

West Kingdom Youth Combat Rules

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The primary rule set for Youth Armored Combat shall be the West Kingdom Combat Standards (<http://www.westkingdom.org/files/MHB.pdf>) except where as stated in this document. The intention is to train Youth Fighters in the same style of combat they will engage in as adults. This will encourage consistent training and allow for an easy transition to Adult Combat when they turn 16. This also allows us to leverage the existing Marshalling community as the main changes will be during armor inspection.

1) Rules of the List

a) General rules

- i) This program is an experiment as defined by the laws and rules of the SCA, Inc. and must abide by all reporting requirements and limitations that are set down by that body.
- ii) For information regarding valid targets, calibration, effects of blows, or any other area not specifically covered in this document, refer to the West Kingdom Marshal's Manual. These rules supersede the Marshal's Handbook if information in the two documents is in conflict.
- iii) All participants under these rules must be familiar with the Armored Combat rules as a whole.
- iv) This program is for minors aged 10 through 15 years.
- v) This program is intended primarily as a training and development period for the next generation.
 - (1) While tourneys will be held, it is not expected that tourneys and the glory associated with winning them, will be a primary focus of this program.
 - (2) The main focus will be on SAFETY, chivalry, honor, courtesy, and proper technique.
- vi) Minors training under this program may practice with adults for instructional and authorization purposes as long as an Advanced Marshal is observing or participating in the bout. There shall be no competitive combat between youth and adult fighters.
- vii) Authorizations will follow the format used for adults.

b) Parent or Guardian Rules

- i) Parents and/or guardians shall be subject to all of the requirements set forth by the West Kingdom Youth Combat Marshallate, the West Kingdom Earl Marshal, and the Society Earl Marshallate.
- ii) Parents and/or Guardians are responsible for being familiar with Youth Combat and must sign a statement to that effect prior to the child's authorization.
- iii) Parents and/ or Guardians shall sign all appropriate medical releases before the child participates in any training.

- iv) Parents and/or guardians may be required to be present when the child is fighting or training.

c) Marshal Rules

- i) The Marshallate's priority is to minimize the risk of injury through observance of the Rules of the List.
- ii) If a combatant repeatedly appears to disregard blows or act in an unchivalrous manner, the Marshal shall stop the combat. The Marshal shall demonstrate the blow(s) that appear to be at issue to both parties. This shall be done in such a way to illustrate a proper killing blow with sufficient force to allow the combatants to learn how to gauge properly and/or how to avoid an unchivalrous act. This will be done with the express purpose of teaching the proper actions only, stressing the need to preserve the honor of both parties involved in the combat.
- iii) The MIC of the tournament **MAY** adjust fighter groups to accommodate the numbers, ages, skills levels and sizes of fighters in a given event.

2) Equipment

Conventions as per the West Kingdom Combat Standards with the following additions:

a) Armor Standards

- i) Rigid or padded thigh protection is required.
- ii) Rigid material or heavy leather vambraces (forearm armor) are required for exposed forearms
- iii) Sturdy boots that cover the ankle are required

b) Weapons Standards

- i) The only regularly permitted weapons are single handed swords. A Youth fighter may fight in one of these 3 styles: single sword, 2 one-handed swords, or sword and shield. All other weapons are deemed experimental and may be used only with permission of the Earl Marshal or the Kingdom Youth Combat Marshal. Experimental weapons may not be used in tournament. No experimental weapons may be constructed to be in violation of any rules put forth in the West Kingdom Marshals Manual.
- ii) Thrusting shall be a separate authorization.

3) Youth Combat Administration

a) General

- i) The West Kingdom Earl Marshal shall have a current consumer report or investigative consumer report (employment background check) on file with the SCA, Inc.
- ii) Adult Armored marshals may marshal youth combat.
- iii) There must be TWO, UNRELATED adults present for youth combat to be held at an event or practice. AT LEAST ONE ADULT MUST BE AN ADVANCED MARSHAL.

- iv) At tournaments, every field must have at least one adult armored marshal supervising that field. Additional marshals on each field may be made up of youth marshals or MIT's as available.

b) Youth Marshals

- i) Youths under the age of 14 may authorize as Youth Combat Marshals-In-Training. Youth MITs may oversee combat under the direct supervision of an adult marshal.
- ii) Youths aged 14-15 may authorize as Youth Combat Marshals.
- iii) Youth Combat Marshals shall complete a Combat Marshal Authorization.