



## **AUSTRALASIAN LIVING HISTORY FEDERATION (ALHF) SAFETY PRINCIPLES – 2007 to 2008**

### **Preamble**

These guidelines are designed to assist Australian Living History Federation (ALHF) member groups in conducting their activities in a safe manner. Many of the Member Groups activities involve the firing of historical weapons and other historical combat activities. The safe and legally correct conduct of these activities is paramount to ALHF principles.

So too, all other areas of the conduct of reenactment events, historical displays, educational performances, living history events and other recognized ALHF activities are to be undertaken in a legal and safe manner.

Any Member Groups who fail to adhere to these principles as best they can, may be refused ALHF membership.

These guidelines are extensive so as to encompass the range of activities of Member groups. They should be followed by member groups wherever practicable. The application of these guidelines may vary slightly from member group to group due to their different historical periods and the different historical weapons that may be part of any reenactment or living history display activity. They may also vary according to venues or conditions on the ground.

ALHF recommends the following guidelines as best practice minimum standards.

Member groups also have their own safety guidelines that may contain more detailed practices such as safety training regimes. All these Member group safety rules or guidelines are submitted to ALHF at the time of membership application.

These guidelines are not designed to replace Member groups own safety guidelines, but to enhance them by creating a broad and centralized set of best practices.

The Guidelines are set out according to the ALHF Safety Principles. They provide more specific details for each principle. These Guidelines are to be read in conjunction with the ALHF Safety Principles. All groups must adopt and comply with the Principles, whilst the guidelines are for assistance in best practice and in ways to implement the principles.

## 1.0 Legislative Compliance

**Principle: Legislative Compliance;** *ALHF members are required to comply with any legislative requirements/regulations governing the use of weapons or the undertaking of historical reenactment applicable in the relevant State or Territory. Adequate and proper notification is to be made to any relevant Authority for any applicable event (i.e. use of Historical Reenactment Permits for Firearms). All participants in any group sanctioned event or activity (such as, but not restricted to combat or weapon firing/use) shall hold all current relevant Government permits, licenses or other forms of compliance necessary for the undertaking in public or private of such event or activity. The record or evidence of such compliance will be provided on request to ALHF or any relevant Authority.*

### 1.01 Individual Permits and Licenses

#### 1.01.01

Currently (2005) in NSW, Victoria and other states, individual firearms users must have a valid Firearms license. This must be on your person at all times and should be sighted by Event Organisers before any event involving firearms.

#### 1.01.02

Other restricted weapons may have permits and these should also be on your person at all times. Currently, (2005) the State of Victoria has restricted use of swords. ALHF is classified as an exempt group under this legislation and it is highly recommended that proof of current financial ALHF membership be on your person at all times when using swords in reenactments in Victoria. It is also recommended to carry proof of ALHF membership in other states to assist in any queries re bona fide reenactment and living history activities.

#### 1.01.03

##### Prohibited Persons

Individuals may be identified by official regulations as being restricted from using or having access to certain classified or prohibited items such as firearms. Member Groups should make all possible efforts to be aware if any individual member of their group is listed as a 'Prohibited Person' or similar, in any capacity. This may not preclude membership of historical reenactment groups, but member groups should be vigilant in ensuring such persons are not inadvertently allowed access to any prohibited items through their member group.

Member groups are requested to provide ALHF with details of any prohibited persons or similar within their member group.

For further information on this please contact ALHF committee.

## 1.02 Reenactment Event Permits

### 1.02.01

Currently (2005), various State Governments require permits for *some* events that ALHF members may undertake. (Eg: In NSW this is called a Re-enactment Permit and in Victoria a Populous Places permit) This is usually confined to ALHF activities that use Firearms or Explosives or restricted or prohibited weapons – however may include the use of swords or other similar ‘non-explosive’ type ‘weapons’.

### 1.02.02

It is essential that Member Groups holding or participating in a reenactment with Firearms (firing or not firing) have a valid Reenactment Permit (NSW) or a Populous Places Permit (Vic) or equivalent.

(NB: At time of writing the NSW Firearms Regulations are under review and this may change)

### 1.02.03

Permits may be ongoing for a period of time, or required for a particular event depending on the State or Territory legislation. Ongoing permits usually require advance notification to relevant authorities (usually the Police) whenever a particular event is to be conducted.

### 1.02.04

Permits generally require all participants names and identification details on them, and thus require regular updating. They may also require the details of firearms used in the reenactment. Member groups should ensure they know the processes of these permit requirements and comply with the details.

### 1.02.05

ALHF member Groups are required to follow any regulations as they apply in any State or Territory in regards to obtaining and updating any Permit that may be required for any ALHF activity.

### 1.02.06

Further information on Re-enactment Permits for activities conducted in NSW can be obtained from your State Firearms Registry Offices.

[http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/community\\_issues/firearms](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/community_issues/firearms)

## 1.03 Events Notification

### 1.03.01

Where required by law, adequate and proper notification is to be made to any relevant Authority for any applicable event (i.e. use of Historical Reenactment Permits for Firearms).

### 1.03.02

It is also recommended that any local authority or any private individuals etc. that may be effected by being in the vicinity of a reenactment (particularly involving firearms, but also other weapons such as swords), should be notified as a matter of courtesy.

## **1.04 Firearms & Other Explosive or Ballistic Weapons and Devices**

### 1.04.01

Firearms and Explosive Weapons have restrictions on their use that all ALFH members and member groups will be aware of and follow.

### 1.04.02

Further information on Re-enactment Permits for activities conducted in NSW can be obtained from your State Firearms Registry Offices.

[http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/community\\_issues/firearms](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/community_issues/firearms)

## **1.05 Swords**

### 1.05.01

Currently (2005) in some States swords have restrictions on their use. In Victoria, Swords are classified as 'Prohibited Weapons' and thus require an 'exemption' for their use.

### 1.05.02

ALHF is (2005) registered with the Victorian Department of Justice as an exempt group. Proof of current financial and approved membership of ALHF or an ALHF member group grants the status of 'exemption'.

### 1.05.03

ALHF required this exemption for the use of Swords in Victoria for ALHF members and Member Groups - *for the use of ALHF approved activities only.*

## **1.06 Other Compliance**

### 1.06.01

Currently (2005) there are no other State or Federal Government compliance for Permits to conduct ALHF activities. There may be various Local Government requirements for notifications etc., that ALHF member groups must investigate in the area of their activity.

### 1.06.02

ALHF Member Groups should familiarize themselves with all relevant compliances and ensure these are conducted before and during every event.

## **1.07 Compliance Records**

### 1.07.01

Each member group shall keep up to date records of their members, including personal details (name, date of birth, phone number and address) and identification verification such as a Drivers License.

### 1.07.02

Each member group shall keep records of all members attendance at events that involve compliance of any form.

### 1.07.03

Each member group shall keep records of all group members attendances for ALHF purposes.

### 1.07.04

Each member group shall keep records of any legislative compliance required for 5 years.

### 1.07.05

These records shall be available to ALHF at every financial year, or on request.

### 1.07.06

These records should also be available to any authorised body on request for the purposes of verification of individual or group permits, exemptions or licenses for any activity or item used conducted under the auspices of ALHF.

## **2.0 Safe Conduct**

***Principle: Safe Conduct:*** *No individual shall deliberately or intentionally aim to injure or harm another individual.*

### **2.01 Individual responsibilities**

#### 2.01.01

Individuals are responsible for deliberate or intentional injury.

#### 2.01.02

ALHF Member Groups shall monitor any such behaviour, and in accordance with ALHF Safety Control (3.0): *'Safety Officers are authorized to refuse participation in any event or activity to any participant if in the Safety Officer's opinion the participant is potentially unsafe, acting potentially unsafe, or possessing potentially unsafe equipment.'*

### **3.0 Safety Control**

**Principle: Safety Control:** *A 'Safety Officer' will be appointed at every event/activity. The Safety Officer will be responsible for overall event/activity safety and specifically for monitoring weapons safety procedures (particularly firearms). This shall be an experienced participant, authorised to halt any activities they judge unsafe or non-compliant with these principles or any relevant legislation. They may nominate deputies.*

#### **3.01 Safety Officers**

##### 3.01.01

Any event, whether any form of weapons or display combat are present or not, shall have at least one appointed Safety Officer.

##### 3.01.02

Safety Officers will verify before an event to the best of their knowledge that all participants are appropriately licensed and authorized to conduct the activity.

##### 3.01.03

Safety Officers and /or and their delegates will oversee the checking of any potentially hazardous weapons or displays of weapons prior to any event or activity.

##### 3.01.04

Safety Officer and their delegates will monitor Safety throughout any event or activity.

##### 3.01.05

Safety Officers and their delegates are authorized to halt any activities they judge unsafe or non-compliant with these principles or any relevant legislation.

##### 3.01.06

Safety Officers and their delegates are authorized to refuse participation in any event or activity to any participant if in their opinion they are potentially dangerous, acting potentially dangerously, or possess potentially unsafe equipment.

##### 3.01.07

Safety Officers and their delegates may be given discrete responsibilities such as (and not limited to) 'Combat Safety Officer', 'Archery Safety Officer', 'Artillery Safety Officer', 'Musket Safety Officer', 'Event Safety Officer', 'Display Safety Officer', or 'Encampment Safety Officer'.

## 4.0 Storage & Security

**Principle: Storage & Security:** *All weapons, including reproductions, prohibited and non-prohibited, and all types of weapons including swords, firearms, etc., are to be safely secured at all times, including when traveling to and from events and during events*

### 4.01 Encampment or Display Security - General

#### 4.01.01

ALHF, Event Organisers or Site owners are not responsible for the loss, theft or damage of any member's property at events. Members should take care to keep accountability of, or safely secure their own valuables and property.

#### 4.01.02

At any public display or non-public event, each Member Group or 'Unit' in an encampment is encouraged to place a 'camp guard' during daylight hours. The intent of the 'guard' is to assist visitors, deter theft, advise people of rules and regulations and report any breaches of these to Safety Officers, Commanders, Event Organisers or anyone officially delegated as Security for the event.

#### 4.01.03

Any non-member, non-participant, member of the public, or person un-registered for the event camp *after any public display periods*, must have a member escort/sponsor physically with them at all times. At no time should a 'non-member' be allowed to walk unescorted through any 'encampments' or living history displays.

### 4.02 Encampment or Display Security – Firearms

#### 4.02.01

Designated Firearms Safety 'Officers' are to direct the safety of their groups firearms and ammunition in any 'encampment' or display in accordance with these guidelines, and in consultation with site owners and event coordinators. Designated Safety Officers may direct individuals to comply with event standards and guidelines. Individuals are ultimately responsible for the security and safety of their firearms

#### 4.02.02

Firearms shall not be discharged in camp or display area unless it is done under supervision of a Safety Officer for safety reasons. When firing, the person discharging the weapon must give a warning such as 'Fire in the Hole', 'Capping Off', 'Firing' or similar, depending on the circumstance and weapon.

#### 4.02.03

When rolling small arms cartridges or loading pistols there shall not be any open flames or smoking within 20 metres. When rolling artillery rounds there must not be open flames or smoking within 50 metres.

#### 4.02.04

Secure firearms.

All firearms are to be properly supervised or secured when not in use. Individual firearms owners have the ultimate responsibility for their security, however member groups are encouraged to implement extra security provisions for firearms where possible such as; locking firearms in central points such as covered trailers, securing firearms with locks, utilizing secure storage areas on sites.

NB: Firearms and other prohibited weapons have security responsibilities according to relevant Firearms Controlling authorities, such as for example in NSW, the correct manner of transporting firearms to and from events. Members must be aware of these requirements and follow them.

For NSW see: [http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/community\\_issues/firearms](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/community_issues/firearms)

#### 4.02.05

Secure powder etc.

All explosive materials must be secure and away from fires or other potential hazards. Individuals and member groups using bulk gunpowder etc., must implement extra security provisions where possible such as; locking powder in central points such as covered trailers, securing powder containers with locks, utilizing secure storage areas on sites, etc.

### **4.03 Encampment or Display Security – Swords and other non-explosive Weapons**

#### 4.03.01

Designated Safety 'Officers' (See 3.0 **Safety Control**) are to direct the safety of their group or units swords or other weapons in any 'encampment' in accordance with these guidelines, and in consultation with site owners and event coordinators. Designated Safety Officers may direct individuals to comply with event standards and guidelines. Individuals are ultimately responsible for the security and safety of their weapons.

#### 4.03.02

All swords and other similar weapons should be covered and secured when not in use. Individuals are ultimately responsible for their weapons security. Safety Officers may wish to adopt collective security practices such as for Firearms (see 4.02 above)

## 5.0 Display Boundaries

**Principle: *Display Boundaries:*** *All displays of any type shall have clearly defined public areas with safety boundaries. These boundaries are to be regularly checked and, where a potentially unsafe situation may occur, or where prohibited or restricted weapons are on display, are to be constantly monitored*

### 5.01 Roped and other Boundaries

#### 5.01.01

Any form of display combat shall have a defined boundary between the activity and the public. At a minimum this will be a 'roped' boundary. Where this is not practicable, there will be designated ALHF members ensuring any audience is aware of the limits of activity. Natural or man-made features (eg; fort walls, fences or similar) may be used as 'boundaries' where appropriate.

#### 5.01.02

Any form of 'static display' shall have clearly defined boundaries. These shall consist of, where practicable, at the minimum, rope boundaries. All static displays of any kind will be monitored by ALHF members at any time there are members of the public on site.

#### 5.01.03

Roped areas should preferably be of two parallel ropes 1.5m apart around the whole area of the activity. (exception see explosives, blank-firing & missile combat) Where this is not practicable, one rope should be used and regularly monitored.

#### 5.01.04

Roped boundaries should be around waist height and clearly visible through the use of coloured 'pennants' or similar attached at intervals to the rope where possible. Stakes should be made visible with penants, flags or similar. The tops of stakes etc. should be covered or rounded.

#### 5.01.05

Where possible, only three sides of any display combat or static display should be publicly accessible, leaving one side for unhindered access by participants. Some displays may require all four sides restricted, and where this is the case egress points must be available for participants.

#### 5.01.06

In static displays any objects handled by the public must be closely supervised. Display boundaries shall be erected to assist ALHF members supervising these activities to control access.

#### 5.01.07

Projectiles, blank firing muskets, artillery, arrows and any other explosives or ballistics display firing or display skirmishing or combat shall, where practicable, have only one side or edge of the display area for spectators. Where this is the case, all firing activity will be conducted in the opposite direction to this edge.

**NB: Where any projectiles are to be fired, this is the only option.** (Exception: See Archery below)

#### 5.01.08

Where blank firing of muskets, projectiles etc. occurs and **NO** projectiles are fired, spectators may be formed along the 2 parallel sides of the activity. All firing will be done in this corridor only – never to the sides – and no spectators allowed behind each end of the activity. All efforts to ensure an adequate safety zone on each side of the corridor must be made.

## **5.02 Clearing Display Area**

### **5.02.01**

No display, skirmish, combat, battle or similar activity may be started until the field is cleared of non-combatants and spectators.

### **5.02.02**

Once a scenario, skirmish, combat etc., display or performance has started, no participants may join in. No 'walk-ons' or safety inspections shall be allowed after a skirmish or display scenario has commenced.

## **5.03 Archery**

### **5.03.01**

Archery with sharp target arrows used in any public display must consider the following;

The range will have a clearly marked single shooting line long enough to accommodate participants comfortably, spaced to not interfere with each other during shooting. All archers must shoot from this line, neither in front of it nor behind it. If the line is too short to accommodate all archers safely, a rotation system must be used.

### **5.3 Target Archery**

Outdoor target archery ranges should be selected to take advantage of the natural terrain and ensure that any person is not endangered. Arrows should be released towards a hill or an embankment.

The display firing area or 'range', should where possible;

- be free from obstructions such as trees, wires or shrubs.
- have a "clear" area established behind the target and 30 degrees to either side of the outer limits of the shooting line.
- have barriers and appropriate signage placed in prominent positions around the outdoor range to restrict access by non-participants.
- have definite shooting lines established for each shooting distance. The lines should not constitute a tripping hazard.
- be isolated from normal pedestrian and motor traffic.
- have sturdily supported targets.

### **5.4 Clout Archery**

For clout archery, the safety zone should extend beyond the target for at least half the target distance, and to each side for at least one-fifth the target distance. It is recommended that the Safety Officer arrange for any archers who are not familiar with clout shooting to practice in advance. They should start with their bows aimed at a low angle and work their way up. This will help prevent overshooting the safety zone.

### **5.5 Flight or 'Distance' Archery**

For flight shoots, the safety zone distance should be at least 300 metres, or the maximum range of the heaviest bow allowed. It is not recommended that a flight shoot be held if space is limited.

## **6.0 Events/Activities**

**Principle:** *All participants in any group sanctioned event or activity (such as, but not restricted to combat or weapon firing/use) shall hold all current relevant Government permits, licenses or other forms of compliance necessary for the undertaking in public or private of such event or activity. The record or evidence of such compliance will be provided on request to ALHF or any relevant Authority.*

### **6.01 Display Combat Safety Preparation & Activity - General**

6.01.01 No alcohol or any other form of drug to be taken. No participant taking the field may consume alcohol after midnight the night before the battle.

6.01.02 No person is to smoke or have or use any ignition system while carrying gunpowder or within 20 metres of members carrying gunpowder on their person.

6.01.03 Gunpowder is to be stored correctly and with utmost safety.

6.01.04 Powder boxes should not have any metal in their interiors that may cause a static ignition. Powder users are to be aware of the possibilities of various metals causing static ignition.

6.01.05 Loose Powder in powder boxes should be stored in plastic or wooden containers.

### **6.02 Display Combat Safety Preparation – Firearms and other explosive weapons etc.**

6.02.01 Each individual is responsible for his own actions and safety on the field. Any member, regardless of rank or position, has the right and the responsibility to refuse any orders from anyone that that individual regards as unsafe.

6.02.02 Under no circumstances shall a unit or an individual conduct a scenario/battle without the approval of both the Unit commanders and Safety Officers of any and all units.

6.02.03 Any member may assist in correcting any unsafe behavior they see or call “cease fire” (or an agreed call to cease firing) if it appears injury to an individual is likely.

6.02.04 Only combatants that have stood a pre-‘battle’ safety inspection shall be allowed to take the field. All weapons are to be always kept in good condition by individuals and any potential or real defects brought to the notice of Safety Officers. Safety Officers will check the locking and firing mechanisms of all weapons for obvious defects prior to any event. Any weapon not passing the inspection shall not be allowed on the field until it is cleaned and/or repaired, and passed another inspection.

6.02.05 All weapons shall be judged ‘clear’ by Safety Officers BEFORE and AFTER EVERY TIME they are blank fired. ALL Firearms are to be ‘test fired’ and /or ‘pinged’ just before taking the field, and after returning, under the supervision of the designated Safety Officer/s. Test firing will be determined by the Safety Officer and may vary for different firearms. For example, Percussion Cap muskets shall be ‘capped off’, showing the safety officer a ‘clear path’ between the cap and the end of the barrel (no foreign objects or blockages).

6.02.06 ALL Firearms with ramrod systems shall be ‘pinged’ (dropped in the muzzle to hear a clear noise with no blockages) before any firing.

6.02.07 In a ‘skirmish’ event. ALL Ramrods will be then taken from the field and NOT used in the loading process.

- 6.02.08 All tampions/muzzle plugs shall be removed prior to taking the field.
- 6.02.09 NO PAPER or OTHER OBEJECTS for wadding shall be placed down the bore when in a display combat skirmish.
- 6.02.10 When Ramrods are used in a public display firing event (firing safely into the air) ALL FIRING shall be controlled and conducted upon the command of unit officers.
- 6.02.11 Blank Firing cartridges or rounds are the only type of ammunition allowed on site at ANY event. NO LIVE ROUNDS OR BALL ARE TO BE TAKEN TO ANY EVENT. The ONLY exception to this is an event that is conducted on an official Rifle Range. The appropriate use of live rounds should be verified by all members and member groups in consultation with the event organisers and site owners PRIOR to any such event.
- 6.02.12 All Cartridge boxes or loading systems are to be inspected by Safety Officers. Muzzle-loading cartridges shall be made of paper only and shall not be constructed with tape, staples or any other metallic or hard material.
- 6.02.13 Unit Safety Officers will determine the maximum load size of cartridges depending on the type of firearm. (For example percussion cap muskets cartridges should not generally exceed 60 grains for .58 cal or 70 grains for .69 cal., and Flintlock muskets 90 grains.)
- 6.02.14 Loose powder in flasks, horns, etc shall be firmly secured and stored in appropriate and sealed flasks or bandoliers.
- 6.02.15 FFg and FFFg powder are the recommended propellants for small arms, although this may vary according to firearms types.
- 6.02.16 The use of burning 'slow-match' shall be closely monitored by Safety Officers and at the end of firing, burning match will be cut off and secured separately from any powder or flasks
- 6.02.17 Pistols shall use only cream of wheat, bore butter or florist foam for loading. 'Wonderwads' or other methods shall not be used.
- 6.02.18 Pistols: Extra pistol cylinders, ammunition clips or similar must be carried in a correct and secured pouch.
- 6.02.19 Bayonets, knives or similar must be in secure sheaths with no sharp edges exposed or danger of falling out.

### **6.03 Artillery**

6.03.01 All 'field pieces' or Artillery etc., must be inspected and approved by the designated Artillery Safety Officer prior to taking the field or firing. Poorly constructed pieces or pieces considered unsafe shall be prohibited.

6.03.02 Only 'cannon grade' Fg or FFFFa powder shall be used to construct artillery rounds for muzzle loading Artillery.

6.03.03 For display skirmishing, Muzzle-loading Artillery rounds shall be constructed in a container of heavy-duty aluminum foil. The use of plastic or other materials for the construction of rounds is prohibited. The only exception is in historical display firing, where cloth or other historic materials may be used. These materials must be of a soft nature.

6.03.04 All Artillery rounds shall be sealed and not leak or have any exposed powder.

6.03.05 Where practicable, charges shall not exceed three (3) ounces of powder for every one (1) inch of bore diameter.

6.03.06 No open flame or smoking is allowed within 50 metres of an area where construction of rounds is taking place or where rounds are being stored.

6.03.07 Artillery rounds are to be stored in a limber chest or suitable lockable container at all times.

6.03.08 Muzzle-loading Artillery rounds are to be at least 10 metres from ANY firearms or artillery firing at any time. Other rounds are to be kept secure from shock or explosion.

6.03.09 Large sized Artillery pieces must have a minimum crew of three to be able to fire.

6.03.10 Artillery crews must know and follow their agreed signals for informing all other display combat participants of the status of the piece: if it is loaded, unloaded or has experienced a misfire.

6.03.11 Muzzle-loading Artillery should where possible wait 1 minute between firing rounds. Safety officers may determine appropriate waiting periods between rounds.

6.03.12 Misfires. Any misfire in any weapon shall be treated as loaded and either re-fired or called to the attention of a safety officer.

A detailed safety guideline for Artillery can be found with the IOHM and copies are available from [sharpe@net-tech.com.au](mailto:sharpe@net-tech.com.au)

## **6.04 Archery**

6.04.01 Bows must be checked periodically for cracks and stress marks. Cracks are usually easily identified. Stress marks appear as frosted areas in fibreglass and laminated bows. Bows must be withdrawn from use if cracks and stress marks appear.

6.04.02 Strings must be checked regularly for signs of abrasion and wear. Worn or damaged strings must be discarded.

6.04.03 All bows should be strung to their recommended brace height according to manufacturer's specifications.

6.04.04 Arrow length should be matched to the shooter's draw length so that the arrow cannot be overdrawn when the shooter completes a full draw.

6.04.05 Arrows should be regularly checked for damage and secured for repair or destruction immediately.

6.04.06 Archers should not draw the bowstring back to any degree and then release the string without an arrow on the string.

## **6.05 'Skirmish'/'Combat' Display Activity Safety - Firearms and other explosive weapons etc.**

6.05.01 Skirmish combatants shall NEVER fire directly at each other. They shall fire in any direction outside a 30 degree angle from any person or animal.

6.05.02

Each individual is responsible for safely firing his weapon. At all times, and particularly when in close formations, each individual will have regard to the proper placement of the muzzle and firing mechanism of any weapon.

6.05.03

Any short arms in close rank firing (for example 2-band muskets or carbines) must be placed in the front rank when firing in two ranks. Short arms in close ranks will adjust their historical military drill style to ensure their musket barrels are always in a safe direction.

6.05.04

There shall be no hand to hand combat, capturing of colors or the "taking and turning" of cannons or similar, unless previously arranged and scripted by the individual unit commanders, and rehearsed by the participants.

6.05.05

Minimum range at which Artillery may engage a target to its front is 50 metres. Supporting Cavalry or infantry may not discharge their weapons within a 20 metre radius of a limber chest.

6.05.06

The capturing/ turning of guns during battles is prohibited unless scripted and approved in advance. At no time shall a loaded gun be handled by anyone other than its crew or trained artillerymen.

## 6.06 'Skirmish'/'Combat' Display Activity Safety – Swords and other non-explosive weapons

### 6.06.01

The display combat of swords or similar activities shall follow strict guidelines for the participants and spectators. (See **Boundaries 5.0**)

Participants must be correctly attired for these activities. They must be wearing Correct Protective Armour. For an example of minimum standards of armour see:

[www.geocities.com/legviii/combat.html](http://www.geocities.com/legviii/combat.html)

For further information on the standards required for Combat Archery see for example New Varangian Guard guidelines:

<http://www.geocities.com/svenskildbiter/NVGInc/combat.html>

## 6.07 'Skirmish'/'Combat' Display Activity Safety – Projectiles (non-explosive)

### 6.07.01

Combat Archery or similar activities shall follow strict guidelines for the participants and spectators. (See **Boundaries 5.0**)

### 6.07.02

Participants must be correctly attired for these activities. They must be wearing Combat Archery protection at all times. They must use Combat Archery regulation blunt arrows at all times. For further information on the standards required for Combat Archery see:

<http://www.geocities.com/svenskildbiter/NVGInc/combat.html>

### 6.07.03 Archery in Combat.

'Archery in Combat' requires less protective armour than 'Combat Archery'. For standards required for 'Archery in Combat' see:

<http://www.geocities.com/svenskildbiter/NVGInc/combat.html>

### 6.07.04 Target Archery

The following safety rules must be observed by all participants:

- no archer is to point knocked arrows in the direction of the target.
- no archer is to draw a bow, with or without an arrow in it, unless they are standing facing the target and intending to shoot.
- no archer is to retrieve arrows which fall from the shooter's bow in front of the shooting line, until a 'cease shooting' signal is given.
- archers are to place bows on racks or on the ground next to the shooting line when they have finished shooting, and then step back. When the shooting line is clear, the signal can be given to retrieve arrows.
- if more than two archers are shooting at the same target, the archers or Safety Officer will nominate a person from each group to withdraw arrows from their target, while other archers stand back at a safe distance and to one side of the target to prevent eye injury on withdrawal of the arrows.

## **6.08 Medical - General**

### 6.08.01

If a safety or potential safety issue occurs, any participant should shout in a loud voice 'stop, stop, stop', or 'hold' or a similar widely recognized safety term.

### 6.08.02

If an actual injury occurs any individual should shout 'stop, stop, stop' or 'hold' or a similar widely recognized safety term and then undertake medical contingency procedures.

### 6.08.03

Each event shall identify any qualified first aid or medical officers among participants.

### 6.08.04

No person is acting for ALHF, event organizers or site owners in rendering first-aid, unless agreed beforehand.

### 6.08.05

Members will not enter a skirmish event without adequate drinking water on their persons or nearby.

### 6.08.06

It is highly recommended member groups institute a medical card carrying system such as recommended here:

<http://www.69thnewyork.co.uk/Medical.htm#healtyreenacting>

## 7.0 Competency

**Principle: Competency:** *All members of member groups are to be competent in the execution of any activity undertaken. Training schemes and/or supervision are to be implemented, as required. The record or evidence of such training and level of competency attained will be provided on request to ALHF or any relevant Authority by the member group.*

7.01.01 All member groups are responsible for ensuring their members are adequately trained in their activities

7.01.02 Member groups should have a formal procedure for the training of new members particularly in weapons combats and displays and firearms combats and displays. A safety officer may be satisfied with the participation of a member after inspection of their competency to conduct the activities.

7.01.03 These competencies will vary from group to group, and may include such activities as 'drill' at firearms or 'training' of sword combat techniques.

An example of a training system can be found at:

<http://www.vikingsonline.org.uk/index.htm>

7.01.04 A record of training activities is to be kept by member groups.

7.01.05 Records of members competencies are to be kept by member groups.

7.01.06 Records of training and competencies attained are to be provided to ALHF or any relevant Authority on request.

7.01.07 Minimum Ages

All combat/skirmish or similar activity **MUST** have an age limit restriction. This shall be determined by member groups as per various forms of combat (eg: archery may differ from firearms).

All legislative requirements regarding handling of prohibited weapons **MUST** take precedence in age restrictions.

## 8.0 Emergencies Contingency

**Principle: Emergencies Contingency:** *Medical and emergency contingency procedures are to be maintained and regularly reviewed, with evidence of such review available on request. Also, an emergency contingency analysis is to be conducted for each event/activity*

8.01 – Medical and Emergency Contingency Procedures. ALHF will provide a best practice example of contingency procedures, to be available on the ALHF website to members.

8.02 – Event Organisers' Procedures.

ALHF strongly recommend member groups to provide their own procedures AS WELL AS sight event organizers procedures. If there are none, or they are in any ways inadequate, members must ensure they are adequate or NOT attend the event. ALHF can assist members in this.

8.03 – Avoiding Emergencies. A handy hints site:

<http://www.69thnewyork.co.uk/Medical.htm#healtyreenacting>

## 9.0 General Safety

**Principle: General Safety:** *A hazard risk analysis for all events/activities is to be undertaken. This is to highlight specific risk hazards such as fire, tent ropes, ground conditions, vehicle movements, security, drugs and alcohol or similar hazards or activities and determine relevant responses.*

### 09.01 – Hazard Risk

ALHF will make available on the website a standard Risk Analysis and Management form for members. (Forthcoming at 2005-6) This format can be tailored to member groups specifics. It must be followed at each event. (Currently draft available on request from ALHF committee – 2007)

09.01.01 Each event shall identify any qualified first aid or medical officers among participants.

09.01.02 No person is acting for ALHF, event organizers or site owners in rendering first-aid, unless agreed beforehand.

09.01.03 Members will not enter a skirmish event without water on their persons or nearby.

09.01.04 No alcohol or any other form of drug to be taken. No participant taking the field may consume alcohol after midnight the night before the battle.

09.01.05 Fires shall be made in accordance with site requirements and at safe distances from any arms or armaments (minimum 50 metres). Fire buckets full of water to be kept 1 between every 2 tents. All members or sentries shall maintain a fire watch.

09.01.06 Children's conduct in camps shall monitored at all times by their parent or guardian.

09.01.07 Units shall ensure that trip hazards (tent lines, fire pits etc) are minimized and clearly marked.

09.01.08 All sharp objects (knives, swords, axes, hatchets, tools etc) shall be properly stored and secured.

09.01.09 All vehicle or animal movement shall be done at a safe speed and extreme caution shall be taken when driving or backing around people equipment.

09.01.10 Pets are only acceptable with the agreement of Event Organisers and site owners. All pets shall be watched after (kept on a leash if necessary for safety) and cleaned up after.

09.01.11 Pets that are judged to be a safety hazard or a nuisance shall not be allowed.

09.01.12 Encampment members, unless notified differently by Event Organisers or site owners are expected to maintain quiet hours from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.