

*policy statement on*

# **RULES OF BEHAVIOR FOR PATRONS**

REVISED **November 17, 2022**

The East Baton Rouge Parish Library is a public agency supported by the taxes of the citizens of the parish, and they have the right to expect an atmosphere conducive to study, reading, and the legitimate use of library materials and services. To foster such an environment, patrons must act in a considerate and appropriate manner.

Any behavior that disrupts the orderly use of the library or that affects the staff's ability to provide service is strictly prohibited. Disruptive behavior is defined as any loud, boisterous, or profane behavior which is inappropriate in an institution established to promote quiet study and the use of library materials.

The following rules have been adopted by the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control. Library supervisors and staff have been authorized to enforce these regulations and to require patrons who do not comply to leave the library premises.

1. No guns, knives, or other weapons are permitted on library premises.
2. Limited types and amounts of food and beverages are allowed within designated areas of library buildings. Light snacks and easily contained or wrapped foods for individual consumption are permissible (eg., cookies and crackers), as are most beverages, except those with alcoholic content or red dye. Beverages should be in non-glass containers with caps or spill-resistant lids. Generally these may be consumed within many public service areas, but not near computers, keyboards, or other equipment, nor on top of low standing book stacks or display cases. Please consult the Meeting Room Policy for regulations governing food and beverages in those areas.
3. Smoking, vaping, or other tobacco use is not permitted in libraries, in library restrooms, or within 25 feet of a library entrance. Smoking is prohibited within Independence Park which includes the Plaza and parking lot of the Main Library at Goodwood. Tobacco use includes cigarettes, cigars, pipes or rolling tobacco, snuff, tobacco substitutes (e.g. clove cigarettes), chewing or spit tobacco, or any type of electronic smoking device.
4. Loud, abusive, profane or vulgar language that is disturbing to patrons and staff will not be tolerated.
5. Physical, verbal, or sexual harassment of library patrons or staff will not be tolerated. Stalking and bullying are also not permitted.
6. Thievery, vandalism, and fighting will be reported to the police.
7. Soliciting, petitioning, canvassing, offering services, or distributing written materials inside a library building, including the doorway or vestibule of any such library building, or in a similar manner on the library premises that actively interferes with or impedes access to the library are not permitted activities.
8. Persons appearing to be intoxicated or on drugs will be required to leave.



9. Entering or remaining on library premises without sufficient attire, including shoes and shirts, is not allowed.
10. Exhibitionism (indecent exposure) and voyeurism (peeping) will be reported to the police.
11. Moving furnishings is generally not allowed, except for study, work, and reading areas where the furnishings have been designed for flexibility and movement. Furnishings, however, should remain within their area and not be moved to other areas of the library. Shelving, equipment, and traditional furniture should not be moved. Sitting on tables, desks, carrels, or bookstacks is not permitted, and feet should be placed only on ottomans or footrests designed for that purpose.
12. Intensive personal hygiene activities such as bathing, shaving, and washing clothes are not permitted in the library restrooms or on library property. While on library property all persons must remain properly clothed.
13. Running, exercising, and lying on the floor inside, or lying on the ground outside on the grounds including paved areas are not permitted. Patrons must not block access, egress, or impede the flow of traffic on library property.
14. Gambling is not permitted in library facilities.
15. Generally the number of people at each table should be limited to the number of seats available at the table. In collaborative study and work areas, however, additional people may cluster around a table to work on a project or for group study. Disruptive socializing and excessive talking that interferes with other patrons' use of the library is not acceptable.
16. Seating at each study carrel is limited to one person.
17. Electronic devices can only be used with earphones at a volume level that cannot be heard by other patrons and staff.

In order to provide safety for patrons and staff to protect the Library, the following items are not to be brought into library facilities or on library premises:

1. Weapons of any kind
2. Bedrolls or blankets, plastic trash bags, shopping carts, and large boxes.
3. Snakes, birds, or other animals (except service and assistance animals) unless part of a special program.
4. Alcoholic beverages or drugs.
5. Skateboards, skates, scooters, and bicycles.
6. Fire, open flames, or heat-producing devices.

**Violation of these rules may result in suspension of library privileges.**

*The East Baton Rouge Parish Library Rules of Patron Behavior Policy was adopted by the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control November 3, 1998.*

*Revised December 29, 2008.*

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