

Society Seneschal's Corpora interpretation regarding the ability of the Crown to bar people from Crown Lists, upheld by the Board on January 22, 2023

Recently there have been several questions regarding the ability of the Crown to bar people from their Crown Lists. Over the years this has been interpreted as a near-absolute royal right, and many kingdoms address it in their laws.

The Corpora basis for this interpretation is a single item in the Rules of the Lists, Section IX.B.3: "All combatants must be presented to, and be acceptable to, the Sovereign or their representative." Of course the Rules of the Lists are meant to apply to all lists, not just Royal Lists. Currently, Corpora does not specifically address the right of the Crown to control entrance into their Royal Lists. However, it is clearly not in the interest of the SCA, or any kingdom, for the Crown to manipulate or appear to manipulate the outcome of the Royal Lists. Therefore, while the Crown may bar an individual from competing for the Crown, they may not bar entire groups or classes of people such as an entire household, geographical region, or rank. The power to deny entry into the Royal Lists must be used prudently.