

Request For Commentary
Proposed Corpora changes related to the office of the Society Marshal

The Board of Directors is currently requesting commentary regarding a number of proposed changes to Corpora that relate to the office of the Society Marshal. Those proposed changes, and the reasoning for same, are outlined in the text below.

Commentary may be emailed to sca-comments@lists.sca.org.

Please use the title “Corpora – Marshal’s Office” in the subject line.

Failure to use this subject line may cause your commentary to be misdirected.

Do not use attachments in your commentary to sca-comments@lists.sca.org.

Attachments will cause your message to be marked as spam.

In lieu of email, commentary may be sent by US Mail, Postage-Prepaid, to:

Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

RE: Corpora – Marshal’s Office

P.O. Box 360789

Milpitas, CA 95036-0789

Commentary regarding these proposed Corpora changes, whether sent by email or US Mail, must be received by the Board no later than September 1, 2020.

Proposed Changes to the Governing Documents:

Proposed replacement text is highlighted

Explanatory notes (not to be included in final text) are preceded by n.b. and italicized.

Section VI.

D. The Marshal of the Society is responsible for all activities related to combat, archery and equestrian activities. This includes directing the Earls Marshal of the Kingdoms in matters concerning the supervision of combat and related activities at Society events and the manner and conduct of duties of all marshals throughout the Society; working to promote safety in the Society’s martial arts; and working with the Minister of Arts and Sciences to encourage research in armor and weapons. The Board specifically authorizes the Marshal to make interpretations and clarifications regarding the Rules of the Lists, with the proviso that such rulings must be reported to the Board at the following meeting. The Marshal’s rulings will stand until and unless overruled by the Board.

Replace with:

D. The Marshal of the Society’s area of authority is all martial* and related activities practiced in the Society, both those described by the handbooks approved for the office

and proposed as additions to those handbooks. The Marshal will work to encourage the participation of all in the Society's martial activities, and striving to expand and improve those activities for the benefit of the Society and its members.

The duties of the office also include:

- directing the Earls Marshal of the Kingdoms in matters concerning the supervision of martial and related activities at Society events
- overseeing the manner and conduct of duties of all marshals throughout the Society
- working to promote and improve the safety of the Society's martial activities
- working with the Minister of Arts and Sciences to encourage research in armor, weapons, and the practice of historical martial arts

The Board authorizes the Marshal to make interpretations and clarifications regarding the Rules of the Lists, with the proviso that such rulings must be reported to the Board at the following meeting. The Marshal's rulings will stand until and unless overruled by the Board, and upon approval must then be incorporated into the relevant handbook.

The Board specifically authorizes the Marshal to conduct well documented and monitored experiments with new weapons, armor, materials and martial formats in order to advance martial activities in the Society. The Marshal will keep the Board informed regarding these experiments in their quarterly reports.

*n.b. * using "martial" rather than "combat, archery and equestrian" as Society activities have grown beyond the point where a specific list covers all activity – also see below section defining "martial activities"*

VII. KINGDOM, PRINCIPALITY, AND LOCAL OFFICERS

D. The Earl Marshal: The Earl Marshal is responsible for overseeing the conduct of all martial arts activities, including but not limited to tournament lists, wars, combat archery, and fencing, as well as such related activities as scouting and target archery. The Earl Marshal bears primary responsibility for promoting both the safety and the authenticity of the martial arts in the kingdom, but works with other officers in their areas of mutual interest.

Replace with:

The Earl Marshal: The Earl Marshal's area of authority is all martial and related activities practiced in their Kingdom, both those described by the Society handbooks approved for the office and proposed as additions to those handbooks. The Earl Marshal bears primary responsibility for promoting both the safety and the authenticity of the martial and related activities in the kingdom but works with other officers in their areas of mutual interest. The Earl Marshal is responsible for issuing and maintaining authorizations for all participants and warranting marshals for their kingdom.

IX. SOCIETY COMBAT A. Society **Martial** ~~Combat-Related~~ Activities
Recommend changing "Combat-Related" to "Martial"

1. Society combat-related activities are defined as armored combat, fencing, combat archery, marshaling, scouting, and banner bearing in combat. Other activities clearly falling within the scope of the above are also to be considered combat-related activities.

Replace with:

Martial activities in the Society are defined as armored combat, fencing, archery & thrown weapons, equestrian, youth combat and marshaling. Other activities clearly falling within the scope of the above are also to be considered martial activities.

n.b. consider scouting, banner bearing in combat, siege and combat archery subsumed under armored combat and/or under the “Other activities clearly...”

Insert:

The Earl Marshal shall warrant marshals in order to conduct martial activities within their kingdom. Marshals are officers of the Society and shall be warranted in accordance to Society procedures laid down for warranting officers. In addition, marshals shall be warranted with particular authorities as defined by the Earl Marshal, whether those be by discipline (e.g. armored vs. fencing) role (e.g. field marshal or authorizing marshal) or other defined roles in the chain of command (e.g. Deputy Earl Marshal).

Upon warranting, that warrant shall be registered and tracked by the kingdom, and proof of warrant shall be provided to the participant. This proof may be a physical warrant, or an accessible online system shall be available to the marshal, other marshals, and list officials in order to validate their status as needed. If a physical warrant is issued, that warrant must be shown to any marshal or lists official upon request.

2. A participant in any of the Society combat-related activities as defined above must be authorized by a marshal warranted and designated by the Earl Marshal of a kingdom or their representative as able to authorize individuals in the appropriate activity.

3. Requirements for authorization for all combat-related activities are delineated in the Marshal’s Handbook. Kingdoms may define such additional types of authorization (such as weapons forms) as they deem necessary.

Replace with:

Requirements for authorization for all martial activities are delineated in the several Marshal’s handbooks. Kingdoms may define such additional types of authorization (such as weapons forms) as they deem necessary.

n.b. replace “combat-related” with “martial”

4. Authorizations shall be registered with and kept on file by the Earl Marshal or other designated official of each kingdom.

5. Waivers, indemnities, or other required documents must be signed as appropriate before training for authorization, being authorized, or participating in SCA combat or related activities. Proof that the required document, if applicable, has been signed must

be presented before an individual may participate in the above-mentioned activities. (For more detailed information on waivers, see Corporate Policies of the SCA, Inc., section IV – VI.)

Replace with:

Waivers, indemnities, or other required documents must be signed as appropriate before training for authorization, being authorized, or participating in SCA martial activities. Proof that the required document, if applicable, has been signed must be presented before an individual may participate in the above-mentioned activities. (For more detailed information on waivers, see Corporate Policies of the SCA, Inc., section IV – VI.)

n.b. replace “combat-related” with “martial”

6. A Combat Authorization Card shall be issued to each authorized participant in a Society Combat Related Activity. This card shall be presented to the Lists Official at a Society event to register for such activities and shall establish that the person is authorized. This card must be shown to any marshal or lists official upon request. The Society Marshal shall establish procedures for the notification and registration of authorizations and the issuance of the Combat Authorization Cards.

Replace with:

Upon authorization, that authorization shall be registered and tracked by the kingdom, and proof of authorization shall be provided to the participant. This proof may be a physical authorization card, or a list, or an accessible online system shall be available to the participant, marshals, and list officials in order to validate authorization as needed. If a physical card is issued, that card must be shown to any marshal or lists official upon request. The Society Marshal shall establish standards for the issuance of combat authorizations.

n.b. this paragraph could also replace section 4. above.

7. No person who has not attained his or her sixteenth (16th) birthday may be authorized in armored combat or the marshaling of armored combat. No person who has not attained his or her fourteenth (14th) birthday may be authorized for any form of Society combat-related activity.

Replace with:

No person who has not attained their sixteenth (16th) birthday may be authorized in armored combat. No person who has not attained their fourteenth (14th) birthday may be authorized for fencing. These restrictions do not apply to Youth Combat, Youth Fencing, Equestrian activities or to Target Archery and Thrown Weapons.

8. Prior to the authorization of a minor in any Society combat-related activity, the parent or guardian of the minor must witness the activity, discuss it with a witnessing marshal, and execute a waiver, indemnity, or other required document for the minor. The

witnessing marshal must be explicitly authorized to perform this function by the Earl Marshal of the kingdom. The marshal who authorizes a minor person for any form of Society combat-related activity must be the Kingdom Earl Marshal or the Principality Marshal or a designated deputy. This need not be the same person as the witnessing marshal.

9. Any minor involved in Society combat-related activities at an event must have a parent or a properly-executed document designating some adult person present at the event as able to authorize medical treatment for that minor in the case of any emergency.

B. The Rules of the Lists

1. Each fighter, recognizing the possibilities of physical injury to himself or herself in such combat, shall assume unto himself or herself all risk and liability for harm suffered by means of such 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.

Replace with:

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. 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.

n.b. gender-neutral wording

2. No person shall participate in combat-related activities (including armored combat, fencing, combat archery, marshalling, scouting, and banner-bearing in combat) outside of formal training sessions unless and until he or she shall have been properly authorized under Society and kingdom procedures.

Replace with:

No person shall participate in martial activities* requiring authorization* outside of formal training sessions unless and until they have been properly authorized under Society and Kingdom procedures.

n.b. we've already defined what constitute "martial activities" above. Target archery shooting (for example) does not require an authorization, though it is a martial activity

3. All combatants must be presented to, and be acceptable to, the Sovereign or his or her representative.

Replace with:

3. All combatants must be presented to, and be acceptable to, the Sovereign or their representative.

n.b. gender-neutral language

4. All combatants shall adhere to the appropriate Armor 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.

Replace with:

All combatants shall adhere to the appropriate armor and weapons standards of the Society, and to any additional standards of the kingdom in which the event takes place.

n.b. removes the right of the sovereign to waive kingdom rules. This may once have been appropriate, when there were only a small number of rules at the kingdom level – there are extensive rules now, and this authority should be discontinued.

5. The Sovereign or the Marshallate may bar any weapon or armor from use upon the field of combat. Should a warranted marshal bar any weapon or armor, an appeal may be made to the Sovereign to allow the weapon or armor.

Replace with:

The Sovereign or the Marshallate may bar any weapon or armor from use upon the field of combat. Should a warranted marshal bar any weapon or armor, an appeal may be via the established marshallate chain of command up to and including to the Sovereign to allow the weapon or armor.

n.b. adds marshal chain of command to ensure it is clear that the appeal is not directly to the Sovereign.

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 lists is not to be considered a challenge, and therefore may not be declined or rejected without forfeiting the bout.

Replace with:

7. No one may be required to participate in martial activities. Any combatant may, without dishonor or penalty, reject any challenge without specifying a reason. A fight in a tournament lists is not to be considered a challenge, and therefore may not be declined or rejected without forfeiting the bout.

n.b. replace “combat-related” with “martial”

8. Fighting with real weapons, whether fast or slow, is strictly forbidden at any Society event. This rule does not consider approved weaponry that meets the Society and

kingdom standards for traditional Society combat and/or Society rapier combat, used in the context of mutual sport, to be real weaponry.

Replace:

Fighting with real weapons, whether fast or slow, is strictly forbidden at any Society event. This rule does not consider approved weaponry that meets the Society and kingdom standards for Society armored combat or fencing, used in the context of mutual sport, to be real weaponry.

n.b. removes the word "traditional" as it does not have specific meaning; normalizes the language around armored combat and fencing. This will allow the use of steel weapons for armored combat when that comes along as they'll be "approved weaponry" while making sure this doesn't allow people to fight each other with atlatls...

9. No projectile weapons shall be allowed, and no weapons shall be thrown, within the Lists of a tournament. The use of approved projectile weapons for melee, war, or Combat Archery shall conform to the appropriate Society and Kingdom Conventions of Combat.