

Supplemental Policies for Martial Activities During Covid Pandemic Version 1.5

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. \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

Society-Required Health Notice

The SCA health notice (see below) must be printed and prominently displayed at the entrance to all SCA activities (events, meetings, A&S and martial practices). This language will be required to appear on all event notices, flyers, online announcements, and advertisements, including Troll [Registration], as well as being posted in multiple locations at any and all SCA-sponsored functions going forward.

SCA Health Notice

Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws to try to ensure the health and safety of our event participants, we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases during in-person events. By participating in the in-person events of the SCA, you acknowledge and accept the potential risks. You agree to take any additional steps to protect your own health and safety and those under your control as you believe to be necessary.

Guidance for Marshals at Practices and Other Activities Without an Entry Gate

Have a copy of the required notice printed on a piece of paper and ask all participants to read it as they arrive at the practice site.

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.

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.
- Local groups may provide sealed, non-reusable water bottles if desired.
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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.
1.5	5/29/21	David Rossell	Significant revisions removing contact transmission precautions and aligning with revised Kingdom policy.

1.5.1	5/31/21	David Rossell	Revised to include SCA requirement for health risks acknowledgement.
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