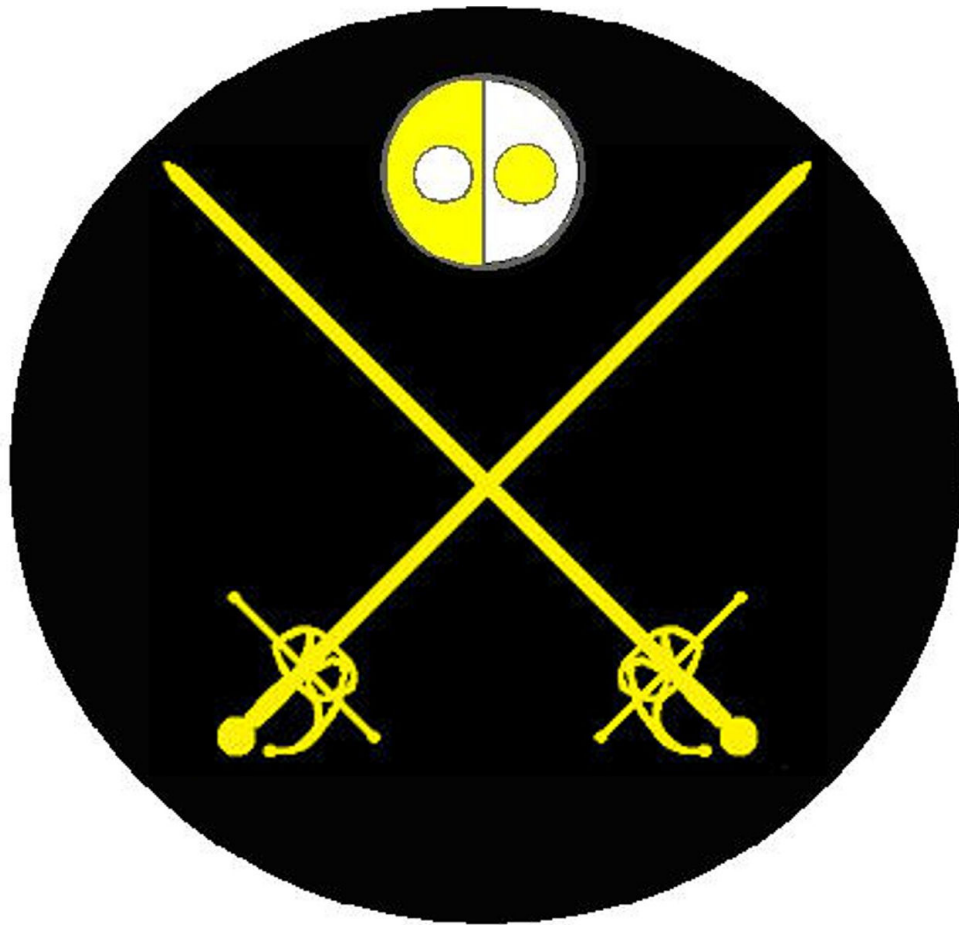


# Midrealm Youth Rapier Handbook

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2<sup>nd</sup> Edition: 6-26-2012



## Forward for the Second Edition:

*Since the implementation of the First Edition of the Midrealm Youth Rapier Handbook there has been a significant increase in the number of youth fencers in the Kingdom. The changes implemented in this Second Edition reflect some of the lessons learned from the implementation of the Plastic Foil divisions as well as general trends in the SCA in regards to minors participating in Rapier activities. Nearly all changes to this Edition have been printed in red and italicized for easy reference. It is the hope of the Marshallette that the publication of this document will aid in enhancing the youth rapier program in the Midrealm and throughout the known world.*

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## Introduction:

These rules set fundamental standards for Youth Rapier Combat in the *Middle Kingdom*. They are designed to allow use by the Kingdoms of the Society as basic rules, to which Kingdom-specific preferences (such as the weapons used) can be added. In keeping with Corpora, Kingdoms retain the right to add rules which establish more restrictive standards. All youth fighters, parents and youth marshals are responsible for knowing these rules, as well as the additional rules of their Kingdom.

Rules are designed to promote safe Youth Rapier Combat in the Society. However, no matter how clear or accurate, rules cannot replace common sense, good judgment, and concern for the participants. If a question arises when applying these standards, choose the answer that promotes the greatest degree of safety for all participants and parents.

These are rules for the three divisions of Youth Rapier Combat. The goal of these rules is to follow the same requirements as the adults with some minor changes for the different divisions of youth fighters. The following divisions are: I (6-9 years old), II (10-13 years old), and III (14-17 years old).

## 1. Conventions

- A. *Youth* Rapier Combat shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of the Lists of the SCA, Inc., these rules, and such further rules as are established by the Kingdoms.
- B. All fighters and parents, prior to every combat or practice, shall ensure their equipment is safe, in good working order and has been inspected by a member of the Kingdom Marshallate authorized to inspect Youth Rapier gear.
- C. Unless otherwise directed by Kingdom Law, the Crown's representative upon the field and in all matters dealing with *Youth* Rapier Combat is the Earl Marshal, then the Kingdom Rapier Marshal, *then the Dean for Youth Rapier Combat (Deputy for Youth Rapier)*, then, by delegation, members of the Kingdom Rapier Marshallate.

## 2. Protective Gear / Armor Requirements:

- A. All youth fighters shall follow the same protective gear / armor requirements as the adults. See the section "Protective Gear" in The Rapier Combat Marshal's Handbook.

## 3. Weapon Requirements:

- A. Division I (6-9): Fighters will use plastic foils. *Parry devices and daggers may be used only per the exceptions listed in 5.A.h.*
- B. Division II (10-13): Fighters will use plastic foils, rubber daggers and padded parry devices. The parry device or buckler must be padded with a quarter inch foam. Examples: A stick should be padded from top to bottom and a buckler around the edges.
- C. Division III (14-17): Youth Fighters shall use the same weapons *and parrying devices* as adult fighters.

- a. *See the SCA Rapier Combat Handbook, Appendix 5  
<http://sca.org/officers/marshal/combat/rapier/index.html>.*
- D. *The youth will follow all the rules the general care of swords, daggers, and parrying devices in the section “Weapons and Parrying Devices” of The Rapier Combat Marshal’s Handbook. Tips on plastic foils shall be taped to the weapon with a contrasting color.*
  - a. *Nasycon “Aramis” type plastic foils are the only approved plastic foils for Youth Rapier Combat in the Middle Kingdom. Nasycon “Aramis” foils can be purchased from: Leon Paul USA (<http://www.leonpaulusa.com>), Zivkovic Modern Fencing Equipment (<http://www.zivkovic.com>), and [www.Fencing.net](http://www.fencing.net). *Both electric (wired/beeping/buzzing) and non-electric type plastic foils are permitted.**
  - b. *Taping the tip of rubber daggers is encouraged to assist with being able to see the end of the weapon and for consistency with other rapier weapons..*

#### **4. Rules for the Youth *Participant*:**

- A. All Youth Rapier Fighters and parents shall obey the commands of the marshals overseeing the field, or be removed from the field and subject to further disciplinary action.
- B. Disagreements with the marshals overseeing the field shall be resolved through the established mechanisms outlined in the Marshallate Procedures of the SCA, Inc. and Midrealm Marshallate.
- C. Each fighter and parent shall maintain control over his or her temper and behavior at all times. If fighter or parent cannot maintain control of their temper, they will be removed from the list.
- D. Fighters shall also maintain control of their actions on the field. Any attack that cannot be immediately halted in case of a hold being called, or that impairs the fighter's ability to maintain calibration is not allowed.
- E. Striking an opponent with excessive force, or with deliberate intent to injure, is forbidden.
- F. Upon hearing the call of "HOLD" all fighting shall immediately stop. Fighters will repeat the call of Hold and stop. The fighters shall freeze, check for hazards in their immediate vicinity, and then assume a non-threatening position with their weapons pointed away from their opponents.
- G. Conduct obstructive of normal rapier combat, such as consistent ignoring of blows, deliberate misuse of the rules (such as calling HOLD whenever pressed), or the like, is forbidden.
- H. Acknowledgement of Blows shall follow the same as adults; (see the section “Acknowledgement of Blows” in The Rapier Combat Marshal’s Handbook).
- I. The Marshallate recognizes that some minors will be very small or very large for their age, or that there may be insufficient participants in a given division at an event. These minors may, at the request of their parents/legal guardians, and on a case-by-case basis determined by the Kingdom Earl Marshal, Kingdom Rapier Marshal and Dean of Youth Rapier Combat, or designate

be moved up or down one division as appropriate *or be allowed to use weapons designated for an older age group.*

## 5. Special rules for Divisions:

### A. Age Division I (6-9):

- a. This age division will use *a* plastic foil.
- b. The youth fighter may not use draw cuts.
- c. The youth fighter may not blade grasp.
- d. The youth fighter may not use case of rapier.
- e. The youth fighter may not use tip cuts.
- f. The youth fighters shall not participate in melee activities against other youth fighters.*
- g. The youth fighter may not use Rubber Band Guns (RGB's).*
- h. Marshals shall have the discretion to permit individual minors of this age group to utilize the following secondary weapons during practices on a case by case basis:*
  - o The youth fighter may use a padded buckler or padded/soft parry device, (see the section "Use of Weapons and Parrying Devices" in The Rapier Combat Marshal's Handbook).*
  - o The youth fighter may use a flexible rubber dagger, such as the Revival Rubber Rondel Dagger found at [www.revival.us](http://www.revival.us). Rapier Marshals shall inspect Daggers to ensure that they are adequately flexible.*

### B. Age Division II (10-13):

- a. This age division will use a plastic foil.
  - o Division I (6-9) authorizations will carry over to Division II (10-13).*
- b. The youth fighter may not use draw cuts.
- c. The youth fighter may not blade grasp.
- d. The youth fighter may not use case of rapier.
- e. The youth fighter may not use tip cuts.
- f. The youth fighters shall not participate in melee activities against other youth fighters.*
- g. The youth fighter may not use Rubber Band Guns (RGB's).*
- h. The youth fighter may use a padded buckler or padded/soft parry device, (see the section "Use of Weapons and Parrying Devices" in The Rapier Combat Marshal's Handbook).
- i. The youth fighter may use a flexible rubber dagger, such as the Revival Rubber Rondel Dagger found at [www.revival.us](http://www.revival.us). Rapier Marshals shall inspect Daggers to ensure that they are adequately flexible.
- j. This age group may use Epees and light weight Heavy Type rapier blades no longer than 37" (measured from tang to tip) in length as an advanced authorization style under the following conditions:*

- *Minors who are authorized in single plastic foil for Division II Youth Rapier shall be allowed to authorize in Epee. Epee may be used in practices, but not in tournament competition. Fencers who hold an epee authorization may participate in out of kingdom "light rapier" activities, using epees. Authorization in Epee will be used primarily for enabling minors to fence with minors from other kingdoms where Epee is the youth rapier weapon of choice. Epees shall be standard weight and length; double-wide or musketeer epees shall not be permitted.*
- *Minors who are 12 years old AND are authorized in all styles available for Division II Youth Rapier shall be allowed to authorize in Heavy Rapier. Authorizations in Heavy Rapier will carry over to Division III and will be held to Division III standards.*
  - *Minors who are 13 years old may practice with Heavy Rapier without having a plastic foil authorization. They may not authorize in Heavy Rapier until they either authorize in plastic foil or turn 14 and enter Division III.*
  - *Care shall be taken to ensure that the weight and balance of these weapons are appropriate for the individual minor. Selecting a guard and blade combination that is appropriate in weight and balance for the minor is required. The minor must show that they can safely handle the weapon and show that the weapon is not excessively heavy or unwieldy for minor's size and strength. It is primarily the parent's responsibility to ensure that the weapon's the minor uses are appropriate in weight and balance for the minor. Marshal's may prohibit a minor from using a specific weapon if they deem that the weapon is inappropriate for the minor.*

### C. Age Division III (14-17):

- a. Participants in this age division shall follow the rules laid out in The Rapier Combat Marshal's Handbook.
- b. This age division will use the same weapons *and parrying devices* as the adults
  - See the SCA Rapier Combat Handbook, Appendix 5  
<http://sca.org/officers/marshal/combat/rapier/index.html>.
- c. Authorizations *from* Division I (6-9) and/or Division II (10-13) do not carry over to Division III (14-17).
- d. *Division III (14-17) shall follow the same standards for authorization as adult fencers because these authorizations do not need to be repeated as an adult (IE: Division III (14-17) authorizations carry over as an adult).*
- e. Melees will be allowed for Division III (14-17) Youth Rapier Combat.
- f. Youth fencers may train for melee with adults as long as all of the adults in the melee are Youth Approved Rapier Marshals (YARM) or Youth Approved Fencers (YAF).
- g. A Youth Rapier Fighter may participate in melees with other rapier fighters (youth and/or adult) subject to whatever age requirements and other qualifications that are mandated by their kingdom rules. *This is subject to section 5.C.f and 5.C.j of this handbook.*
- h. Rubber Band Guns (RBG's) may be used in melee combat only.

- i. The youth of this division shall carry their own authorization cards.
- j. *Youth fighters ages 16 and 17 may compete against authorized adults at practices, in rapier tournaments, and in melees if they meet all of the requirements below:*
  - o *Their parents specifically request it by submitting an SCA "Minor's Waiver and Informed Consent to Participate in SCA Combat" form to the Kingdom Rapier Marshal (KRM) or the Midrealm Dean of Youth Rapier Combat with a copy kept on file by the clerk of the roster.*
    - o <http://www.sca.org/officers/marshal/docs/minorcombatwaiver.pdf>
  - o *The youth is approved by the KRM or the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat.*
  - o *Upon approval, they will be required to keep their approval card/letter upon them to present to MICs. This shall be a separate card/letter from the authorization card.*
  - o *To comply with SCA rules, Minors competing with adults in Rapier will have a single yellow diamond no larger than 1" (25mm) but no smaller than 0.5" (12.5mm) on the back of each of their gloves. The placement of this diamond shall be clearly visible. A similar diamond (between 1" and 3" in size) shall be placed on the front hemisphere of the fencing mask so that it is clearly visible to an opponent.*  
<http://www.sca.org/officers/marshal/ann.html>
  - o *Youth fighters allowed to compete against adults will still be permitted to compete with and participate in Youth Rapier activities as a Division III combatant.*
- k. *When a youth fencer turns 18 years old they will not automatically become a Youth Approved Fencer (YAF). The fencer will have one year to submit an application to become a YAF to the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat if they wish to continue to be able to fence with minors after their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. During that year they shall be permitted to continue to spar and train with youth fencers, following the same guidelines as a YAF.*

## 6. Cross Age Division:

- A. No tournaments will be held across age divisions.
- B. At practices, an older fighter may practice with a younger fighter using the rules for the younger fighter.

## 7. Rules for the Parents/Legal Guardians:

- A. *Parents/legal guardians are required to read and understand these rules and standards and are to make sure that their minor follows them.*
- B. Parents must fill out all the paperwork required by the SCA.
  - a. *SCA Minor's Consent to Participate and Hold Harmless Agreement*
    - o <http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/chldwaiv.pdf>
- C. Parents/legal guardians are to understand this is a contact sport and that injuries may occur. **Parents are ultimately responsible for the safety and well-being of their children.** This modern era legal requirement cannot be delegated to the SCA or to the marshals on the list field.

- D. At least one parent/legal guardian must be present at all times while the minor is engaged in Youth Rapier activities for the Division I (6-9) and Division II (10-13). For Division I (6-9 year olds) this presence requires the parent to be within visual and vocal range of the list area. For Division II (10-13 year olds), the parent must be at the same site as the Youth Rapier combat. For Division III (14-17 year olds), the parent or legal guardian need not be present at the event or practice provided that the parents have filed a medical release form with the Clerk of the Roster and ensure that the responsible adult taking the youth to the event or practice has a copy of said medical release form available for the marshal-in-charge.
  - a. *SCA Medical Authorization for Minors*
    - o <http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/treatminor-notary.pdf>
- E. For Division I (6-9) & II (10-13), the parent/legal guardian present is to have the minor's authorization card in his/her possession at all times when Youth Rapier activities (official fighter practice, tournament, and melee) are occurring. Division III (14-17) combatants shall carry their own authorization cards.
- F. Parents/legal guardians are to behave in a courteous and responsible manner at all times.
- G. *Parents/legal guardians are responsible for their minor's overall safety (see section 9.E), with the Rapier Marshals guiding the armoring/combat process.*

## ***8. Youth Approved Rapier Marshal (YARM):***

- A. In order to be a Warranted Youth Approved Rapier Marshal, you must have a background check, be an adult Rapier Marshal, *pass the Youth Rapier Quiz*, and be approved by the Knight's Earl Marshal, Kingdom Rapier Marshal (KRM) or the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat.
  - a. Minors who are at least 14 years old may become a Youth Rapier Marshal, following all guidelines for becoming a marshal as directed by The Rapier Combat Marshal's Handbook, the KRM, and the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat. Minors who serve as Youth Rapier Marshals do not require background checks as they must function under the direction of a background checked, adult Youth Approved Rapier Marshal. Upon turning 18, minors who have served as Youth Approved Rapier Marshals will need to have a background check if they want to continue as a Youth Approved Rapier Marshal. Otherwise, they shall become a regular Rapier Marshal of the Field.
  - b. The Knight's Earl Marshal, Kingdom Rapier Marshal and Dean for Youth Rapier Combat may request additional references as desired.
- B. A Youth Approved Rapier Marshal will follow the same guidelines of marshaling as the adult version; see The Rapier Combat Marshal's Handbook.
- C. *The following represents the process for become a Youth Approved Rapier Marshal:*
  - a. *The candidate must be a warranted Rapier Marshal in the Middle Kingdom.*
  - b. *They must complete and submit an application to the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat.*



- c. *The candidate must submit to an SCA background check.*
  - o *The candidate will be contacted by the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat to make these arrangements after receiving the application.*
- d. *The application must list two sponsors. Some examples of sponsor are the fencers Group Rapier Marshal, the fencers Group Youth Minister, a Midrealm Youth Approved Rapier Marshal, a Midrealm Regional Rapier Marshal, the Midrealm Kingdom Rapier Marshal, etc.*
- e. *The Dean of Youth Rapier Combat will consult with the candidates' sponsors, and may consult with other Marshals before accepting an application.*
- f. *The candidate will be given a copy of the Midrealm Youth Rapier Handbook and will be required to pass a quiz regarding the Youth Rapier Combat rules.*
- g. *Upon passing the background check, the marshal will receive a letter from the SCA indicating that they have passed their background check. This letter is good for 2 years, at which time a new background check must be applied for and run by the SCA.*
- h. *After receiving confirmation of passing their background check, the candidate must inform the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat; a copy of their background check letter will act as confirmation.*
- i. *After passing the quiz and background check the marshal will be added to the roster of Youth Approved Rapier Marshals.*

## **9. Youth Rapier Marshaling Guidelines:**

- A. Background Check Policy for Marshals Supervising Youth Combat Activities - The conduct of any Youth Rapier Combat at a practice or an event must be under the continuous supervision of at least one background checked adult Youth Approved Rapier Marshal (YARM) **AND** at least one additional *adult unrelated to the YARM*.
  - a. For a local group practice only, if a group has no Youth Approved Rapier Marshal, that group can have a person that has a SCA background check, such as a Minister of Children's Activities, *along with a warranted Rapier Marshal* supervise that practice with permission of Knight's Earl Marshal, Kingdom Rapier Marshal (KRM) *or* the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat.
- B. The activity of Youth Rapier Combat within the Middle Kingdom shall be regulated and monitored by the Office of the Kingdom Earl Marshal, through the Kingdom Rapier Marshal and the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat and any other authorized deputies.
- C. Marshals on the field are expected to take an active role in safety, sportsmanship and assistance in calibration. Marshals are encouraged to discuss an exchange of blows with the Youth Fighter.
- D. At least one (1) Youth Approved Person and Rapier Marshal are required for *supervision of* any practice. Marshals-in-training and minors who are Youth Rapier Marshals are not permitted to run practices or events without a warranted Youth Approved Person and a Rapier Marshal (or

Youth Approved Marshal and another unrelated adult) in attendance and in-charge of the youth combat activity. A second, unrelated adult to the marshal must be present at the list field.

*a. At least one adult should oversee each bout between youth fencers.*

- E. **Parents are ultimately responsible for the safety and well-being of their children.** Rapier Marshals are responsible for checking of weapons, armor, observing combat, warning a fighter of inappropriate or dangerous actions, disallowing dangerous weapons, and if necessary, removing a fighter from the field.
- F. Any fighter or parent who refuses to obey the commands of the marshals shall be removed from the field.
- G. Prior to any combat (practice or tournament) all equipment must be inspected by a Warranted Rapier Marshal *or Rapier Marshal in Training* and shall meet all safety and armor requirements pertaining to the appropriate age division.

## **10. Youth Approved Fencer (YAF)**

- A. *A Youth Approved Fencer is an Authorized Adult Fencer who has been approved by the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat to spar with and train Youth Fencers. No background check is required. Youth Approved Fencers who do not have a background check can only spar and train with Youth Fencers under the supervision of a Warranted Youth Approved Rapier Marshal or under the supervision of a SCA Background Checked Adult with a regular Rapier Marshal. Youth Approved Fencers who have a background check need to be supervised by a regular Rapier Marshal or Rapier Marshal in Training per standard Midrealm Rapier rules.*
- B. *The following is the process for becoming a Youth Approved Fencer:*
  - a. *The candidate must have a reasonable level of fencing and/or martial arts experience, demonstrate control over their temper, and must be authorized in Rapier Combat in the Middle Kingdom.*
  - b. *They must complete and submit an application to the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat.*
  - c. *The application must list two sponsors. Some examples of sponsor are the fencers Group Rapier Marshal, the fencers Group Youth Minister, a Midrealm Youth Approved Rapier Marshal, a Midrealm Regional Rapier Marshal, the Midrealm Kingdom Rapier Marshal, etc.*
  - d. *The Dean of Youth Rapier Combat will consult with the candidates' sponsors, and may consult with other Marshals before accepting an application.*
  - e. *The candidate will be given a copy of the Midrealm Youth Rapier Handbook and will be required to pass a quiz regarding being a Youth Approved Fencer.*
  - f. *The candidate will be notified by the Dean of Youth Rapier combat if they have been accepted as a Youth Approved Fencer.*
- C. *The Kingdom Rapier Marshal or Dean of Youth Rapier Combat may permit a YARM or YAF applicant to spar with youth fencers under their direct supervision for one event or practice for*

*the purposes of assessing how the fencer interacts with youth fencers prior to accepting or approving the authorized fencers application as a YARM or YAF.*

## **11. Authorization Guidelines:**

- A. All fighters, along with a parent or legal guardian, must attend a pre-authorization session taught by a Youth Approved Rapier Marshal. The session will outline the rules and guidelines found within this handbook. A different session will be given for each age division.
- B. A fighter changing divisions will be expected to take the next appropriate division pre-authorization session, along with the parent/legal guardian, before authorizing in the next age division, as defined by the Dean of Youth Rapier. This is on the honor of the fighter and parents.
- C. *Youth fighters may only authorize in the weapon styles permitted for their division. Authorizations shall test the youth fighter's safety, calibration, and ability to listen to the marshal.*
  - a. *Division I (6-9) & II (10-13) authorizations shall primarily focus on safety on the youth fighter and their ability to listen to the marshal. The Youth fighter and their parent/legal guardian should show a basic understanding of the armor and weapon standards for their Youth Rapier Division.*
  - b. *Division III (14-17) authorizations shall be conducted in the same manner as authorizations for adult rapier combatants.*
- D. If a previously authorized fighter fails to pass an authorization for the next division, the authorizing marshals may allow him or her to continue to participate in the previous division, with permission from the Knight's Earl Marshal, Kingdom Rapier Marshal (KRM) or the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat.
- E. Authorization cards will be given to the parent/legal guardian for Division I (6-9) & II (10-13), and to the youth fencer for Division III (14-17). Cards must be presented to the marshal in charge or list official before any combat begins. A waiver for full contact competition must be on file with the Minister of the List before an authorization card will be issued. Authorizations are valid until the minor moves up to the next division.
- F. For Youth Rapier Combat Divisions I (6-9) and II (10-13) neither the parent nor the child need be members of the SCA, Inc. Division III (14-17) fighters and parents need to be paid members of the SCA, Inc.
- G. All fighters must be authorized before participating in any tournament combat.
- H. Parents and youth fighters are responsible for keeping track of the rules and any changes to the rules.
- I. Fighters need not be authorized to participate in official Youth Rapier practices, but the parent/legal guardian **MUST** sign a waiver at the beginning of an event or practice for full contact competition.

## 12. Disciplinary Actions:

- A. The Marshal in Charge of the Rapier list and the Youth Approved Rapier Marshal are in charge of the field. The Marshallate will deal with violations of the rules of combat, safety regulations, or other inappropriate or unsafe action in an appropriate way.
- B. Disciplinary actions may include a simple caution, a verbal warning, removal from the field, removal from the tournament or practice, or suspension of authorization.
- C. Any parent or legal guardian who is disruptive in the vicinity of the list field shall be asked to leave. As a result of this action if a *Division I (6-9) or Division II (10-13)* minor has no parent/legal guardian present, he/she cannot continue and must be withdrawn from the tournament or practice.
- D. Any action that involves removing a participant or a parent/ legal guardian from the field or practice must be reported to, and is subject to review by, the Knight's Earl Marshal, the Kingdom Rapier Marshal and the Dean for Youth Rapier Combat.
- E. Only the Crown, the Knight's Earl Marshal, Kingdom Rapier Marshal or Dean of Youth Rapier Combat may suspend the authorization of a participant, subject to the appeal process.
- F. All injuries, in addition to being included in regular reporting, must be reported to the Knight's Earl Marshal, Kingdom Rapier Marshal (KRM) *or* the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat within 24 hours of the injury. If they cannot be reached, contact the Kingdom Seneschal directly.  
*Telephone, email, and face-to-face conversations are acceptable.*
- G. Marshals who fail to do their job or who create a dangerous situation on the field will be subject to the same disciplinary actions as participants and parents/legal guardians.
- H. Those who wish to appeal any Marshallate actions must appeal to the next person up in the chain of command. That chain is:
  - a. Marshal in charge of the field/inspecting Marshal
  - b. Marshal in charge of the tournament or practice
  - c. *Group Rapier Marshal*
  - d. Dean of Youth Rapier Combat
  - e. Middle Kingdom Rapier Marshal
  - f. Middle Kingdom Earl Marshal
  - g. The Crown of the Middle Kingdom

## 13. Reporting:

- A. Youth Approved Rapier Marshals shall report **ANNUALLY** to the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat and their Regional Marshal, and shall follow the same reporting schedule as a *Rapier Marshal of the Field*.

- B. *Youth Approved Rapier Marshals who also act as a Group, Baronial, or Regional Rapier Marshal shall report **QUARTERLY** to the Dean of Youth Rapier Combat and their Regional Marshal, and shall follow the same reporting schedule as a Group Rapier Marshal.*
- C. The Dean of Youth Rapier reports **QUARTERLY** to the Knight's Earl Marshal and/or the Kingdom Rapier Marshal.

#### **14. Adult Training at Official SCA Activities:**

- A. Adults in a *sparring or armored training* situation with youth fighters are required to meet the armor standards for Rapier Combat as outlined in the Middle Kingdom Rapier Combat Handbook.
- B. Parents can actively train their own children. Other than parents, only Youth Approved Rapier Marshals and Youth Approved Fencers may train *and spar with* minors. *Supervision of training and sparring shall be per section 9 of this handbook.*
- C. For the purposes of youth combat, sparring has a definite meaning. An adult and a youth are sparring if both the adult and the youth are striking each other with weapons, regardless of force or speed. If the youth is striking the adult but the adult is not striking the youth, this is not sparring, but considered blow calibration or practice targeting. If a youth is striking an adult who is holding a parrying device and the adult is merely blocking shots, this is not sparring. If an adult is holding a weapon and is attempting to throw shots at a youth, this is sparring, and must only be done by a Youth Approved Marshal, Youth Approved Fencer or the youth's parents. Regardless, the training must be done under the supervision of a *rapier* marshal as specified in the youth *rapier* combat rules (*see sections 9.A - 9.D*). Other adults are not allowed to spar with youth who are not their children even if the child's parents give permission to the adult.

## Midrealm Youth Approved Rapier Marshal / Youth Approved Fencer Application

Mundane Name	
SCA Name	
SCA Branch Name	
Street Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

*I am applying to become a (check one):*

Youth Approved Rapier Marshal (YARM)	
Youth Approved Fencer (YAF)	

*I have:*

Years of Experience Fencing	
Active SCA Background Check	

*I am a (check all that apply):*

Authorized Fencer		Rapier Marshal	
Rapier Marshal in Training		Group Rapier Marshal	

*I am authorized in the following Rapier styles in the Midrealm (check all that apply):*

Single Rapier		Rapier & Dagger		Epee	
Rapier & Defensive Secondary		Case of Rapier			

*The following individuals have agreed to sponsor my application to become a YARM or YAF. They have read and agreed to the following statement:*

*I agree to act as a sponsor for this applicant to become a YARM or YAF. I can personally attest to their calibration and control and they have demonstrated outstanding control over their temper. In my opinion, they have the ability to adjust the speed and intensity of their fencing in order to scale down to a younger opponent. I feel they would work well with children and teenage fencers.*

	SCA Name	Mundane Name	Email Address
Sponsor 1			
Sponsor 2			

Tell me a little about yourself. Why do you want to become a YARM/YAF and why do you think you would be a good YARM/YAF? (Please write at least a one paragraph response)

## List of Changes for the Second Edition:

- Included Forward for the Second Edition
- Added Index
- Changed wording of introduction.
- In 1.A & 1.C, added word “Youth” before “Rapier Combat”
- In 1.C, added Dean for Youth Rapier Combat to the list of the Crowns representatives for Youth Rapier Combat
- Re-titled section 2 as “Protective Gear / Armor Requirements”
- In 3.C, added website address to SCA Rapier Combat Handbook Appendix 5. Adjusted wording for clarification.
- In 3.D, corrected reference to section in MK Rapier Combat Marshal’s Handbook. Adjusted wording for clarification
- In 3.D.a, added website address to plastic foil suppliers. Added wording for clarification.
- Added 3.D.b regarding taping rubber daggers.
- Re-titled section 4 as “Rules for the Youth Participant”
- In 4.I, adjusted wording.
- In 5.A.f & g, adjusted wording to have consistent phrasing.
- Added new section 5.A.h.
- In 5.B.f & g, adjusted wording to have consistent phrasing.
- Added new section 5.B.j
- In 5.C.b, adjusted wording for clarification.
- In 5.C.c, adjusted wording and separated portion into new section 5.C.d
- Sections 5.C.e – 5.C.i, adjusted section numbers
- In 5.C.g, added wording to clarify intent.
- Added new section 5.C.j
- Added new section 5.C.k
- Moved section 7.G to be 7.A. Reworded new section 7.G for clarity.
- In 7.B, provided website address for SCA Minor Waiver
- Added 7.D.a, link for SCA Medical Authorization for Minors.
- Re-titled section 8 as “Youth Approved Rapier Marshal”
- In 8.A, added requirement that YARM pass the Youth Rapier Quiz.
- Added section 8.C, from the Midrealm Guidelines for becoming a Youth Approved Rapier Marshal / Youth Approved Fencer
- Moved original section 8.C – 8.I to new section 9, entitled “Youth Rapier Marshaling Guidelines”
- In 9.A, adjusted wording for clarity.
- In 9.A.a, adjusted wording
- In 9.D, adjusted wording, eliminating requirement for 2 adults to oversee each bout.
- Added section 9.D.a
- In 9.G, adjusted wording to allow Marshals in training to perform equipment inspections.
- Old Section 9 is new Section 11
- Old section 10 is new Section 12

- Old Section 11 is new Section 13
- Old Section 12 is new Section 14
- Added new Section 10, entitled “Youth Approved Fencer”
- In 11.C, rewritten to provide clarification
- In 12.F, adjusted wording.
- In 13.A and 13.B, revised reporting schedule to match other rapier marshal reporting schedules.
- Renumbered old section 12.B as 13.C and adjusted wording to reflect standard use.
- In Section 14.A, adjusted wording for clarification
- In section 14.B, adjusted wording for clarification
- Added the “Midrealm Youth Approved Rapier Marshal / Youth Approved Fencer Application”