From:
Society Rapier Marshal's Handbook   October 2013

Appendix 2. PROCEDURES FOR EXPERIMENTATION IN RAPIER COMBAT

Before any new weapon or technique can be used in Society Rapier Combat, a test plan must be submitted to and approved by the Deputy Society Marshal for Rapier Combat. The plan must then be signed off by the Kingdom Earl Marshal and the Society Marshal.

This plan shall describe:

- •The new weapon or technique
- •Specifics of materials used and construction of the weapon (as appropriate);
- •In the case of new blade types, a sample of the new blade-type for direct evaluation by the Deputy Society Marshal
- •The proposed uses of the new weapon or technique
- •All restrictions that will be imposed during the experimental period
- •How long the test period will be

It is the prerogative of the Kingdom Rapier Marshals, subject to the above, and to approval of their Earl Marshals, to allow testing of new weapons or techniques within a kingdom. Testing means the weapon or technique may be used at fighter practice, tourneys, and in small melees after all combatants and marshals have been informed the weapon or technique is being tested and that it is not approved for general SCA use. All combatants and marshals must consent to the use of the weapon or technique before combat begins. If any of the marshals or combatants object to the use of the weapon or technique, it may not be used.

At regular intervals the Kingdom Rapier Marshal shall report to their Earl Marshal, and the Deputy Society Marshal, on the progress and results of the experiment. At the end of the test period the Kingdom Rapier Marshal will provide the Deputy Society Marshal with a test summary, to include a list of any injuries that resulted from the use of the weapon or technique, and any concerns from fighters and marshals arising from the testing. The Deputy Society Marshal, after consultation with the Kingdom Rapier Marshals, shall determine if the weapon or technique seems suitable for SCA Rapier Combat. He shall then report to the Society Marshal for final adjudication.

SCA Rapier Experiment Proposal
Version 2.2, Jan 2018

Purpose:

Use this document to propose a time limited variance from existing SCA Corporate Rapier rules. To suggest a new blade for corporate approval, see the appropriate document.

How to use this document:

1. Complete all sections, in detail. The questions below are guidelines to the information required; feel free to provide additional, relevant details.
2. The **KRM** must submit it to the SRM at rapier@sca.org, preferably as a Word document, otherwise as a plain text email.
3. The SRM will reply within five (5) business days with confirmation that the proposal has been received. If you don't get this reply, contact the SRM again.
4. The SRM will respond to the proposal within four (4) weeks, probably with questions.
5. Revise the proposal to answer the questions.
6. Email the text of the proposal's What & Why and How sections to the KRMS mailing list and invite feedback on the design, or relevant experiences from the list.
7. Allow at least one (1) week for feedback. Make any revisions you feel appropriate and re-submit to the SRM.
8. The SRM will respond to the proposal within four (4) weeks with final approval or rejection.
9. Start your experiment only after receiving approval.
10. Remember to adhere to the reporting requirements defined in the document. Any missed reports may cause the SRM to suspend the experiment until further notice.

Communication
Discussion about experiments should occur on the KRMs list.

Experiment Name:

Original Submission Date:
Returned by SRM Date:
Posted to the KRMs list Date:
Revision Submission Date:
Deputy Society Marshal Decision Date:
Decision: Approved or Rejected

Submitting Kingdom(s):
Submitting KRM(s):

Kingdom Earl Marshal:

Signature_____   **Date**_____

Society Marshal:

Signature_____   **Date**_____

What & Why
What existing rule do you wish to change or add to? What change do you wish to experiment with? How will this change improve rapier combat: will it be more authentic, more fun, safer, etc?

How
How will you test this? If appropriate, provide pictures or video to explain, realizing that these may be shared with the Known World.

How will you decide whether the experiment has been a success or a failure? Where appropriate, include metrics such as "We will run this test 100 times and if there is a positive result 90 or more times we will consider the experiment a success." What types of situations might determine that the experiment is a failure and should be stopped immediately?

How will you measure the results of the tests and report them to the SRM? Explain whether you will report monthly or quarterly, and provide an outline of what will be included in each report. (If this outline proves insufficient after the experiment begins, expand the report to include all relevant information.) Each report should include feedback from participants on how they felt about the change. Where appropriate, include a copy of the standardized participant feedback form you wish to use for the experiment. At the end of the experiment

you will submit a summary of all testing and results, your conclusions as to the success or failure, and a recommendation to implement or not.

Risks
What are the risks of participating in this experiment? How will you maintain safety while you are doing it?   Write a paragraph which explains the risks of participating in this experiment to participants; share this information with all participants.

Where and When
Where and when will the experiment take place? How many different times and places will the experiment be run to ensure the results are valid? Will different people participate during each instance? How many months will the experiment run?

Who
List the following:
Person in charge of the experiment, with name, email, and phone:
Back-up person, with name, email, and phone:
Person who will send reports to the SRM, with name and email:
Other people managing the experiment and their role:
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Participants, how and when they will be used, and why they are qualified to be included (can be listed by name, or by qualification, such as "anyone authorized in case of rapier more than 1 year"):

Communication
Prepare a summary of the experiment to be shared with the Known World, and describe what aspects of the regular reporting you believe should be shared to the Known World as well.

In the event of a successful outcome to the experiment, the following change to the Society fencing rules is proposed: