

# **Meridian Combat Archery Marshal and Combatant's Handbook**

## **Issued February 23, 2009**

### Section 1: Changes to the Society Rules

Meridies adopts the Society rules as found in the Marshal's Handbook published by the Society Earl Marshal revision date November 2, 2008 with the following modifications:

a) Modification to III. Conventions of Combat, C. Target Area

Add paragraph 9. No combat archer shall intentionally shoot someone in the back. A target that turns after the arrow is loosed is considered struck assuming the shot otherwise is considered a proper blow. No combat archer shall shoot at the spectators or marshals.

b) Modification to III. Conventions of Combat, C. Target Area

Add paragraph 10. The sides, top and back of the helm are considered proof against arrows (and all thrusting weapons).

c) Clarification of III. Conventions of Combat, D. Combat Archery Conventions

Clarification of paragraph 2: The fighter must be authorized in the weapons form for the back-up weapon.

d) Clarification of III. Conventions of Combat, D. Combat Archery Conventions

Clarification of paragraphs 6 and 7: Shafted ammunition must be inspected by a combat archery marshal prior to re-use. Tubular ammunition, tennis balls and thrown weapons may be inspected by the fighter prior to re-use during a battle subject to any other rules for the event or scenario.

e) Clarification to VII. Weapons Standards, F. Combat archery Bows/Crossbows, 4. (non-period sights, rests, etc.):

This is not meant to exclude the small plastic or leather non-mechanical rests used by many archers. Commercially these are sometimes incorrectly called spring rests.

- f) Modification to VII. Weapons Standards, F. Combat archery Bows/Crossbows, 8. Crossbows:

Add subparagraph f. No light crossbow may have a pull higher than 75 lbs. and add subparagraph g. No heavy crossbow may have a pull higher than 90 lbs.

- g) Modification to VII. Weapons Standards, G. Combat Archery Ammunition, 7. Heavy Ammunition, d. Fellwalker bolts

Add sub-sub paragraph vii. Fellwalkers are permitted only if shot from light crossbows (600 in/lbs or less).

Note that any additional modifications to armor requirements as found in the Meridies Marshal's Handbook will apply to combat archers as well.

## Section 2: Marshals

- a) The Kingdom Deputy Earl Marshal of Combat Archery (DEM of CA) - The DEM of CA ranks as a Deputy Earl Marshal and may act as a fully warranted marshal for SCA heavy weapons combat activities unless he or she is not a warranted heavy weapons fighter in Meridies or warrant is otherwise restricted. The DEM of CA must be warranted as a combat archer and a Combat Archery Marshal before assuming the office.

The DEM of CA is responsible for supervising the safe conduct of activities related to combat archery as delegated to him or her by the Earl Marshal and for promoting compliance with the Arms and Armor requirements, Rules of the Lists, and Conventions of Combat. He or she will report to the Meridian Earl Marshal and the Society Deputy Earl Marshal of Combat Archery on a quarterly basis concerning the training, selecting, authorizing, and supervising of archery; creating and revising the rules for archery marshals (including the creation and maintenance of a manual); and such other duties as the Earl Marshal shall direct him or her to perform. The DEM of CA will nominate in writing a successor to his or her office and assist this successor in transitioning into the office.

- b) Combat Archery Marshals (CAM) – Combat Archery Marshals are warranted by recommendation from a CAM and with the approval of the DEM for CA to authorize archers within the Kingdom of Meridies. As with all marshals, they must be acceptable to the Earl Marshal and the Crown of Meridies. Their duties include performing authorizations, the reporting of archery authorizations to the DEM of CA, the promotion of safety on the fighting field through the training of archers, supervision of combat archery at events and the instruction of the marshaling of combat archery. A CAM cannot authorize heavy weapons or rapier fighters unless otherwise warranted to do so.

A CAM must learn through example: by assisting CAMs at events during weapons inspections, assisting in an authorization of a combat archer, acting as a field marshal for events with combat archery under the supervision of a CAM, and by displaying knowledge and safety in their own equipment and acts on the field. CAMs are required to own a bow-gauge or pull scale and keep the same regularly calibrated. CAMs are also strongly encouraged to own and bring to each event the following: safety glasses, measuring tape and calculator. The CAM may also wish to assemble a kit including strapping and electrical tape, an APD gauge (you can make this easily out of ½ inch craft wood), glue, closed cell foam and scissors.

- c) Groups may have but are not required to have a combat archery marshal. This should be a CAM. Each group combat archery marshal should report quarterly to the DEM of CA on the same schedule as group knight marshals a form is available as Appendix A.
- d) All CAMs shall report to the DEM of CA any authorizations performed during the quarter. CAMs must also provide to the DEM of CA at least one report every two years including their updated contact information or will be dropped off the roster of warranted marshals and must apply to have their status reinstated.

### Section 3: Authorizations

- a) Authorization in heavy weapons is not required, a fighter may authorize in combat archery alone. Note a special authorization procedure is required for rapier combat archery.
- b) The candidate must complete a Waiver as is required for all combatants in the SCA. Note that the group waiver signed at Troll does not count toward this requirement. A valid blue membership card is proof of waiver.
- c) The CAM will ensure that the candidate is familiar with the Rules Of The List and the rules specifically governing combat archery.
- d) The CAM will do an armor, weapon and projectile inspection.
- e) As with Heavy Combat, the candidate for authorization must own all of his or her own equipment and it must pass inspection.
- f) The candidate must demonstrate competency in handling his or her equipment in a combat situation. Find an armored heavy weapons fighter, have the fighter approach and the CAM is to review the following as the fighter gets closer and faster towards the archer:
  - i. Is the candidate reasonably safe to himself or herself and others?
  - ii. Does the candidate choose the correct targets on the oncoming fighter?
  - iii. Is the candidate aware how to properly die defensively, yield safely or otherwise remove themselves from the field?
  - iv. Does the candidate recognize a good blow to the head?

- g) Have the prospective archer perform an inspection of his or her equipment. This is vital as the prospective archer is required to be familiar with their equipment whether or not they built it themselves.
- h) If the CAM is satisfied that the candidate is reasonably safe and is aware of the rules, he or she will inform the candidate that they have passed and are now authorized. The CAM will then complete an Authorization Form. The new archer will then send copies of the Authorization Form, and his or her membership card (or pay the applicable fee if not a member) to the Kingdom Authorization Marshal. The new archer should keep copies for his or her self as proof of authorization until the authorization card arrives.

#### Section 4: Marshaling and Inspection of Equipment

- a) Each event with combat archery is required to have a CAM present and in charge of inspections and combat archery safety. The CAM in charge shall be primarily responsible for equipment inspection but may employ other CAMs and those in training to be CAMs to assist in inspections. The CAM in charge should remind the Marshal-in-Charge of any potential safety issues for combat archery such as the field conditions and location of spectators/cars, etc. including any notices that may need to be made to combat archers or spectators prior to the start of combat. While the CAM in charge is not responsible for providing safety glasses for marshals, the CAM in charge should gently remind all marshals to wear safety glasses, preferably those rated for blunt impact such as handball/racquetball glasses. The CAM in charge must report by the end of the next quarter to the DEM for CA regarding the event and noting any issues. A form is available for the same as Appendix B to this handbook. *Good notes written as soon as possible after any incident are essential.* If an injury occurs, make every possible attempt to secure the arrow or bolt which has caused the injury for inspection by the Earl Marshal and the DEM of CA.
- b) It is preferred that a log book be kept of all inspections. A sample log sheet is found at Appendix C to this handbook.
- c) The CAM shall not inspect non-combat archery weapons unless the CAM is also a marshal for that weapons form. A CAM may not inspect rapier armor unless otherwise authorized to do so.
- d) Inspection shall consist of reviewing each piece of ammunition and each weapon to be used for combat archery for compliance with the rules. Ammunition may not be able to enter a helm and it is suggested that a pressure test against an actual helm grill be used. The inspecting CAM shall check to see if each arrow and bolt shaft is sturdy with no breaks, APDs and blunts are securely attached. Some give is permissible, but the blunt or APD must be securely attached such that it will not come off during combat. A strong tug and firm twist is to be used; however, CAMs are warned to avoid trying to force a blunt or APD to come apart (no gorillas).

## Section 5: Rapier Combat

- a) Combat archery will be permitted in rapier combat (scenario permitting). A person may authorize in combat archery for rapier alone but will not be permitted to fight on the heavy weapons field without further authorization. A person may authorize in combat archery for the heavy weapons field alone and will not be permitted to fight on the rapier field without further authorization.
- b) Rapier weapons authorization is not required, however all persons with both rapier weapons and combat archery authorizations shall be considered authorized for rapier combat archery.
- c) Only light bows and crossbows with UHMW blunts are permitted. Blunts must have top padding of at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch. The side wrap for heavy weapons is not required but is suggested to avoid confusion on the heavy weapons field.
- d) To authorize, a rapier authorization marshal and a CAM are required to jointly examine the candidate. The rapier authorization marshal shall determine if the archer has a general knowledge of the engagement rules for rapier combat and understands the armor requirements. The rapier authorization marshal must inspect all armor. A CAM must determine if the archer is knowledgeable as to their combat archery equipment. Together the marshals shall observe the behavior of the archer, similar to the test for a heavy archer candidate to determine if they appear to be safe on the field. As with all combatants on the rapier field, the combat archer shall wear armor (that they own) that meets the requirements for rapier combat.
- e) Note that if the candidate is authorized in either rapier or combat archery, only the authorizing marshal for the authorization not yet obtained is needed to conduct the authorization. Once authorized, a candidate must submit the signed authorization form (use the rapier form with adjustments as needed) to the Rapier Authorization Marshal.
- f) A CAM must be at the event and inspect all archery equipment for combat archery to be allowed in any rapier scenario. A rapier marshal shall inspect all armor. A report must be filed after the event by the CAM in charge with the DEM for CA by the end of the next reporting quarter.
- g) A FIFTEEN FOOT minimum shooting distance is required. In other words, an archer may not shoot an opponent closer than 15 foot from the end of their bow/crossbow.

## Section 6: Updates

As amendments are made to the Society Rules, these rules shall also be updated to include such amendments. Any changes to these rules by the Kingdom Earl Marshal and/or Deputy Earl Marshal for Combat Archery shall be announced and published in the Meridian newsletter.

APPENDIX A

Quarterly Report Form

Kingdom of Meridies
ARCHERY MARSHAL'S QUARTERLY REPORT FOR
1st Qtr 2nd Qtr 3rd Qtr 4th Qtr 20\_\_

Do not use calligraphy. Please print clearly or type.
Quarterly reports are due February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15
Reports are missed if received after the twenty-fifth.

Group Name, City, & State:
Current Archery Marshal: SCA Name:
Mundane Name: Phone:
Address: E-mail:
City: State: Zip Code:
SCA Membership number: Expiration Date:

Current Deputy Marshal: SCA Name:
Mundane Name: Phone:
Address: E-mail:
City: State: Zip Code:
SCA Membership number: Expiration Date:

Number of archers in the group
Please attach a list of fighters including Name (SCA and Mundane) and Membership Number
Number of fighter practices held during the quarter Number per month
Average number of archers per practice
Number of Injuries: Attach Injury Reports as Necessary.
Number of Official Fighting Events held during the quarter with archery
Marshal's Event Reports are due within 10 days of the event.

Table with 5 columns: Event, Tournament, Date, # of Fighters, Winner

Condition of fighting in group:

Problems, successes, attitude of fighters:

Mundane Signature: Date:

SCA Signature:

**APPENDIX B**

**Event Report Form**

**Archery Marshal's Event Report  
Kingdom of Meridies**

*Do not use calligraphy. Please print clearly or type  
This report must be filed within 10 days of the date of the event.*

Group Name, City, & State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of the Report: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of the Event: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of the Event: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of the Event: \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Fighting Event: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Archery Marshal in Charge: SCA Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mundane Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of additional marshals: \_\_\_\_\_ List names on back  
Number of Archers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Winner of Event: \_\_\_\_\_  
Minister of the List (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Violations of Rules of the List or Conventions of Combat: \_\_\_\_\_  
*If other than zero attach a detailed report*

Chirurgeon in Charge: \_\_\_\_\_  
Injuries: \_\_\_\_\_  
*If other than zero attach an Injury Report*

Additional Comments (warnings, observations, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mundane Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SCA Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX C**

| <b>SCA NAME AND<br/>MEDALLION #</b> | <b>CARD<br/>?</b> | <b>KINGDOM</b> | <b>TYPE OF BOW AND<br/>PULL RATING</b> | <b>TYPE OF ARROW AND NUMBER AND<br/>ANY FAILURES</b> | <b>INSPECTING<br/>MARSHAL NAME<br/>AND #</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|--|--|
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