



# Medieval Combat Society

*Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*

## SAFETY AND CONDUCT POLICY

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### 1) Purpose and Scope of the Safety and Conduct Policy

- a) The Safety Policy and Conduct Policy is designed to remove or inhibit some of the more dangerous scenarios of The Society's activities and encourage members to act in a responsible and professional manner without removing the potential for enjoyment, personal initiative or restricting individual styles.
- b) Members agree that they participate in society activities with a "we take part in this activity with our eyes open, knowing that we could be injured without recourse to The Society or our opponent".
- c) While The Society does provide public liability insurance which also covers members not involved in combat activities at the time of any incident, no form of person to person insurance for participants is provided. In view of this a commonly agreed Safety and Conduct Policy is both desirable and necessary in order to minimise the risks involved in The Society's activities and all members taking part in such activities agree to be bound by it.
- d) The Safety and Conduct Policy consists of a set of rules which The Society will follow with regards to ensuring the general safety of members of The Society and the public and the general conduct of members.

### 2) Basic Health and Safety Responsibilities for Society Activities

- a) All members of The Society have basic responsibilities for their own and others health and safety as laid down by law.
  - i) To take reasonable care of your own health and safety during any activity and while present at Society events.
  - ii) To take reasonable care not to put other people – fellow members of The Society and members of the public – at risk by what you do or don't do in the course of any activity.
  - iii) To make sure you have received proper training to engage in any activity and you understand and follow The Society's policies that cover that activity.
  - iv) To ensure that your personal protective equipment, costume and 'tools of the trade' are of the necessary standard to perform correctly and are well maintained.
  - v) To report any injuries, strains or illnesses you suffer as a result of the society's activity (as The Society may need to change the way things are done).

### 3) Specific Health and Safety Requirements

- a) The Society makes use of open fires as part of demonstrations and the encampment. These fires must be attended at all times and a bucket of sand or water on hand and clearly visible for use in a case of emergency. In addition, appropriate modern firefighting equipment should be to hand but concealed from sight.
- b) The Society will ensure that an appropriate 50-person Serious Injury First Aid Kit (as recommended as appropriate to the Society by the health and safety executive) will be available at all Society events. In

addition to standard contents this first aid kit will also feature specialist rescue equipment for removing armour (e.g. bolt cutters) and additional burn care items.

- c) The Society will maintain a record of those members competent to provide serious injury emergency aid and ensure that if at all possible at least one such member is present at all events.
- d) At no point shall a member of the public be allowed to handle weaponry or other equipment independently of a Society member's supervision. Weapons and equipment displays must be roped off from public access or otherwise secured. Such displays must be supervised by a member of The Society at all times.

#### **4) Conduct of Members**

- a) Members shall behave in a professional and responsible manner at all Society Events.
- b) Members shall not consume intoxicating liquids or substances prior to or during any combat, display or practice.
- c) Any member taking prescribed medicine must notify the committee before taking part in any activity and will be registered as such.
- d) Any member unlawfully taking controlled substances will be expelled from the event and be considered for expulsion from the Society.
- e) It is recommended that before any member of the Society embarks on any activity involving the Society, that they will seek the guidance of the committee and talk to the relevant advisers
- f) If a member has a grievance connected with The Medieval Combat Society they should take the matter up with any member of the committee to resolve the matter.
- g) The Society and its members will not act or speak in a prejudicial way on the basis of race, colour, creed, sex or sexual orientation except where such an action is part of the portrayal of the attitudes and standards of the fourteenth century. In this instance, it will be made clear that such an action is a *portrayal* and does not reflect the views of the society or the individual member.
- h) No member will take any action that could be seen as bringing The Society into disrepute. A member so acting may be considered for expulsion from The Society.

#### **5) Use of Group Insurance for Non-Society Events**

- a) When considering applications to use Society insurance at non-society events the committee will under normal circumstances not grant the use of the insurance if
  - i) The event clashes with a Society event.
  - ii) The Society / Member has not received an invitation to attend the event.
  - iii) The member in question has not received permission to take part in activities at the event from the appropriate Society advisor.

However, each case will be considered on its individual merits / needs before a decision is made.