

# Kingdom of Artemisia

## Historical Combat Reproduction Standards Book in and for the Kingdom of Artemisia



**Historical Combat Reproduction  
Standards Book in and for the Kingdom of Artemisia**

This Standards book has been issued by the Office of the Minister of Arts and Sciences after review and approval by the Crown of Artemisia as well as the Office of the Earl Marshal in and for the Kingdom of Artemisia.

<b>ISSUE DATE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PARTIES</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
_____	Ld. Marten Claessen van Ruysevelt	ORIGINAL

**READ AND APPROVED**

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**MINISTER OF ARTS AND  
SCIENCES ARTEMISIA**

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**EARL MARSHAL ARTEMISIA**

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The Society for Creative Anachronism provides, in its Mission Statement:

The Society for Creative Anachronism provides a structure for enthusiasts of the Middle Ages and Renaissance to explore various aspects of the period in Europe to 1600 AD. As accurately as possible, the SCA's members strive to adopt the lifestyle, culture, technology, clothing and accoutrements common to those living during the time under study. The SCA encourages members to learn by doing, to research period arts, sciences and activities, to share their knowledge with others, and to behave in a chivalrous manner in all their interactions.

The goals of Historical Combat Study and Education in the Kingdom of Artemisia are summarized by the following Articles:

**ARTICLE 1**  
**OBJECTIVE OF HISTORIAL COMBAT STUDIES**

Through study and training in the historical martial arts, members seek to build their character, enhance their sense of judgment, and become disciplined individuals capable of making contributions to the further Glory of Artemisia and to promote the mission of the SCA.

**ARTICLE 2**  
**TRAINING**

When studying and training in the historical martial arts, practitioners must always act with respect and courtesy, adhere to the prescribed fundamentals of the art, and resist the temptation to pursue mere technical skill rather than strive towards the unity of mind, body, and technique.

**ARTICLE 3**  
**TEACHING**

Teachers of the historical martial arts should always encourage others to also strive to better themselves, while continuing to further their understanding of the technical principles of the historical art being pursued. Teachers should not allow focus to be put on winning or losing in competition, or on technical ability alone.

Above all, teachers have a responsibility to set an example as role models.

**ARTICLE 4**  
**PROMOTION OF HISTORICAL COMBAT RESEARCH**

Persons promoting the historical martial art must maintain an open-minded and international perspective as they uphold traditional values. They should make efforts to contribute to research and teaching, and do their utmost to advance the study of historical martial arts in a way consistent with the principles of the SCA.

## ARTEMISIA HISTORICAL COMBAT STANDARDS HANDBOOK

This handbook is an annotated version of the APPROVED RULES FOR THE STUDY AND EDUCATION OF HISTORICAL COMBAT TECHNIQUES WITHIN THE SCA and constitutes the Rule set for such activity within the Kingdom of Artemisia. As such it is, consistent with both Corpora and Kingdom law and custom, more restrictive than the Society Rule set for the same activity.

The purpose of these rules, as annotated, are to both outline and clarify those instances where the Artemisian Rules for the Study and Education of Historical Combat Techniques differ from the Society minimum.

In all cases, refer first to SCA Corporate Rules entitled **APPROVED RULES FOR THE STUDY AND EDUCATION OF HISTORICAL COMBAT TECHNIQUES WITHIN THE SCA**, dated January 15, 2006, which are included herein in full and incorporated by reference and then to the specifics of this handbook for clarification of Artemisia requirements for the Study and Education of Historical Combat Techniques within the Kingdom of Artemisia.

In all cases, annotations reflecting the Rules of the Kingdom of Artemisia are denoted in *italic type*.

# APPROVED RULES FOR THE STUDY AND EDUCATION OF HISTORICAL COMBAT TECHNIQUES

## SCA RULES FOR THE STUDY AND EDUCATION OF HISTORICAL COMBAT TECHNIQUES (SCA RULES)

### I.

#### **Historical Combat Studies**

The study of the historical combat arts under the Office of Arts and Sciences is meant to allow for the teaching and demonstration of historical martial arts that may otherwise be prohibited by or beyond the scope of the set of rules as set forth by the Office of the Marshallate. This is in no way to be construed as an impediment or replacement to the use (current or future) of historical combat techniques in the combat forms allowed by the Marshallate, so long as said techniques do not violate standing rules at the time in which they are implemented. All 'competitive' sport combat is under the direct control of the Office of the Marshallate.

## THE SUBSIDIARY RULES OF ARTEMISIA (ARTEMISIA RULES)

### I.

#### ***Historical Combat Studies***

*The study of historical combat arts under the Office of the Minister of Arts and Sciences in the Kingdom of Artemisia is not intended to replace the traditional combative activities of the SCA. To that end all participants in the Study and Education of Historical Combat Techniques within the Kingdom must fulfill the following criteria for participation in this activity:*

- The participant shall be a paid member of the SCA.*
- The participant shall be a member of the SCA who resides within the Kingdom of Artemisia.*
- The participant shall be authorized in at least one of the recognized combative activities of the SCA, i.e., heavy fighting, rapier, archery and/or equestrian.*

## SCA RULES

### II.

#### **Regulation of Activity**

The 'Non-Competitive' study and demonstration of historical martial arts, systems, and principles shall be regulated by the Ministry of Arts and Sciences.

### II. A

#### **Society Deputy**

The Society Minister of Arts and Sciences intends to appoint a knowledgeable deputy to coordinate and oversee this activity.

## ARTEMISIA RULES

### II.

#### ***Regulation of Activity***

*The Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences will be ultimately responsible for the study and demonstration of any historical martial systems, arts and the principles thereof. The Earl Marshal of Artemisia or his/her appropriate deputy may review all techniques to insure the safety of the participants as well as any spectators if a demonstration is held.*

## SCA RULES

### II. b

#### Kingdom Deputy

The Kingdoms of the SCA may choose to appoint a knowledgeable deputy to coordinate and oversee the activity on the kingdom level. This deputy will serve under the Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences, and will report to this Minister as if they were a senior officer (Baronial) and should be warranted where appointed.

## ARTEMISIA RULES

### II. b

#### Kingdom Deputy

*Said deputy shall be a paid member of the SCA, a member of the Kingdom or Artemisia and shall be continuously authorized for either heavy or rapier combat within the Kingdom of Artemisia during the term of his/her office.*

*The deputy for historical combat research shall be called the **Deputy Minister for Martial Studies**.*

*The Deputy Minister for Martial Studies shall:*

- Designate authorized assistants, who shall have been previously vetted and approved by their local A&S officer, within the geographic subdivisions of the Kingdom to assist him/her in the execution of his duties.*
- Each such assistant shall form a Guild within their specific geographic area and report both to their local A&S officer as well as the Deputy Minister for Martial Studies.*
- Require reports from said assistants on a quarterly basis of historical combat research. Said reports will be in a uniform format designed by the Deputy Minister for Martial Studies.*



## III.

**Theatrical Performances:**

All theatrical performances involving stage combat will choreograph, rehearse and perform such stage combats in a manner consistent with the safety guidelines set forth by such professional organizations as the American, Canadian and British societies of fight directors, as is appropriate for the locale in question. These include, but are not limited to, plays and performances - the primary purpose of which is for the entertainment of an audience. No free combat play will take place within any theatrical performance conducted as a part of the activities of the SCA, Inc.

## III.

***Theatrical Performances***

*Theatrical performances refers only to the production of in-period pieces which include stage combat. V.i.z., fight scenes in Shakespearean plays.*

*To determine which techniques may be performed in theatrical productions see specifically section 2.03 Rules of the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD),.*

*The Deputy Minister for Martial Activities and his representatives shall be familiar with said Rules. However, please note that the SAFD guidelines, are just that, guidelines, and if activities are proposed which are deemed unsafe then Rule IV.a and its subdivisions shall govern the demonstration.*

SCA RULES

IV.

**Historical Combat Studies**

**An Overview**

Historical Combat Studies (non-theatrical) that fall under the purview of the Ministry of Arts and Sciences must be supported by (at a minimum) research and documentation appropriate to the activity in question, consistent with that expected for any other A&S entry as appropriate to the kingdom in which the activity will occur. Any combat study or demonstration that falls outside this guideline does not fall under the purview of the Ministry of Arts and Sciences and will default to the Marshalate in the Kingdom in which the activity occurs.

ARTEMISIA RULES

IV.

***Historical Combat Studies***

***An Overview***

*Any historical combat study and/or demonstration shall be subject to the Kingdom Ministry of Arts and Sciences judging criteria which are more fully set forth and may be found at:*  
*<http://www.moas.artemisia.sca.org/handbook/artHB04Comp3R.pdf>*  
*As may be amended from time to time.*

## SCA RULES

### IV.a

In presenting, demonstrating, and teaching the historical combat arts neither the teachers, students, or any other participants shall engage in free-assault, sparring, or any form of competitive use of the arts or practice weapons.

### IV.a.i.

In the demonstration of movements and techniques, whether as an A&S demonstration/presentation or as part of a historical combat class, teachers and their assistants may employ only such drills, plays, and exercise patterns as are indicative of the art being demonstrated or taught, at only such speed that is prudent, safe and necessary for the drill, play or exercise to be properly and safely employed as determined by the instructor, primary presenter, and/or the representative of the Kingdom Ministry for Arts and Sciences.

## ARTEMISIA RULES

### IV.a

*This aspect of this activity cannot be emphasized enough. All techniques should be pre-arranged forms (e.g., kata) in which both of the participants know in advance which technique will be used and the counter thereof. No demonstration of pre-arranged forms shall use more than four techniques before the demonstrators have to break contact and reset.*

### IV.a.i.

*If at any time the Deputy Minister for Martial Studies and or their his local representative for same feels that the activity, demonstration, or presentation is employing weapons, drills or exercise patterns that are, in his/her opinion, imprudent or unsafe, said representative has plenary power to halt the activity, demonstration or presentation immediately.*

## SCA RULES

### IV.a.ii.

In historical combat classes, teachers may allow students to work with one another in drills, plays, and exercises, conducted in accordance with safety practices followed by the art being taught, [but] at only such speed as is prudent, safe and necessary for the drill, play or exercise to be properly and safely employed, as determined by the instructor and/or the Ministry for Arts and Sciences. The class participants will at all times act and respond in a manner deemed safe and controlled by the class instructor and/or the Minister for Arts and Sciences or their appointed deputy or immediately forfeit their right to participate in said class.

### IV.b.

All presentations and demonstrations must consist only of plays, drills, or techniques predefined and agreed upon by all participants before the action in question occurs. Participants will at all time act and respond in a manner deemed safe and controlled by each other and the Ministry for Arts and Sciences.

## ARTEMISIA RULES

### IV.a.ii

*If at any time the Deputy Minister for Martial Studies and or his local representative for same feels that the activity, demonstration, or presentation is employing weapons, drills or exercise patterns that are, in his/her opinion, imprudent or unsafe, said representative has plenary power to halt the activity, demonstration or presentation immediately. Failure to follow such instructions will be reported to the appropriate office of the Minister of Arts and Sciences and/or the Earl Marshal for the imposition of such sanctions as are deemed warranted and consistent with the SCA organic law, and/or Kingdom law and custom.*

### IV.b.

*If at any time the Deputy Minister for Martial Studies and/or his local representative for same feels that the activity, demonstration, or presentation is employing weapons, drills or exercise patterns that are, in his/her opinion, imprudent or unsafe, said representative has plenary power to halt the activity, demonstration or presentation immediately. Failure to follow such instructions will be reported to the appropriate office of the Minister of Arts and Sciences and/or the Earl Marshal for the imposition of such sanctions as are deemed warranted and consistent with the SCA organic law, and/or Kingdom law and custom.*

## SCA RULES

### IV.c.

When the participants of a class, presentation, or demonstration enact a drill, play, or technique with practice weapons or simulators at a distance close enough to strike one another, eye protection is suggested and encouraged. Such protection might consist of polycarbonate sports goggles, a 12kg 3-weapons mask, or their equivalent in protective quality. Exceptions to this might include classes where the mask or protective equipment would hinder the instructor's ability to demonstrate a particular technique or theory. Participants in a class, presentation, or demonstration should wear such other safety equipment as they deem appropriate. Use of any protective clothing and/or equipment may be required at any time at the discretion of the class instructor, the primary presenter/ demonstrator or by Kingdom Law or Policy.

### IV.d.

For performances and demonstrations, a delineated area will be required. The office of Arts and Sciences suggests a minimum 10-foot distance between the performers and the judges and audience. Instructors/demonstrators and participants should consider the nature of the demonstration or performance and maintain an appropriate distance between the combat activity and any observers.

## ARTEMISIA RULES

### IV.c

*Use of such safety equipment is strongly suggested but not mandatory in practice in which there is limited risk of eye injury. Clothing or Garb appropriate to the time and culture of the martial activity will be required for participation in demonstrations conducted under the auspices of these Rules*

## SCA RULES

### IV.e.

At this time, no more than two participants may interact at a time in any play, simulation, or drill used for historical combat training while studying or demonstrating the historical combat arts. This does not preclude group warm-ups, physical exercise training, or multiple pairs of participants working through a play, simulation, or drill at the same time.

### IV.f.

Under the circumstances laid out above, acceptable simulators/practice weapons include, but are not limited to, rebated steel, aluminum, wood, and rattan. (For appropriate weapon terminology, see the Appendix)

## ARTEMISIA RULES

### IV.f.

*No rebated weapon that is not on the approved SCA and Kingdom list shall be used in practices, simulations, drills or demonstrations in which there is blade to blade contact. SCA safety rules currently in effect on installing blunts on such weapons will be strictly enforced as well. No practices, simulations, drills or demonstrations with sharp weapons, (e.g. but not limited to un-rebated swords, shinken, etc) with the exception of tameshigiri or mat cutting will be allowed. All weapons will be approved by both the representatives of the Earl Marshal's office as well as that of the Minister of Arts and Sciences.*

V.

**Final Note:**

**Where Study becomes Combat:**

Where the study of Historical Combat in a Kingdom leads to the use of a competitive weapons form, there may be cross-over between the office of the A&S and the Marshallate, in terms of jurisdiction. It is not the intention of the Society A&S office to ever include any competitive combat art in its purview. Therefore, while study, practice and demonstration of historical techniques may fall under this office, any sparring and/or competition in the form may only be allowed where the Marshallate of the Kingdom agrees and provides rules for such.

## APPENDIX

### DEFINITION OF OFFICIAL TERMS

*(Approved by SCA Board of Directors, 1/15/06)*

To assist in alleviating confusion and promote effective communication within a group as large as the SCA, it is necessary to define terms that might otherwise be misunderstood or which might hold different meanings for different people and regions. Therefore, and to that end, the following terms are defined as they will be officially used and understood by the office of the Society Minister of Arts and Science. Please use these terms accordingly in all official communications. As you can see by these definitions, referring to use of 'live steel' at an event instead of 'blunted blade' or 'bated blade' might well set off alarm bells in an official report.

**Bated blade** (aka *rebated blade*) – A blade designed and expressly meant for training or tournament use. These are designed to simulate as closely as possible the weight, balance, and action of a "sharp" while still maintaining a blunted edge. Because of this, rebated blades often look don't resemble the swords they are made to simulate. These blades are designed specifically for practice and to minimize the possibility of injury.

**Blunt or blunted blade** – A blunt blade or sword is merely one that doesn't have a sharpened edge. It can, however, be sharpened and become "live steel". The edge on these blades, while blunt, is usually, but not always, thinner than that on a rebated blade. These can be meant for practice, or they can be blades that simply haven't been sharpened.

**Live blade** (aka *live steel* or '*sharps*') – A blade that is sharpened and expressly prepared for the purpose of cutting and/or thrusting and which would have deadly effect if used against a person.

**Practice blade** – A blade meant for practice and free assaulting. Both blunt blades and bated blades can fall into this category.



**Simulator** – A weapon simulator (in the SCA Combat context) is any item created to represent a weapon for use in tournament, practice, demonstration, education or battle scenarios. This includes, but is not limited to, blunted weapons, rebated weapons, wooden weapons (“wasters”), plastic weapons, and rattan weapons.

**Waster** – A wooden practice sword. According to the Oxford English Dictionary: waster (*wayster, wafter, wasiler*) = A wooden sword or a foil used in sword-exercise and fencing.