HOUSTON GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

VENDOR/SHOW TABLE RULES

RULE STATEMENT:

This document defines the rules of operation for the Houston Gun Collectors Association, Inc. (HGCA) Shows. Any decisions regarding deviation or departure from these guidelines will be subject to the discretion of the Vice President of Gun Shows.

SHOW PURPOSE:

The purpose of our show is to promote the enjoyment of the public, sportsman, traders and collectors with the safe use and responsible ownership of firearms and related items. In order to maintain a quality and safe show, the gun show rules are enforced by officials of the show and must be adhered to by each exhibitor, their guests, and all patrons.

SAFETY:

Safety must be primary concern of all persons participating in the show. **Table holders may sell commercial ammunition. Vendors must read, sign, and adhere to HGCA standards on ammunition sales.**

Possession of a loaded weapon, including one brought into the show by a person with a concealed carry license (CCL), loose ammunition, or alcohol, will result in immediate removal from the Gun Show without any refund.

No Loaded Firearms, **No** Loaded Personal Firearms, **No** Loaded Magazines, **No** Loaded Speed Loaders, **And No** Foreign Ammunition without proof of product liability insurance will be permitted on the premises. Uniformed law enforcement personnel are the only exception to these rules.

Discharge or loading of any item, including a weapon, firearm, air or gas-powered gun, bow, crossbow, mace projector, target thrower, etc., will result in **immediate removal from the show without refund for table space rental, entry fees, or any other costs and possible arrest** by the Houston Police Department.

ALL firearms will be inspected, visually appear unloaded, and be tied open or strapped closed rendering them inoperable. Vendors must furnish their own plastic ties, wire, or other means to fully adhere to this rule. ALL actions must remain tied, and all clips must be removed. Cartridges or dummy rounds will not be placed in the chamber or magazine of any weapon for any reason. Ammunition clips will not be allowed in any gun at any time regardless of the locking system.

Safety and Law Enforcement Officers will inspect all firearms brought into the show by the general public.
Owners/Table holders with unsecured firearms and/or ammunition will be subject to expulsion the gun show.
No coolers, food, or drinks are to be brought into the exhibit hall on Saturday or Sunday. These are allowed during set-up on Friday.

Exhibitors sharpening knives or using any kind of grinding and/or polishing appliance must install an impact resistant shield around the appliance to prevent knives, wheels or residue from being thrown into the aisles and all such appliances must be attached to a secure surface.

SHOW EJECTION: Failure to comply with any gun show rules may result in an official warning or ejection by a HGCA official. Ejection from the show because of misconduct or violation of the rules will be at the sole discretion of the Vice President of Gun Shows.

TRADE ITEMS:

All trade tables must contain no less than 85% acceptable trade items. Only merchandise that complies with the HGCA rules and is specifically listed on your table application is guaranteed to be allowed to be offered for sale. You may have to remove items that greatly vary from the list of Acceptable Trade Items. Appeals are made to the Vice President of Gun Shows.

ACCEPTABLE TRADE ITEMS:

- Ammunition – Commercial domestic ammunition in original sealed factory packages. Collectors' cartridges (calibers no longer regularly manufactured and experimental cartridges in sealed original packaging and individual rounds in sealed containers)
- Archery – modern archery equipment, bows, crossbows, bolts, arrows, arrow points, bow accessories
- Art – historical, western, hunting, trench art, scrimshaw, and scaled and antique toy soldiers (not dolls)
- Collectables – books, manuscripts, maps, manuals, gun and historical magazines, collectable currency, antique business and government records, photographs, taxidermy, antique watches, coins and stamps
- Cowboy/Western – original artifacts, reenacting clothing 18th and 19th century, pistol belts and holsters, hats and caps
- Firearms – modern rifles, pistols, shotguns meeting NFA standards, antique rifles, pistols, shotguns, gun cases & bags, gun sights, scopes, stocks and finishing materials, cleaning kits and materials, parts, cannons earlier than 1898, cannon parts, relics, concealed carry items, individual police officer equipment, clips, loading devices, slings, non-guns, air guns, non-cannons
- Hunting Accessories – game calls, decoys, traps, skinning equipment, game bags, scent, & scent cover items, tarps, hunting tree stands, feeders, guided hunting trips.
- Indian artifacts, scrimshaw
- Knives – knives, swords, bayonets, sharpening devices, knife making materials, straight & antique razors, shielded sharpening services
- Military – uniforms meeting original specifications (all wars), equipment, manuals
- Reloading components – Brass cases, bullets, pellets, containers, reloading equipment, gauges, dies, presses, scales, primers in sealed containers of 1,000, and nitro powder in sealed containers (no black powder, coated black powder allowed) - Tools – antique, specific to gun repair

Acceptable videos being played to sell approved gun related materials.

PROHIBITED MERCHANDISE (must be removed immediately)

- Alcohol, Blowguns, Sling Shots and Rubber Band Guns
- Chemical Mace, pepper spray, or like devices.
- Flares, detonator caps, explosives, smoke bombs, exploding targets, live fuses, safety matches, black or coated black powder
- Reloaded ammunition is prohibited. Loose ammunition, not in sealed containers, is prohibited.
- Martial arts equipment (throwing stars, nun chucks, saps, etc.)

Switchblades, butterfly knives, and anything else deemed inappropriate.
Spear guns, Tazer rounds, compressed gas fuel and camp stove fuel.
Any racially inflammatory or terroristic material, live fuses, safety matches, black or coated black powder
Alcohol, blow guns, slingshots, chemical mace, pepper spray, stun guns and like devices.
Flares, detonator caps, explosives, smoke bombs, exploding targets.
Anything that negatively impacts the operation of the show, causes problems for neighboring table holders or is a poor business practice as defined by the Vice President of Gun Shows.

UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICES

- Taking photographs or video during the show, sale of items from carts or wagons, sale of food or drink. (Videos and media played during the show shall be approved by HGCA officials on an individual basis)
- Offering or displaying literature (including tape or digital format) to patrons on the manufacture of silencers, conversion of firearms to fully automatic function, or manufacture of explosives, demeaning to women, supporting anarchy, "get even techniques," overthrow of the government, politically slanted, racially prejudiced, ethnically prejudiced, inflammatory, or terrorism and guerrilla warfare techniques

SECURITY and SAFETY TEAM:

The Security and Safety Team is comprised of The Gun Show Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, HGCA Safety Officers, and Law Enforcement Officers. Safety Officers patrol assigned sections of the hall (blocks) and are authorized to inspect merchandise to assure compliance with HGCA rules. Exhibitors and HGCA members are expected to follow and help enforce safety rules and are to report violations to members of the Security and Safety Team.

GUN SALES - LEGAL NOTICE:

Be aware that the Brady Two Law embodied in the National Criminal Background Check System (NICS) which became effective November 30, 1998, requires Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers (FFL) to obtain approval from the FBI/NICS system to completing any sale of handguns, rifles or shotguns to a purchaser (except those with Concealed Carry Licenses).

Private sales by individuals are not affected by this change, but current laws do make rifle or shotgun (including ammunition) sales by anyone to those under 18 years old illegal, the sale of handguns (including ammunition) to anyone under 21 years illegal and prohibits sales to out-of-state residents under most circumstances.

ALL VENDORS MUST COMPLY WITH FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAWS, AS WELL AS HGCA SHOW RULES. Failure to comply with the above will affect continued exhibition at, and acceptance to future HGCA Gun Shows.

Important Notice to FFLs and Other Participants at Gun Shows (ATF I 5300.23A)

ATF Information 5300.23A, Important Notice to FFLs and Other Participants at Gun Shows has been revised effective, June 2021. Please be aware that no new regulations have been implemented. The purpose of this revision is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or Department policies.

Key changes were made to the following section to clarify the activities of FFLs not licensed within the state of the gun show:

FFLs Not Licensed Within the State

- **Must** comply with all ATF recordkeeping requirements concerning the acquisition of firearms.
- **May** acquire firearms from any FFL licensed within the State and from any non-licensed individual, provided all recordkeeping requirements are met.
- **May** make a transfer a firearm only when the firearm is a curio or relic and the transferee is an FFL licensed in any State, as long as there is compliance with the laws of both States, and all recordkeeping requirements are met.
- **May** ship curio or relic firearms to any other FFL.
- **May** display and take orders.
- **Cannot** transfer a firearm to an unlicensed person.

If you have any questions, please contact the Firearms Industry Programs Branch (FIPB) by email at FIPB@atf.gov or by phone at (202) 648-7190.

TEXAS STATE SALES TAX:

TABLE HOLDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING STATE SALES TAX. The HGCA only provides an envelope for easy Sales Tax Payment if table holders do not have a regular business and process to pay sales taxes. The HGCA will facilitate table holders' obligations, but all Texas Sales Tax matters are between the individual table holder and the State Comptroller's Office.

REGISTRATION AND SETUP:

Registration and set up by Exhibitors will be Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. HGCA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RESELL TABLES NOT CLAIMED BY 10:00 a.m. SATURDAY MORNING.
Table reservations and ownership is not transferable, and no refunds will be made for table reservations cancelled less than ten (10) days prior to the show.
Admission to the exhibit hall on Friday will be by Exhibitor of Member Badge through the Rear Door only. The rear entrance unloading doors at the center will close promptly on Friday at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday at 6:00 p.m. The rear door will reopen Sunday at 5:00 p.m. for loading purposes. Exhibitors will clear the exhibit hall by 7:00 p.m., Sunday.
Exhibitors receive only ONE badge per table, and it will only be issued to the individual named on the exhibitor registration form. The table holder may purchase additional badges.
The Gun Show opens to the general public at 9:00 a.m. Saturday and 10:00 a.m. Sunday through the convention center hall front doors only. The HGCA assumes no responsibility for the property of any person attending the show.
Uniformed police officers will be on security duty from Friday 8:00 a.m. through Sunday evening, 24 hours a day. Each exhibitor is responsible for their own property at all times.

TRANSFER POLICY:

Exhibitors may transfer table rental fees from one show to the next consecutive show only. Should an exhibitor cancel a reservation after transferring, there will be no refund.

TABLE PLACEMENT POLICY:

HGCA members are placed as close to the area they request unless another HGCA member occupies the location.
HGCA members can retain their location if they attend shows on a consecutive basis and occupy tables during the hours the show is open to the public. Failure to occupy tables for the entirety of the show may result in the loss of such table position. HGCA members may miss one show per year and retain their location, if written note is submitted stating their inability to attend show.

CLOSING THE SHOW:

The public will be cleared from the hall at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, at which time all trading shall cease. The vendors must clear the exhibit hall by 7:00 p.m. on Sunday night.