

Specialised Authorisation - SCA Lochac

http://www.sca.org/officers/equestrian/pdf/equestrian_handbook.pdf

From page 8 of the SCA Equestrian Handbook:

Special Authorisations are required for certain activities:

(a) Special authorizations from kingdoms are required for mounted archery, mounted combat, crest combat, and foam jousting.

(1) The mounted combat program is designed to represent combat as done from horseback. Because incidental strikes to equines will occasionally happen, it is important mounted combatants understand that the combat is representational only, and for this reason, the force levels and associated armor standards are kept intentionally low.

(2) It is also important to understand that armor for SCA ground combat may or may not be suitable for mounted combat or jousting. Any armor intended for equestrian use should be evaluated for its suitability in equestrian martial activities.

(b) Wooden lance jousting requires a special authorization from marshals within the Society's Wooden Lance Jousting Program. Refer to section II.G in the SCA Equestrian Handbook or discuss with the Lochac Equestrian Marshal.

The Authorising Equestrian Marshal should consider the following:

(a) The individual meets the General Riding requirements.

(b) The individual must demonstrate familiarity with, and the ability to safely handle and use, the equipment used in SCA mounted games.

(c) The individual must demonstrate the ability to safely control their equine while engaging in SCA equestrian activities while encumbered by the appropriate

General Riding requirements:

(a) The individual must demonstrate familiarity with the Society Equestrian Handbook, any Kingdom specific equestrian requirements, and the nature of equestrian activities within the Society.

(b) The individual must demonstrate an awareness of the risks inherent to equestrian activities, including recognition of how their current skill level relates to the equine they intend to ride.

(c) The individual must demonstrate the ability to safely control their equine while engaging in SCA equestrian activities.

If you are reading this because you want to authorise so you can participate in mounted archery, mounted combat, crest combat or foam jousting at an event, I would recommend talking to the

Authorising Marshal that will be authorising you to discuss any specific requirements they may have. It helps to reduce the 'unknowns' for both of you. When in doubt, contact the Lochac Equestrian Marshal.

Some things you should be able to do to authorise for mounted games and include the general riding requirements (but are not limited to):

- Have an understanding of the SCA Equestrian Handbook - the Authorising Marshal may ask you some general knowledge questions in relation to safety - you do not need to know the handbook by rote;
- Discuss the skill level of your equine and any potential risks relating to your ride;
- Discuss your skill level with the Authorising Marshal and how that will impact on your riding or attending an event. What is your risk management plan?
- Catch your horse calmly and quietly;
- Groom your horse;
- Tack your horse up (e.g. saddle and bridle);
- Safely mount your horse;
- Have your horse stand quietly whilst you are in the saddle;
- Have your horse walk around a designated area on both reins, keeping your mount safely under control;
- Have your horse trot around a designated area on both reins, keeping your mount safely under control;
- Have your horse canter around a designated area on both reins, keeping your mount safely under control. *Canter should only be requested if the skill level of the horse and rider allow.* Canter is not required to authorise for general riding but an acknowledgement of risks and requirements should be discussed and shown by the individual authorising;
- Discuss the activity (that you will demonstrate for your authorisation), equipment required and how to use the equipment;
- Discuss risk management for the activity you have chosen and show how to handle the equipment at a standstill (e.g. boffer, lance);
- Participate in the activity at a walk with safety and whilst having your mount under control;
- Consider the skill of the horse and rider if trot or canter is asked for. If the rider can demonstrate safety at the walk and an understanding of the risks involved, they should be authorised to allow training and skill building at Equestrian events (e.g. training days etc). They should understand that the faster gaits should only be asked for when the slower gaits have been mastered;
- Safely dismount;
- Safely untack your horse and put them in their yard/paddock;
- An understanding of risk management for people that may attend events and not have any experience with equines - some examples might be how would you manage someone wanting to ride your horse at an event? How would you secure your horse at an event?

At the end of the day, be honest about your abilities - with yourself and the Authorising Marshal. I can't emphasize this enough. If someone asks you about your experience, tell them the truth. They're not asking you because they're looking for a reason to tell you no. They're asking you because they want to make sure that you and your horse are safe. It's important you are on a horse that you can handle, rather than a horse that will handle you.

We want more people to be able to participate in Equestrian Events in Lochac and we need to make sure that we do that safely for all involved.

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