

Society Seneschal Policy interpretation: Requiring an oath to the Consort to accept a non-armigerous award

Upheld by the Board of Directors, SCA, Inc. April 2026 Quarterly meeting, April 25, 2026.

I received a question regarding changing the wording in kingdom law to require an oath to the Consort in order to be able to accept a non-armigerous award.

Essentially, this is saying "We're offering you this award, which you may accept, but only if you swear this oath..."

This runs afoul of **Corporate Policy XVIII. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**, which states: "*The SCA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, size, or any other basis of discrimination prohibited by law.*"

Persons of various religious backgrounds, military status, etc. would not be able to take such an oath, and would have no choice but to be denied the award...this would be discrimination.

The only section of Corpora where an oath is mentioned for any award, is **Corpora VIII. A.4.a,(i) Patent Orders, a. The Chivalry**, where the *choice* of swearing an oath is specifically noted:

"a. The Chivalry:

(i) The Chivalry consists of two equal parts: Knighthood and Mastery of Arms. No one may belong to both parts of the order at one time. When a member is admitted to the Chivalry by the Sovereign, the choice of which part of the order to join is made by the new member. The candidate must be considered the equal of his or her prospective peers with the basic weapons of tournament combat. To become a Knight, the candidate must swear fealty to the Crown of his or her kingdom during the knighting ceremony. Masters of Arms may choose to swear fealty, but are not required to do so." (emphasis added).

Please see the policy clarification upheld by the Board January 2025: "Clarification regarding the equality of Knighthood and Master of Arms" (<https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Corpora-interpretation-Knighthood-MoA.pdf>). This clarification reinforces the equality of Knighthood and Mastery of Arms, therefore, elevation to the equal arm of Chivalry. The candidate has the *choice* of oath or not at the time of their elevation (Knight or Mastery of Arms)...but they are not denied the elevation if they do not swear an oath.

Therefore, you may not write kingdom law in such a way to require an oath to receive an award based on the Anti-Discrimination policy.