

AUCTIONS ON RR/FCF PATCH COLLECTORS

This document is a compilation of all the rules that have developed over the years from hosting auctions on the RR/FCF Patch Collections Page.

The poster of an auction is referred to as the "Auctioneer" in this document. Those participating in the auction are referred to as "Bidder".

Please Note: Facebook *IS NOT* eBay and was not designed to handle live online auctions, especially ones with a lot of last-minute bidding. The Site Admins were asked to investigate other online auction option, but all require additional logins, etc. That being the case, live online auctions are offered on this site to the patch collector community as a courtesy.

Since the bidding process is handled through comments, both bidding and checking all bids is difficult due to Facebook's embedded comments and view hidden comments functionality. Please keep this in mind when you are bidding.

As the Auctioneer, you are responsible for your posting – please manage it accordingly.

If an issue arises that is not currently covered in this document, the Site Admin will address it to the best of their abilities. The resolution will be added to the "RESOLVED ISSUES" Section of this document for how it will be handled going forward.

And FINALLY...

As Royal Rangers we say the Pledge and live by the Code, especially honest and courteous ... that includes when we are online. Let us all work together to keep our live online auction process to run smoothly.

The "Patch Page" Admins,

Wesley, Zeke, Michael, and Lawrence (Moderator)

AUCTION POSTING:

The Auctioneer should include the following information in their auction posting, as well as a photo of the item:

AUCTION (right at the beginning of the post)

Item and Description:

Starting Opening Bid:

Auction End Date and Time (including Time Zone):

Any Payment/Shipping Notes:

AUCTION POSTING INSTRUCTIONS:

BID TYPE: When you are auctioning items you cannot have both commented bids and private bids. The Auctioneer must pick one or the other and note it on their auction.

SHIPPING: It is up to the Auctioneer if they want to ship internationally or not. It needs to be noted in the original auction post.

RESERVE BIDS: There are no reserve bids allowed. If you must have a reserve bid then list it as your starting bid.

AUCTION FORMAT: It is recommended to shut off the "Selling Format" option since it causes issues with posting auction bids in the comments section.

BID WINNER: When the auction is officially over, the auctioneer should announce the winner in the comment section.

SOLD: Add *****SOLD***** to the beginning of the main post once item is no longer available.

AUCTION WINNER:

There has been some confusion in the past what is considered the final bid ending time on an auction. To keep it consistent, the bid closest to the End Time without going over is the winner. Example an auction ending at 7:00 PM EST the final highest bid posted closest to a 6:59 PM EST time would be the winner.

Some of the auctioneers like to have the Site Admins confirm the winner. You can always check with a Site Admin if an auction is too close to call. On close auctions please give the Site Admins time to check and confirm the winner, especially auctions ending late at night (remember time zones).

Please Note: The winner of a live online auction is determined by the comment timestamp. Checking timestamps is not a special Site Admin Tool ... anyone can check a timestamp on a comment from a computer, but not from a cell phone. This is done by hovering over the time field on the posted comment and viewing the full date and time of posting.

LAST MINUTE BID AUCTION RULE (01152022) - Implemented January 15th, 2022

If there is a bid within the last minute of an auction, five additional minutes will be added to end of the posted auction time. This will allow the other bidders a chance to still counter. The additional five minutes should be ample time to allow everyone involved in the auction to keep bidding till done. This change will align our current online auction process to be more in line with a live auction, where bidding continues till no one else is bidding.

Please be aware that once the additional five minutes passes, the auction is done. The same auction rules apply for the end of the additional five minutes, where it will be the last bid closest to the ending time.

The goal is to keep the change as simple as possible, but also improve the process for both the auctioneer and the buyer. Since there will no longer be the chance of a last minute (or second) bid, this should promote more bidding during the normal auction timeframe listed.

It might add a little more work to the admin to determine a winner, but the change will improve the current process.

Example: A 7:00 PM EST auction has a bid at 6:59 PM EST. The new ending Auction time is 7:05 PM EST. The winning bid is the time closest to the new time (7:05 PM EST) and not going over.

ENFORCING PAYMENT/SHIPPING: The Site Admin cannot enforce the payment from a bidder to an auctioneer or enforce the shipping of an item from the Auctioneer. This is handled between the Auctioneer and the Bidder directly.

COMMENT SHUTDOWN: The Site Admins only shutdown / shutoff commenting on an auction when it seems the discussion is getting out of hand and needs to be formally addressed.

DELETING AUCTIONS: The Site Admins can delete an auction if the auction item does not meet the page criteria (items that are not patches or not considered memorabilia). The Auctioneer will be contacted as to why the auction was deleted.

RESOLVED ISSUES:

DELETING AUCTIONS: (1) Auctioneers should not delete Auctions for at least 48 hours to allow that the correct winner has been confirmed.

SHARING AUCTIONS: Auctioneers are not allowed to “share” the auction posting from their own personal FB wall page ... due to Facebook security this only allows bidders who are friends with the auctioneer to see the posts. If not fixed, auction will be deleted.

DUPLICATE POSTINGS: Auctioneers please do not make any duplicate postings of the auction – instead, type “bump” or an auction time reminder in the comments to move it back to the top of the page. Duplicate posts will be deleted.

DESIGNATING PROCEEDS: If an Auctioneer lists that the proceeds are to be designated, it needs to be clearly spelled out, and not a generic description. Examples

include specific Missions projects, specific District Projects, Outpost Fundraisers, etc. Site Admin may ask auctioneer to clarify their posting and have it corrected.

EDITING BIDS: If a bid comment is edited by the bidder, the bid will automatically be rule out and the bidder will be excluded from the auction.

ADDITIONAL BID COMMENTS: Potential bidders need to limit auction comments to bids only unless there is a question about the item. Comments that hinder the auction will be deleted by the Site Admin. An example of such a comment would be the offering of the same item to potential bidders while the auction is still live.

MAX "PRICE" BIDDING: Again, we are not eBay. There is no setting of a "Max" bid during a live auction. Example of a Max Bid: My bid \$ = [Highest \$ bid < \$100] + \$5.00. Bids of this nature have the potential to hinder others from bidding, or the auctioneer receiving the best possible bid for his item. Also, if done by multiple bidders there would be no way to determine a winner. Bids of this nature will be ruled out as a bid on the auction.

RETRACTING or DELETING BIDS (12122021): There is no Retracting or Deleting of bids during a live auction and will need to be addressed with the bidder immediately. By deleting a bid, you might have hindered others from bidding. Bidder will be asked to honor the retracted or deleted bid unless there are mitigating circumstances.

Instances for Retracting or Deleting a bid:

This has not a major issue but has come up a few times in the past for various reasons.

1. **CHANGE IN POSTED DESCRIPTION:** The auctioneer (seller) significantly changed the description of the item after the bid was made. This should be reported to the Admins before deleting the bid and it will be reviewed right away to determine if the bid is still valid or not. If the changing of the description impacts all who have been bidding, the auctioneer (seller) will be contacted by the Admins to remove the auction.

2. **ENTERED BID INCORRECTLY:** You accidentally bid the wrong amount. For example, you meant to bid \$10.00, not \$1000. In this case, enter the price you intended to bid as soon as you've retracted the incorrect bid. Put a comment note with your bid explaining what happened and tag both the auctioneer (seller) and Admins to let them know what you did. When bidding, always double-check that you've entered the correct amount.

3. **FINANCIAL HARDSHIP:** This is an *EXTREME* circumstance. This could be due to a sudden financial hardship, family emergency, unforeseen extenuating circumstance, etc. As Royal Rangers we should exercise grace in these circumstances. This should be dealt with directly between the auctioneer (seller) and the buyer. The Admins can help mediate if needed.

If the bid is unable to be paid, the auctioneer (seller) should reopen the auction for an additional 24 hours noting the current correct bidder and amount. This will give those that might have stopped bidding due to the retracted bid a chance to bid again.

Remember, whenever you place a bid, you're agreeing to buy the item if you win the auction at that posted amount. Let's keep the auction process running smooth by not retracting or deleting bids during the auction. Feel free to message or tag the Admins for any issues that arise in the Auction process.