



the society for creative anachronism, inc.



SCA Wooden Lance Jousting Authorization Requirements January 2019

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Introduction

Several risks associated with jousting with a wooden lance are considerably higher than jousting with a foam tipped lance. Higher levels of skill and protection are required by the rider and their mount to safely participate in this activity. The SCA's stricter equipment standards account for the challenges specific to Wooden Lance Jousting and are closely aligned with the requirements in the rest of the international competitive jousting community.

Jousting is defined as striking another opponent with a jousting lance. Riders may not strike another person at an SCA event or practice unless they are testing for authorization or have completed the test and are authorized. However, practicing with the equipment against a non-human target (i.e. a quintain or similar) is not jousting and falls under the marshallate purview of the other equestrian games activities; i.e. participants can train on a tilt, in armour, with the appropriate lances, ground crew and staff as in an actual joust. Whenever there is intent to strike another person with a wooden jousting lance, the Wooden Lance Jousting rules must be followed and the appropriate Wooden Lance Jousting Marshal must be present.

During the Wooden Lance Jousting test, the rider is required to demonstrate strong skills in mount control, lance handling and jousting technique while under the simulated pressures of a competition. This will first include a demonstration of specific skills while unarmoured. If the rider shows sufficient skill, it can then be followed by the fully armoured test.

Once the marshal and rider decide to continue to the armoured portion of the test, the rider must provide an appropriate jousting armour, helmet and target appropriate for their kit made to at least the minimum requirements as described in the Society Equestrian Handbook (Section IV. B. 10).

The rider is required to have excellent all around riding abilities including the ability to ride any well-schooled mount, have a basic knowledge of horse care as well as the ability to assess the condition of the mount including any external injuries or ailments before, during and after riding. During these tests, the rider's ability to safely control their mount is of primary importance. If the mount is not properly conditioned, both physically and mentally, for this activity it will be very difficult for the rider and the mount to continue the tests. Before testing, the rider and the mount should be accustomed to all the equipment and conditions required in jousting, i.e. the armour, the lances, the tilt, the counter tilts, etc. These tests should not be the first time the rider and the mount are exposed to these stimuli. It is highly recommended that the rider vary the end of the tilt at which they start their run throughout the test to help the mount adapt to different approaches.

Lance control is of equal importance to riding ability. Safe, correct, and consistent technique must be demonstrated. These tests are specifically designed to induce the potential type of fatigue encountered in a typical tournament scenario where lance carriage, presentation, and disengagement must be consistently executed no matter the condition of the rider. A lance tip that dips below the target must be avoided and is a reason for the testing to be stopped and the rider not allowed to continue until they can demonstrate the ability to consistently handle the lance and the mount in a safe manner.

It should be noted that the number of passes listed in this test are a minimum guideline. Testing Marshals may request additional passes if they feel they are needed.

Three lance techniques to understand before starting the test are the *Levee*, the *Measuring Pass* and the *Mercy Pass*.

A proper *Levee* is done by receiving the lance from the Ground Crew; resting the butt end of the lance on their leg or saddle in the *Safety* (i.e. vertical) *Position*; saluting to indicate their readiness to begin; departing and slowly lowering the lance over several strides until approximately one stride from the target; striking the target; within one stride past the target raising the lance up and away from the target; safely stopping the mount at the end of the tilt; handing the lance in the *Safety Position* back to the Ground Crew.

A *Measuring Pass* is a *Levee* where the lance is lowered only on the right side of the mount's neck...*not* crossing over the mount's neck to engage the approaching target.

A *Mercy Pass* is where the lance is pulled away before hitting the target and held at arm's length to the right side of the mount to clearly show the lack of intent to hit or be hit. Although every effort should be made to avoid striking an unprepared rider, once the pass begins there is a possibility that the opponent may not be aware of the problem and make the strike. Each rider should be prepared to receive a strike even after requesting a *Mercy Pass*.

In addition to lance techniques, the testing rider must demonstrate the ability to comfortably ride in armour, present a proper target (avoiding tabling, denying access to the target, blocking the target with their lance, etc.) and control their reaction to a stressful environment. Any losses of ability to control the mount, the lance, the target and the receiving and/or recovery of the lance are grounds for halting the test.

Any jousting activity involves quite a lot of organization even just for testing. A tilt must be setup, lances and tips procured, valets to help prepare horses and armour riders, ground crew and a testing marshal arranged, etc. Anything that the testing rider can do to help provide support and make the test run smoothly will always be greatly appreciated by all those involved.

I. **Horsemanship**

- A. A new rider wishing to authorize in Wooden Lance Jousting must already be authorized for General Riding and Games in their Kingdom of residence
- B. They must have a thorough understanding of the Wooden Lance Jousting (Section II. G.) and the Armour Requirements (Section IV. B. 10) sections of the Society Equestrian Handbook and the testing procedures listed here
- C. Demonstrate the ability to walk/trot/canter (alone) while maintaining gait and control of their mount along the entire length of the tilt
- D. Demonstrate the ability to walk/trot/canter against another rider and mount while maintaining gait and control of their mount along the entire length of the tilt. This should be done with the reins in the left hand. While doing this test it is recommended that the riders use the proper right arm signal positions to indicate the gait they are about to perform... i.e. arm extended down for a walk; arm extended out for a trot; arm extended up for a canter

II. **Lance Handling: Unarmoured (Armour is not required for these first skills tests)**

- A. Demonstrate the ability to safely take control of the lance from the Ground Crew at the starting end of the tilt while maintaining control of their mount
- B. Demonstrate the ability to control their mount and stop while in possession of a lance, at all 3 gaits (or the gaited equivalent), at the end of the tilt and safely hand off the lance to the Ground Crew
- C. Demonstrate the ability to properly receive the lance from the Ground Crew, make 3 passes in the *Safety Position*, one each, at the walk/trot/canter (or the gaited equivalent), against another rider while maintaining control of their mount and gait along the entire length of the tilt with handoff to the Ground Crew
- D. Demonstrate the ability to properly receive the lance from the Ground Crew, canter against another rider while maintaining control of their mount and gait and execute a *Measuring Pass*, recovery and handoff to the Ground Crew
- E. Demonstrate the ability to properly receive the lance from the Ground Crew, ride 3 passes at a canter, and successfully strike a spinning quintain, while demonstrating a proper *Levee*, recovery and handoff to the Ground Crew
- F. Demonstrate the ability to properly receive the lance from the Ground Crew, ride a single pass at the canter and perform a *Mercy Pass* while riding against the quintain, with recovery and handoff to the Ground Crew
- G. Demonstrate the ability to properly receive the lance from the Ground Crew, ride a single pass at the canter, perform a safe disposal of the lance at any point during the run and stop safely while maintaining control of the mount during the entire run

III. **Lance Handling: Fully Armoured (Full armour, wearing a suitable target/ecranche, with helmet on and visor down are required for these second skills tests)**

- A. Demonstrate the ability to take control of the lance from the Ground Crew at the starting end of the tilt while maintaining control of their mount
- B. Demonstrate the ability to control their mount and stop while in possession of a lance in the *Safety Position*, at all 3 gaits (or the gaited equivalent), at the end of the tilt and safely hand off the lance to the Ground Crew
- C. Demonstrate the ability to properly receive the lance from the Ground Crew, ride 3 passes at a canter and successfully strike a spinning quintain, while demonstrating a proper *Levee*, recovery and handoff to the Ground Crew

IV. **Jousting**

- A. Demonstrate the ability to properly receive the lance from the Ground Crew, make 3 Measuring Passes, one each, at the walk/trot/canter (or gaited equivalent) against an opponent while maintaining gait and control of their mount and while demonstrating a proper *Levee*, recovery and handoff to the Ground Crew
- B. Ride 2 passes at the canter where the testing rider is struck by an experienced opponent. In the first exchange, the testing rider does not carry a lance. In the second exchange, the testing rider carries a lance and demonstrates the ability to properly receive the lance from the Ground Crew, a proper *Measuring Pass*, recovery and handoff to the Ground Crew (i.e. the testing rider does not attempt to hit their opponent)

- C. Ride 2 passes at the canter at an armoured and experienced opponent while demonstrating the correct lance usage and accuracy. In both exchanges, the testing rider is required to properly receive the lance from the Ground Crew, execute a proper *Levee*, successfully strike their opponent in the upper right corner of their target and demonstrate recovery and handoff to the Ground Crew. In the first exchange, the opponent does not carry a lance. In the second exchange, the opponent carries a lance and executes a *Measuring Pass*
 - D. Ride 3 passes at the canter where both riders are fully engaged and striking one another. The testing rider must successfully give and receive 2 hits to the target area. These exchanges should be made while demonstrating a proper *Levee*, recovery and handoff to the Ground Crew
 - E. Demonstrate a single *Mercy Pass* at the canter and demonstrate proper recovery and handoff to the Ground Crew
- V. **Failing the Tests:** Test failure can occur, but is not limited, by the following:
- A. Consistent inability to safely handle the horse
 - B. Consistent inability to safely handle the lance
 - C. Consistent inability to manage the rider and mount's stress
 - D. Consistent inability to ride safely in the necessary armour
 - E. Consistent inability to safely load the horse into the tilt
 - F. Consistent inability to safely stop the horse at the end of the tilt
 - G. Consistently dropping gait
 - H. Consistently barricading the lance, i.e.
 - 1. where the lance tip skips far enough to the left of your opponent which causes the lances to bind with one another
 - 2. where the levee is executed too soon and/or the lance crosses over the plane of the tilt before the tip passes the opponent's tip which causes your lance to cover your target
 - I. Consistently missing the designated target
 - J. Consistently striking off-target
 - K. Hitting the target/ecranche low
 - L. Consistently losing control of the lance during the hit
 - M. Tossing the lance to the Ground Crew
 - N. Consistently denying a proper target (i.e. "folding" your target or presenting your lance in front of your target)
 - O. Endangering anyone on the list field
 - P. Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs which will adversely affect the safety of themselves, the mounts or others
 - Q. Striking a horse with the lance
 - R. Injuring a horse due to improper armour, tack, riding ability or lance handling

If the testing rider successfully passes these tests then the testing marshal can make their recommendations to the Society Wooden Lance Jousting Deputy. If a test is conducted at an event, the Testing Marshal can provisionally approve a participant and they will be allowed to participate in the Wooden Lance jousting at the event, as the rider's performance under pressure can further inform (and may change) the testing marshal's recommendation. The Society Wooden Lance Jousting

Deputy will make the final authorization decision. All participants in Wooden Lance Jousting are authorized by the Society Wooden Lance Jousting Deputy.

It must be understood that the testing process for Wooden Lance Jousting in the SCA is only a starting point. It is expected that the rider should look to progress further in the joust in the following ways:

- Improve their riding skills
- Improve their jousting and lance handling skills both armoured and unarmoured
- Improve the mount's physical and mental abilities
- Develop horse management and riding abilities on a variety of different mounts
- Develop a higher than minimum standard kit with armour, horse tack and equipment
- Develop an understanding of the many different types of historical tournament jousting
- Develop an understanding of the various types of historical armour used for the joust
- Seek out jousting opportunities and competitions both as Ground Crew and as a rider

Marshals for Wooden Lance Jousting

The Wooden Lance Jousting program is administered at the Society level and **not by the kingdoms**. As such, the SEO has a specific deputy in charge of the program, the Society Wooden Lance Jousting Deputy.

- I. Society Wooden Lance Jousting Deputy (see Society Equestrian Handbook, Section II.G.2 for details)
 - A. Participants are authorized by the Society Wooden Lance Jousting Deputy
 - B. The Wooden Lance Jousting Testing Marshals provide recommendations for authorization to the Society Wooden Lance Jousting Deputy
- II. Participation Marshal for Wooden Lance Jousting
 - A. Is warranted by the Society Equestrian Officer and must demonstrate the ability to oversee jousting activities; inspect armour, weapons, tack and field equipment
 - B. Must be a warranted Equestrian Marshal in their kingdom
 - C. Is responsible for overseeing a Wooden Lance Joust at events and practices of already authorized participants:
 1. Assure that the list field is safely designed and set up
 2. Assure that all field equipment is in good repair and safe for the intended activities
 3. Assure there is adequate Ground Crew support for the planned activities
 4. Assure that each rider is properly armoured according to Section IV. B. 10 of the Society Equestrian Handbook
 5. Submit a written report to the Society Wooden Lance Jousting Deputy detailing who participated, any pertinent findings and any incidents/accidents associated with the activity within 30 days of the event.

- III. Testing Marshal for Wooden Lance Jousting (referred to as an “Authorizing Marshal” in the Society Equestrian Handbook)
 - A. Is warranted by the Society Equestrian Officer and must demonstrate the ability to conduct a Wooden Lance Jousting authorization test; oversee jousting activities; inspect armour, weapons, tack and field equipment.
 - B. Must be a warranted Equestrian Authorizing Marshal in their Kingdom
 - C. Is responsible for conducting a Wooden Lance Joust Authorization Test (see SCA Wooden Lance Jousting Authorization Requirements)
 - 1. Assure that the list field is safely designed and set up
 - 2. Assure that all field equipment is in good repair and safe for the intended activities
 - 3. Assure there is adequate Ground Crew support for the planned activities
 - 4. Assure that each testing rider is properly armoured according to Section IV. B. 10 of the Society Equestrian Handbook
 - 5. Submit a written report to the Society Wooden Lance Jousting Deputy detailing who participated, any pertinent findings, any incidents/accidents associated with the activity and their recommendation to add or deny within 30 days of the test.

SCA Wooden Lance Jousting Test Check List

SCA Name: _____

Mundane Name: _____

Kingdom of Residence: _____

Testing Marshal: _____

Date: _____

Skill	Pass or Fail	Notes
Horsemanship		
I. C. Walk/trot/canter alone		
I. D. Walk/trot/canter against another rider and mount		

Lance Handling: Unarmoured		
II. A. Receive lance from Ground Crew at the start of the tilt		
II. B. Control their mount and stop while in possession of a lance at walk/trot/canter		
II. C. Receive the lance, walk/trot/canter against another rider with the lance in the Safety Position		
II. D. Canter against another rider and execute a Measuring Pass		
II. E. 3 canter passes against a quintain		
II. F. Single canter pass against a quintain and execute a Mercy Pass		
II. G. Single pass at the canter and perform a safe disposal of the lance		

Lance Handling: Armoured		
III. A. Receive lance from Ground Crew at the start of the tilt		
III. B. Control their mount and stop while in possession of a lance at walk/trot/canter		
III. C. Ride 3 passes at a canter and successfully strike a spinning quintain		

Jousting		
IV. A. Make Measuring Passes at the walk/trot/canter against an opponent		
IV. B. 2 passes at the canter where the testing rider is struck by an experienced opponent. First pass without lance, second with a lance and execute a Measuring Pass.		
IV. C. Ride 2 passes at the canter at an armoured and experienced opponent. First pass the opponent does not carry a lance. In the second exchange, the opponent carries a lance and executes a Measuring Pass		
IV. D. 3 passes at the canter where both riders are fully engaged and striking one another. The testing rider must successfully give and receive 2 hits to the target area		
IV. E. A single Mercy Pass at the canter		