

*******Sharps and Yellow Tags updates*******

NOTE: This is a summary of what the new sharps updates include, and is not regulation document itself! It is correct at the time of writing (January 2022), but please see the relevant regulations document for the most recent guidelines.

Hi all!!! 😊 Thank you again for your patience with this!

With the release of the updated MaA regs (which are in the process of being amended after member's feedback), and following discussions with our new LHEC (Amy Wheatly), I wanted to let everyone know that the yellow tag system is no longer in place and has been replaced by the following regulations which will sit in each respective officer's regulation document:

If you have any questions about this, please do contact the relevant officer!

Thanks all!! 😊❤️🐧

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MaA Regs: *The following updates have been included in the MaA regs (available in the latest regs document which can be view in the files section of this group).*

Every warrior of the society has a responsibility to ensure that the war gear that goes onto the battlefield is safe and appropriate for use in combat (from local training session through to national events).

Within the society we use a 3-level system to ensure this:

- 1) **Personal Level** – checking and maintaining your own war gear before an event or training sessions, and then checking again just before going to muster/checks.
- 2) **Group Level** – A check on all wargear by the local, group MaA or other responsible member.
- 3) **Society Level** – Before stepping foot on a battlefield ALL people taking part in the combat must present themselves to a member of the MaA team (at national events) or to the appointed individual at a local events/local training.

By having a three-tier system we have several opportunities to prevent dangerous war gear getting onto the battlefield, where if there was only one check, something could be missed and ultimately cause injury or death.

The main things we are checking for are:

- That all war gear conforms to the MaA regulations (please make sure you have read and understood the MaA regs)
- Anything that will cause actual harm on the battlefield – this is the call of the person doing the check e.g. will a torn leather rim on a shield cause harm? Probably not, but it will be picked up as something to fix after the event. Whereas a burr on a sword is much more likely to cause harm and will need to be dealt with there and then before it can go onto the field.

To supplement this there are a few new rulings which will be in place from January 2022:

- 1) At any time when live at an event, warriors may only enter the arena via the entrance way, and may not duck beneath the ropes at any point. The entrance will be made obvious by the MaA team.
- 2) It is the responsibility of the local group leader to ensure that all new members are aware of and understand the regulations and policies of the society, including the regulations around sharp weapons. Notes to those doing checks on war gear:
 - 1) Remember to actively ask all members if they have a sharp on them when doing their check.
 - 2) Have one individual standing at the entrance to the arena whose sole purpose is to watch out for anyone who may not have been checked or who may have ducked under the ropes.

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Living History Exhibit Co-ordinator Regs: The following will sit it the LHE regs.

- 1) Anyone wishing to display or carry sharp weapons on a WIC at an event must make the LHEC aware prior to the event. A weapon is defined as an item who's primary function was for use in combat; sharps used for cooking, butchery or woodwork etc. do not need to be declared.

Please note that the LHE team, will also be conducting checks at every event, to make sure sharps are being carried and displayed appropriately.

- 2) When not in use, ALL sharps must be kept on your WIC behind the rope, or secured inside a closed tent if there is no one on the WIC. SHARPS MUST NEVER BE LEFT UNATTENDED ON A DISPLAY.
- 3) Sharp weapons must either be:
 - Secured to their display when on the LHE e.g. tied onto a rack or table, so that a member of the public cannot just pick it up.
 - Beyond the reach of the public from behind the rope barrier.

If you are unable to do either of these then you may not display sharp weapons on your WIC.

- 4) If you have sharp weapons on your person as part of your impression on the LHE, be mindful of this fact and ensure members of the public cannot draw them and they cannot fall out. For example, securing a sword in the scabbard with a peace tie and be aware of where your weapons are.
- 5) All sharp weapons must be stored separately to blunt, combat weapons. For example, you must NEVER have a pile of both combat and sharp spears.
- 6) All sharp weapons should be covered when being transported to the arena i.e. swords and knives must remain in their sheaths; axes must have a cover (This should be a wooden cover, but can be a simple, plain leather cover). Note: Spears should ideally be covered, but due to their length may be carried vertically with the head in the air, if this is not possible, then it must be covered.
- 7) Where possible visibly distinguish your sharps weapons from your blunt, especially if they are superficially similar e.g. have the same or similar sheaths. So that YOU as an individual can immediately and easily tell the difference. This may be done by:

- Obviously marking the shaft of your spears e.g. by painting a narrow band around top or bottom of the shaft.
 - Attaching an obvious peace tie.
 - Attaching an obvious pennon.
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MTO Battlefield Combat regs: These are still in the process of being updated, and the relevant risk assessments are also being updated. However, as these will relate specifically to the use of sharp weapons for demonstrations, we felt that we could safely repeal the yellow tag rule without them.
