

Society Seneschal’s Corpora Interpretation Regarding Criteria for event publication as required by Corpora II. C., upheld by the Board of Directors May 18, 2026

I received a question regarding which activities fall under Corpora II.C. Business Requiring Prior Announcement. Specifically, does a barony’s selection of champions at a martial practice require prior announcement, given that the champions would later be invested in Baronial court?

Corpora II.C. Business Requiring Prior Announcement states: “Formal actions and announcements with long-term impact on the Society may occur only at Society events for which a full announcement including date, time, and place has been published in advance in the appropriate corporate publication. These actions include Crown and Coronet Tournaments, Coronations and Investitures, appointment of officers, presentation of awards and titles, proclamation of law, and the establishment or advancement of branches. However, deputy officers and officers below principality level need not be appointed at published events.” (emphasis added).

Corpora II.C. applies to formal actions and announcements with long-term impact on the Society that require advance publication in the appropriate corporate publication. The question raised was whether a barony selecting its champions at a martial practice would fall under this requirement because the champions may later be invested in Baronial court.

Several of the listed actions clearly involve the conferral of rank, authority, or status with lasting effect on the Society and its membership. Crown and Coronet Tournaments, Coronations, and Investitures — including the investiture of Coronets and Baronages — all confer titles recognized in Corpora VIII.D.4. Likewise, the appointment of officers above the Principality level, the presentation of awards and titles, proclamations of law, and the establishment or advancement of branches all create ongoing institutional or legal effects within the Society.

Titles are defined in ***Corpora VIII D. 4.*** “*The titles listed here are considered standard and may be used by those who have earned or been granted the appropriate rank or award within the Society. The College of Arms publishes a more extensive list of titles and alternative forms, which may also be used freely by qualified persons. In addition, the College of Arms has full approval authority over new alternative titles, which must be added to their list before being released for use in the Society.*”

TITLE (masculine/feminine/collective)	RANK OR AWARD
<i>Sovereign/Consort/Crown</i>	<i>Rulers of a kingdom</i>
<i>Crown Prince/Crown Princess/(Royal) Coronet</i>	<i>Heirs to the Crown</i>
<i>Prince/Princess/Coronet</i>	<i>Rulers of a principality</i>
<i>Duke/Duchess</i>	<i>Persons who have reigned over a kingdom two or more times. The title is assumed at the end of the second complete reign.</i>
<i>Count/Countess</i>	<i>Persons who have once reigned over a kingdom. The title is assumed at the end of the first complete reign.</i>
<i>Viscount/Viscountess</i>	<i>Persons who have reigned over a principality. The title is assumed at the end of the first complete reign.</i>

Master/Mistress	Members of the Orders of the Laurel, the Pelican, Mastery of Arms, Defense, and Mark.
Sir/Sir	Members of the Order of Knighthood. Note that most women who are members of the order have chosen to use 'Sir'.
Baron (of placename)/ Baroness (of placename)	Ceremonial heads of a barony
(Court) Baron/ (Court) Baroness	Armigerous titles awarded at the discretion of the Crown. The word "Court" is often left out when referring to this title.
Lord/Lady "my lord"/ "my lady"/ "good gentles"	Basic titles for persons who hold Arms by Award or Grant These are general forms of address rather than titles. They are properly used informally, or any time the speaker does not know another form that would be more appropriate for the listener.
Master of (job name)/ Mistress of (job name)	Alternates for 'Minister of (job name)'. As with the standard designation for the office, these are not personal titles, and should in no case be abbreviated or prefixed to the officer's personal name.

Accordingly, actions involving the granting or bestowal of titles recognized under Corpora VIII.D.4 fall within the guidance of Corpora II.C. and therefore require prior publication as specified therein.

The selection of Baronial champions, however, does not itself confer a title recognized under Corpora VIII.D.4, nor does it constitute the appointment of an officer above the Principality level or another formal action with long-term institutional impact contemplated by Corpora II.C.

That said, such activities do fall under Corpora II.A., Society Events Defined: *"The term "Society event" refers to tournaments, feasts, and other activities whereby participants can display the results of their research into the culture and technology of the period in an environment which evokes the atmosphere of the pre-17th century Middle Ages and Renaissance. It also refers to educational activities involving either one-time classes or ongoing Society university organizations, and meetings where participants share skills or discuss the business of the group. All Society events must be sponsored by official branches of the Society, registered with the Seneschal of the sponsoring branch, publicized at least to the members of that branch, and conducted according to Society rules."* (emphasis added).

Therefore, the stipulations under Corpora II.C, "... a full announcement including date, time, and place has been published in advance in the appropriate corporate publication..." are not required for the selection of Baronial champions, etc. However, the activity still does need to comply with the general requirements applicable to Society events as defined under Corpora II.A.: Society events be sponsored by an official branch, registered with the branch Seneschal, publicized at least to the members of the branch, and conducted according to Society rules.