

THE DRACHENWALD ACADEMY OF DEFENCE

1 Purpose of the Academy

The Academy is designed to promote the noble art of fence within the Kingdom of Drachenwald through recognition, education, and training of fencers of all levels of skill.

2 Goals of the Academy

The goals of the Academy are to provide a forum and a support group for all fencers throughout the Kingdom of Drachenwald, to honour fencers and gentles with like-minded interest in fencing, to educate fencers, and to gather fencing resources of both historical and educational value.

3 Officers of the Academy

The offices of the Academy are open to any member of the Academy currently residing within the Kingdom of Drachenwald.

Preceptor The Preceptor is the head of the Academy. This person represents the Academy before the Crown, and reviews and amends this Charter as voted on by the members of the Academy. This office shall be held for two (2) years.

Academy Scribe The Academy Scribe is responsible for maintaining a list of all Academy members. This list will include: their name, rank, and date that they were elevated to their rank. This office shall be held for two (2) years.

4 Membership and Rank within the Academy

Membership to the Academy will be on a voluntary basis and free of charge. Donations are requested, but not required. Donations should be in the form of braids to signify rank, not money.

A member should always feel free to ask a member of a higher rank for advice on improvement and advancement within the Academy.

To become a member of the Drachenwald Academy of Defence you do not have to be a fencer. You only have to have an interest in the Academy (i.e. as a member you help the Academy by increasing its numbers).

Member of the Drachenwald Academy of Defence:

Requirements to become a Member:

- Anyone wanting to join the Drachenwald Academy of Defence may write to the Academy Scribe about their wish to join the Academy and they will be added to the list of members.

Weapon forms and weapon categories referred to are defined in Table 1.

Free Scholar of the Drachenwald Academy of Defence:

Requirements to become a Free Scholar:

- A free scholar candidate should be a member of the Drachenwald Academy of Defence. If the candidate is not a member, they automatically become members after Playing the Prize.
- A free scholar candidate must wait for six (6) months from their first authorization.
- A free scholar candidate must be authorized in at least three (3) weapon forms (the same weapon forms in different weapon categories count as two different weapon forms in this case).
- A free scholar candidate must own his or her own sword and mask.
- A free scholar candidate must attempt to dress in a period style on and off the List field.
- A free scholar candidate must present themselves honorably on and off the List field.
- A free scholar candidate must ask to "Play the Prize", sponsored by a member of Free Scholar rank or higher. They will fight at least three (3) Free Scholars or members with a higher rank (their Examiners), twice, in three (3) weapon forms that they are authorized in (they do not have to win these bouts). This will be followed by an open 15 minute round where they will fight all challengers. Additional fights may be added to the Prize Fight, by mutual agreement of the Sponsor and the Candidate.

Provost of the Drachenwald Academy of Defence:

Requirements to become a Provost:

- A provost candidate must be a member of the Drachenwald Academy of Defence.
- A provost candidate must serve a minimum of one (1) year as a Free Scholar.
- A provost candidate must be authorized in all weapon forms of one (1) weapon category.
- A provost candidate must be a Period Fencing Marshal in Training or a Period Fencing Marshal.
- A provost candidate must own his or her fencing equipment, including sword, mask, and required armor.
- A provost candidate must dress in a period style on and off the List field.
- A provost candidate must present themselves honorably and chivalrously both on and off the List field.
- A provost candidate must be involved in at least one other aspect of the SCA (i.e. participation in any of the Arts & Sciences, participation in other martial arts, etc.).
- A provost candidate must demonstrate the ability to teach the Art of Defence.
- A provost candidate must be invited by a Sponsor of Provost rank or higher to "Play the Prize". They will fight at least three (3) Provosts or members with a higher rank (their Examiners), twice, in five (5) weapon forms that they are authorized in (they do not have to win these bouts). This will be followed by an open 30 minute round where they will fight all challengers. Additional fights may be added to the Prize Fight, by mutual agreement of the Sponsor and the Candidate.

Prefect of the Drachenwald Academy of Defence:

Requirements to become a Prefect:

- A prefect candidate must be a member of the Drachenwald Academy of Defence.
- A prefect candidate must serve at least one (1) year as a Provost.
- A prefect candidate must be authorized in all weapon forms, of at least one weapon category.
- A prefect candidate must be a Period Fencing Marshal.
- A prefect candidate must own his or her fencing equipment, and make an attempt at period style armor.
- A prefect candidate must dress in a period style on and off the List field.
- A prefect candidate must present themselves honorably and chivalrously both on and off the List field.
- A prefect candidate must be involved in at least one other aspect of the SCA (i.e. participation in any of the Arts & Sciences, participation in other martial arts, etc.).
- A prefect candidate must demonstrate the ability to teach the Art of Defence.
- A prefect candidate must demonstrate the ability to teach people in how to teach the Art of Defence.
- A prefect candidate must have some knowledge of the history of the Art of Defence.
- A prefect candidate must be invited by a Sponsor of Prefect rank to "Play the Prize". They will fight at least three (3) Prefects (their Examiners), twice, in each weapon form of at least one weapon category (they do not have to win these bouts). This will be followed by an open round where they will fight all challengers for as long as they are willing, but not less than 60 minutes. Additional fights may be added to the Prize Fight, by mutual agreement of the Sponsor and the Candidate.

Companion of the Drachenwald Academy of Defence:

Requirements to become a Companion:

- An eligible candidate for companion is someone who has provided outstanding service to The Drachenwald Academy of Defence, not just the fencing community.
- Nominations for companion will be voted on at an official Academy meeting.
- If a companion decides later to "Play for the Prize", they will replace their Companion's Braid with the braid of their new rank.

Insignia of membership will be the badge of the Drachenwald Academy of Defence:

Member	The Academy's badge
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Insignia for the ranks will be a braid worn preferably on the left side either on the shoulder or upper arm:

Free Scholar	A black braid
Provost	A black and red braid, more black than red
Prefect	A gold and black braid, more gold than black
Companion	A red and gold braid, more red than gold

Table 1. Weapon forms and categories, taken from the current (2015) Drachenwald Handbook for Period Fencing

	Weapon Categories		
	Light fencing blade	Heavy fencing blade	Cut-and-thrust blade
Weapon Forms	Single light blade	Single heavy blade	Single cut-and-thrust blade
	Blade and dagger	Blade and dagger	Blade and dagger
	Blade and rigid parrying device	Blade and rigid parrying device	Blade and rigid parrying device
	Blade and non-rigid parrying device	Blade and non-rigid parrying device	Blade and non-rigid parrying device
	Two light blades	Two heavy blades	Longsword

THE DRACHENWALD ACADEMY OF DEFENCE

By-Laws

1 The purpose and focus of the Academy

1.1 General

1.1.1 The Drachenwald Academy of Defence is based on the London Masters of Defence.

1.1.2 The Academy is an institution of the noble art of fence, for like-minded gentles in the interest of promoting fencing within the Kingdom of Drachenwald.

1.1.3 The Academy is a non-profit institution.

1.1.4 The primary goal of the Academy is to promote fencing in the Kingdom of Drachenwald by teaching and spreading knowledge, and also by arranging and holding fencing related activities and events, i.e. prize fights, tournaments, Collegia, etc.

1.1.5 Academy members should make themselves available to Event Stewards to aid in the organizing and running of fencing activities at Events.

1.1.6 The official means of communicating notices of meetings or proposals to expel members or remove officers from office are both The Dragon's Tale and the Drachenrapier email list. Other communications to the members, including announcement of Prize Playings, the agenda of Academy meetings, proposed changes to the Charter and By-Laws and decisions made at Academy meetings, should be made via the Drachenrapier email list and the Drachenwald Academy of Defense group on Facebook.

1.2 Teaching the Art of Defence

1.2.1 Academy members are encouraged to take students and teach them as best they can in the Art of Defence.

1.2.2 Normally a student will be trained until they reach the skill level of their teacher and then seek a new teacher or take on students themselves.

1.2.3 Students and teachers may part company at any time.

1.2.4 No obligation other than the willingness to teach and learn will be placed on either student or teacher.

2 Membership and Rank

2.1 Joining the Academy

2.1.1 Membership is open to all gentles that have an interest in the Academy and wish to join.

2.1.2 Membership is voluntary and free of charge.

2.1.3 New members are responsible for letting the Academy Scribe know that they have joined the Academy. The Academy Scribe will then add the new member's name to the Academy Roster.

- 2.1.4 Membership in the Academy is for life, as long as the member chooses not to leave the Academy or is removed by the other members, subject to the rules of expulsion in section 2.3 of these By-Laws.
- 2.1.5 If an Academy member leaves the Kingdom for more than six (6) months they lose their right to vote on Academy business until they return. They are still considered members.
- 2.1.5.1 Academy members that leave the Kingdom for more than six (6) months are responsible for letting the Academy Scribe know that they will no longer be residing within our Kingdom.
- 2.2 **Leaving the Academy**
- 2.2.1 A member may leave the Academy at any time.
- 2.2.2 A resignation must be in a written form and sent to the Preceptor, who will then forward the resignation on to the Academy Scribe.
- 2.2.3 Should a member that has left the Academy choose to rejoin, he or she may do so, with their latest rank retained, if five (5) Academy members of the corresponding rank or higher support it. The time spent outside the Academy will not count as time needed to fulfill the requirements towards the next rank.
- 2.3 **Expulsion from the Academy**
- 2.3.1 If sufficient grounds exist a member may be removed from The Drachenwald Academy of Defence.
- 2.3.1.1 Sufficient grounds for expulsion include not adhering to the Charter and By-Laws of The Drachenwald Academy of Defence.
- 2.3.2 Expulsion from the Academy is subject to the following procedure:
At least five (5) members must propose to the Preceptor that they want to remove a particular member from the Academy. The Preceptor will inform the member to be expelled and announce when and where the meeting to vote on such expulsions will be held. The announcement will be made using the methods of communication described in section 1.1.6 of these By-Laws.
- 2.3.3 A vote will take place on the removal of the member, subject to the voting rules in section 6.2 of these By-Laws.
- 2.3.4 The Preceptor and Academy Scribe cannot be removed from the Academy before they are removed from their office.
- 2.4 **Rank**
- 2.5 Rank within the Academy does not imply any rank outside the Academy. The only purpose of the rank structure within the Academy is to signify a fencer's development, skill and dedication to the Art of Defence. This will be shown through the wearing of a braid, see section 4.1 of these By-Laws.
- 2.5.1 The higher ranks of the Academy are known as Free Scholar, Provost, Prefect, and Companion.
Only one rank in the Academy can be held at one time.
- 2.5.1.1 Free Scholar, Provost and Prefect are martial ranks, and can be gained by "Playing the Prize" for the next higher rank, see section 3 of these By-Laws.
- 2.5.1.2 Higher rank in the Academy may also be granted to gentles that show interest in the Academy and contribute with work and continuous service. They will be known within the Academy as Companions of the Drachenwald Academy of Defence.

2.5.1.3 Non-Members of the Academy may be offered the opportunity to become Companions of the Drachenwald Academy of Defence, and by accepting they gain membership in the Academy.

3 “Playing the Prize”

3.1 General

3.1.1 “Playing the Prize” for a rank within the Academy is a test where the Candidate’s skill, stamina and chivalry will be exposed to the Academy and to the rest of the Kingdom.

3.1.2 “Playing the Prize” should be a joyful and merry occasion.

3.1.3 The requirements for the playing of the prize for each rank are laid out in the above Charter.

3.1.3.1 Should a super-qualified Candidate ask to “Play the Prize”, the Preceptor may grant them the chance to Play the Prize for next level sooner than stated in the Charter above, or for a higher level than otherwise required. It is however, recommended not to use this more than absolutely necessary, making the journey through the ranks valuable in itself.

3.1.4 The outcome of the Prize Fight should be announced along with the presentation of the Candidate’s braid. This may either be done in Court (if permitted by the Ruling Nobility in question) or at some other merry occasion, such as Feast.

3.1.5 Any money raised by the Academy during “Playing the Prize” will go to the Kingdom travel fund.

3.2 Sponsors

3.2.1 Each Candidate must have a Sponsor. Normally for the Free Scholar Prize Fight, the person approached by the Candidate acts as Sponsor, although that doesn't have to be the case.

3.2.2 The Sponsor’s responsibilities consist of the following:

3.2.2.1 The Sponsor will make the arrangements for the “Prize Fight”.

3.2.2.2 When possible the Sponsor should announce the playing of prize beforehand. The announcement will be made using the methods of communication described in section 1.1.6 of these By-Laws.

3.2.2.3 When possible the Sponsor should contact the Event Steward so the Prize Fight may even be announced with the event.

3.2.2.4 The Sponsor is to make sure the equipment, time, Examiners and space are all in order before the start of the prize playing.

3.2.2.5 The Sponsor is also responsible for notifying the Academy Scribe within thirty (30) days of the Prize Fight taken place.

We would like to keep an as up to date record as possible of all Academy members to include name and date of rank. Where the Prize Fight was fought and against whom the candidate fought is also recommended for complete record keeping.

3.2.2.6 The Sponsor is also responsible for making sure that a braid is ready for the Candidate, should he or she be accepted.

4 Insignia and Academy Badge

4.1 Insignia

- 4.1.1 Officers do not have any special markings or insignia to signify their office.
- 4.1.2 Insignia of membership within the Academy is the Academy Badge.
- 4.1.3 Insignia of the higher ranks of the Academy is a braid, worn preferably on the left shoulder or upper arm. Each rank has a different colored braid.
 - 4.1.3.1 Insignia for a Free Scholar: a black braid.
 - 4.1.3.2 Insignia for a Provost: a black and red braid (more black than red).
 - 4.1.3.3 Insignia for a Perfect: a gold and black braid (more gold than black).
 - 4.1.3.4 Insignia for a Companion; a red and gold braid (more red than gold).

4.2 Academy Badge



- 4.2.1 The Academy badge - Or, a cross quarterly Gules and Sable, in dexter chief two rapiers in saltire Sable - will at a minimum be displayed upon a banner, which the Preceptor will maintain.
- 4.2.2 The Academy badge may be worn freely by any member of the Drachenwald Academy of Defence. A tabard bearing the badge of the Academy is in the keeping of the Preceptor.

5 Officers of the Academy

5.1 General Rules

- 5.1.1 The Offices of the Academy are in no way bound to the rank structure.
- 5.1.2 The changing of office will take place on the 1st day of December, of the Gregorian year they were voted in to office.
- 5.1.3 The right to hold an office in The Drachenwald Academy of Defence is open to all members of the Academy currently residing within the Kingdom of Drachenwald.

5.2 The Academy Preceptor

- 5.2.1 The Preceptor is the head of the Academy.
- 5.2.2 The Preceptor, or by his/her leave the Academy Scribe, will represent the Academy before the Crown. If neither the Preceptor nor the Scribe is present, the Preceptor may appoint another member of the Academy to this honour, when needed.
- 5.2.3 The Preceptor is responsible for making changes to the Charter and By-Laws as voted on during Academy Meetings to ensure that it serves the Academy best. All changes must be announced using the methods of communication described in section 1.1.6 of these By-Laws and made accessible through the Kingdom web page.

- 5.2.4 The Preceptor is responsible for maintaining the Academy banner and the tabard in their keeping.
- 5.2.5 In situations where the Charter fails (for example, in the arranging of a Playing for the Prize where three examiners of appropriate rank cannot be gathered), the Preceptor should step in and decide how to solve the problem. This includes waving requirements and/or finding worthy replacements for Challengers.
- 5.2.6 Electing a Preceptor.
- 5.2.6.1 The members of the Academy elect the Preceptor on even numbered Gregorian Years for a period of two (2) years (i.e. 00, 02, 04, etc.).
- 5.2.6.2 If the Preceptor should step down from office the Scribe will take over the position of Preceptor until an election of a new Preceptor can be arranged.
- 5.2.6.3 The election should if possible, take place at the annual Collegium of Defence.
- 5.2.6.4 All members may nominate anyone that is a member of the Academy (members may nominate themselves).
- 5.2.6.5 Voting takes place subject to the voting rules in section 6.2 of these By-Laws.
- 5.2.6.6 A person may hold the office of Preceptor for more than one (1) term, but it is not recommended to hold the office for more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- 5.2.6.7 In the event of a tied vote for Preceptor, the current Preceptor has the casting vote, although they may not vote for himself/ herself in this case.
- 5.2.7 Removing the Preceptor from office.
- 5.2.7.1 A minimum of five (5) members must propose that they want the current Preceptor removed from office. The Academy Scribe will announce when and where the meeting to vote on the proposed removal from office will be held. The announcement will be made using the methods of communication described in section 1.1.6 of these By-Laws.
- 5.2.7.2 Voting will take place subject to the voting rules in section 6.2 of these By-Laws.
- 5.2.7.3 If the Preceptor is removed from the office, the Scribe will take over the position of Preceptor until an election of a new Preceptor can be arranged.
- 5.2.7.4 If the Preceptor is removed from office, he/she is still a member of the Academy. It is just the office, not the membership that is withdrawn.
- 5.3 **The Academy Scribe**
- 5.3.1 The Academy Scribe is responsible for keeping an updated Membership Roster.
- 5.3.2 Electing the Academy Scribe.
- 5.3.2.1 The members of the Academy elect the Scribe on odd numbered Gregorian years for a period of two (2) years (i.e. 01, 03, 05, etc.).
- 5.3.2.2 If the Academy Scribe should step down from office the Preceptor will take over the position of Academy Scribe until an election of a new Academy Scribe can be arranged.
- 5.3.2.3 The election should if possible, take place at the annual Collegium of Defence.
- 5.3.2.4 All members may nominate anyone that is a member of the Academy (members may nominate themselves).
- 5.3.2.5 Voting takes place subject to the voting rules in section 6.2 of these By-Laws.
- 5.3.2.6 A person may hold the office of Academy Scribe for more than one (1) term, but it is not recommended to hold the office for more than two (2) consecutive terms..

- 5.3.2.7 In the event of a tied vote for Academy Scribe, the current Academy Scribe has the casting vote, although they may not vote for himself/ herself in this case.
- 5.3.3 Removing the Scribe from office.
 - 5.3.3.1 A minimum of five (5) members must propose that they want the current Academy Scribe removed from office. The Preceptor will announce when and where the meeting to vote on the proposed removal from office will be held. The announcement will be made using the methods of communication described in section 1.1.6 of these By-Laws.
 - 5.3.3.2 Voting will take place subject to the voting rules in section 6.2 of these By-Laws.
 - 5.3.3.3 If the Academy Scribe is removed from the office, the Preceptor will take over the position of Academy Scribe until an election of a new Academy Scribe can be arranged.
 - 5.3.3.4 If the Academy Scribe is removed from office, he/she is still a member of the Academy. It is just the office, not the membership that is withdrawn.

6 Meetings and Voting

6.1 Academy meetings

- 6.1.1 Academy meeting may only be held at an official SCA event announced in the Dragon's Tale.
 - 6.1.1.1 Academy meetings must be announced using the methods of communication described in section 1.1.6 of these By-Laws..
 - 6.1.1.2 The agenda of Academy meetings must also be announced using the methods of communication described in section 1.1.6 of these By-Laws..
- 6.1.2 No Academy meeting will be held in secret to the populace or the Crown of Drachenwald; we are not a secret society or an elite school. Academy meetings are open for attendance by all willing to attend.
- 6.1.3 Anyone attending an Academy meeting may add to or bring up a point of discussion as long as it contributes to the meeting agenda.
- 6.1.4 The Preceptor, if present will chair the academy meeting. If they are not present then the Academy Scribe, if present, will chair the meeting in the Preceptor's absence. If neither the Preceptor nor the Scribe is present then the highest-ranking member in attendance will chair the meeting.

6.2 Voting

- 6.2.1 For voting on issues on the meeting agenda, all members currently residing in the Kingdom of Drachenwald have one (1) vote. Non-members are not allowed to vote on matters of the Academy.
- 6.2.2 A minimum of eleven (11) members must vote for a vote to be passed.
- 6.2.3 Absentee votes are allowed, and must be in writing, including by e-mail. These votes must be sent to the Preceptor or Academy Scribe who will prior to the meeting, if needed, forward it on to the highest-ranking member of the Academy attending the event.
 - 6.2.3.1 Absentee votes should be sent at least two (2) weeks, but not later than four (4) days before the date of the meeting.
- 6.2.4 Only the attending members' votes and absentee votes received on time will be counted.
- 6.2.5 Voting options are YES, NO and ABSTAIN.

- 6.2.5.1 If there are more YES votes than either ABSTAIN or NO, then the agenda point is passed. Should the ABSTAIN votes be greatest in number, the voting will be redone at a later event or dropped completely.

7 Amending of Academy Charter and By-Laws

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 Members may propose changes to the charter or By-Laws at any time.
- 7.1.2 The Preceptor may not make changes to the Charter and By-Laws unless voted on by the members of the Academy. Voting takes place subject to the voting rules in section 6.2 of these By-Laws. Changes can only be made during an Academy meeting, if intention to do so has been announced at least 2 months prior to the meeting, and the proposed new wording announced at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting. The announcement will be made using the methods of communication described in section 1.1.6 of these By-Laws. A minimum of eleven (11) members must participate in the voting (either attending the meeting or by absentee votes), and a majority of the given votes is required to approve the changes. The Preceptor is responsible for enforcing any changes to the charter or by-laws immediately, and for publishing the current charter and by-laws without unnecessary delay.

8 The Collegium of Defence

8.1 General

- 8.1.1 The Academy will if possible, host an Event each year, called the Drachenwald Collegium of Defence, dedicated to the teaching of the Art of Defence.
- 8.1.2 At the Collegium, the Academy will hold a meeting to discuss at a minimum needed amendments to the charter and hold an election for a new Preceptor or Academy Scribe as required.

8.2 Location

- 8.2.1 The set regions of the Academy are;

Central: Continental Europe

Insulae Draconis: the United Kingdom, Ireland and Iceland

Nordic: Sweden and Finland

- 8.2.2 Collegium should rotate each year to a different region (Central, Insulae Draconis, and Nordic) when possible.

- 8.2.2.1 Collegium should also rotate within these regions (Central, Insulae Draconis, and Nordic) when possible, so not be hosted by the same group as last time.

- 8.2.3 Members wishing their local group to host Collegium should contact the Preceptor at least four (4) months before the planned date of Collegium to determine if the site is adequate or not.