1. Object of the society

a) The name of the Society shall be “The Medieval Combat Society”
b) The Object of the Society is to derive pleasure by entertaining and educating the general public in medieval history by giving a display from the 14th Century thereby generating an interest in our heritage.
c) The dates the Society centres around for costume, equipment and depiction is from the end of the campaign season in 1347 to the formation of the order of the Garter in 1348.

2. Membership

a) Membership is open to both sexes and all age groups.
b) Full members should show as high a level of dedication as is individually possible.
c) A prospective member of the Society will be known as a probationary member for the first twelve months, after which time they should be proposed, seconded and a vote taken for membership within the Society. That membership shall be either full or associate membership.
d) Full members shall be members who give a valued contribution to the Society.
e) Associate members shall be members who have passed through their probationary period and are not already “Full”, “Honorary” or “Life” members. Associate members may not vote at the AGM or EGM.
f) Honorary members shall be created by the Committee upon the unanimous vote of the Society members. They shall enjoy all the privileges of the Society except that of voting.
g) A person under the age of sixteen shall be known as a junior member and shall be put forward to a vote on membership after this age as with any other probationary member.
h) All junior members must be under the care and control of an adult. Prospective members of the Society who become junior members can only do so with the written permission of their parent / guardian.
i) Control of appearance is governed by the Society’s appointed advisors. Only weapons, armour, heraldry, costume and equipment approved by the advisors is allowed to be worn or used. Equipment and costume used must be of a style that would have been worn or used in the 14th century.
j) All members shall be provided with a copy of the Society’s policy documents. Membership of the Society will imply that the member has read, understood and agrees to abide by these documents.
k) All children under 16 attending with a paid up member will automatically be counted as a junior member and shall be given all benefits of such as long as the parent / guardian gives written permission for the child’s participation.
l) Life members in the Society shall be known as “Members of the Order of the Garter of the MCS”
m) New life members will be forwarded for consideration by the existing Life members of the Society or by the committee.

3. Subscriptions

a) Annual subscription rates shall be set each year at the AGM.
b) A year’s membership of the Society shall run from the end of the AGM until the end of the AGM in the following year.
c) Subscriptions to the Society shall be payable immediately following the AGM each year or in the case of a person joining the Society on the day upon which the society is joined.
d) A person joining the Society on or after the 1st day of the seventh month after the AGM shall pay half the annual subscription.
e) Junior members and Life members shall not pay subscription.
f) The membership of any person who has not paid their subscription within 3 months of the AGM will be considered to have lapsed and that person will not be eligible take part in MCS events or make use of any other privilege of membership.
g) Lapsed memberships may be renewed at any time before the next AGM by the payment of the appropriate subscription. All rights of membership previously held will then be restored.
h) Any person who has not paid the appropriate subscription by the end of the AGM in the year following that in which it was due shall be deemed to have left the Society.

4. Policy Documents

a) The Society will maintain a collection of policy documents to govern the day to day operation of the Society. These policy documents will include but not be limited to safety rules for combat, archery and gunnery and a child protection policy.
b) Policy documents may be amended as required by a majority vote of the committee or AGM / EGM. Notification of these changes will be distributed to the membership within 30 days.
c) New policy documents may be created and obsolete policy documents withdrawn only by a vote of the membership at an AGM or EGM.

5. AGM Electoral Nominations

a) Self-nominations for committee and / or advisory positions within the Society are not permitted.
b) Nominations should be freely sponsored and seconded by Society members.
c) Nominations for committee and advisory positions shall be submitted to the secretary in writing by 20 days before the date of the meeting.
d) If 20 days prior to the AGM no nominations have been received for a post (committee or advisory) then a further round of nominations shall be taken at the AGM.
e) Secondees for nominations do not need to be submitted prior to the AGM but may be if desired, secondees for nominations will be requested at the AGM for all nominations unless supplied in advance.

6. Positions In The Society

a) No member shall hold office in the Society until he/she has been a member of the Society for two years.
b) The committee shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Director and Bookings Officer.
c) The committee shall be responsible for the administration of the Society.
d) The committee is empowered to act on behalf of the members of the Society.
e) The advisory positions shall consist of a Heraldry Advisor, Weapons Master, Archery Master, Dance Master, Gunnery Master, Costume and Equipment Advisor, Depiction Advisor and Fight Trainer / Arranger.
f) The committee and advisory positions shall be elected annually at the AGM of the Society.
g) Three committee members shall constitute a quorum of a committee meeting.
h) The term to hold office refers to both advisory and committee positions.
i) No member of the Society shall hold more than 1 committee position at any one time.
j) Each committee member and advisor shall nominate a willing deputy to learn, delegate tasks and assist in the role, and provide direction when the committee member or advisor is absent. The deputy is not empowered to make decisions unless explicitly directed. Ideally this should be someone different each year.

7. Officers

a) The President. Shall be responsible for the orderly running of Society meetings. The president can make proposals. The President’s vote shall only be used as a casting vote. The President shall be empowered to negotiate tournament fees.
b) Vice President. Shall be responsible for deputising for the President where appropriate and also shall be responsible for organising the social events in the Society calendar, organising the food for shows and shall be able to co-opt assistance where necessary.
c) Secretary. Shall be responsible for dealing with correspondence; keep minutes of Society meetings, and reference copies of the society documentation including constitution, bye laws and policy documents. Shall be responsible for co-ordination of society publicity in conjunction with the various office holders. The secretary is empowered to negotiate tournament fees on behalf of, and in the absence of, the President.
d) Treasurer. Shall be responsible for the proper administration of Society finances and shall present, each year, an audited account at the AGM of the Society funds. The treasurer shall be responsible for auditing all items of equipment purchased by the Society.
e) Tournament Director. Shall be responsible for rehearsing the Society, implementing the script and coordinating the Society at tournaments and keep up to date with current public performance requirements.
f) Bookings Officer: Shall be responsible for promoting the coordinating show bookings and show publicity for the Society and keeping a record of any material used in publication, passing copies of publicity and other materials used to the secretary. The Bookings officer shall be empowered to negotiate tournament fees.
8. The Advisors

a) Heraldry: Must approve all designs which must be correct for the period and heraldic rules.
b) Weapon Master: Shall approve all weapons and armour for safety and authenticity.
c) Costume and Equipment Advisor: Shall advise on all costumes and non combat equipment for choice of material and suitability.
d) Fight Trainer Arranger: Whilst it is not essential that the Fight Trainer take part in the fighting, he/she shall be responsible for all aspects of fighting and pre-tournament training and shall take the final decision as to a member’s suitability to take part in a tournament.
e) Membership Coordinator: Shall be responsible for all new membership contacts and maintain a list of all current members and contact details, contact information to be shared amongst members, volunteered health information, and be able to provide this information upon request to society officers. The membership coordinator shall encourage members to notify them on attendance at events and trace lapsed memberships to encourage them to rejoin. Shall seek methods to recruit new members, communicate with potential new members to encourage joining, and ensure that potential new members are put in touch with relevant society officers. Shall be responsible for membership publicity in conjunction with the secretary.
f) Archery Master: Shall be responsible for the use of bows and all other non-firearm projectile weapons at shows, pre-show training in their use and the provision of have a go archery. The archery master shall take the final decision as to a member’s suitability to take part in a display and the suitability of a site for a display or have a go activity.
g) Dance Master: Shall be responsible for all aspects of dance and pre-tournament training and shall take the final decision as to a member’s suitability to take part in a display.
h) Gunnery Master: Shall be responsible for all aspects of the use of firearms, pyrotechnics and black powder at shows and pre-training in their use. The gunnery master shall take the final decision as to a member’s suitability to take part in a display and the suitability of a site for a display and must have the appropriate legal authorisation.
i) Depiction advisor: The depiction advisor helps members develop and research whatever they want to do in show and tell.

9. Safety

a) No member shall consume intoxicating liquid to excess prior to a tournament or practice
b) Members shall not fight with equipment likely to prejudice safety.
c) Members shall wear approved head and hand protection in combat situations.
d) Members shall behave in a responsible manner during tournaments and practice sessions

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e) Any member taking prescribed medicine must notify the tournament director before taking part in a tournament and will be registered as such.
f) Any member unlawfully taking controlled substances will be banned from the tournament and possibly from the Society.

10. Insurance

a) The Society undertakes to provide adequate Public Liability Insurance.
b) The Society’s insurance may, at the discretion of the committee, be used by members to attend non Society events, so long as a formal written invitation has been received by the group to attend the event and the event does not clash with a Society show or event.
c) In order for members to take part in combat, archery or gunnery at a non Society event using the Society insurance the appropriate advisory officer, or a member appointed by him/her, must be in attendance to make the necessary judgements on the safety of the event and participants.
d) The appropriate advisory officer for non society events as mentioned above are as follows

Melee combat : Fight trainer arranger
Archery : Archery master
Gunnery : Gunnery master
All other activities: Tournament Director

11. Equipment

a) All equipment and costumes used by the members of the Society should be of such as standard as to reflect to hitherto good standards of the Society.

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a) All costume must conform to the medieval period and must be heraldically correct and conform to the status of the character you are playing.
b) All costume must be approved by the costume advisor prior to being worn in public.
c) All costume and weaponry must be maintained and presentable

13. Fees

a) Fees made payable to the Society shall be only payable to The Medieval Combat Society.

14. Guidelines

a) It is recommended that before any member of the Society embarks on any activity involving the Society, that he / she will seek the guidance of a quorum of the committee.
b) If a member has a grievance connected with The Medieval Combat Society it is hoped that he / she will take the matter up with any member of the committee.

15. Conduct of the Annual General Meeting

a) An AGM or EGM may be called by the following, and the held at the first available opportunity: A majority committee decision; If the Committee falls below 4 members; At the request of at least one third of the current voting membership or eighteen months has passed since the previous AGM.
b) Changes to the constitution can only be effected at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting (called and managed according to the same rules as an Annual General Meeting).
c) Members shall be notified 40 days before an AGM, or 30 days for an EGM. Submissions to be received by the secretary days prior to the date of the meeting no later than 20 days before the meeting.
d) Only paid up full members and life members shall be entitled to vote at the AGM or EGM, wherever family membership applies, all members of the family, except junior members, shall be entitled to vote.
e) Junior members and End of Season members shall not be entitled to vote at the AGM or (EGM).
f) The minutes and the amended constitution will be sent out to members within 28 days of the conclusion of the AGM

g) Constitutional changes will take effect at the end of the meeting. Created posts will be created, and abolished posts will be abolished at the end of the meeting.

h) Quorum of the AGM shall be 50 percent of the voting membership. Any meeting not reaching Quorum shall need its motions ratified at the next quorate meeting

i) Constitutional changes shall only be accepted from members if they reach the secretary in time to meet the 20 day deadline as mentioned in paragraph 15c. The committee may submit emergency constitutional changes at the AGM

k) Agendas shall be presented to members before 10 days prior to the meeting.

16. Finance

a) The treasurer will notify all members when the accounts will be audited for the current year and all invoices must be given to the treasurer no later than 1 month prior to the books being audited.
b) All invoices and requests for funds shall be accompanied by a form listing every invoice, the amount of the invoice, the date of the purchase, what the invoice represents, who spent the money and who the MCS is paying the money to in return for the invoices.
c) Any invoices submitted for payment 3 months after the expenditure of the money will not be automatically paid but must be ratified by the committee and minuted as such.
d) The treasurer in conjunction with the committee and the bookings officer shall produce a budget of financial proposals for the coming year to be presented at the AGM. The proposed income of the budget shall be set as the average income from the previous 5 years.
e) The budget shall show the previous year’s income and expenditure as well as the coming year’s estimates of income and expenditure.

17. Society By-laws
a) The Society shall hold its rules and regulations not specifically covered by the constitution in a document known as the by-laws of the medieval Society, here after known as by-laws.
b) Changes to the by-laws may be made by majority vote at a quorate Society AGM or EGM or by a full meeting of all members of the committee.
c) Relevant motions carried by majority vote at an AGM or EGM which do not affect the constitution or any constitutionally supported documents or safety rules should be added to the by-laws and take effect immediately.
d) Changes to the by-laws by the committee shall be added to the by-laws and take effect immediately but shall be ratified by the next quorate AGM or EGM or they shall be removed from the by-laws immediately.
e) No entry in the by-laws shall over rule any part of the constitution. In the event of an inconsistency between the bylaws and the constitution the Society’s approved constitution shall always take precedence.
f) Members shall be notified in writing by the committee of any new by-laws within 28 days of the committee formulating the by-law. Should a number of members corresponding to one quarter of the voting membership object to the by-law, the by-law shall not be adopted until acceptable wording is produced or the by-law is ratified by vote at an AGM/EGM, whichever occurs first.
g) All by laws, whether accepted or opposed at the time of notification to the membership remain subject to ratification at the next AGM/EGM.