

OVIEDO MEMORIAL POST 243

House Rules

Article I - INTRODUCTION

This introduction is meant to define the parameters of the House Rules for Oviedo Memorial Post 243 of the American Legion, Department of Florida so that all members and guests will understand what is expected of them while at the Post or while attending Post functions.

Section A – JURISDICTION

The American Legion, and more specifically, Oviedo Memorial Post 243, Florida, is a fraternal organization governed by the Constitution and By-laws agreed upon by the National Organization and operates for the purposes stated therein. It is, therefore, fitting and proper that the application of the efforts for Post 243 be done in a congenial and respectful manner. All public and private activities conducted either at Post 243 or by its members and affiliates away from, but in the name of, Post 243 shall thereby fall under the jurisdiction of these House Rules.

Section B – LEGALITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Inasmuch as Oviedo Memorial Post 243 operates as a private organization to serve our community and generate income to help fund our service programs, it falls upon the governing body, the Executive Committee, to maintain and enforce a means by which proper conduct may be ensured. Requiring that proper conduct be observed always is both the legal and moral responsibility of all members and the leadership of Post 243. The primary purpose and fundamental goal of Post 243 is to be of service to our members, other veterans, and our communities. It is, therefore, of prime importance that we foster and maintain good relations and an exemplary reputation with those individuals and the community. Just as important, it is our moral and civil obligation to abide by and adhere to the municipal and state statutes which govern the operation of the fundraising projects and activities operated in the name of Oviedo Memorial Post 243.

Section C – ENFORCEMENT

It is incumbent upon this body to provide for its members and guests, certain guidelines of behavior, dress, and conduct so that the principles set forth in Sections A and B above may be effectively observed. The guidelines presented in the following Articles are to be observed by all who participate in the functions of Post 243, by members, their guests, and those members of the general public who will attend post functions or events. Failure to do so will result in corrective action as prescribed in this document and enforced by the Executive Committee of the Post. It is the responsibility of each and every member of Oviedo Memorial Post 243 to see that these guidelines are met: both by personal compliance and by reporting infractions to members of the Executive Committee or their designees.

Members

To report an infraction a member should utilize the House Rules Violation Report, copies of which are kept in the red binder at the back of the post and posted on the website. Violation Reports will be submitted to the executive committee for review and processing. A copy of the report is at the end of this document.

House Rules

Executive Committee

Disciplinary actions as defined under Articles II-V herein that require an appearance before the Executive Committee by a member/violator, to include those violations that may result in a suspension of a member's post privileges, will be processed as follows:

- i. Once the written Violation Report is received by the Executive Committee Chair; a Letter of Notice will be prepared and delivered by the Judge Advocate, or designee, to the member/violator, along with the Violation Report, directing the member/violator to appear before an Executive Committee meeting (Executive Committee Hearing) in a specified day and time to address the violation(s).
- ii. The Letter of Notice may, at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee, include a temporary suspension of the member/violator's post privileges until the member/violator appears before the Executive Committee.
- iii. At the Executive Committee Hearing, the Violation Report will be read; witnesses will be allowed to speak; the member/violator may address the charges; and a fair review of the facts will be conducted. After a thorough review of the incident, the voting members of the executive committee shall determine the appropriate disciplinary action not to exceed the guidelines provided for in these House Rules.

Article II – PROPER DRESS

This article is designed to illustrate the types of dress which are either acceptable or not acceptable at functions of Oviedo Memorial Post 243. Any clothing or manner of dress deemed as disruptive, offensive or inappropriate for the occasion may subject the wearer to be denied admission or attendance to that function. Neatness and cleanliness are always desirable but will be strictly required at some functions. Committee authorities are within their right to deny entrance to anyone whose appearance would diminish our efforts and/or reflect adversely upon our community reputation.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION ARTICLE II

1st Offense: Verbal warning and violator must leave and correct violation, violator may return when violation is corrected.

2nd Offense: Verbal reprimand and violator must leave and not return that day.

3rd Offense: Written Letter of Reprimand and 30-day suspension of post privileges.

Article III – PROPER BEHAVIOR

Unacceptable behavior on the premises of Oviedo Memorial Post 243 or anywhere else when representing Post 243 can generally be described as that which is socially unacceptable conduct in any public establishment. The following types of behavior DO NOT meet socially accepted standards, and will not be tolerated:

Section A – REGULATIONS

1. No loud or disruptive arguments
2. No excessive profanity, offensive language, or verbal assault
3. No discrimination, intimidation, bullying, or defamation of any member or guest
4. No stalking, harassment, or inappropriate touching of any member or guest

OVIEDO MEMORIAL POST 243

House Rules

Section B – INTOXICATION

Intoxication, as determined by Executive Committee members, as excessive will not be allowed. If that person becomes disruptive or offensive, he or she will be required to leave the premises immediately, with outside assistance if necessary. He or she must remain off the premises for the rest of that function.

Section C – SMOKING

Smoking or any type of vaping device is not permitted inside Oviedo Memorial Post 243 or any of its outbuildings.

Section D – SERVICE ANIMALS

Only certified service animals with state approved tag or vest will be allowed in Oviedo Memorial Post 243.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION ARTICLE III, SECTIONS A-D

1st Offense: Verbal warning, must leave post property until the next business day.

2nd Offense: Written warning, must leave post property and not return until appearance before Executive Committee

3rd Offense: Written Letter of Reprimand and 30-day suspension of post privileges.

Section E – DESTRUCTION OF POST PROPERTY

No intentional or negligent destruction of post property or items will be permitted.

Section F – FIGHTING

1. Fighting will not be tolerated. Any member or guest involved in a physical fight will be removed from the premises and will only be allowed to return until after an executive committee hearing and the completion of any imposed disciplinary action.
2. If it is determined that an individual, through no fault of their own is physically attacked by another person, and the individual attacked becomes physical with the aggressor by attempting to free themselves, but only to the extent of stopping the attack, the defendant shall not be subject to suspension.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION ARTICLE III, SECTIONS E-F

1st Offense: Written Letter of Reprimand First Offense with 30-day suspension and, if applicable, payment to repair/replace damaged property.

2nd Offense: Written Letter of Reprimand Second Offense with 90-day suspension and, if applicable, payment to repair/replace damaged property. Violator must appear before the Executive Committee before being reinstated.

OVIEDO MEMORIAL POST 243

House Rules

3rd Offense: Written Letter of Reprimand Third Offense with indefinite suspension and, if applicable, payment to repair/replace damaged property. Violator must appear before the Executive Committee before being reinstated.

Article IV – ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Section A – DRUG ABUSE

Absolutely no use, sale, or possession of any illegal substance will be tolerated at Oviedo Memorial Post 243.

Section B – FIREARMS

1. Absolutely no firearms will be permitted on Oviedo Memorial Post 243 property.
2. No firearms or weapons of any kind will be allowed in a building or at any event on Post property.
3. Exemptions to the above include official Color/Honor Guards during the practice and performance of their duties, officers of the Law, or members of post 243 who have valid concealed carry permits.

Section C – GENERAL

Anything defined as illegal by any local, state, or federal law will not be tolerated on Oviedo Memorial Post 243 property.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION ARTICLE IV

1st Offense: Any person, member, or guest, determined to be in violation of Article IV will be suspended from all Post privileges indefinitely subject to an Executive Committee hearing. In addition, the said person will be reported to the proper authorities.

Article V – GUESTS

Section A – GUIDELINES

Guests are always welcome at Oviedo Memorial Post 243 unless the event specifically states, members only. For the purpose of these House Rules, a guest is any person who does not hold a membership at Oviedo Memorial Post 243. Members may invite guests to the Post; however, they are responsible for the conduct and actions of their guests and may be subject to disciplinary action because of rules infractions committed by their guests. All guests must adhere to the same rules of conduct as do the members.

Section B – VIOLATIONS BY GUESTS

In addition to the normal or regular discipline imposed upon a guest of a member for violation of the House Rules, a suspension of six (6) months may be imposed; during which time that person will not be allowed as a guest of any member.

Article VI – MEMBERSHIP TERMINATION

House Rules

Oviedo Memorial Post 243 may expel a member from our organization. In that event, that member's privileges to visit the post under and conditions, to include "guest" status, will be terminated indefinitely by the Executive Committee, provided a Letter of Notice of the expulsion is delivered to the adjutant for processing.

Upon receipt of the Letter of Notice the Post Judge Advocate or designee shall send a letter to the expelled member notifying that his or her privileges to visit the post have been terminated. A copy of this letter will be provided to the members of the Executive Committee and chairs of all committees. Further, the expelled member will be removed from the distribution of the Post's emails, newsletters, and any other forms of Post communications.

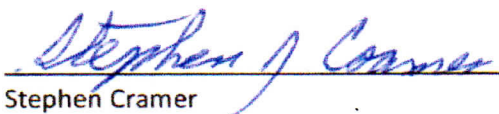
Article VII – VIOLATIONS

1. Violations of Oviedo Memorial Post 243's House Rules are to be verbally reported immediately to the Executive Committee Chair.
2. A written report of the violation is to be forwarded to the Executive Committee within ten (10) business days.
3. Members and guests may request a return to privileges in accordance with the applicable procedures listed by violation

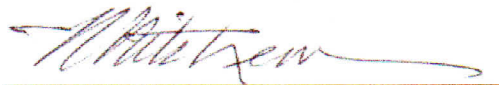
These House Rules were adopted by Oviedo Memorial Post 243 at a regular meeting held on September 16, 2021.



Laurel Ross
Post Commander and Chair, Executive Committee



Stephen Cramer
Post Adjutant



William Mitchem
Post Judge Advocate

