



2010

July 30 - August 1 Coralville, IA



WEAPONS POLICY

(Please note that this policy is subject to change. For the latest version of this policy prior to the convention, refer to the Animelowa website at www.animeiowa.com. During the convention, the policy will be printed in the Program Book and a final version will be kept at the Bridge.)

Wearing a costume to Animelowa makes it a more fun weekend for all! We encourage you to dress as your favorite anime or manga character! We also want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable time, so please adhere to the following policy. The intention of the Animelowa Weapons Policy is to minimize unfortunate weapons-related accidents, not to limit anyone's creativity or fun. Anyone caught violating the weapons policy risks being "uninvited" to the convention without refund of their registration and other fees.

Bold terms in this policy are further explained in the DEFINITIONS section at the end of this document.

1. All weapons and props must be brought to the Bridge for inspection by the Operations staff. Any item(s) as well as some costumes may warrant inspection as well. The Bridge will assess any problems on site and on a case by case basis. Bridge staff will also be happy to answer any questions regarding these items.
2. **Bladed weapons** must be sheathed and **peace-bonded** and may not be drawn at any time during the convention.
3. **Real firearms** are not allowed, nor are working **projectile weapons**. This may include, but is not limited to, toy water guns as well as bubbles.
4. **Realistic-looking firearms** and **realistic-looking bladed** weapons must be holstered/sheathed and peace-bonded into a sheath(s) or holster(s). They may not be drawn at any time during the convention. If the item(s) cannot be peace-bonded they will not be allowed. Realistic-looking firearms may never be pointed at any person under any circumstances.
Note: Orange caps on realistic-looking firearms are highly encouraged, but will not be provided or guarantee permittance.
5. **Nonrealistic-looking firearms** and **nonrealistic-looking bladed** weapons must be **peace-marked**. However, we prefer that they be holstered/sheathed and peace-bonded when possible.

6. **Large props** must be peace-marked.

7. Costumes exhibiting paraphernalia of any military unit in existence after January 1900 or any replica of such will NOT be permitted. Exceptions for individuals on active military duty wearing their respective uniforms may be made; these individuals may be asked to show military identification.

Note: This includes law enforcement from all branches of government.

8. Costumes such as those listed in rule #7, or accompanied by weaponry that would not be permitted under any other rule, may be worn while the wearer is participating in a special convention function or programming item such as the Cosplay only. The weaponry or items may only be worn for the duration of the function.

9. The Animelowa Executive Committee reserves the right to amend these policies without prior notice and any ruling made by the Executive Committee is final. The Operations staff reserves the right to verify peace-bonding and peace-marking at any time during the convention.

Definitions:

Bladed Weapon: Any weapon with a metal edge, or an edge capable of cutting or inflicting significant damage. Some examples of bladed weapons would be swords, knives, bokkens, and shuriken.

Large Prop: Any costume accessory deemed to be a potential nuisance by staff given its height, girth, and/or weight. Some examples of large props could be Miroku's staff or Sango's boomerang from Inu Yasha.

Nonrealistic-Looking Bladed Weapon: A toy, look-alike, or imitation bladed weapon that does not duplicate a real bladed weapon and cannot be perceived to be one. Nonrealistic-looking bladed weapons have their edges and tips blunted, and are constructed of a non-metallic material. Other features that can identify a bladed weapon as nonrealistic-looking can include a greatly exaggerated size, or a principal color that is not black, blue, silver, or gray. (The Animelowa Executive Committee reserves the authority to determine whether a weapon qualifies as nonrealistic-looking.) Some examples of nonrealistic-looking bladed weapons would be those made from a material such as paper mache, or the gunblades used in the Final Fantasy video games.

Nonrealistic-Looking Firearm: A toy, look-alike, or imitation firearm that does not duplicate a real firearm and cannot be perceived to be one. Nonrealistic-looking firearms are preferably identified by a blaze orange marking permanently affixed firearm's barrel, and roughly ¼ inch in length. Other features that can identify a firearm as nonrealistic-looking can include a greatly exaggerated size, or a principal color that is not black, blue, silver, or gray. (The Animelowa Executive Committee reserves the authority to determine whether a weapon qualifies as nonrealistic-looking.) Some examples of nonrealistic-looking firearms would be those with the blaze orange marking described above, Vash the Stampede's huge handgun or Milly's stun gun from Trigun, the "ray guns" used in Cyborg 009, or the Orbo guns used in Witch Hunter Robin.

Peace-Bonding: A peace-bonded weapon is one tied to its sheath, holster, or container with a functional binding. It prevents someone else from taking your weapon without permission, and is a traditional and visible sign to everyone that you are a responsible person. Bonding material is available on the Bridge.

Peace-Marking: Nonrealistic-looking firearms, nonrealistic-looking bladed weapons, and large props will have peace-bonding material tied to the weapon as a visible sign that it has been checked and approved by the Operations staff. Marking material is available on the Bridge.

Projectile Weapons: If it projects a solid, liquid, gas, or energy, it is considered a working projectile weapon. Laser-lights emit energy that can be damaging to the eyes, so they are working projectile weapons. Toys such as Nerf guns and water pistols are considered projectile weapons, but if they are holstered and peace-bonded or peace-marked according to rules #4 or #5, and they are incapable of being loaded or fired, they are allowed.

Real Firearm: Any weapon for which a permit is required to carry and/or from which a shot is fired by the force of an explosion or pressurized air. Some examples of real firearms would be pellet guns, B-B guns, paintball guns, handguns, rifles, and shotguns.

Realistic-Looking Bladed Weapon: A toy, look-alike, or imitation bladed weapon having the general appearance, shape, and/or configuration of a real bladed weapon. Some examples of realistic-looking bladed weapons would be theatrical props, collector replicas, or toy swords/knives that appear similar to real bladed weapons.

Realistic-Looking Firearm: A toy, look-alike, or imitation firearm having the general appearance, shape, and/or configuration of a real firearm. Some examples of realistic-looking firearms would be theatrical props, collector replicas, or toy guns that appear similar to real firearms.