

The Shrewsbury Combatants Handboke for the Presentation of  
Arms by living History Guilds Being a discourse upon how thou shalt profit by these  
Standards in thy endeavours of Safety & Faire Play and containing herein a Most Important  
Form which Must be Returned.



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Printed at Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire



Shrewsbury Press Edition the Third 2003  
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Dear Faire Participant ~

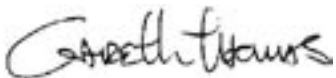
Presentation Combat is any form of weapons play performed for the public, whether on a stage, or in your Encampment. Both choreographed and unrehearsed combat fall into this category. Mounted Combat is a separate form of entertainment, and not handled by this department.

As per the regulations and standards of the SRF Board of Directors, only historic weapons of the Elizabethan England / Western European time period are allowed. Firearms, operational or not, are not allowed at any time. Likewise any metal armour, stage props, and clothing must conform to the Elizabethan period.

Attached is a brief questionnaire that must be filled out and returned to me no later than June 1 of the year you wish to participate. No combat requests will be considered after that date.

You will find that we have striven to create an environment that is not only professional and safe, but allows you the freedom to excel at your combat presentation.

Welcome to Shrewsbury,



Gareth Thomas  
Fight Director  
Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire

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On the cover: This depiction of furious fighters is entitled 'Duelling with two - handed swords', scene from a treatise on fencing by Joachim Meyer, 1570. The swords seen here are practice weapons with blunted blades which have a broad flaring area at the base combining flukes and ricasso.

## Lessons To the Public

If you plan to give some form of weaponry lessons to the public, submit the enclosed form stating your choices. Remember, all activities must stay within the perimeter of your encampment. This type of activity is subject to the Fight Director's requirements and permission.

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## Weapons Demos

Groups wishing to perform any weapon combat outside their encampment boundaries must submit their request to the Fight Director and arrange for a live or taped audition.

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## We Have No Camp!

Although no fighting is allowed in the streets, there are stages and performance areas aplenty. Tell us about your gig on the form enclosed. Subject to Fight Director approval with possible audition required.

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## Living History Encampment

Reenactment groups are invited to actively recruit and promote their work and organizations. Early registration is a must to be considered for addition to the SRF roster. Weapons must conform to SRF guidelines and may be inspected by the Fight Director at any time. Guilds displaying weapons and inviting public tours must use the strictest of safety precautions. Weapons demos inside you own camp and with proper safety perimeter may need to be cleared with the Fight Director. Submit your proposal with your application.

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## Part of the Play

As experienced Faire Folk, you already know the simple courtesies, etiquette and protocols of play we all take for granted. Staying in character towards one another when in view of the public, reverencing the nobility, and respecting others' camp boundaries all set an excellent example for our newer players.

## Presentation Combat Standards

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- 1) All combat must be carried out within the confines of your encampment or on a pre-approved stage. No fights are allowed in the streets. Please take the required fight space into consideration when applying for a camp.
- 2) Combat may take place only among your own guildmembers.
- 3) No impromptu fights will be allowed anywhere outside an encampment.
- 4) All combat will take place a safe distance from the public and with a watchman set at your boundary fence
- 5) All weapons will be peace-tied when outside your camp
- 6) Weapons and related displays will be kept out of public reach at all times. Any patron invited to look at your weapons will be escorted by a guildmember at all times. Never unsheathe your weapon in the streets to show it to anyone.
- 7) Weapons are subject to Fight Director inspection and approval. Weapons will all be dulled and bated or blunted
- 8) Weaponry must meet SRF historic guidelines; no shinai, katanas, foils or bokken, and certainly no PVC or duct-tape weapons.
- 9) All guilds / performers exhibiting weaponry in any manner must submit evidence of insurance to SRF.
- 10) Pole weapons and greatswords / zweihanders must remain within the confines of a guild yard unless
  - A) the blades are covered or
  - B) you are on your way to a pre-approved gigProcessions are considered gigs, but must still be pre-approved.
- 11) Shrewsbury is a dry site; consumption of alcohol and swordplay do not mix. Anyone found under the influence while armed will be asked to leave the faire.

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## What Is Considered Appropriate Weaponry?

Weaponry for 16th Century England and Europe can cover a wide range. Here are lists of the do's and don'ts for SRF weaponry

### YES

- Rapiers
- Longswords
- Two-Handers
- Shortswords
- Falchions
- Daggers
- Poniards
- Dirks
- Stiletos
- Pikes (Under 8 Feet)
- Halberds
- Partisans
- Axes
- Maces
- Wooden Cudgels
- Double - wide Epees and Schlaggers (for stage combat purposes)
- Bows ( considered a projectile weapon, and subject to very strict rules and regs. Contact the FD)

### NO

- Katanas
- Wakizashi
- tanto
- shinai
- Tachi
- PVC swords
- Bokken
- foils
- Civil War Sabers
- Machetes
- Foam padded weapons
- taped weapons

The best recommendation as to what arms to bring to faire is research. It is not enough that your weapon of choice simply look "cool" or go well with your costume. For the sake of the audience and to correctly add to the realism of the period the weapon needs to have a valid historical reason for being there. When in doubt, contact the Fight Director beforehand rather than show up at faire and be told to leave your weapon in the car!

RETURN YE THIS FORM

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We have read and agree to comply with the Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire Combat Standards. We understand that we are subject to inspection while on site by the Fight Director. We further understand and will comply with any and all of his direction.

Name of Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Group Leader

We further request permission for the following, and understand these activities must be sanctioned by the Fight Director and Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire, and are subject to audition:

Public Interaction  
Stage or Arena Gig

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form and your Evidence of Public Liability Insurance to:

Gareth Thomas, Fight Director  
Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire  
Box 604  
Philomath OR 97370  
FAX 541 929 7731

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FOR USE OF SRF FIGHT DIRECTOR ONLY  
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1. Evidence of Insurance received:  
Yes No

6. Weaponry meets minimal safety standards:  
Yes No

2. Encampment is safe for combat displays:  
Yes No

7. Weaponry meets Shrewsbury Historic guidelines:  
Yes No

5. Weaponry and displays are secure:  
Yes No

COMMENTS:

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----- Date -----

Gareth Thomas, Fight Director  
Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire