

The Companions of the Crow

Rules of Engagement

1. At all Companions' activities, the Safety Officer or his/her delegate must be obeyed at all times.
2. The Training Officer, regardless of the newcomer's experience, must instruct newcomers and beginners.
3. Combatants must show competence in the use of a particular type of weapon to the Safety Officer before using it in any combat unless with an experienced Combatant at a practice and training session.
4. Grudges must not be taken into combat and any such grudges must be reported to the Training Officer or Safety Officer. Members cannot participate in combat if angry or upset for any reason.
5. Whilst in combat, all blows must be pulled and controlled. Blows to the head are prohibited unless by the agreement of both combatants who must be wearing head protection deemed suitable by the Safety Officer. Thrusting may be allowed between two combatants when they have both agreed upon it, and when they have both been suitably trained and passed by the Safety Officer. Whilst in combat, all pole weapons and spears must be held at a low angle so the point is no higher than the adversary's chest.
6. The Safety Officer must check weapons for rough edges and suitability before they are used in combat. No sharp weapons must be taken into combat. A sharp knife may be brought onto the field to be used by medical personnel in a medical emergency and one should be kept in a first aid kit, along with a set of tin snips .
7. All events involving combat attended by the Companions must be properly organised and marshalled to the satisfaction of the Safety Officer.
8. Combatants must not fight if under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
9. A first aider must assess any wounds, accidental or otherwise, and if the combatant is asked to stop fighting or to go and receive hospital treatment, he/she must do so. A first aider must see any combatant who has received a blow to the head before the combatant can continue in any combat.
10. The Safety Officer must approve any scripted routines.
11. No weapons must be deliberately thrown unless scripted.
12. Head protection and gloves must be worn by those engaged in combat. All head and hand protection is to be checked by the Safety Officer with a 'toffee hammer' test.
13. Suitable body protection must also be worn by those in combat unless this has been discussed and agreed with the Safety Officer and either the Field Commander or Training Officer, as appropriate.
14. Non-combatants on the field must wear approved head protection unless this has been discussed and agreed with the Safety Officer and Field Commander.
15. Equipment must be of a standard to comply with the rules and guidelines given by the organisers of any event at which the Companions are guests.
16. Participants must not wear clothes or equipment which are visibly modern (eg. denim, patterned t-shirts, zips etc.) or obviously fake (eg. string chainmail). Footwear must be of a reasonable nature, and must be covered by gaiters if necessary.

17. It is the duty, which cannot be delegated, of members at Companions' events to keep their own weapons, or weapons for which they are responsible, under their personal control at all times and to ensure that such weapons are never left unsupervised. No member of the public or Companion under the age of fourteen years shall be permitted to touch any weapon, under any circumstances, without the expressed permission and under the direct supervision of the weapon's owner and/or an officer of the Companions.
18. All arrows should be loosed at a 45' angle unless scripted, or as part of an archery competition. All arrows will be aimed away from public areas. All arrows for use in combat are to be blunt. All arrows to be checked before being loosed.
19. For public events, all participants must dress and act appropriately and unparliamentary language may not be used. All participants must also be aware of the public's desire to interact by asking questions and taking photographs.
20. All refuse that is the responsibility of the Companions shall be disposed of properly in both public display and communal camping areas.
21. Junior members are the responsibility of a parent or guardian who must ensure that all rules are adhered to.
22. Members' guests are subject to all rules of the Companions. For the duration of the event, they are the responsibility of that member who must ensure that all rules are adhered to.
23. Only those ranked as knight or above may bear coats of arms or any other device of distinguishing type.
24. Contravention of any Rules shall go to disciplinary hearing with the Committee.
25. All grievances must be taken to the Committee and any decisions made by the Committee must be adhered to.
26. The field commander must ensure that everyone is back at camp to hear the report from the commanders' meeting. No-one should be forced into the role, and if someone was interested it may be possible for them to shadow the field commander during a show
27. The Archery Commander, or a suitably qualified member designated by the Archery Commander, should attend the Commander's Meeting with the Field Commander. Unless there is a separate Archery Commander's Meeting, in which case the Archery Commander should attend the Archery Commander's Meeting. The Archery Commander should ensure that all archers are aware of all rules pertaining to the use of archery at that event. In addition, the archery commander should ensure that all non-archers taking the field are also aware of all relevant information.
28. No amendment to the Rules of Engagement shall be made except by the passing of a resolution by a General Meeting with at least two thirds of the votes cast being in favour. The text of any proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be specified in or with the notice convening the meeting at which the amendment is to be considered, but the Chairman of that meeting shall be at liberty to accept at the meeting modifications which are consistent with the general intent of the original purpose.