



Smut Wars Rules 2026

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Rules for the 2026 round of Smut Wars; rules and FAQ for the previous rounds are considered outdated once nominations for the 2026 round open.

★ Are you new to AO3 exchanges?

We've compiled a step-by-step tutorial for newcomers, [available here!](#)

Table of Contents

Schedule

General Rules

1. You must be 18 years old or older to participate.
2. Each participant will produce a complete, original, brand new work that is created specifically to fulfill a request for this exchange and meets the minimum requirements.
3. ODAO: Optional Details Are Optional. You cannot demand specific prompts from your creator.
4. You must have an AO3 account with an email address you still have access to.
5. Be respectful. Disrespectful behavior will lead to bans.

Nomination Rules and Guidelines

General rules

Allowed relationships

Format rules

Sign Up Rules and Guidelines

Matching

Unmatchables

Do Not Match requests

Requests

Do Not Wants (DNWs)

Offers

Assignments, Treats and Pinch Hits

Assignment guidelines

Gift guarantee

Treats

Pinch Hits

Defaulting and Extensions

Defaulting

Extensions

Schedule

- ☐ **Nominations:** May 23–June 6
- ☐ **Sign Ups:** May 30 –June 13
- ☐ **Assignments Out:** No later than June 18
- ☐ **Assignments Due:** August 22
- ☐ **Assignment reveals:** September 5*
- ☐ **Creator reveals:** September 12*

Dates and times will generally be 11:59 PM PST.

***Reveals may be delayed until all pinch hits with gift guarantee are fulfilled.**

General Rules

1. You must be 18 years old or older to participate.

Only people who are 18 years old at the time of their signups or older can participate. If you are under 18 years old, this event is not for you; feel free to come back once you qualify. Please respect this rule; do not deceive the mod team.

2. Each participant will produce a complete, original, brand new work that is created specifically to fulfill a request for this exchange and meets the minimum requirements.

Each work:

- **must meet one of the recipient's requested characters/relationships.** It does not have to be for the request you matched on;
- **must not contain any of the recipient's DNWs for that request;**
- **must not contain AI-assisted and/or generated content;**
- **must be rated either Explicit or Mature for sexual content;**
- **must remain anonymous until Creator Reveals.** It cannot be part of a non-anonymous series, or contain links to the creator's socials before Creator Reveals;
- **must be revealed on Work Reveals.** If you post to another collection as well, be certain your work does not remain unrevealed after Work Reveals;
- **must be complete and posted to the AO3 collection by the stated deadline.**

The minimum requirements are as follows:

- **For all works: must be smut-centric.**
The Smut Wars Exchange is a fanwork exchange focused on **smut**. Your mileage may vary as to what constitutes smut, but at least half of your work must be smut.
- **Fics: 1,000 words.**
Your fic must be a story with a beginning, middle, and end. It must be written in English and at least 1,000 words long;
- **Fanart: clean line art.**
Your piece must be a completed work and cannot be drawn on lined paper. Allowed fanart includes digital and real media (e.g., paper and pencil, paint, sculpture). Animated gifs that meet requirements are allowed;
- **Fanmixes: 20 minutes.**
Your work must be public and accessible to everyone. If you use a streaming platform, be certain that unsubscribed people can easily listen to it.
- **Podfics: 1,000 words.**
If you are using, remixing and/or getting inspiration from another fanwork, you must have the author's explicit permission (or be certain they give blanket permission for what you want to create). If you use a streaming platform, be certain that unsubscribed people can easily listen to it.
- **Fanvids: 15 seconds.**
Your work must be public and accessible to everyone. If you use a streaming platform, be certain that unsubscribed people can easily watch it.

Treats are exempt from minimum requirements but must still match at least one of the recipient's requested characters/relationships, respect their DNWs and be a complete work rated either M or E for sexual content.

3. ODAO: Optional Details Are Optional. You cannot demand specific prompts from your creator.

While suggestions, optional prompts and ideas are recommended, **you cannot force your creator to create something specific** for your gift. You are allowed to suggest a soulmate AU for your requested ships; you are not allowed to say you want only soulmate AUs for your requested ships.

DNWs are not considered optional details: not respecting your recipient's DNWs is against Rule 5.

4. You must have an AO3 account with an email address you still have access to.

In case the mod team needs to reach out to you, AO3 gives us access to the email address you use to log in. If you end up unmatchable or if your gifter sends us a question to forward to you, we will use this email address. Be sure to be able to access it easily—and, if your legal name is in it, to change it if you don't want any exchange mod from every AO3 exchange you participate in to see it!

5. Be respectful. Disrespectful behavior will lead to bans.

Respectful behavior includes:

- **Respecting the rules.**
Previous participants who have been banned for not respecting the rules may not participate again.
- **Tagging your work properly.**
You must select Major Archive warnings if necessary, as well as any potential trigger warnings. Bear in mind that picking Creator Chose Not to Use Archive Warnings implies that the author chose not to warn about *archive warnings*; you are still expected to tag any potential trigger warning not covered by the major archive warnings. What consists of trigger warnings may vary, but if you do believe your work requires one: tag it.
- **Commenting on your gift.**
You are expected to leave a comment on your gift(s, including any treats), which will be revealed on September 5.

- **Not being a dick toward the mod team.**

This is a fanwork exchange made by fans for fans. The mod team does this for fun and for free. Do not act like an entitled customer; you will not get to speak to the manager. You may, however, end up banned.

- **Not being a dick toward other participants.**

The Star Wars fandom is a big, wide one with many media, many relationships, many characters and many opinions. Bashing other participants' requested ships or their DNWs is not allowed. You are expected to respect everyone else: if you do not care for something requested, simply ignore it. If someone has DNWs that you don't have: respect their boundaries.

When requesting ships, do not rate them in order of preference. It is unfair to your creator if they can only create for a ship you put in the lowest category. Only request ships you truly want a gift for, especially since it may be the only gift you get.

- **If you have a sock: be well behaved.**

Well-behaved socks are allowed for this exchange. When offering, do not try to match to your own sock. The mod team reserves the right to ban known sock users who have previously displayed malicious behavior, e.g. deliberately matching to themselves in order to avoid creating gifts for others.

Nomination Rules and Guidelines

You can nominate up to 20 relationships. There must be at least **one** character from the Star Wars universe in each ship. **Use only "Star Wars - All Media Types" in the "Fandom" field.**

General rules

- Only relationships using /, i.e. **Character/Character are allowed**. Relationships using &, **Character & Character, are not allowed**;
- Nominate solo characters as **Solo: Character**;
- **All relationships are allowed as long as there is at least one character from the Star Wars universe included**. Yes, this includes crack, niche, "problematic" and rare relationships.

Allowed relationships

- **CANON CHARACTER/CANON CHARACTER**, e.g. Leia Organa/Han Solo.
 - **Threesomes and moresomes are allowed** as long as every character is mentioned;
 - **Groups are allowed**: you can nominate groups such as "Stormtroopers" or "212th Battalion";

- **CANON CHARACTER/ORIGINAL CHARACTER**, e.g. Leia Organa/Original Character.
 - **Original characters can have specified gender and/or professions:** you can nominate "Original Female Character", "Original Clone Character" or "Original Nonbinary Jedi Character". **You cannot nominate specific OCs**, such as "MyOC Lastname" (see Rule 3).
 - **Objects are allowed:** you can nominate "Lightsabers", "Plants", "Tentacles" or default to "Others" (Others is NOT the same as Original Character or Solo: Character, it leaves the choice of other character entirely up to the creator);
- **CANON CHARACTER/READER-INSERT**, e.g. Leia Organa/Female Reader;
 - **Reader-insert with unspecified gender is not allowed.** Please specify whatever gender you desire. If you nominate simply "Leia Organa/Reader", the mod team may reject your nomination or change it to "Leia Organa/Any Gender Reader".
 - **Any means any.** This cannot be limited by DNWs if you choose to use it.
 - **Reader-insert nominations must always specify only gender.** "Nonbinary Jedi Reader" is allowed. "Jedi Reader" or "Rebel Reader" are not allowed without specifying gender.
- **CANON CHARACTER/CROSSOVER CHARACTER**, e.g. Leia Organa/Barbie (Barbie).
 - **Add the fandom of the crossover character in parentheses** for comprehension. You can nominate "Leia Organa/Natasha Romanoff (MCU)" but you cannot nominate "Barbie (Barbie)/Natasha Romanoff (MCU)" since there are no Star Wars characters included.
- **ORIGINAL STAR WARS CHARACTER/ORIGINAL STAR WARS CHARACTER**, e.g. Original Jedi Character/Original Sith Character.
 - **All characters must be specific to the Galaxy Far Far Away.** Since Smut Wars is a Star Wars exchange, you cannot nominate only OC ships with no ties to the Star Wars Universe.
 - You can nominate "Original Jedi Character/Original Sith Character", "Original Female Jedi Character/Original Agender Sith Character", "Original Male Twi'lek/Original Rebel Pilot", or "Original Senator Campaigning for Reelection/Original Rodian Assistant".
 - "Original Magician/Original Dudebro" and "Original Jedi Character/Original Barista Character" are not allowed.
- **SOLO CHARACTERS**, e.g. Solo: Leia Organa.
 - **Solo characters must be nominated as Solo: Character.** Solo: Luke Skywalker is allowed.
 - Original character **must be specific to the Galaxy Far Far Away.** Solo: Original Clone Character is allowed. Solo: Original Character is not allowed.
- **REAL PERSON FICTION**, e.g. John Boyega/Oscar Isaac (RPF).
 - RPF must be with **18+ people who are famous in their own right only;**

- **RPF can be combined in the same fashion as canon characters.** You can nominate "Pedro Pascal/Temuera Morrison (RPF)", "Boba Fett/Pedro Pascal (RPF)", "Pedro Pascal (RPF)/Agender Reader", "Pedro Pascal (RPF)/Ken (Barbie)" and also "Solo: Pedro Pascal (RPF)".
- Use (RPF) to disambiguate from canonical characters.

Format rules

Smut Wars uses format rules to ease its **tag set readability**.

In short:

-  Padmé Amidala/Anakin Skywalker | Darth Vader →  Padmé Amidala/Anakin Skywalker
-  CT-7567 | Rex/Obi-Wan Kenobi →  Rex/Obi-Wan Kenobi
-  Solo: Rey (Star Wars) →  Solo: Rey
-  Mando/Mitth'raw'nuruodo | Thrawn →  Din Djarin/Thrawn
-  Leia Organa/Reader →  Leia Organa/**Female** Reader ⇒ specified gender
-  Leia Organa/Revan →  Leia Organa/**Male** Revan ⇒ specified gender
-  Ahsoka Tano/Original Character →  Ahsoka Tano/Original Nonbinary Character ⇒ specified gender
-  Poe Dameron/Finn/Rey
-  Ahsoka Tano/Original Female Jedi Character
-  Ahsoka Tano/Stormtroopers
-  Ahsoka Tano/Tentacles
-  Ahsoka Tano/Mermaid Barbie (Barbie)
-  Ahsoka Tano/Pedro Pascal (RPF)
-  Oscar Isaac/John Boyega (RPF)
-  Oscar Isaac (RPF)/Ken (Barbie)
-  Leia Organa & Han Solo ⇒ & relationship;
-  Solo: President Barbie (Barbie) ⇒ non-Star Wars character;
-  Ahsoka Tano/MyOC LastName ⇒ specific OC;
-  Steve Rogers/Tony Stark (Marvel) ⇒ no Star Wars characters.
-  Chris Evans (RPF)/Ken (Barbie) ⇒ no Star Wars characters/actors.

What this means:

- **Avoid piping "|" whenever possible.**
 - Nominate **clone troopers and stormtroopers without their designation whenever possible.**
 - Nominate "Rex" instead of "CT-7567 | Rex", "Finn" instead of "FN-2187 | Finn" and "Maze" instead of "Alpha-26 | Maze";

- Notable exceptions to help disambiguating:
 - Use ranks for both Fox, i.e. "Commander Fox" for CC-1010 | Fox and "Sergeant Fox" for CT-0000/1010 | Fox;
 - Use designations for Alpha-Class troopers with no chosen name, e.g. "Alpha-17".
- **Nominate characters with different identities as separate identities.**
 - Nominate either "Anakin Skywalker" or "Darth Vader" instead of "Anakin Skywalker | Darth Vader";
 - Nominate either "Ben Solo" or "Kylo Ren" instead of "Ben Solo | Kylo Ren";
 - Nominate "Sheev Palpatine" or "Darth Sidious" instead of "Sheev Palpatine | Darth Sidious";
 - Nominate "Kanan Jarrus" or "Caleb Dume" instead of "Kanan Jarrus | Caleb Dume";
 - Nominate "Thrawn" instead of "Mitth'raw'nuruodo | Thrawn";
 - Nominate "Din Djarin" instead of "The Mandalorian | Din Djarin";
 - Nominate "Rey" instead of "Rey | Rey Skywalker";
 - Nominate "Jannah" instead of "Jannah | Jannah Calrissian";
- **Avoid disambiguation such as "Character (Star Wars)".**
 - Nominate **single name characters without (Fandom) *unless it is for Crossover Fandoms or RPF.***
 - Nominate "Finn" instead of "Finn (Star Wars)";
 - Nominate "Tai" instead of "Tai (Star Wars)";
 - Nominate "Wrecker" instead of "Wrecker (The Bad Batch)".
 - Nominate "Pedro Pascal (RPF)" to help disambiguate.
 - Nominate "President Barbie (Barbie)" to help disambiguate.
- **Add a gender disambiguation for video game characters with multiple gender options.**
 - Nominate "Female Revan" rather than simply "Revan".
- **Capitalize whenever possible.**
 - Nominate "Original Clone Character" instead of "Original clone character";
 - Nominate "Leia Organa/Barbie (Barbie)" instead of "leia organa/barbie (barbie)";
 - Nominate "Tentacles" instead of "tentacles".

The mod team may end up rejecting your nomination if you do not follow these rules. If your nomination has been pending for a while, check that you have respected the rules and edit it if that's not the case.

Sign Up Rules and Guidelines

In short:

- Matching is OR on relationship and additional tag (fanfic, fanart, fanmix, podfic, fanvid);
- Minimum is 1 request and 1 offer, up to 10 each;
- Must have 3 unique ships to get gift guarantee;
- Can pick fanfic, fanart, fanmix, podfic, and/or fanvid;
- Only DNWs in the description box will be enforced;
- ODAO.

Unless you were banned from the event, as long as you are 18 years old or above and have an AO3 account, you can sign up (even if you did not nominate ships).

Previous participants who did not comment on their gift, or who ghosted the deadline, in 2025 will not be allowed to participate in 2026.

Previous participants who disrespected any of the other [Smut Wars 2025 rules](#)  will not be allowed to participate again.

The mod team will delete any sign ups from banned participants.

Matching

The minimum requirements are **1 request and 1 offer**. Offers and requests do not need to match; you can offer Leia Organa/Han Solo and request Luke Skywalker/Han Solo.

The minimum requirements for **gift guarantee is 3 unique ships**. If you request less than 3 separate ships and end up as a pinch hit by the time of the collection opening, the collection will not be delayed.

Co-creators must sign up separately and will each be expected to fulfill their assignment.

Unmatchables

Be sure to be matchable before sign ups close: **unmatchables will be contacted via their AO3 email and will have 24 hours to add matchable offers after sign ups close**. If no answers or solutions are brought during that time, your signup will be deleted.

- Unmatchables are participants whose offers do not match any request. We strongly advise you to look at all the requests before sign-ups close and be certain to **offer at**

least one relationship already requested by another participant. You can look at all the requests:

- On AO3: link;
- On the auto ao3 app: link. We highly recommend this website since it is easier to navigate and search through requests.

Do Not Match requests

The mod team honors Do Not Match requests. [Send us an email](#) before signups close if you want to ask us not to match you with a particular other participant. Please let us know:

- whether it's for creating, receiving, or both;
- what you would like us to do if that participant offers to pick up your pinch hit;
- what you would like us to do if that participant creates a treat for you.

Requests

You can have **up to 10 requests**. Each request can include:

- **Up to 20 relationships:**
Only relationships (and solo characters) available in the Tag Set can be requested. We highly recommend to any potential participant to nominate the relationships they'd like to request and/or offer while nominations are open.
- **An optional Dear Creator Letter:**
You can add a Dear Creator Letter as an external link. Be sure to link to a **letter accessible to everyone!** If your letter is on Tumblr or Twitter, be sure that guests can access it without an account! Dear creator letters are not mandatory. If you're unsure what a dear creator letter is, [here's an example](#).
- **Picking Fanfic and/or different Fanart options:**
Fanart options include: digital and real media (as fanart), fanmixes, podfics, and fanvids. For each request you can pick whether you'd like fanfic, fanart, fanmix, podfic, and/or fanvid.
- **A description box:**
Participants can add:
 - A list of "Do Not Want";
 - Whether you are open to receiving treats, as well as sequels, series works, and/or remixes of your own work;
 - Likes and/or prompts. Remember that Optional Details Are Optional (ODAO): prompts remain optional and are not enforceable.

Do Not Wants (DNWs)

DNWs listed on external pages will not be taken into account; **only DNWs listed in the Optional Details field will be enforced by the mod team** in case of rule breaking. DNWs cannot be used as loopholes to force your gifter into creating something specific, e.g. "DNW anything but Soulmates AU". Avoid broad, hard-to-narrow DNWs such as "No kinks" with no examples. Since this is a smut-centric exchange, you cannot list "sexual content" as a DNW.

Each participant must have **at least three unique ships to get a gift guarantee**, i.e. at least one unique ship per request rather than repeats. Requests do not need to match offers. You can edit/delete your sign-ups until the sign-up period closes.

Offers

You can make **up to 10 offers**. Each offer may include:

- **Up to 20 relationships:**
Only relationships (and solo characters) available in the Tag Set can be offered. We highly recommend to any potential participant that they nominate the relationships they'd like to request and/or offer while nominations are open.
- **Picking Fanfic and/or different Fanart options:**
Fanart includes: digital and real media (as fanart), fanmixes, podfics, fanvids. For each offer you can pick fanfic, fanart, fanmix, podfic, and/or fanvid. Be certain that you can create a work in all the options you pick.

Be sure to be matchable before sign ups close: **unmatchables will be contacted via their A03 email and will have 24 hours to add matchable offers after sign ups close.**

We strongly advise you to look at all the requests before sign-ups close and be certain to **have at least one offer that could be matched to another participant's request**. If no answers or solutions are brought during that time, your signup will be deleted.

Assignments, Treats and Pinch Hits

Assignment guidelines

Assignments

- must respect the minimum length requirements;
- must **meet one of the recipient's requested characters/relationships**. It does not have to be for the request you matched on;
- **must not contain any of the recipient's DNWs for that request;**
- **must be rated either Explicit or Mature for sex content;**

- **must be complete and posted to the AO3 collection by the stated deadline;**
 - A placeholder does not qualify as a posted or completed assignment.

Optional Details are Optional: assignments are not obligated to follow request prompts.

Gift guarantee

Any **participant who requested at least 3 unique ships and fulfilled their assignment** is guaranteed a gift. The collection reveal may be delayed for this guarantee to be fulfilled. If your pinch hit lingers post-deadline, the mods will ask you to add additional ships in order to facilitate claims.

If you requested less than 3 unique ships or defaulted, the collection won't be delayed if you get no gifts.

Treats

Smut Wars encourages treats! Treats are bonus gifts; you do not need to sign up to gift treats. Treats do not have to meet the minimum length requirements for assignments but must otherwise follow the same rules as assignments, e.g. respecting your giftee's DNWs and posting a complete work rated M or E for sexual content meeting one of their requests.

Pinch Hits

Pinch hits are the requests of participants which matched no offers or whose gifter defaulted. All pinch hits will be posted to the Smut Wars Discord, Dreamwidth and Tumblr communities and promoted widely. If you think you might know someone who could create for a pinch hit, feel free to share the links around.

We're grateful to all pinch hitters! We will have a Dreamwidth post where pinch hitters who did not sign up to the exchange can post requests. Please consider creating a treat for a pinch hitter—exchanges could not run without them.

Defaulting and Extensions

Defaulting

If you cannot create a gift for your recipient before the deadline, please **use the default button on AO3 as soon as possible**. You do not need to provide a reason or justification as to why you are defaulting; you do not need to contact us in any way besides using the default button. Please **do not ghost the exchange**: the more time the mods have ahead of the deadline, the easier it will be for us to find a pinch hitter for your recipient!

Extensions

Any participant **sending an email to the mod team** asking for an extension with their AO3 username and the AO3 username of their recipient **before the deadline** will automatically get a 48-hour extension to the deadline. Past 48 hours after the deadline, if you're a no-show you will be considered defaulted and your assignment will go to Pinch Hits.