# The Officers Academy Rules

If you need help getting started with your application/blog, please read our <u>Newcomer's</u> Guide! Take a look at our <u>FAQ</u> tag as well.

### General

- ★ The Officers Academy [TOA] is a **closed** RP group. This means that you must first apply to be accepted into the group and, once accepted, you may not use your TOA blog to interact with blogs not affiliated with TOA. We only accept canon characters.
- ★ All character reserves, hiatus requests, and drops must be sent to the masterlist inbox. Informal requests or announcements made in our Discord server will not count.
- ★ Once accepted into TOA, you will be expected to treat the mods and all other members with respect. Bullying and harassment will not be tolerated. If you are found breaking rules or making others uncomfortable, the mods will approach you in a constructive manner. Repeated offenses or noncompliance may result in removal from the group. Offenses that endanger our members' safety (bigotry, sexual harassment, etc.) are grounds for instant removal.
  - TOA operates on a three-strike system. In general, the mods will first issue a warning and a chance for the member to correct their behavior or explain themselves. If the behavior continues or is especially egregious, then a strike will be awarded. Strikes are **permanent** and will remain in a mun's personal file even if they leave TOA. At two strikes, stronger action will be taken, usually a temporary ban from the Discord server. At three strikes, the member will be permanently banned from TOA.
  - Social media: There are no rules about what you can and cannot post on your social media accounts while you're a member of TOA, but content related to TOA or its members falls within our rules of conduct. Offensive posts that target other members of the group can be reported but will not be actively monitored by the mods. This includes private DMs and servers.
  - Plagiarism: Do not plagiarize another author's published work. This includes copying copyrighted material without citing a source, as well as the use of generative AI to write applications and replies. If an application, reply, or some other part of your writing is found to be plagiarized, you will receive a strike.
     Repeat offenders will be banned from the Officers Academy.
  - Additionally, reposting or reusing someone else's art without permission is strictly against our rules. Reblog or share from the source. If you can't find the source, then don't post the work, or ask a mod to help you find it. This includes fanart

used in icons and blog layouts.

- ★ We have both a Discord server and a Twitter account! Access to both can be found on the blog. You don't have to be a member to join or follow either! Come chat with us!
- ★ Although TOA has a mechanics system, it's all for narrative fun in the end. Outside of major events run by the mods, you will not roll for levels or have combat stats. You and your partners are free to determine how abilities and items affect you in your threads. Just be mindful of godmodding and powerplaying.

# **Applying**

- ★ You may reserve prior to applying to hold your spot. Reserves last for **7 days**, with an additional 7 days' extension granted upon request. When reserving a character, you must include your name either in the reservation or in a separate message. If sent in a separate message, the mods will not include your identity in the reservation post.
- ★ Members are limited to **3 muses at a time**. You must wait a **month-long** cooldown (i.e. June 2nd to July 2nd) before reserving an additional muse. When taking on an additional muse, the mun should also have demonstrated strong levels of activity well past the minimum on existing muses, as well as high engagement with the rest of the group. As a general rule of thumb, over a three month span we expect 6 thread replies a month on one muse if applying for a second muse, and 9 thread replies a month across two muses if applying for a third muse.
- ★ We do not accept duplicates of characters unless they have a canon double (M/F Byleth, Morgan, Kana, etc.)
  - CONCERNING POSSESSED/PUPPETED MUSES: Puppeted characters, e.g.
     Julia and Manfroy, can be applied and coexist in TOA simultaneously. Possessed characters, e.g. Julius and Loptous, occupy the same slot and both get jurisdiction from the same mun.
  - CONCERNING ANNA & JAKE: Given the nature of each Anna and Jake canonically being treated as different, separate entities from one another rather than different versions of the same person, we accept applications of each Anna and Jake iteration and they are not treated as duplicates.
  - ELYOS UPDATE: The Four Winds and the Four Hounds, as well as all of the fell
    royals from the Fell Xenologue, are treated as duplicates in TOA. We accept
    applications for the cast as they appear in the Fell Xenologue, but the canon
    version of the character cannot be applied for while the fell version is in TOA, and

vice versa.

- ★ Please stay as faithful to canon as possible. Headcanons and creativity are definitely encouraged, but refrain from too much canon divergence, such as changing or erasing large aspects of what make them who they are.
- ★ Characters from nearly all FE titles are welcome! We do not accept characters from Tokyo Mirage Sessions due to its modernity, but all other titles and spin-offs (e.g. Warriors, Heroes, Cipher) are accepted. You may also choose to play a supporting character from outside of the main cast, but please note that for characters with minimal to no canon information (e.g. Kiran, Mark, Layla, Sitri, the Elibe morphs), the mod team will be stricter about what we pass. We should see whatever canon information is available in the application itself, and although roleplaying at its heart will introduce a muse to new scenarios that might develop them in ways not seen in canon, the character should still not stray too far from this canon once accepted. Note: canon information exists outside of dialogue, and for minor characters, must be found in the maps they show up on, other characters' behavior toward them, and additional lore embedded throughout the game. This is not a group for original characters, so applying for a minor character should not be treated as a free pass to write an OC.
  - On that note, characters with no official canon appearance at all (including supporting media like Fire Emblem Treasure, Fire Emblem Heroes, TCGs, etc.)
     will not be accepted. Characters who were accepted prior to this rule coming into effect have been grandfathered in
- ★ 3H applications must be based on the Academy phase (though post-timeskip threads are welcome once the character is accepted; they will be treated like AUs). Non-Fódlan characters will be joining as exchange students and faculty from their respective homelands, and must come from a canon timeline in their original games. This means that their trip to Fódlan should not change their canon plotline much, which ensures that castmates from the same game always have a static reference point for their muses. How and why they are at Garreg Mach is up to you though.
- ★ When applying, a muse must have an affiliation: a House, faculty, etc. 3H muses must begin with their original affiliation (i.e: Sylvain must start in the Blue Lions).
  - After 1 month of activity, you may change affiliation (switching or joining a House). A muse may only change affiliation once a year, so choose wisely!
     Please message the masterlist to do so.
  - Canon unrecruitable characters (Edelgard, Dimitri, Claude, Hubert, Dedue, and Rhea) will not be allowed to change affiliations, but AU threads are allowed.
- ★ Please submit your application to the masterlist from the completed primary blog.
  Blogs cannot be side blogs or dash-only blogs. Please make sure you have your ask box

enabled.

- ★ You must have a completed stats page before submitting, and it is recommended to have at least the 'muse info' section of your application on your blog somewhere. Please also put an affiliation link to the Officers Academy in your description, and state whether your character is faculty, student, or something else (Example: "Black Eagles Professor affiliated with the Officers Academy").
- ★ REGARDING MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN: In Genealogy of the Holy War, Awakening, and Fates, the Generation 2 casts of each game has a canon parent (ex. Ayra and Larcei, Tharja and Noire, Kaze and Midori) and a variable parent that is chosen by the player. In The Officers Academy, a child character that joins the group may headcanon their variable parent, but this must remain tentative until the involved characters (the canon parent and the proposed variable parent) join TOA and agree to the relationship. If a mun involved does not want to ship their muse with a certain character, they are within their rights to do so and the mun of the child character must respect their wishes. Canon relationships (ex. Pent and Louise), canon children (ex. Roy and Eliwood), and canon siblings for FE4's Gen 2 cast (ex. Nanna and Diarmuid) may be freely referenced.

We do not allow instances where a character is another character's spouse or a child's parent but in another non-canon timeline. We would like to keep parents and children congruous wherever possible for simplicity's sake. An exception may be made for Fates characters due to multiple routes and child characters not existing in a certain timeline (ex. a Selkie explicitly from the Birthright route may headcanon her variable parent as F!Corrin. Like before, this should be a tentative headcanon, but in the event that an F!Corrin from the Conquest route joins TOA, then Selkie can still headcanon their mother as F!Corrin, but from a different timeline than TOA's F!Corrin. This should still be discussed with F!Corrin's mun and Kaden to make sure everyone is in agreement).

# **RPing**

- ★ Once accepted, you must follow the masterlist blog and all TOA members.
- ★ Please use a unique thread tag for each thread you make. However you decide to do this is up to you (thread title, character name 1, etc.). This is so mods can easily check your threads for class mastery.
- ★ You are welcome to write headcanons for areas related to your character (including variable parents for Gen 2 characters); however, should another character who is affected by your headcanons join later, you are responsible for communicating with the

mun and, if it is an area over which they have more jurisdiction, deferring to their ideas if asked.

- ★ The focus of TOA is on IC content. OOC content is fine as long as it is relevant to your character, but please be reasonable. Avoid spamming pictures, quotes, aesthetics, etc. Please also use some sort of OOC tag. For OOC content related to accountability (e.g. thread tracking, monthly skill point allocation), please use the tag #toaactivity.
- ★ Make sure all NSFW content, such as anything sexual, grotesque, or triggering, is tagged as #nsfw and is under a read more. This will mark your blog as mature, which will remove your posts from any blog that has "hide mature content" toggled, and also prevent minors from accessing your blog. Content warnings are also helpful but not required. The method for how to do this differs depending upon what device you are using:
  - On Desktop: When creating a post, to the left of the Post button, there's a
    dropdown that starts as "For Everyone" by default. Click it and label your NSFW
    content appropriately.
  - On Mobile: When creating a post, look for the people icon in the lower right corner. Tap it and then a popup will appear titled "Add Content Label" on the bottom of your screen. Toggle on "Mature" and confirm.
- ★ Once a muse has been dropped, they cease to exist in the Officers Academy. Your muse's relationships with them must be removed or substituted onto an NPC, which means that they cannot be referenced in threads or other IC content. A new mun picking up a muse once written by someone else in the group is given a clean slate, and they are not required or expected to follow what the character's previous writer had done.

## **Rank System**

- ★ Please refer to our <u>Rank Chart</u> and our <u>Combat Manual</u> for more information on stats and weapons.
- ★ **DO** message the masterlist for:
  - Claiming an ability upon reaching a new full letter rank in any skill.
  - Mastering a class.
  - Accessing a class.
- ★ DO NOT message the masterlist for:
  - Claiming the monthly activity skill point.
  - Claiming skill points for completing mission task threads.

- ★ Only **completed threads** may be claimed for skill points and mastery. This is any thread that both muns agree has reached its narrative conclusion.
- ★ A dropped thread may be claimed for skill points and mastery as long as the thread has reached a **minimum of 2 reblogs** (starter + your reblog + partner's reblog OR starter + partner's reblog + your reblog) **and 400+ words** on your end. However, the partner who requests the drop forfeits any rewards. This includes threads started from an ask.
  - Exception! 3-Month Clause: Those who have waited on a reply for 3+ months gain the option to drop the thread and claim associated rewards. The thread must have met the above minimum requirements, and the 3-month period includes any hiatuses, hiatus extensions, and events. It is, however, best practice to communicate with your partner about thread status prior to and when deciding to drop if possible, and you do not have to drop after 3 months if you do not want to. The mun who has not replied will not be eligible to claim any rewards.
  - Addendum: When a muse drops out of the group, they officially drop all of their threads, which allows their partners to claim them for skill points and masteries if they meet the above requirements. If a mun brings back this same muse at a later date, they can pick their old threads back up again but cannot claim the masteries or skill points because they already forfeited them when they dropped their muse.

# **Activity**

- ★ 3 IC posts per calendar month is the minimum activity requirement. Activity checks will be conducted at the end of the month.
  - Meta, headcanons, drabbles, and non-event ask replies may only count towards 1 of the 3 posts. However, any ask reply that receives another reply from the sender becomes a thread and will therefore count as a thread reply, exempting it from this restriction.
  - Posting less than the requirement will result in a warning during the check.
     Two consecutive warnings will result in removal. Warnings separated by a hiatus that didn't meet activity requirements will still count as two consecutive warnings.
  - Those who have not made any IC posts in a calendar month will be automatically removed during the check.
  - You are not allowed to reply to threads with muses that have been dropped or removed from the group.

#### **★** Activity Exemptions:

- Muses on hiatus at the time of the check.
- Muses that have been in TOA for less than 3 weeks out of the month are exempt.

- ★ You may request a hiatus by messaging the masterlist. Semi-hiatuses last 2 weeks and hiatuses last 1 month. Upon request, hiatuses may be extended to twice the length of the original hiatus (totaling 1 month for a semi-hiatus and 2 months for a full hiatus). After returning, you must wait the time equivalent to your hiatus length before requesting another hiatus. Note that abuse of hiatuses will negatively impact your eligibility to apply for additional muses. Taking a hiatus after receiving a warning on an activity check will also not overturn the warning until you meet the minimum IC requirement at some point afterwards. This means that a second warning received after a hiatus ends without activity will be treated like a consecutive warning and result in removal from the group.
- ★ If you are removed for inactivity, you must wait **1 week** before reapplying as the same character. You may reuse your previous application, and you will retain all stats that you had before.
- ★ Consistent minimum activity or hiatus use may be cause for concern. These will be handled on a case by case basis. Mods will approach any such members constructively, but depending on the circumstance, prolonged minimal activity even after speaking with a mod may result in removal. We don't want to kick people out for having lives, but it's also not very fair to someone else who may want to write your character or write with your character if you're not really around.

## **Events**

- ★ TOA hosts a number of IC-based events multiple times a year. Most are short and light, and are intended for quick interactions and RNG-based games. However, twice a year (once in January and once in August), we run a major month-long narrative-driven event. These long events require daily participation and as a result, activity may seem much more intense than during the rest of the year.
- ★ TOA also hosts a two-week Arena event once a year each November that focuses on combat using our combat manual, and balancing new weapons and abilities. This is good practice for becoming familiar with combat in TOA.
- ★ The narrative (or "lore") events contain elements of TTRPGs, so we recommend reading guides for how to participate in that style of story. (TOA's own guide coming soon)