

Supplemental Policies for Martial Activities During Covid Pandemic

Version 1.4

Purpose

These policies are designed to help marshals and participants in martial activities return to play as the Kingdom resumes activities. The policies seek to address areas of potential uncertainty regarding safety and processes. No written rule can cover every situation, however, and marshals and participants should remember to exercise good sense and an abundance of care for their fellows. When in doubt, err on the side of caution and seek to obey the spirit of the rules as well as the letter of them.

Priority

In case of conflict, Kingdom Covid policies supersede these policies for martial activities. All existing Kingdom and Society policies related to martial activities remain in force. Some relaxing of the social distancing requirement is, of course, necessary to facilitate fighting and inspection of equipment. Kingdom Covid policies are located at:

<http://atlantia.sca.org/offices/seneschal/reopening-atlantia>

Document Conventions

- “Will,” “Shall,” “Must” indicate requirements. “Should,” “Recommend” and similar words indicate guidance that is encouraged, but not a requirement.
- “Activity” is any official SCA event or practice
- MOL: Minister of List
- MOLiC: Minister of List in Charge (in case of more than one MOL)
- MIC: Marshal in Charge

Clarifications and Supplemental Policies Specific to Martial Activities

Masks

- Kingdom policy is clear: “Masks are required for all in-person attendance. Masks are required to be worn at all times, indoors and outside, and during all physical activities.” Fighters who wish to supplement masks with face shields or other PPE may do so, provided they are worn beneath helmets or masks (if applicable) and are made of shatterproof materials that meet existing criteria for eye wear worn beneath masks or helmets.
- Participants are expected to behave with honor and chivalry at all times and therefore may not attempt to exploit the mask rule by wearing permeable masks or not wearing a mask that covers the face appropriately. This is especially important with the elevated breathing that accompanies physical activity. Kingdom reopening policy states regarding masks: “All individuals must wear face masks correctly, covering the mouth and nose at all times. Face masks must be worn attached to the individual, not to equipment or clothing. “ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have very clear guidance on proper masks, and if there is any question about the suitability of a mask or how it is

worn, marshals will consult the CDC's site for guidance. See:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>.

- Fighters may need to remove masks briefly to hydrate, mop sweat, and recover their breath. Marshals and autocrats should anticipate this need and establish an area sufficiently distant from other activities that fighters may remove masks briefly. Fighters may not loiter in these areas beyond what is strictly necessary. Again, adherence to the spirit of these policies should be your guide.
- Participants are required to bring their own masks and should NOT count on the kindness of the local group to supply them. They are encouraged to bring multiple masks so that they can replace ones that become saturated or fail structurally. Local groups may invest in a supply of disposable masks to provide to participants if they so choose.
- Marshals should remember that masks may have an effect on a person's ability to dissipate heat in high temperature and humidity. It is expected that marshals will take this into account when designing and supervising activities, potentially providing increased opportunities for rest breaks.
- If a mask slips or fails in a manner such that a participant's nose and mouth are no longer covered, marshals shall call a hold and allow the fighter to reposition the mask at a safe distance from other participants. If the participant cannot return to the field with an appropriate face covering, that participant must leave the activity site, per Kingdom policy requiring masks of all activity participants.

Inspections

- Marshals shall ask all participants being inspected if they have completed the health screening questionnaire and other Covid paperwork at activity check-in that day. Participants who have not completed the paperwork will not be inspected or participate in the activity until they have done so.
- Marshals will conduct all equipment inspections as prescribed in Society and Kingdom policy and law. To avoid cross-contamination, marshals will employ the following additional procedures:
 - Wear disposable gloves for the inspection of each fighter. Immediately following the end of an inspection, the marshal will remove and discard the gloves and put on a new pair for the next inspection. Marshals and local groups can determine the best way to fund the purchase of these gloves. Make sure there is a sufficient quantity on hand to provide for all inspections, plus extras.
 - Punch test kits that are used to check rapier protective clothing will be cleaned with alcohol wipes between inspections. DO NOT use wipes containing bleach or peroxide as they may damage or discolor the fabric of a fighter's kit.
 - An alcohol wipe or paper towel in a gloved hand should be used to check a blade, thrown weapon, or shield for burrs. If the wipe snags on a burr, the fighter will need to file down the problem area and submit it for reinspection.

Minister of the List Protocols

MoLs often interact with a large number of people at an activity. The lead MoL for the activity and the Marshal-in-Charge of the activity should work with the autocrat (if applicable) to create a safe space in which the MoLs can work effectively. Activity staff have flexibility in determining an appropriate solution so long as the minimums below are met.

- All fighters must bring a legible card, paper or electronic, that can be held out to but not passed to the MoL.
- All field staff must be signed in by an MoL to limit contact with pens and other items.
- MoL staff only in the MoL tent.
- MoLs should endeavor to maintain social distancing. This includes a limit of two MoLs per 6' table. In a large activity with multiple fighting fields, multiple small MoL tents are recommended to maintain this.
- A rope in front of all MoL tables at least 3 feet from the table to prevent the front row of fighters from leaning over the MoL table.
- Online event check-in is recommended and MoLIC's will set up online check-in for all events (similar to WoW).
- The MoLIC is responsible for providing hand sanitizer for the MoLs if it is not included in the event budget.
- Prior to the activity MoLs should create a plan for sanitizing supplies such as clipboards, pens, and paperweights. They may be bundled in a tablecloth to be clean off-site or cleaned at the activity, at the MoL's discretion.
- Authorizations will require the fighter and marshal in charge of the authorization to report to the table. Marshal will give name as well as that of second marshal for MoL to record on the VoA with no signatures required. The fighter will dictate all personal information or present current ID at a safe distance for MoL to copy onto VoA with no signature required. MoLs shall write COVID-19 on the signature line until the Kingdom declares an end to special precautions.

Loaner Gear

- Loaner gear in all activities must be cleaned thoroughly between uses and must be assigned to a single participant for a given activity. The local group supporting an activity must identify the people responsible for sanitizing equipment between activities. Fabrics must be washed with soap and all non-fabric surfaces cleaned with alcohol or bleach wipes. Equipment that is proximate to a participant's face, such as a fencing mask or armored helmet, require special care and attention in disinfection. If a piece of equipment cannot be effectively sanitized, as might be the case for a helmet with glued-in foam pads covered with fabric, that equipment will not be used in a loaner pool.

Youth Combat

- Parents or guardians are required to remain at the list field when the children under their care are fighting. Parents or guardians are expected to assist their children with equipment adjustment as needed.

Water and Food

- When planning to attend an activity, all participants and staff are reminded that Kingdom reopening policy prohibits the sharing of food, drinks, and utensils among participants and staff.
- Participants may bring their own reusable water bottles so long as they are not shared with others.

Disputes

- Disagreements regarding the suitability of a particular mask or other disagreements that may arise from these additional policies may be appealed and addressed following the same processes as are in place for other questions that arise during martial activities. Refusal to wear a mask that meets the criteria stated above is to be considered a “severe” safety hazard per section 3.2 of the Policies of the Kingdom Early Marshal. Repeated failures to observe other Kingdom reopening policies also are to be considered a “severe” safety hazard.

Revision History

Version	Date	Author	Notes
1.0	9/24/20	David Rossell	Initial draft sent to deputies
1.1	10/11/20	David Rossell	Revised per commentary from deputies, transmitted to Kingdom Seneschal and Crown
1.2	10/18/20	David Rossell	Revised per commentary from Kingdom Seneschal and Crown. First release as policy.
1.4	2/25/21	David Rossell	Minor revisions to reflect changes in document name and alignment with Kingdom policies.