

Society Seneschal's Interpretation On Succession Rules and Corpora, upheld by the Board of Directors October 21, 2023:

Corpora requires kingdom laws to include provisions for “the maintenance and succession of the Crown” (III.B.4.h: Branches-Branch Designations-Kingdom). I have discovered that some kingdoms have within their laws provisions that allow a member of the royal pair to choose a new consort in the event their original royal partner cannot continue in that role. This is absolutely not supported by Corpora, and any such laws are void and need to be changed.

Current Corpora specifies exactly two ways that a person may become royalty in the SCA: They may be declared the victor in a duly constituted Royal List as defined in Corpora, or they may be the consort of that victor. As Corpora further specifies (IV.A.3, Royalty-Selection) that “Kingdoms and principalities will ensure that all competitors in Crown and Coronet Lists are aware of and meet the membership requirements for themselves and their prospective consorts at the time they register for the Lists” it follows that prospective consorts must have agreed to that status, and made themselves known to the Crown and the kingdom officer ensuring this requirement is met, prior to the beginning of the tournament.

It also follows that the combatant may not change consorts once the tourney has begun—should the consort withdraw, the combatant must withdraw as well. **Should either the victor or consort, following the tourney, for any reason be unable to fulfill their duties as heir or as Crown, the other may continue alone if kingdom law permits, but a new “royal” may not be selected by either the remaining royal or any kingdom body or official.** Because Corpora defines the Crown as two people, if Coronation has not yet occurred a variance to Corpora must be requested by the kingdom and granted for the remaining heir to reign alone (if kingdom law permits this). If Coronation has already occurred, then the reign has already begun and may continue with the one remaining monarch if kingdom law permits this.

If for some reason the Crown Tourney result is found to have been invalid from the beginning—for example, if it is discovered after the fact that one of the victorious pair did not meet the requirements for entry—the tournament must be refought according to kingdom law provisions for this circumstance.