

# Furrydelphia Attendee Code of Conduct

## I. Introduction

Furrydelphia, Inc. exists to unite the members of the furry fandom in an annual weekend-long convention. Everything we do is intended to achieve the following core objectives: to promote a positive image of the furry fandom within the public eye; to encourage the sharing of artwork and ideas, the participation in panels and skill-building sessions, and the creation of new connections and memories for members of and all those interested in the fandom; and to host a charitable organization, with the intention of raising funds and awareness for that organization.

In order to ensure that the greatest number of people achieve these objectives, we have established certain rules of conduct. By them we seek only to ensure that the behavior of any one small group does not disturb the attendance as a whole, nor does it detract from the relaxed and comfortable atmosphere of the convention. Furrydelphia eagerly welcomes all parties with an interest in anthropomorphic animals; however, the convention's management reserves the right to deny or revoke the membership of any individual at any time for any reason. Furrydelphia, Inc. also reserves the right to amend these rules at any time without prior or posted notice and reserves the sole right of interpretation. If you have any questions, please contact the convention operations staff for assistance.

Anyone who enters convention space agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Furrydelphia, Inc. and its partners and affiliates from any claim for personal injuries or other damages or equity arising out of any individual's activities at Furrydelphia, even if such injury or damage is caused by negligence by or on the part of Furrydelphia, Inc. or its partners and affiliates. Anyone who enters convention space agrees that disputes between them and Furrydelphia will be resolved by binding, individual arbitration in the county of Montgomery in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania and that they waive the right to participate in a class or collective action lawsuit, or class or collective arbitration.

As a condition of membership, all Furrydelphia attendees are required to abide by these standards of conduct for the entire duration of their stay, even prior to Opening or after Closing Ceremonies. You are required to have read and understand this document in its entirety. Any questions can be posed in person at Attendee Services or via email to [help@furrydelphia.org](mailto:help@furrydelphia.org).

## II. Property Rules

This document and the rules herein explained are to be considered supplemental in nature to any rules and regulations imposed by the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown. This document is intended only to explain the rules of conduct for Furrydelphia and its convention space. All



persons on property are expected to understand and follow property rules and regulations and comply with instructions given by the property's security officers.

Please note that for the duration of the convention, the event space in the convention's venue is under a signed contract for usage and, therefore, is NOT considered to be "public space." Only individuals who are in possession of a Membership ID ("con badge") rightfully belonging to that individual are permitted inside convention space. Furrydelphia reserves the right to instruct any unregistered and/or unbadged individuals who are inside its convention space to immediately leave. Individuals failing to comply with such instruction shall be considered trespassing in private rented space and the convention will respond accordingly.

Membership IDs (con badges) are valid only for the person to whom they are issued. Individuals found to be borrowing an ID from someone else in order to avoid payment shall be instructed to leave convention space immediately and will not be welcome back until they pay for their own registration. Furrydelphia reserves the right to confiscate any shared badges and, if necessary, issue temporary or permanent bans to any trespassing individuals, depending on the attitude and compliance of such individuals.

### III. Convention General Rating

All convention areas are considered to be "PG" at all times, with the exception of events or exhibits that are specifically noted to be inappropriate for minors and access to which is controlled by Furrydelphia staff.

In accordance with Furrydelphia Public Safety and the rules and regulations of the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown, attendees, when in public areas, may not wear clothing which is overly revealing or inappropriate to the atmosphere of the convention, such as fetish-related garb and accouterments. Collars and leashes, pup hoods, harnesses worn over shirts, quad-suits, and non-revealing rubber or latex are acceptable.

Shirts, pants/shorts, and footwear must be worn when in public areas of the hotel, such as lobbies, convention space, restaurants, outdoor space, hotel elevators and hallways, and so on.

Full-body fursuits are excluded from the "shirts/pants/footwear" rule, provided that the costume is not unacceptably revealing.

Public displays of affection beyond what is appropriate for polite company are frowned upon. You will be asked to express your devotion to your significant other either in less conspicuous ways, or in private.



## IV. Public Decorum

No items of any kind, including paper airplanes, may be thrown within the hotel, nor thrown or dropped from any staircases or balconies on hotel property, inside or otherwise.

No water guns, silly string, nerf guns, or any thrown or projectile-type toy may be used in any area of the hotel, including its grounds.

For safety reasons, only handheld or worn glowsticks are permitted in the dances. Glowsticks on strings or on polearms must be cleared with Public Safety staff before being used. The decision of Furrydelphia Public Safety staff on any particular item will be final.

Individuals found sleeping in the lobby, the hallways, or any convention space will be asked to relocate to their hotel rooms or to leave the property in order to sleep.

Furrydelphia attendees must abide by instructions given by Furrydelphia staff, including public safety and medical personnel. Failure to do so will result in loss of membership privileges. **Any disputes or concerns may be addressed onsite at the Public Safety office or emailed to [feedback@furrydelphia.org](mailto:feedback@furrydelphia.org).**

Furrydelphia functions, including Main Events, the Dealer's Den, the game room, and all panels are open only to members, and all attendees should wear their membership ID at all times.

Smoking (including the use of electronic cigarettes or other vape products) is not permitted in any area within the hotel, including the guest rooms. Smokers are asked to use designated smoking areas, and to comply with any other smoking rules of the facility. Cigarette butts must be disposed of properly and may not be left on the ground.

Knowingly providing transportation or housing, or otherwise knowingly enabling an individual that is unwelcome at Furrydelphia to attend or enter the Convention's property will result in permanent revocation of Furrydelphia membership privileges.

## V. Attendance by Minors

Anyone who is under the age of 18 years at any time during the convention must present a signed and notarized parental permission form unless accompanied by a parent or able to produce evidence of legal emancipation. There are no exceptions.

Attendees who are 15, 16, and 17 years old can attend the convention unsupervised, so long as they have provided the signed and notarized parental permission form, or a parent has accompanied them to sign the form in the presence of our registration director.



**Attendees who are 14 years old and younger CANNOT be in convention space unsupervised.** Furrydelphia does not at any time accept responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of underaged persons, nor does Furrydelphia accept the role of guardianship for such persons. Attendees who are 14 years old and younger will receive special Membership IDs identifying them as such, and **will be considered to be a lost child if found to be unaccompanied by their guardian.**

Minors are not permitted under any circumstances to enter areas that have been designated for mature audiences.

Anyone providing false documentation of identity or age will be denied membership and reported to the police.

Anyone who is under the age of 18 years will be issued a specialized Membership ID that will clearly designate them as being under 18 years of age. Any of these individuals who attempt to cover up their ID, borrow the ID of an individual over the age of 18, or in any other way deceive Furrydelphia staff, the Dealer's Den vendors, hotel staff members, or other attendees into believing that the individuals in question are above the age of 18 will have their convention Membership revoked for all future convention years until they are 18 years of age. The parents or guardians of these individuals may be contacted at any time and for any reason by the Chairman or the Public Safety Director.

While Furrydelphia is a friendly and welcoming space to underage attendees, the convention is primarily curated for adults. Parents/guardians who consent for minors to attend Furrydelphia do so under their own best judgement. Furrydelphia convention space is considered unrated and Furrydelphia Inc. staff/volunteers are not able to control or limit any minor's exposure to an adult environment, including but not limited to: the conversation topics that minors might overhear, the use of inappropriate adult language within earshot of minors, and costumes or attire that are not explicitly inappropriately revealing but that may be suggestive or implicit.

Starting at 9:00pm each day, the convention becomes an adults-only (18+) environment and minors will not be granted entry to convention space.

## VI. Weapons Policy

According to the rules and regulations of the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown, no actual weapons or any items that can be easily mistaken for weapons may be carried either openly or concealed at any time on hotel property, regardless of any permits which you may possess. Exceptions may be made only for duly appointed security and law enforcement officers by prior arrangement with the Chairman and Public Safety Director. Personal pocket knives with single-edged blades less than 4 inches long are permitted.

Weapon replicas are only permitted as part of a costume and if at a glance they can be quickly



determined to be replicas, by means of unusual colorations, sizes, markings, etc. Any member of Public Safety may ask to closely inspect your replica at their own discretion. Furrydelphia has the final say on whether a weapon replica is too realistic to be considered safe for carrying.

## VII. Pet Policy

According to the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown rules, pets are not permitted on hotel property. The ONLY exceptions to this rule will be for service dogs and designated Furrydelphia Charity Partner “animal-ambassador” dogs according to contracted terms. Such exceptions will be made only through written permission provided by the Chairman.

Service dogs (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or ADA, Title II) are permitted in all convention space accessible to members provided that they are under appropriate control. Emotional Support Animals and Therapy Animals are NOT considered service dogs by the ADA, and are not permitted in the hotel. All animals on hotel property must remain calm and controlled by their owners at all times.

## VIII. Parties/Gatherings in Hotel Rooms

Gatherings in hotel rooms must not generate any noise that can be heard in neighboring rooms at any time. This includes during the day. Any parties or gatherings happening in hotel rooms must be kept to a reasonable volume. Furrydelphia Public Safety reserves the right, in accordance with the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown management, to decide what constitutes “unreasonable noise levels.” Hotel doors must be kept shut during such gatherings and guests are not permitted to congregate in the hotel corridors.

Loud parties will be given an initial warning to remain quiet. Any further action, including additional warnings or motions to remove the offending individuals, will be taken at the discretion of the hotel. Furrydelphia is obligated to respect, uphold, and enforce all decisions made by the hotel in matters of safety and security.

Hotel guests who create excessive garbage are responsible for cleaning up afterward. Excessive amounts of unbagged trash must not be left for housekeeping staff to clean up. Any exuberant cleaning fees may be added at the discretion of the hotel.

## IX. Other Hotel Matters

The Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown requires that all room reservations be made by persons 21 years of age or older. Guests of all ages are welcome to stay in hotel rooms, but the person in whose name the reservation is made MUST be 21 years of age or older.



It is against hotel rules to prepare and/or serve food from your hotel room. Crock pots, griddles, and other cooking devices, as well as food trays, sternos, and the like, are strictly prohibited. Guests are welcome to have food delivered by local establishments and are encouraged to explore the many food options available around the property.

Any act of vandalism, deliberate or excessive damage to hotel property, or interference with any hotel staff members in the performance of their duties will result in permanent revocation of Furrydelphia membership and, if warranted, result in criminal prosecution, fines, or any combination thereof.

The person in whose name a room is rented is solely responsible for the conduct of all individuals in the room as well as for the condition of the room. Excessive trash, soiling or other damage to hotel property, or any circumstance that may present a hazard to hotel housekeeping staff may result in permanent loss of Furrydelphia membership privileges.

Requests for room amenities such as towels and pillows beyond the number that is reasonable and customary for a single room may be denied at the discretion of the hotel. Kindly bring such extra items from home if they are expected to be needed.

## X. Signage

The Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown strictly prohibits the posting of any signage, artwork, or stickers to any part of the hotel. This includes any room signs, posters, or advertisements of any kind. Please leave the hotel corridors and doors neat and free of any signage and stickers.

You may not use adhesive or other damaging products (nails and tacks, glues, etc) to affix anything to any walls in the hotel. Anything found posted without permission will be taken down and any repair fees for removing residue or repainting surfaces will be billed to the individual who posted the offending item. Promotional material may only be posted on Furrydelphia bulletin boards or left loose in pre-approved areas, and in all cases only with the express permission of Furrydelphia leadership. Please present any materials to Attendee Services for review and approval. Unauthorized media will be collected and discarded by Furrydelphia staff.

At no time may anything be posted in a manner that obscures hotel signage, emergency signage, posted Furrydelphia signage, or that blocks any lines of sight (in other words, don't post anything to any indoor windows that look into other rooms).



## **XI. Sales of Goods and Services**

The offering for sale of any goods or services at the convention may only be undertaken in the Furrydelphia Dealer's Den or the Artist Alley/Con Store and only by registered Furrydelphia Vendors who have provided the Dealer's Den staff with physical copies of their valid Pennsylvania Sales Tax Licenses. All sales will be governed by the rules applicable to those areas. Sales may only be made at authorized times and when processed through the vendor's tax license.

Any and all sales undertaken not in this specific manner are considered **ILLEGAL** by the state of Pennsylvania. To that degree, any individuals found making illegal sales will have their memberships at Furrydelphia revoked and, in order to keep our promoter status, must be reported to any necessary authorities.

## **XII. Harassment**

Harassment of any kind, including physical assault, battery, deliberate intimidation, stalking, or unwelcome physical attention, will not be tolerated at the convention. If people tell you "no" or ask you to leave them alone, your business with them is done. If you continue to attempt to have contact with those people, you may be removed from the premises. Remember: "A costume does not imply consent." If you have been the target of harassment, we urge you to report the incident immediately to a member of Public Safety or to Attendee Services. The sooner an issue is reported to us, the more appropriately we can address it.

Furrydelphia is not responsible for solving any interpersonal problems that may arise between individual members prior to the convention. We cannot preemptively ban a person from attending solely because another attendee does not want that person to be there. In general, we can take no action to prevent a person from attending the convention unless that person has made a specific and credible threat or if another individual can produce a legal restraining order.

## **XIII. Substance Abuse**

The sale or other distribution of any illegal or controlled substances is not welcome at Furrydelphia. Any individual found to be distributing such substances will be removed and reported directly to the necessary authorities.

Anyone knowingly or unknowingly providing alcohol to anyone under the age of 21 will be guilty of a felony and will be reported to the authorities. It is the sole responsibility of persons providing alcohol in room parties to ensure that every person in attendance is over the age of 21, even if that person is not drinking alcohol. The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board is extremely serious about this law and we ask our members to respect it.





## XIV. Media Relations and Use of Furrydelphia Images or Footage

All journalists, media photographers, and any other members of the press are required to display an official Furrydelphia Press Badge or be accompanied by a senior Furrydelphia staff member at all times while on hotel property. Please note there will be a \$20 cash deposit to pick up the physical badge: this is just to make sure that you return the badge to us at the conclusion of the convention and you do not keep it, the \$20 will be henceforth returned to you. Members of the press who have not been issued a Press Badge may not conduct interviews or take photos, audio, or video footage without an escort.

If members of the media are present, attendees must act responsibly. Media representatives who do not have Press Badges and are not escorted by a Furrydelphia staff member should be reported to Furrydelphia Public Safety or to Attendee Services immediately. Remember, **being an attendee does not qualify you to speak on behalf of Furrydelphia, Inc.** Therefore under no circumstances should you speak to any unbadged and unescorted members of the press!

Furrydelphia attendees should be aware that audio and/or video recordings are frequently made in convention areas by both staff members and other attendees and that their likenesses may appear in those recordings. Individual members agree to assign without compensation the use of their likeness(es) at Furrydelphia for the use of promotional material. To protect the intellectual property rights of our vendors, no photographs are to be taken in the Dealers Den at any time!

The name "Furrydelphia" and the Furrydelphia logos and graphics may not be used in any fashion that disparages or dilutes that mark. Members agree to remove from circulation or publication any image or recording that in the sole opinion of Furrydelphia, Inc. misrepresents or defames its service mark.

## XV. Payments to Furrydelphia and Other Money Matters

Furrydelphia will accept payments for registration and Con Store payments in the forms of cash and debit/credit cards. For our own security reasons checks will NOT be accepted.

Due to the hand-to-mouth nature of our business, Furrydelphia does not offer refunds on registrations, dealers den tables, artist alley tables, or any other payments for which an attendee may seek a refund due to changes of plans, acts of god, shortness of funds, or any other unfortunate circumstances that may befall our attendees and cause them to be unable to attend. Large amounts of these refunds would cause us great financial harm as our business is 100% community funded and we retain very little money year to year. Individuals who can no longer attend Furrydelphia may transfer their registration to a different individual, or can forward their registration to the next convention year. Registrations can only be forwarded one year.





For credit and debit cards, chargebacks (denying a charge) that are made for the purpose of avoiding payment, that are made without sufficient cause, or that are made without first attempting to resolve the dispute with Furrydelphia may result in revocation of membership privileges and possible legal action.

**Please note, all attendees are required to read, understand, and agree to the above refund policy as a part of the registration process.** You CANNOT successfully pay for your registration to the convention without opting in to agreement with the policy.

Members who have an outstanding balance due to Furrydelphia must settle that balance before being permitted to attend the convention.

Furrydelphia cannot involve itself in financial disputes between individual members, and cannot divulge information about an individual member to any party other than to banking officials or legal authorities for the purpose of conducting and facilitating operations of Furrydelphia.

## XVI. Final Notes

The standards of conduct for Furrydelphia will be strictly enforced by Furrydelphia Public Safety staff who will be clearly identified as such on site. Please remember that, until the conclusion of the event, your membership ID is the property of Furrydelphia, Inc. and must be presented and/or surrendered to any Staff member requesting it.

**If you have any problem with any action taken by a Staff member you are invited to take the matter up with the Director of Public Safety or the Convention Chairman.** You may do so at Attendee Services, the Public Safety office, or by submitting an email to [feedback@furrydelphia.org](mailto:feedback@furrydelphia.org). Please keep in mind that there will be limited actions we can take if you report a problem after the convention has concluded.

Please understand that these rules involve, of course, "worst-case" scenarios and are put into place to ensure the safety and comfort of our members. They are also not all-inclusive.

In all cases, the singular rule that supersedes all others is, "Any action or behavior that causes significant interference with convention operations, excessive discomfort to other attendees, or adversely affects Furrydelphia's relationship with its guests, its venues, or the public is strictly forbidden and will result in any action that Furrydelphia deems fit."

Furrydelphia is prepared to deal with any or all of the above scenarios in as rapid and efficient a manner as possible should they occur. We thank our members for their cooperation and for their continued assistance in making this a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. Have fun - just please remember to be courteous of those around you while doing so!

