

State of Affairs 2009

Meeting Outline & Notes for Equestrians and Kingdom Equestrian Officers

Edited by Yaasamiin 6-2009

These topics were presented and discussed with equestrians and their KEOs at 3 different meetings across the known world during the Spring of 2009.

I. Be responsible

- A. Read and thoroughly understand the SCA Equestrian Handbook <http://www.sca.org/docs>. Take responsibility for your equipment, research and training. Invest in your training.
- B. Familiarize yourself with the SCA Marshal's Handbook. Equestrian activities fall under the supervision of the Marshal of the Society. It is advisable to learn the:
 - 1. Rules of the list
 - 2. Conventions of combat
- C. Practice, practice, practice and learn your game. Know your game before you authorize and authorize only when you are ready.

II. Rules

- A. Unwritten rules. Throughout the history of the society, unwritten rules have been agreed upon and argued. This year I was challenged on 2 such rules and after much investigation throughout the SCA eq. community, I found a unanimous agreement that the unwritten rules not only made sense but also were followed by everyone, save one. I elaborate here.
 - 1. Youth safety helmets. The new handbook states that minors shall wear a safety helmet. The words “**approved for equestrian activities**” are missing. A policy ruling has been made and posted to the KEOs and SCA.org eq. webpage making this clarification. Most importantly, equestrian safety helmets should be fitted to the wearer according to the manufacturer's directions. Within these directions one will read that any altering of the structure nullifies its warranty and that helmets should regularly be inspected, and replaced after 2-years of use. Therefore I suggest marshals to encourage the parent/guardian of a participating youth to own one or borrow one from a friend and not a local group. It is the policy of this office that local groups should refrain from owning loaner helmets because their efficacy cannot be guaranteed by the SCA.
 - 2. EqMICs duties. The new handbook does not state that EqMICs should remain on site during an event where horses are present, however, it has been practiced throughout the SCA; because it makes sense. After some research in SCA corporate handbooks, I found a reference to “individuals in charge of events” in Corpora that clearly states, “Events including Society combat or combat-related activities must have at least one warranted marshal,

designated by the Marshal of the sponsoring branch, in attendance and responsible for those activities.” Horses are “on“ 24/7 and not just during eq. activities. Having horses present at an event is an activity onto itself and someone should be present to oversee the operation. Therefore, it is the policy of this office to require the attendance of an EqMIC throughout the duration of an event where horses are present and, as it has been practiced over the years, those duties may be passed on to a deputy.

III. **Equestrian Waivers and Signage.**

NEVER alter or edit an SCA waiver. To do so renders that waiver null and void. Only the BoD can make changes to these legal documents.

- A. State specific Eq Waiver or General Eq. Waiver. If your state does not have a specific waiver, use the General Waiver. In other words, follow the directions for Eq. Waivers and Signage found on the SCA.org equestrian’s marshals webpage
<http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/AdultEquestrianWaivers.pdf>
- B. Post Signs. If you do not post them and I hear of it, your program will be closed down. You can find the verbiage for each state at
<http://www.sca.org/docs>

IV. **Authorizations**

- A. Events/practices: use authorization waivers. Use your state specific Eq. Waiver or the General Eq. Waiver as an authorization form. Only one signature per page, please. An additional information sheet on the rider being authorized can be attached and is advisable for tracking; but do not alter the waiver being used for authorization.
- B. Teach safety measures and do not baby sit riders. Riders should invest in their riding skills even outside of the SCA as we really do not teach riding but training skills for period war, tournaments and hunting. General Riders (GR) are non-gamers. This category was set up for riders who do not wish to ride in the martial activities. Remember that even a banner/flag pole can become a weapon and that weapons are carried and used by Mounted Gamers (MG). Specialty gaming such as jousting, heavy mounted combat, crest combat, mounted archery and driving require special skills more advanced than the average MGer. Authorize them separately and have AEqMs who are specialized in the game they are authorizing. This promotes a consistency in our training and authorizing of their skills. Authorizing Eq Marshals (AEqMs) authorize riders with permission of the KEO.
- C. Things to look for in authorizing each level of skill
 - 1. Good seat, 1-hand riding, knowledgeable handling of weapons.
 - 2. How a rider takes responsibility for his/her gear, training and relationship with the mount(s) being used for the day and others in the field.

3. How much they comprehend necessary safety procedures for the SCA, rules of the list and the conventions of our game.
4. Experimental Activities
 - a. What are they? Games out of the ordinary that might raise some question in safety and fairness. When in doubt, go through your KEO and if the KEO needs to gain permission from the SEO, it will be done through the proper chain of command.
 - b. Who gets permission? Anyone who can clearly describe a set of safety rules and procedures and some resemblance of the new game being done in period.
 - c. What's the procedure for gaining permission? Write a proposal and submit it to your KEO. Do this after you have experimented with your new game outside of the SCA.... work out the kinks. This is another unwritten rule that has been practiced throughout our history.

V. Events

- A. What makes an eq. event? One where horses are present and being used in eq. activities. Events, practices and demos where horses are being used in the name of the SCA, an Eq.InsCertificate MUST be ordered.
- B. Who is in charge? The event steward who then requests from the KEO and AEqM to oversee the activities as the EqMarshal in Charge. The EqMIC
 1. Inspects the site to see if it is suitable for horses.
 2. Oversees the acquisition of the EqInsCert.
 3. Arranges a Vet to be on call... another unwritten rule.
 4. Upon arrival, posts the state specific or general warning signs.
 5. Provides Eq.Waivers. It is very convenient to have them placed at the entry gate, but remember that some seneschals do not like the idea and since it is not a protocol in their handbook, then it is not mandatory, only voluntary. Be convincing and not demanding.
 6. EqMIC stays on site throughout the duration of the event/practice or demo or transfers his/her duties to a deputy.
 - a. Why? Because horses present at an event/practice or demo are "on" 24/7 and there needs to be someone in charge of their well being and the well-being of the participants whether they be riding or observers.
 - b. Barriers for parades can be the out walkers and heralds who are making the announcement of their presence.

VI. Miscellaneous

- A. Some options discussed to get more horse stuff into the SCA:
 1. Parade of historical costume within an event
 2. Horse 101 classes for non-equestrians

3. Flyers about horses, possibly included in the site book
4. Some sort of fighting pentathlon where the multiple competition styles including horses compete as a team or as a multi faceted challenge to single competitors.

VII. Quarterly Reports

A. To Corporate at the close of 2008:

1. 17 reporting kingdoms. Two kingdoms closed because of no activity.
2. 707 adults were GnlRdrs, 655 were MntdGmrs, 255 were SpclAuthorizations
3. 35 youths were GnlRdrs, 31 were MntdGmrs, 2 were SplAuthorizations
4. 184 AuthorizingEqMarshals

B. What I need from the KEOs

1. Fill in all the boxes on the excel spread sheet report form even if there is no activity... tell me so... and follow the directions prompted by the little red triangle in the upper right hand corner in the cells.
2. What's an accident, incident?
 - a. Accident is when someone needs medical assistance, either by the surgeon (who will make a report as should the EqMIC) or who had to be seen by a medical professional.
 - b. Incident is where some activity occurred that might have upset the day either over safety or unfair gaming.
3. Rosters and the training of marshals. The roster worksheet in your report form was designed for you to track the progress of your marshals in training and to track the authorizations of your riders. Using this form gives you accurate numbers for the report form. If you have a current roster that is separate from this one, make sure this office gets a copy. You must have a roster and I should be able to see it.

VIII. SEO position

The Society Equestrian Officer position is open for bids. My term will end October 15, 2009. Bids should be emailed to myself, and the Society Marshal, Sir Omarad the Wary.