

# Ealdormere Fencing Handbook

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## Introduction

The layout of this document mirrors that of the Society Fencing Marshal's Handbook (as published here: <https://www.sca.org/resources/document-library/#rapier-combat> may change to <https://www.sca.org/resources/document-library/#fencing>), and details the Ealdormerian implementation of those rules that have elements that are left up to individual kingdoms to decide, rules which Ealdormere has decided to augment or make more restrictive than the Society minimum, and those rules that Ealdormere has added. Note that the section numbering in this document is not contiguous. This is intentional, and matches the corresponding section in the Society Handbook for ease of reference.

Fencers in Ealdormere must also reference the Ealdormere Earl Marshal's Handbook found here: <http://www.ealdormere.ca/library.html> in regards to Marshalate procedures.

### Document Version control

Version	Date	Author	Description of Changes
7.0	May 5, 2020	Eyrny Ormarrsdottir	Full re-write of Society rules, which includes a page of changes from previous rules. Authorization procedures remain the same.
7.1	Oct 1, 2021	Edward the Red	Spear authorization

## 2. General Information

2.6 The minimum age for training and authorization in Fencing is 14. When combatants under the age of 18 undertake training *the parents or guardians of the minor must witness SCA fencing, discuss with a witnessing Marshal how it relates to the participation of their child, and execute a "Minor's Consent to Participate and Hold Harmless Agreement". The witnessing Marshal must countersign the waiver. When the combatant is ready to authorize, the Kingdom Fencing Marshal (or their designated representatives) shall ensure that the minor's parent or legal guardian has observed Fencing in the SCA, is aware of the risk of injury inherent in this martial art, and has signed a "Minor's Consent to Participate and Hold Harmless Agreement" with the authorization paperwork. Secondary authorizations may be done by any qualified marshal.*

2.6.1 *At any event (including practices and training sessions) which the minor is involved in SCA fencing, 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. These documents can be found at <https://www.sca.org/resources/document-library/>*

## 4. Categories of Fencing

Ealdormere will not authorize in Light Rapier except for Youth Fencing.

## 6. Description of Weapons and Defensive Objects

### 6.2 Metal Bladed Weapons

6.2.10.2. A cover of rubber, shatter-resistant polymer, or leather with a minimum size in any direction that strikes the opponent of 3/8" (10 mm) *and must contain a rigid metal barrier between the blade and the tip to prevent wear-through.*

### 6.3 Spears

6.3.1 Rubber-headed spears will be used in Ealdormere.

### 6.4 Projectile Weapons

Combat archery will not be included.

6.4.1 Projectile Weapons include throwing weapons, and/or mock-gunnery gear (such as rubber-band guns).

6.4.6, 6.4.7.1, and 6.4.7.2 are struck from Ealdormere rules.

### 6.5 Defensive Objects

6.5.1.2 *A mail glove is considered a standard Parry Device. While worn on the hand, it will be considered protection against cuts, but not against thrusts.*

## 7. Use of Weapons and Defensive Objects

7.2. *Ealdormere will use all types of blows: Thrust, Tip Cut, Push Cut, and Draw Cut*

7.4 Use of Spears:

By default, we will not allow the grabbing of your opponent's spear haft.

Haft grabbing may be allowed with agreement of the marshal and combatants.

## 8. Acknowledgement of Blows

8.3.2. A blow to the arm *or hand* renders the arm (including the hand on that side) incapacitated.

8.3.3. is struck from Ealdormere rules.

## Authorizations

- A. The following primary fencing authorization categories shall exist in Ealdormere. The combatant may choose either for their first authorization, but authorization in one does not grant authorization in the other:
  - i. Rapier (R - was HR) - Fighting with a single Rapier.
  - ii. Cut and Thrust (CT) - Fighting with a single Cut and Thrust weapon.
- B. The following secondary fencing authorization categories shall exist in Ealdormere. Once a combatant has authorized in a secondary form, they may use that form in conjunction with any primary authorization they have.
  - i. Parry Device (PD) - All parrying devices that comply with the guidelines set out in section 6 (e.g. buckler, baton, cloak, etc.)
  - ii. Two Weapon (TW) - Fighting with one weapon in each hand.
  - iii. Spear (S) – fighting with a spear
- C. An authorization will be run by at least two marshals and may take place at events or practices. The authorizing marshals must be authorized in the form being attempted. For all primary authorizations at least one and preferably both marshals will be unfamiliar with the candidate. For advanced authorizations, at least one of the marshals will be unfamiliar with the candidate.
  - i. An unfamiliar marshal is one the authorization candidate does not practice with, in the form being attempted, more than once every two months.
  - ii. As well, the unfamiliar marshal does not live in the same region or municipality as the authorization candidate.
- D. The following procedure shall be used for a primary authorization:
  - i. The candidate will be asked between 2 and 4 of the questions found in Appendix 1, with an answer similar to the ones in Appendix 1. These questions will take place off the field. Questions can be asked at the end of the procedure, at the marshal's discretion.
  - ii. The candidate will fence against an experienced and authorized fencer, who may be one of the marshals running the authorization. The experienced fencer will

provide many opportunities for the candidate to demonstrate their skills, they will not try to trick the candidate.

- iii. The two will fight as if in a typical bout, acknowledging blows received and responding by losing the use of appendages, as appropriate to the goals of the authorization. The marshals may direct the candidate to fence in a certain manner to facilitate demonstration of the required skills.
- iv. The candidate will demonstrate both thrusts and cuts with appropriate control. v. Non-valid blows which might have appeared good should be acknowledged verbally. vi. The candidate shall show good control, whether being energetically pressed, or on the attack. vii. The candidate shall demonstrate good calibration with both their primary and their off hand.
- viii. The candidate shall demonstrate good calibration against an opponent who is fighting from the ground.
- ix. The candidate shall demonstrate the ability to respond properly to a hold.
- x. The marshals and authorized fencer shall discuss the candidate's progress at several points during the authorization. If they agree that the candidate has shown sufficient skill and control to be able to participate safely in fencing tournaments, then the candidate shall be considered authorized.
- xi. The candidate shall submit the necessary paperwork to the appropriate people to receive an authorization card. At this point the candidate shall be allowed to participate in all fencing activities in Ealdormere, using only the weapon forms in which they are authorized.

E. An authorization in Parry Device, Two Weapon, or Spear shall follow the authorization procedure in D., with the following stipulations:

- i. Authorization in a secondary form grants the use of all devices allowable for the secondary form, regardless of the particular device used to authorize (e.g. authorizing in Two Weapon with a dagger allows the fencer to also fight with two rapiers, and authorizing in Parry Device with a buckler allows the fencer to also fight with a cloak or baton.)
- ii. It is necessary to show safety with only a single type of device during the authorization. It is incumbent on the fencer to become familiar with other devices covered by the authorization category before using them in outside of practice.
- iii. Questions are not part of the authorization procedure, as the understanding of the rules should be demonstrated.
- iv. The parry object a fencer brings to their authorization should be a rigid object, such as a buckler or baton, except under unusual circumstances, at the discretion of the authorizing marshal.
- v. No reporting of secondary authorizations is necessary, they shall be reported when the fencer renews their authorization card.

- vi. For spear authorizations, the candidate should demonstrate whatever style they normally fight. This might include 2-handed spear, 1-handed spear, possibly with a parry object or 2<sup>nd</sup> weapon. **It is acceptable to yield the bout if an arm is lost.**
- vii. Fencers must first be authorized with single weapon (R or C&T), unless excused by both the KRM and KEM for good and sufficient reason.

F. EXPIRY DATES: All authorization cards will be valid for a period not to exceed two years.

An authorization card without a date stamped on it is invalid. Cards can be renewed any time before their expiry date, or within 3 months of the expiry. If the card has expired by more than 3 months, the holder will have to re-authorize in the weapons form of their choice in order to regain all previously held authorizations. Reauthorizations do not require an unfamiliar marshal.

- vi. Before a new authorization card is issued, or an existing authorization card given a new expiry date, the Minister of the Lists will ensure that there is a valid waiver on file. If the fencer is a minor, there must be a valid minor waiver on file; when the minor becomes an adult, they must submit an adult waiver.

## Appendix 1 – Questions for Primary Authorization

Between 2 and 4 of these questions will be asked during a primary authorization. The purpose of the questions is to ensure understanding of the rules for fencing, on topics that are not easily demonstrated during combat. Questions can be re-phrased to help the candidate understand. Answer can be given verbally, by demonstration, or in any way acceptable to the marshal.

Question	Alternative Phrasing and Extra Prompts	Examples of Acceptable Answers
How does the armor you're wearing meet the requirements of the rules?	What protective equipment are you wearing? Describe the types of fencing armor and where they are necessary. Is your arm covered by the same type of protection all the way down?	A fencing mask with back of the head protection. A jacket/shirt/top that a broken sword can't easily penetrate. A cup/jock (for male genitalia). Long sleeved shirt and pants, with socks and gloves so no skin is showing. Using the specific words "penetration resistant" and "abrasion resistant" are not necessary.
What types of attacks can you use against your opponent? <i>Invite the candidate to demonstrate with their sword on a fully armored person.</i>	How can you kill or wound your opponent? What are 4 different ways of damaging your opponent? Demonstrate 4 ways of using your sword to take your opponent's arm.	Thrust, with appropriate calibration, draw cut, push cut, tip cut. There is no need to discuss length of cuts, so long as the information or demonstration provided would be acceptable in combat.
Where can you attack your opponent to end the fight? What happens when your attack lands somewhere else? <i>Invite the candidate to demonstrate by pointing at the marshal or themselves.</i>	What parts of the body result in death when struck? In wounds? What parts of the arms and legs are deadly?	A blow to the head, neck, torso, brachial and femoral arteries ends the fight, or kills the opponent. A blow to the under arms, or inner thigh will end the fight <i>along with demonstration of where this applies.</i> A blow to the rest of the arms or legs make that body part unusable.

		When a leg is damaged, they must sit or kneel, but they can still move around.
How does a marshal inspect your weapon to ensure it's safe to use?	What makes a sword unsafe to use?	The tip must be securely attached, with no cracks or metal showing through. The blade must be straight or gently curved, no kinks or cracks. The blade should not have sharp or jagged parts that could catch cloth.
Have you read the rules?	Have you read the Ealdormere and Society Fencing Handbooks?	Yes
Demonstrate death from behind	How do you kill someone from behind? What can't you do when someone kills you from behind?	Walk up and place the blade over their shoulder and say "You're dead M'Lord or M'Lady" Don't run at them. Don't strike them in the back. Person being killed can't turn and fight, as soon as the blade is on their shoulder, they're dead.
Demonstrate blade grasping	How do you do blade grasping?	Grab the blade but don't pull or push the person holding the blade. Grab the blade and move it, then quickly release it. If it twists or draws in the hand, the hand is gone and can't be used anymore.

## Appendix 2 – Forms

## Ealdormere Fencing Marshal in Training Form

Be it known to all that

\_\_\_\_\_ (legal name)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (full address)

Known in the Society for Creative Anachronism as

\_\_\_\_\_

Is hereby appointed as a Marshal in Training for a period of two years, or until fully warranted, removed, or resigned.

This appointment takes effect on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

And supersedes any existing or previous warrant for this office.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kingdom Fencing Marshal

SCA Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date (required for warranting ) \_\_\_\_\_

	Event	Supervising Marshal	Date
1			
2			
3			
4			

### Recommending for Advancement

Marshal's SCA Name	Signature	Date

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Baronial Marshal (if applicable)

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Kingdom Fencing Marshal

**Remember to report on the same schedule as Fencing Marshals of the Field**



<b>Authorization Info Form / Waiver</b>			Card Expiry		
SCA Name:					
SCA Group:					
First Name:			Last Name:		
Address:					
Telephone:			Email:		
1 <sup>st</sup> Auth. Date:			(for Minors) Birth Date		
1 <sup>st</sup> Marshal:(print)			2 <sup>nd</sup> Marshal(print)		
(sign)			(sign)		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>R</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>PD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>TW</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SP</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>MINOR</b>

**Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.  
CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE AND RELEASE LIABILITY**

I, the undersigned, do hereby state that I wish to participate in activities sponsored by the international organization known as the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., a California not -for-profit corporation (hereafter "SCA").

The SCA has rules which govern and may restrict the activities in which I can participate. These rules include, but are not limited to: Corpora, the Bylaws, the various kingdom laws and the Rules for combat related activities.

The SCA makes no representations or claims as to the condition or safety of the land, structures or surroundings, whether or not owned, leased, operated or maintained by the SCA.

I understand that all activities are VOLUNTARY and that I do not have to participate unless I choose to do so. I understand that these activities are potentially dangerous or harmful to my person or property, and that by participating voluntarily accept and assume the risk of injury to myself or damage to my property.

I understand that the SCA does NOT provide any insurance coverage for my person or my property. I acknowledge that I am responsible for my safety and my own health care needs, and for the protection of my property. In exchange for allowing me to participate in these SCA activities and events, I agree to release from liability, agree to indemnify, and hold harmless the SCA, and any SCA agent, officer or SCA employee acting within the scope of their duties, for any injury to my person or damage to my property.

This Release shall be binding upon myself, successors in interest, and/or any person(s) suing on my behalf.

I have read the statements in this document. I agree with its terms and have voluntarily signed it. I understand that this document is complete unto itself and that any oral promises or representations made to me concerning this document and/or its terms are not binding upon the SCA, its officers, agents and/or employees.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT. I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THIS RELEASE AND I UNDERSTAND ALL ITS TERMS. I EXECUTE IT VOLUNTARILY AND WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ITS MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE.

Legal Name (print)

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Legal Name (sign)

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Date

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