

Inspection Variance Granted by the Society Marshal  
June 2020

- Why is a variance needed?
  - As allowed under guidance from the Board and subject to local legal restrictions and public health guidance, the Society is returning to conducting our in-person activities including martial activities
  - Some parts of our standard inspection processes are at odds with current pandemic containment guidelines (in particular social distancing and restrictions on physical contact)
  - This variance is intended to allow marshals to execute required inspections even under local restrictions imposed by authorities outside the SCA
  - In localities where no restrictions are in place, the standard inspection procedures are to be followed
  
- What are we allowing to vary, and what are we not?
  - Our standards for protective armor and weapons are NOT being changed or relaxed; only methods of inspection are allowed to vary under this guidance
  - Our standard inspection procedures are designed to be an efficient and effective means to quickly determine if our standards are met. However, the standard procedures are not the only possible means to check compliance with our standards
  - This variance applies to all disciplines under the authority of the Society Marshal
  
- Examples (this is a non-exhaustive list)
  - Visual inspections may be substituted for what would normally be a manual inspection
    - tugging on or pushing armor, weapons - the participant conducts the action, and the marshal observes
    - "take off your helmet/mask and show me" it is well constructed, properly padded and strapped (marshal does not touch the equipment)
    - "show me your kidney protection" in case the protection is not visible
    - "show me your gorget" in case the area is obscured by a bib, or aventail/hood
  
  - Variations on standard procedures to avoid physical contact
    - a marshal's staff may be used in place of a hand on a helmet or mask to determine if any part of the face touches the face plate or mask
    - participant passes their weapon through a marshal's gauge, rather than the marshal doing so

- participant demonstrates that a weapon, projectile or armor is soundly constructed by performing the actions a marshal would normally perform, under the observation of the marshal
  - Where no alternative is available, manual inspections are explicitly allowed to be done while wearing protective gloves, or reasonable disposable substitutes, such as plastic bags, so long as this complies with local restrictions
- Participants must expect to be more involved in the inspection process under this variance
  - For example, showing that armor is in place that is normally manually determined, handling armor and weapons which is normally handled by a marshal, and so on
  - It seems likely that the inspection process will take longer than normal under this variance – everybody’s patience will be required
- Duration of the variance?
  - This variance will remain in place so long as any kingdom has local restrictions which are relevant to inspections (i.e. limitations on contact and social distancing)
  - Subject to the above, this variance will end at the discretion of the Society Marshal
- At the end of this variance, marshals and participants will return to the current standard inspection procedures specified in the Marshals’ Handbooks