

Battle of Evesham Safety

Personal Protection

Everyone on the field must wear head and hand protection. –

Metal kettle hat,

Great helm,

Transitional Great Helm,

Secret,

or

Spangenhelm.

Wearing a mail coif on its own is not sufficient.

Gloves / mail mittens

Gloves should be sufficiently robust to protect your hands

(Please note while fingered mail gloves existed, they were rare and expensive so only the highest ranks would have them).

Padding (gambeson) short sleeved or sleeveless gambesons should not be worn without Mail as it leaves the arms devoid of protection.

Anyone wearing a short sleeved or sleeveless gambeson under mail must accept they are at higher personal risk.

Mail should not be worn without a gambeson – while blows are pulled the assumption will always be if you are in mail you are also padded.

Weapons

Swords, falchions, daggers, maces, spears and pole arms.

All weapons must be in good order with blunted edges and rounded tip of sufficient size.

Blades must be free of burrs and sharp nicks.

War hammers and chain maces and other flail weapons are not permitted
No sharp items must go anywhere near the battle field

Fighting

IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH PARTICIPANT TO ENSURE SO FAR AS IS REASONABLY PRACTICABLE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THEMSELVES, FELLOW PARTICIPANTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC THROUGHOUT THE EVENT.

ALL PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE AWARE THERE IS A RISK OF BODILY INJURY INVOLVED IN RE-ENACTMENT AND BY ENTERING THE BATTLEFIELD THEY ACCEPT THIS RISK

- Target areas T shirt and shorts
- Blows should be pulled – No full-strength impacts.
- Absolutely no head shots or back shots

No one who is intoxicated (includes any medication that causes drowsiness) shall take part and alcohol should not be consumed before the battles.

Absolutely No vendettas or personal disagreements / arguments should be on the field. If there is an issue bring it to the attention of the organisers.

Anyone disregarding these safety rule will be instructed to leave the event.

Archers

Arrows will be provided for the event and are the only arrows that should be taken onto the field. Target only the archers directly opposite you.

- Only lobbed shots (minimum 45 degrees)– **absolutely no flat shots**
- Never shoot at horses or moving infantry

Bows should be of a reasonable poundage or only drawn sufficiently far to reach the target.

All archers wishing to take part are required to attend the arena immediately after the captains meeting on Saturday morning to undertake ranging shots.

Morning Briefings

Every group, including archers, **must** have a representative at the morning briefing on both Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Disabilities

We will endeavour to make adequate provision for anyone taking part with a disability – please make the organisers aware of any needs.

If anybody needs to wear special equipment (such as strong glasses for extremely poor vision, or extra armour because of metal plates in head) or has any medical conditions, please ensure that your captain and the armies safely officer (names to be provided) are aware before the event, and that these individuals are checked out before going on the field or before the site opens for civilians. This is entirely from a safety point of view.”

Water / food

It is vital that everyone is well hydrated. Please ensure that everyone takes on plenty of fluids before the battle. Each group should have allocated water carriers or each person should carry their own flask.

It is not advisable to share cups / straws.

Equally please make sure you have eaten – last year someone needing first aid admitted they had not eaten all day – bonkers given the level of physical activity being undertaken.

It is not just the heat that can cause dehydration problems, 2023 was very wet but we still had a number of cases of heat exhaustion / dehydration. I humid

conditions sweat will accumulate in the gambeson and clothing adding to the heating effect.

If you start to feel ill or see someone in difficulty, get them away from the combat to the edge of the arena. Take on water and if safe to do so strip off armour and padding. If necessary, seek assistance from the first aiders in attendance.

After the battle strip off armour and padding as soon as you can and take on more fluids.

First Aid

The organisers will ensure that first aid facilities are available.

In the event of first aid being required by a participant, if possible, they should be assisted to the boundary rope and from there to the first aid point. Walking wounded should not remove helmets until they are beyond the boundary ropes.

Should it be felt that they should not be moved then the captain of their section must be informed immediately and appropriate action taken, by them, such as calling the Event First Aiders onto the field.

The on-field commanders will instruct if the battle action has to be halted or altered to allow safe access for the Event First Aiders and possibly the ambulance.

Fire

Participants must ensure that they do not do anything that which may create the possibility of the outbreak of fire.

All cooking fires must be off the ground.

No digging of turf or building of fires on the ground in any part of the site.

Ideally dampened boards beneath the fire to protect the grass

Do not leave fires or even candles unattended.

You must have a means to extinguish a fire - Fire buckets / water must be immediately at hand.

No fires in the plastic camping area

In the event of fire:

- A. Raise the alarm
- B. Clear the immediate area
- C. Arrange for the Fire Brigade to be called;
- D. If appropriate, tackle the fire. If not await the arrival of the Fire Brigade.
Do not put yourself at risk.

When clearing your fire at the end of the event, MAKE SURE that the fire is completely cold and put ashes in the Metal bin provided.

Living History area

Watch out for trip hazards.

Your camp should be roped off to prevent members of the public entering areas of risk (e.g. fire pit we have all heard “is that a real fire” as a hand is thrust towards it).

If guy ropes could cause a trip ensure pieces of cloth are tied to them to highlight the trip hazard.

When discussing / demonstrating weapons end kit to members of the public ensure there is nothing sharp, there are no nicks or burrs etc have regard to the weight of items – you are used to it the public are not. Do not permit members of the public to “swing” weapons.

This is a great event and we want to keep it enjoyable and safe.