

The Code of Laws of the Kingdom of the West

As proclaimed by the order of King Jean on the first day of May A.S. VI; and amended in the reigns of King Hagen, King James, King Paul, King Andrew and King William II.

Article I –The Law

Section 1:

The King's word is Law. Any proclamation of the Crown of the West is the Law of the Kingdom from the moment it is spoken, subject to the By-Laws of the Society of Directors. However, until such proclamation shall have been presented in writing to the populace of the Kingdom, no subject of the Crown may be considered to be breaking the law in acting contrary to such proclamation through ignorance.

Section 2:

Amendments to these Laws shall be presented in the form of specific changes, additions, or deletions to specific articles and sections. Other proclamations shall be understood to have effect only during the reign of the King and Queen making them and to lapse at the Coronation of the next King and Queen. The only exceptions are the Charters of the several Baronies, Principalities and organizations within the Kingdom of the West, the Warrants of Appointment of the Officers of the Kingdom and all its parts and any written directive from the Crown to any of its ministers.

Section 3:

All proclamations of all previous reigns not included herein are rescinded, that there may be but one body of Law in this Realm. Each year at Twelfth Night will amendments of the previous twelve months (and all amendments not incorporated therein are understood to be rescinded) in order that all may know the Laws of the Kingdom of the West.

Section 4:

Within any Principality of the Kingdom of the West, the word of the Prince and Princess of that Principality is Law, subject to the By-Laws of the Society for Creative Anachronism, the formal decisions of its Board of Directors, and the discretion of the Crown of the West.

Section 5:

In the event that any Officer of the Crown of the West shall receive instructions, directions, or orders(saving only routine administrative directives) from anyone not given authority herein to give such, that Officer shall take no action on said instructions, directions, or orders until the King and Queen of the West shall have been consulted as to Their pleasure in the matter.

Article II – Tournaments and the Crown

Section 1.1

There shall be three Official Crown Tournaments and three Official Coronation Festivals per year in the Kingdom of the West. They shall be held on the weekend nearest to, or if a Wednesday, the next following:

6 January -Coronation Festival- Twelfth Night
21 March -Crown Tournament- Vernal Equinox
1 May -Coronation Festival- Beltane and New Year's Day
21 June -Crown Tournament- Midsummer's Day
1 August -Coronation Festival- Lammastide and Purgatorio
21 September -Crown Tournament- Autumnal Equinox

Section 1.2

And these six Official Events shall occur within the Provinces bordering the Great Bay of St. Francis in the heartland of Our Kingdom, except that the Crown may, at the time of scheduling of these events, grant exceptions as to date or place for sufficient cause.

Section 1.3

The exact dates, and normally the locations, of all events shall be made known to the populace in the issue of The Page immediately following 1 December for the following twelve months. In addition, firm dates for the following events shall be made known to the combatants by the beginning of each Crown List, if such dates are exceptions to the above schedule.

Section 2

Each Fighter, upon entering the Crown Lists, must declare that he will be available for the weekend during which his Coronation would occur, the weekend of the following Crown Tournament, and the Coronation of his successor; for no one, save a Duke, may enter the Crown Lists without the intention to win the Crown, and no one, save none, may intend to win the Crown without intending to reign.

Section 3

All belted fighters have the right to compete for the right to crown their Lady as Queen of Love and Beauty of the Kingdom of the West, unless the King shall find fault with them under the provision of Rule #14 of the Rules of the Lists; they shall be otherwise in violation of the Rules of the Lists, the Laws of the Society for Creative Anachronism, or the Laws of the Kingdom of the West.

Section 4.1

Should the Crown Prince, through no fault of his own, be unable to attend the Coronation Festival whereat he would have been crowned, such steps shall be taken as seem necessary, and as are acceptable to the Crown Prince and to the King, that the Crown Prince may achieve his Crown and become King.

Section 4.2

Should the Crown Prince fail to intend to reign, and should great and sufficient evidence of this failure be presented to the King, the King shall call a *Curia Regis* to consider the matter.

Section 4.3

Should the decision in the *Curia Regis* be that the Crown Prince has not failed in intent, then the King shall take such steps as are necessary and as are acceptable to both King and the Crown Prince, that the Crown Prince may achieve his Crown. But should the decision in *Curia Regis* be that the Crown Prince has failed in intent, then the Crown Prince shall be instructed to attend the Coronation Festival as scheduled or else abdicate.

Section 4.4

Should the Crown Prince elect to abdicate, either directly or through failure to respond or appear, then at the beginning of the Coronation Festival, a Crown List shall be called, to be comprised of all fighters present who had participated in the last Crown Lists, where the former Crown Prince won, save the former Crown Prince. And the winner of these Crown Lists shall become Crown Prince, and he and his Lady shall immediately be crowned King and Queen of the Kingdom of the West.

Article III – Officers and Duties

Section 1.1

There shall be seven Great Officers of State in the Kingdom of the West, and they shall be the Crown's Ministers and may sit with the King and Queen in *Curia Regis*. The Great Officers of State shall be: The Lord or Lady Chancellor, the Lord or Lady Seneschal, the Vesper Herald, the Early Marshal, the Master or Mistress of Arts, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Master or Mistress of Sciences.

Section 1.2

These Officer shall be responsible to the Crown to carry out the Laws and affairs of the Kingdom and to the national officers of the Society for Creative Anachronism, to conform to the By-Laws of the Society and the formal decision of its Board of Directors and to safeguard the interests and honor of the Society.

Section 1.3

These responsibilities shall not conflict, inasmuch as the King and Queen are equally bound to honor the same responsibilities and since the two sets of responsibilities exist in two distinct spheres.

Section 1.4

All of the Great Officers of State shall be considered to be of equal rank as the Crown's Ministers.

Section 2.1

The Lord or Lady Chancellor shall serve as the chief legal advisor to the Crown and shall carry out such other duties as are appropriate to the post.

Section 2.2

The Lord or Lady Seneschal shall be the principal legal representative of the Society within the Kingdom and shall have the ultimate responsibility for planning and carrying out the Official Events of the Kingdom. He shall receive reports from all other Great Officers and from Lesser Officers of State on the status of their offices, and shall carry out such other duties as are appropriate to the office.

Section 2.3

The Vesper Herald shall be the Crown's Official Voice upon the field, shall head the Kingdom's College of Heralds, and shall carry out such other duties as are appropriate to the post.

Section 2.4

The Master or Mistress of Arts shall be responsible for the encouragement and development of the Arts within the Kingdom, and shall carry out such other duties as are appropriate to the post.

Section 2.5

The Earl Marshal shall have the primary responsibility for the conduct of combat upon the field and for insuring and promoting the reasonable safety of such combat, and shall carry out such other duties as are appropriate to the post.

Section 3.1

Each Great officer of State shall have such deputies, assistants and subordinates as are necessary to the functioning of the Office. Such persons shall be appointed as provided in Section 4 of this Article.

Section 3.2

The Constable shall be under the Lord or Lady Chancellor.

Section 3.3

The Chatelaine, the Golden Key, the Chronicler, and other appropriate officials shall be under the Lord or Lady Seneschal

Section 3.4

All degrees of heraldic officials shall be under the Vesper Herald.

Section 3.5

The Dance Master or Mistress, the Master or Mistress of Music, the President of the College of Bards, and all other appropriate persons shall be under the Master or Mistress of Arts.

Section 3.6

The Knight Marshals and all other marshals shall be under the Earl Marshal

Section 3.7

The Keeper of the Royal Pavilion shall be under the Master or Mistress of Science.

Section 3.8

The Tourney Master or Mistress shall be appointed by the Crown on the recommendation of the Seneschal, the Vesper Herald, and the Earl Marshal, and shall be responsible to the foregoing Officials in their appropriate jurisdictions; specifically to the Lord or Lady Seneschal for securing dates and places and for general organizing and scheduling of events, to the Vesper Herald in matters of ceremony, and to the Earl Marshal for the proper laying out of the Lists.

Section 3.9

The Officer of the Master or Mistress of the Lists, the College of Scribes, the Royal Archer, the Master or Mistress of Equestrian Arts, the Royal Chirurgeon and other Lesser Officers of State shall be directly responsible to the Crown, but shall coordinate their activities with the Seneschal and such other officials as may be appropriate.

Section 4.1

Great Officers of State shall be appointed by the Crown with the consent of the appropriate national officer of the Society for Creative Anachronism.

Section 4.2

All deputies of Great Officers, all Lesser Officers of State, and all other Officers and Ministers of whatever position within the Kingdom, shall be appointed by the signed Warrant of the King and Queen.

Section 4.3

Any Officer or Minister may be removed by the Crown temporarily, or, for cause, permanently.

Section 4.4

Should the King and Queen be absent or unavailable, and should circumstances demand immediate attention, temporary actions may be taken by the appropriate Great Officer of State, or, in a case within a Principality, the Prince. Such temporary actions shall be taken in writing and shall be presented for confirmation to the King and Queen as soon as possible.

Section 5

In the event an Office becomes vacant, recommendations and/or comments shall be forwarded to the Crown in the following manner:

Section 5.1

The outgoing officer shall forward a recommendation to the corresponding officer at the next higher level. In the event of a prompt recommendation is not made, this duty shall become the responsibility of the Seneschal of the area in question. Those receiving such recommendations from their subordinates may

add their own recommendations (in which case, copies must be sent to their subordinates), and shall forward them, together with the originals, until, in this manner, they reach the Crown.

Section 5.2

Recommendations shall be expected from the outgoing officer (unless he/she was removed for cause), the Seneschal of the area, the appropriate Principality Officer (if any), the Prince (if he should so desire), and the appropriate Kingdom Officer.

Section 5.3

Anyone, if they so wish, may petition the Crown with a recommendation via the appropriate Kingdom Officer, the Lord Seneschal, or directly to the Crown.

Section 5.4

All recommendations, but not necessarily the reasons for them, shall be made public on request.

Section 6.1

There shall be a council of the Exchequer. It shall consist of the King, the Queen, the Lord or Lady Seneschal, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer or their representatives. The unanimous consent of this Council is necessary for the disbursement of any monies of the Kingdom.

Section 6.2

This Council shall meet between the Coronation of each King and Queen and the next Crown Tournament to determine the budget for that Reign.

Section 6.3

This Council shall also meet whenever else is necessary.

Section 6.4

All request for monies and proposals for use of the Kingdom's funds must be submitted in writing to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Section 7

There shall be a Grand Council meeting of the King, the Queen, the Crown Prince, the Crown Princess, the Great Officers of State, the Lesser Officers of State, and such other Officers as may be appropriate and necessary. It shall meet between every Crown Tournament and the Coronation so that the incoming Royalty may meet with all of Their Ministers and be informed of the state of the Kingdom.

Article IV – Courts

Section 1.1

The Courts of this Kingdom shall be *Curia Regis*, the court of Chancery and such special Courts as the Crown may periodically or occasionally convene. Each Court shall be concerned with those matters delegated to it by the Crown.

Section 1.2

The *Curia Regis* shall consist of the King, who convenes this Court and presides over it, the Queen, the Lord or Lady Seneschal, the Lord Chancellor, such other Ministers as may be concerned with the subject of the Court, and such other persons as the Crown may desire to include at a particular meeting of the court.

Section 1.3

Any subject of the Crown of the West may attend open session of this Court and may petition the Crown upon matters relevant and appropriate.

Section 1.4

Decisions of the Court Shall be by the King And Queen after hearing the advice of Their Ministers.

Section 2

The Court of Chancery shall consist of the Lord Chancellor, who shall preside, the Lord or Lady Seneschal, and such other persons as the Lord Chancellor shall determine from time to time. This Court shall decide matters pertaining to interpretations of the Laws of the Kingdom and such other matters as may be referred to it by the Crown.

Section 3

Save for consideration of matters of personnel, no Court or other meeting shall be held in secret without the specific permission of the Crown for great cause and in a specific instance; for the business of the Kingdom is not secret from the subjects of the Crown.

Section 4.1

Anyone wishing to register formal complaint against another within this Kingdom shall at minimum send copies of the complaint to the person being complained against, the local Seneschal, the Lord or Lady Seneschal of the Kingdom, and the Crown (via the Lord or Lady Seneschal, or directly). Complaints against an Officer should be directed to that Officer's immediate superior in addition to the above copies.

Section 4.2

Any Complaint not conforming to this requirement (Sec. 4.1) does not exist and will not be acted upon by the Crown or by any Officer of the Kingdom

Section 5

When the Crown has declared a Kingdom investigation complete and the decision final, no Officer may reopen the investigation or overrule the decision, save at the direction of the Board of Directors, or the Crown.

Article V – Arms and Orders

Section 1

Membership in any body created by the King and Queen of the West is regulated by the King and Queen. Membership in any organization recognized and chartered by the King and Queen is regulate by that organization.

Section 2

Membership in the Order of the Silver Mullet may be granted by the Crown to Knights who exhibit exceptional Chivalry and Courtesy for a substantial period of time. Recommendations for membership in this Order will come from the Order.

Section 3

The Crown may grant the Order of the Leaf of Merit to those persons who if finds deserving for whatever reason, but normally involving substantial service to the Kingdom or the Society over a substantial period of time, particularly of the sort that does not inherently attract great public notice. This Order shall carry with it an Award of Arms, and shall rank immediately after Grants of Arms and ahead of all other Award of Arms.

Section 4

In addition to the Great Officers of State, the following persons may be given Grants of Arms:

- a) Landed Barons and Baronesses, at the pleasure of the Crown.
- b) The Chief Deputy Seneschals, the Titled Heralds, the Chief Deputies of other Great officers of State, upon the recommendation of their superiors and at the pleasure of the Crown.
- c) Lesser Lords of State who head large Offices, at the pleasure of the Crown.

Section 5

All Arms, whether by Award, Grant or Patent, are given at the pleasure of the Crown to those who meet the qualifications for them. Anyone may submit recommendations to the Crown, together with the reasons for them, but the actual gift of Arms is the Crown's alone.

Section 6

Notwithstanding Section 5 of this Article, the Crown may grant to the Prince and Princess of a well established Principality the right to give Award of Arms to their subjects within that Principality. Such authorization shall last only for the duration of the Reign and shall lapse immediately upon the coronation of the next King and Queen, who may renew it or not at Their pleasure.

Article VI – The Conduct of Combat

Section 1.1

In that it is the duty of all belted fighters to provide a proper example of readiness for those who aspire to that rank, any Knight or Master-At-Arms who does not come equipped with helm, shield, weapon and other required equipment for his exclusive use at that event, duly examined and approved by the King or His representative, may not fight.

Section 1.2

Neither shall any fighter bear upon the field any arms or device of another, nor badge, save by fealty or affiliation with the holder thereof, unless due to unusual circumstances the King shall personally grant a temporary exception in a specific case.

Section 2

No Person shall enter the combat field during combat save the combatants, the officiating Marshals, and those who have obtained permission from the Crown for a specific instance.

Section 3

Blows at or below the knee or wrist need not be counted.

Section 4

In case of injury, no person shall enter upon the field save the combatants already present, the officiating Marshals who are already present, the Earl Marshal, the Lady of the injured fighter, that member of the Office of the Chirurgeon who is on duty at the moment, the King, the Queen, or someone specifically granted permission by the Crown for great cause, such as to assist the injured fighter from the field, or to remove his armor.

Section 5

No person shall be present upon the field of combat during combat carrying or under the influence of alcoholic beverages.

Section 6

There shall be no smoking on the field.

Section 7

If for reasons acceptable to the King, any fighter does not wish to fight a specific opponent, he may honorably withdraw, his opponent may honorably withdraw, or they may with the approval of the Crown, settle the contest by other means.

Article VII – Arms and Armor

Section 1

Any shield which has metal within $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of the edge of the shield must have the shield edge protected in such a manner as to cover the metal edge and protect swords from excessive damage.

Section 2

All fighters shall be equipped with adequate protection for the neck, hands, kidneys and joints before entering upon the field for combat. Adequacy of such protection or of other protection which may be required, will be determined by the Earl Marshal.

Article VIII – The Conduct of the Tourney

Section 1

The use of horses at tournaments shall be governed by the following:

Section 1.1

All persons wishing to ride at tournaments must have the permission of the Master or Mistress of Equestrian Arts.

Section 1.2

Horses within the pavilion area shall be ridden at no gait faster than a walk.

Section 1.3

Horses shall not be used in combat until such time as riders have complied with all the Rules of the Lists for fighters and have proven sufficiently skilled in the handling of the horses; and horse have been proven sufficiently skilled in training and have sufficient armor as to suffer no discomfort or injury.

Section 1.4

Riders need not be qualified fighter to tilt at rings or quintain.

Section 1.5

No Jousting at another person will be permitted.

Section 1.6

Helms used for riding must be checked and approved by the Master or Mistress of Equestrian Arts and by the King or his representative.

Twelfth Night, AS XI

Being also January 1977