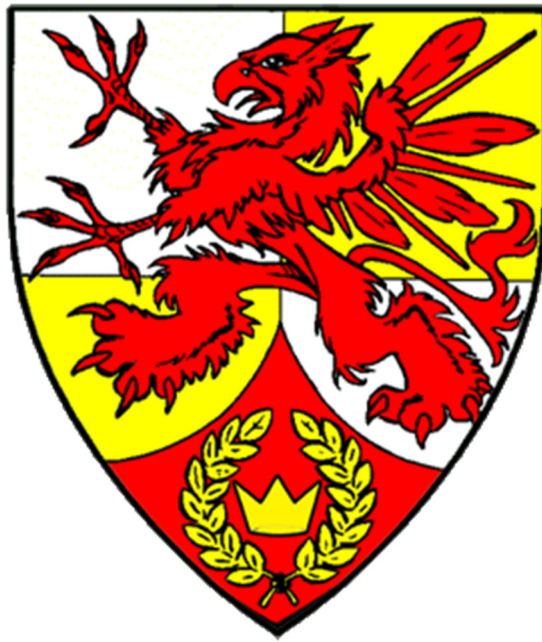


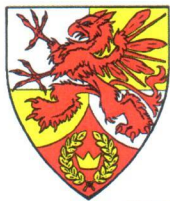
Avacal

Book of Armoured Combat



Revision 1

Toryn Davinsson
Earl Marshal, Avacal



Kingdom of Avacal: Book of Armoured Combat

This Book of Armoured Combat,

Approved on the 19 day of November, 2016 A.S. 51

Arnsbjorn

Arnsbjorn
King Avacal

Inga

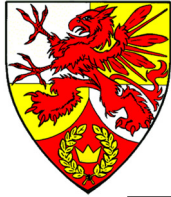
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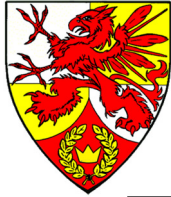
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FIGHTERS SECTION:

I COMBAT AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS:

A) General

- 1) All persons who wish to participate in SCA combat activities must authorize under the Society and Kingdom-of-residence authorization procedures. SCA combat activities are defined as armoured combat, period fencing, combat archery, siege, and marshaling. Other activities clearly falling within the scope above are also considered combat-related activities
- 2) Herein Avacal establishes a procedure for authorizing combatants for participation in SCA combat- related activities. These procedures shall verify that the candidate is familiar with the following:
 - (a) Rules of the Lists of the SCA.
 - (b) The Armour and Weapons Standards of the SCA.
 - (c) Avacal Armour and Weapons Standards.
 - (d) The Conventions of Combat for the SCA.
 - (e) Avacal Conventions of Combat.
- 3) In addition to the above requirements, candidates must demonstrate the ability to function on the field in a manner that is safe both to themselves and their opponents.
- 4) Only a warranted Senior Marshal may perform an Authorization. This Marshal must witness the Authorization and must execute the appropriate paperwork to insure the authorization is registered within the Lists Database.
- 5) New authorizations and renewals are to be entered into the Avacal Lists Database by the authorizing Senior Marshal.
- 6) Authorization shall be registered with and kept on file by the Kingdom Minister of the Lists. This office shall be responsible for keeping properly completed waivers and maintaining the registration of authorizations. This office shall provide the Earl Marshal with a list of all current authorization cards upon request.
- 7) All combat at official SCA events shall take place with an acceptable waiver on file for all combatants who take the field. An acceptable waiver may take the form of:
 - (a) A blue card from the Corporation that can be produced.
 - (b) A waiver that may be signed at the event before the fighter can take the field.
 - (c) A roster that each local marshal or list minister may keep updated at each fighting event practice checking for either a blue card or a signed waiver for that event/practice.



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- 8) Signed waivers for SCA combat-related activities shall be kept on file for a period of seven (7) years.
- 9) Combat authorizations may be issued for a period of up to, but not exceeding, four (4) years.
- 10) Authorization cards shall not be issued to persons residing in other Kingdoms unless such persons are defined as subjects of Avacal by specific Royal Treaty.
- 11) Avacal has the following types of authorization for armoured combat: Jr and Sr. Marshals, Weapon & Shield, Two-Handed, Spear, Bow and Arrow, Crossbow and Thrown Weapons.
- 12) Valid authorization cards shall be accepted from outside Avacal as proof of authorization.
- 13) Avacal requires proof of previous authorization and a current Avacal '4 Year Authorization and Waiver' form to be completed before renewing an authorization card for a person who has moved into Avacal from another Kingdom. This process should be completed as soon as possible for people moving into the Kingdom on a permanent basis.
- 14) The Kingdom Earl Marshal may revoke the authorization card of any participant for just and stated cause. Principality/Regional Marshals may revoke the authorization card of any participant pending written notification and approval of the Earl Marshal. Authorizations of marshals may be revoked in the same manner.
- 15) Marshals in Charge (MICs) at an event may suspend the authorization of any participant for the duration of an event, but they must notify their Principality/Regional Marshal and Earl Marshal in writing. Authorizations of marshals may be revoked in the same manner.

B) Minor Authorization

Minors (ages 14–17) may authorize with these additional requirements:

- 1) In order to be authorized as a combatant or marshal in adult armoured combat, an individual must have attained his or her sixteenth (16th) birthday. In order to be authorized as a participant, combatant, or marshal in any other form of Society combat-related activity, except Youth Armoured Combat, an individual must have attained his or her fourteenth (14th) birthday.
- 2) No person below the age of eighteen (18) may be warranted as a group Marshal, or the Marshal in Charge of an event.



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- 3) The parent(s) or guardian(s) of the minor must witness SCA combat, discuss with a witnessing marshal how it relates to the participation of their child, and execute a "Minor's Waiver and Informed Consent to Participate in SCA Combat-Related Activities", before their child can authorize. The witnessing Marshal must countersign the waiver.
- 4) The Kingdom Earl Marshal, or Kingdom Armoured Combat Marshal must be the one to authorize the minor for SCA Combat-Related Activities.
- 5) At any event in which the minor is involved in SCA combat-related activities, the minor must have a parent or guardian present, and must be in possession of a properly executed "Medical Authorization Form for Minors." Said Medical Authorization Form must designate an adult present at the event as able to authorize medical treatment in the case of an emergency.
- 6) **Marking minors who participate with adults in martial activities:** Any minor participating in martial activities (fighting / equestrian/fencing / combat archery / siege / etc...) with adults will have Avacal's helm marking, on the front and back half of their helmet / mask. The marking will be a 2" Yellow Diamond. Also, all minors will have "minor" marked on their authorization card large enough that a list person can easily see it.

II RULES OF THE LISTS

A) The basic rules for SCA combat are contained in the Rules of the Lists.

These rules were not originally designed to cover non-tourney field activities such as wars, combat archery, and period fencing, but have been extended to cover these activities. The observance of honor and chivalry and the safety of the combatants are considered goals of these rules. The following is intended to bring together the appropriate rules for conducting both tourney field combat and other SCA combat activities.

B) The Rules of the Lists are reprinted from the Corpora of the SCA.

- 1) Each fighter, recognizing the possibilities of physical injury to themselves in such combat, shall assume unto themselves all risk and liability for harm suffered by means of such combat. No fighter shall engage in combat unless and until they have inspected the field of combat and satisfied themselves that it is suitable for combat. Other participants shall likewise recognize the risks involved in their presence on or near the field of combat and shall assume unto themselves the liabilities thereof.



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- 2) No person shall participate in Official Combat-Related Activities (including armoured combat, period fencing, and combat archery) outside of formal training sessions unless they have been properly authorized under Society and Kingdom procedures.
- 3) All combatants must be presented to, and be acceptable to, the Sovereign or his or her representative.
- 4) All combatants shall adhere to the appropriate Armour and weapons standards of the Society, and to any additional standards of the Kingdom in which the event takes place. The Sovereign may waive the additional Kingdom standards.
- 5) The Sovereign or the Marshalate may bar any weapon or Armour from use upon the field of combat. Should a warranted Marshal bar any weapon or Armour, an appeal may be made to the Sovereign to allow the weapon or Armour.
- 6) Combatants shall behave in a knightly and chivalrous manner and shall fight according to the appropriate Society and Kingdom Conventions of Combat.
- 7) No one may be required to participate in Combat-Related Activities. Any combatant may, without dishonor or penalty, reject any challenge without specifying a reason. A fight in a tournament list is not to be considered a challenge and therefore may not be declined without forfeiting the bout.
- 8) Fighting with real weapons, whether fast or slow, is strictly forbidden at any Society event. This rule does not consider approved weaponry which meets the Society and Kingdom standards for traditional Society combat and/or Society period rapier combat, used in the context of mutual sport, to be real weaponry.
- 9) No projectile weapons shall be allowed within the Lists of a tournament, nor shall any weapons be thrown. The use of approved projectile weapons for melee, war, or combat archery shall conform to the appropriate Society and Kingdom Conventions of Combat.

C) Applications of the Rules of the Lists

Application of Rule 1: "Other participants" include Marshals and also support personnel whose activities bring them close to fighting in a situation where boundaries are not clearly defined. Heralds, Lists, Pages, and similar officers who leave the field entirely before combat begins are exempt from this requirement, as are water-bearers and surgeons who remain in fixed support points outside the tournament field or battle area. Water-bearers and surgeons who take part in mobile support groups within the overall boundaries of a battle area must receive a basic orientation in field safety.

Application of Rule 2: The Crown and Marshalate of Avacal here do establish standards and procedures for the authorization of fighters to participate in combat. These procedures shall adhere to the Combat Authorization Procedures in this handbook. In Avacal, there are



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a set of separate authorization procedures for the use of specific weapons or classes of weapons.

The Crown and Marshalate of Avacal herein establish standards and procedures for the authorization of combat archers and missile users to participate in combat. It is usual for authorizations from other Kingdoms to be accepted, although exceptions may prove necessary in the case of specific individuals.

The Crown may not simply grant an authorization, unless the recipient has successfully completed the authorization process as delineated in Society and Avacal Law.

Application of Rule 4: Avacal applies Armour and weapons standards that are stricter than the Society standards, but does not reduce or waive any Society standard.

Application of Rule 5: If a fighter regards an opponent's weapon or Armour as unduly dangerous to self or opponent, he or she can request that the Marshal on the field re-inspect the item. Either fighter has the option of appealing the decision of the re-inspection Marshal to the Marshal in Charge, the Kingdom/Principality/Regional Marshal, and ultimately to the Sovereign.

Application of Rule 6: Engaging in any Society combat activity with the deliberate intent to inflict bodily harm to an opponent is strictly forbidden.

Application of Rule 7: No one is required to engage in SCA combat should he or she prefer not to do so.

Application of Rule 8: Since fighting with real weapons is forbidden at any Society event, threatening the use of such weapons is likewise expressly forbidden.

At the discretion of the Sovereign and the Marshal in Charge, recognized experts may be permitted to present choreographed demonstrations with real weapons under strictly controlled conditions.

No one may wear any real weapon onto the field while participating in combat or present during combat. At the discretion of the Sovereign and the Marshal in Charge, an exception may be made for marshals or other noncombatants to wear knives bonded with peace straps.

Application of Rule 9: The prohibition on thrown weapons refers to weapons thrown in combat or thrown in a hostile manner. It does not apply to "tossing," defined as a gentle, short-range method of transferring or removing a tournament weapon or item from the list field or area of combat.

The use of bows and arrows, firearms, slings, javelins, throwing axes, throwing knives, or any other projectile weapon is forbidden within Tournament Lists or in any other situation



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where spectators cannot be separated from the potential line of fire by more than the effective range of the weapon.

- 1) This prohibition does not apply to tournaments that are specifically formatted to take place exclusively between missile combatants.

III CONVENTIONS OF COMBAT

A) General Information

- 1) All traditional SCA Armoured combat at SCA tourneys, wars, and other events shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of the Lists of the SCA, Inc., these Conventions of Combat, and such weapon and equipment standards and event rules as are established by the Marshalate of the SCA, Inc., and the Avacal Marshalate.
- 2) Avacal has the following minimum Armour and weapons standards based on criteria established by the Society Minimum Armour and Weapons Standards.
 - (a) All fighters, prior to combat at each and every SCA-sponsored event or fighting practice, shall ensure that their Armour and weapons are inspected by a warranted member of the Marshalate.
 - (b) Even though a warranted member of the Marshalate has inspected the Armour and weapons used by a fighter, each fighter shall accept full responsibility for the condition of his or her own equipment. Each fighter has the obligation to him or herself, the marshals, and all opponents, to see that his or her equipment meets all Society and Kingdom requirements.
 - (c) Before returning to the field of combat after Armour, weapon, or shield repairs, it is required of the fighter to have said repairs inspected by the marshal.
 - (d) Combat Archery ammunition each must be inspected individually before every use.
 - (i) Tennis ball ammunition may be inspected by the archer and used again immediately.
 - (ii) Siloflex equivalent or Fiberglass shafted ammunition must be taken off the field and re-inspected under the supervision of a Combat Archery Marshal before being used again.
- 3) When not otherwise directed by the Sovereign, the Sovereign's representative upon the field and in all matters dealing with Society Combat is the Kingdom Earl Marshal, and, by delegation, warranted members of the Kingdom Marshalate.

B) Behavior on the Field



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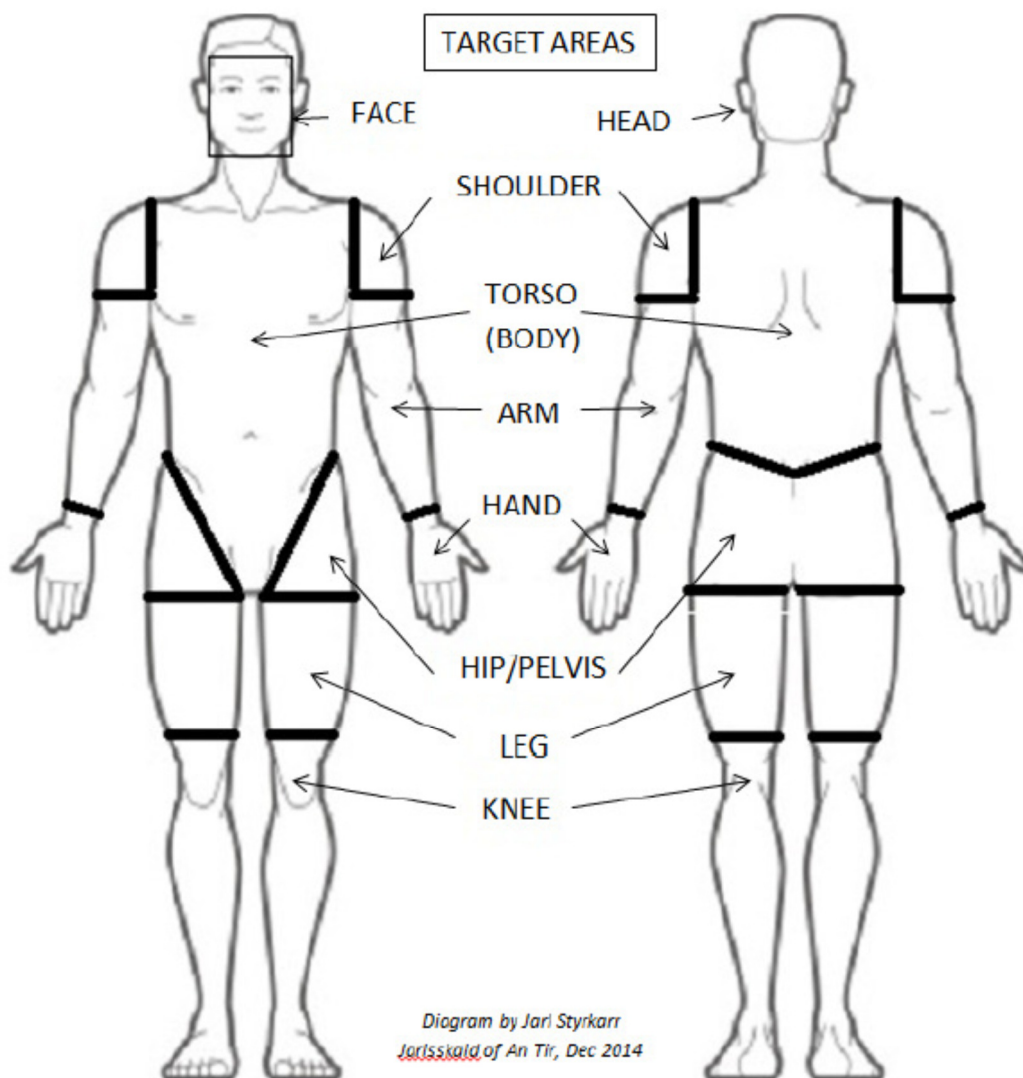
- 1) Striking an opponent with excessive force is forbidden.
- 2) All fighters shall obey the commands of the marshals on the field or shall be removed from the field and subject to disciplinary action. Disagreements with the marshals on the field shall be resolved through the established mechanisms outlined in the Procedures for Grievances and Sanctions of the Marshalate Procedures of the SCA, Inc. It should be noted that the Grievance Procedure might find against, and result in sanctions against, either the combatant OR the marshal.
- 3) Each fighter and marshal shall maintain control over his or her temper at all times.
- 4) Upon hearing the call of "HOLD" all fighting shall IMMEDIATELY stop.
- 5) A fighter shall not enter the lists or participate in any form of SCA combat activity while impaired by alcohol or drugs (including, but not limited to: drugs prescribed by a licensed health care provider, over the counter medications, and illegal controlled substances.)
- 6) Any behavior that takes deliberate advantage of an opponent's chivalry or safety-consciousness, or that takes deliberate unfair advantage of an opponent, is prohibited.
- 7) A fighter shall not deliberately strike a helpless opponent.
- 8) Any fighter who obtains an unfair advantage by repeatedly becoming "helpless" (for example, by falling down or losing their weapon) may, after being duly warned by the marshals on the field, be forced to yield the fight at the next occurrence of such behavior. The onus of this is on the marshals, not on the opponent. However, the opponent may ask the marshals to let the fight continue.
- 9) Grappling, tripping, throwing, punching, kicking, and wrestling are prohibited.
- 10) Prolonged overt contact of a fighter's person (hands/feet/limbs/body/head) to an opponent's person is prohibited. Brief incidental contact is expected and acceptable during engagement.
- 11) Deliberately striking an opponent's head, limbs, or body with a shield, weapon haft, or any part of the body is forbidden.
- 12) Intentionally tripping an opponent is prohibited.
- 13) Grasping an opponent's person, shield, weapon's striking surface, or bow/crossbow is prohibited.



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- 14) Intentionally striking an opponent outside the legal target areas is forbidden.
- 15) If a combatant's helm falls off during the fight, he/she immediately forfeits the fight and must repair the defective helm to the satisfaction of the marshals before being allowed to fight any further with that helm.

C) Target Areas



- 1) Torso: All of the body above the points of the hips, excluding the head and arms and including the groin, shoulder blades, and the area between the neck and shoulders.
- 2) Face: the area between the chin and the middle of the forehead and between the ear openings.



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- 3) Head: The whole head and neck except the face as defined above.
- 4) Thighs: The leg from one inch above the top of the knee to a line even with the bottom of the hip socket.
- 5) Hips: Area between the bottom of the hip socket to the point of the hip (iliac crest).
- 6) Shoulder: From the point of the shoulder down to a line even with the top of the underarm.
- 7) Arms: From the shoulder to one inch above the wrist.
- 8) Blows that land outside the legal target areas shall not be counted, unless an illegal target area has been intentionally placed in the path of an impending blow.

D) Combat Archery Conventions

- 1) Upon a hold being called, all archers must unload their weapons (crossbows may remain cocked).
- 2) Archers may have a backup weapon on them, but may not draw it until their bow has been safely disposed of (taken off the field, discarded in a low traffic area, handed to another combatant, etc.). Upon drawing a backup weapon to enter combat, hands must be appropriately armoured.
- 3) Archers may carry and use thrown weapons without need to discard their bow nor change hand Armour.
- 4) Archers need to be aware of what is beyond their target to ensure that errant shots do not endanger anyone. Be sure of your target, and beyond!
- 5) An archer's minimum range is dictated by ensuring that the ammunition completely clears the bow before contacting the opponent.
- 6) Ammunition dropped onto the ground is considered dead, as if it had been fired, and needs re- inspection.
- 7) Live combatants may NOT pick shafted ammunition off the field for re-inspection and reuse during the same battle with the exception of tennis balls. Dead combatants may clear ammunition from the field for use in future battles if scenario rules allow.
- 8) Within scenario limits, ammunition may be taken from caches stored on or off field, and from other combatants (dead or alive) with permission of the owner.



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E) The use of a Weapon and Shield

- 1) Weapons shall be used in accordance with their design. For example, spears may only be used for thrusting, axes for striking along the edge of the blade, etc...
 - (a) Only weapons approved for thrusting may be used for that purpose. Feinting as if to thrust with a weapon not approved for that purpose is prohibited. Before any bout where a thrusting weapon is used, the opponent and marshals shall be informed that such a weapon is on the field, and the thrusting tip shall be shown to the opponent.
 - (b) The blade of an opponent's weapon may not be grasped at any time, nor may it be trapped in contact with the fighter's body as a means of preventing the opponent's use of the weapon. Armoured hands may grasp the haft of an opponent's weapon.
 - 2) The striking surface of a weapon in motion may not be grasped or blocked by the hands or limbs as a means of impeding a blow.
 - (a) If a combatant intentionally places an illegal target area (e.g., an empty hand and or lower leg, including the knee and foot) in the path of a blow, the combatant forfeits that attached limb as if it had been struck in a legal target area.
 - (b) Inadvertently bringing the hands in contact with the striking surface of a weapon in motion, as when attempting to block a blow with another weapon, shall not be considered to be in violation of this convention.
 - 3) Blows repeatedly blocked by a weapon in contact with a fighter's helm, body, or shield at the moment of impact may, at the Sovereign's or Marshal's discretion, be considered to have broken the blocking weapon. This will force a fighter to forfeit the fight, unless a secondary weapon is carried or the opponent chooses to allow the fighter to rearm with another weapon.
 - 4) A shield or weapon may be used to displace, deflect, or immobilize an opponent's shield or weapon, so long as such use does not endanger the safety of the combatants. A shield or haft may be safely placed against the opponent's body to restrict his ability to strike or defend.
 - 5) Shields must be controlled by the hand; use of passive shields (not controlled by the hand) will be treated as decorative Armour and subject to effective blow acknowledgment.
 - 6) A combat archer may carry and use shield or pavise; however, as long as they are carrying it, they cannot span nor fire their weapon.
-



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F) Acknowledgement of Blows

- 1) Judging the effects of blows is left to the honor of the combatant being struck by the weapon, unless he or she relinquishes this responsibility, with the exception of clear violations of the Rules of the Lists or the Conventions of Combat. Effectiveness of a blow may not be judged by the opposing combatant, the Marshal, or other observers. Information unavailable to the combatant being struck may be supplied by the opposing combatant or the Marshal, including blade orientation upon impact, apparent force transmitted, or apparent location and angle of the blow's impact based upon the observer's angle of observation.
- 2) When judging the effect of blows, all fighters are presumed to be fully armoured. Special tournaments or combat rules may redefine what areas of the body are armoured, and to what extent, so long as all the participants are made aware of the special conditions prior to the start of combat.
 - (a) All "fully armoured" fighters are presumed to be wearing a chain hauberk over a padded gambeson, with boiled leather arm and leg defenses and an open-faced iron helm with a nasal. The helm is presumed by Avacal convention to include a very light chain mail drape, permitting vision and resisting cuts by the mere touch of a bladed weapon.
 - (b) Under this standard, an acceptable cutting blow to the face would be lighter than to other portions of the head or body. Areas deemed illegal to strike (the wrists from 1 inch [25.4mm] above the hands, from 1 inch [25.4mm] above the knees and below) shall be considered safe from all attack.
 - (c) The minimum effective thrusting blow to the face shall be a directed touch and the maximum shall be substantially lighter than to other parts of the body.
- 3) An effective blow will be defined as a blow which was delivered with effective technique for the particular type of weapon used, properly oriented, and struck with sufficient force.
 - (a) An effective blow to the head, neck, or torso shall be judged fatal or completely disabling, rendering the fighter incapable of further combat.
 - (b) An effective blow from an axe, mace, polearm, great sword, or other mass weapon, which lands on the hip above the hip socket or strikes the shoulder inside the shoulder socket, shall be judged fatal or completely disabling.
 - (c) An effective blow to the arm above the wrist will disable the arm. The arm shall then be considered useless to the fighter and may not be used for either offense or defense.



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- (d) An effective blow to the leg above the knee will disable the leg. The fighter must then fight kneeling, sitting, or standing on the foot of the uninjured leg. Avacal places no limitations upon the mobility of such injured fighters.
 - (e) If a wounded limb blocks an otherwise acceptable blow, the blow shall be counted as though the limb were not there.
- 4) Changes to blow acknowledgment standards may be made on a per-combat, per-scenario, or per-tournament basis, but will revert to the standards above thereafter. Alternate acknowledgment standards do not alter the allowed target areas, nor do they increase the basic force level for a telling blow. All combatants must be informed of any changes to standard blow acknowledgment before they participate in the combat.
 - 5) All fighters are expected to take into account the nature of the weapon being used by their opponent and the location of the point of impact of that weapon when judging the outcome of a blow delivered. A blow that strikes with sufficient force and proper orientation shall be considered effective, regardless of what it hits prior to striking the combatant.
 - 6) Sometimes a blow that would normally be accepted occurs at almost the same moment as an event that would cause the fight to be stopped (a "HOLD" being called, the fighter throwing the blow being killed, etc.). If the blow was begun before the occurrence of the event that would cause the bout to be halted, it shall be deemed a legal blow and acceptable, if of sufficient force. If the blow was begun after the occurrence of the event that would cause the bout to be halted, it shall be deemed not legal and need not be accepted.
 - 7) A blow that includes the dropping of a weapon at the moment of impact need not be counted. (Note: If the force of the blow causes the weapon to be dropped, the rule shall be suspended.)
 - 8) Due to safety limits placed on combat archery equipment and the low mass of the ammunition, arrows and bolts strike with less force. They need not strike with the same force as hand-held weapons to be considered killing blows. They must strike properly oriented, point first.

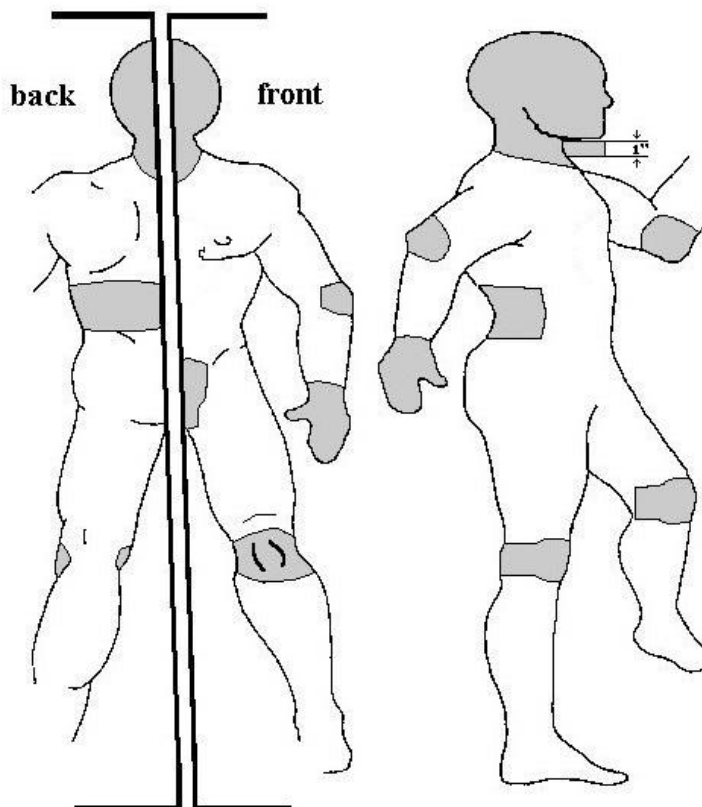
G) Armour Requirements

The following diagrams show approximate coverage requirements. Consult the rules below for specific requirements.



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MALE

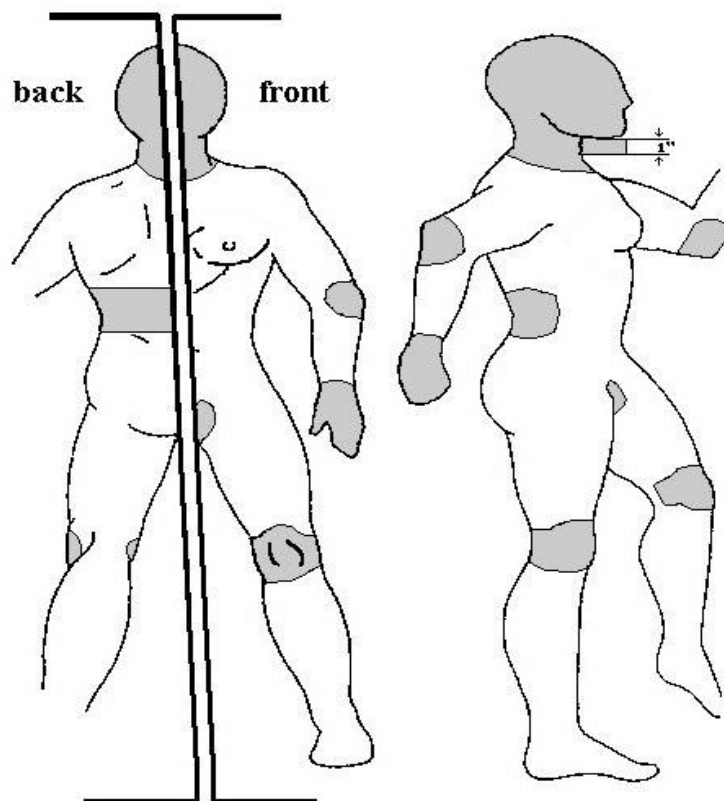


shaded areas must be covered



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FEMALE



shaded areas must be covered

Appearance All participants on the field during adult armored combat shall meet the Society minimum armor standards for a fully armored combatant. This includes, but is not limited to, combat archers, siege engineers and other combatants. It does not include marshals, water-bearers, or surgeons. Special attention to appearance should be maintained in regards to the atmosphere of a medieval event.

1) Helms

- (a) Helms shall be constructed from steel which has a thickness of no less than .0625 inch (1/16 inch or 1.6mm), or of equivalent material. Alternative materials, such as stainless steel, brass, bronze, or like materials, are permissible as long as the material is structurally equivalent to 0.0625-inch-thick steel. The mass of the helm is an important part of the protection. As such, no titanium, fiberglass, aluminum, or other ultra-light materials may be used structurally. If a spun-metal top is to be used in the construction of the helm, it shall be a minimum of 0.0747



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inch (14-gauge) steel. The process of spinning the top thins the metal, thereby requiring a heavier gauge.

- (b) All joints or seams shall be constructed in one or a combination of the following ways, with all welds sound and rivets secure:
 - (i) Welded on the inside and outside.
 - (ii) Welded with a single bead that extends through both surfaces. c) Lap joints welded or brazed at the edges of both pieces.
 - (iii) Helms will be riveted with iron or steel rivets no more than 2½ inches (63.5 mm) apart, or with equivalent riveting techniques. Screw- and pop-type rivets, along with other lightweight rivets, are not to be used.
- (c) Face guards shall prevent a 1 inch (25.4mm) diameter dowel from entering into any of the face guard openings.
- (d) The face guard shall extend at least 1 inch (25.4mm) below the bottom of the chin and jaw line when the head is held erect and looking straight forward.
- (e) Bars used in the face guard shall be steel of not less than 3/16 inch (4.8mm) in diameter, or equivalent. If the span between crossbars is less than 2 inches (50.8mm), 1/ 8-inch (3.18mm) diameter bars may be used.
- (f) All movable visors shall be attached and secured in such a way that there is minimal chance that they will become detached or come open in normal combat use.
- (g) There shall be NO major internal projections; minor projections of necessary structural components shall be padded. All metal shall be free of sharp edges. Face guard bars or mesh should not attach to the interior of the helm, unless of structurally superior design and workmanship.
- (h) All parts of the helm that might come into contact with the wearer's head shall be padded with a minimum of 0.5 inch (12.7mm) of closed-cell foam or equivalent padding, or shall be suspended in such a way as to prevent contact with the wearer during combat. 1 inch of padding is recommended. Similarly, parts of the inside of the helm that might come in contact with the wearer's neck or body shall be padded
- (i) All helms shall be equipped with a chinstrap or equivalent means to prevent the helm from being dislodged or metal contacting the wearer's face during combat. An equivalent might be, for example, a bevor or a chin-cup suspension system. A "snug fit" is NOT an equivalent. The chinstrap shall be, at a minimum, 0.5 inch (12.7mm) in width, and shall not be placed in the helm in a manner that could choke the wearer.



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- 2) **Eye Wear:** The lenses of all eyewear shall be constructed of shatterproof industrial safety glass or plastic. Ordinary glass lenses are prohibited. The wearing of contact lenses or "sports glasses" is strongly recommended.
- 3) **Neck Armour:** The neck, including the larynx, cervical vertebrae, and first thoracic vertebra must be covered by one or a combination of the following, and must stay covered during typical combat situations, including turning the head, lifting the chin, etc.:
 - (a) A helm.
 - (b) A gorget of rigid material.
 - (c) A mail or heavy leather camail or aventail that hangs or drapes to absorb the force of a blow. If the camail or aventail lays in contact with the larynx, cervical vertebrae, or first thoracic vertebra, that section must be padded with a minimum of 0.25in (6.4 mm) of close cell foam or equivalent.
 - (d) A collar of heavy leather lined with a minimum of 0.25in (6.4 mm) of close cell foam or equivalent.
- 4) **Body, Shoulder, and Groin Armour**
 - (a) The kidney area and the floating ribs shall be covered with a minimum of rigid material or heavy leather worn over 0.250 inch (6.4 mm) of closed-cell foam (or equivalent padding). Viscoelastic non-Newtonian fluid polymer garments can be considered as the equivalent of this heavy leather and foam combination. Note for clarity, rigid materials do not require padding.
 - (b) For men, the groin must be covered by a minimum of a rigid athletic cup (e.g., a hockey, soccer, karate, or baseball cup), worn in a supporter or fighting garment designed to hold the cup in place, or equivalent Armour.
 - (c) For women, groin protection of closed-cell foam or heavy leather or the equivalent is required to cover the pubic bone area. The wearing of a male athletic cup by female fighters is prohibited.
 - (d) Separate breast cups are prohibited unless connected by or mounted on an interconnecting rigid piece, for example, a heavy leather or metal breastplate.
- 5) **Hand and Wrist Armour**

The outer surfaces of the hand, to one inch above the wrist of both arms and including the thumb, must be covered by one or a combination of the following:



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- (a) A rigid basket or cup hilt with enough bars or plates to prevent a blow from striking the fingers or the back of the hand. If a basket or cup hilt, shield basket, or center-grip shield is used, a vambrace and or partial gauntlet shall cover the remaining exposed portions of the hand and wrist.
- (b) A gauntlet of rigid material either lined with 0.25 inch (6.4 mm) of closed-cell foam (or equivalent) or designed to transfer potentially injurious impact to the surfaces being grasped.
- (c) A gauntlet of heavy leather lined with 0.25 inch (6.4 mm) of closed-cell foam or heavy padding. Note: A hockey glove is not considered to be the equivalent, the areas of a hockey glove that do not have rigid protection require the addition of heavy leather at a minimum, example of areas requiring addition protection are the fingers. Hockey gloves look blatantly modern; their use is discouraged. Street hockey gloves are NOT equivalent, as the padding is lighter than a regular hockey glove. Street hockey gloves will be treated only as padding.
- (d) A shield with a shield basket or equivalent. A shield alone is NOT sufficient, since it covers the back of the hand, but not the fingers, thumb, or wrist. A shield alone may be considered an equivalent to full hand protection only if no part of the gloved hand or wrist is within 4 inches (10.2 cm) of the edge of the shield while the shield is in use.
- (e) Combat archers, siege engineers, and those using a thrown weapon, need only a half gauntlet made to the above standards for gauntlets but without finger and thumb protection.

6) Arm Armour

- (a) The elbow point and bones at either side of the elbow joint must be covered by a rigid material underlain by at least 0.25 inch (6.4 mm) of closed-cell foam or equivalent padding. This Armour shall be attached in such a way that the elbow remains covered during combat. A shield alone is NOT sufficient, since it covers only the outermost point of the elbow.

7) Leg Armour

- (a) The kneecap, an inch above and below, and both sides of the knee joints must be covered by rigid material, lined by at least 0.25 inch (6.4 mm) of closed-cell foam or an equivalent padding. This Armour shall be attached in such a way that the knee remains covered during combat.



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- (b) Combatants should wear footwear that provides adequate protection and support for the terrain and activity of combat. Special attention to appearance should be maintained in regards to the atmosphere of a medieval event.

8) Shields

- (a) Shields shall be edged with leather, padding, or other covering or constructed in such a way as to minimize damage to rattan weapons or other fighters.
- (b) No bolts, wires, or other objects may project more than 3/8 inch (9mm) from any part of a shield without being padded. Rounded shield bosses are not considered to be projections.
- (c) Shields may be constructed with leg(s) so that they can act as freestanding Pavise during melee combat.
 - (i) The leg(s) used to keep the pavise standing must be at least 1.25 inches (3.2 cm) in diameter or 1.25 inches (3.2 cm) square and be well attached.
 - (ii) Pavises are destroyed by a single hit from siege engine ammunition. Combatants behind the pavise are not killed. The pavise must then immediately be removed from the field or dropped flat.
 - (iii) A pavise can be carried in a manner which does not require hand control (such as a shoulder strap). In this case, the fighter is not allowed to actively block with it, nor can they use their own weapon, and if struck by a hand weapon, the blow is counted as if the pavise was not there.

IV WEAPONS STANDARDS

A) General

- 1) With the exception of the hilts, guards, and pommels, no metal or non-approved rigid, granular, or liquid material may be used in the construction of single or two-handed weapons including spears.
- 2) Primary weapons used single-handed shall have a wrist strap (or equivalent restraint) which will keep the weapon from leaving the immediate area of the user if released during any part of combat. Restraints are not required on two-handed weapons used single-handed, or on single-handed back-up weapons.
- 3) Flails are expressly prohibited.
- 4) SCA Madus are expressly prohibited. A madu is defined as: a buckler (or basket hilt or held with a gauntlet, with or without stoppers) with a thrusting tip on the top and a thrusting tip on the bottom regardless of length of rattan between the thrusting tips.



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Note: a gauntlet holding onto a length of rattan with a single thrusting tip (with or without stoppers) is defined as a spear.

- 5) Mechanical devices known as "sliders," which are used to guide or propel spears, are prohibited.
- 6) All weapons shall have all cutting edges and thrusting tips marked with contrasting colors.
- 7) The striking surfaces of all weapons, including the tip, shall be wrapped in a manner that allows no rattan splinters to protrude.
- 8) All thrusting tips and striking heads must be securely attached to the weapon.
- 9) The edges and tips of all striking surfaces shall be rounded.
- 10) No part of a weapon shall have sharp edges or protrusions with cross-section of less than 1¼ inch (31.8mm) in diameter. Guards, pommels, hooks, etc., shall be firmly and securely affixed to the weapon haft.
- 11) It shall not be possible to force more than 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) into a legal face guard any part of a weapon which may reasonably be expected to contact an opponent during combat. Rattan weapons may have a handle section which is less than 1.25 inches (3.18 cm), so long as it meets these criteria. Combat archery shafts may be thinner as long as the head and tail meet the criteria.
- 12) Rattan shall not be treated in any way that will substantially reduce its flexibility (e.g., treated with wax, resin, fiberglass, etc.).
- 13) No weapon shall exceed 6 lbs. (2.73 kg).
- 14) No missile weapons intended to simulate firearms, slings, sling-staffs, nor can atlatls be used on the field of armoured combat.
- 15) No "punch daggers" or thrusting weapons that have the blade or tip more perpendicular than parallel to the grip. (This includes "shovel handles" or other T-shaped handles.)
- 16) Weapons under 48" (1.22 m) or greater than 7' 6" (2.29 m) in length may have either a thrusting tip or a butt spike, but not both at the same time. If the weapon is between 48" (1.22 m) and 7' 6" (2.29 m) and used in one hand, it may only have a thrusting tip or a butt spike.
 - (a) If a two handed weapon has a thrust on both ends, and is utilized in one hand the fighter shall declare at the beginning of the bout which thrust is active and which thrust is not active for the bout (if a fighter is using a two handed weapon with



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both hands and loses and arm, and continues fighting one handed both thrusts are still active for the remainder of the bout).

- 17) Any weapon with a basket hilt is considered a single handed weapon, and therefore subject to single handed rules.

B) Single-Handed Weapons: Weapons that shall be used in one hand shall have the following requirements:

- 1) Single-handed weapons shall be constructed of one of the following:
 - (b) Rattan; shall be not less than 1.25 inch (31.8 mm) in total diameter, (including tape) along its entire length excepting the handle.
 - (c) Rattan-cored Siloflex or Siloflex-equivalent (See below)
 - (d) Weapons shall be not less than 1.25 inches (3.18 cm) in total diameter (including tape) along their entire length, exempting the handle.
- 2) Rattan-cored Siloflex or Siloflex equivalent weapons shall be constructed using tubular materials meeting ASTM standard D-2239 or the international equivalent, with a pressure rating of 160 PSI or greater, having at least a 1.25 inch (31.8 mm) diameter on the outside and at least 0.125" (that is, 1/8") (3.2 mm) walls, and having an inner core of rattan that fills the interior of the tubular material entirely. Periodic inspection shall be made to determine the condition of the inner core.
- 3) If the weapon has a head, it shall not be constructed of solely rigid materials. The head shall be firmly and securely attached to the haft. The head shall allow at least a 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) of progressive give between the striking surface and the weapon haft.
- 4) No weapon may have a cutting and/or smashing surface at both ends.
- 5) When thrusting tips are used, they shall be at least the same diameter as the shaft of the weapon they are mounted on and have at least 3/4 inch (19.1 mm) of resilient material in front of the rigid tip of the weapon providing at least 3/8 inch (9.53 mm) of progressively resistant give across the face of the thrusting tip. (Note: Pressing with the thumb into the center of the thrusting tip is not an adequate test. The give must be across the entire face of the tip.)
- 6) Swords shall have a hand guard, such as a basket hilt, quillions, or equivalent.
- 7) Total weapon length shall not exceed 48 inches (1.22 m).
- 8) Total weapon mass shall not exceed 5 lb. (2.27 kg).

C) Two-Handed Weapons: Weapons which may be used with one or two hands shall have the following requirements:



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- 1) Weapons shall be constructed of rattan of not less than 1 1/4 inch (31.8 mm) in diameter (including tape). Polearms may contain blades constructed of split rattan, so long as the piece(s) are securely fastened to the haft.
- 2) The weapon shall not be excessively flexible.
- 3) If the weapon has a head, it shall not be constructed of solely rigid materials. The head shall be firmly and securely attached to the haft. The head shall allow at least 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) of progressive give between the striking surface and the weapon haft. Laminated or split rattan construction techniques do not require 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) of progressive give, so long as their construction imparts striking characteristics similar to an padded weapon constructed of a single piece of rattan.
- 4) No weapon may have a cutting and/or smashing surface at both ends.
- 5) Thrusting Tips
 - (a) When thrusting tips are used on rattan weapons of less than or equal to 7.5 feet (2.29 m), they shall be at least the same diameter as the shaft of the weapon they are mounted on, and have 1.5 inches (3.81 cm) of resilient material in front of the rigid tip of the weapon, thereby providing progressively resistant give.
 - (b) When thrusting tips are used on rattan weapons longer than 7.5 feet (2.29 m), they shall be no less than 2 inches (5.08 cm) in diameter (cross-section), and have 2 inches (5.08 cm) of resilient material in front of the rigid tip of the weapon, thereby providing progressively resistant give.
 - (c) Pressing with the thumb into the center of the thrusting tip is not an adequate test. The give must be across the entire face of the tip.
- 6) Weapons exceeding 7.5 feet (2.286 m) shall not be used for cutting or smashing and shall be used for thrusting only.
- 7) Total weapon length shall not exceed 9 feet (2.74m), or 6 lbs. (2.72 kg) of weight.

D) Fiberglass Spears

- 1) Fiberglass spears shall not have a cutting or smashing head.
- 2) Fiberglass spears shall be constructed with pultruded fiberglass shafts with an outside diameter of no less than 1 1/4 inch (31.75 mm) and no greater than 1 5/16 inch (33.38 mm). Minimum manufacturer specified wall thickness shall be 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) and the minimum measurable wall thickness shall be 3/32 inch (2.38 mm).
- 3) The end of the shaft which will have the thrusting tip attached must be covered with a schedule-40 PVC cap with an interior diameter the same as the outside diameter of the shaft (1 1/4 inch [31.8mm]). The thrusting tip will then be attached over this cap.



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- 4) All fiberglass spears must have a thrusting tip that is a minimum of 2 inches (5.08 cm) in diameter (cross-section) and have 2 inches (5.08 cm) of resilient material in front of the PVC end cap, thereby providing progressively resistant give without allowing contact with the PVC end cap.
- 5) Mandrake style rubber 2 inch tips (5.08 cm, black and red) are forbidden in the Kingdom of Avacal.
- 6) Shafts may be spliced using a fiberglass rod or tube with a sidewall of 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) of the same or equivalent material, having an outside diameter of 1 inch (25.4 mm) and a length of 8–12 inches (203–304mm). Only two splices will be allowed per spear shaft. Each end to be spliced shall be cut square and clean of cracks or frayed fibers. The rod shall extend at least 4 inches (101.6 mm) into each spliced end. One or both of these two methods shall secure the splice:
 - (a) Epoxying both ends of the fiberglass rod before insertion.
 - (b) Epoxying one end of the fiberglass rod before insertion and thoroughly taping the splice over with fiber tape.
- 7) The butt end of the shaft shall be smooth and free of cracks or frayed fibers. The butt shall be taped over or otherwise sealed. If a weapon is completely taped, a marshal may require that one section be untaped enough to determine that pultruded fiberglass has been used in the construction of the shaft.
- 8) Total spear length shall not exceed 9 feet (2.74m), or 6 lbs. (2.72 kg) of weight.

E) Thrust and Throw Weapons:

These weapons may be used for striking and may also be thrown in melee scenarios where thrown weapons are allowed. This includes thrust-and-throw javelins, axes, knives, etc.

- 1) Shafts shall be constructed of rattan not less than 1.25 inch (31.8 mm) in diameter along its entire length or of two layers of Siloflex or equivalent. The outer layer shall be 1 inch (25.4 mm) inner diameter Siloflex (1.25 inch [31.8mm] outer diameter) and the inner layer shall be 0.75 inch (19.1 mm) inner diameter Siloflex. All Siloflex used for throwing weapons must have a pressure rating of 160 PSI or greater. If Siloflex is used, both ends of the shaft shall be covered with either a schedule-40 PVC cap with an interior diameter the same as the outside diameter of the shaft (1.25 inches [31.8 mm]), or with a rubber stopper or equivalent means to prevent the tubing from penetrating the thrusting tip(s), fastened securely in place by tape and/or glue.
- 2) Thrusting tips shall be used on any tip that can be reasonably assumed to contact a fighter when the weapon is used or thrown. Tips shall be no less than 1.25 inch



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(31.8mm) in diameter/cross-section and have 1.25 inch (31.8mm) of resilient material in front of the rigid tip of the weapon, thereby providing progressively resistant give.

- 3) If the weapon has a head, it shall not be constructed of solely rigid materials. The head shall be firmly and securely attached to the haft or handle. The head shall allow at least 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) of progressive give between the striking surface and the weapon haft or handle.
- 4) The weapon must have the owner's name, kingdom, and group clearly and legibly printed on it in English characters for identification.
- 5) Total mass of the weapon shall not exceed 2 pounds (0.91 kg).

F) Combat Archery Bows/Crossbows

- 1) During inspection, all equipment during inspection must have the poundage and draw physically measured with a ruler or other metered device and poundage scale.
- 2) Marshals must calibrate their bow scales regularly to be accurate at either 30 or 50 lbs., depending upon the most prevalent bow in their Kingdom, as the standard spring scales used can have their measurements vary over time.
- 3) No compound bows, nor compound crossbow prods, are allowed.
- 4) No non-period sights, spring/flipper rests, plunger buttons, stabilizers, clickers, or modern string release aids may be used.
- 5) Bows/crossbows must be powered by the flex of the limbs.
- 6) If both Light and Heavy bows/crossbows, by the standards given below, are on the field at the same time, then all Heavy bows/crossbows must have their upper limb (or one limb for crossbows) covered with at least 4 inches (10 cm) of red material (tape, cloth, etc.).
- 7) Handbows:
 - (a) Handbow power is measured at 28 inches (71 cm). If the bow cannot be drawn 28 inches (71 cm), then it cannot be used in SCA combat.
 - (b) The minimum measurement for all handbows is 20 pounds (9.1 kg) at 28 inches (71 cm).
 - (c) Light handbows measure 30 pounds (13.6 kg) or less at 28 inches (71 cm).
 - (d) Heavy handbows measure a maximum of 50 pounds (22.7 kg) or less at 28 inches (71 cm).
- 8) Crossbows:



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- (a) Crossbows are measured by inch-pounds ("#), which is calculated by taking the poundage of the bow measured at the lock, multiplied by the distance (in inches) from the front of the string at rest, to the front of the string when in cocked position. (A metric measurement of kilogram-centimeters (kg-cm) is also allowed.)
- (b) The minimum measurement for all crossbows is 400"# (461 kg-cm).
- (c) Light crossbows measure 600"# (691 kg-cm) or less.
- (d) Heavy crossbows measure 1000"# (1152 kg-cm) or less.
- (e) No crossbows may have a modern pistol grip.

G) Combat Archery Ammunition

- 1) All ammunition must have the owner's name, branch and kingdom displayed clearly on it. Out of kingdom fighters, must have a minimum of owner's name and kingdom displayed clearly.
- 2) No ammunition may be more than 10% covered in the color yellow.
- 3) No metal can be used as ammunition construction material.
- 4) All ammunition has a maximum length of 28 inches (71 cm) from the back of the blunt, to the string acceptor on the nock.
- 5) Ammunition may optionally have fletches as long as they are securely attached and made of a soft material. Fletches may not project farther than 1/2 inch (13 mm) from the shaft if they are less than 1.5 inch (3.8 cm) thick.
- 6) Light Ammunition (for use in light bows or light crossbows)
 - (a) Shafts of Light ammunition must be solid core pultruded fiberglass of between 1/4 inch (6.5 mm) and 3/8 inch (9.5 mm) diameter.
 - (b) Fiberglass shall be of a good quality, defined as significant 'bending' pressure applied by a marshal not causing the shaft to break.
 - (c) The shaft must be covered from behind the blunt, to the front of the Anti-Penetration Device (APD), in a sturdy tear-resistant tape, such as strapping, electrical, or duct tape.
 - (d) Anti-Penetration Devices (APDs)
 - (i) APDs must be attached no further than 1/2 inch (13 mm) from the end of the arrow or bolt (including nock).
 - (ii) APDs must be attached securely via tape, glue, cable ties, etc. The method does not matter as long as it is securely attached and will not come off during normal use. Marshals will test this by grabbing and pulling on the APD with moderate force while twisting it slightly. If it detaches or moves lengthwise along the shaft, then it is unsafe.
 - (iii) The following are the ONLY approved styles of APDs:



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1. Siloflex equivalent

1. APDs must be of Siloflex equivalent material with a pressure rating between 75 and 200psi. The outer diameter must be at least 1.25 inches (3.2 cm) or the inner diameter must be at least 1 inch (2.5 cm).
2. There may be no cuts in the back end of the APD.
3. The length of the top edge of the APD must be at least 1.25 inches (3.2 cm) if the front is cut square, or 5/8 inch (16 mm) if the front is cut at a 45 degree angle.
4. APD may have a channel routed in the bottom, and/or cuts made in the front edge for helping tape attachment.
5. All sharp edges must be eased.

2. Asgard - Asgard APDs have only the following modifications allowed: Cutting thenock off flush for use on a crossbow, making small holes for helping attachment, and roughing surfaces for gluing.

(e) Blunts:

- (i) All blunts must be securely attached via tape, glue, cable ties, etc. The method does not matter as long as it is securely attached; however, at least one piece of strapping, electrical or duct tape must extend over the blunt and be security attached to the shaft on both sides. Marshals will test this by grabbing and pulling on the blunt with moderate force while twisting it slightly.

If the blunt shows signs of moving off of the shaft (twisting around the shaft is ok), then it fails.

(ii) Baldar Blunts:

1. Baldar Blunts must be of a type designed for use on Fiberglass shafts (1/4 inch shaft acceptor), and can only be used with 1/4 inch or 6.5mm shafts. Baldar Blunts do not require side wraps.
2. Only the original 2-piece mold Baldar Blunt and Baldar CUBB (Flat Head) Blunts are allowed. Blunts must be attached in such a way that the blunt can be inspected for the parting line visible around the circumference of the thickest part of the blunt in the 2-piece molds. If no parting line is seen the blunt cannot be used.

- (iii) UHMW: UHMW blunts are constructed of at least 1.25 inches (3.2 cm) diameter Ultra-High Molecular Weight Polyethylene (UHMW) rod with a hole drilled in it to accept the shaft.

1. The shaft hole must be at least 1/2 inch (13 mm) deep, and there must be at least 1/2 inch (13 mm) of UHMW in front of the shaft. At least 1/2 inch (13 mm) and at most 1.25 inch (3.2 cm) of resilient padding after



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taping must be added in front of the blunt and be at least the same diameter as the blunt.

2. The head must have a side-wrap of foam that extends from the tip of the padding to at least 1/2 inch (13 mm) over the UHMW that brings the total diameter of the head to at least 1.5 inch (3.8 cm) after taping.
3. The front edges of the UHMW Polyethylene blunt must be rounded over.
4. As long as all other requirements are met, the blunt may have material removed for aerodynamic or weight reducing purposes.

- 7) Heavy Ammunition (for use in heavy bows, heavy crossbows, light bows, or light crossbows)

Heavy ammunition must be of one of three styles: Tubular, Tennis Ball, or Fellwalker.

(a) Tubular Ammunition:

- (i) The shaft must be constructed of Siloflex Equivalent with a pressure rating of 100PSI, 1.25 inches
- (ii) (3.2 cm) exterior diameter or 1 inch (2.5 cm) interior diameter.
- (iii) The tail must be left solid for at least 1 inch (2.5 cm). Cuts may be made beyond that in order to install fletches if desired but must have holes drilled at the ends of each cut to keep the cut from spreading. The tail may be slit if a 1 inch (2.5 cm) or longer section of Siloflex is reinserted at the end and laced in place. A nock may be cut into the tail end, but may be no deeper than 1/2 inch (13 mm). Wooden nocks can be installed as long as are securely attached by drilling & lacing with string.
- (iv) The head must be constructed in one of the following manners. No matter what the construction, the head must be firmly attached by the use of tape and/or string. Marshals will check heads by pulling on them with a moderate level of force and twisting slightly. If the head shows signs of loosening, it fails inspection.
 1. Rubber Stopper – A rubber stopper, size 6.5, is placed in the end of the tube such that it enters the tube at least 1/2 inch (13 mm) and is well attached. Resilient padding of at least 1/2 inch (13 mm) and at most 1.25 inch (3.2 cm), after taping, is then added on top of it. The head must also have a side-wrap of foam that extends from the tip of the padding to at least 1/2 inch (13 mm) over the rubber stopper to bring the total diameter of the head to at least 1.5 inch (3.8 cm) after taping.
 2. Baldar Blunts – Baldar blunts may be used by cutting the support fins away so that the blunt slides over the Siloflex & attaches securely. At least 1/2 inch (13 mm) and at most 1.25 inch (3.2 cm) of resilient padding after taping must be added to the tip. The diameter of the foam after taping must be at least 1.5 inch (3.8 cm). Any classic style of Baldar Blunt can be used in this manner, whether 1 or 2 piece mold or designed for fiberglass or wood.



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3. Tennis Ball – A tennis ball is placed at the end of the tube and attached via tape and/or string. The ball shall not be perforated as this leads to it getting dirt/water inside of it.

(b) Tennis Balls:

- (i) Regulation tennis balls may be used as ammunition, as is, with the following restrictions.
- (ii) Ball must weigh less than 3 ounces (85 grams).
- (iii) Ball must not be covered in tape and cannot be yellow. (Dyes or stains may be used to change the color)

(c) Fellwalker Bolts:

- (i) The "Fellwalker design" is approved for crossbows only
- (ii) The shaft is of solid fiberglass of between 1/4 inch (6.5 mm) and 3/8 inch (9.5mm) diameter.
- (iii) The blunt is made from UHMW rod of at least 1.25 inches (3.2 cm) diameter with a hole drilled in it to accept the shaft.
- (iv) The shaft hole must be at least 1 inch (2.5 cm) deep, and there must be at least 1 inch (2.5 cm) of UHMW in front of the shaft.
- (v) The striking surface must have at least 1 inch (2.5 cm) and at most 1.25 inches (3.2 cm) of resilient foam after taping and be at least the diameter of the blunt.
- (vi) The head must have a side-wrap of foam that extends from the tip of the padding to at least 1/2 inch (13 mm) over the UHMW that brings the total diameter of the head to at least 1.5 inch (3.8 cm) after taping.
- (vii) The tail end must have a disk of UHMW installed that is at least 1.25 inches (3.2 cm) diameter, at least 1/2 inch (13 mm) thick, and drilled at least 1/4 inch (6.5 mm) deep to accept the shaft. The leading edge of the blunt and all edges of the APD shall be rounded over.

V SIEGE COMBAT

Siege engines or structures may be used in combat during melees and wars in accordance with the rules set forth in the Siege Engines Handbook.

A) Munitions

- 1) Siege-class munitions are denoted by being primarily yellow and include ballista bolts and rocks (1-pound [0.45 kg] foam or 4-tennis-ball clusters).
- 2) Small-arms munitions include single tennis balls and tube shafted combat archery arrows and bolts.

B) Blow Acknowledgment



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- 1) A blow from siege class ammunition to any legal target area shall be judged fatal or completely disabling.
- 2) Blows from siege class ammunition to shields shall be judged fatal or completely disabling to the bearer of the shield unless otherwise specified by scenario rules.
- 3) Hand-held weapons struck by siege class munitions shall be considered destroyed.
- 4) Small-arms munitions fired from siege engines shall be treated as combat archery projectiles.
- 5) Siege munitions are considered spent upon striking a target, the ground, or a battlefield structure.

C) Destroying Siege Engines

- 1) Fighters shall stay clear of moving parts and, when possible, approach siege engines from the side.
- 2) Striking siege engines/structures with hand-held weapons is strictly prohibited.
- 3) Siege engines may be destroyed by placing a weapon on the engine/structure and declaring "this weapon is destroyed," or by being struck by siege-class munitions from another siege engine.
- 4) Siege engine crews are fully armoured combatants and should be treated as any other fighter on the field.
- 5) If fighting occurs within 5 feet of an engine that is cocked or loaded, a hold shall be called and the engine shall be declared destroyed and removed from the combat area and made safe.



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MARSHAL SECTION

We marshals are, first and foremost, servants of our King and Queen, and on their behalf, servants of the fighters and spectators of Avacal. The primary duty of the marshals of Avacal is to assist the participants in having a safe and enjoyable experience in SCA combat. In this duty, we must see that these rules are enforced in a way that preserves safety, while making sure combat can be enjoyed by the participants and spectators.

During tournaments or wars, all marshals should carry onto the field of combat a marshaling pole that is spirally marked yellow and black at each end for at least 1.5 feet (45mm). The spiral mark is to indicate to the fighter that the pole belongs to the Marshal. The length of pole should allow the Marshal to comfortably direct the fighter without exposing the Marshal to being struck by the weapons.

No marshal shall carry any pole on the field that has sharp or jagged edges (i.e. walking staffs, tree limbs, etc.).

The overriding rule shall be, "How can you get the highest number of combatants on the field safely?" That is your goal as a marshal.

I PROCEDURES FOR THE AUTHORIZATION OF MARSHALS

A) General Requirements:

There are three near-equal priorities in marshaling; safety, fair witness, and showmanship. Overemphasizing any one at the expense of the others will tend to make the fighting less enjoyable for everyone (although, if you must go overboard on one, pick safety).

- 1) A marshal may be authorized after demonstrating the ability to oversee combat, help judge a fighter's authorization, and inspect weapons and Armour.
- 2) Unless warranted or rostered by the Earl Marshal as a Senior Marshal, a marshal may not be the Marshal in Charge of an event or sign the paperwork to authorize fighters.
- 3) Senior and Junior Marshals are warranted and rostered by the Earl Marshal of the Kingdom through the Kingdom List Minister.
- 4) Anyone may become a Junior Marshal by stating they intend to follow the rules herein after reading them thoroughly.
 - (a) Two Witnessing Senior Marshals must approve of the promotion; the primary senior marshal will enter the promotion into the Avacal Lists Database as per section IV.B.2 of the Avacal book of Lists.
 - (b) The 2nd witnessing Senior Marshal will receive the promotion and verify it electronically In the Avacal Lists Database as per as per section IV.B.4 of the Avacal book of Lists.



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- (c) In lieu of points a, and b. Submissions can be made manually directly to the Minister of the Lists as needed. Using the 4 year authorization form and the Marshal Promotion form.
 - (d) Those marshals will verify the Junior Marshal is familiar with the rules in this manual
- 5) To become a Senior Marshal, two Senior Marshals must witness the authorization
- (a) The primary senior marshal will enter the promotion into the Avacal Lists Database as per as per section IV.B.4 of the Avacal book of Lists.
 - (b) The 2nd witnessing Senior Marshal will receive the promotion and verify it electronically as per as per section IV.B.4 of the Avacal book of Lists.
 - (c) Only the Kingdom Earl Marshal, Deputy Kingdom Marshals, Principality Marshals, or Regional Marshal(s) may finalize a Senior Marshal promotion.
 - (d) In lieu of points a, b and c. Submissions can be made manually directly to the Minister of the Lists as needed. Using the 4 year authorization form and the Marshal Promotion form.
 - (e) At a minimum, a Senior Marshal's Authorization shall include the following:
 - i. The candidate must have a good working knowledge of the Rules of the Lists, the Society Conventions of Combat, and the Avacal rules and conventions.
 - ii. The candidate must be willing to enforce the Rules of the Lists, the Society Conventions of Combat, and the Avacal rules and conventions.
 - iii. The candidate must have a good working knowledge of the Society minimum Armour and weapons standards and the Avacal Armour and Weapons standards.
 - iv. The candidate must demonstrate the ability to conduct an inspection of all Armour and weapons for use in combat.
 - v. The candidate must demonstrate the ability to safely control SCA combat, whether this is single combat, team combat, general melee, or part of a war environment.
- Once a Senior Marshal promotion is verified by the appropriate Kingdom Officer and the Minister of Lists, a login will be provided to the Avacal Lists Database for new authorization entries.
- 6) When a Senior Marshal is due for renewal, the 4 Year Authorization form marked as renewal must be signed by a valid Senior Marshal and concurrence must be provided via signature or email confirmation by the Kingdom Earl Marshal, Deputy Kingdom Marshals, Principality Marshals, or Regional Marshal(s) as applicable.
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- 7) The term “Knight Marshal” applies to the marshal of a branch, regardless of whether they are a belted fighter, or even if they are an authorized fighter at all.
- 8) All warranted or rostered Junior or Senior marshals shall be members of the Society for Creative Anachronism Inc.

II GUIDELINES FOR MARSHALING ON THE FIELD

The guidelines outlined in this section are not rigid requirements, but are placed here in an attempt to help clarify and to provide examples of acceptable methods and procedures.

A) Marshal in Charge (MIC)

You are responsible for organizing the marshaling. This does not mean that you have to do it all yourself.

Things that need to be done prior to all combat related activities:

- 1) Check that the field can be safely fought upon, preferably before the site is reserved for the event. Can someone in Armour, with restricted vision, cross it safely (i.e., without injury; simple tripping is an inherent hazard of combat in rough terrain)? At minimum, check at the beginning of the day to see if there are holes, soft spots, rocks, etc. If they are serious and cannot be worked around, move the fighting somewhere else.
- 2) Arrange for equipment inspection. (See Equipment Inspection Guidelines below.)
- 3) Arrange for marshals for all of the combat, this means an absolute minimum of one marshal per single combat (preferably two). Enough marshals for group combat (melees and war battles) to both surround the fighting (to keep an eye on the boundaries) and keep most of the fights under general surveillance (for detached required Armour, broken weapons, etc.). If volunteers are in short supply, point out to the fighters that they do not get to start until sufficient marshals are available.
- 4) When it is all over, write up a report on the event (see the Paperwork section under Chain of Command).

B) Marshaling Single Combat

- 1) At minimum, there should be one marshal for single combat. Two will be able to see more of the fight. Three or more will get in each other's way and block the view from the sidelines without providing noticeably better marshaling.
- 2) As noted earlier, marshaling has three parts of nearly equal importance: safety, fair witness, and showmanship. Excessive concern for any of these, to the neglect of the



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other two, will make fighting less enjoyable for all concerned. While these concerns apply to all marshaling, they are most detailed and balanced in single combat.

3) Safety:

- (a) The field itself can cause safety problems. Before you begin, look over the area where the fighting will take place. Look particularly for large holes, soft spots, and rocks. (The fighters will generally accept small holes, rocks, etc. as part of the terrain.) Once the fight starts, try to keep it away from these areas. If the hazards are serious, move the fight.
- (b) As the fighters come out onto the field, take a quick look to see that they have remembered their full Armour, especially elbow, neck, and hand Armour. These are the likeliest to be removed and then forgotten. This should not take any time at all; it is not a full inspection, but a quick double-check to help someone who may have been distracted by the excitement of the day.
- (c) Once the fight has started, watch particularly for broken Armour, lost tempers, injuries, and unauthorized people/pets/objects on the field. (Outsiders, especially small children and pets, do not always realize that they are supposed to stay off of the field during combat.) If there is a problem, shout "Hold!" several times if necessary.
- (d) If the first cries of "Hold!" do not cause the fighters to stop, get in between the fighters (or between the fighters and whoever has wandered onto the field) and block the weapons with your staff until the fighting does stop. (Keep yelling "Hold!" while you do) This is one reason why marshals routinely carry staffs on the field.

- 4) Bear in mind that the various Kingdoms have somewhat differing traditions as to how much marshals should intrude into a fight. On one extreme, some Kingdoms expect marshals to keep their opinions to themselves, except in the case of clear and immediate safety hazards. At the other extreme, some Kingdoms expect marshals to volunteer advice any time they think the fighters might possibly have a question about a blow. If you are new to marshaling, or merely new to the Kingdom you are in, try to find out where in this spectrum your Kingdom lies. It will make a difference in how you act and, perhaps more importantly, it will make a major difference in what the fighters expect of you.
- 5) In Avacal, marshals are expected to perform at or near the "keep their opinions to themselves unless asked, except in the case of clear and immediate safety hazards" end of the spectrum.

C) Fair Witness



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- 1) You are expected to be an impartial witness to exactly what happens during a fight. Ideally, you should be able to describe the last 3–4 blows on your side of the fight: where they started, their angle of approach, how they were blocked or where they landed. (Do not be afraid to say, “I don’t know” if you were looking at one part of the fight when something [allegedly] happened in another part.)
- 2) Do not try to impose your view unless you see what appears to be major and repeated problems. Leave the blow counting to the participants unless you see clear reason to intervene; usually, they have a much clearer perspective than the marshals do.
- 3) If the fighters do ask you what happened (or you feel compelled to volunteer), try to do so tactfully. Prefacing your statements with “It looked to me like...” or “It appeared...” is preferable to a dogmatic assertion of what happened. Similarly, it is preferable to ask “Was that dent in your helm before?” rather than saying, “That blow put a 6-inch dent in the side of your helm.” The latter may be 100% accurate, but it is unnecessarily antagonistic to someone who may honestly have thought the blow too light.
- 4) In order to be able to answer as accurately as possible, you need as clear a view as possible. This means being close to the fight. You need to strike a balance between getting closer to see better and staying back out of range of the blows. Just what the appropriate distance is for you will depend on your level of experience with fighting (e.g., how well you can judge what the range of the weapons is and whether you are in or near it). In general, for single combat, 20 yards is too far and 2 yards is too close. In the absence of a better idea, consider 5 yards for weapons less than 3½ feet in length and 8 yards if either combatant has a longer weapon. Try to keep moving so that the combatants are roughly centered between you and the other marshals for the fight.
- 5) It is helpful and advisable to enlist someone of higher rank (member of the Chivalry for non-belts, Kingdom Earl Marshal or Crown for members of the Chivalry, etc.) if you ‘feel compelled to volunteer’ your opinion unasked.

D) Showmanship:

- 1) Keep an eye on the audience. SCA combat is a spectator sport, just as medieval tournaments were. Your part of the show is to keep things moving and avoid blocking the view from the sidelines except where unavoidable. This means fast pre-fight checks and announcements, a minimum of holds and discussions during the fight, and a strenuous effort to stay out of the way and keep moving. (If it is cold, wear several layers of tunics and move even more; one person in a cloak can interfere with the view of many).

III Procedures for Marshalling Crown Events



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- 1) The Earl Marshal is responsible for marshaling activities at Crown events. However, in order to allow for the appeals process to work, the Earl Marshal has delegated the activity of establishing the MIC to the Crown Event Steward and the Kingdom Armoured Deputy. If the Crown Event Steward and/or the Kingdom Armoured Deputy are unable to establish the MIC, then the Earl Marshal shall establish the MIC, if no MIC can be established either the Kingdom Armoured Marshal or the Earl Marshal shall be the MIC for the crown tournament. The MIC is primarily responsible for all qualifications, inspections, paperwork and field marshaling. If for some reason the MIC cannot fulfill their duties, the Earl Marshal, or their representative, should be prepared to assume the MIC role.
- 2) The MIC and the marshals present will meet prior to amour inspection. Ideally, at this meeting, the MIC will appoint one senior marshal per field. Any marshals left will be split up amongst the fields. With two marshals per field, any extras can spell each other. Whenever possible, a member of the Chivalry will be assigned to overlook the fighting on each field. Their job is to assist in the dispute resolution with regards to fighting and chivalry.
- 3) Marshals will then conduct Armour inspection with the experienced senior marshals overseeing the work of junior marshals. A warranted senior marshal will make the decisions regarding any problems about Armour or equipment. Should this fail to satisfy the fighter, take the matter to the MIC. His decision should be final. If not, the matter may be brought to the local Principality/Regional Marshal, and then to Earl Marshal, whose decision is final, short of appeal to the Sovereign.
- 4) During the first half of the tourney, each senior team leader should arrange for the apprentice marshals to be out there getting experience. As the tourney reaches the midway point, the more experienced marshals should take over. Also by this time, with the Lists being cut down to fewer fields, arrange for one of the other fields to be set aside as a challenge field with the junior marshals taking care of it. The semifinals and the finals should be marshaled only by members of the Chivalry who are Senior Marshals.
- 5) Let the dead man call his blow. Sometimes a fight will end and 'everyone' will know who the winner is. Do not fall into the trap of declaring winners BEFORE you ask the combatants if they are satisfied. Similarly, do not allow the Herald to announce the winner before you have had a chance to verify with the two combatants. The fighters decide who won, they tell the Marshal then the Marshal tells the Herald.

IV PROCEDURES FOR MARSHALING WARS

A) Before the War



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- 1) The general rules under which the war will be conducted, compromises between conflicting Kingdoms' standards, and the scenario limits for each planned battle shall be negotiated and agreed to in writing in advance by the authorized representatives of all belligerent groups involved. The rules and scenario limits shall be published in the appropriate newsletters. For inter-Kingdom wars, notices shall be published according to SCA publication policy by the groups involved. This publication should take place at least thirty (30) days prior to the event. In addition, copies of all of the rules and agreements shall be available on-site, as a handout. Armour and weapons standards shall default to the established Society minimum standards unless otherwise specified in the event rules and scenario limits.
- 2) Each side in a battle shall provide a reasonable number of trained and experienced marshals. If not enough marshals are available, the sides should arrange for a draft from their armies.
- 3) All marshals should be separately briefed prior to the meetings of all participants. (They should also attend the group briefing.) Emphasis at this briefing should be on enforcing the rules and scenario limits for each battle and on preventing accidents that could arise from hazards related to the scenario limits and to the actual terrain.
- 4) All participants shall be gathered to hear the rules and the scenario limits explained to them. The autocrats and/or the marshals should answer their questions. If the scenario limits vary radically from battle to battle, this procedure should be repeated before each battle.
- 5) Equipment inspection must take place before combat starts, with particular emphasis on any modifications that have been made in making compromises between conflicting Kingdom standards.

B) Marshal of a War

- 1) A Marshal in Charge shall be chosen for each war (and possibly for each battle, if the Marshal in Charge for the war is fighting in the battles or otherwise prevented from being present).
 - 2) The Marshal in Charge shall be responsible for the activities of the marshals in his charge.
 - 3) If possible, the Marshal in Charge should not be a member of one of the groups on the field.
 - 4) The Marshal in Charge for a particular battle may not participate in the battle as a combatant.
 - (a) When "Hold!" is called, all fighting shall cease.
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- (b) The fighters shall drop to one knee (if possible) where they stand.
 - (c) Conversations relating to the conduct of the battle are not permitted between combatants.
 - (d) Changes of position/location are not permitted, unless ordered by a marshal.
 - (e) If movement away from a boundary of a hazard is necessary, the fighters shall maintain their relative positions and distances.
 - (f) To end a hold, the Marshal in Charge will call "All rise!" (or "Rise if you're able" or some other equivalent statement). When the combatants have resumed their guard, the Marshal in Charge will call "Lay on!" to signal the resumption of the fight.
- 5) "Hold!" will normally be called only for REQUIRED broken Armour, lost tempers, injuries, safety concerns, outsiders wandering onto the field, fighters about to wander off it, or to enforce the rules and scenario limits.
- 6) "Hold!" should not be called for dropped weapons, fighters who have slipped and fallen (unless they are in danger of injury), or the near approach of a fighter to a boundary where there are neither spectators nor any natural hazards, such as cliffs.
- 7) Marshals have the preemptory authority to remove from combat and from the field any combatant who violates the rules or scenario limits or who performs any unsafe or dishonorable act. Such removal may be briefly discussed during the battle only if the marshal permits it. The marshals' ruling may be appealed to the Marshal in Charge, the Regional/Principality Marshal, the Kingdom Earl Marshal or the Sovereign, in ascending order.
- 8) Marshals have the authority to regulate the movement of non-combatants on the field and to control the location of spectators.
- 9) Those marshals who are responsible for marshaling wars or large melees may use alternative means to signal "Hold!" or "Lay on!" as long as all fighters know and understand the alternative signaling system. Marshals may use whistles, air horns, or other such devices.
- 10) When marshaling a melee, the witness function is necessarily relegated to a very low priority. (It is not unimportant, but it is impossible for a handful of marshals to be accurate witnesses to the details of a couple dozen separate combats.)
- 11) You should have a minimum of 3 marshals for the first 20 fighters, plus one additional marshal for each 15 fighters up to a total of 500 fighters and 35 marshals. If you have more than 500 fighters (realistically, even if you have more than 50 fighters), you should have an experienced Marshal in Charge and a sizable number of experienced marshals. It is preferable to have more marshals for free-for-all melees.
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- 12) Marshals should station themselves around the edges of the fight. This allows them to control the borders while keeping as much of the fighting as possible in view. It also prevents fights from running into them from behind. As always, keep moving and stay close enough to spot safety problems.
- 13) In very large melees, it may be desirable to have some marshals in the middle of the field, in addition to those around the edge. If you are mid-field, be careful that you do not get so interested in the fight in front of you that you back into or forget to watch another bout moving around behind.

V Marshaling Missile Combat

- 1) A minimum buffer zone of no less than 10 yards between the boundary of all combat/combatants and the spectators is required for reasonable safety, unless otherwise determined by the marshals.
- 2) A gorget with a light infantry helm or fencing mask is HIGHLY recommended. All missile combat marshals must wear at least protective shatterproof eyewear, such as safety glasses meeting the ANSI Z 87.1 standard or better. If there is a mixture of helmeted and safety glasses marshals available, the safety glass marshals should stay to the edge of the field.
- 3) Marshals should wear an extremely distinctive tabard clearly marking them as marshals, and carry a marshaling staff.
- 4) It is recommended that the elbows, knees, kidneys, and groin be covered according to minimum combatant standards. It is strongly recommended that this protection be inconspicuous (i.e. the marshal should not be mistaken for a combatant).
- 5) Take care while marshaling not to get between missile combatants and their targets. It is dangerous, as the combatants may not recognize the marshal in the middle of a crowd.
- 6) If a fighter crosses a boundary, you may notify them politely and promptly that they are routed and out of the battle. If a fighter routs another and follows him out of bounds, they are both out of the battle. Alternately, if the scenario allows, they can be shepherded back onto the field after they have been made aware of the boundary. Use common sense and the rules of the scenario as your guide.

VI COMBAT INJURY PROCEDURES

- 1) It should always be remembered that, when an injury occurs on the field, the primary concern is getting to and assisting the injured party. Secondary to this objective, but no less important, is the safety of persons entering the field to help and the well-being of



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anyone already on the field. (For example, fighters standing around in Armour in the sun could be subject to heat problems.)

- 2) In the event of an emergency, the marshals shall cooperate with any authorized persons responding to the emergency and keep the area clear of would-be spectators.
- 3) In the event of any suspected injury on the field, the marshal shall halt all fighting in the area and determine the proper course of action. The hold may be a local hold as long as the safety of the injured person can be maintained. The overall situation should be assessed, and, as the injured party is tended to, every effort shall be made to release as much of the field as possible so that combat may proceed.
- 4) If the injured person is conscious, they may be asked if they would like assistance. No conscious person will be forced to accept treatment without his or her consent. No non-combatant shall enter the combat area until summoned by a marshal.
- 5) A marshal shall call for assistance if they suspect that a participant is experiencing more than momentary distress. It is an extremely serious matter to delay the application of first aid when it is needed, and marshals who ignore injuries may be subject to revocation of their authorization to supervise combat-related activities.
- 6) No one may remove a fighter from the field without the consent of the event Marshal in Charge or an appointed deputy.
- 7) Any immediate and significant problems associated with an injury on the field shall be reported to the Kingdom Earl Marshal.

VII COMBAT AUTHORIZATION PROCEDURES

A) Example

This section describes how Avacal marshals should conduct authorizations for new armoured combatants. The process requires two individuals in addition to the new fighter: One currently authorized fighter with substantial experience to physically test the candidate's skills; and one currently authorized senior marshal to question the new fighter about the rules, and to observe their skills in safely conducting themselves on the field. When possible, it is encouraged that one of these individuals be a member of the Chivalry.

- 1) If the fighter does not have proof of a signed waiver (for example, a signed blue membership card) prior to the authorization, the candidate and the authorizing marshal will properly complete a waiver (SCA, Inc. form titled "CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE AND RELEASE LIABILITY").



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- 2) The persons conducting the authorization must verify that the candidate is familiar with the Rules of the List and the current rules that specifically govern Avacal.
- 3) The candidate must present themselves on the field in Armour for inspection. The Armour must be inspected on the body and must pass the current Armour requirements for combat. This inspection must be complete and exacting, and any deficiencies must be permanently corrected before the person may authorize.
- 4) Both the experienced authorized fighter and the candidate shall be armed with sword and shield or the weapon in which the candidate seeks authorization (The Earl Marshal may permit a substitute weapons system.)
- 5) For the first few minutes of the bout for authorization, the prospective fighter and the authorized fighter shall fight at $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ speed and verbally acknowledge all blows landed. During this phase of the authorization, the marshal and the member of the Chivalry if available should get an impression of the new fighter's style, technique, ability to call blows, and ability to defend themselves. If this portion of the authorization is not satisfactorily completed, the authorization procedure shall be stopped. The candidate shall be told of the problems observed and instructed as to how to correct the problems
- 6) If the first portion of the bout has progressed satisfactorily, then the combatants will be told to fight in list-type combat, counting blows until one is defeated. During this phase, the marshal and member of the Chivalry if available should observe the new fighter's control, reaction to blows, and ability to cope with pressure.
- 7) The marshal, the member of the Chivalry if available, and the authorized fighter shall confer to decide if the new fighter exhibits adequate performance in the minimum criteria for authorization listed below:
 - a) Does the candidate know and apply the Rules of the Lists and the Conventions of Combat?
 - b) Does the candidate exhibit safe behavior on the field, for both self and others?
 - c) How does the candidate react to pressure? Does he or she fight back or become disoriented and confused?
 - d) Can the candidate defend themselves?
 - e) Is the authorizing fighter able to feel and judge blows, both those received and those thrown?
- 8) If the marshal, member of the Chivalry if available, and the experienced authorized fighter agree that the candidate meets these requirements.
 - a) The marshal will notify the candidate that they are now authorized. The new fighter and marshal will properly complete the Avacal "Four Year Authorization".
 - b) The bottom part should be removed. This is the fighter's temporary authorization card which will be valid for 60 days from signing to be used at events.



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- a. The authorized fighter will be required to go to the Avacal Authorization Database to print off their fight authorization once entered by the Minister of Lists
(http://www.avacal.org/EarlMarshal/authorizationdb/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/Lists/Fighters/AllItems.aspx)
- c) However, the top part of the form must be sent to the Kingdom Minister of Lists by the warranting marshal to be recorded in the authorization database so that the authorization will be official
- d) The Senior Marshal shall follow the guidelines as per section IV.B.4 of the Avacal book of Lists to submit the fighter authorization.

VIII EQUIPMENT INSPECTION GUIDELINES

A) General Information

- 1) At each event, the Marshal in Charge must arrange for the inspection of all equipment to be used in combat (e.g., Armour and weapons). This in no way relieves the individual combatants of their responsibility for following the equipment standards. Ultimately, the fighter is responsible for the condition and safety of their Armour and weapons. However, the marshal's inspection is intended to provide a second pair of experienced eyes and an outside point of view. A reminder: Equipment that was perfectly serviceable at the beginning of the previous event could have broken since, and even the most experienced fighter can occasionally forget some piece of Armour. The inspection outlined below is merely an example. A checklist might be helpful as you do the inspection, until you have done so many that it becomes second nature. (As noted in the section on marshaling combat, a quick visual check of the combatants just before the start of a bout or battle is also a good idea.) All of this is based on the equipment standards given in the Appendix. You should be familiar with them. The fact that one of the requirements is not mentioned on this checklist does not mean that you should not notice if it has not been met.
- 2) Armour inspection must be done with all of the Armour on the body of the fighter who is going to wear it. It is not otherwise possible to get an accurate idea of what is covered and what is not, nor of where gaps may occur as the combatant moves. In weapon inspections, the primary test is safety. If you, as a marshal, do not believe that the weapon is safe (i.e., if you would not be willing to face it), do not let it be used on the field. When in doubt, ask the prospective user if he or she would be willing to fight against the weapon. If not, it should not be used regardless of whether it meets all other requirements. Before you start, remind yourself that Armour is hot, not to mention heavy. If the weather is hot, try to find some shade in which to hold the inspection or, at least, for the fighters to stand in while waiting to be inspected. (Similar reasoning applies in case of rain, freezing cold, or other inclement weather. Just because it is



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possible to fight does not mean that it is pleasant or desirable to stand around in Armour.)

B) Sample Armour Inspection

See Armour Requirements above for Society minimum standards.

- 1) Leg Armour: Check that the front and sides of the knee are covered. Have the fighter flex their knees (either a deep knee bend or one knee at a time) and see that the knee remains covered and that the articulation (if any) does not gap. Check for sharp edges, broken or missing rivets, or other signs that the equipment is falling apart.
 - 2) Groin: ASK the fighter if they remembered their cup or groin protection. Do NOT attempt to check for it physically.
 - 3) Kidneys: Check for kidney Armour. (Kidneys are located in the back, at the bottom of the ribs, but the Armour should also extend around to the sides.)
 - 4) Elbows: Check that the point and sides of each elbow are covered. Have the fighter flex their elbows and see that the elbow remains covered and that the articulation (if any) does not gap. Check for sharp edges, broken or missing rivets, or other signs that the equipment is faulty.
 - 5) Hands and Wrists: Check the gauntlet and/or basket hilt. Look to see whether the gauntlet will pinch the hand if it is hit. Check for sharp edges, broken or missing rivets, or other signs that the equipment is faulty.
 - 6) Neck and Head:
 - (a) Check that the neck, larynx, and cervical vertebrae are covered.
 - (b) Check the face plate and eye slots, both for the size of openings (a 1-inch dowel is a quick way to check and hard to argue with) and to be sure that it is firmly secured.
 - (c) Put your hand on the front of the helm, and have the fighter push against it. See that their face does not hit the faceplate. (A gentle touch of the tip of the nose at maximum pressure may not be desirable, but is not necessarily grounds for rejecting the helm.) Repeat with the sides and back of the helm.
 - (d) Have the fighter turn their head toward their shield side. See that the neck is still not exposed.
 - (e) Have the fighter tilt their chin up as far as possible and check the neck again (this is intended to simulate the position they might be in if they had just taken a blow
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high up on the front of the helm). If you can reach in (with your fist) and freely touch bare throat, the problem should be repaired before the fighting starts.

- (f) Have the fighter move their chin down as far as possible and repeat for the back of the neck.
 - (g) Lift gently on the front of the faceplate to make sure that the helm does not rotate easily to expose the face or throat.
 - (h) After making sure that the fighter does not have their tongue between his teeth, test the chinstrap (or equivalent) by lifting up sharply on both sides of the helm. It should not rise up so far as to expose the head or neck.
 - (i) Check for sharp edges, broken or missing rivets, or other signs that the equipment is faulty.
- 7) Shield: Check the rim for exposed sharp edges. (For this purpose, a 90-degree angle is a sharp edge.) Check the rest of the shield for sharp edges, broken or missing rivets, or other signs that it is faulty.

C) Sample Weapon Inspection

See Weapons Standards above for Society and Kingdom minimum standards.

- 1) Swords:
 - (a) Check that they meet the minimum diameter (A 1.25 inch (31.8mm) marshaling gauge will speed this up enormously).
 - (b) Check that the ends are taped and that there are no exposed cuts in the rattan.
 - (c) Check the quillions or basket hilts for sharp edges, broken or missing rivets, or other signs that they are coming apart.
 - (d) Check the wrist strap or other means of keeping the sword from flying away.
- 2) Thrusting Tips: Check that they have the minimum cross section. Push on the end to verify the required amount of resilient give. Check that the tip is constructed in such a manner that it cannot be forced more than .5 inch into a legal faceguard.
- 3) Mass Weapons: Check the padding for "give". Check the wrist strap (single-handed mass weapons only). Consider the total mass of the weapon.
- 4) Pole Weapons: Check the thrusting tip, if any. Check the padding for "give". Consider the total mass of the weapon. Check that the weapon meets the relevant length restrictions.

D) Sample Combat Archery Inspection:



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- 1) Bow/Crossbow
 - (a) Ensure that the string is not showing excessive wear.
 - (b) Measure the power of the bow with a calibrated scale to ensure it is within appropriate specs.
 - (c) Check the bow itself for cracks or gouges, as well as for significant limb twist that could make the string leave the tips.
- 2) Crossbow Only
 - (a) Check that the lock mechanism releases smoothly under simulated pressure.
 - (b) Check that the lock mechanism is solid and will not accidentally fire.
 - (c) Ensure the stock has no failures between the bow and lock.
- 3) Ammunition
 - (a) Based upon the type of ammunition measure all dimensions for conformance
 - (b) Grab both head and APD and pull with moderate force while twisting. If either shows signs of pulling off the shaft, it fails. For blunts twisting around the shaft is ok. APD's may have a small amount of lateral movement but they must not be able to move forward or back along the shaft.
 - (c) If a type with foam, check that it the tip is constructed in such a manner that it cannot be forced more than .5 inches into a legal faceguard.
 - (d) Check the shaft for signs of cracking or other failure. Check that it is properly labeled and taped. e. Remember that ammunition cannot be more than 10% yellow as yellow is reserved for Siege.

IX EXPERIMENTAL WEAPONS AND MATERIALS PROCEDURES

A) Experimental Weapons and Materials

- 1) Before any unapproved weapon or material can be used at Society activities, a test plan and a sample of the proposed weapon or material must be submitted to and approved by the Society Marshal or a designated deputy. This plan shall include specifics on construction (e.g., materials used, how it is assembled, etc.), an outline of the test, and all restrictions that will be imposed on the test. It shall also tell how long the test period would be. Any samples submitted shall be returned to the submitting party no later than the conclusion of the test period, unless otherwise specified.
- 2) It is the prerogative of the Kingdom Earl Marshal to allow limited testing of alternate or unapproved materials and weapons within a kingdom. Limited testing means the weapon or material may be used at fighter practice tourneys and in small melees, but only after all combatants and marshals have been informed the weapon or material is being tested and that it is not approved for general SCA use.



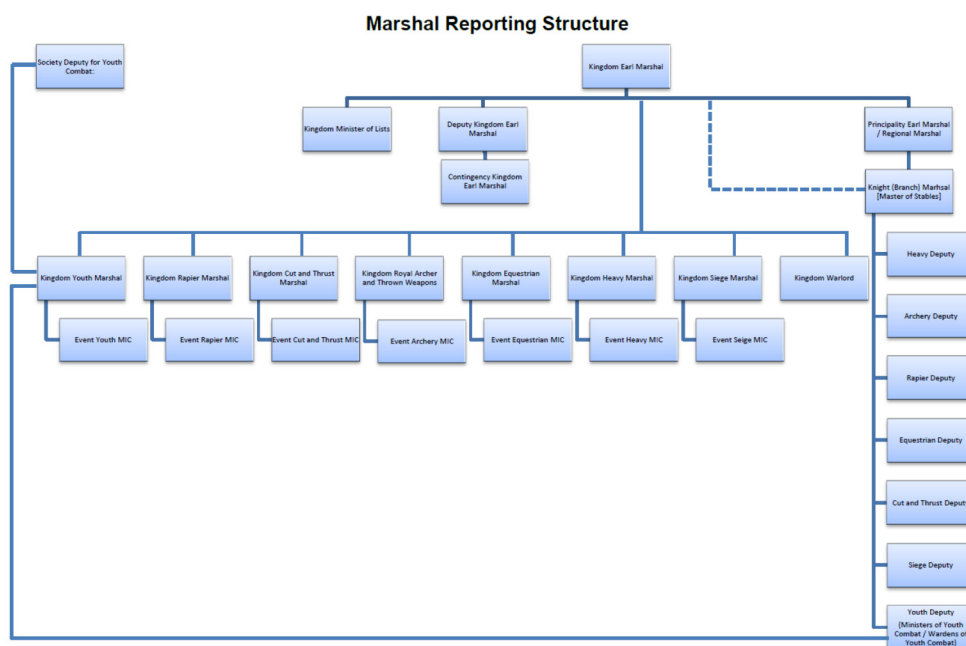
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- 3) All combatants and marshals must consent to the use of the weapon or material before combat begins. If any of the marshals or combatants objects to the use of the material or weapon, the material or weapon may not be used. All unapproved materials and weapons shall be marked with alternating bands of red and green tape totaling 6 inches in length. Bands shall be visible during weapon usage.
- 4) Once per quarter throughout the test period, the Earl Marshal will update the Society Marshal on the progress and results of the testing. At the end of the test period, the Earl Marshal will provide the Society Marshal with a test summary. This summary shall include a list of injuries that resulted from the use of the weapon or material and any concerns from fighters and marshals recorded during the testing. The Society Marshal, after consultation with the Earls Marshal, shall determine if the weapon or material is suitable for SCA combat-related activities.

X CHAIN OF COMMAND AND PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING

A) Reporting

- 1) Avacal has established that quarterly reporting dates are as follows:
 - a) Quarter 1: December 1 to March 1
 - b) Quarter 2: March 1 to June 1
 - c) Quarter 3: June 1 to September 1
 - d) Quarter 4: September 1 to December 1



- 2) If you are a Junior or Senior Marshal:
 - (a) A properly completed Marshal Promotion Form when you are initially Warranted must be sent to the Kingdom List Minister



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- (b) Reports on what you personally observed of any incident during or related to combat, which the Marshal in Charge was required to report on.
- 3) If you are the Marshal in Charge of an event, responsibilities as follows:
- (a) You must be a warranted Senior Marshal.
 - (b) Accept responsibility for the Marshal Activity,
 - (c) Follow and enforce the established rules as outlined in the relevant Marshal Activity Manual.
 - (d) Report on the marshal activity, including any incidents in which:
 - (i) Unauthorized combatant was found participating.
 - (ii) Armour failures, causing minor injuries.
 - (iii) Someone was injured.
 - (iv) A fighter or marshal had to be disciplined.
 - (e) Event reports shall go to the appropriate Kingdom Marshal and then to the Kingdom Earl Marshal. (It should not go to the Marshal of the Society!)
 - (i) In instances where the event(s) fall under the purview of a Principality or Region, then the MIC is to forward the Marshal in Charge form to the appropriate Principality / Regional Deputy.
 - (f) Any other reports that the Kingdom Earl Marshal or Kingdom Marshal(s) require.
 - (g) It is relatively common for a Marshal in Charge to draft anyone he or she feels is competent to serve as temporary field marshals during an event whether these individuals are warranted marshals or not. These field marshals should only be used to augment your marshal team, and not to wholly replace it. The advantage of being a warranted marshal is that you are an official of the Corporation, which gives you certain legal protection from suits (if any) arising from your actions as a marshal.
- 4) Knight (Branch) Marshal of a Branch, responsibilities as follows:
- (a) A properly completed Change of Officer Form when you initially take office.
 - (b) As a Knight Marshal, if an event within your local jurisdiction does not have an MIC, the Knight Marshal is responsible to fill the role or find a suitable delegate.
 - (c) Knight (Branch) Marshal Quarterly Reports on the state of the Marshalate in your branch shall go to the appropriate Principality/Regional Marshal, if there are not regional designations or Principalities then the quarterly reports get forwarded directly to the Kingdom Earl Marshal. If there are subsidiary branches (e.g., cantons or ridings), this includes summarizing the reports that you get from them.
 - (i) The Knight Marshal is required to report by the following date:
 - a. Quarter 1: 1st of March,
 - b. Quarter 2: 1st of June,
 - c. Quarter 3: 1st of Sept and
 - d. Quarter 4: 1st of Dec
 - (ii) The Knight Marshal, is required to report on all Marshal Activities for the branch, such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Armoured Combat Activities
 - b. Rapier Activities



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- c. Cut and Thrust Activities
- d. Archery and Thrown Weapon Activities
- e. Equestrian Activities
- f. Youth Combat
- g. Siege Activities

Note: A branch may not have all the activities noted above taking place due to size, and available Sr. marshals, if the activities does not take place, ensure it is noted thus upon report submission.

- (iii) The Knight Marshal, is required to report on but not limited to:
 - a. Experimental Weapons, Armour or Practices
 - b. Any Problems or Injuries
 - c. Summary of Current Status
 - (d) Any other reports that the Kingdom Earl Marshal requires.
 - (e) Every effort should be made to become a Senior Marshal.
- 5) Principality Earl Marshal or Regional Marshal, responsibilities as follows:
- (a) A properly completed Change of Officer Form when you initially take office.
 - (b) As a Principality Earl Marshal or Regional Marshal, if an event within your local jurisdiction does not have an MIC, the Knight Marshal is responsible to fill the role or find a suitable delegate.
 - (c) Report on the principality (or region) Knight (Branch) Marshal Quarterly Reports concerning the state of the Marshalate within your Principality/Region.
 - (i) This includes all Knight (Branch) Marshals within the principality/region, as well as providing a synopsis of the events from the Principality Deputies MIC reports that have taken place within the principality/region.
 - (ii) The Principality Earl Marshal or Regional Marshal is required to report by the following date:
 - a. Quarter 1: 7th of March,
 - b. Quarter 2: 7th of June,
 - c. Quarter 3: 7th of Sept and
 - d. Quarter 4: 7th of Dec
 - (d) Shall maintain both, an individual warrant(s) and an online (electronic) roster(s), (required information on the roster system may be obtained from your Principality Seneschal); this task may be partially delegated to the Principality Minister of the Lists.
 - (e) Establish additional specific reporting requirements based on the office (with the Kingdom Earl Marshal approval)
 - (f) Any other reports that the Kingdom Earl Marshal or Kingdom marshal(s) require.
- 6) The Kingdom, Principality or Regional Deputy Marshal, responsibilities as follows:
- (a) A properly completed Change of Officer Form when you initially take office.
 - (b) As a the Kingdom, Principality or Regional Deputy Marshal, if an event within your local jurisdiction does not have an MIC, the Knight Marshal is responsible to fill the role or find a suitable delegate.



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- (c) Provide guidance to all layers of Marshalate, to aid with MIC duties, Inspections, Marshalling duties, reporting, communicating, etc. within the Marshalate. The deputy positions are the most important to ensure communication and mentorship to the less experienced or to be able to step in when unforeseen circumstances arise and aid is needed.
 - (d) Report on Marshal MIC Reports and any Incident Reports on the state of the events that took place within the Marshalate within your purview.
 - (i) Kingdom, Principality or Regional Deputy Marshal, is required to report on but not limited to:
 - a. Experimental Weapons, Armour or Practices
 - b. Any Problems or Injuries
 - c. Summary of Current Status

Note: Generally the Kingdom, Principality or Regional Deputy Marshal need not report on the local Knight (Branch) Marshal activities, these activities are being reported by the Knight (Branch) Marshals directly to the Principality Earl Marshal (if present) / Regional Marshal (if present) or directly to the Kingdom Earl Marshal. The focus of the Kingdom, Principality or Regional Deputy Marshal is primarily on the actual event marshal activities.
 - (ii) The Kingdom, Principality or Regional Deputy Marshal is required to report by the following date:
 - a. Quarter 1: 7th of March,
 - b. Quarter 2: 7th of June,
 - c. Quarter 3: 7th of Sept and
 - d. Quarter 4: 7th of Dec
 - (e) Establish additional specific reporting requirements based on the office (with the Earl Marshal approval)
 - (f) Any other reports that the Earl Marshal requires
- 7) The Kingdom Earl Marshal, responsibilities as follows:
- (a) An agreement to serve as Earl Marshal.
 - (b) As a the Kingdom Earl Marshal, if the Crown Event Steward and the Kingdom Armoured Deputy is incapable of establishing the MIC for Crown Tournament, then it is the responsibility of the Kingdom Earl Marshal to establish the MIC for the crown tournament.
 - (c) Administration of the marshal systems within the kingdom.
 - (d) Ensure the functionality and the continuation of the marshal system.
 - (e) Adjudicate issues in relation to the Marshal system maintaining the integrity of the marshal system.
 - (f) Authorizing all marshal activity manuals; additions and revisions.
 - (g) Quarterly reporting to the Society Marshal, the Seneschal and the Crown regarding the state of the Marshalate within Avacal. This shall be done on or before the:
 - 1) Quarter 1: 15th of March,
 - 2) Quarter 2: 15th of June,
 - 3) Quarter 3: 15th of Sept and
 - 4) Quarter 4: 15th of Dec



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- (i) Ensure to Report on all Principality / Regional Areas within the Kingdom, which will include Knight (Branch) Marshal (This should be received as a single report of the Principality or Region)
- (ii) Ensure to report on Knight (branch) Marshals, that DO NOT fall under a Principality or Regional area.
- (iii) Ensure to report on Kingdom Marshal Deputies (The Principality or Regional Deputies will fall under the Principality or Regional report when received).
- (iv) Kingdom Earl Marshal, is required to report on but not limited to:
 - a. Experimental Weapons, Armour or Practices
 - b. Any Problems or Injuries
 - c. Summary of Current Status
- (h) If disciplinary action that extends beyond the bounds of a single event is being taken against a fighter in your Kingdom (e.g., authorizations suspended or revoked, Courts of Chivalry), a brief account of what was done, to whom, and why. (If more information is needed, for example because of an appeal of the action, the Society Marshal will let you know.)
- (i) Shall maintain both, an individual warrant(s) and an online (electronic) roster(s), (required information on the roster system may be obtained from your Kingdom Seneschal); this task may be partially delegated to the Kingdom Minister of the Lists.
- (j) Answer correspondence from the Principality Earl Marshal, Regional Marshals, Knights Marshals of your Kingdom.
- (k) Establish additional specific reporting requirements based on the office.

XI PROCEDURES FOR GRIEVANCES AND SANCTIONS

A) Grievances and Disputes:

Usually the combatants are more than willing to correct any problems or breaches of the rules pointed out by a marshal. This is the desired solution: get the problem fixed. However, occasionally a marshal must take action. In the unhappy event that you find it necessary, here is how you shall proceed. In order of preference:

- 1) Point out the violation (missing Armour, grappling during combat, etc.) and ask the fighter to correct it.
- 2) In the case of missing or inadequate required Armour, do not allow the combatant onto the field until it has been fixed.
- 3) In the case of violation of the rules during combat, ask the combatant to leave the field, and do not allow combat to resume until they have cooled off. This particularly includes removing from the field anyone who has lost his or her temper.
- 4) If you need support, call on (in order):



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- (a) Any other marshals who are present (especially the Marshal in Charge).
 - (b) Member of the Chivalry
 - (c) A Regional, Deputy, or Principality Knight Marshal.
 - (d) The Kingdom Earl Marshal
 - (e) The Principality or Kingdom Seneschal
 - (f) The Coronet or Crown.
- 5) If the violation cannot be stopped, convince the Marshal in Charge and the local Seneschal to end the event.
- 6) In any case where voluntary correction is not made after the problem has been pointed out, a written report shall be made to the Earl Marshal as soon as possible after the event.

B) Sanctions

In addition to removing an unsafe combatant from the field at the time, long-term sanctions are available.

These will ONLY be applied by the Marshalate of the Kingdom rather than by a local marshal. Procedures outlined in Kingdom law or Kingdom marshal policies shall be adhered to when sanctioning any person.

- 1) Possible sanctions include:
 - (a) Revoking the authorization of the individual to fight with a particular weapon. (This sanction may be applied whether or not your Kingdom does authorizations by weapon forms.)
 - (b) Revoking the authorization of the individual to fight at all.
 - (c) Recommendation to the Crown to banish the individual from participation in events.
 - (d) Recommendation to the Board to banish the individual from the Society and its activities.
 - 2) If any of these long-term sanctions are in progress, the Society Marshal shall be informed.
 - 3) If authorization has been revoked, it is acceptable to inform the Earls Marshal of any neighboring Kingdoms to which the (ex-) fighter might travel. Once long-term sanctions have been applied, a report shall be made to the Marshal of the Society
 - 4) An authorization from any Kingdom may be suspended/revoked in another Kingdom, should it prove necessary and appropriate. Such suspension/revocation means that the fighter may not fight anywhere in the Society until and unless the issue is resolved. Accordingly, the Earl Marshal shall inform the Earls Marshal of the neighboring Kingdoms.
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- 5) Furthermore, if the fighter is subsequently re-authorized, the neighboring Earls Marshal shall again be notified.



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~Appendix Avacal Traditions of Armoured Combat~

Special Note:

The following traditions are presented as optional or historical. They are not to be enforced except on a scenario by scenario case, or are given as examples of rules that have been instated by the "Word of the Crown" for specific reigns or Crown Tournaments. They are provided in order to give a common understanding so that when they are discussed, everyone has the same frame of reference.

SP1: Do not face a kneeling opponent into the sun.

SP2: Do not circle a kneeling opponent out of range. This is called corkscrewing.

SP3: Only use titles earned by fighting on the field or in challenges (i.e.; Sir, Knight, Lady, Knight, Master, Count, Duke, Sergeant and Squire).

SP4: After taking an opponent's leg, it is polite to allow him time to settle and get ready. However, it is common for combat to continue without break from either side when a leg is taken.

SP5: When you take your opponent's leg and he or she is forced to continue to fight from their knees, many fighters apply one of the knee/shoulder line conventions:

- 1) Keep directly in front of the opponent without crowding him too much. This means you should keep your feet planted in front of the line formed by his knees. Do not plant your feet between his knees. Do not straddle his legs.
- 2) You may take a single step beyond the knee line to either side around the opponent to attempt a single shot attack. If the blow fails the fighter must then return to in front of the knee line.
- 3) If your opponent is able to lean back from the fight far enough to prevent you from launching an attack without breaking the line of the knees, but is able to still fight himself, then the line should be moved to the shoulders. Keep in mind that you should still not straddle your opponent's legs or step between his knees. If your opponent leans forward again, then the line is moved back to the knees.
- 4) Remember this convention is NOT widely followed outside Avacal. Be prepared if you travel to other Kingdoms that the Society 'norm' is to possibly crowd the person on their knees.

SP6: Do not intentionally strike at the arms of an opponent (arm hunting). The arm is a legal target and it may be struck during the normal course of combat.

- 1) Hitting an arm when that is the only target offered by your opponent (for instance: standing at range against a kneeling opponent) or when the fighter is using poor form (holding the arm out in front of their shield or over their head) is considered a legitimate target opportunity.
- 2) Remember this convention is NOT widely followed outside Avacal. Be prepared if you travel to other Kingdoms that the Society 'norm' is to strike at the arm just like any other target (head, leg, body etc.) even if the arm is tucked behind the shield.



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SP7: Even Advantage Systems:

- 1) These are practiced by many fighters and are often considered a mark of chivalry. They are never required, and there is certainly no dishonor when a less skilled fighter facing a more skilled opponent chooses to forgo these systems. There are three basic variations:
- 2) Point system: If you take your opponent's leg or arm, that is one point. Try to stay no more than one point ahead. If you then take something else off arm, that is two points, so you give up a point by dropping your shield or to your knees.
- 3) Even fight: if you take your opponent's leg, you also go to your knees, or if opponent has to fight with off arm, you also fight with one arm, but your sword arm.
- 4) Bad Form: often if a fighter accidentally hits an arm or leg when aiming for the body or leg, the striking fighter will give up that limb to even the fight.

SP8: It is highly discouraged for a fighter with a long range weapon to take their opponent's leg, and then sit back out of range and safely thrust their opponent to death.

SP9: Shield Size -- This convention applies only to shields used in tournament combat. Shields used in melees are exempt from this convention. All of these measurements will be made with the fighter in Armour.

- 1) Round shields, both arm-strapped and center grip, may be a maximum diameter of 30 inches (76cm); or the distance measured from elbow point to elbow point while holding one's fists together; whichever is greater.
- 2) Heater shields (this includes rectangular arm-strapped and rectangular center grip shields) are measured from shoulder to shoulder and chin to crotch, while the fighter is sitting on a bench or other flat surface.
- 3) All other shields must a surface area less than or equal to 700 square inches (4516 square cm). [This is roughly equivalent to a square shield that is 26.5 x 26.5 inches or 67x67 cm.]

SP10: Saluting: This is done at the beginning of every fight, usually three times; First to the Crown (or sponsoring noble), then to the one for whom you fight that day, and last to your opponent. Examples of two basic types of salutes: One is like a fencing salute where you raise the weapon vertically in front of your face, and then sweep it downwards and away to one side. The other is slapping one's shield with one's weapon. There are many other variations.

SP11: Language and Temper: These are two things you should never lose control of on the field. If you feel yourself getting angry at your opponent, whatever the reason, you should get a grip on your temper or call "HOLD", and tell the marshals that you are becoming angry and why if you wish, and ask them to take action or postpone the fight until you have had a chance to cool down. One should also control one's tongue. Use of foul or abusive language on the field is grounds for marshal sanctions.

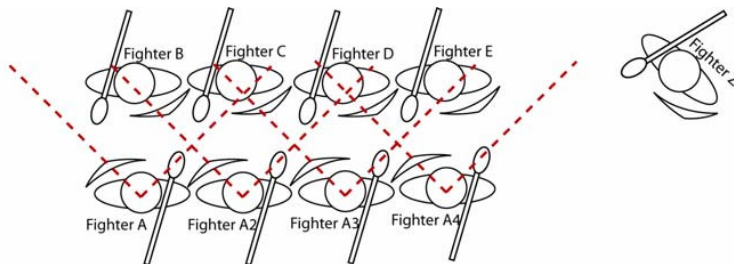
SP12: Favors: These are bestowed upon a fighter by the one for whom they fight, or by friends. One is a commitment to fight for a given person for a given event, or until you return their favor. If you wish to fight for someone else, you should talk to the one who first gave you a favor. Friendship favors are worn as a



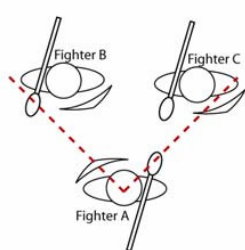
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token of esteem, support, or someone just likes you. They may be bestowed on the spur of the moment or permanently.

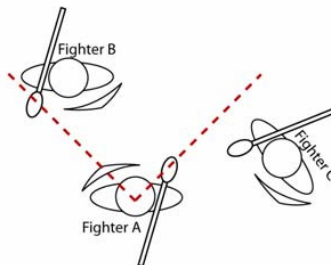
SP13: Rules of Engagement: Fighters must make eye contact or be in the front 90 degree arc of an opposing fighter in order to be engaged. All fighters in a line are considered engaged with all fighters in an opposing line. See below:



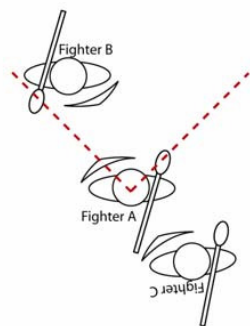
In this example, Every fighter is engaged with every other fighter. Because they are fighting in a line. Fighter B is engaged with Fighter A4 even though they can not hit each other, because they are all in an engagement line with one another. Fighter Z is NOT engaged in line battle and must engaged prior to hitting fighter A4 OR Fighter E.



In this example, fighter A is considered engaged with fighter B and C, because they are all within hitting range of each other AND fighter B and C are within Fighter A's 45 degree sight arc.



In this example, fighter A and fighter B are engaged. Fighter C is NOT engaged and must make eye contact with fighter A prior to engagement, because fighter C is outside the 45 degree sight arc of fighter A prior to getting within weapons range. IF fighter A turns his head to see fighter C coming in, then eye contact is made, even if fighter C is outside of weapons range.



Also, if fighter B and C were engaged with fighter A, THEN fighter C stepped outside the 45 degree sight arc, As long as fighter C maintains weapons range, HE IS STILL ENGAGED WITH fighter A, and does NOT have to re-engage to hit him. ONLY if fighter C moves outside of weapons range must he re-engage prior to hitting fighter A.

In this example Fighter C is NOT engaged with fighter A, but is going to "kill from behind". Fighter C can NOT hit fighter A from here, without prior eye contact. But he can foul up Fighter A without eye contact.

Foul up, meaning grab his weapon, give him a bearhug, place your sword in front of his eye slot and YELL DEAD FROM BEHIND! PLEASE check with your kingdom marshals to determine if your kingdom allows KFB and how they do it.

Illustrations done by Ld. Aiden O'Seaghdha



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SP14: Killing from Behind (KFB): Killing from behind is an optional rule that some feel lowers the number of misunderstandings on the field. Others feel it is more honorable to only engage your opponent from the front. This comes down to “War” rules and “Grand Melee Tournaments”. Allowing killing from behind definitely makes battles more realistic and possibly safer. Generally, the larger the battle, the more likely you will see KFB. Be prepared for KFB or non KFB.

- 1) There are two methods of killing from behind:
 - (a) With single handed weapons the attacker approaches the defender and lays their weapon over the eye slots of the defender.
 - (b) With two handed weapons the attacker approaches the defender from outside the 90 degree engagement zone (see above) and lays their weapon on the defenders shoulder, extending into the vision range of the defender.
- 2) At this point the defender is dead, however the attacker must then loudly announce “You are dead from behind milord!” before they can move on to the next engagement. The attacker must stay with each defender while this is said. You cannot just run down a backfield of a line saying “deadfrombehinddeadfrombehinddeadfrombehind...”
- 3) It is considered highly dishonorable to twirl out of the attackers grasp and strike them if you are the defender after the weapon has entered your field of vision. Remember the attacker is showing you a courtesy by using KFB. The reality of war would be that the first clue a defender would have he has been killed is the pain of being struck unawares.

SP15: Dead on the Ground

- 1) If an attacker comes upon a defender that is rendered prone or otherwise unable to defend himself, the attacker may lightly put his weapon on the defender and say loudly ‘Dead on the ground!’
- 2) Much like killing from behind, this optional rule is set up as a courtesy for fighters who are prone or otherwise incapacitated. If Dead on the Ground is not being used, prone fighters must be allowed to regain their footing before they can be engaged. This once again is less “War” rules and more like “Grand Melee Tournaments”.

SP16: An additional buffer zone of 10 yards INSIDE the Missile Combat Boundary is highly recommended when space is available. This zone should be a ‘no targeting zone’ and ‘no Combat Archer zone’ to further decrease the likelihood of missiles leaving the war field. This should be a soft boundary recognized by the Combat Archery community wherever possible on larger fields. This zone, if it exists, should not be exploited solely for the purpose of avoiding missile fire, but may be passed through in normal field activity. The preference is to have netting in addition to this buffer zone.



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GLOSSARY

The definitions that follow apply throughout the Handbook, unless specifically stated otherwise. They are intended to clarify usage and establish a frame of reference for the various materials used in SCA combat.

XII Armour Materials

Aventail: flexible curtain of chainmail on a helmet, extending to cover the neck and shoulders.

Bars: Used in the visor or faceplate of helms, bars shall be mild steel a minimum of 3/16 inch (4.5mm) in diameter, or the equivalent. If the distance between crossbars is 2 inches (50.8mm) or less, 1/8 inch (3.2mm) bars may be used.

Camail: flexible curtain of mail or leather on a helm, extending to cover the neck (also aventail). Closed-cell foam: stiff foam with closed cells, less dense than resilient foam (e.g., Ensolite).

Equivalent: virtually identical to the specified material in effect or function, including impact resistance, impact distribution, and impact absorption characteristics, but not necessarily in physical dimensions.

Foam: any open- or closed-cell foam, including foam rubber, foam neoprene, polyurethane, etc.

Gauge: U.S. sheet metal standard. Note that 16-gauge is officially 1/16 inch (.0625 inch or about 1.6mm), but commercially available sheet is frequently rolled to .058 or even .055 inch—much too thin for helms.

Gauntlet: An Armoured glove covering the back of the hand, fingers, and thumb and the points and back of the wrist.

Gorget: a piece of Armour designed to cover the throat and neck.

Heavy Leather: stiff, oak-tanned leather nominally 11/64 inch (4.4mm) thick, often referred to as 11oz. leather.

Mail: any fabric of small metal components either linked together (e.g., chain) or attached to a flexible backing (e.g., ring or scale).

Padding: quilted or multi-layered cloth material, such as mattress pads, moving pads, carpet, felt, or equivalent. Viscoelastic non Newtonian Fluid (Zoombang) garments will also be considered as the equivalent to 0.25 inches (6.4 mm) of padding (Note: When it concerns Kidneys and short ribs, Viscoelastic non Newtonian Fluid (Zoombang) garments are considered equivalent to heavy leather worn over 0.25 inch (6.4 mm) of closed-cell foam).

Partial gauntlet (also called a half-gauntlet or demi-gauntlet): An Armoured glove covering the back of the hand and at least the first knuckle of the thumb, as well as the points and back of the wrist.



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Plate: large components of rigid metal material.

Resilient foam: dense, plastic, closed-cell foam such as ethyl polymer.

Rigid material:

- 1) Steel of no less than 18 gauge, or aluminum of no less than 0.075 inch (1.9mm).
- 2) Other metals of sufficient thickness to give similar rigidity to those listed above to include treated steel or aluminum.
- 3) High-impact-resistant plastics such as ABS or polyethylene of sufficient thickness to give similar rigidity to those listed above.
- 4) Heavy leather (as defined above) that has been hardened in hot wax, soaked in polyester resin (properly catalyzed), or treated in such a manner as to permanently harden the leather.
- 5) Two layers of untreated heavy leather (as defined above).
- 6) Other materials equivalent to those items listed above (Any Armour of unusual construction or material must meet the approval of the Kingdom or Principality Earl Marshal or their designated deputy.)

Steel: Cold- or hot-rolled mild steel or equivalent ferrous material.

XIII Weapons

Approved rigid plastics: Siloflex and Siloflex equivalents are currently the only rigid plastic approved for the striking surface of a weapon.

Bow: A projectile launcher consisting of a material held under tension by a string. Also referred to as Handbow.

Crossbow: A projectile launcher consisting of a bow (called a prod) being mounted to a stock, with a lock mechanism to hold the string and full draw and allow its release via a trigger.

Flail: a weapon with a striking surface attached to the handle via a flexible arm or pivot.

Laminated rattan: Two pieces of rattan, each being at least 1.25 inch (31.8mm) in diameter, attached to one another with a short overlap by tape or other method of binding. Maximum length of the overlap shall be 18" (457.2mm) or half of the length of the added rattan, whichever is shorter. Note that use of glues, epoxies, or adhesives, which substantially reduce the flexibility of the rattan, is prohibited.

Missile weapon: any weapon which is intended to deliver a blow without being held in the hand (e.g., arrows, javelins, quarrels, or various soft projectiles from catapults).

Polearms: hafted weapons, generally long, designed to be wielded with two hands (e.g., glaives, halberds, etc.).



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Progressively resistant give (as used in discussions of thrusting tips): As pressure is applied directly to the thrusting surface, it will compress gradually, without bottoming-out or bending to the side enough to expose the end of the blade or haft of the weapon it is attached to.

Quillions: cross-guards of a sword.

Siloflex: A brand-name polyethylene tubing made from PE3408 resin and conforming to ASTM D2239 standards. The material is approved for various uses throughout the rules in pressure ratings ranging from 75 PSI to 200 PSI. Please check the standards in the appropriate area of the rules for what is allowed.

Siloflex equivalent: other tubing or pipe, typically made for drinking water applications, made from polyethylene resins with the ASTM classification of PE 3408 and produced to the ASTM D2239 standard.

Spears: hafted weapons designed for thrusting only; also called pikes.

Single-handed mass weapons: maces, axes, war hammers, or other weapons designed primarily to crush or punch holes (on account of the weight of the real weapons), rather than primarily to cut (on account of sharp edges on the real weapon). Maximum length for single-handed mass weapons is 48 inches (122cm).

Slider: a tube or similar device that wraps around the shaft of a spear and is held in one hand, allowing the spear to slide through it. Use of sliders is prohibited.

Split rattan: Rattan of at least 1.25 inch diameter which has been split in two and applied to a weapon such that the striking surface of the split piece retains a cross section of 1.25 inch. Split rattan construction does not place the split rattan directly against the non-split haft of the weapon, but rather spaces the split off of the haft to allow give in the head by flexion of the split of rattan.

Swords: single- or double-edged, bladed cutting weapons (including swords with thrusting tips).

Two-handed cutting or smashing weapons: includes two-handed swords, great swords, bastard swords, polearms, and similar weapons.

UHMW: Ultra-High Molecular Weight Polyethylene - A wear resistant plastic with outstanding impact strength.

XIV Other Definitions

Armoured combat: A full contact, non-choreographed re-creation of medieval foot combat utilizing clothing, protective Armour, and simulated weapons constructed in accordance with SCA standards, with the overall goal of recreating the appearance and methods of combat from the historical period covered by the SCA. For purposes of this definition, all combatants are held to be equipped in the same manner, defined as that of approximately 1100 AD: a knee-length mail hauberk, one-piece helm with nasal and boiled leather defenses for the lower arms and legs. Weapons and Armour are constructed from



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approved materials as defined by the Society Marshal. Adult Armoured Combat as defined above does not include light contact martial forms, such as Rapier and Youth Combat. Adult Armoured Combat includes all Combat Archery and Siege weaponry used in melees or for war.

Armoured fighter: a combatant equipped in Armour meeting at least the minimum requirements for combat using rattan weapons, and who uses said rattan weapons in combat.

Authorization: a procedure which determines that the individual fighter has, at minimum, read and become familiar with the rules of combat, been observed while fighting, and met any further requirements for authorization to ensure that he or she does not constitute an exceptional safety hazard (either to self or to others). Details of the procedure used vary from Kingdom to Kingdom and may include further requirements. (Note: The former term “qualification” is still heard, but should be avoided.)

Battle: a single combat event in a war or war game wherein a specific scenario is enacted.

Combat archer: a combatant equipped in Armour meeting at least the minimum requirements for combat using rattan weapons and who will be using archery equipment in combat. Rules for combat archery weapons and conventions are found in this Handbook.

Directed touch: a thrust that contacts the face-guard of the helm and, while maintaining contact with the face-guard, continues to travel in the direction of the face.

Earl Marshal: the warranted chief marshal of a Kingdom (Kingdom Earl Marshal).

Effective blow: a blow delivered with effective technique for the particular type of weapon used and struck properly oriented and with sufficient force.

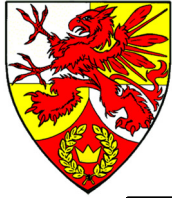
Eric, List Field, Tourney Field: the defined area for fighting, or the fighting field, usually with a roped-off boundary.

Fully Armoured: For the purposes of acknowledging blows, a fully armoured fighter is presumed to be wearing a lightweight, short-sleeved, knee-length, riveted-mail hauberk over a padded gambeson, with boiled leather arm and leg defenses and an open-faced iron helm with a nasal. (The helm is presumed to include a very light chain mail drape permitting vision and resisting cuts by a mere touch of a bladed weapon.) Also, the hands, wrists, knees and lower legs, and feet, including the areas up to 1 inch (2.5cm) above the kneecap and 1 inch (2.5cm) above the bend of the wrist, are not legal targets.

Helpless opponent: an opponent who is unable to defend him- or herself from attack for reasons beyond their control. An unarmed opponent is not necessarily helpless.

Knights Marshal: The warranted chief marshal of a Principality, Barony, Province, Shire, Canton, etc.

Missile weapons: projectile weapons including, but not limited to, bows and arrows, crossbows and bolts, javelins, darts, and throwing axes.



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Marshal: someone who is monitoring the conduct of combat on the field (The Marshal in Charge of an event shall be a warranted marshal; other individual marshals may or may not be, so long as the Marshal in Charge finds them competent to do the job.) Rattan weapons: rattan or equivalent weapons including, but not limited to, swords of all lengths, great weapons, mass weapons, pole arms and spears.

Rostered: An appointed marshal who is listed on a roster. The roster must include the legal and Society names, address, phone number, and the appointment and expiration dates for each officer. It must be signed by the appropriate Royalty and the responsible superior officer, and be updated regularly. The roster must contain a statement that it is the current roster of (office) for the (kingdom, principality) of the Society as of (date). Local Knight Marshals, as and marshals who are able to perform authorizations must be either warranted or rostered.

Scenario limits: The body of rules and definitions which apply to a specific battle, such as the description of real or imaginary terrain features, obstacles, weapons limitations, allowable conduct, and scoring.

Siege Engineer: a fully armoured participant in Armoured combat who operates a siege engine.

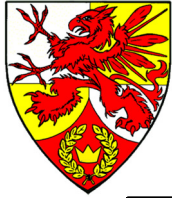
Society Marshal, Marshal of the Society, Society Earl Marshal (SEM): the warranted chief marshal of the Society for Creative Anachronism.

War: a declared state of feigned hostility between two or more kingdoms, branches, or other recognized SCA groups, for the express intent of holding group combat.

War maneuvers: group combat events not involving a state of declared hostility, usually with both sides drawn from all of the kingdoms, branches, or other recognized SCA groups participating.

Warranted: An appointed marshal who has been appointed by a Warrant of Appointment to Office of the SCA Inc., signed by the appropriate Royalty and the responsible superior officer. Local Knight Marshals, as and marshals who are able to perform authorizations must be either warranted or rostered.

Youth Armoured Combat is a program designed for minors ages 6-17. These programs require Armour, require certain weapon construction techniques and materials, train young fighters in proper etiquette, the concepts of Chivalry, Honor and Courtesy, and teach teamwork and good sportsmanship, as well as effective fighting arts, in a definitely competitive environment that parallels Adult Armoured Combat. It employs Marshals, authorizations and strict controls. The Marshalate is responsible for Youth Combat, and each Kingdom is allowed to develop and run its own program.



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