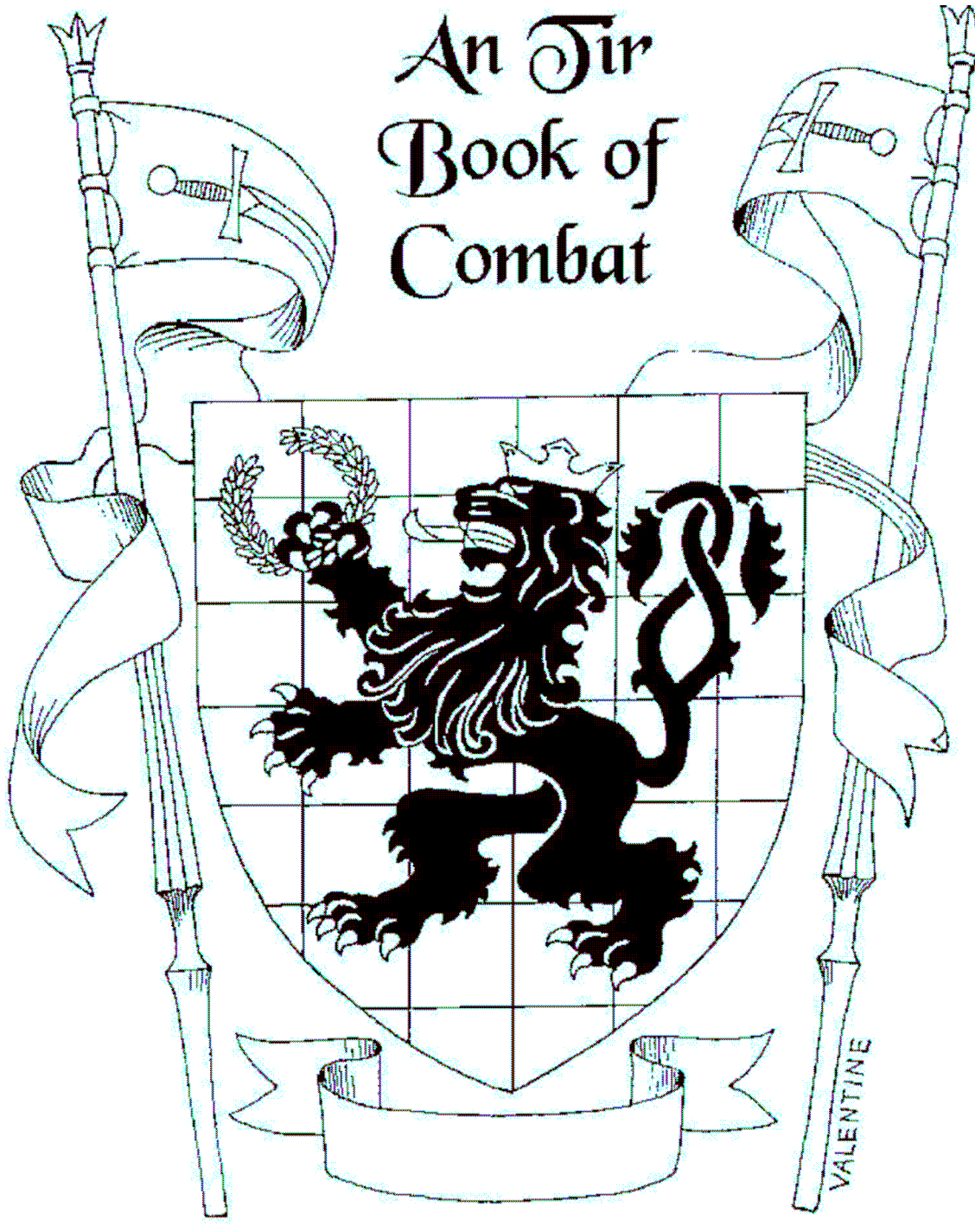


An Tir Book of Combat



8th Edition Revised November 2007

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Greetings,

What follows is the 8th edition of the An Tir Book of Combat. This version is a bit of a departure from previous versions. The 7th edition was 87 pages. This one is 55.

Why?

The mandate for this version was to strip the ABC's down as close to Society Minimums as possible. That has been done.

Another big step was moving the An Tir Kingdom Conventions to an Appendix. In the past, the Kingdom Conventions have been treated as rules. This entirely defeats the purpose of conventions, so they are now listed as 'optional rules'. By moving them to the Appendix, we are stating that they are presented for historical reference only. They are NOT to be enforced as official rules unless the Crown designates one or more of them Law for Their current Reign.

Also of special note, these rules will be subject to at least one more revision in the near future. Society is rewriting the Combat Archery rules, and when they do, we will be changing An Tir's Combat Archery rules to nearly mirror those as well.

All Branch and Regional/Principality/Kingdom Marshals should be signed up to the Marshal's List at: <http://www.antir.sca.org/Lists/?show=12> This is the primary avenue of discussion for **all** branches of the Marsallate (Rapier, Equestrian, Archery etc.)

Finally, I wish to state the guiding principle for Marshals and Combatants.

Success is measured by one major criterion.

Did everyone have fun?

If someone was hurt, or was kept off the field for a bad reason, or even if they were kept off the field for a GOOD reason, then everyone didn't have fun.

Have fun.

And remember the most important rule.

Be excellent to one another...

In Service,

Sir Daniel D'Antioche
KEM An Tir

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I. COMBAT AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS

A. General

1. All persons who wish to participate in SCA combat activities must authorize under the Society and Kingdom-of-residence authorization procedures. SCA combat activities are defined as armored combat, period fencing, combat archery, siege, and marshaling. Other activities clearly falling within the scope above are also considered combat-related activities

2. Herein An Tir establishes a procedure for authorizing combatants for participation in SCA combat-related activities. These procedures shall verify that the candidate is familiar with the following:

- a) Rules of the Lists of the SCA.
- b) The Armor and Weapons Standards of the SCA.
- c) An Tir Armor and Weapons Standards.
- d) The Conventions of Combat for the SCA.
- e) An Tir Conventions of Combat.

3. In addition to the above requirements, candidates must demonstrate the ability to function on the field in a manner that is safe both to themselves and their opponents.

4. Only a warranted Senior Marshal may perform an Authorization. This Marshal must witness the Authorization and must execute the appropriate paperwork to insure the authorization is registered with the Earl Marshal by sending the waiver portion of the paperwork to the Kingdom Lists Officer.

5. Authorization shall be registered with and kept on file by the Kingdom Minister of the Lists. This office shall be responsible for keeping properly completed waivers and maintaining the registration of authorizations. This office shall provide the Earl Marshal with a list of all current authorization cards upon request.

6. All combat at official SCA events shall take place with an acceptable waiver on file for all combatants who take the field. An acceptable waiver may take the form of;

- a) A blue card from the Corporation can be produced.
- b) A waiver may be signed at the event before the fighter can take the field.
- c) Each local marshal or list minister may keep a roster updated at each fighting event practice checking for either a blue card or a signed waiver for that event/practice.

7. Signed waivers for SCA combat-related activities shall be kept on file for a period of seven (7) years.

8. Combat authorizations may be issued for a period of up to, but not exceeding, four (4) years.

9. Authorization cards shall not be issued to persons residing in other Kingdoms unless such persons are defined as subjects of An Tir by specific Royal Treaty.

10. An Tir has the following types of authorization for heavy combat:

Jr and Sr Marshals
Weapon & Shield
Two-Handed
Spear

11. Valid authorization cards shall be accepted outside An Tir as proof of authorization. An Tir requires proof of previous authorization and a current An Tir '4 Year Authorization and Waiver' form to be completed before renewing an authorization card for a person who has moved into An Tir from another Kingdom. This process should be completed as soon as possible for people moving into the Kingdom on a permanent basis.

12. The Kingdom Earl Marshal may revoke the authorization card of any other kingdom for just and stated cause

13. The Kingdom Earl Marshal may revoke the authorization card of any participant for just and stated cause. Principality/Regional Marshals may revoke the authorization card of any participant pending written notification and approval of the Earl Marshal. Marshals in Charge (MICs) at an event may suspend the authorization of any participant for the duration of an event, but they must notify their Principality/Regional Marshal and Earl Marshal in writing. Authorizations of marshals may be revoked in the same manner.

B. Minor Authorization

Minors (ages 14–17) may authorize with these additional requirements:

1. In order to be authorized as a combatant or marshal in adult armored combat, an individual must have attained his or her sixteenth (16th) birthday. In order to be authorized as a participant, combatant, or marshal in any other form of Society combat-related activity, except Youth Combat, an individual must have attained his or her fourteenth (14th) birthday.

2. No person below the age of eighteen (18) may be warranted as a group Marshal, or the Marshal in Charge of an event.

3. The parents or guardians of the minor must witness SCA combat, discuss with a witnessing marshal how it relates to the participation of their child, and execute a "Minor's Waiver and Informed Consent to Participate in SCA Combat-Related Activities." The witnessing Marshal must countersign the waiver.

4. The Kingdom Earl Marshal, the Principality Marshal, Kingdom Armoured Combat Marshal or Regional Marshal must be the one to authorize the minor for SCA Combat-Related Activities.

5. At any event in which the minor is involved in SCA combat-related activities, the minor must either have a parent or guardian present, or must be in possession of a properly executed "Medical Authorization Form for Minors." Said Medical Authorization Form must designate an adult present at the event as able to authorize medical treatment in the case of an emergency.

II. RULES OF THE LISTS

A. The basic rules for SCA combat are contained in the Rules of the Lists.

These rules were not originally designed to cover non-tourney field activities such as wars, combat archery, and period fencing, but have been extended to cover these activities. The observance of honor and chivalry and the safety of the combatants are considered overriding elements. The following is intended to bring together the appropriate rules for conducting both tourney field combat and other SCA combat activities.

B. The Rules of the Lists are reprinted from the Corpora of the SCA.

1. Each fighter, recognizing the possibilities of physical injury to themselves in such combat, shall assume unto themselves all risk and liability for harm suffered by means of such combat. No fighter shall engage in combat unless and until they have inspected the field of combat and satisfied themselves that it is suitable for combat. Other participants shall likewise recognize the risks involved in their presence on or near the field of combat and shall assume unto themselves the liabilities thereof.
2. No person shall participate in Official Combat-Related Activities (including armored combat, period fencing, and combat archery) outside of formal training sessions unless they have been properly authorized under Society and Kingdom procedures.
3. All combatants must be presented to, and be acceptable to, the Sovereign or his or her representative.
4. All combatants shall adhere to the appropriate armor and weapons standards of the Society, and to any additional standards of the Kingdom in which the event takes place. The Sovereign may waive the additional Kingdom standards.
5. The Sovereign or the Marshallate may bar any weapon or armor from use upon the field of combat. Should a warranted Marshal bar any weapon or armor, an appeal may be made to the Sovereign to allow the weapon or armor.
6. Combatants shall behave in a knightly and chivalrous manner and shall fight according to the appropriate Society and Kingdom Conventions of Combat.

7. No one may be required to participate in Combat-Related Activities. Any combatant may, without dishonor or penalty, reject any challenge without specifying a reason. A fight in a tournament list is not to be considered a challenge and therefore may not be declined without forfeiting the bout.

8. Fighting with real weapons, whether fast or slow, is strictly forbidden at any Society event. This rule does not consider approved weaponry which meets the Society and Kingdom standards for traditional Society combat and/or Society period rapier combat, used in the context of mutual sport, to be real weaponry.

9. No projectile weapons shall be allowed within the Lists of a tournament, nor shall any weapons be thrown. The use of approved projectile weapons for melee, war, or combat archery shall conform to the appropriate Society and Kingdom Conventions of Combat.

C. Applications of the Rules of the Lists

Application of Rule 1: “Other participants” include Marshals and also support personnel whose activities bring them close to fighting in a situation where boundaries are not clearly defined. Heralds, List Pages, and similar officers who leave the field entirely before combat begins are exempt from this requirement, as are water-bearers and surgeons who remain in fixed support points outside the tournament field or battle area. Water-bearers and surgeons who take part in mobile support groups within the overall boundaries of a battle area must receive a basic orientation in field safety.

Application of Rule 2: The Crown and/or Marshallate of An Tir here do establish standards and procedures for the authorization of fighters to participate in combat. These procedures shall adhere to the Combat Authorization Procedures in this handbook. In An Tir, there are a set of separate authorization procedures for the use of (or for combat AGAINST) specific weapons or classes of weapons.

The Crown and/or Marshallate of An Tir herein establishes standards and procedures for the authorization of combat archers and missile users to participate in combat. It is usual for authorizations from other Kingdoms to be accepted, although exceptions may prove necessary in the case of specific individuals.

The Crown may not simply grant an authorization, unless the recipient has successfully completed the authorization process as delineated in Society and An Tir law.

Application of Rule 4: An Tir may apply armor and weapons standards that are stricter than the Society standards, should it be deemed necessary, but may not reduce or waive any Society standard.

Application of Rule 5: If a fighter regards an opponent's weapon or armor as unduly dangerous to self or opponent, he or she can request that the Marshal on the field re-inspect the item. Either fighter has the option of appealing the decision of the re-inspection Marshal to the Marshal in Charge, the Kingdom/Principality/Regional Marshal, and ultimately to the Sovereign or Coronet.

Application of Rule 6: Engaging in any Society combat activity with the deliberate intent to inflict bodily harm to an opponent is strictly forbidden.

Application of Rule 7: No one is required to engage in SCA combat should he or she prefer not to do so.

Application of Rule 8: Since fighting with real weapons is forbidden at any Society event, threatening the use of such weapons is likewise expressly forbidden.

At the discretion of the Sovereign and the Marshal in Charge, recognized experts may be permitted to present choreographed demonstrations with real weapons under strictly controlled conditions.

No one may wear any real weapon onto the field while participating in combat or present during combat. At the discretion of the Sovereign and the Marshal in Charge, an exception may be made for marshals or other noncombatants to wear knives bonded with peace straps.

Posing for still photographs with real weapons is permitted.

Application of Rule 9: The prohibition on thrown weapons refers to weapons thrown in combat or thrown in a hostile manner. It does not apply to "tossing," defined as a gentle, short-range method of transferring or removing a tournament weapon or item from the list field or area of combat.

The use of bows and arrows, firearms, slings, javelins, throwing axes, throwing knives, or any other projectile weapon is forbidden within Tournament Lists or in any other situation where spectators cannot be separated from the potential line of fire by more than the effective range of the weapon.

a) This prohibition does not apply to tournaments that are specifically formatted to take place exclusively between missile combatants.

III. CONVENTIONS OF COMBAT

A. General Information

1. All traditional SCA armored combat at SCA tourneys, wars, and other events shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of the Lists of the SCA, Inc., these Conventions of Combat, and such weapon and equipment standards and event rules as are established by the Marshallate of the SCA, Inc., and the An Tir Marshallate

2. An Tir has the following minimum armor and weapons standards based on criteria established by the Society Minimum Armor and Weapons Standards.

a. All fighters, prior to combat at each and every SCA-sponsored event or fighting practice, shall ensure that their armor and weapons are inspected by a warranted member of the Marshallate.

b. Even though a warranted member of the Marshallate has inspected the armor and weapons used by a fighter, each fighter shall accept full responsibility for the condition of his or her own equipment. Each fighter has the obligation to his- or herself, the marshals, and all opponents, to see that his or her equipment meets all Society and Kingdom requirements.

c. Before returning to the field of combat after armor, weapon, or shield repairs, it is required of the fighter to have said repairs inspected by the marshal.

3. When not otherwise directed by the Sovereign, the Sovereign's representative upon the field and in all matters dealing with Society Combat is the Kingdom Earl Marshal, and, by delegation, warranted members of the Kingdom Marshallate.

B. Behavior on the Field

1. Striking an opponent with excessive force is forbidden.

2. All fighters shall obey the commands of the marshals on the field or shall be removed from the field and subject to disciplinary action. Disagreements with the marshals on the field shall be resolved through the established mechanisms outlined in the Procedures for Grievances and Sanctions of the Marshallate Procedures of the SCA, Inc. It should be noted that the Grievance Procedure might find against, and result in sanctions against, either the combatant OR the marshal.

3. Each fighter and marshal shall maintain control over his or her temper at all times.

4. Upon hearing the call of "HOLD" all fighting shall IMMEDIATELY stop.

5. A fighter shall not enter the lists or participate in any form of SCA combat activity while impaired by alcohol or drugs (including, but not limited to: drugs prescribed by a licensed health care provider, over the counter medications, and illegal controlled substances.)

6. Any behavior that takes deliberate advantage of an opponent's chivalry or safety-consciousness, or that takes deliberate unfair advantage of an opponent, is prohibited.

7. A fighter shall not deliberately strike a helpless opponent.

8. Any fighter who obtains an unfair advantage by repeatedly becoming "helpless" (for example, by falling down or losing their weapon) may, after being duly warned by the marshals on the field, be forced to yield the fight at the next occurrence of such behavior. The onus of this is on the marshals, not on the opponent. However, the opponent may ask the marshals to let the fight continue.

9. Prolonged overt contact of a fighter's person (hands/feet/limbs/body/head) to an opponent's person is prohibited. Brief incidental contact is expected and acceptable during engagement.

10. Deliberately striking an opponent's head, limbs, or body with a shield, weapon haft, or any part of the body is forbidden.

11. Intentionally tripping an opponent is prohibited.

12. Grasping an opponent's person, shield, or weapon's striking surface is prohibited.

13. Intentionally striking an opponent outside the legal target areas is forbidden.

14. If a combatant's helm falls off during the fight, he/she immediately forfeits the fight and must repair the defective helm to the satisfaction of the marshals before being allowed to fight any further with that helm.

C. Target Areas

1. Torso: All of the body above the points of the hips, excluding the head and arms and including the groin, shoulder blades, and the area between the neck and shoulders.

2. Face: the area between the chin and the middle of the forehead and between the ear openings.

3. Head: The whole head and neck except the face as defined above.

4. Thighs: The leg from one inch above the top of the knee to a line even with the bottom of the hip socket.

5. Hips: Area between the bottom of the hip socket to the point of the hip (iliac crest).

6. Shoulder: From the point of the shoulder down to a line even with the top of the underarm.

7. Arms: From the shoulder to one inch above the wrist.

8. Blows that land outside the legal target areas shall not be counted, unless an illegal target area has been intentionally placed in the path of an impending blow.

IV. THE USE OF WEAPONS AND SHIELDS

A. Weapons shall be used in accordance with their design. For example, spears may only be used for thrusting, axes for striking along the edge of the blade, etc...

1. Only weapons approved for thrusting may be used for that purpose. Feinting as if to thrust with a weapon not approved for that purpose is prohibited. Before any bout where a thrusting weapon is used, the opponent and marshals shall be informed that such a weapon is on the field, and the thrusting tip shall be shown to the opponent.

2. The blade of an opponent's weapon may not be grasped at any time, nor may it be trapped in contact with the fighter's body as a means of preventing the opponent's use of the weapon. Armored hands may grasp the haft of an opponent's weapon.

B. The striking surface of a weapon in motion may not be grasped or blocked by the hands or limbs as a means of impeding a blow.

1. If a combatant intentionally places an illegal target area (e.g., an empty hand and or lower leg, including the knee and foot) in the path of a blow, the combatant forfeits that attached limb as if it had been struck in a legal target area.

2. Inadvertently bringing the hands in contact with the striking surface of a weapon in motion, as when attempting to block a blow with another weapon, shall not be considered to be in violation of this convention.

C. Blows repeatedly blocked by a weapon in contact with a fighter's helm, body, or shield at the moment of impact may, at the Sovereign's or Marshal's discretion, be considered to have broken the blocking weapon. This will force a fighter to forfeit the fight, unless a secondary weapon is carried or the opponent chooses to allow the fighter to rearm with another weapon.

D. A shield or weapon may be used to displace, deflect, or immobilize an opponent's shield or weapon, so long as such use does not endanger the safety of the combatants. A shield or haft may be safely placed against the opponent's body to restrict his ability to strike or defend. The shield may not be used to forcefully strike, push or shove the opponent.

E. Shields must be controlled by the hand; use of passive shields (not controlled by the hand) will be treated as decorative armor and subject to effective blow acknowledgment.

V. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF BLOWS

A. Judging the effects of blows is left to the honor of the combatant being struck by the weapon, unless he or she relinquishes this responsibility, with the exception of clear violations of the Rules of the Lists or the Conventions of Combat. Effectiveness of a blow may not be judged by the opposing combatant, the Marshal, or other observers. Information unavailable to the combatant being struck may be supplied by the opposing combatant or the Marshal, including blade orientation upon impact, apparent force transmitted, or apparent location and angle of the blow's impact based upon the observer's angle of observation.

B. When judging the effect of blows, all fighters are presumed to be fully armored. Special tournaments or combat rules may redefine what areas of the body are armored, and to what extent, so long as all the participants are made aware of the special conditions prior to the start of combat.

1. All "fully armored" fighters are presumed to be wearing a chain hauberk over a padded gambeson, with boiled leather arm and leg defenses and an open-faced iron helm with a nasal. The helm is presumed by An Tir convention to include a very light chain mail drape, permitting vision and resisting cuts by the mere touch of a bladed weapon.

- a) Under this standard, an acceptable cutting blow to the face would be lighter than to other portions of the head or body. Areas deemed illegal to strike (the wrists from 1 inch [25.4mm] above the hands, from 1 inch [25.4mm] above the knees and below) shall be considered safe from all attack.

- b) The minimum effective thrusting blow to the face shall be a directed touch and the maximum shall be substantially lighter than to other parts of the body.

C. An effective blow will be defined as a blow which was delivered with effective technique for the particular type of weapon used, properly oriented, and struck with sufficient force.

1. An effective blow to the head, neck, or torso shall be judged fatal or completely disabling, rendering the fighter incapable of further combat.

2. An effective blow from an axe, mace, polearm, greatsword, or other mass weapon, which lands on the hip above the hip socket or strikes the shoulder inside the shoulder socket, shall be judged fatal or completely disabling.

3. An effective blow to the arm above the wrist will disable the arm. The arm shall then be considered useless to the fighter and may not be used for either offense or defense.

4. An effective blow to the leg above the knee will disable the leg. The fighter must then fight kneeling, sitting, or standing on the foot of the uninjured leg. An Tir places no limitations upon the mobility of such injured fighters.

5. If a wounded limb blocks an otherwise acceptable blow, the blow shall be counted as though the limb were not there.

D. Changes to blow acknowledgment standards may be made on a per-combat, per-scenario, or per-tournament basis, but will revert to the standards above thereafter. Alternate acknowledgment standards do not alter the allowed target areas, nor do they increase the basic force level for a telling blow. All combatants must be informed of any changes to standard blow acknowledgment before they participate in the combat.

E. All fighters are expected to take into account the nature of the weapon being used by their opponent and the location of the point of impact of that weapon when judging the outcome of a blow delivered. A blow that strikes with sufficient force and proper orientation shall be considered effective, regardless of what it hits prior to striking the combatant.

F. Sometimes a blow that would normally be accepted occurs at almost the same moment as an event that would cause the fight to be stopped (a "HOLD" being called, the fighter throwing the blow being killed, etc.). If the blow was begun before the occurrence of the event that would cause the bout to be halted, it shall be deemed a legal blow and acceptable, if of sufficient force. If the blow was begun after the occurrence of the event that would cause the bout to be halted, it shall be deemed not legal and need not be accepted.

G. A blow that includes the dropping of a weapon at the moment of impact need not be counted. (Note: If the force of the blow causes the weapon to be dropped, the rule shall be suspended.)

H. Any missile that hits a legal target area that is noticed by the fighter hit by it, that hits with proper orientation and was not impeded nor skipped off any other person or object shall be considered good.

1. Just like in hand-to-hand combat, the fighter who is struck makes the determination. It is on the fighters honor to accept these shots.

2. "Notice." This can mean a lot of things, and is meant to. It can mean that you felt the blow, saw the blow, heard the blow or you inquired about the blow and using that information determined that the hit was good.

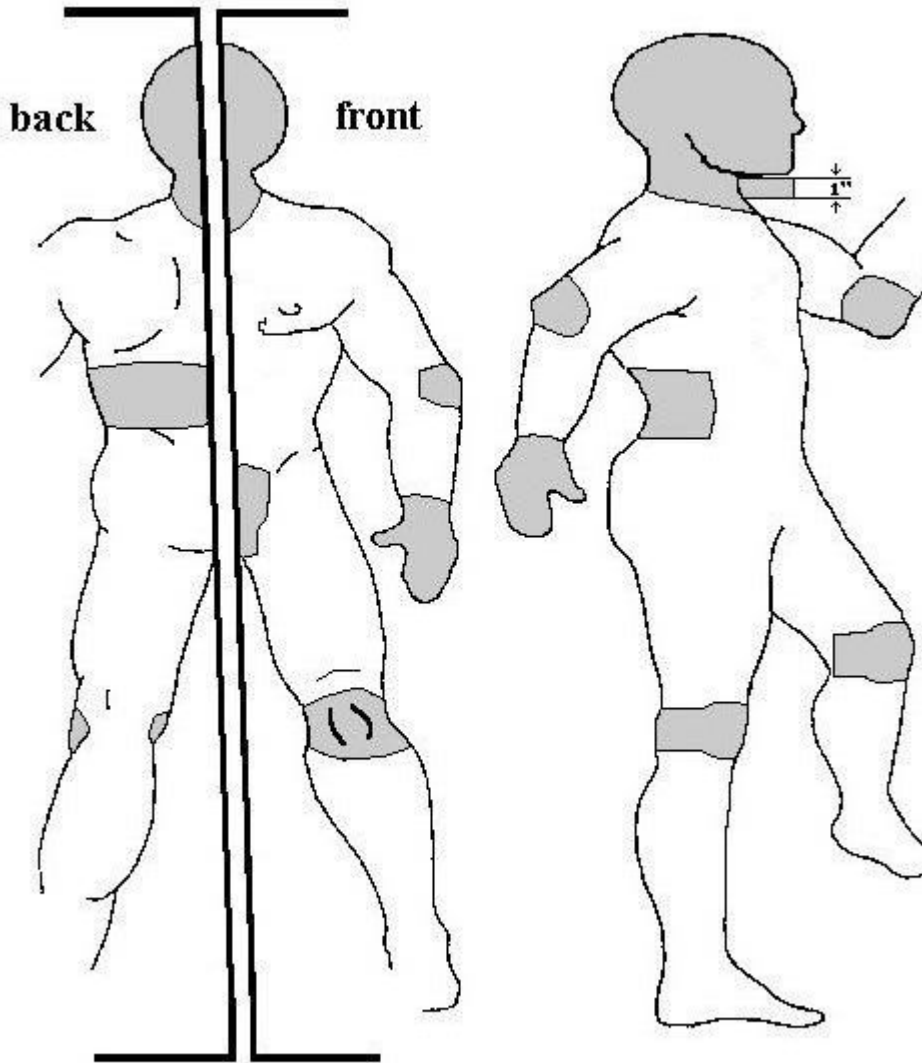
3. Due to the restrictions that have been placed on combat archery missiles (i.e. limited maximum draw weight, arrow construction and other safety considerations), missiles shall not be required to hit with a minimum sufficient force in order for the blow to be considered effective.

4. Reminder, since arrow shots are designed for someone in minimum Society Armor, those fighters in plate need to calibrate themselves for missile weapons.

VI. ARMOR REQUIREMENTS

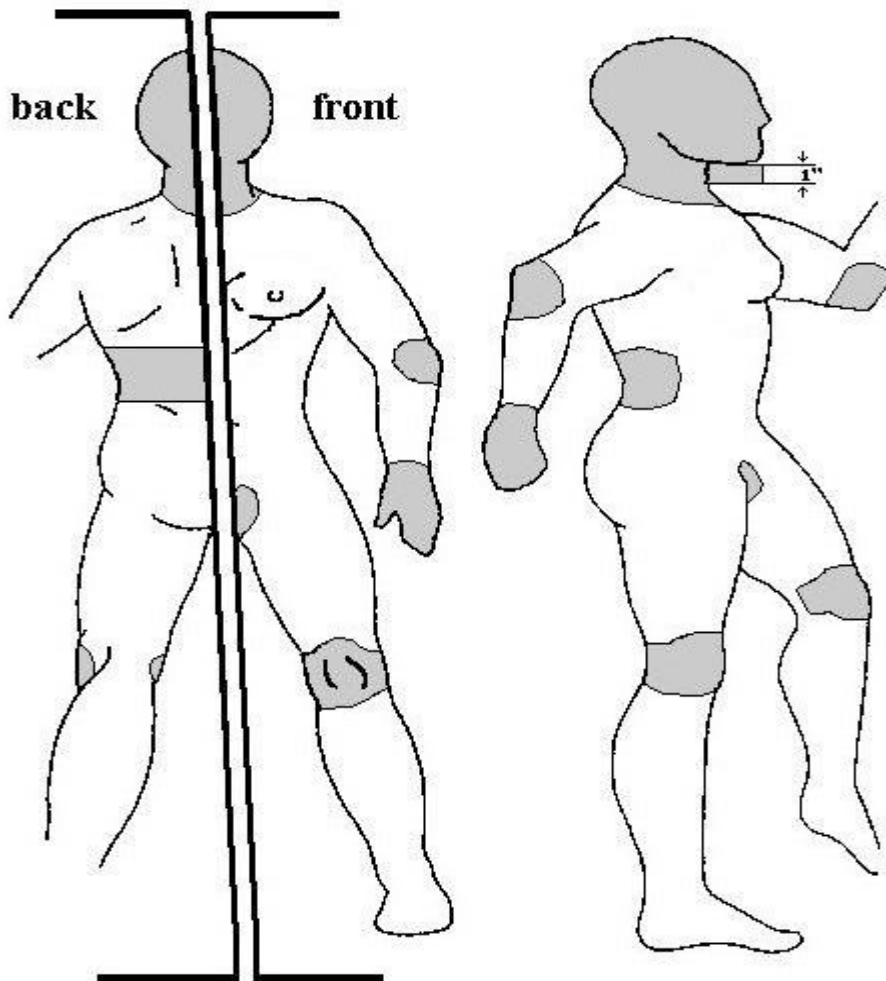
The following diagrams show approximate coverage requirements. Consult the rules below for specific requirements.

MALE



shaded areas must be covered

FEMALE



shaded areas must be covered

A. All participants on the field during adult armored combat shall meet the Society minimum armor standards for a fully armored combatant. This includes, but is not limited to, combat archers, siege engineers and other combatants. It does not include marshals, water-bearers, or surgeons. **Special attention to appearance should be paid and the atmosphere of a medieval event should be maintained.**

B. Helms

1. Helms shall be constructed from steel which has a thickness of no less than .0625 inch (1/16 inch or 1.6mm), or of equivalent material. Alternative materials, such as stainless steel, brass, bronze, or like materials, are permissible as long as the material is structurally equivalent to 0.0625-inch-thick steel. The mass of the helm is an important part of the protection. As such, no titanium, fiberglass, aluminum, or other ultra-light materials may be used. If a spun-metal top is to be used in the construction of the helm, it shall be a minimum of 0.0747 inch (14-gauge) steel. The process of spinning the top thins the metal, thereby requiring a heavier gauge.

2. All joints or seams shall be constructed in one or a combination of the following ways, with all welds sound and rivets secure:
 - a) Welded on the inside and outside.
 - b) Welded with a single bead that extends through both surfaces.
 - c) Lap joints welded or brazed at the edges of both pieces.
 - d) Helms will be riveted with iron or steel rivets no more than 2½ inches (63.5 mm) apart, or with equivalent riveting techniques. Screw- and pop-type rivets, along with other lightweight rivets, are not to be used.
3. Face guards shall prevent a 1-inch (25.4mm) diameter dowel from entering into any of the face guard openings.
4. The face guard shall extend at least 1 inch (25.4mm) below the bottom of the chin and jaw line when the head is held erect and looking forward.
5. Bars used in the face guard shall be steel of not less than 3/16 inch (4.8mm) in diameter, or equivalent. If the span between crossbars is less than 2 inches (50.8mm), 1/ 8-inch (3.18mm) diameter bars may be used.
6. All movable visors shall be attached and secured in such a way that there is minimal chance that they will become detached or come open in normal combat use.
7. There shall be NO major internal projections; minor projections of necessary structural components shall be padded. All metal shall be free of sharp edges. Face guard bars or mesh should not attach to the interior of the helm, unless of structurally superior design and workmanship.
8. All parts of the helm that might come into contact with the wearer's head shall be padded with a minimum of ½ inch (12.7mm) of closed-cell foam or equivalent padding, or shall be suspended in such a way as to prevent contact with the wearer during combat. Similarly, parts of the inside of the helm that might come in contact with the wearer's neck or body should be padded
9. All helms shall be equipped with a chinstrap or equivalent means to prevent the helm from being dislodged or metal contacting the wearer's face during combat. An equivalent might be, for example, a bevor or a chin-cup suspension system. A "snug fit" is NOT an equivalent. The chinstrap shall be at a minimum a ½ inch (12.7mm) in width and shall not be placed in the helm in a manner that could strangle the wearer.

C. Eye Wear: The lenses of all eyewear shall be constructed of shatterproof industrial safety glass or plastic. Ordinary glass lenses are prohibited. The wearing of contact lenses or "sports glasses" is strongly recommended.

D. Neck Armor: The neck, including the larynx, cervical vertebrae, and first thoracic vertebra must be covered by one or a combination of the following and must stay covered during typical combat situations, including turning the head, lifting the chin, etc.:

1. The helm,
2. A gorget of rigid material.
3. A mail or heavy leather camail or aventail that hangs or drapes to absorb the force of a blow. If the camail or aventail lays in contact with the larynx, cervical vertebrae, or first thoracic vertebra, that section must be padded with a minimum of .25in (6mm) of close cell foam or equivalent.
4. A collar of heavy leather lined with a minimum of .25in (6mm) of close cell foam or equivalent.

E. Body, Shoulder, and Groin Armor

1. The kidney area and the short ribs shall be covered with a minimum of heavy leather worn over 1/4 inch (6mm) of closed-cell foam or equivalent padding...
2. For men, the groin must be covered by a minimum of a rigid athletic cup (e.g., a hockey, soccer, karate, or baseball cup), worn in a supporter or fighting garment designed to hold the cup in place, or equivalent armor.
3. For women, groin protection of closed-cell foam or heavy leather or the equivalent is required to cover the pubic bone area. The wearing of a male athletic cup by female fighters is prohibited.
4. Separate breast cups are prohibited unless connected by or mounted on an interconnecting rigid piece, for example, a heavy leather or metal breastplate.

F. Hand and Wrist Armor

The outer surfaces of the hand, to one inch above the wrist of both arms and including the thumb, must be covered by one or a combination of the following:

1. A rigid basket or cup hilt with enough bars or plates to prevent a blow from striking the fingers or the back of the hand. If a basket or cup hilt, shield basket, or center-grip shield is used, a vambrace and or partial gauntlet shall cover the remaining exposed portions of the hand and wrist.
2. A gauntlet of rigid material, either lined with 1/4 inch (6mm) of closed-cell foam or equivalent or designed to transfer potentially injurious impact to the surfaces being grasped.
3. A gauntlet of heavy leather lined with 1/2 inch (12mm) of closed-cell foam or heavy padding. (Note: A hockey glove is considered to be the equivalent, but looks blatantly modern; their use is discouraged.) Street hockey gloves are NOT equivalent, as the padding is lighter than a regular hockey glove. Street hockey gloves will be treated only as padding.

4. A shield with a shield basket or equivalent. A shield alone is NOT sufficient, since it covers the back of the hand, but not the fingers, thumb, or wrist.

5. Combat archers and siege engineers may use as a minimum hand protection "archer's gauntlets" or partial gauntlets made of rigid material, lined with ¼ inch (6mm) of closed-cell foam or equivalent, while operating archery or siege equipment. "Archer's gauntlets" shall consist a of ice hockey gloves with the fingers cut off or equivalent, protecting the back of the hand and the wrist.

G. Arm Armor

The elbow point and bones at either side of the elbow joint must be covered by a rigid material underlain by at least ¼ inch (6mm) of closed-cell foam or equivalent padding. This armor shall be attached in such a way that the elbow remains covered during combat. A shield alone is NOT sufficient, since it covers only the outermost point of the elbow.

H. Leg Armor

1. The kneecap, an inch above and below, and both sides of the knee joints must be covered by rigid material, lined by at least ¼ inch (6mm) of closed-cell foam or an equivalent padding. This armor shall be attached in such a way that the knee remains covered during combat.

2. Combatants should wear footwear that provides adequate protection and support for the terrain and activity of combat.

I. Shields

1. Shields shall be edged with leather, padding, or other covering or constructed in such a way as to minimize damage to rattan weapons or other fighters.

2. No bolts, wires, or other objects may project more than 3/8 inch (9mm) from any part of a shield without being padded. Rounded shield bosses are not considered to be projections.

VII. WEAPONS STANDARDS

A. General

1. NO METAL OR UNAPPROVED RIGID PLASTIC MAY BE USED IN THE STRIKING SURFACE OR SURFACES OF ANY WEAPON.

2. Primary weapons used single-handed shall have a wrist strap (or equivalent restraint) which will keep the weapon from leaving the immediate area of the user. Restraints are not required on hafted weapons used single-handed, or on single-handed back-up weapons.

3. Flails are expressly prohibited.

4. Mechanical devices known as "sliders," which are used to guide or propel spears, are prohibited.
5. All weapons shall have all cutting edges and thrusting tips marked with contrasting colors.
6. The striking surfaces of all weapons, including the tip, shall be wrapped in a manner that allows no rattan splinters to protrude.
7. All thrusting tips and striking heads must be securely attached to the weapon.
8. The edges and tips of all striking surfaces shall be rounded.
9. No part of a weapon shall have sharp edges or protrusions with cross-section of less than 1¼ inch (31.8mm) in diameter. Guards, pommels, hooks, etc., shall be firmly and securely affixed to the weapon haft.
10. It shall not be possible to force any part of the weapon which may reasonably be expected to contact an opponent during combat more than 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) into a legal face guard. Rattan weapons may have a handle section which is less than 1 1/4 inch (31.8 mm), so long as it meets these criteria.
11. Rattan shall not be treated in any way that will substantially reduce its flexibility (e.g., treated with wax, resin, fiberglass, etc.).
12. No weapon shall exceed 6 lbs (2.73 kg).

B. Single-Handed Weapons: Weapons that shall be used in one hand shall have the following requirements:

1. Single handed weapons shall be constructed of rattan or rattan-cored Siloflex or Siloflex equivalent and shall be not less than 1 1/4 inch (31.8 mm) in total diameter (including tape) along its entire length excepting the handle.
2. Rattan-cored Siloflex or Siloflex equivalent weapons shall be constructed using tubular materials meeting ASTM standard D-2239 or the international equivalent, having at least a 1 1/4 inch (31.8 mm) diameter on the outside and at least 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) walls, and having an inner core of rattan that fills the interior of the tubular material entirely. Periodic inspection shall be made to determine the condition of the inner core.
3. If the weapon has a head, it shall not be constructed of solely rigid materials. The head shall be firmly and securely attached to the haft. The head shall allow at least a 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) of progressive give between the striking surface and the weapon haft.
4. No weapon may have a cutting and/or smashing surface at both ends.

5. When thrusting tips are used, they shall be at least the same diameter as the shaft of the weapon they are mounted on and have at least 1 1/4 inch (31.8 mm) of resilient material in front of the rigid tip of the weapon providing at least 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) of progressively resistant give across the face of the thrusting tip. (Note: Pressing with the thumb into the center of the thrusting tip is not an adequate test. The give must be across the entire face of the tip.).
6. Swords shall have a hand guard, such as a basket hilt, quillions, or equivalent.
7. Total weapon length shall not exceed 48 inches (1.22 m).
8. Total weapon mass shall not exceed 5 lb (2.27 kg).

C. Two-Handed Weapons: Weapons which may be used with one or two hands shall have the following requirements:

1. Weapons shall be constructed of rattan of not less than 1 1/4 inch (31.8 mm) in diameter (including tape). Polearms may contain blades constructed of split rattan, so long as the piece(s) are securely fastened to the haft.
2. The weapon shall not be excessively flexible.
3. If the weapon has a head, it shall not be constructed of solely rigid materials. The head shall be firmly and securely attached to the haft. The head shall allow at least 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) of progressive give between the striking surface and the weapon haft. Laminated or split rattan construction techniques do not require 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) of progressive give, so long as their construction imparts striking characteristics similar to an unpadded weapon constructed of a single piece of rattan.
4. No weapon may have a cutting and/or smashing surface at both ends.
5. When thrusting tips are used, they shall be no less than 2 inches (50.8 mm) in diameter/cross-section and have 2 inches (50.8 mm) of resilient material in front of the rigid tip of the weapon, thereby providing progressively resistant give.
6. Weapons exceeding 7 1/2 feet (2.286 m) shall not be used for cutting or smashing and shall be used for thrusting only.
7. Total weapon length shall not exceed 9 feet (2.7432 m)

D. Fiberglass Spears

1. Fiberglass spears shall not have a cutting or smashing head.
2. Fiberglass spears shall be constructed with pultruded fiberglass shafts with an outside diameter of no less than 1 1/4 inch (31.75 mm) and no greater than 1 5/16 inch (33.38 mm). Minimum manufacturer specified wall thickness shall be 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) and the minimum measurable wall thickness shall be 3/32 inch (2.38 mm).

3. The end of the shaft which will have the thrusting tip attached must be covered with a schedule-40 PVC cap with an interior diameter the same as the outside diameter of the shaft (1 1/4 inch [31.8mm]). The thrusting tip will then be attached over this cap.

4. All fiberglass spears must have a thrusting tip a minimum of 3 inches (76.2 mm) in diameter or cross-section. Additionally, these thrusting tips must be constructed so that there is a minimum of 3 inches (76.2 mm) of resilient material in front of the PVC end cap and shall provide progressively resistant give under pressure without allowing contact with the PVC end cap.

5. Shafts may be spliced using a fiberglass rod or tube with a sidewall of 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) of the same or equivalent material, having an outside diameter of 1 inch (25.4 mm) and a length of 8–12 inches (203–304mm). Only two splices will be allowed per spear shaft. Each end to be spliced shall be cut square and clean of cracks or frayed fibers. The rod shall extend at least 4 inches (101.6 mm) into each spliced end. One or both of these two methods shall secure the splice:

- a) Epoxying both ends of the fiberglass rod before insertion.
- b) Epoxying one end of the fiberglass rod before insertion and thoroughly taping the splice over with fiber tape.

6. The butt end of the shaft shall be smooth and free of cracks or frayed fibers. The butt shall be taped over or otherwise sealed. If a weapon is completely taped, a marshal may require that one section be untaped enough to determine that pultruded fiberglass has been used in the construction of the shaft.

7. Total spear length shall not exceed 9 feet (2.7432 m).

E. Thrust and Throw Weapons: These weapons may be used for striking and may also be thrown in melee scenarios where thrown weapons are allowed. May include thrust-and-throw javelins, axes, knives, etc.

1. Shafts shall be constructed of rattan not less than 1 1/4 (31.8 mm) inch in diameter along its entire length or of two layers of Siloflex or equivalent. The outer layer shall be 1 inch (25.4 mm) inner diameter Siloflex (1 1/4 inch [31.8mm] OD) and the inner layer shall be 0.75 inch (19.1 mm) inner diameter Siloflex.

2. If Siloflex is used, both ends of the shaft shall be covered with either a schedule-40 PVC cap with an interior diameter the same as the outside diameter of the shaft (1 1/4 inch [31.8 mm]), or with a rubber stopper or equivalent means to prevent the tubing from penetrating the thrusting tip(s), fastened securely in place by tape and/or glue.

3. Thrusting tips shall be used on any tip that can be reasonably assumed to contact a fighter when the weapon is used or thrown. Tips shall be no less than 2 inches (50.8 mm) in diameter/cross-section and have 2 inches (50.8 mm) of resilient material in front of the rigid tip of the weapon, thereby providing progressively resistant give.

4. If the weapon has a head, it shall not be constructed of solely rigid materials. The head shall be firmly and securely attached to the haft or handle. The head shall allow at least 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) of progressive give between the striking surface and the weapon haft or handle.
5. The weapon must have the owner's name, kingdom, and group clearly and legibly printed on it in English characters for identification.
6. Total mass of the weapon shall not exceed 2 pounds (0.91 kg).

VIII. MISSILE COMBAT RULES

A. Combat Archers

1. Combat Archers shall meet the minimal Society standards for a fully armored, heavy weapons combatant. The only exception to this rule shall be those archers equipped with the "Archer's Gauntlet" (see Point Three below).
2. Combat Archers shall be authorized to participate by the marshallate, following established marshallate procedures. During this authorization all Combat Archers must show:
 - a) That they are familiar with the Rules of the Lists, the SCA Missile Combat Rules, and all the rules and conventions of combat pertaining to combat in An Tir.
 - b) That they can recognize and accept a killing blow.
 - c) That they are safe to themselves and their opponents.
 - d) That they can keep their bow out of the way during combat.
 - e) That they have an awareness of spectator safety.
3. Combat Archers may wear an "Archer's Gauntlet" one or both hands. The "Archer's Gauntlet" shall be a minimum of an ice hockey glove with the fingers cut off, so that the back of the hand and the wrist are protected. Other gauntlets such as demi-gauntlets may be used in place of the "Archer's Gauntlet" described above, so long as they provide equivalent or greater protection.
4. A Combat Archer may be struck/killed in the same manner as any heavy combatant on the field. A cry of "I yield!" shall be accepted. Once killed, Combat Archers are treated as any other dead combatant, being removed from combat as soon as practical (thus decreasing the chance that a bow will be stepped on).
5. Minimum range for all missile weapons is set at 'clear the bow'. This means the missile must impact its target at least the length of that missile away from the bow/crossbow. For example, if you are shooting 28 inch ammunition, then minimum range would be 28 inches away from the bow that is launching that missile.

6. A Combat Archer may become a regular combatant provided that he/she is authorized as a regular combatant and does two things:

a) Discards his/her bow in a safe manner, so as not to cause a hazard, and replaces it with an approved weapon/weapons and/or shield.

b) Either changes his/her "Archer's Gauntlet" for a combat-legal gauntlet, or places that hand in an approved basket hilt. "Approved" in this instance means the basket hilt was inspected and approved by a warranted marshal while the Combat Archer was wearing his/her "Archer's Gauntlet" inside the basket hilt.

B. Marshaling Missile Combat

1. A minimum buffer zone of no less than 10 yards between the boundary of all combat/combatants and the spectators is required for reasonable safety, unless otherwise determined by the marshals.

2. All missile combat marshals must wear a minimum safety glasses. A light infantry helm is HIGHLY recommended. They should also wear an extremely distinctive tabard clearly marking them as marshals, and carry a marshaling staff.

3. It is recommended that the elbows, knees, kidneys, and groin be covered according to missile combatant standards. It is strongly recommended that this protection be inconspicuous (i.e. the marshal should not be mistaken for a missile combatant).

4. Take care while marshaling not to get between missile combatants and their targets. It is dangerous, as the combatants may not recognize the marshal in the middle of a crowd.

5. If a fighter crosses a boundary, you may notify them politely and promptly that they are routed and out of the battle. If a fighter routs another and follows him out of bounds, they are both out of the battle. Alternately, if the Scenario allows, they can be shepherded back onto the field after they have been made aware of the boundary. Use common sense and the rules of the scenario as your guide.

IX. Missile Weapon Standards & Construction

A. Bows

1. General Requirements:

a) The draw weight of the bow is to be determined at 28 inches draw length, as measured from the center of the bow riser.

b) If both fiberglass shafted arrows and Siloflex arrows are to be used at the same time, then only light bows (as defined below) are allowed on the field.

c) Bows may not be used to strike an opponent, nor may they be used as a shield against rattan weapons

d) No one may shoot a non-approved missile from any bow. For example, shooting a fiberglass shaft arrow from a bow with more than 30 pounds draw is not permitted. Such use may be considered grounds for removing a fighter from the field and/or revoking his/her authorization.

e) Due to the restrictions which have been placed on missile weapons (i.e., bow draw weight, arrow construction), missiles are not generally required to strike as hard as non-missile weapons in order for the blow to be counted.

f) Compound bows or modern slingshots are not permitted.

g) Non-period sights and accessories are prohibited.

h) Brush buttons and bow slings (wrist straps) are permitted.

2. Light Bows:

a) A Combat Archer may use any recurve or longbow that is in a safe and usable condition, so long as the bow does not exceed 30 (thirty) pounds draw weight at 28 inches of draw. Bows shall be inspected before use by a warranted marshal, knowledgeable about archery equipment and safety.

b) Bows of 30 (thirty) pounds or less are considered Light Bows and may be used to shoot either fiberglass shafted arrows or Siloflex arrows.

3. Heavy Bows:

a) Bows used only for shooting Siloflex arrows are considered Heavy Bows. They may have a draw weight of up to 50 (fifty) pounds at 28 inches of draw. Bows shall be inspected before use by a warranted marshal, knowledgeable about archery equipment and safety.

B. Crossbows

1. General Requirements:

a) Crossbows may not be used to strike an opponent, nor may they be used as a shield against rattan weapons.

b) No one may shoot a non-approved missile from a crossbow. Such use may be considered grounds for removing a fighter from the field and/or revoking his/her authorization.

c) If both fiberglass shafted bolts and Siloflex bolts are to be used at the same time, then only light crossbows (as defined below) are allowed on the field.

d) Compound crossbows are not permitted.

e) Non-period sights and accessories are prohibited.

f) No bows or crossbows with elastic strings, bungee cords, surgical tubing, etc. The power must be provided by the flex and release of the bow limbs.

2. Light Crossbows:

a) A Light Crossbow is one which does not exceed 600 inch pounds (i.e. 50 lbs at 12 inches et.al). The number of inch pounds is determined by multiplying the length of the power stroke in inches by the pounds of pull at the locked position on the string. (The pull weight is to be measured at the nut--i.e., string position when the crossbow is cocked.) A Combat Archer may use any Light Crossbow that is in a safe and usable condition.

b) Crossbows shall be inspected before use by a warranted marshal, knowledgeable about archery equipment and safety.

3. Heavy Crossbows:

a) Crossbows shooting exclusively Siloflex or Fellwalker bolts may have a power of up to 1000 inch pounds measured as above, and are considered Heavy Crossbows.

C. Arrows and Bolts

1. General Requirements:

a) Arrows may only be used as missiles launched from a bow. No arrows shall be used as hand-held thrusting weapons.

b) New designs or materials for blunts, shafts, etc. must first be tested at a kingdom level for safety and durability. Interested parties should contact the Society Archery Marshal for testing standards. Then the test results must be sent to both the Society Earl Marshal and Society Archery Marshal for approval at Society level and for distribution to the other kingdoms.

2. Fiberglass Shafted Arrows and Bolts:

a) Arrows must have a blunt head, such as a Thistle Missile, Baldar, UHMW, Morak or other combat blunt that has been approved by the Royal Archer. The padded face of the blunt may be flat, rounded or parabolic, but not pointed.

(1) Black Baldars are for use on fiberglass shafts.

(2) Moraks must have foam padding added to the striking surface. Only Moraks with the penny reinforcement may be used in An Tir.

(3) Markland and modified Markland blunts shall not be used.

(4) Fiberglass shafted crossbow bolts may not use Thistle Missile blunts for heads.

(5) Handmade blunts tips must be flat or slightly rounded and at least $1 \frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter across the flat surface. They are required to have a minimum of half an inch of resilient padding (measured after taping) over the full striking surface of the face. The padding should have progressive give and should hold up under repeated impact. The blunt must have a finished diameter of at least $1 \frac{1}{4}$ inches for at least the first $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of length from the striking surface and must not be capable of being forced through the one-inch opening of the bars of a combat-legal helm for more than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The blunt must be at least 1 inch long. The hole for the shaft should be cut so that at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of material separates it from the striking surface.

b) Padding on the face of a blunt which has compacted under use to less than a half-inch in thickness must be replaced.

c) Only solid fiberglass shafted arrows are permitted. Shafts should have a minimum diameter of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Aluminum and wooden shafts are not allowed.

d) Blunts shall be firmly secured to the shaft so that they cannot come off on impact or if the shaft is broken. The cable tie alone is not sufficient for Baldar Blunts. All blunts must be secured by at least one strip of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide (minimum) good quality electrical or strapping tape. This strip shall run over the face of the blunt and down the sides, and onto the shaft for at least three inches. It shall be secured to the shaft by another strip of tape which wraps around it as well as the base of the blunt and the shaft. Other methods which provide equal or greater safety are permitted with the approval of the Kingdom Marshal.

e) Maximum allowable draw length (bottom of the nock slot to just behind the blunt) is 28 inches. The portion of the blunt tip that impedes the draw does not count as part of the 28 inches.

f) Metal points (piles) must be removed prior to mounting blunt points. The front end of the shaft must be flat, not pointed. A slight rounding of the edges is allowed for ease of construction. The use of metal points or sharp shafts will be considered grounds for removing a fighter from the field and/or revoking his/her authorization.

g) The shaft of the arrow shall be spirally or longitudinally wrapped with non-water soluble plastic tape, such as electrical tape, Mylar, or strapping tape, totally covering the surface from the front of the fletching (or APD) to the tip of the blunt. The tape should be strong enough so that if the shaft should break, it will still be held together.

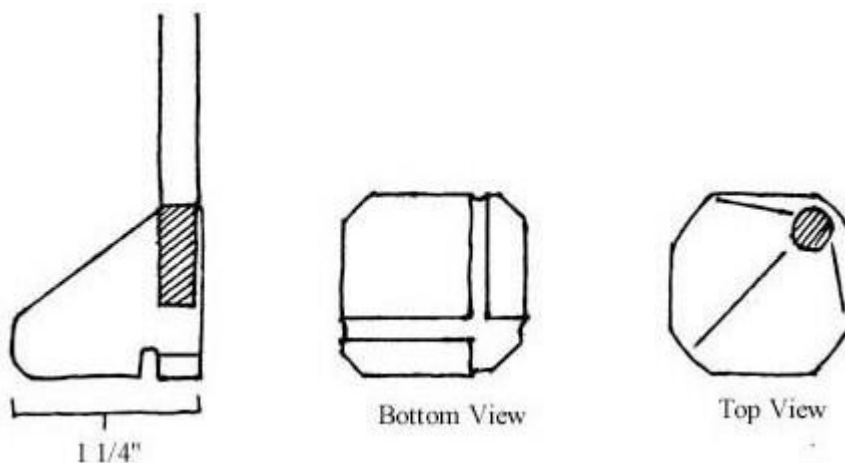
h) Fiberglass shafted arrows shall be used only after inspection supervised by a marshal. Archers shall be responsible for re-checking the safety of all arrows at the time of use. Arrows must be reinspected after each use.

i) All arrows shall be clearly marked for identification with the name of the user. For interkingdom wars the name of the kingdom shall be included as well to make it easier to locate the maker/owner of the arrows.

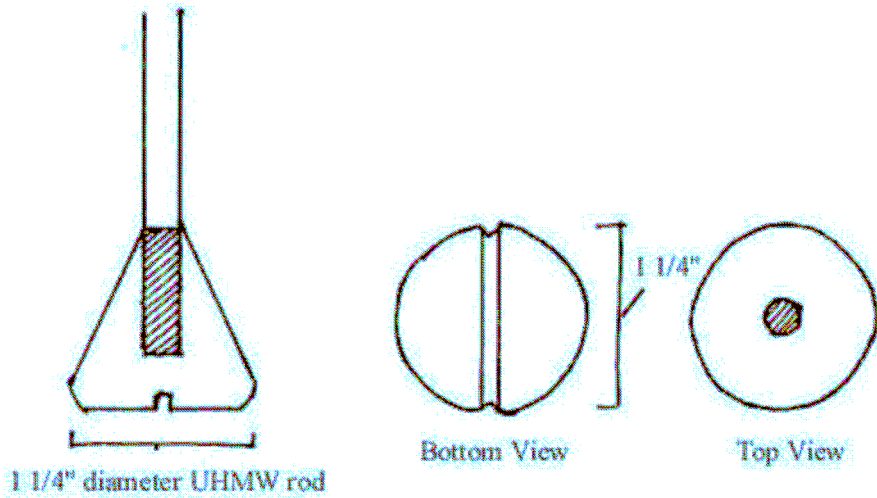
j) All shafted combat arrows are required to have an 'approved' APD. Below is an index of designs for APDs that have been approved by the Society Earl Marshal and/or Society Archery Marshal for use on shafted fiberglass combat handbow arrows and crossbow bolts. Other designs are under consideration and may be passed in the future.

Arrows:

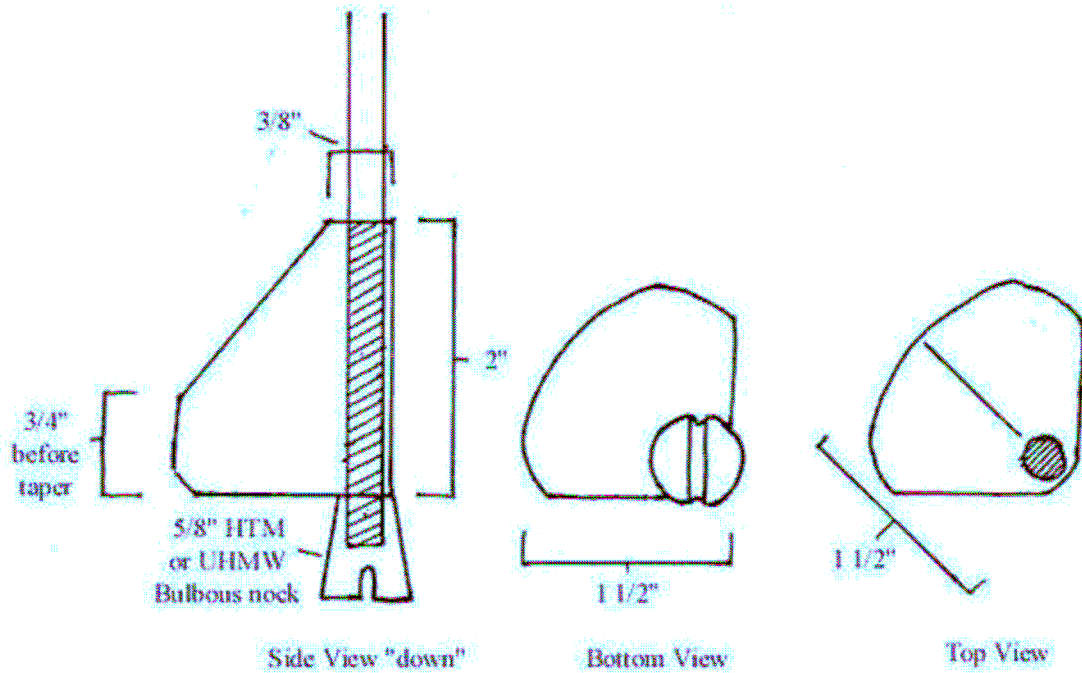
(1) UHMW Octagonal APD for shafted arrows for handbows.



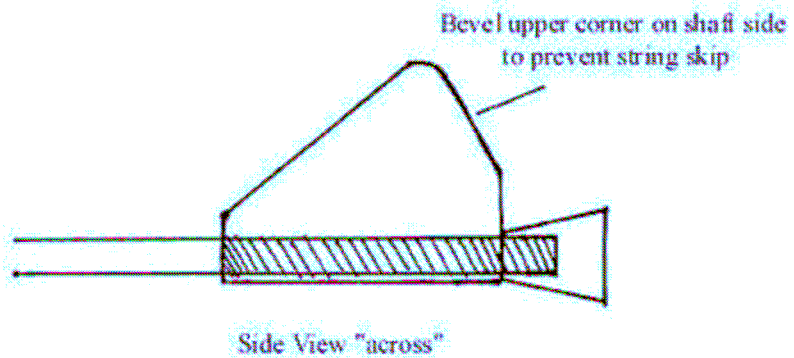
(2) UHMW round rod APD for shafted arrows for handbows.



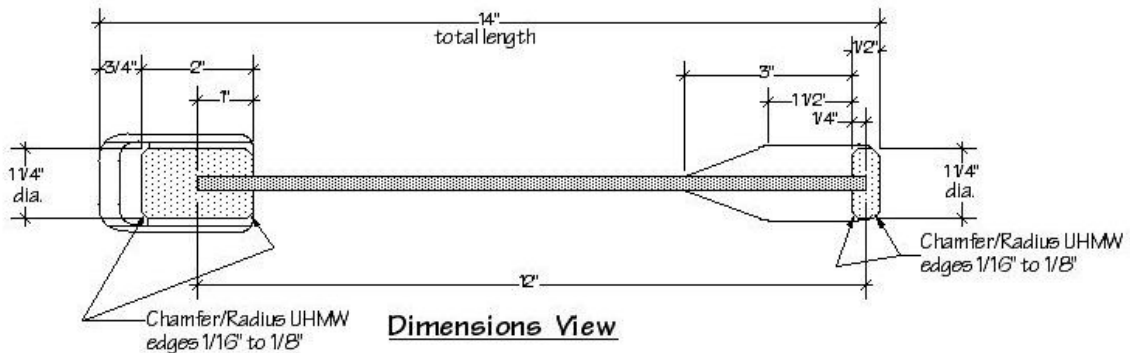
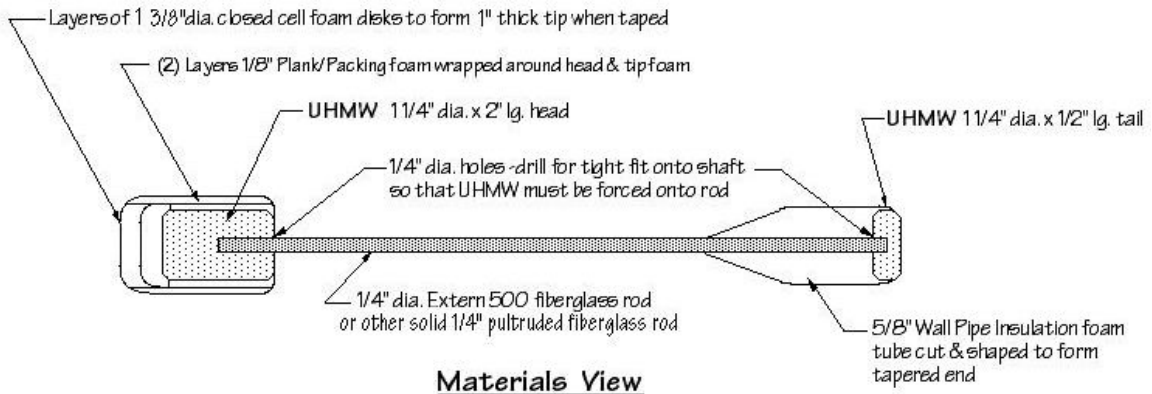
(3)1/4 Wedge "Foam fletching" APD for shafted arrows handbows.



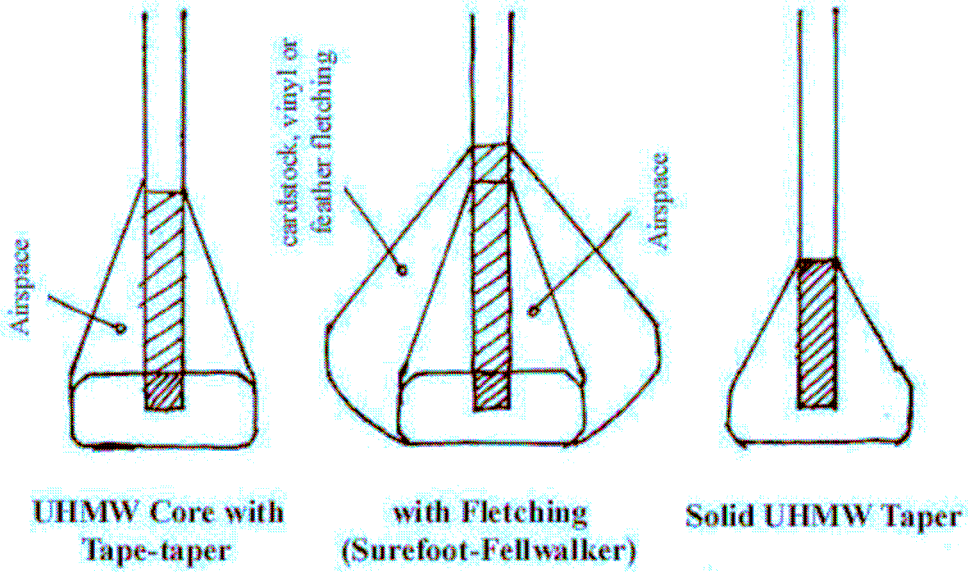
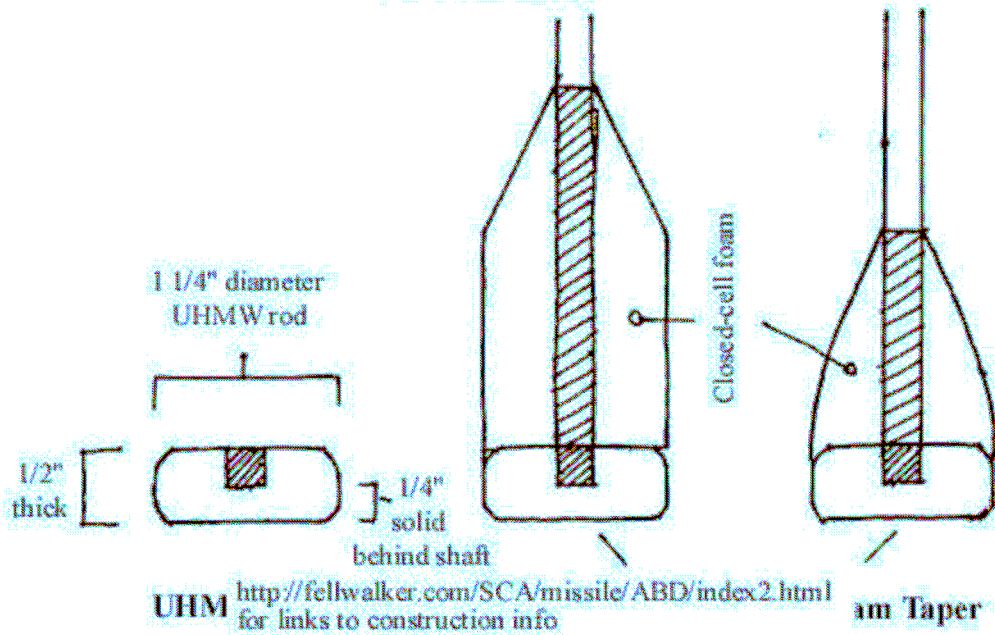
(addition of 5/8" nock may not be required in all kingdoms. Check your local requirements.)



Bolts:



ABD Variations for Fellwalker Crossbow Bolts



(4) "Fellwalker" ABD bolts for Siloflex type crossbows.
 Note: The entire ABD bolt is a single unit. Do not alter shaft length or use other than the specified blunt for all crossbow poundages. Since this is a Siloflex bolt design, like all Siloflex bolts, it needs to be safe for up to the 1000 inch-pound Society maximum.

Other Arrows and Bolts:

(5) 160 psi Siloflex tube APD with external tab.
Contact the Deputy Society Marshal for Archery for information on this design.

(6) 160 psi Siloflex tube APD with internal tab.
Contact the Deputy Society Marshal for Archery for information on this design.

(7) 160 psi Siloflex tube APD with routed channel.
Contact the Deputy Society Marshal for Archery for information on this design.

(8) 100 psi Siloflex tube APD with external tab.
Contact the Deputy Society Marshal for Archery for information on this design.

(9) 100 psi Siloflex tube APD with routed channel.
Contact the Deputy Society Marshal for Archery for information on this design.

3. Siloflex Arrows:

a) Siloflex Combat Arrows shall be constructed by using a 100 psi Siloflex made from PE 3408 resin and attaching a tennis ball, foam thrusting tip or other approved head to the reinforcing ring end.

b) Additional weight may not be added to the arrow.

c) To construct the tennis-ball style:

Using a strong cord of 1/8" or less diameter, tie the tennis ball to the Siloflex shaft by crossing two pieces of cord through the Siloflex tube underneath the reinforcing ring, and over the tennis ball. Be sure that the knots are located on the side of the tennis ball and not at the tip. Securely tape the tennis ball to the tube using fiber-reinforced tape. Be sure that the cords are securely taped to the tennis ball to prevent slippage. These cords will prevent the tennis ball from being torn loose when the arrow strikes a hard surface.

d) To construct the foam thrusting-tip style:

Construction methods should be according to those of thrusting tips for rattan weapons. The tip should be a minimum of 1.5 inches diameter, and should allow for a minimum of 1 inch of compression.

e) The shaft of the arrow need not be taped as there is no chance of breakage.

f) Fletches are recommended for better stability during flight. Fletches must be of feathers or of a soft, flexible material such as plastic vanes, foam or duct tape, and rounded so as not to have sharp corners.

g) To reduce the likelihood of a Siloflex arrow penetrating an SCA legal helm in the event of "bounce-back," a plug made of foam, paper, 35mm film can or similar material should be put in the nock end of the arrow so as to limit the tendency of the tube to compress upon impact. (Alternative solutions to this problem are subject to the Earl Marshal's approval.)

h) All arrows shall be clearly marked for identification with the name of the user. For interkingdom wars, the name of the kingdom shall be included as well to make it easier to locate the maker/owner of the arrows.

D. Other Missile Weapons

1. Rubber band missiles are explicitly banned on the heavy war field.
2. Hand-Held Mechanically Launched Missiles:
 - a) Tennis ball shooting crossbows are allowed. Hand or shoulder held guns which resemble firearms are not allowed.
 - b) Tennis ball missiles shall be unaltered and may not exceed 2 ounces in weight. Tennis balls may not be thrown by hand.
 - c) Atlatals or spear/dart throwers are not allowed.
 - d) The maximum range for two-ounce tennis ball missiles is 100 yards.

X. COMBAT ARCHERY INSPECTIONS

ALL missile weapons will be inspected each day before they are used in war or tournament to ensure safety and competence of construction. This will be conducted just before each war or tournament by a marshal. A combatant who is also a warranted marshal shall not be permitted to inspect his or her own weapons.

A. Bows and Crossbows

1. A spring scale and ruler (or arrow known to be 28 inches long) must be used to test all bows, regardless of their markings. Lower weights at 28 inches draw are acceptable. Any bow testing higher than the accepted rating at 28 inches is not acceptable regardless of the draw length of the wielder. A spring scale and ruler must be used to test crossbows. They must have an inch-pound (draw length multiplied by poundage) rating less than the maximum allowed rating. See weapons standards for full instructions.

2. Equipment that is in obvious disrepair (cracked or delaminated bow, frayed string, etc.) will be banned. All bows and crossbows will be marked with tape or other means of identification to indicate that they are acceptable. This identification will only apply to the event at which the bow is inspected. Each new event requires new inspection.

B. Missiles

1. Each archer will be asked if the piles were removed from his arrows or bolts before the blunts were mounted. Arrow lengths will be checked against a standard 28" arrow or ruler.

2. Shaft taping must be checked and must extend onto the blunt. All blunts will be checked for seating by pulling with reasonable force. The major concern is that the blunts not fall off or be pulled off during removal from the quiver.

3. Arrows and bolts must be inspected prior to each engagement for broken or cracked shafts. Verify that any tennis balls entering the field have not been altered.

4. Verify that javelins are not showing signs of falling apart. They must be 2" in diameter on any striking surface. There must be progressive compression on all striking surfaces.

5. Make sure the javelins do not weigh more than 2 lb and are spirally taped.

6. Verify that throwing axes are not showing signs of falling apart. They must be not be able to enter a helmet grill on any striking surface. There must be progressive compression on all striking surfaces.

7. Check that the axes do not weigh more than 2 lb.

8. Check siege rocks for falling apart and weight. They shall not weigh more than 3 lb.

C. Field Gleaning of Ammunition

1. Siloflex tube arrows may be gleaned and reinspected upon the field by the archer and then reused.

2. Each fiberglass shafted arrow may be shot only once during a battle. They must be removed to a resurrection point and inspected by a qualified marshal before they are used in another battle. Arrows may not be picked up from the ground and reshot without removal and inspection. NOTE: Any arrow that hits the ground, shot, dropped, or otherwise is considered shot.

3. Javelins, throwing axes, siege rocks, and unaltered tennis balls may be gleaned from the field, inspected and cleared by the combatant, and re-used immediately.

XI. SIEGE COMBAT

A. Siege engines or structures may be used in combat during melees and wars in accordance with the rules set forth in the Siege Engines Handbook.

B. Munitions

1. Siege-class munitions are denoted by yellow tape and include ballista bolts and rocks (1-pound [0.45 kg] foam or 4-tennis-ball clusters).
2. Small-arms munitions include single tennis balls and tube shafted combat archery arrows and bolts.

C. Blow Acknowledgment

1. A blow from siege class ammunition to any legal target area shall be judged fatal or completely disabling.
2. Blows from siege class ammunition to shields shall be judged fatal or completely disabling to the bearer of the shield unless otherwise specified by scenario rules.
3. Hand-held weapons struck by siege class munitions shall be considered destroyed.
4. Small-arms munitions fired from siege engines shall be treated as combat archery projectiles.
5. Siege munitions are considered spent upon striking a target, the ground, or a battlefield structure.

D. Destroying Siege Engines

1. Fighters shall stay clear of moving parts and, when possible, approach siege engines from the side.
2. Striking siege engines/structures with hand-held weapons is strictly prohibited.
3. Siege engines may be destroyed by placing a weapon on the engine/structure and declaring "this weapon is destroyed," or by being struck by siege-class munitions from another siege engine.
4. Siege engine crews are fully armored combatants and should be treated as any other fighter on the field.
5. If fighting occurs within 5 feet of an engine that is cocked or loaded, a hold shall be called and the engine shall be declared destroyed and removed from the combat area and made safe.

MARSHALS' SECTION

We are, first and foremost, servants of our King, and on his behalf, servants of the fighters and spectators of An Tir. The primary duty of the marshals of An Tir is to assist the participants in having a safe and enjoyable experience in SCA combat. In this duty, we must see that these rules are enforced in a way that preserves safety while making sure combat can be enjoyed by the participants and spectators.

During Tournaments or Wars, all marshals shall carry onto the field of combat a Marshaling pole that is spirally marked yellow and black at each end for 1.5 feet (45mm). The spiral mark is to indicate to the Fighter that the pole belongs to the Marshal. The length of pole should allow the Marshal to comfortably direct the fighter without exposing the Marshal to being struck by the weapons.

No marshal shall carry any pole on the field that has sharp or jagged edges (i.e. walking staffs, tree limbs, etc.).

The overriding rule shall be,

“How can you get the highest number of combatants on the field safely?”

That is your goal as a marshal.

XII. PROCEDURES FOR THE AUTHORIZATION OF MARSHALS

A. General Requirements: There are three near-equal priorities in marshaling; safety, fair witness, and showmanship. Overemphasizing any one at the expense of the others will tend to make the fighting less enjoyable for everyone (although, if you must go overboard on one, pick safety).

1. A marshal may be authorized after demonstrating the ability to oversee combat, help judge a fighter's authorization, and inspect weapons and armor.
2. Unless warranted or rostered by the Earl Marshal as a Senior Marshal, a marshal may not be the Marshal in Charge of an event or sign the paperwork to authorize fighters.
3. Senior and Junior Marshals are warranted and rostered by the Earl Marshal of the Kingdom through the Kingdom List Minister.
4. Only the Kingdom Earl Marshal, Deputy Kingdom, Principality, or Regional Marshal(s) may finalize a Senior Marshal promotion. Two Senior Marshals must witness the authorization and complete the 'Recommendation for Marshal Promotion' form to ensure that the authorization is registered. At a minimum, a Senior Marshal's Authorization shall include the following:
 - a) The candidate must have a good working knowledge of the Rules of the Lists, the Society Conventions of Combat, and the An Tir rules and conventions.
 - b) The candidate must be willing to enforce the Rules of the Lists, the Society Conventions of Combat, and the An Tir rules and conventions.

c) The candidate must have a good working knowledge of the Society minimum armor and weapons standards and the An Tir Armor and Weapons standards.

d) The candidate must demonstrate the ability to conduct an inspection of armor and weapons for use in combat.

e) The candidate must demonstrate the ability to conduct an inspection of combatants.

f) The candidate must demonstrate the ability to safely control SCA combat, whether this is single combat, team combat, general melee, or part of a war environment.

5. Anyone may become a Junior Marshal by stating they intend to follow the rules herein. They must complete and send into the List Minister a 'Recommendation for Marshal Promotion' form witnessed by two Senior Marshals. Those marshals should verify the Junior Marshal is familiar with the rules in this manual.

6. The term "Knight Marshal" applies to the marshal of a branch, regardless of whether they are a belted fighter, or even if they are an authorized fighter at all.

7. All warranted or rostered Junior or Senior marshals shall be members of the Society for Creative Anachronism Inc.

XIII. GUIDELINES FOR MARSHALING ON THE FIELD

The guidelines outlined in this section are not rigid requirements, but are placed here in an attempt to help clarify and to provide examples of acceptable methods and procedures.

A. Marshal in Charge (MIC) you are responsible for organizing the marshaling. This does not mean that you have to do it all yourself.

Things that need to be done prior to all combat activities:

1. Check that the field can be safely fought upon, preferably before the site is reserved for the event. Can someone in armor, with restricted vision, cross it safely (i.e., without injury; simple tripping is an inherent hazard of combat in rough terrain)? At minimum, check at the beginning of the day to see if there are holes, soft spots, rocks, etc. If they are serious and cannot be worked around, move the fighting somewhere else.

2. Arrange for equipment inspection. (See Equipment Inspection Guidelines below.)

3. Arrange for marshals for all of the combat. That means an absolute minimum of one marshal per single combat (preferably two). Enough marshals for group combat (melees and war battles) to both surround the fighting (to keep an eye on the boundaries) and keep most of the fights under

general surveillance (for detached required armor, broken weapons, etc.). If volunteers are in short supply, point out to the fighters that they do not get to start until sufficient marshals are available.

4. When it is all over, write up a report on the event (see the Paperwork section under Chain of Command).

B. Marshaling Single Combat

1. At minimum, there should be one marshal for single combat. Two or three will be able to see more of the fight. Four or more will get in each other's way and block the view from the sidelines without providing noticeably better marshaling.

2. As noted earlier, marshaling has three parts of nearly equal importance: safety, fair witness, and showmanship. Excessive concern for any of these, to the neglect of the other two, will make fighting less enjoyable for all concerned. While these concerns apply to all marshaling, they are most detailed and balanced in single combat.

3. Safety

a) The field itself can cause safety problems. Before you begin, look over the area where the fighting will take place. Look particularly for large holes, soft spots, and rocks. (The fighters will generally accept small holes, rocks, etc. as part of the terrain.) Once the fight starts, try to keep it away from these areas. If the hazards are serious, move the fight.

b) As the fighters come out onto the field, take a quick look to see that they have remembered their full armor, especially elbow, neck, and hand armor. These are the likeliest to be removed and then forgotten. This should not take any time at all; it is neither a full inspection nor an attempt to catch someone trying to play silly games with the rules—just a quick double-check to help someone who may have been distracted by the excitement of the day.

c) Once the fight has started, watch particularly for broken armor, lost tempers, injuries, and unauthorized people/pets/objects on the field. (Outsiders, especially small children and pets, do not always realize that they are supposed to stay off of the field during combat.) If there is a problem, shout "Hold!" several times if necessary. (Fortunately, most fighters will hear and respond to a cry of "Hold!" even when they won't notice their own names.)

d) If the first cry of "Hold!" does not cause the fighters to stop, get in between the fighters (or between the fighters and whoever has wandered onto the field) and block the weapons with your staff until the fighting does stop. (Keep yelling "Hold!" while you do—eventually they may notice.) That is one reason why marshals routinely carry staffs on the field.

e) Bear in mind that the various Kingdoms have somewhat differing traditions as to how much marshals should intrude into a fight. On one extreme, some Kingdoms expect marshals to keep their opinions to themselves, except in the case of clear and immediate safety hazards. At the other extreme, some Kingdoms expect marshals to volunteer advice any time they think the fighters might possibly have a question about a blow. If you are new to marshaling, or merely new to the Kingdom you are in, try to find out where in this spectrum your Kingdom lies. It will make a difference in how you act and, perhaps more importantly, it will make a major difference in what the fighters expect of you.

f) In An Tir, marshals are expected to perform at or near the “keep their opinions to themselves unless asked, except in the case of clear and immediate safety hazards” end of the spectrum.

4. Witness

a) You are expected to be an impartial witness to exactly what happens during a fight. Ideally, you should be able to describe the last 3–4 blows on your side of the fight: where they started, their angle of approach, how they were blocked or where they landed. (Do not be afraid to say, “I don’t know” if you were looking at one part of the fight when something [allegedly] happened in another part.)

b) Do not try to impose your view unless you see what appears to be major and repeated problems. Leave the blow counting to the participants unless you see clear reason to intervene; usually, they have a much clearer perspective than the marshals do.

c) If the fighters do ask you what happened (or you feel compelled to volunteer), try to do so tactfully. Prefacing your statements with “It looked to me like...” or “It appeared...” is preferable to a dogmatic assertion of what happened. Similarly, it is preferable to ask “Was that dent in your helm before?” rather than saying, “That blow put a 6-inch dent in the side of your helm.” The latter may be 100% accurate, but it is unnecessarily antagonistic to someone who may honestly have thought the blow too light.

d) In order to be able to answer as accurately as possible, you need as clear a view as possible. This means being close to the fight. You need to strike a balance between getting closer to see better and staying back out of range of the blows. Just what the appropriate distance is for you will depend on your level of experience with fighting (e.g., how well you can judge what the range of the weapons is and whether you are in or near it). In general, for single combat, 20 yards is too far and 2 yards is too close. In the absence of a better idea, consider 5 yards for weapons less than 3½ feet in length and 8 yards if either combatant has a longer weapon. Try to keep moving so that the combatants are roughly centered between you and the other marshals for the fight.

e) It is helpful to enlist someone of higher rank (member of the Chivalry for unbelts, KEM or Crown for members of the Chivalry, etc.) if you 'feel compelled to volunteer' your opinion unasked

5. Showmanship - Keep an eye on the audience. SCA combat is a spectator sport, just as medieval tournaments were. (A spectator sport for members of the Society and our guests, but a spectator sport nonetheless.) Your part of the show is to keep things moving and avoid blocking the view from the sidelines except where unavoidable. This means fast pre-fight checks and announcements, a minimum of holds and discussions during the fight, and a strenuous effort to stay out of the way and keep moving. (If its cold, wear several layers of tunics and move even more; one person in a cloak can interfere with the view of many).

C. Procedures for marshalling Crown Events

1. The Earl Marshal is responsible for marshaling activities at Crown events. If he is participating in the lists or if he so chooses, he will appoint a Marshal-in-Charge for the event. The MIC is then responsible for all qualifications, inspections and marshaling.

2. The MIC and the marshals present will meet prior to Armor inspection. Ideally, at this meeting, the MIC will appoint one senior marshal per field who will pick their marshaling teams. Any marshals left will be split up amongst the teams. With two teams per field, they can spell each other. Whenever possible, a member of the Chivalry will be assigned to overlook the fighting on each field. Their job is to assist in the dispute resolution with regards to fighting and chivalry.

3. Teams will then conduct armor inspection under the experienced senior marshals overseeing the work of junior marshals. A warranted senior marshal will make the decisions regarding any problems about armor or equipment. Should this fail to satisfy the fighter, take the matter to the MIC. His decision should be final. If not, the matter may be brought to the local Principality/Regional Marshal, and then to Earl Marshal, whose decision is final, short of appeal to the Crown.

4. During the first half of the tourney, each senior team leader should arrange for the apprentice marshals to be out there getting experience. As the tourney reaches the midway point, the more experienced marshals should take over. Also by this time, with the Lists being cut down to fewer fields, arrange for one of the other fields to be set aside as a challenge field with the junior marshals taking care of it. The semifinals and the finals should be marshaled only by members of the Chivalry who are Senior Marshals.

XIV. PROCEDURES FOR MARSHALING WARS

A. Before the War

1. The general rules under which the war will be conducted, compromises between conflicting Kingdoms' standards, and the scenario limits for each planned battle shall be negotiated and agreed to in writing in advance by the

authorized representatives of all belligerent groups involved. The rules and scenario limits shall be published in the appropriate newsletters. For inter-Kingdom wars, notices shall be published according to SCA publication policy by the groups involved. This publication should take place at least thirty (30) days prior to the event. In addition, copies of all of the rules and agreements shall be available on-site, as a handout for people who do not receive (or did not read) the newsletters. Armor and weapons standards shall default to the established Society minimum standards unless otherwise specified in the event rules and scenario limits.

2. Each side in a battle shall provide a reasonable number of trained and experienced marshals. If not enough marshals are available, the sides should arrange for a draft from their armies.

3. All marshals should be separately briefed prior to the meetings of all participants. (They should also attend the group briefing.) Emphasis at this briefing should be on enforcing the rules and scenario limits for each battle and on preventing accidents that could arise from hazards related to the scenario limits and to the actual terrain.

4. All participants shall be gathered to hear the rules and the scenario limits explained to them. The autocrats and/or the marshals should answer their questions. If the scenario limits vary radically from battle to battle, this procedure should be repeated before each battle.

5. Equipment inspection must take place before combat starts, with particular emphasis on any modifications that have been made in making compromises between conflicting Kingdom standards.

B. Marshal of a War

1. A supervising marshal (Marshal in Charge) shall be chosen for each war (and possibly for each battle, if the Marshal in Charge for the war is fighting in the battles or otherwise prevented from being present).

a) The Marshal in Charge shall be responsible for the activities of the marshals in his charge.

b) The Marshal in Charge for a particular battle may not participate in the battle as a combatant.

2. When "Hold!" is called, all fighting shall cease.

a) The fighters shall drop to one knee (if possible) where they stand.

b) Conversations relating to the conduct of the battle are not permitted between combatants.

c) Changes of position/location are not permitted, unless ordered by a marshal.

d) If movement away from a boundary of a hazard is necessary, the fighters shall maintain their relative positions and distances.

e) To end a hold, the Marshal in Charge will call "All rise!" (or "Rise if you're able" or some other equivalent statement). When the combatants have resumed their guard, the Marshal in Charge will call "Lay on!" to signal the resumption of the fight.

3. "Hold!" will normally be called only for REQUIRED broken armor, lost tempers, injuries, safety concerns, outsiders wandering onto the field, fighters about to wander off it, or to enforce the rules and scenario limits.

4. "Hold!" should not be called for dropped weapons, fighters who have slipped and fallen (unless they are in danger of injury), or the near approach of a fighter to a boundary where there are neither spectators nor any natural hazards, such as cliffs.

5. Marshals have the preemptory authority to remove from combat and from the field any combatant who violates the rules or scenario limits or who performs any unsafe or dishonorable act. Such removal may be discussed during the battle only if the marshal permits it. The marshals' ruling may be appealed to the Marshal in Charge, the Regional/Kingdom Marshal or the Sovereign in ascending order.

6. Marshals have the authority to regulate the movement of non-combatants on the field and to control the location of spectators.

7. Those marshals who are responsible for marshaling wars or large melees may use alternative means to signal "Hold" or "Lay on," as long as all fighters know and understand the alternative signaling system. Marshals may use whistles, air horns, or other such devices.

8. When marshaling a melee, the witness function is necessarily relegated to a very low priority. (It is not unimportant, but it is impossible for a handful of marshals to be accurate witnesses to the details of a couple of dozen separate combats.)

9. You should have a minimum of 3 marshals for the first 20 fighters, plus one additional marshal for each 15 fighters up to a total of 500 fighters and 35 marshals. If you have more than 500 fighters (realistically, even if you have more than 50 fighters), you should have an experienced Marshal in Charge and a sizable number of experienced marshals. It is preferable to have more marshals for free-for-all melees.

10. Marshals should station themselves around the edges of the fight. This allows them to control the borders while keeping as much of the fighting as possible in view. It also prevents fights from running into them from behind. As always, keep moving and stay close enough to spot safety problems.

11. In very large melees, it may be desirable to have some marshals in the middle of the field, in addition to those around the edge. If you are mid-field, be careful that you do not get so interested in the fight in front of you that you back into or forget to watch another bout moving around behind.

XV. COMBAT INJURY PROCEDURES

A. It should always be remembered that, when an injury occurs on the field, the primary concern is getting to and assisting the injured party. Secondary to this objective, but no less important, is the safety of persons entering the field to help and the well-being of anyone already on the field. (For example, fighters standing around in armor in the sun could be subject to heat problems.)

B. In the event of an emergency, the marshals shall cooperate with any authorized persons responding to the emergency and keep the area clear of would-be spectators.

C. In the event of any suspected injury on the field, the marshal shall halt all fighting in the area and determine the proper course of action. The hold may be a local hold as long as the safety of the injured person can be maintained. The overall situation should be assessed, and, as the injured party is tended to, every effort shall be made to release as much of the field as possible so that combat may proceed.

D. If the injured person is conscious, they may be asked if they would like assistance. No conscious person will be forced to accept treatment without his or her consent. No non-combatant shall enter the combat area until summoned by a marshal.

E. A marshal shall call for assistance if they suspect that a participant is experiencing more than momentary distress. It is an extremely serious matter to delay the application of first aid when it is needed, and marshals who ignore injuries may be subject to revocation of their authorization to supervise combat-related activities.

F. No one may remove a fighter from the field without the consent of the event Marshal in Charge or an appointed deputy.

G. Any immediate and significant problems associated with an injury on the field shall be reported to the Kingdom Earl Marshal.

XVI. COMBAT AUTHORIZATION PROCEDURES

A. This example of an authorization is for an armored combat fighter. This procedure may be used as-is by a kingdom, or it may be modified as required to reflect differences in culture and convention. This authorization procedure strongly encourages that a member of the Chivalry (to act as a witness and provide a second opinion), a warranted authorized *Senior* Marshal, and an experienced authorized fighter be present. This outline is general and does not deal with the specifics of armor and weapons rules, since these rules may vary. The warranted authorized marshal will be trained in the specifics as they change.

1. If the fighter does not have proof of a signed waiver (for example, a signed blue membership card) prior to the authorization, the candidate and the authorizing marshal will properly complete a waiver (SCA, Inc. form titled CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE AND RELEASE LIABILITY).

2. The persons conducting the authorization must verify that the candidate is familiar with the Rules of the List and the current rules that specifically govern within the kingdom of residence.

3. The candidate must present themselves on the field in armor for inspection. The armor must be inspected on the body and must pass the current armor requirements for combat. This inspection must be complete and exacting, and any deficiencies must be permanently corrected before the person may authorize.

4. Both the experienced authorized fighter and the candidate shall be armed with sword and shield or the weapon in which the candidate seeks authorization (The Earl Marshal may permit a substitute weapons system.)

5. For the first few minutes of the bout for authorization, the prospective fighter and the authorized fighter shall fight at $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ speed and verbally acknowledge all blows landed. During this phase of the authorization, the marshal and the member of the Chivalry should get an impression of the new fighter's style, technique, ability to call blows, and ability to defend themselves. If this portion of the authorization is not satisfactorily completed, the authorization procedure shall be stopped. The candidate shall be told of the problems observed and instructed as to how to correct the problems.

6. If the first portion of the bout has progressed satisfactorily, then the combatants will be told to fight in list-type combat, counting blows until one is defeated. During this phase, the marshal and member of the Chivalry should observe the new fighter's control, reaction to blows, and ability to cope with pressure.

7. The marshal, the member of the Chivalry, and the authorized fighter shall confer to decide if the new fighter exhibits adequate performance in the minimum criteria for authorization listed below:

a. Does the candidate know and apply the Rules of the Lists and the Conventions of Combat?

b. Does the candidate exhibit safe behavior on the field, for both self and others?

c. How does the candidate react to pressure? Does he or she fight back or become disoriented and confused?

d. Can the candidate defend themselves?

e. Is the authorizing fighter able to feel and judge blows, both those received and those thrown?

8. If the marshal, member of the Chivalry, and authorized fighter agree that the candidate meets these requirements, the marshal will notify the fighter that they are now authorized. The fighter and marshal will properly complete an An Tir Kingdom Authorization Form in addition to the previously completed Waiver for SCA Combat-Related Activities.

9. The fighter will send these properly completed forms to Kingdom Minister of the Lists. Upon completion of the An Tir Kingdom Authorization Form the bottom part should be removed. This is the fighters Authorization Card.

a) *OF SPECIAL NOTE* A fighter is only considered provisionally authorized until the An Tir Kingdom Authorization Form is processed by the Kingdom Minister of the Lists! If the fighter has a card but there is no record of the An Tir Kingdom Authorization Form on file with the Kingdom List Minister within 3 months, then that fighter must resubmit a An Tir Kingdom Authorization Form or they will not be considered authorized. Check with the online database to make SURE you are authorized! This situation is most often caused by paperwork being filled out but NOT sent in to the Kingdom Minister of the Lists!

XVII. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION GUIDELINES

A. General Information

At each event, the Marshal in Charge must arrange for the inspection of all equipment to be used in combat (e.g., armor and weapons). This in no way relieves the individual combatants of their responsibility for following the equipment standards. Ultimately, the fighter is responsible for the condition and safety of their armor and weapons. However, the marshal's inspection is intended to provide a second pair of experienced eyes and an outside point of view.

A reminder: Equipment that was perfectly serviceable at the beginning of the previous event could have broken since, and even the most experienced fighter can occasionally forget some piece of armor. The inspection outlined below is merely an example A checklist might be helpful as you do the inspection, until you have done so many that it becomes second nature. (As noted in the section on marshaling combat, a quick visual check of the combatants just before the start of a bout or battle is also a good idea.) All of this is based on the equipment standards given in the Appendix. You should be familiar with them The fact that one of the requirements is not mentioned on this checklist does not mean that you should not notice if it has not been met.

Armor inspection must be done with all of the armor on the body of the fighter who is going to wear it. It is not otherwise possible to get an accurate idea of what is covered and what is not, nor of where gaps may occur as the combatant moves. In weapon inspections, the primary test is safety. If you, as a marshal, do not believe that the weapon is safe (i.e., if you would not be willing to face it), do not let it be used on the field. When in doubt, ask the prospective user if he or she would be willing to fight against the weapon. If not, it should not be used regardless of whether it meets all other requirements. Before you start, remind yourself that armor is hot, not to mention heavy. If the weather is hot, try to find some shade in which to hold the inspection or, at least, for the fighters to stand in while waiting to be inspected. (Similar reasoning applies in case of rain, freezing cold, or other inclement weather. Just because it is possible to fight does not mean that it is pleasant or desirable to stand around in armor.)

B. Sample Armor Inspection - See Armor Requirements above for Society minimum standards

1. Leg Armor: Check that the front and sides of the knee are covered. Have the fighter flex their knees (either a deep knee bend or one knee at a time) and see that the knee remains covered and that the articulation (if any) does not gap. Check for sharp edges, broken or missing rivets, or other signs that the equipment is falling apart.
2. Groin: ASK the fighter if they remembered their cup or groin protection. Do NOT attempt to check for it physically.
3. Kidneys: Check for kidney armor. (Kidneys are located in the back, at the bottom of the ribs, but the armor should also extend around to the sides.)
4. Elbows: Check that the point and sides of each elbow are covered. Have the fighter flex their elbows and see that the elbow remains covered and that the articulation (if any) does not gap. Check for sharp edges, broken or missing rivets, or other signs that the equipment is faulty.
5. Hands and Wrists: Check the gauntlet and/or basket hilt. Look to see whether the gauntlet will pinch the hand if it is hit. Check for sharp edges, broken or missing rivets, or other signs that the equipment is faulty.
6. Neck and Head:
 - a) Check that the neck, larynx, and cervical vertebrae are covered.
 - b) Check the face plate and eye slots, both for the size of openings (a 1-inch dowel is a quick way to check and hard to argue with) and to be sure that it is firmly secured.
 - c) Put your hand on the front of the helm, and have the fighter push against it. See that their face does not hit the faceplate. (A gentle touch of the tip of the nose at maximum pressure may not be desirable, but is not necessarily grounds for rejecting the helm.) Repeat with the sides and back of the helm.
 - d) Have the fighter turn their head toward their shield side. See that the neck is still not exposed.
 - e) Have the fighter tilt their chin up as far as possible and check the neck again (this is intended to simulate the position they might be in if they had just taken a blow high up on the front of the helm). If you can reach in (with your fist) and freely touch bare throat, the problem should be repaired before the fighting starts.
 - f) Have the fighter move their chin down as far as possible and repeat for the back of the neck.
 - g) Lift gently on the front of the faceplate to make sure that the helm does not rotate easily to expose the face or throat.
 - h) After making sure that the fighter does not have their tongue between his teeth, test the chinstrap (or equivalent) by lifting up

sharply on both sides of the helm. It should not rise up so far as to expose the head or neck.

i) Check for sharp edges, broken or missing rivets, or other signs that the equipment is faulty.

7. Shield: Check the rim for exposed sharp edges. (For this purpose, a 90-degree angle is a sharp edge.) Check the rest of the shield for sharp edges, broken or missing rivets, or other signs that it is faulty.

C. Sample Weapon Inspection - See Weapons Standards above for Society and Kingdom minimum standards.

1. Swords:

a) Check that they meet the minimum diameter (1¼ inch [31.8mm]). A 1¼ inch (31.8mm) marshaling gauge will speed this up enormously.

b) Check that the ends are taped and that there are no exposed cuts in the rattan.

c) Check the quillions or basket hilts for sharp edges, broken or missing rivets, or other signs that they are coming apart.

d) Check the wrist strap or other means of keeping the sword from flying away.

2. Thrusting Tips: Check that they have the minimum cross section. Push on the end to verify the required amount of resilient give.

3. Mass Weapons: Check the padding for give. Check the wrist strap (single-handed mass weapons only). Consider the total mass of the weapon.

4. Pole Weapons: Check the thrusting tip, if any. Check the padding for give. Consider the total mass of the weapon. Check that the weapon meets the relevant length restrictions.

XVIII. EXPERIMENTAL WEAPONS AND MATERIALS PROCEDURES

A. Experimental Weapons and Materials

1. Before any unapproved weapon or material can be used at Society activities, a test plan and a sample of the proposed weapon or material must be submitted to and approved by the Society Marshal or a designated deputy. This plan shall include specifics on construction (e.g., materials used, how it is assembled, etc.), an outline of the test, and all restrictions that will be imposed on the test. It shall also tell how long the test period would be. Any samples submitted shall be returned to the submitting party no later than the conclusion of the test period, unless otherwise specified.

2. It is the prerogative of the Kingdom Earl Marshal to allow limited testing of alternate or unapproved materials and weapons within a kingdom. Limited testing means the weapon or material may be used at fighter practice

tourneys and in small melees, but only after all combatants and marshals have been informed the weapon or material is being tested and that it is not approved for general SCA use.

3. All combatants and marshals must consent to the use of the weapon or material before combat begins. If any of the marshals or combatants objects to the use of the material or weapon, the material or weapon may not be used. All unapproved materials and weapons shall be marked with alternating bands of red and green tape totaling 6 inches in length. Bands shall be visible during weapon usage.

4. Once per quarter throughout the test period, the Earl Marshal will update the Society Marshal on the progress and results of the testing. At the end of the test period, the Earl Marshal will provide the Society Marshal with a test summary. This summary shall include a list of injuries that resulted from the use of the weapon or material and any concerns from fighters and marshals recorded during the testing. The Society Marshal, after consultation with the Earls Marshal, shall determine if the weapon or material is suitable for SCA combat-related activities.

XIX. CHAIN OF COMMAND AND PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING

A. Reporting

1. If you are a Junior or Senior Marshal:

a) A properly completed Marshal Promotion Form when you are initially Warranted

b) Reports on what you personally observed of any incident during or related to combat, which the Marshal in Charge was required to report on.

2. If you are the Marshal in Charge of an event:

a) You must be a warranted Senior Marshal.

b) A brief report on the event, including any incidents in which:

i. Someone was injured.

ii. A fighter or marshal had to be disciplined.

c) Event reports shall go to the Principality/Regional Knight Marshal and/or the Kingdom Earl Marshal. (It should not go to the Marshal of the Society!)

d) Any other reports that the Kingdom Earl Marshal requires. (If you do not know, write and ask what he or she will want before the event. It is a lot easier that way.)

e) It is relatively common for a Marshal in Charge to draft anyone he or she feels is competent to serve as *temporary* field marshals during

and event whether these individuals are warranted marshals or not. These field marshals should only be used to augment your marshal team, and not to wholly replace it. The advantage of being a warranted marshal is that you are an official of the Corporation, which gives you certain legal protection from suits (if any) arising from your actions as a marshal.

3. If you are the Knight Marshal of a Branch:

- a) A properly completed Change of Officer Form when you initially take office.
- b) Branch Marshal Quarterly Reports on the state of fighting in your branch. If there are subsidiary branches (e.g., cantons or ridings), this includes summarizing the reports that you get from them. This shall be done on or before the 1st of February, May, August, and November.
- c) Any other reports that the Kingdom Earl Marshal requires.
- d) Every effort should be made to become a Senior Marshal if that is not already the case as soon as possible.

4. If you are the Principality or Deputy Kingdom Earl Marshal or Knight Marshal:

- a. A properly completed Change of Officer Form when you initially take office.
- b. Branch Marshal Quarterly Reports on the state of fighting in your Principality/Region This includes summarizing the reports that you get from all branches under your purview. This shall be done on or before the 21st of February, May, August, and November.
- c. Any other reports that the Earl Marshal requires.

5. If you are the Earl Marshal:

- a. An agreement to serve as Earl Marshal.
- b. Quarterly reporting to the Society Marshal, the Seneschal and the Crown regarding the state of fighting in An Tir. - This shall be done on or before the 15th of March, June, September and December.
- c. If disciplinary action that extends beyond the bounds of a single event is being taken against a fighter in your Kingdom (e.g., authorizations suspended or revoked, Courts of Chivalry), a brief account of what was done, to whom, and why. (If more information is needed, for example because of an appeal of the action, the Society Marshal will let you know.)
- d. Both individual warrants and an online roster must be maintained. (Information on the roster system may be obtained from your

Kingdom Seneschal.) This task may be partially delegated to the Kingdom Minister of the Lists.

e. Answer correspondence from the Knights Marshals of your Kingdom.

~APPENDIX~

Special Note:

The following rules and conventions are presented as optional or historical. They are not to be enforced except on a scenario by scenario case, or are given as examples of rules that have been instated by the “Word of the Crown” for specific reigns or Crown Tourneys. They are provided in order to give a common understanding so that when they are discussed, everyone has the same frame of reference.

SP1- “CENTER”

This command by the marshals should be used VERY sparingly. It may be used if the fight is *slowly* moving towards the edge of the field, or during an obvious lull in the action. If the fighters are moving quickly towards the edge of the field then it is preferred that the marshal cry ‘HOLD!’. This is because if the marshal calls “CENTER!” but one fighter does not hear/respond and strikes a killing blow, the fight can be determined by the miscall of the marshal rather than the skill of the combatants. When in doubt, use “HOLD!”

SP2- Do not face a kneeling opponent into the sun.

SP3- Do not circle a kneeling opponent out of range. This is called corkscrewing.

SP4- Only use titles earned by fighting on the field or in challenges (i.e.; Sir, Knight, Lady, Knight, Master, Count, Duke, Sergeant and Squire).

SP5- After taking an opponent’s leg, it is polite to allow him time to settle and get ready. However, it is common for combat to continue without break from either side when a leg is taken.

SP6- When you take your opponents legs and he is forced to continue to fight from his knees, many fighters apply one of the knee/shoulder line conventions:

a) Keep directly in front of the opponent without crowding him too much. This means you should keep your feet planted in front of the line formed by his knees. Do not plant your feet between his knees. Do not straddle his legs.

b) You may take a single step beyond the knee line to either side around the opponent to attempt a single shot attack. If the blow fails the fighter must then return to in front of the knee line.

c) If your opponent is able to lean back from the fight far enough to prevent you from launching an attack without breaking the line of the knees, but is able to still

fight himself, then the line should be moved to the shoulders. Keep in mind that An Tir Book of Combat you should still not straddle your opponent's legs or step between his knees. If your opponent leans forward again, then the line is moved back to the knees.

d) Remember this convention is NOT widely followed outside An Tir. Be prepared if you travel to other Kingdoms that the Society 'norm' is to possibly crowd the person on their knees.

SP7- Do not intentionally strike at the arms of an opponent (arm hunting). The arm is a legal target and it may be struck during the normal course of combat.

a) Hitting an arm when that is the only target offered by your opponent (for instance standing at range against a kneeling opponent) or when the fighter is using poor form (holding the arm out in front of their shield or over their head) is considered a legitimate target opportunity.

b) Remember this convention is NOT widely followed outside An Tir. Be prepared if you travel to other Kingdoms that the Society 'norm' is to strike at the arm just like any other target (head, leg, body etc) even if the arm is tucked behind the shield.

SP8- Even Advantage Systems:

These are practiced by many fighters and are often considered a mark of chivalry. They are never required, and there is certainly no dishonor when a less skilled fighter facing a more skilled opponent chooses to forgo these systems. There are three basic variations:

a) Point system: If you take your opponent's leg or arm, that is one point. Try to stay no more than one point ahead. If you then take something else, i.e.: opponent's on knees with off arm, that is two points, so you give up a point by dropping your shield or to your knees.

b) Even fight: if you take your opponent's leg, you also go to your knees, or if opponent has to fight with off arm, you also fight with one arm, but your sword arm.

c) Bad Form: often if a fighter accidentally hits an arm or leg when aiming for the body or leg, the striking fighter will give up that limb to even the fight.

SP9- It is highly discouraged for a fighter with a long range weapon to take their opponent's leg, and then sit back out of range and safely thrust their opponent to death.

SP10- Shield Size:

Heaters have been measured from shoulder to shoulder, chin to crotch (out of armor). Round shields, both arm strapped and center grip, are measured from elbow to elbow point while holding fist to fist, up to a maximum diameter of 30" (76 cm). This is 706 square inches.

a) Rounds are measured at: $\text{radius} \times \text{radius} \times 3.1416$

b) Heaters are measured at: $\text{Height} \times \text{Width} \times .8$

c) Tower shields are measured at: $\text{Height} \times \text{Width}$

SP11- Saluting:

This is done at the beginning of every fight, usually three times; First to the Crown (or sponsoring noble), then to the one for whom you fight that day, and last to your opponent. Examples of two basic types of salutes: One is like a fencing salute where you raise the weapon vertically in front of your face, and then sweep it downwards and away to one side. The other is slapping one's shield with one's weapon. There are many other variations.

SP12- Language and Temper:

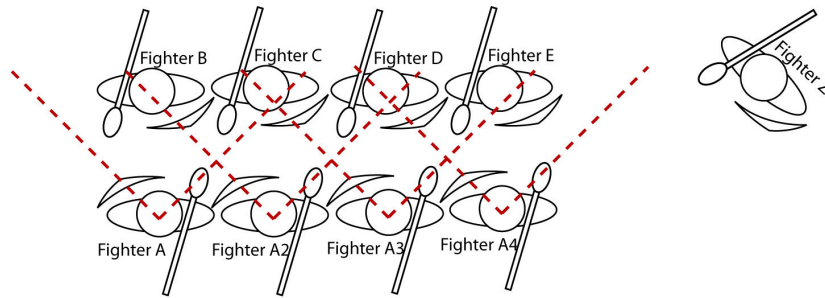
These are two things you should never lose control of on the field. If you feel yourself getting angry at your opponent, whatever the reason, you should get a grip on your temper or call "HOLD", and tell the marshals that you are becoming angry and why if you wish, and ask them to take action or postpone the fight until you have had a chance to cool down. One should also control one's tongue. Use of foul or abusive language on the field is grounds for marshal sanctions.

SP13- Favors:

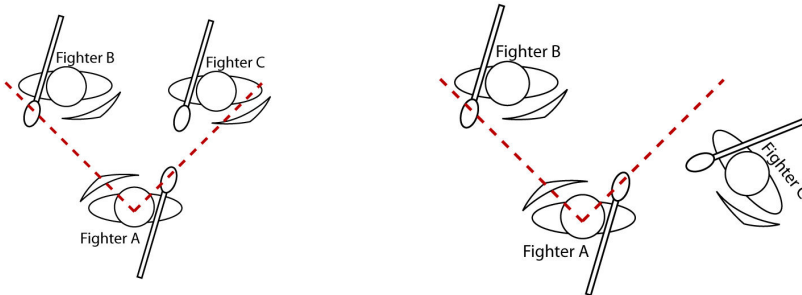
These are bestowed upon a fighter by the one for whom they fight, or by friends. One is a commitment to fight for a given person for a given event, or until you return their favor. If you wish to fight for some one else, you should talk to the one who first gave you a favor. Friendship favors are worn as a token of esteem, support, or some one just likes you. They may be bestowed on the spur of the moment or permanently.

SP14- Rules of engagement

Fighters must make eye contact or be in the front 90 degree arc of an opposing fighter in order to be engaged. All fighters in a line are considered engaged with all fighters in an opposing line. See below:

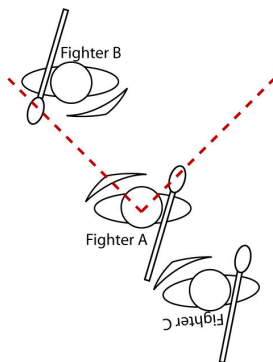


In this example, Every fighter is engaged with every other fighter. Because they are fighting in a line. Fighter B is engaged with Fighter A4 even though they can not hit each other, because they are all in an engagement line with one another. Fighter Z is NOT engaged in line battle and must engaged prior to hitting fighter A4 OR Fighter E.



In this example, fighter A is considered engaged with fighter B and C, because they are all within hitting range of each other AND fighter B and C are within Fighter A's 45 degree sight arc.

In this example, fighter A and fighter B are engaged. Fighter C is NOT engaged and must make eye contact with fighter A prior to engagement, because fighter C is outside the 45 degree sight arc of fighter A prior to getting within weapons range. IF fighter A turns his head to see fighter C coming in, then eye contact is made, even if fighter C is outside of weapons range.



Also, if fighter B and C were engaged with fighter A, THEN fighter C stepped outside the 45 degree sight arc, As long as fighter C maintains weapons range, HE IS STILL ENGAGED WITH fighter A, and does NOT have to re-engage to hit him. ONLY if fighter C moves outside of weapons range must he re-engage prior to hitting fighter A.

In this example Fighter C is NOT engaged with fighter A, but is going to "kill from behind". Fighter C can NOT hit fighter A from here, without prior eye contact. But he can foul up Fighter A without eye contact.

Foul up, meaning grab his weapon, give him a bearhug, place your sword in front of his eye slot and YELL DEAD FROM BEHIND! PLEASE check with your kingdom marshals to determine if your kingdom allows KFB and how they do it.

Illustrations done by Ld. Aiden O'Seaghda

SP15- Killing from Behind (KFB):

Killing from behind is an optional rule that some feel lowers the number of misunderstandings on the field. Others feel it is more honorable to only engage your

opponent from the front. This comes down to 'War' rules and 'Grand Melee Tournaments'. Allowing killing from behind definitely makes battles more realistic and possibly safer. Generally, the larger the battle, the more likely you will see KFB. Be prepared for KFB or non KFB.

There are two methods of killing from behind:

- a) With single handed weapons the attacker approaches the defender and lays their weapon over the eyeslots of the defender.
- b) with two handed weapons the attacker approaches the defender from outside the 90 degree engagement zone (see above) and lays their weapon on the defenders shoulder, extending into the vision range of the defender.

At this point the defender is dead, however the attacker must then loudly announce "You are Dead from behind m'lord!" before they can move on to the next engagement. The attacker must stay with each defender while this is said. You cannot just run down a backfield of a line saying "deadfrombehinddeadfrombehinddeadfrombehind..."

It is considered highly dishonorable to twirl out of the attackers grasp and strike them if you are the defender after the weapon has entered your field of vision. Remember the attacker is showing you a courtesy by using KFB. The reality of war would be that the first clue a defender would have he has been killed is the pain of being struck unawares.

SP16- Dead on the Ground

If an attacker comes upon a defender that is rendered prone or otherwise unable to defend himself, the attacker may lightly put his weapon on the defender and say loudly 'Dead on the Ground!'

Much like killing from behind, this optional rule is set up as a courtesy for fighters who are prone or otherwise incapacitated. If Dead on the Ground is not being used, prone fighters must be allowed to regain their footing before they can be engaged. This once again is less 'War' rules and more like 'Grand Melee Tournaments'.

SP17- An additional buffer zone of 10 yards INSIDE the Missile Combat Boundary is highly recommended when space is available. This zone should be a 'no targeting zone' and 'no Combat Archer zone' to further decrease the likelihood of missiles leaving the war field. This should be a soft boundary recognized by the Combat Archery community wherever possible on larger fields. This zone, if it exists, should not be exploited solely for the purpose of avoiding missile fire, but may be passed through in normal field activity.