

COMBAT AUTHORIZATION PROCEDURES FOR HEAVY FIGHTERS

This authorization procedure requires a minimum of two people to be present; a warranted Senior Marshal, and an experienced authorized fighter. Ideally, these should not be the people who have trained the fighter being tested. The Earl Marshal, or his designated representative, should conduct the authorizations involving minors.

Prior to authorizing the candidate, the authorizing marshal will properly complete a Waiver for SCA Combat-Related activities if the fighter is NOT a member. If the candidate IS a member with a "blue card" indicating a waiver on file - they do not need to sign a waiver. The waiver must be signed and stored with the Earl Marshal.

1. The persons conducting the authorization must verify that the candidate is familiar with the Rules of the Lists and the conventions of combat in tournament and war for the West Kingdom
2. The candidate must present himself/herself on the field in armor for inspection. The armor must be inspected on the body and must pass the current armor requirements for combat. This inspection must be complete and exacting and any deficiencies must be permanently corrected before the person may authorize.
3. Both the experienced authorized fighter and the candidate shall be armed with sword and shield or legal weapon of choice.
4. For the first few minutes of the bout for authorization, the prospective fighter and his experienced opponent shall fight at $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ speed and verbally acknowledge all blows landed. During this phase of the authorization the marshal and witnessing fighter should get an impression of the new fighter's style, technique, ability to call blows, and the ability to defend himself/herself. If this portion of the authorization is not satisfactorily completed the authorization procedure shall be stopped. The candidate shall be told of the problems observed and instructed as to how to correct the problems.
5. If the first portion of the bout has progressed satisfactorily, then the combatants will be told to fight a list type of combat, taking leg blows, arm blows and deaths as they would in tournament. During this phase the Marshal and the witnessing fighter should observe the new fighter's control, reaction to blows, and ability to cope with pressure. At some point a "hold" should be called to judge the reaction of the new fighter.
6. The Marshal, and the authorized fighter shall confer to decide if the new fighter exhibits adequate performance in the minimum criteria for authorization listed below:
 - a. Does the authorizing fighter know and apply the Rules of the Lists and the Conventions of Combat?
 - b. Does the authorizing fighter exhibit safe behavior on the field, both for him/herself and for others?
 - c. How does the authorizing fighter react to pressure? Does he/she fight back, or does he/she become disoriented and confused?
 - d. Can the authorizing fighter defend him/herself?
 - e. Is the authorizing fighter able to feel and judge blows, both those received and those thrown?

7. If the Marshal and experienced fighter agree that the fighter meets these requirements for authorization, the Marshal will notify the fighter that he/she is authorized. The fighter and marshal will properly complete the appropriate paperwork .

***mundane name -- sca name -- address -- phone number -- e-mail -- type of authorization -- any previous authorizations in other forms (fencing, equestrian etc) -- marshalling capability if any -- who authorizing marshal is -- if the fighter is a member or not -- if not, was a waiver signed.

The Combat waiver will need to be mailed or given to the Earl Marshal as soon as possible. The Authorizing Marshal will send the properly completed information to the kingdom official responsible for issuing authorization cards. (e-mail to fighterdata@yahoo.com or fill out the online form on the Earl Marshal's webpage) Upon receipt of these properly completed forms, an authorization card will be issued.

***A Temporary card may be issued and signed by the authorizing marshal if necessary. The Permanent Gold Card should be received within one month. If the card is not received the fighter should contact the authorization official and forward any information or paperwork required.