Æthelmearc Equestrian Rules

Introduction to the Kingdom of Æthelmearc Equestrian Handbook:

The most recent iteration of regulations for this kingdom existed as a lengthy document, and was meant to be a supplement to the Society Equestrian Handbook. This document only adds kingdom regulations and addenda to the Society regulations in an attempt to simplify interpretation. Please note, this is a minimalist approach to rules writing and only includes said addenda. For a complete listing of the SCA Society Equestrian rules, please visit http://sca.org/officers//equestrian/pdf/equestrian_handbook.pdf

Æthelmearc Addendum to Society Rule I.C.1 (Equestrian Program. Equestrian Marshals. General Requirements):

"Showmanship" in Æthelmearc is defined that the individual while engaged in equestrian activities should behave in a visibly chivalrous manner and appear appropriate to Æthelmearc's equestrian culture.

Æthelmearc Addendum Society Rule II.B.1 (Equestrian Authorizations. Authorization Types. General Riding):

Æthelmearc Addendum to (II)B.1:

The procedure for demonstrating the requirements for a riding authorization shall be determined by the authorizing marshal. An example procedure may be found in the Æthelmearc Equestrian Marshal Handbook.

The Æthelmearc Equestrian Handbook and the Æthelmearc Equestrian Marshal Handbook, while not official Kingdom Rules, serve as a guideline for equestrian marshals and participants, providing clarification and explanation of equestrian activities as practiced in the Kingdom of Æthelmearc.

Æthelmearc Addendum Society Rule II.B.2: (Equestrian Authorizations. Authorization Types. Mounted Games):

The procedure for demonstrating the requirements for a mounted game or "martial" authorization shall be determined by the authorizing marshal. An example procedure may be found in the Æthelmearc Equestrian Marshal Handbook.

Æthelmearc Addendum Society Rule II.B.4: (Equestrian Authorizations. Authorization Types. Mounted Martial Activities):

Æthelmearc requires special authorizations for contact activities such as crest combat, mounted combat, and jousting. Special authorizations are also required for driving, mounted archery, and bareback. An example procedure may be found in the Æthelmearc Equestrian Marshal Handbook.

Æthelmearc Addendum Society Rule II.D: (Equestrian Authorizations. Authorization Term):

Æthelmearc authorizations are valid for 4 years from the date of authorization. Increasing a level (from General Rider to Mounted Games, for example) counts as a new authorization and resets the 4 years.

Æthelmearc Addendum Society Rule II: (Equestrian Authorizations):

The EqMIC must approve all persons who serve as Ring Stewards during an EQ event or practice. No authorization is required. Ground crew must wear closed toe shoes, demonstrate safe handling of equipment and weapons (including the correct way to hand equipment to a mounted rider), and demonstrate an ability to maneuver safely around horses.

Æthelmearc Addendum Society Rule III.B.2: (Event Requirements: Eq Marshal in Charge: Prior to Event):

The EqMIC is additionally responsible for:

1. Determining if any special rules or restrictions concerning equestrians will be required for this event and making said special restrictions known to potential participants either by inclusion in the event announcement, public post to the kingdom equestrian mailing list, or individual communication. Such rules or restrictions may concern site-specific matters such as stabling, manure disposal, trailer parking or camping areas or event-specific matters such as weapons requirements or restrictions, skill requirements or any other matters concerning the care of equines at the event or participation in the scheduled activities.
2. Locating a veterinarian who services the area containing the event and making their contact information available to those persons bringing horses to the event. Contact information must be made available in writing at the event either by posting the information or distributing individual documents.
3. Publishing in advance the documentation requirements for the event, including those required by the state or the site owner (i.e. Coggins, health certificate, rabies certificate, etc.)

Æthelmearc Addendum Society Rule III.B.3.b: (Event Requirements: Eq Marshal in Charge: Day of Event: Documents):

1. As per the Society Equestrian Rules, all those persons with a high probability of coming into contact with equines shall sign the equestrian wavier. At events where it is anticipated that the general populace will have direct contact with the horses on site, equestrian waivers shall be signed by all event attendees at the gate. In the case of a large public demo (e.g., a parade that is also covered by outside, non-SCA insurance) only the members of the SCA participating in the parade must sign waivers. Any attendee refusing to sign will be denied entry to the site. Responsibility for collecting signatures may be delegated to the gate staff upon approval of the autocrat.

At events where access and contact with horses is limited to the equestrians, the EqMiC will ensure that all participants, including marshals, riders, handlers, groundspeople, participants in processionals and Meet-N-Greets, sign the state appropriate equestrian wavier. The EqMiC will forward these to the Wavier Clerk, with copies to the Event Autocrat, if requested, and a copy will be maintained by the EqMiC. In order to prevent unauthorized contact with horses by spectators or the general populace, it is highly recommended that the horse areas be clearly roped off and/or access is restricted to equestrians, especially in stabling areas.

2. Minor waivers must be completed and signed according to the SEO's instructions.

Æthelmearc Addendum Society Rule III.C.1.a: (Event Requirements: Rider Responsibility: Participation: Equine Safety):

Said steps include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Providing a safe and secure method of restraining and supervising a horse when it is not being ridden.
2. Providing food, water, and care for the horse according to generally accepted horse-keeping, training and veterinary practices.
3. Providing the EqMIC with written instructions as to the care of the horse in the event the responsible person becomes incapacitated or unavailable.

Suggested format for an emergency instruction document is included in the Æthelmearc Equestrian Marshal Handbook.

[The following section outlining Lances deviates in the original notation schema outlined in the SCA Equestrian rules. Section IV.A.2.b (Lances, Spears, and Javelins) consists of subsection .1 (Foam Tipped Lances) and subsection .2 (Spears, and Javelins) whereas the AEthelmearc rule IV.A.2.b (Lances, Spears, and Javelins) consists of subsection .1 (Foam Tipped Lances (for jousting)), .2 (Quintain (hard contact) lances), .3 (Ring (non-contact) spears), and .4 (Spears and javelins (throwing and sticking)).]

Æthelmearc Rule IV.A.2.b.2: (Quintain (hard contact) lances):

a. May be up to twelve feet in length, with an eight foot minimum in length for adults and six feet minimum for minors.
b. Lances must be constructed of hardwood or fiberglass.
c. If made from wood, the lances may be painted but the grain must be visible.
d. Two thirds of the lance length must be held in front of "the rider's hand", and this length must be clearly marked on the lance.

e. Quintain lance tips may be made out of metal, rubber, or hard plastic. Lances must have an appropriate tip. If the tip is made of metal, the edges must be blunt.

Æthelmearc Rule IV.A.2.b.3: (Ring (non-contact) spears):

a. May be up to twelve feet in length, with an eight foot minimum in length for adults and six feet minimum for minors.

b. Lances may be constructed of wood, fiberglass, or bamboo.

c. Two thirds of the lance length must be held in front of "the rider's hand", and this length must be clearly marked on the lance.

Æthelmearc Rule IV.A.2.b.4: (Spears and Javelins (throwing and sticking)):

a. May be up to 9 feet in total length.

b. Must be made of fiberglass or hardwood.

c. If painted wood, the grain must be visible

d. Spears and javelins may be equipped with metal tips.

e. If metal, must have a protective cover for transport.

Æthelmearc Addendum Society Rule Appendix A- Mounted Archery

1. Mounted Archery will be conducted in the Kingdom of Æthelmearc based on the SEO directive on mounted archery. This activity requires a special authorization. See the Æthelmearc Equestrian Handbook for suggested authorization and procedures.

For chariot or driving archery, the driver must have met any required authorizations for driving, but non-equestrian archers shooting from a chariot driven by an authorized equestrian is permitted. These non-equestrian archers must have signed an equestrian waiver to signify that they are aware of the risks involved in equestrian sports.

1. Equipment:

All archery equipment (bows, arrows, targets) and range must be inspected by a warranted Mounted Archery Marshal before use. Equipment standards will follow the minimum SCA standards, but crossbows may not be used. Combat arrows will be constructed according to Society standards.

Æthelmearc Addendum Society Rule Appendix B- Insurance Ordering Instructions:

When members of the Society attend public demonstrations (e.g., parades or mundanely sponsored demonstrations) to which they as members of the Society bring equines, Society equestrian insurance must be obtained even if the demonstration is also covered by outside insurance. Unofficial equestrian practices do not require activating insurance, but the site owner must be made aware that there is no insurance.