplay. You are welcome to step outside to smoke in designated smoking areas only, but please be considerate of others when you do. This policy is in place not only for the comfort of attendees but also to comply with Hot Springs city ordinances prohibiting smoking at public events within 20 feet of any doorway, entrance, exit or operable window. Please comply with this policy; noncompliance may result in being ejected from the convention.

#### **No Video Recorders/Camera Phones/Google Glass**

Remember recording of footage on the screens during panels is prohibited (see below: No Video or Audio Recording of Movie and TV Panels). This includes Google Glass. You cannot wear Google Glasses during footage viewing in any program room. If your Google Glass is prescription, please bring a different pair of glasses to use during these times. Also, please turn off your device's (phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) screens and put them away during the screening of panel footage. Not doing so interferes with everyone's viewing quality and causes security to think you're recording the clip.

***Spa-Con reserves the right to change or modify any policy or rule at any time and without notice.***