



# TEXIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

## WEAPONS POLICY

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The following weapon guidelines are to ensure a safe and secure environment for reenactors and visitors. We ask that each participating reenactor sign this document to acknowledge that you have read, understand and agree to abide by the following safety regulations. Each reenactment group will appoint a designated Safety Officer to ensure your group's general and weapons safety.

### CAMP SAFETY:

1. Firearms must remain unloaded and secured at all times while in camp.
2. No weapons are to be discharged within camp boundaries with the exception of weapons inspection under supervision of the unit safety officer or commanding officer and approved demonstrations in designated safe zones.
3. Reenactors should not allow visitors to handle their weapons without direct supervision. Reenactors should keep one guiding hand on the weapon at all times if they choose to let a visitor hold their weapon for a short period of time. Visitors should NEVER be allowed to fire a weapon.
4. If the firearm is not in direct possession of a reenactor, it must be safeguarded with measures such as locked in a lock box, under guard in camp, or rendered inoperable.
5. Firearms will be inspected before any demonstration and must be in a clean, safe and serviceable manner.
6. Mounted personnel are not authorized to travel through camp. If this cannot be avoided, the mounted soldier should dismount and lead his horse until clear of camp.
7. No black powder weapons of any kind will be carried or fired by anyone under the age of 16 years. Participants under 18 must have parental supervision.

### WEAPONS SAFETY:

1. No live ammunition will be allowed on the premises.
2. Black powder is the only acceptable cartridge item and all cartridges will be checked to ensure that other items are not present. The following restrictions apply to ALL cartridges:
  - a) The amount of powder used in a cartridge may not exceed the prescribed load for that caliber of weapon.
  - b) Only FFg or FFFg black powder will be used. FFFFg (4F) will be used only by artillery units and only for priming. NO PYRODEX.
  - c) Cartridges must be made with period construction materials. No penny wrappers, staples, wads, or tape may be used in cartridge construction.
  - d) All cartridges must be made up prior to the event. In the case of a prolonged event or unexpected firing activities, cartridges may be made at a designated safety area only, not in camp or near exposed flames or visitor's cigarettes. No staples will be used in any cartridge. Nails, vent picks, etc. should be kept out of the cartridge box to avoid accidentally dropping any of these objects into a muzzle.
  - e) Cartridges will not be carried anywhere on the person except in a hard cartridge box unless they are securely wrapped in foils in lots of ten and carried in a secure manner to a secure location.
  - f) Powder will only be carried in the form of cartridges.
  - g) Ramrods are drawn only in camp for weapons inspection and weapon cleaning.
3. **NO** black powder weapons of any kind will be carried or fired by any participant less than 16 years of age. Participants 16-18 years old must have parental supervision. Children under the age of 14 are not permitted on the field during the reenactments.
4. **NO** non-period weapons and **NO** non-combatant weapons.

5. Side arms are to be carried ONLY by officers and cavalry (mounted or dismounted) in Civil War reenactments. Different rules may apply for other historical time periods.

**BATTLE SAFETY:**

1. Unit formations will be held previous to each battle, where weapons, accouterments and cartridges will be inspected. Those failing this inspection will not be allowed to carry the failing firearms onto the field.
2. A full safety inspection should be held by each unit commander prior to its arrival at this event.
3. Each unit commander is responsible for the conduct of his men (including women and children). The commander is responsible to make sure that his personnel and those assigned to him are aware of the safety rules and that they understand and abide by them.
4. Bayonets are not to be fixed on the field. Scabbards must have appropriate tips.
5. **NO** edged weapon or tomahawk should be carried onto the field without an edge guard or scabbard. Edged weapons are not to be drawn on the field unless given prior approval from the safety officer and the site manager.
6. **NO** weapons are to be discharged within 25 yards of the “enemy”; remember to always elevate when firing.
7. No tompons taken to the field. Ramrods can be carried, but are not to be drawn on the field and used under any circumstances. If ramrods are drawn, you will be asked to give up your weapon.

**HORSES:**

1. All equestrian issues will fall under the purview of the appropriate Commanders.
2. All horses brought to the event are required to have a current Coggins certificate.
3. Horses should be trained to gunfire and battle. **DO NOT** bring untrained horses to this event.
4. Horses **WILL NOT** be ridden or led through camp. All horses will be dismounted prior to entering any camp area and led to the designated picket area in a slow controlled walk.
5. No person under the age of 16 will mount a horse as a combatant.
6. Spectators, children, and visitors will absolutely **NOT** be allowed to mount any horse.
7. Stallions will not be permitted on the event site.

Please sign below to acknowledge that you have read and agree to abide by the following policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME (as legally signed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINTED GUARDIAN NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
COMPANY/REGIMENT