



## **Edged Weapons Policy**

**V1.0**

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## **1. Policy Overview**

The purpose of this policy is to inform on current legislation regarding edged weapons, how Vespasian Security search for these, and procedures for dealing with any found item

## **2. Current Legislation**

Section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 and section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 respectively provide for offences of having an offensive weapon in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse and having an article with blade or sharply pointed in a public place without lawful authority or good reason.

Sections 139 and of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 apply to any article which has a blade or point except a folding pocketknife unless the cutting edge of its blade exceeds 7.62 centimetres (3 inches).

Section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 provides that an offensive weapon is any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person, or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him or by some other person.

It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 to prove that he or she had good reason or lawful authority for having the article in a public place. There are also specific defences in respect of:

- Use at work
- Religious reasons
- Carrying the item as part of a national costume

(HM Government, 2012)

## **3. Reasonable assumptions**

It can be reasonably assumed that festival attendees who are camping may bring within their camping equipment articles with a blade that exceed 7.62cm (3 inches) for the purposes of food preparation whilst in the campsite, and as such should be regarded as having 'good reason' for carrying said article. However, as these can be deemed as offensive weapons these will not be allowed onto the festival site and will either be confiscated or returned to the owners vehicle (as per section 5).

No knife with a folding and lockable blade of any length will be permitted at any point.

## **4. Search Procedures**

All persons entering the site are subject to a search. Customers bags may be searched for any prohibited items (including offensive weapons) as well as a consented 'pat down' search. Any persons who refuse a search of bags brought onto site or a 'pat down' search will not be allowed onto the festival site. Customers who

are camping on site will be permitted to bring knives for the purposes of food preparation provided the blade length is 7.62cm (3 inches) or smaller. Customers will not be allowed to take any form of knife into the main arena (unless prior permission has been sought from the festival organiser and is subject to good reason i.e. woodcraftsmen, food preparation demonstrations or part of religious wear).

## **5. Storage of confiscated articles and disposal**

Any edged articles that are confiscated or surrendered at search will be stored in the security control area until the end of the festival where after they will be disposed of accordingly with the onsite waste provider.

## **6. Specified Weapons**

Section 141 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 provides that it is an offence to manufacture, sell or hire, offer for sale or hire, expose or have in his possession for the purpose of sale or hire of or lending or giving to any other person certain specified weapons. The Criminal Justice Act (Offensive Weapons) Order 1988 (S.I 1998/2019) (as amended) provides that the following are specified weapons for the purpose of section 141:

- a) a knuckleduster, that is, a band of metal or other hard material worn on one or more fingers, and designed to cause injury, and any weapon incorporating a knuckleduster;
- b) a swordstick, that is, a hollow walking-stick or cane containing a blade which may be used as a sword;
- c) the weapon sometimes known as a 'handclaw', being a band of metal or other hard material from which a number of sharp spikes protrude, and worn around the hand;
- d) the weapon sometimes known as a 'belt buckle knife', being a buckle which incorporates or conceals a knife;
- e) the weapon sometimes known as a 'push dagger', being a knife, the handle of which fits within a clenched fist and the blade of which protrudes from between two fingers;
- f) the weapon sometimes known as a 'hollow kubotan', being a cylindrical container containing a number of sharp spikes;
- g) the weapon sometimes known as a 'footclaw', being a bar of metal or other hard material from which a number of sharp spikes protrude, and worn strapped to the foot;
- h) the weapon sometimes known as a 'shuriken', 'shaken' or 'death star', being a hard non-flexible plate having three or more sharp radiating points and designed to be thrown;

i) the weapon sometimes known as a 'balisong' or 'butterfly knife', being a blade enclosed by its handle, which is designed to split down the middle, without the operation of a spring or other mechanical means, to reveal the blade;

j) the weapon sometimes known as a 'telescopic truncheon', being a truncheon which extends automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring or other device in or attached to its handle;

k) the weapon sometimes known as a 'blowpipe' or 'blow gun', being a hollow tube out of which hard pellets or darts are shot by the use of breath;

l) the weapon sometimes known as a 'kusari gama', being a length of rope, cord, wire or chain fastened at one end to a sickle;

m) the weapon sometimes known as a 'kyoketsu shoge', being a length of rope, cord, wire or chain fastened at one end to a hooked knife;

n) the weapon sometimes known as a 'manrikigusari' or 'kusari', being a length of rope, cord, wire or chain fastened at each end to a hard weight or hand grip;

o) a disguised knife, that is any knife which has a concealed blade or concealed sharp point and is designed to appear to be an everyday object of a kind commonly carried on the person or in a handbag, briefcase, or other hand luggage (such as a comb, brush, writing instrument, cigarette lighter, key, lipstick or telephone);

p) a stealth knife, that is a knife or spike, which has a blade, or sharp point, made from a material that is not readily detectable by apparatus used for detecting metal and which is not designed for domestic use or for use in the processing, preparation or consumption of food or as a toy;

q) a straight, side-handled or friction-lock truncheon (sometimes known as a baton);

r) a sword with a curved blade of 50 centimetres or over in length; and for the purposes of this sub-paragraph, the length of the blade shall be the straight line distance from the top of the handle to the tip of the blade.'

(HM Government, 2012)

Any persons presenting with any of the above items will be detained and police advice will be sought (either through 101 or 999 dependent on dynamic risk assessment of person presenting the specified weapon). Items which are found on site that do not have an apparent owner (i.e. discarded or handed in to security) will be placed in an evidence bag with details of find. The Police will be contacted to make them aware of the item and any other relevant details.

## 7. Persons using articles as an offensive weapon

Any persons attempting to use an article as an offensive weapon will be managed in line with a dynamic risk assessment made by either the team member or a Senior Manager (including levels of PPE, ability of team member, perceived intent of assailant etc). The assailant will either be detained or those around the assailant will be moved away for safety until the Police arrive to take command of the situation. In the event of a marauding terrorist attack the advice of Run, Hide and Tell will be followed by all staff and customers.

## 8. References

HM Government. (2012, December 11). *Knives and offensive weapons information*. Retrieved from GOV.UK:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/186911/Knives\\_and\\_offensive\\_weapons\\_information\\_GDS\\_FAQ.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/186911/Knives_and_offensive_weapons_information_GDS_FAQ.pdf)

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