

Wars of the Roses Federation

General Health and Safety Rules

It shall be the responsibility of each participant to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of themselves, fellow participants and the general public throughout the event.

Participants' attention is drawn to the following areas:

WEAPONRY:

Weapons for use in mock combat or for display during the event must be in good condition and fit for purpose. Individual participants are responsible for the condition of their own mock combat and demonstration weapons.

Weapons for use in mock combat shall conform to the following dimensions :

- Swords and daggers shall have a minimum radius at the point of 9mm (5p piece)
- Pole arms shall have a minimum radius at the point of 10mm (1 p piece)
- No weapons shall be less than 2mm thick at the tip

No person using powder/artillery pieces may do so without the agreement of the Federation Master Gunner.

. It is the responsibility of the participants using powder/explosives or artillery pieces to ensure that they hold a valid licence for the use of these substances and/or equipment.

Under no circumstances shall any unauthorised persons touch any re-enactment equipment, weapon or gun.

The equipment must be positioned so as to minimise any risk to the participants or the public.

The person responsible for the equipment will ensure that any other person using the equipment is fully instructed in its correct use, and that they are aware of the safety procedure for that piece of equipment.

No edged or pointed weapons shall be used in the re enactment.

No flail weapons shall be used in the re enactment unless with the express permission of the hosting group or by a member of the committee.

Pole arms:

The least amount of force must be used when bodily contact takes place.

The target area is between the top of the shoulder to the knee excepting a V shape from each shoulder to the bottom of the sternum- regardless of armour.

The shaft of the weapon must be held firmly in both hands while a blow is being delivered. Do not slide the haft of the weapon through the leading hand (sliding thrust) or remove the leading hand from the shaft (single handed thrust).

The hooking of limbs, clothing and armour is forbidden as it can easily pull people onto other equipment.

Conduct:

All blows shall be applied with the minimum amount of force with the safety of the adversary foremost.

No weapons will be thrown unless pre-arranged with the hosting group or committee.

Archery (hand and cross bows):

It is the responsibility of all participating archers and crossbowmen to ensure that only blunt arrows and bolts are used.

All arrows and bolts will be inspected before a battle by the hosting group.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SHARPS TO HAVE RUBBER BLUNTS PUSHED ONTO THEIR TIPS IN AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE THEM SAFE. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN.

Each archer and crossbowman shall examine for safety each projectile before they loose it. Arrows and bolts will be loosed only at the command of captains of archery.

The opposing captains will endeavor to swap volleys.

No arrow bolt shall be loosed below an angle of 45 degrees to the horizontal unless by prior arrangement and under the direction of the archery captains.

The position of the archers/crossbowmen in relation to the target area shall be such that projectiles do not fall outside the target area. Should the angle of flight become critical to the safety of any participant or member of the public then the archers/crossbowmen taking part in that particular loose must alter the direction or angle of flight such that there is not longer a hazard to either participants or to members of the public.

Personal Protection:

All participants who take part in armed mock combat are advised to wear adequate protective clothing to ensure their safety. Each participant is responsible for their own safety when participating in armed mock combat. Each participant should wear gloves and a helmet as a minimum and adequate body protection. ¹ Adequate body

¹ Resolution 8.5 AGM 8 November 2003 – Minimum of helmet, gloves and adequate body protection should be worn, Group Captains to decide on adequate body protection.

protection is up to the Captains and individuals of each group to decide for themselves. Complaints over “hard blows”, would be dismissed out of hand if the committee judge that the protection being worn by the complainant is not fit for the purpose

Protective clothing should be worn, sufficient to minimise the effect of deflections or accidental blows. Particular care must be taken to minimise the risk of injury from missile weapons.

On no account must any participant engage in combat with a person wearing a white/purple sash or cause such a person to be engaged in combat. Under no circumstances shall a person wearing a white/purple sash engage anyone else in combat.

All participants must ensure that they comply fully with all verbal or written instructions given by the event organisers or unit commanders.

Under no circumstances must non combatants sit between the ropes as it not safe and encourages the public to do so. A "safe" area will be designated as necessary by the hosting group.

Unscheduled Demonstrations:

The event organisers accept no liability for any unscheduled demonstrations or practices that are carried out by any participant(s) whilst at the event. Unscheduled demonstrations must not take place.

Competence:

It is the responsibility of each person taking part in the event to make sure that they are well practised, safe, and competent in the use of all the equipment they will be using during the event.

The household captain has overall responsibility for all the people fighting under his command and must be prepared to act if there is a complaint against one of their household, or against a household that they have been mentoring or monitoring

Fire Procedures:

Participants must ensure that they do not do anything which may create the possibility of the outbreak of fire. In the event of a fire the steps below must be taken.

- i Raise the alarm.
- ii Clear the immediate area. —
- iii Arrange for the fire brigade to be called.
- iv If appropriate tackle the fire. If not await the arrival of the Fire Brigade.

Fitness for Participation:

Individuals must not participate in the event whilst under the influence of alcohol or any other substances that will affect their safe judgment. '

Persons with relevant medical conditions shall notify the organisers prior to taking part.

First Aid:

A first aid box will be kept and its location will be given in the warning orders. Every member of the Federation at the event must be informed of its location. If first aid is required by a participant, they should be assisted to a position between the boundary ropes and treated there. If it is felt that the participant should not be moved for what ever reason then the unit commander must be notified immediately.

Incident Log:

All accidents or injuries shall be reported to the hosting group or to a member of the committee and be logged in the accident book. The incident must be investigated and be recorded.

Children and Young Persons under 18 years of age:

Parents/Guardians of Children and Young Persons under the age of 18 years must be fully aware of the type of re enactment carried out by the Federation and fully accept the risks, safety procedures and subsequent implications of allowing their children to take part in the re enactment. Parents/Guardians should be encouraged to attend at least one practice and one re enactment to ensure awareness. Written consent must then be obtained from the parent so that the child may participate in the re enactment.

Children and Young Persons under 16 years of age must be accompanied by their Parents/Guardian, or by an adult designated by the Parents/Guardian in writing, who will accept full responsibility for their safety, care and behaviour for the duration of the whole event. This will include supervision throughout the day/night including sleeping arrangements where necessary.

Lack of supervision will not be tolerated.

Age Restrictions:

Children under the age of 13 years will not be allowed on the area designated for battle or take part in battle re enactment once the combat has commenced. Those under 13 shall be taken to the designated safe area.

Children and young persons of 13, 14, and 15 years of age will not take part in hand to hand combat and will be designated non combatants. They can however-take part as archers, gunners assistants, banner bearers, drummers and water carriers provided that

they are .:

- I Not on or near the main battle lines.
- ii Not on the losing side unless having a safe route off the field.
- iii Safely to the rear of combat.
- iv Under the direct supervision of an adult.
- v clearly identified and are made known to other re enactors.
- vi Wearing a purple/white sash.
- vii Carry no side arms

Practice Area

It was agreed that consideration to provide a practice arena should be provided at Federation Events. ²

Please note that the Federation Committee and any appointed Safety Officers will have the authority to make any final decisions on the enforcement of all matters covered by this document.

The safety officers will be made known to the participants prior to the beginning of any re-enactment battle.

² Resolution 5.4 AGM 24 November 2001 – Consideration of provision of a practice arena at Fed Events should be looked at