

Ealdormere Youth Fencing

Approved on May 30, 2020

Purpose of Ealdormere Youth Fencing program

The primary purpose of Ealdormere's Youth Fencing program is for youth to have fun and enjoy being part of the SCA. We can achieve this by providing a safe environment in which to learn and compete in fencing. As we rarely have a lot of youth in one place, more time may be spent in learning and games than in competing, both at practices and at events.

Use of this Document

This document must be used in conjunction with

- the Society Youth Martial Handbook found here: <https://www.sca.org/resources/document-library/#youth-combat>, which dictates the responsibilities of parents, and youth specific rules.
- the Society Fencing Marshal's Handbook found here: <https://www.sca.org/resources/document-library/#rapier-combat> which dictates additional armour and weapons criteria.
- the Ealdormere Fencing Handbook found here: <http://www.ealdormere.ca/library.html> which provides the authorization structure, and clarity on kingdom specific restrictions on top of the Society rules.
- and the Ealdormere Earl Marshal's Handbook found here: <http://www.ealdormere.ca/library.html> which provides the marshal structure and base reporting requirements.

This document will outline the sections of those documents relevant to youth fencing in Ealdormere, with additional clarity, emphasis, and direction where Youth rules differ from the adult program, or where Ealdormere is more restrictive than Society. (While this can be confusing initially, it ensures that as the Society or Kingdom rules change, Youth rules will immediately encompass those changes.)

Overview

All four documents noted above have important points, 2 are called out here

1. HAVE FUN
2. Rules are designed to promote safe fencing in the Society. However, no matter how clear or accurate, rules cannot replace common sense, good judgment, and concern for the participants. If a question arises when applying these standards, choose the answer that promotes the greatest degree of safety for all participants.

Parental Involvement

The Society Youth Martial Handbook contains this section. Worth repeating:

1. Parents are to understand this is a contact sport and that, despite the best attempts of these policies and rules, as in everyday play between children, injuries may occur.
2. Parents should make sure they have read and understand the impact of all waivers and "consent to participate" forms prior to signing those forms.
3. Parents are encouraged to stay involved in training, through encouragement or participation in marshalling.
4. Parents always have the right and responsibility to withdraw their child if they are concerned for their safety.

Youth Fencing Participation

Both training and combat require the supervision of a Youth Fencing Marshal and at least one adult unrelated to the marshal. Training can, and is encouraged to, happen at events, as many youths are unable to get to evening practice times. A parent shall have witnessed the relevant SCA Youth Martial Activity, or be present at the first training session, before their child may participate.

Age Divisions

Division 1:

- Recommended ages 6 to 9
- Primarily using light rapier (epees and foils), but plastic foils are also allowed.
- May move to Division 2 at the recommendation of a marshal and agreement of a parent.

Division 2

- Recommended ages 10 to 13.
- Primarily using rapier, may use light rapier if more suited to size and strength, or most available.

Youths may authorize and fight in regular fencing in Ealdormere at age 14, with informed parental consent.

These age divisions are guidelines, while learning, youth should be paired with attention to:

1. Weapons being used
2. Experience in fencing
3. Maturity and self-control
4. Size of body and reach of arms

For training purposes, youth may be paired with adult fighters found suitable by the Youth Fencing Marshal.

While parents are encouraged to participate and cheer on the youth, they are not required to stay at the list field. Children under 10 years of age must have a parent, or an adult named on the medical authorization form, within sight or sound of their training. Youth Fencing is not a babysitting service, and anyone (including adults) not following the instructions of the marshal, or causing a disturbance with other participants, will be removed from the day's activities. Repeated problems will cause authorizations to be revoked, and rejection from further training.

Conventions of Combat

Most clearly called out in the Society Fencing Handbook

Youth Fencing Weapons and Armour Requirements

The Society Youth Martial Handbook allows for plastic foils, typically used by the youngest fencers, light rapier, and rapier. All 3 types of weapons may be used by Youth Fencers in Ealdormere, as this allows for the widest range of learning opportunities, taking advantage of available equipment, and preparation for interkingdom events (where youth may be restricted to one type of weapon depending on their age). Each type of weapon can only be used against others of the same class.

As defined in the Society Youth Martial handbook, Youth Fencing starts at age 6, and in Ealdormere ends at 14, when authorization in regular fencing begins. Most 6 to 10 year olds will use a foil, with the smallest using a #0 or #2 foil (designating those 30" and 32" long). By age 10, look for a rapier (as described in the Society Fencing Handbook), with care taken for light weight and good balance (the cheapest options may not be the

best options). Please consult an experienced fencer for help in finding the best option for each youth's size and strength.

Armour requirements for plastic foils are found in the Society Youth Martial handbook. Armour requirements for light rapier and rapier will be taken from the Society Fencing Handbook. Note that Ealdormere requires an extra metal piece inside the rubber tip of a rapier blade. Daggers are recognized as a less than ideal training weapon, but at times the only weapon light enough for young fencers, their use will follow the armour requirements for rapier. Note that armour is required when a youth might be hit by a weapon, but training exercises that preclude that possibility do not require armour.

Youth Fencing Marshals

Parents are encouraged to be marshals. Youth are encouraged to become marshals in training or act as line marshals when others are fighting.

The Earl Marshals Handbook defines the structure of the marshallate in Ealdormere, these are the additional details specific to Youth Fencing.

1. The following Marshalling definitions apply to Youth Fencing:
 1. **Youth Fencing Deputy** – A Youth Fencing Marshal warranted by the Earl Marshal to supervise and monitor Youth Fencing in the Kingdom; must also be a warranted Fencing Marshal.
 2. **Youth Fencing Marshal of the Field**– In addition to the Marshal of the Field requirements in the Earl Marshal's handbook, these must:
 - a. have a current SCA Youth Background Check
 - b. meet the training requirements as listed below,
 3. **Line marshals** – anyone may volunteer as a second set of eyes to assist youth fencing marshals during training, tournaments or melees, as requested by the marshal.
2. Before being warranted, Youth Fencing Marshals in Training must:
 1. Demonstrate an understanding and knowledge of the Society Youth Martial Handbook, Society Fencing Marshals' Handbook, Ealdormere Fencing Handbook, Youth Fencing Handbook.
 2. Demonstrate an ability to work with youth at a variety of ages, train them, and judge their readiness to authorize.
 3. Have trained for at least 3 events with a warranted Youth Fencing Marshal.
3. Once warranted, a Youth Fencing Marshal may:
 1. Inspect youth fencing armour and weapons.
 2. Train youth fencers.
 3. Help run authorisations of youth fencers
 4. Run or marshal Youth Fencing tournaments.
 5. Serve as Marshal in Charge for Youth Fencing tournaments.
 6. Sign Marshal in Training papers
4. All Marshals in Charge will:
 1. Ensure all individuals in charge of the event are aware of the activity, and that proper space has been arranged for in advance.
 2. Ensure that the space provided is adequate, clearly marked and safe prior to beginning the activity.
 3. Ensure that this document and the three documents it references are available at the list table. (The pages of the Society Youth Martial handbook specific to armoured combat can be omitted.)
 4. Ensure that a sufficient number of Marshals are available and that the 2-Deep rule is followed. The Seneschal's Handbook defines the 2-Deep rule.

5. Ensure all participants provide the correct paperwork, and ensure any combat waivers collected are sent to the Minister of the Lists. Provide blank copies of waivers, medical authorization forms to be signed by parents, and blank authorization forms.
6. Instruct all participants of the activities and rules for the day.
7. Provide a complete Authorisation Summary report to the Deputy of Youth Fencing within 10 days of the tourney, preferably via e-mail.
8. Welcome adult fighters to participate in any way that provides a good example of learning, or safely enhances the fun for the youth.

Reporting

The **Youth Fencing Deputy** will report quarterly to the Kingdom Earl Marshal and the Society Deputy for Youth Combat, and provide a list of Youth Fencing Marshals to be warranted at each Coronation.

A **Youth Fencing Marshal** will report in four ways:

- 1) Annually to confirm their continued interest in being a Youth Fencing Marshal providing:
 - a. Name, address, phone, and email
 - b. SCA membership number and expiry date
 - c. SCA Background check expiry date
 - d. Details of any weekly or irregular practices that youth are participating in, noting ages and weapons used, and any concerns
- 2) After each event they were Marshal in Charge at, providing
 - a. Name, date, and hosting group of the event
 - b. Types of activities engaged in, and who organized or taught them
 - c. List of successful authorizations
 - d. Recap of youth participants, with ages (at least approximate) and types of weapons used
 - e. Note of any concerns, issues, or things that could be improved
- 3) Any incident involving serious injury to a youth fighter shall be reported to the Youth Fencing Marshal, Earl Marshal, Society Marshal of Fence, and the Society Deputy for Youth Combat. See "Injury Procedures" in the Society Youth Martial Handbook and Ealdormere Earl Marshal's Handbook
- 4) Incidents of inappropriate behavior by a youth combatant or participating adult, which is serious enough to require disciplinary action beyond the bounds of a single event, shall be reported to the Youth Fencing Marshal, Earl Marshal, Society Marshal of Fence, and the Society Deputy for Youth Combat.

Adult Training of Youth at Official SCA Activities

Youth Fencing Marshals will decide which people (youth or adult) are sufficiently skilled in the art, and capable of teaching youth, and engage them in training. Parents are encouraged to point out people they believe would be good teachers, and raise concerns about any person who offers training. Parents always retain the right to train their own child, or to remove their child from any activity.

Youth Fencing Authorizations

Authorizations will follow the structure of Ealdormere Fencing authorizations with the following changes

- 1) The following primary authorizations shall exist for Youth Fencing
 - a. Plastic foils
 - b. Light rapier
 - c. Rapier

- 2) The candidates' parent will not be one of the authorizing marshals, nor the fighter for the authorization.

Stealth authorizations (in which the candidate is unaware they are being tested) are acceptable, but must still cover all parts of the authorization procedure, in whatever order is suitable.

If the youth has passed the authorisation bout, the Youth Fencing Marshal will complete the proper paperwork, and provide the designated adult with a copy to be sent to the Minister of the Lists. The proper paperwork shall consist of the "Youth Combat Authorization Information / Waiver" form – which includes both the youth's contact information, signed by the authorizing marshal, and a copy of the "Minor's Waiver and Informed Consent to Participate in SCA Combat-Related Activities" which must be signed by a parent or guardian.

The Minister of the List, upon receiving the completed paperwork, will issue an authorisation card. The authorisation card will be valid until the youth's 14th birthday. The authorisation card will be honoured for 3 months past the expiration date.

Document Version control

Version	Date	Author	Description of Changes
0.0	Oct 29, 2017	Eyrny Ormarrsdottir	Initial draft based on Youth Combat Rules proposed in 2014 by Edward the Red
0.1	Nov 17, 2017	Eyrny Ormarrsdottir	Updates based on input by Edward the Red
0.2	Dec 11, 2017	Eyrny Ormarrsdottir	Updates based on input from Wilhelm von Potruff and Rattanicus.
0.3	Feb 7, 2018	Eyrny Ormarrsdottir	Age groups added
1.0	April 2, 2018	Eyrny Ormarrsdottir	Rules approved
1.1	April 26, 2020	Eyrny Ormarrsdottir	Changed Rapier to Fencing and other minor alignments with new Fencing Handbooks.
1.2	April 26, 2020	Eyrny Ormarrsdottir	Minor edits for emphasis, submitted for approval.

Appendix - Forms

Youth Fencing Authorization Information / Waiver

Weapon Type	Plastic Foil	Light Rapier	Rapier
SCA Name:			
SCA Group:			
First Name:		Last Name:	
Address:			
Telephone:		Email:	
1 st Authorization Date:		Birth Date:	
1 st Marshal:		2 nd Marshal	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parry Device	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two Weapon

KEEP THIS TOP PART It is your proof of authorization until your authorization card arrives. This form expires 3 months from the date above.

To receive your authorization card: **Mail a copy of the Minor Combat Authorization Waiver and this bottom part with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Ealdormere Minister of the Lists.** Their address can be found in The Tidings or on the Ealdormere web site
 CUT ALONG THE LINE BELOW.

Weapon Type	Plastic Foil	Light Rapier	Rapier
SCA Name:			
SCA Group:			
First Name:		Last Name:	
Address:			
Telephone:		Email:	
1 st Authorization Date:		Birth Date:	
1 st Marshal:		2 nd Marshal	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parry Device	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two Weapon

Minor Combat Waiver

_____ (hereafter referred to as "the minor")

(Print legal name)

does hereby state that the minor wishes 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 the minor can participate. These rules include, but are not limited to: Corpora, the By-laws, 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. The minor's parent(s) or guardian(s) understand that all activities are VOLUNTARY and that the minor does not have to participate. It is understood that these activities are potentially dangerous or harmful to the minor's person or property, and that by participating, the minor's parent(s) or guardian(s) voluntarily accepts and assumes the risk of injury to the minor or damage to the minor's property.

It is understood that the SCA does NOT provide any insurance coverage for the minor's person or property; and

minor's parent(s) or guardian(s) acknowledge that they are responsible for the minor's safety and the minor's own health care needs, and for the protection of the minor's property. In exchange for allowing the minor to participate in these SCA activities and events, the minor by and through the undersigned, agrees to release from liability, agrees 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 the minor's person or damage to the minor's property. This Release shall be binding upon the minor, the parent(s) or guardian(s), any successors in interest, and/or any person(s) suing on the minor's behalf.

The minor's parent(s) or guardian(s) understand that this document is complete unto itself and that any oral promises

or representations made to them concerning this document and/or its terms are not binding upon the SCA, its officers, agents and/or employees.

PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN MUST SIGN BELOW:

I, the undersigned, state that I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor whose name appears above. I understand that the above terms and conditions apply to said minor and to myself. I further understand that said minor cannot participate under ANY circumstances in armored martial arts, any combat-related activities, combat-archery, or fencing without parental consent where such participation is allowed by kingdom law. The minor will not be able to participate in any SCA activities without entering into this agreement. This document is binding on myself, the said minor and any person suing on behalf of said minor.

Minor's Name (PRINT): _____

Birthdate of minor: _____ Home Province of minor: _____

Parent/ Guardian Legal Name (PRINT): _____

Parent / Guardian Sign: _____ Date: _____

The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

Medical Authorization For Minors

(required for all minors participating without their parent or guardian present)

I, _____, the parent or legal guardian of

_____, a minor, do hereby authorize any one or more of

_____, _____, _____ as agents for myself in my absence or incapacitation to consent to any x-ray examination and anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment and medical care which is deemed advisable by and is to be rendered under the general or special supervision of any physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of the Medical Practice Act on the medical staff of any hospital whether or not such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the office of said physician or at said hospital.

It is understood that this authorization is given in advance of any specific diagnosis, treatment or hospital care being required but is given to provide authority and power on the part of the aforesaid agents to give specific consent to any and all such diagnosis, treatment or hospital care which aforementioned physician in the exercise of his or her best judgement may deem advisable.

I hereby authorize any hospital which has provided treatment to the above-named minor to surrender physical custody of such minor to the above-named agents upon the completion of treatment.

The authorizations shall remain effective until _____, 20__, unless sooner revoked in writing delivered to said agents;

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please note any specific health plan or insurance information such as membership or policy numbers on the back of this form.

Copies of this form, duly executed, should be in the possession of the named minor; at least one adult named in the document and present at the event; and the parent or guardian executing the Medical Authorization. The SCA requires minor participants (i.e. those having to have waivers) whose parents or legal guardians are not present at the event to have a valid Medical Authorization form and to be accompanied at any event to be accompanied by one or more of the persons named on the form. The SCA recommends use of the Medical Authorization for all minor attendees whose parent or legal guardians are present.

Ealdormere Youth Fencing Marshal In Training Appointment

Be it known to all by these presents that the following is hereby appointed as a Youth Fencing Marshal in Training – until fully warranted or removed.

Legal Name: _____

SCA Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

The duties of a Youth Fencing Marshal in Training are identical to those of any fully warranted Marshal except that they may **not**:

- authorise minors to participate in SCA Combat.
 - act as Marshal in Charge of youth fencing activities at an official event other than a local fighting practice.
- MITs shall become fully warranted upon fulfilment of all requirements of the office as defined by the Youth Fencing Deputy, by authority of the Earl Marshal, under the Marshal of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., including the requirements described below.

This appointment takes effect on the ____ day of _____, _____ and supersedes any existing or previous Appointment or Warrant for this Office.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

MARSHALLING LOG

General Field Marshalling (Two events are required for Marshal \ Three for Constable)

EVENT	SUPERVISING MARSHAL	DATE

Marshals Recommending Advancement

Marshal's SCA Name	Legal Signature	Date