

## New Patent Order Proposal Q&A

### **Q: Why is a new peerage order being considered?**

A: A new order has been in consideration for several years; actually going back to the formation of the Order of Defense in 2015. Data from the 2020 SCA Census indicates that most census participants believe that an additional peerage order is warranted for activities that fall outside the scope of currently existing peerages, and that a pan-activity order would be the best approach for achieving this. In this proposal from the Peerage Committee, a new peerage order could enhance the ability of Crowns to recognize people who are already acting as peers within their given endeavor.

### **Q: What is the goal of this proposal?**

The Peerage Committee strongly believes that the focus of this order should be on recognizing peers of the society first, rather than being primarily concerned with what activities are in or out -- that is to recognize excellence regardless of activity. This proposal's strength is its flexibility and its potential to recognize people for new fields without having to wait for a peerage for that specific activity.

### **Q: Is this just a *pro forma* check after everything has been decided? Is it a “done deal”?**

A: No, this is not a done deal. This is the proposal from the Peerage Committee, who developed it after considering input from the 2020 SCA Census, the SCA Board of Directors, and many conversations with participants. The Board won't embrace any proposal until there has been time for commentary and feedback from the membership, and it can be shown there is sufficient support for it.

**Q: Was a “naked patent” considered -- one that simply confers a Patent of Arms without creating a new Peerage order?**

A: Yes. A naked patent is one idea that is being considered and remains on the table.

**Q: Why group a bunch of activities together? Why not make new peerage orders now for all of them?**

A: There may be sufficient participation and growth of mastery-level skill among several diverse activities including archery, siege, thrown weapons, and equestrian (among others) to form a viable peerage order, but none of these endeavors appears to have yet achieved a level of *participation across all kingdoms* that would warrant a stand-alone peerage. Furthermore, there may be leaders within these communities that are acting as peers now, that Crowns may wish to recognize.

**Q: Is this just for martial activities?**

A: No, in this proposal there is no restriction on the types of activities that might be considered for this peerage, although martial activities will likely be the source of many candidates for elevation.

**Q: Why is it called Order of <Name> or O<N>?**

A: At this point, this is just a proposal. Name, heraldry and regalia cannot be determined until and/or when a decision is made to move forward. These are merely name placeholders for the purposes of discussion.

**Q: Why the two parts? Why not just create the one order and be done?**

A: The Society has been growing and evolving since its inception in 1966. Growth in the SCA follows the will of its people. Individuals decide to fight with rapiers, or spend their time on the archery range, or create living

classrooms to study various cultures, or fight in heavy tournaments. As our game grows, our peerage orders may need to grow as well. Part 2 of the proposal provides a way to recognize when it is appropriate to create future peerages: when there is a sufficient number of members of the shared peerage who have been recognized for the same endeavor across the Society.

**Q: Why does Part 2 look like it does? Can't the Board just make future peerages happen?**

A: Well, yes, the Board *could* just make it happen, but that hasn't been shown to be a very popular method in the past. This proposal recognizes the participation of its members in their endeavors, requires the action of the Crowns in making new peers, and allows the peers in that activity to decide what the form of any future peerages will take. It has to be said that the proposed path for creating future peerages is a long one, and by design can happen only after that endeavor has grown to a sufficient size to support it.

**Q: "In all but at most two kingdoms"? What does that mean?**

A: In the hypothetical argument presented, there could be fewer than 10 companions of a proposed future order in one or two kingdoms, and the future order still be allowed to move forward (i.e., sufficient numbers would have to exist at least 18 of the current 20 kingdoms).

**Q: Could a peer in the Order of <Name> who has been recognized for one endeavor decide to sign a petition for something different and then get swept into that future peerage?**

A: In this proposal, theoretically yes (although it is difficult to believe that a peer of the Society would seek an accolade for something so undeserved).

**Q: Could someone petition and move from the new peerage into a future peerage -- and then be elevated back into the first for a different**

**endeavor?**

A: There is no restriction on the Crowns, just as there is no restriction for any other peerage.

**Q: Wouldn't this proposal require the Order of <Name> to organize itself society-wide in order to form future peerages?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Is this the last opportunity to comment on a new peerage order?**

A: No. Even if the Board embraces and moves forward with this proposal (which is not a given), there will still be a required commentary period after Corpora language is developed, which will need a minimum of 60 days before it can be voted on.

**Q: Do I have to be a paid member to participate in the poll?**

A: No, but you do need a member \*account\* to participate. If you don't have one, go to [members.sca.org](http://members.sca.org) to create your account.