



the society for creative anachronism, inc.



# Youth Combat Handbook

## January 2016

Copyright © 2016 by The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

This handbook is an official corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to researching and recreating the customs, combat and courtesy of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Copies of this document can be ordered from SCA Marketplace, PO Box 360789, Milpitas, CA 95036-0789, or downloaded at [www.sca.org](http://www.sca.org).

Members of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., may photocopy this work in whole or in part for SCA use provided that copyright credit is given and no changes are made to the contents. The contents of this document will be posted at [www.sca.org](http://www.sca.org) and further reproduction on other Internet sites is expressly forbidden.

# Table of Contents

Topic	Page #
Introduction/Overview	3
Parent Section	
I. Definitions	4
II. Participation	4
III. Membership	5
IV. Parental Responsibilities	5
Participants' Section	
V. Divisional Definitions	6
VI. Authorization Requirements	7
VII. Rules of the Lists and Conventions of Combat	7
VIII. The Use of Weapons and Shields	9
IX. Acknowledgement of Blows	9
X. Armor Requirements	11
XI. Weapons Standards	14
XII. Adult Training of Youth at Official SCA Activities	17
Marshals' Section	
XIII. Authorization of Marshals	18
XIV. General Requirements and Restrictions for all Marshals	19
XV. Injury Procedures	20
XVI. Youth Combat Authorizations	20
XVII. Marshal Responsibilities, Chain of Command, and Reporting	21
XVIII. Experimentation	21
XIX. Disciplinary Actions	22
XX. Glossary	23

# Introduction/ Overview

## **Mission & Goals**

The mission of the Youth Combat Program is to provide a safe and fun environment where the youth of the S.C.A. can participate in martial activities, mirroring adult Armored Combat, at a level appropriate to their age. The goal is to introduce and reinforce the ideals of chivalry, honor, courtesy, service, and heraldic pageantry, both on and off the list field. The program stresses good sportsmanship and parental participation. It is designed to allow the youth to learn more about all aspects of the Society and above all,

**HAVE FUN!**

## **General Conventions**

The Youth Combat program is regulated by SCA, Inc. Kingdoms are responsible for implementing Youth Combat programs and are responsible for establishing procedures for youth combatant authorization, and the warranting of marshals. Kingdoms may modify Society Youth Combat rules, as necessary for their kingdom, provided that such changes do not reduce the overall safety of the activity

These rules and guidelines apply to all Youth Combat divisions. Specific differences between the divisions are addressed in the appropriate sections.

The basic rules for SCA combat are contained in the "Society Marshal's Handbook". Those guidelines apply to all Youth Combat activities unless superseded by this document.

## **Version Information**

This version of the Youth Combat Handbook supersedes the version in general use since 2012.

# Parent Section

## I. Definitions

- A. Minors are defined as anyone who has not reached the age of legal majority. This varies between countries, states and other jurisdictions.
- B. The term “Parent”, as used in this document, includes the biological parents, adoptive parents, or any court appointed legal guardian.

## II. Participation

**Note:** SCA policies relating to the attendance and participation of minors at events and activities are found in the Seneschal’s Handbook. Nothing in this document will be construed to overrule, change, or substitute for those policies.

- A. Parental involvement and participation is a critical component of the Youth Combat program.
- B. Parents must understand this is a contact sport and that injuries may occur. Parents are ultimately responsible for the safety and wellbeing of their children and assume all risks and liabilities for any harm or medical condition arising from the youth’s participation in these activities. This legal requirement cannot be delegated to the SCA or to the marshals on the list field. The assumption of responsibility shall be signified by completion of all legal documents required by the SCA and their resident kingdom.
- C. No minor shall participate in Youth Combat unless the parent has completed and signed a “Minor’s Consent to Participate and Hold Harmless Agreement” (waiver) form. Minors with blue cards, indicating a waiver at the Corporate Office that is signed by a parent, are treated the same as adult blue-card attendees with regard to waivers. Roster waivers are not acceptable for use with minors.
- D. Minors participating in Youth Combat must either have a parent present at the event/activity, or a responsible adult, designated by the parent, present and in possession of a properly executed “Medical Authorization Form for Minors” and a signed waiver as needed. The medical authorization form must designate an adult, present at the event or activity, as able to authorize medical treatment in the case of emergency (a form of temporary guardianship).

### **III. Membership**

A. Neither the parent nor the child are required to be members of the SCA, Inc. to participate in Youth Combat. The parent's permission to participate is required.

### **IV. Parental Responsibilities**

A. Youth Combat is NOT a babysitting service.

1. A parent or responsible adult must remain within sight and sound of the Youth Combat list field when the child is participating if the child is under 10 years old.

B. Parents have the right and responsibility to remove their child from any contest or activity they may deem inappropriate or hazardous.

C. Parents must witness SCA Youth Combat and discuss the activity with a Youth Combat Marshal before their child may participate.

D. Parents are required to read and understand these rules and standards and make sure that their child follows them.

E. Parents are encouraged to become authorized Youth Combat Marshals.

F. Adults watching Youth Combat activities shall act in a courteous manner toward the combatants, Youth Combat Marshals, and other parents. Adults demonstrating inappropriate behavior will be asked to leave the Youth Combat area. This may result in their child having to withdraw from that day's activity.

# Participants' Section

## V. Divisional Definitions

A. Participation in SCA Youth Combat shall be divided into at least three divisions based on age, armor, and weapons.

B. The recommended age ranges are:

1. Division 1: Ages 6-9
2. Division 2: Ages 10-13
3. Division 3: Ages 14-17

C. The listed age range for each division is not absolute. The Marshallate recognizes that some youth will be very small or very large for their age, and that some will mature earlier or later than others. Younger combatants may be moved to a higher division or older combatants may be allowed to remain in a lower division, on a case-by-case basis, at the request of the parent and with the approval of the marshals. See divisional transfers (Marshal Section) for more information.

D. Acknowledging that there might be a limited number of youth combatants at an event or practice, combatants may fight others in another division with the following provisions:

1. Permission of the combatant's parent or responsible adult.
2. Permission of the Youth Combat Marshal-in-Charge.
3. Older combatants must adhere to the weapon standards, calibration, and rules of the younger combatants being fought (e.g. Division 2 combatants may fight a Division 1 combatant at Division 1 calibration with Division 1 weapons).

E. Society rules allow a minor, aged at least 16, to authorize in adult armored combat. Minors may continue to participate in Youth Combat while training for adult combat. When a minor authorizes in adult armored combat, he/she will be deemed to have graduated from Youth Combat and is not eligible to participate in Youth Combat tournaments, or melees. He/she may still participate in Youth Combat training activities and is encouraged to become a Youth Marshal.

## **VI. Authorization Requirements**

A. Each Kingdom shall establish a procedure to authorize combatants for participation in Youth Combat activities.

## **VII. Rules of the Lists and Conventions of Combat**

A. Rules of the List and Conventions of Combat as listed in the “SCA Marshal’s Handbook,” apply to Youth Combat unless superseded by a rule in this document. Conventions may be modified for a specific tournament with the full explanation of the changes given to all of the combatants.

1. All combatants shall adhere to the Society minimum armor and weapons standards for their division and to any additional standards of the Kingdom in which the event takes place.
2. All youth combatants shall ensure their armor and weapons are inspected by a Youth Combat Marshal prior to combat at each and every SCA - sponsored event or fighting practice.
3. A marshal may disallow use of any weapon, or armor, deemed to be unsafe from use upon the field of combat.
4. All combatants shall act in a courteous and chivalrous manner at all times.
5. No one may be required to participate in combat related Activities.
6. No weapons shall be thrown within the Lists of a tournament. The use of approved thrown weapons for melee shall conform to the appropriate Society and Kingdom Conventions of Combat.

### **B. Behavior on the Field**

1. Striking an opponent with excessive force is forbidden.
2. The instructions of the marshals on the field shall be followed at all times.
3. Each fighter shall maintain control over his or her temper at all times.
4. Should a safety issue arise the marshal will call “HOLD” and all combat activity in the list will stop until the marshal indicates that it is safe to resume.

5. 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.
6. A fighter shall not deliberately strike a helpless opponent.
7. 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.
8. Grappling, tripping, throwing, punching, kicking, and wrestling are prohibited.
9. Deliberately striking an opponent with a shield (shield bashing) is forbidden.
10. Grasping an opponent's person, shield, or weapon is prohibited.

C. Target Areas

1. Legal target areas are the same as those in adult rattan combat, except face thrusts are not allowed in Division 1. Shots to the groin and throat are legal, but discouraged.

D. Melee Conventions

1. Youth fighters may only charge to gain ground. They may not intentionally run into their opponents.
2. Thrown weapons may be used in a melee scenario provided that all marshals and combatants are informed of their use before the melee begins.
3. Deliberately striking from behind without gaining engagement is forbidden.
4. No more than four fighters shall attack a single opponent except in the case of engaged units.
5. Rules of engagement shall conform to the standard of the kingdom or event where the activity takes place.

## **VIII. The Use of Weapons and Shields**

A. 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.

1. Only weapons approved for thrusting may be used for that purpose. 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.
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. Shields must be controlled by the hand. Use of passive shields (not controlled by the hand) will be treated as decorative armor and subject to effective blow acknowledgment.

## **IX. Acknowledgement of Blows**

A. Calibration

1. Division 1: Intentional Touch. This is a clean, unimpeded blow that is readily felt through a single layer of medium weight cloth, but is not hard enough to leave a bruise on bare skin. Face thrusts are not allowed.
2. Division 2: Positive Contact. This is a clean, unimpeded blow that is readily felt through 0.25 inch (6.3 mm) of open cell padding, but is not hard enough to leave a bruise in an area covered by medium weight cloth. Face thrusts have touch calibration.
3. Division 3: Light Force. This is a clean, unimpeded blow that may be readily felt through 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) of open cell padding, but is not hard enough to leave a bruise through 0.25 inch (6.3 mm) of open cell foam padding. Face thrusts have touch calibration.

4. It is recommended that marshals use open cell foam of the appropriate thickness to demonstrate levels of calibration.

5. Excessively hard blows are not permitted in any division. Any combatant who persists in hitting too hard after appropriate warning shall be removed from the field and may be subject to additional sanctions such as having their authorization suspended.

B. Youth combatants are encouraged to honorably judge the effectiveness of blows they receive. The opposing combatant may not judge the effectiveness of his or her own blow. 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. When necessary, the marshal on the field shall intervene and call blows.

1. Special tournaments or combat rules may redefine what areas of the body are armored, and to what extent, so long as all the participants are made aware of the special conditions prior to the start of combat.

C. An effective blow will be defined as one that was properly oriented, and struck with sufficient force.

1. The minimum effective thrusting blow to the face shall be a touch. A correctly calibrated face thrust touches the face grill of the helm but does not move the head.

2. Areas deemed illegal to strike: the hands from 1.0 inch (25.4 mm) above the wrist and below, the legs from 1.0 inch (25.4 mm) above the knees and below; shall be considered safe from all attack.

3. An effective blow to the head, neck, or torso shall be judged fatal or completely disabling, rendering the fighter incapable of further combat.

4. 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. A second blow to a disabled arm is considered to have struck the torso.

5. 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.

6. The minimum effective blow from any THROWN weapon is touch. Javelins, used as one-handed thrusting weapons, require the same force as any other thrusting weapon appropriate for that division.

D. When judging the outcome of a delivered blow, 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. A blow that strikes with sufficient force and proper orientation shall be considered effective, regardless of what it hits prior to striking the combatant.

E. A blow that includes the dropping of the striking weapon, at the moment of impact, shall not be counted.

## **X. Armor Requirements**

A. These are minimum required armor standards. Each kingdom may require additional, more extensive, and/or more restrictive standards.

B. While it is the goal of the SCA to encourage a medieval appearance for all participants, given the specific nature of Youth Combat visible modern sports equipment may be worn as armor.

### **C. Head - All Divisions**

1. Helmets must completely cover the head. Hockey helmets, lacrosse helmets, and other sports helmets with facemasks are acceptable. They may need to have additions or alterations to fully enclose the head. Period looking helms are permitted. Bearing in mind the size and development of the youth, the marshal-in-charge may disallow the use of a helm deemed too heavy for the youth to wear safely.

a. The helmet must be constructed of a continuous rigid material. Helmets with "floating" segments, attached only with straps, are not permitted. Helmets may have hanging aventails, camails, or bevors to aid in protecting the neck.

b. All helmets must have grills, rigid mesh, or face plates that prevent a weapon from making contact with the face. No helmet shall have a gap exceeding 2.0 inches (5.1 cm) in the area protecting the face.

c. Helmets must have a chinstrap or equivalent means to prevent the helmet from being dislodged or contacting the wearers face during combat.

d. Helmets in combination with neck protection (such as a gorget) must be constructed so that a weapon may not touch any exposed area of the head or neck.

e. Helmets must fit properly and be padded inside so that the rigid portions of it do not contact the head. Padding must provide progressively resistant give. The mass of the helmet will not be presumed to provide any additional protection.

#### D. Neck

1. Division 1: The throat and larynx shall be protected by a minimum of light leather or the equivalent.

2. Division 2: A minimum gorget of medium leather with padding is required. The larynx, cervical vertebrae, and first thoracic vertebra must be covered.

3. Division 3: A gorget of rigid material or heavy leather, with padding, is required. The larynx, cervical vertebrae, and first thoracic vertebra must be covered.

4. An aventail, camail, or coif may be substituted or used in conjunction with a gorget as long as all required areas are protected.

#### E. Body

1. Division 1: All combatants must have the torso, shoulders, and armpits covered with a minimum of cloth. Tunics, shirts, or bodices, and pants, shorts, or skirts are acceptable.

2. Division 2: In addition to Division 1 requirements, kidneys must be protected by a minimum of a medium leather kidney belt with padding or the equivalent. It is recommended but not required that girls have chest protection.

3. Division 3: In addition to Division 1 and Division 2 requirements, the xiphoid process must be protected by a minimum of medium leather and padding or the equivalent. Girls are required to have chest protection of medium leather, heavy quilted material, or the equivalent.

#### F. Groin

1. Boys: Minimum protection is a sports cup or padded skirt until reaching puberty after which a rigid athletic cup or equivalent armor is required.

2. Girls: A padded skirt, closed-cell foam, 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.

G. Elbow and Knee Joints

1. Division 1: At a minimum, a layer of cloth must cover the elbows and knees. Elbow and knee joint protection is not required. A long sleeve shirt and long pants, or a short sleeve shirt and shorts with elbow and kneepads meet this requirement.

2. Division 2: Elbows and knees must be protected by a minimum of soft pads.

3. Division 3: Elbows and knees must be protected by rigid material over padding. Hockey, motocross and other similar sports elbow and kneepads are acceptable.

H. Hand and Wrist Protection

1. Division 1: A minimum of light gloves is required.

2. Division 2: A minimum of gloves with at least 0.25 inch (6.3 mm) of foam or padding protecting the fingers, back of the hand, and wrist are required. Street Hockey gloves are acceptable, as is a light glove, with extra wrist protection, in a basket hilt.

3. Division 3: A minimum of a sports glove with at least 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) of foam protecting the fingers, back of the hand, and wrist, and extra thumb protection, such as those for ice hockey or lacrosse goalies, or equivalent. Gauntlets of heavy leather or rigid material lined with closed cell foam or heavy padding are acceptable. Lighter gloves with a basket hilt and additional wrist protection, such as a half gauntlet, are acceptable. Street Hockey gloves alone are NOT acceptable.

I. Feet: All Divisions: All combatants must wear shoes in good repair. Shoes must cover the feet and toes completely and must not slip off easily. Open toes, sandals, toe shoes, flip-flops, crocs, etc. are NOT acceptable.

J. Shields - All Divisions

1. Shields may be made of wood, plastic, foam, aluminum, or an equivalent material.

2. Shield edges must be covered by plastic tubing, leather, or foam at least 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) wide to minimize damage to youth weapons or other fighters.
3. No wires, bolts, screws, or other objects may project more than 0.25 inch (6.3 mm) without padding or tape covering them. Rounded shield bosses are not considered to be projections.
4. Shields should be of a shape similar to that used in period.
5. Shields should be of an appropriate weight for the size and strength of the combatant.

## **XI. Weapons Standards**

### **A. General**

1. All weapons must be inspected regularly for deteriorated or compromised foam as well as damaged or broken components
2. No metal may be used in any weapons. This includes, but is not limited to: basket hilts, pommel weights, screws or other fasteners, and hose clamps.
3. Flails are expressly prohibited.
4. No materials that might shatter or splinter on impact may be used for the core or cross hilts of any weapon. PVC is expressly prohibited.
5. Approved materials for weapon cores are:
  - a. Rattan, either shaved or skin-on, with a diameter between 0.75 inch (19.0 mm) and 1.0 inch (25.4 mm) for most weapons. Two-handed weapons longer than 5-1/2 feet (1.67 meters), used in Division 3 only, may use rattan up to, but not exceeding 1.25 inches (32 mm) in diameter.
    - i. Both ends of the rattan shall be rounded.
  - b. Common forms of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe used for irrigation and plumbing. Examples are Sil-o-Flex® and PEX.
    - i. Any nominal size of HDPE may be used provided the actual outside diameter of the pipe is no less than 0.75 inches (19.0 mm), the youth can securely grip the pipe, and the weapon is within weight limits.

ii. HDPE pipe shall have both ends capped, plugged, or otherwise covered to prevent the pipe from cutting through the foam.

c. Other materials may be approved by: the Society Deputy Earl Marshal for Youth Combat or a Kingdom Deputy Earl Marshal, in accordance with the procedures in paragraph XVIII. Experimentation.

6. The striking surface of any weapon shall not be less than 1.5 inches (38 mm) wide.

7. Thrusting tips and cutting edges shall be marked in a contrasting color.

8. Wrist straps, lanyards, and triggers are recommended but not required.

9. Pommels, cross-guards, and the butt ends of weapons without butt spikes must be covered with at least 0.375 inch (9.5 mm) closed cell foam and covered with a loose single layer of duct tape or cloth.

10. Weapons may not exceed 8 ounces (226.8 grams) in weight per foot of length.

11. If a weapon has a head, it must be constructed solely of lightweight foam. The head shall be firmly and securely attached to the haft. Striking surfaces shall have compression characteristics similar to those without a defined head.

B. Single-Handed Weapons:

1. Striking surfaces must be covered with at least 0.375 inches (9.5 mm) of closed cell foam extending 1.0 inches (25.4 mm) or more past the end of the core material. The foam must be covered with a single loose layer of duct tape or a cloth sleeve.

2. Thrusting tips shall be constructed of closed cell foam covered with duct tape or cloth. They must extend 2.0 inches (5.08 cm) past the end of the core and be at least 2.5 inches (6.35 cm) in diameter. Thrusting tips should be constructed so that they do not fold over.

3. Basket hilts are permitted on single-handed weapons.

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

1. Two-handed weapons shall be constructed in the same way as single-handed weapons except as outlined below.

2. Given the excessive flexibility of HDPE in warm temperatures it is recommended that these cores be limited to single-handed weapons except in Division 1.
3. No weapon may have a cutting and/or smashing surface at both ends.
4. The maximum length of weapons in each division is as follows:
  - a. Division 1: No weapon may be longer than 5 feet (1.52 meters).
  - b. Division 2: No weapons may be longer than 5.5 feet (1.67 meters).
  - c. Division 3: No weapons may be longer than 7.5 feet (2.29 meters).
    - i. Weapons exceeding 6.0 feet (1.83 meters) shall not be used for cutting or smashing and shall be used for thrusting only (spears).

#### E. Thrown Weapons

1. These weapons may be used for striking and may also be thrown in melee scenarios where thrown weapons are allowed. Examples are thrust-and-throw javelins and axes.
2. Throwing axes may be used in any division and are constructed from only closed cell foam and tape.
  - a. Axes shall not be excessively large or heavy.
3. Javelins are constructed from a single diameter of HDPE pipe and may be used in melee combat in Divisions 2 and 3. They may be thrown or be used as a single-handed thrusting weapon.
  - a. The thrusting tip must conform to standard weapon thrusting tips.
  - b. The butt end may not be used offensively. It must be padded with foam in such a manner that it will not penetrate a 2.0 inch (5.08 cm) opening. Fins or stabilizers of foam or duct tape may be attached near the backend.
  - c. Javelins must be between 4.0 and 5.5 feet (1.22 and 1.67 meters) long.

## **XII. Adult Training of Youth at Official SCA Activities**

- A. Kingdoms must establish policies to regulate who may, or may not, spar with youth combatants. Parents may actively train their own children.
- B. All training of youth combatants, whether or not it includes sparring, must be done under the supervision of a Youth Combat Marshal as specified in the Youth Combat rules.
- C. For the purposes of Youth Combat, sparring has a definite meaning.
  - 1. If the adult is holding a weapon and is attempting to throw shots at the youth, this IS sparring.
  - 2. If both the adult and the youth are striking each other with weapons, regardless of force or speed, this IS sparring.
  - 3. If the youth is striking an adult who is holding a shield or buckler and the adult is merely blocking shots, this IS NOT sparring.
  - 4. If the youth is striking the adult but the adult is not striking the youth, this IS NOT sparring, but considered blow calibration or practice targeting.
- D. Other than parents, any adult fighter may provide training, which does not include sparring, as long as a Youth Combat Marshal is present.
- E. Adults in a training situation with youth combatants shall use youth weapons appropriate to the division of the youth being trained whether or not sparring occurs.
- F. Adults in a training situation with youth combatants are not required to meet the armor standards of Youth Combat. It is recommended that trainers wear armor appropriate to the training.
- G. Limitations regarding sparring:
  - 1. Sparring is performed as training with the intent of teaching defensive and/or offensive skills to the youth.
  - 2. Sparring with youth is limited to one-on-one combat (one authorized adult sparring partner vs. one youth).
  - 3. Adults may not participate in any tournaments or melees with youth combatants.

# Marshals' Section

## **XIII. Authorization of Marshals**

- A. Kingdoms may use whatever methods they deem appropriate to warrant marshals including, but not limited to marshal classes and marshal-in-training programs.
- B. Unless warranted or rostered by the Earl Marshal, or Deputy Earl Marshal for Youth Combat, as an officer of the kingdom, a marshal may not be the marshal-in-charge (MIC) of an event or sign the paperwork to authorize youth combatants.
- C. Kingdoms may structure their Youth Combat marshallate to include restricted warrant marshals, and other types of Marshals (regional and local Knight Marshals, Constables, etc.) as they see fit.
- D. At a minimum, a fully warranted Youth Combat Marshal's authorization shall include the following:
  - a. The candidate must promote safe practices and enforce the rules of the list.
  - b. The candidate must demonstrate a good working knowledge of the Youth Combat rules.
  - c. The candidate must be able to inspect weapons and armor.
  - d. The candidate must be able to supervise youth combatants both in the lists and in melee combat.
  - e. The candidate must be able to authorize youth combatants according to the rules of their kingdom.
- E. Youth Combat Marshals do not need to be authorized in any SCA martial activity.
- F. All warranted Youth Combat Marshals must be members of the Society for Creative Anachronism Inc.

#### **XIV. General Requirements and Restrictions for all Marshals**

A. Two-Deep Policy: All SCA Youth Combat activities including practices, events, demos, and wars must be under the continuous supervision of at least one adult Youth Combat Marshal and at least one additional, unrelated adult (two-deep policy). In addition, at least one background checked person, preferably a marshal, must be present at all times.

B. Background Checks: All Youth Combat Marshals are NOT required to have an SCA background check, however each area of Youth Combat activities must have someone present who has passed a current SCA background check. Marshals are encouraged to have background checks particularly if they are going to be in charge of Youth Combat activities.

1. Additional background checks may be required by the state, territory, or province, where the event is held. Contact the appropriate kingdom seneschal to insure you are in compliance with local laws.

2. These rules only apply to groups operating within the USA and Canada. If your group is outside of those two countries, please see your affiliate agreement and governing documents to ensure you follow procedures approved for your jurisdiction, if any.

C. For more information on the two-deep policy or acquiring a background check, refer to the SCA Seneschal's Handbook and the policies of your kingdom.

D. Marshal-in-Charge (MiC) of Youth Combat responsibilities:

1. The MiC must be a fully warranted Youth Combat Marshal.

2. The MiC of Youth Combat at any official event, including practices, is responsible for ensuring that all waiver and background check policies are complied with.

3. The MiC is responsible for preparing (or having prepared) all required reports and forms. The MiC should ensure that there are enough marshals and constables to control the activity.

4. Check that the field can be safely fought upon. A buffer zone needs to be provided between the edges of the list or battlefield and spectators at all times.

E. Prior to any combat (practice or tournament) all equipment must be inspected and shall meet all safety and armor requirements pertaining to the appropriate division.

F. Marshals shall monitor activities and behavior on the field and immediately stop all potentially hazardous or un-chivalrous activities.

G. Marshals on the field are expected to take an active role in safety, sportsmanship and assistance in calibration. Youth Combat Marshals have a greater responsibility to intervene than their counterparts in adult martial activities. The younger the combatants, the more active the marshaling becomes.

H. Marshals shall remove from the field any combatant who refuses to obey the commands of the marshals or other officials.

## **XV. Injury Procedures**

A. 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 parent, or responsible adult, shall be informed immediately and escorted to the list if not already there.

B. When an injury occurs on the field, it should always be remembered that 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 wellbeing of anyone already on the field. (For example, fighters standing around in armor in the sun could be subject to heat problems.)

C. 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.

D. All injuries that require hospitalization or similar care, include a period of unconsciousness, or may require future medical care need to be reported to your Kingdom Earl Marshal within 24 hours of the incident and reported to the Society Deputy for Youth Combat. Include all available details in the report.

## **XVI. Youth Combat Authorizations**

A. Only warranted or rostered Youth Combat Marshals may perform an authorization. The authorizing marshal must witness the authorization and execute the appropriate paperwork to ensure that the authorization is registered with the appropriate kingdom official.

1. Kingdoms may define types of authorization, such as weapon forms, and associated requirements, as may be deemed necessary.
2. Authorizations shall be conducted in a manner appropriate for the division.

B. A parent must be present for their child's authorization and be able to demonstrate, to the authorizing marshal, familiarization with the rules and guidelines in this handbook.

C. Kingdoms must provide documentation in the form of a card/document showing that the youth is authorized to engage in Youth Combat in his or her division. This card/document must be shown to Youth Combat officials before a youth combatant engages in Youth Combat tournaments or melees.

D. All youth combatants must reauthorize when permanently changing divisions. Youths are expected to practice at the next division before authorizing.

E. If a previously authorized combatant fails to pass an authorization for the next division, s/he may continue to participate in her/his previous division.

## **XVII. Marshal Responsibilities, Chain of Command, and Reporting**

A. Kingdom Deputies for Youth Combat shall report their activities to their Kingdom Earl Marshal and establish reporting requirements for their subordinates consistent with their kingdoms policies.

B. Kingdom Deputies for Youth Combat shall report quarterly to the Society Deputy for Youth Combat regarding the status of Youth Combat in their Kingdom. If you are required to make a similar report to your Kingdom Earl Marshal, a copy to the Society Deputy is sufficient.

C. An incident involving serious injury to a youth fighter shall be reported to the Society Deputy for Youth Combat as well as the Kingdom Earl Marshal. See "Injury Procedures" (section XV above).

D. Incidents of inappropriate behavior by a youth combatant or participating adult, which is serious enough to require disciplinary action beyond the bounds of a single event, shall be reported to the Society Deputy for Youth Combat in addition to the reporting requirements of your kingdom.

## **XVIII. Experimentation**

A. Before any alternate or unapproved materials or weapons may be used at Society activities, a test proposal must be submitted to and approved by the Society Deputy for Youth Combat. This proposal shall include:

1. Specifics on construction (e.g., materials used, how it is assembled, etc.).
2. A detailed outline of the test and its scope.

3. All restrictions that will be imposed on the test.
  4. How long the test period would be.
- B. Kingdom Deputies for Youth Combat may allow limited testing after receiving approval from the Society Deputy for Youth Combat.
- C. Limited testing means the weapon or material may be used at fighter practice, tournaments, and in small melees, but only after all parents, combatants, and marshals have been informed the weapon or material is being tested and that it is not approved for general SCA use.
- D. All parents, combatants, and marshals must consent to the use of the weapon or material before combat begins. If any of the parents, combatants, or marshals object, the material or weapon may not be used in that fight or battle.
- E. All experimental materials and weapons shall be marked with alternating bands of red and green tape totaling 6 inches (15.2 cm) in length. Bands shall be visible during weapon usage.
- F. Once per quarter throughout the test period, the Kingdom Deputy shall update the Society Deputy for Youth Combat on the progress and results of the testing.
- G. At the end of the test period, the Kingdom Deputy shall provide the Society Deputy for Youth Combat 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.
- H. The Society Deputy for Youth Combat, after consultation with the other Kingdom Deputies, shall determine if the weapon or material is suitable for SCA Youth Combat activities.

## **XIX. Disciplinary Actions**

- A. Kingdoms shall establish procedures for handling grievances and disputes consistent with their Kingdom policies.

# Glossary

## XX. Glossary-

Aventail - A piece of metal, heavy leather, or other rigid material attached to the back of a helmet. It protects the back of the neck.

Bevor - A piece of metal, heavy leather, or other rigid material attached to the front of a helmet. It protects the throat.

Camail - A drape of chainmail, leather, or padded cloth that hangs from the helmet. It protects the neck.

Closed-cell foam - A solid foam made from polyethylene, EPV, or vinyl nitrate without interconnected pores resulting in a higher compressive strength than open-cell foams. Common uses are pipe insulation, camping and fitness mats, and sports padding.

Coif - A cap of chainmail or padded cloth worn under a helmet that extends to the base of the neck. It may be long enough to also cover the shoulders.

Gauntlet - An armored glove covering the back of the hand, fingers, and thumb and the points and back of the wrist.

Gorget - A protective collar for the neck. It may also protect the larynx and cervical vertebrae.

Heavy Leather - At least 10 ounce leather, about 3/16 inch thick.

HDPE - High Density Polyethylene.

Irrigation Pipe - Shatter-resistant plastic pipe made of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) sized to be a substitute for iron pipe in exterior plumbing applications. Often used for in-ground sprinkler systems. Found in many hardware stores. It is usually black in color. May be orange when used for electrical conduits.

Light Gloves - Gloves made of cloth, canvas, or thin leather.

Light Leather - This is 4 to 6 ounce leather about 3/32 inch thick.

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).

Medium Leather - This is 7 to 9 ounce leather about 1/8 inch thick.

Melee - Combat fought between teams of two or more persons per side.

Open-cell foam - Foam made with interconnected pores. Common uses are for seat cushions, mattress pads, and packaging.

PEX - Shatterproof plastic pipe made of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) sized to be a substitute for copper pipe and CPVC pipe in interior plumbing applications. Found in many hardware stores. Available in white, red, or blue colored. Colored orange when intended for radiant floor use.

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

Progressively resistant give - As pressure is applied it will compress gradually without bottoming-out.

PVC - Plastic pipe usually white or gray in color. May shatter upon impact. It is NOT legal for Youth Combat.

Rigid Material - Metal, shatter-resistant plastic, heavy leather, or leather that has been hardened.

Sil-o-Flex® - Brand name for plastic pipe made of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) sized to be a substitute for iron pipe in exterior plumbing applications such as in-ground sprinklers. See: Irrigation pipe.

Xyphoid Process - This is the area at the base of the sternum.