

## **OVMS RULES**

### **current as of 8/31/2023**

In an ideal world, “use common sense” would cover any question or issue related to attending an OVMS show as a dealer, helper, member, or public patron. In practice, the rules are necessary. Some are administrative, some exist to promote a family-friendly collector event, and some are in place to safeguard our ability to hold these shows at all. Compliance is required.

### **1. MEMBERSHIP**

**1A:** Annual membership is sold for a calendar year beginning January 1. Though new memberships purchased later in the year are not prorated, beginning at the MAX Show, new memberships sold are for the following calendar year.

**1B:** Memberships are sold to individuals only. There are no corporate or institutional memberships at OVMS.

**1C:** Membership is not available to individuals who have had their membership revoked by OVMS or related collector clubs, have been removed for cause from any military collector show, or convicted of a felony.

**1D:** Life Membership is capped at 1,000 members. Members in good standing for five consecutive years are eligible to apply for Life Membership. Applications will be periodically reviewed, and eligible applicants notified as vacancies become available.

**1E:** Membership is at the discretion of the OVMS Board of Directors. The OVMS reserves the right to suspend or irrevocably revoke the membership, including life membership, of any member. At OVMS’s sole and absolute discretion membership may be suspended or revoked for any of the following reasons, including but not limited to: violation of OVMS rules, illegal, improper or unprofessional conduct at OVMS events, removal from any other militaria show or collectors organization for cause, or any conduct that the OVMS Board of Directors deems to be detrimental to the OVMS, OVMS shows, or the collecting community at large.

### **2. SHOW TABLE APPLICATION**

**2A:** No tables will be reserved without a signed application, which may be submitted via post, electronically, or at any OVMS show.

**2B:** Applications for table renewal received after the posted deadline will be processed as a new table application, with no guarantee of same location, number, or availability.

**2C:** At all OVMS shows, all tables and dealer / helper memberships must be pre-paid. Submit payment with your application; tables will not be reserved without payment. All dealers and their designated helpers must have a current paid membership prior to the posted deadline.

**2D:** Anyone who intends or thinks it possible that they might be selling post-1898 firearms at an OVMS show must indicate this on their table application and certify their understanding of and compliance with federal laws and regulations governing that activity. (Beginning with June 2024 Wilmington).

**2E:** Dealers are allotted one free helper badge for one table; two free table helpers for two or more tables. All helpers over the age of 18 must be OVMS members, including adult extended family. A seller or helper's spouse or child under the age of 18 do not count against this total, nor are they required to be members, but they do need a badge. When requesting their badge, mark "family" next to their name on your form. Additional non-family helper badges can be requested on the table application. Additional non-family helper badges beyond the complimentary allotment are \$100 each, with a maximum combined total of six. Any last-minute changes or extra non-family helper badges needed at the show registration desk will also \*each\* be charged an additional \$50 convenience fee. (Please have your helper situation handled well prior to the show).

**2F:** The dealer of record remains ultimately responsible for the proper utilization of that table space and the business conducted there as it pertains to observance of OVMS rules. As such, it is strongly recommended that rather than one dealer reserving multiple tables to be subdivided among helpers, individuals who desire tables adjacent to their friends each should submit their own application (together if possible) and advise OVMS show management that this is part of a friend block.

**2G:** Tables are NOT transferrable. You cannot sell or assign your tables to another dealer or helper. At the time membership admission begins, tables which remain unoccupied by the dealer of record and/or that dealer's registered helper(s) revert to the OVMS for reassignment at the sole discretion of show management. If unforeseen circumstances in your travels make a late arrival likely, call OVMS show management to advise them so that you do not lose your table(s) to reassignment.

**2H:** The sale of tables and assignment of location within the hall is at the sole discretion of OVMS show management.

**2I:** Do not apply for a table if your intent is only to gain access to the show during dealer hours and to have a place to store your purchases. Tables must be utilized as described in Section 4. 'Ghost Tables' that come to the attention of show management will be reassigned, with the dealer and any registered helpers restricted from reserving tables in the future for a period to be determined appropriate by show management.

### **3. RULES FOR DEALERS & HELPERS**

**3A:** The Ohio Valley Military Society, Inc. shows are for the sale and trade of all original, legal military artifacts of all eras and nationalities. Related items such as collector display supply material and reference books are also welcome. Non-military related merchandise, modern political material, general paraphernalia or items that could through interpretation injure the Society, any individual or group of individuals, are prohibited from being sold, traded and/or displayed. Replicas and reproductions must be represented as such. You cannot sell reproductions as original. Replica or reproduction Third Reich items that include the swastika emblem, SS runes, or skulls are not permitted. (See Appendix A: Culturally Offensive Material, Rule #2.) The Ohio Valley Military Society, Inc., through its Officers, Directors, staff, or designated representatives, reserves the right to require a table holder to remove an item from

any trade or display table. This decision is irrevocable at the show. Disputes will be considered by way of a letter addressed to the Board of Directors after the show. At the next Director's meeting, the dispute will be considered.

**3B:** Only set-up personnel, OVMS Officers, Directors, show staff, and their designated representatives are allowed in the exhibit hall prior to the announced or published dealer set-up hours.

**3C:** Most facilities restrict areas where wheeled carts can be used, and the doors through which they may or may not be brought. These are generally the glass doors that lead into lobbies. If in doubt, ask. Do not take carts through off-limits doors.

**3D:** The national flag of the United States of America will not be used as a table cover or cover-up. WWII German flags or other fabric incorporating symbols that may be construed as culturally offensive will not be used as table covers or cover-ups.

**3E:** Displays must not extend into aisles in violation of the Fire Marshal mandatory minimum safe distance as it applies to each show. If in doubt, ask. It is best that all items be on, under, or behind your tables. Emergency exit doors must never be blocked or obstructed by tables, chairs, boxes, displays, etc. Dealers are required to be conscientious of and courteous to their neighbors on either side of their assigned tables and especially those behind them sharing the interior space which is often limited. Displays which extend to space assigned to neighboring vendors, large displays extending behind a table, furniture, storage containers, etc. that could be reasonably perceived as an impediment for neighboring dealers to access the interior of their assigned table(s) will not be tolerated. Please be courteous to your neighbors and try to treat them with the same level of respect and accommodation that you would expect for yourself.

**3F:** Tables are expected to be open for business for the entirety of published membership and public hours. Dealers who begin packing their display at Show-of-Shows or MAX prior to the published time on Saturday will be deprioritized for table renewal. Dealers who are found to have packed their display and departed from Show-of-Shows or MAX prior to the final day will automatically lose their table(s) at both events for a period of no less than three years. We understand that emergencies occasionally arise – if something unforeseen truly does require an early departure, special dispensation can be granted by the OVMS show management.

**3G:** Underutilization of Tables: Tables observed during the show or after closing with only a token amount of material on them are indicative of someone who has packed and left early, a 'Ghost Table', or some other situation deleterious to the overall appearance of the show. Tables that appear to be only partially occupied are subject to being judged surplus to requirement for the dealer who reserved them, and their total number of tables will be correspondingly diminished when their renewal is processed.

**3H:** At Show-of-Shows only, a limited number of 'Display Only' tables are welcome in specially designated educational display areas. If you plan an educational display only table, note this under the location preference heading on your table application.

**3I:** Tables occupied by dealers representing auction houses or wishing to advertise material currently or soon to be for sale through another venue may do so, provided that this accounts for no more than 20% of the area of their table space, and they utilize the remaining 80% of the area of their table space for the purpose of offering militaria or other acceptable material (see 3A) that is available for immediate purchase at the show where it is exhibited. Advertising literature does not count toward the prescribed 80% minimum volume of active sale material.

**3J:** Animals are not permitted, with the exception of service animals (animals trained to perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability.) Service dogs must be on a leash and under the control of a responsible party at all times. If you plan to bring a service animal, please note that on your table application. Service animals may be excluded or asked to leave if they demonstrate a direct health or safety risk to others, or if the animal is out of the owner's control and the owner cannot take effective action to control it.

**3K:** A dealer or helper badge alone is not sufficient to access the hall during dealer hours. Your membership badge must also be worn, and the two must match. Any member observed wearing a borrowed or forged dealer or helper show badge in order to access the show during dealer hours will be ejected from the event and their membership suspended for a period of time determined appropriate by OVMS show management or the Board of Directors. OVMS Staff, Life Members (who have access to the hall during dealer hours as a privilege of their membership), and those with Family badges (who are not required to be members) are the exceptions to this rule.

**3L:** The Ohio Valley Military Society does not warrant the authenticity of any item sold. The ultimate responsibility for all sales, purchases, or trade transactions rests with the individuals party to the transaction. That being said, everyone is susceptible to occasional error, and disputes are bound to arise. As sellers are individually responsible for Rule 3A (specifically "Replicas and reproductions must be represented as such"), OVMS requires sellers to offer without argument a refund (or mutually agreeable arrangement for timely refund) to a buyer who wishes to return an item for reason of authenticity at the same event where it was purchased, before the end of the show. It should be understood that the OVMS does not have the authority to compel a seller to refund a buyer's purchase. However, noncompliance with this rule will result in sanction by OVMS show management and / or the Board of Directors, including the potential for loss of membership.

**3M:** Items that are legal to possess but would be illegal to sell should not be at the show at all unless in the context of an approved and properly marked 'for display only' exhibit. Any transaction that would be illegal under Federal, State, or Local law is strictly prohibited at OVMS. This includes but is not limited to: the US Medal of Honor, USN ship bells with vessel names, unregistered destructive devices that have not been modified to legal specification, unregistered NFA weapons, and items which are in whole or part comprised of ivory or fur from species protected by CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) and/or the Endangered Species Act. Ivory materials are permitted only when legal for interstate commerce and are also legal in the state in which the show is held. Examples so permitted must qualify for an ESA antiques exemption or de minimis certification.

## 4: RULES FOR EVERYONE

**4A:** No alcoholic beverages, open or sealed, are permitted in the hall at any time. Smoking within the hall or adjacent to an open hall door is not permitted. Those wishing to smoke must use only approved exit doors and ensure that they are sufficiently distant from any regularly used door to prevent imposing on those with tables located near the door.

**4B:** No loaded firearms of any kind are allowed in the show at any time, including legal concealed carry. The only exceptions are licensed individuals specifically hired for show security, active-duty police, and retired police carrying in compliance with HR 218 (LEOSA). All cartridge firearms must be secured with a zip tie, in such a way as to render them inoperable, with any magazines removed. This includes firearms displayed in cases. Table holders are responsible for providing their own plastic ties. Any member or patron bringing a firearm into the show must stop at gun check to have the weapon inspected and a zip tie installed. **Anyone engaged in the purchase or sale of post-1898**



**firearms is individually responsible for ensuring that they are doing so in full compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations governing those transactions.** If you are unsure



about who can and who cannot legally sell or purchase a post-1898 firearm at an event, scan the QR codes here for the ATF rules for dealers and individuals. Private sales of post-1898 firearms between unlicensed individuals are legal only when both participants are residents of the state in which the transaction is taking place. In Pennsylvania, a State Police background check is required for any post-1898 handgun sale. At the MAX Show, a Pennsylvania FFL is available to handle those background checks.

**4C:** Any explosive ordnance must be positively known to be inert. There should be no assumptions of safety; vendors are required to have satisfactorily inspected such items prior to bringing them to the show.

**4D:** No one under the age of eighteen years old is permitted into the hall unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, or under adult supervision.

**4E:** Clothing or accessories displaying insignia or iconography that in the opinion of an OVMS Officer could through interpretation injure the Society, any individual or group of individuals, cannot be worn at the show. Individuals observed dressed in such a manner will be afforded an opportunity to exit, change, and return. If they refuse, are argumentative, or are observed later having changed back into the articles OVMS requested be removed, that individual will be escorted from the show.

**4F:** Use of emergency exit doors for any purpose other than an emergency requiring the evacuation of the hall is not permitted unless specifically authorized by OVMS staff. Violators are subject to loss of membership. Non-members violating this policy will be escorted from the hall.

**4G:** Filming and photography by contracted OVMS staff will take place throughout the show. By entering, you consent to and authorize the Ohio Valley Military Society to photographs and / or film recordings of you and to use said photographs and / or recordings for any purpose whatsoever. All such photographs and sound recordings shall be the sole property of the Ohio Valley Military Society. Further, you release the Ohio Valley Military Society from any and all liability on account of such usage. If you do not agree to the foregoing, do not enter the show.

**4H:** Filming and photography by individuals with OVMS issued 'PRESS' credentials as well as private individuals who may intend to use the images or footage for their own commercial gain is also likely as this is a public event with no expectation of privacy overall. Subject to law in the state in which the event is held, generally people may film or photograph without consent so long as the subject's face or image is not fully captured, nor is audio from private conversations between individuals in which a reasonable expectation of privacy is present. A dealer's tables are on public display. Should he or she object to their table(s) being filmed, they may politely request someone to desist, but compliance with that request is at the discretion of the individual who is filming or photographing. Should one voice an objection to themselves being filmed or recorded; however, compliance is required.

**4I:** All participants and attendees will be mindful of the fact that shows are public events, and as such, the way that we comport ourselves reflects not only on us as individuals, but also the event, the OVMS, and the militaria collecting community at large. Inappropriate public behavior includes but is not limited to intimidating, harassing, abusive, discriminatory, derogatory, or demeaning speech or conduct, particularly those related to sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, ability, cultural background, ethnicity, nationality, physical appearance. Violence, threats of violence, or violent language directed towards another person; lewd or offensive behavior or language will not be tolerated.

OVMS relies heavily on the expertise and vigilance of the collective membership to help identify issues at shows that need to be addressed. If you are aware of individuals at OVMS shows that are engaged in the willful sale of fakes and other materials or behaviors that have the potential to injure the collecting community and degrade the reputation of the Society, please make us aware by filling out an official complaint form at the event. Include as much information and detail as possible. These are periodically evaluated by the Board of Directors, with the understanding that one or two may reflect a personality conflict or rivalry, but a large number concerning the same individual(s) warrants close attention and potential board action. Forms are available at the registration booth, or you can download them here:

