

OMSA CONVENTION BOURSE RULES (as of July 2005)

The bourse of the annual convention represents an opportunity for members of the Society and the general public to see and obtain the best possible selection of orders, medals, and decorations of the world. To reduce the potential for misunderstanding and misrepresentation, all non-original material offered for sale or trade should be properly identified in accordance with the STANDARD DEFINITIONS as published in the Membership Handbook and listed on the reverse of this document. It is important to maintain the prestige of this event by ensuring that it represents only the highest standards of authenticity, quality and identification. Under no circumstances will medals that are known to be illegal to sell be offered for sale or displayed in a manner that implies that they might be available.

The Code of Ethics of OMSA states the primary rules regarding conduct of members and applies to all activity of the convention bourse. The following rules have been adopted by the OMSA Board of Directors for the bourse and are applicable to everyone attending the annual OMSA convention.

WHAT CAN BE DISPLAYED

- The bourse is established for the sale, trade, and display of orders, medals and decorations of the world as well as directly related material. Directly related material consists of award documents, publications on awards, uniforms of recipients, honor goblets and swords presented in recognition of service or gallantry. It also includes ribbons, collecting supplies, magnifiers and storage devices related to collecting of medals.
- A small amount of historical related items may be permitted. These items may not be totally related to awarded medals, but lend prestige to the show. Included are unusual military helmets, certain uniforms, swords and other militaria that are in good taste. This type of material cannot exceed more than 25% of a member's table space.
- Items not considered related and not permitted in the bourse include jewelry, watches, cloisonné work, non-uniform clothing, political material or other items that are considered unacceptable.
- Firearms and ammunition of all types are not permitted for safety, insurance and legal reasons.
- Bulk lots of uniforms, headgear, insignia and unfinished or scrapped awards are not permitted.

NON - ORIGINAL MATERIAL – These have been categorized on the reverse and may be displayed and sold so long as they are properly identified and marked as such.

ENFORCEMENT - The Convention Chairman working with the OMSA Vice – President and the OMSA Ethics Committee, is responsible for implementation of this policy.

- A. The Convention Chairman will ensure that a copy of this policy statement is provided in advance to each member attending the convention. It should also be provided to new members who join OMSA at the convention and any members who register late.
- B. The OMSA Vice – President, assisted by the Convention Chairman, will appoint a knowledgeable member of the Ethics Committee or an OMSA member to survey bourse tables during set-up and during the course of the convention. Members with improperly marked items or material will be asked to clearly mark them or to remove them from the bourse.
- C. When disputes arise that cannot be settled by the appointed individual and/or the Vice-President, he/she will present the dispute to a mediation board for settlement. The decision of the board is final.

MEDIATION BOARD – This board will consist of the President, the vice-president, the general counsel, the convention chairman, and a member of the Ethics Committee or a knowledgeable member. The board will examine the questionable material, enlisting the aid of other members as necessary, and determine whether the material is improperly marked.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY - Members, by their registration at the convention, acknowledge their responsibility to adhere to this policy and the rulings of the Mediation Board. Any material the board identifies as improperly marked must be clearly marked as such and will be so represented for the duration of the convention. If the member chooses not to mark or represent the material as directed, he /she will be removed from the convention without refund of table rental or registration fee.

GENERAL –

- A. This policy is applicable to everyone attending the annual **OMSA** convention.
- B. While OMSA makes every attempt to enforce these rules, it is impossible for every item in the bourse to be inspected. Therefore, any guarantee of authenticity lies solely with the seller, not with the Society.