

APPENDIX 2: PROCEDURES FOR EXPERIMENTATION IN RAPIER COMBAT

All experimentation with new weapons or techniques will be approved, supervised and monitored by the Kingdom Rapier Marshal (or an appointed representative) after permission for testing has been granted by the Earl Marshal. Additionally, experimentation will be subject to procedures specified within the SCA Corporate Rapier Combat Rules.

If tested at an official event or practice, the Kingdom Rapier Marshal (or an appointed representative) must be present. In addition, all combatants and marshals must consent to the use of the weapon or technique before combat begins. If any of the marshals or combatants object to the use of the weapon or technique, it may not be used.

Rapier Spears Experimental Program

Sponsored by:
THLady Meala Caimbeul – Provost Marshal
Don Oliver Dogberry – Warranted Marshal.

Purpose:

To introduce and test spear/pike combat to SCA rapier combat.

Marhallate Guidelines:

Rapier Spears can only be used at official practices or events when at least one of the following marshals are present:

Kingdom Rapier Marshal (KRM)
Deputy Kingdom Rapier Marshal for Experimental Programs (DKRM-EP)
Experimental Program Sponsoring Marshal
Assisting Experimental Marshals

Assisting Experimental Marshals shall be designated by the Experimental Program Sponsoring Marshals, with approval by the Kingdom Rapier Marshal or DKRM-EP. The Experimental Program Sponsoring Marshals shall keep a list of all Assisting Experimental Marshals which shall be added to the monthly report to the KRM and DKRM-EP.

Acceptable Weapons:

The ONLY weapons included in this program are simulators pre-approved by the Society Rapier Marshal and the Caid Kingdom Rapier Marshal.

Initially, this includes ONLY the blade-and-collar style Pike sold by Alchem (<http://www.alcheminc.com/bucklers.html>) mounted on a finished hardwood haft not to exceed 5' in length.

All other simulators must be submitted to and approved by the Society Rapier Marshal and Caid Kingdom Rapier Marshal before they can be included in the program. The Caid Kingdom Rapier Marshal shall maintain a list of approved simulators as an appendix to this proposal.

Tips of the Rapier Spear must meet the same requirements of Rapier Blades as per the Caid Rapier Rules, Section 2.3.4.

To prevent excess damage to the haft and/or participant's hands, any protrusions (such as the pin on the Alchem Pike) must be covered in leather or fabric.

Fighting Conventions:

- Acceptable weapons shall be considered Heavy Rapiers for purposes of armor, blow calling, and weapon compatibility.
- All standard conventions for Heavy Rapier as per the Caid Rapier Rules shall be adhered to, with the addition of below conventions. Should the Caid Rapier Rules and the Fighting Conventions for the Rapier Spears Experimental Program conflict, participants shall adhere to the more restrictive ruleset.
- The "haft" can be used to parry blades
- Absolutely NO haft to body contact of any kind shall be allowed.
- Spears shall be considered as 'thrust only' weapons. The 'blade' of the Rapier Spear simulator is there for flexibility purposes only and may not be used to deliver cuts of any kind.
- Fighters must maintain control of their weapons at all times. Actions where a fighter pushes the weapon forward until his hands meet and more than two-thirds of the haft is in front of the hands shall not be allowed.
- If a fighter is struck in the arm he can yield, hand-off the spear to a marshal and continue with a sword if one should be available, or reposition the spear under the undamaged arm so it is braced against the body and the fighter can exercise sufficient control over it. No Hold will be called to accommodate these actions. If a marshal determines the fighter cannot exercise sufficient control, they will ask the fighter to leave the field.

- In melee, fighters may not perform a Death-From-Behind maneuver with a Rapier Spear.
- Additionally, Rapier Spears may be regulated in melees similar to current practices with Mock Gunnery where the number allowed would depend on the scenario and/or number of fighters on the field, and shall maintain a non-standard, refusable status if used in tournament combat.

Participation Requirements:

All fighters using Rapier Spears must :

- Meet all requirements for participation as per the Caid Rapier Rules, Section 1.2
- Have been authorized for heavier-type blades for at least six months
- Be approved by one of the Experimental Program Sponsoring Marshals or Assisting Experimental Marshals.
- Be at least 18 years of age.

Reporting:

All Experimental Program Sponsoring Marshals and Assisting Experimental Marshals are required to maintain a record of the following from each practice they attend in which Rapier Spears are used:

- Date of practice
- Names of the fighters using Rapier Spears
- Any and all technical issues that arise from the use of these weapons
- All injuries (regardless of severity).

Assisting Experimental Marshals shall report any program activity to the Experimental Program Sponsoring Marshals within 5 days.

The Experimental Program Sponsoring Marshals shall submit a report, at the end of each month, summarizing activity and issues related to the Rapier Spears Experimental Program, to the KRM and DKRM-EP. Additionally, in the case of an injury, a report must be submitted to the KRM within 24 hours and an injury report will be filed with the Kingdom Earl Marshal.

Review:

Every year, the Kingdom Rapier Marshal and the Kingdom Earl Marshal shall review the experimental program, and a determination will be made as to whether to continue with the program, any changes in the concept or execution of the program, and/or any recommendations that should be made to the Society Rapier Marshal.

Historical Context:

While it is not a part of this experimental program, research into aspects of historical training on the usage of pole arms, including spears will be encouraged. Several historical manuals commonly used within the SCA for reference have sections on training with, and against, pole arms; and can be used as the basis for starting any research appropriate to our weapons form.

With a cursory study of the manuals, the information within appear to range from the single diagrams in Agrippa (1553) & Marozzo (1558), as well as the “spear vs. rapier” in Fabris (1606) ; through the extensive discussion within Di Grassi (1594) of his four ‘Weapons of the Staffe’ (The Bill, Partisan, Halberd & Pike) and to Swetnam (1617) with his Guards for staff, and his chart of various ‘weapons forms’ played at challenges, including “...Rapier and Dagger, or Sword and Dagger against a Staff or Halberd”. There are many types of pole arms used within period that are too complicated to reproduce safely within our context. The ‘spear/pike’ allows for a simulator that is easy to acquire, use safely, and train with.