

# Updates to the SCA Siege Engines Handbook

(effective January 23, 2008)

**Includes changes to the following sections:**

**II. SCA Siege Engines and Structures**

**III. Siege Ammunition**

**IV. Engine and Structure Inspection**

**VII. Destroying Siege Engines and Structures**

## **II. SCA Siege Engines and Structures**

*renumber II.B.12. as II.B.13.*

*Add new section:*

**II.B.12.** Siege Engines shall not have any bolts, or other projections (which may reasonably be expected to contact persons should they fall on the engine) extend more than 1/2" (1.3cm) into a legal face grill. Any items such as this must be covered with sufficient rigid material, a Tennis Ball, or a suitable rubber stopper, to prevent them from entering a legal face grill more than 1/2" (1.3cm). Triggers, release hooks, or other firing mechanism components, that would not normally be in a position that could cause injury should someone accidentally fall on the engine, are exempt from this.

*Add new section:*

**II.G.4.** Siege structures that have a platform must have a base with a width and depth equal to or greater than 80% of the platform height. The platform may not be larger than the base, and may not extend past the base footprint in any direction. Structures that have a platform height of over 9 feet (2.74 meters) from standing surface to ground, may not have a platform that exceeds 75% of the base dimensions. For example, a tower that has a platform height of 10 feet (3.05 meters) must have a base that is no less than 8 feet (2.43 meters) in either direction. Additionally the platform dimensions may not exceed 75% of the base dimensions (e.g. an 8' x 8' base (2.43m x 2.43m) could only have a 6' x 6' (1.83m x 1.83m) platform).

*Add new section:*

**II.G.5.** Siege structures may not be made from industrial scaffolding, as it is not designed for the applications in which SCA combat operates.

### III. Siege Ammunition

*Edit III.C.2 and III.C.3 as follows:*

**III.C.2.** Tennis balls. Tennis balls may be punctured with a hole, not to exceed 1/16th of an inch in diameter, to relieve internal pressure. ~~When used as the striking surface of a ballista bolt, tennis balls must be compressible by hand with no less than 1/2 inch of compression and no more than 1 inch of compression.~~

**III.C.3.** ~~Golf tubes or~~ Siloflex. Siloflex must meet the following standards: for pipe that is black in color, it must be manufactured to ASTM D2239 or D2737; be made from PE3408; be sized 1"ID if D2239 or 1 1/4"OD if D2737; and have a SIDR rating of 15 or lower or have a SODR rating of 17 or lower. For pipe that is yellow in color, it must be manufactured to ASTM D2513; made from PE 2406; be 1"IPS; and have an SDR of 11. (Please note that shafts made from yellow Siloflex may not be covered with tape, and the markings must be visible.)

**III.E.2 :** *delete current wording and replace with:*

Ballista Javelins (bolts) - must have a shaft made from Siloflex or similar equivalent material (as per III.C.3). They must have a tip made with at least 3" (7.6cm) of resilient material between the end of the shaft and the striking surface, must be at least 2.5" (6.4cm) in diameter, and must have at least 1" (2.5 cm) of progressive give without bottoming out on the shaft. Additionally, the end of the shaft that the tip is secured to must be capped with a minimum of 1/8" (4mm) thick heavy leather, or a 35mm film container (or similar item), securely fastened with filament tape. The tip shall be secured to the shaft with filament tape that completely covers the foam, then covered with yellow tape. The back end of the javelin (bolt) may have a short (less than 2" (5.1cm) in length) piece of PVC pipe (or other similar non-brittle, non-metallic, lightweight material), that is securely attached to reinforce this area. Javelins (bolts) must be stable in flight or have fletching made from flexible material to make them stable in flight. They must be at least 48" (122 cm) in length and clearly marked with yellow tape as outlined in section III.B. Note: 1/2 tennis balls may be attached to the foam tip to cover the striking surface as long as they are an integral part of the tip and there remains at least 1" (2.5cm) of progressive give after the 1/2 tennis ball is attached.

As of January 1, 2008, Tennis ball tipped bolts are no longer legal for use.

*Delete entire section III.E.3*

~~Other javelins. Materials such as Siloflex or similar semi-rigid, shatter resistant tubing can be used, as long as the minimum diameter is equivalent to a golf tube and the rest of the construction meets the standards for spliced tube construction.~~

## IV. Engine and Structure Inspection

### *Addition to: IV.A.2. :*

Preliminary inspection of the engine shall be made before any shots are fired. The marshal will check for structural integrity of the components of the engine. Siege Engines shall not have any bolts, or other projections (which may reasonably be expected to contact persons should they fall on the engine) extend more than 1/2" (1.3cm) into a legal face grill. Any items such as this must be covered with sufficient rigid material, a Tennis Ball, or a suitable rubber stopper, to prevent them from entering a legal face grill more than 1/2" (1.3cm). Triggers, release hooks, or other firing mechanism components, that would not normally be in a position that could cause injury should someone accidentally fall on the engine, are exempt from this.

### *Additions to last sentence of IV.A.3. :*

The operational demonstration phase of the inspection shall, at minimum, consist of 4 shots from the engine configured for the maximum power it will use on the field at that event. These 4 shots shall deliver the ammunition between 40 and 80 yards (36.6 to 73.2 meters) at a firing angle of between 40 and 45 degrees elevation without mechanical failure, and shall consistently deliver the ammunition in a reasonably straight and stable path downrange (curving due to cross wind is acceptable).

### *Add new section:*

IV.A.5. The crews of direct fire engines should be willing to receive a shot from their engine at minimum range, while in armor, should it be requested.

## VII. Destroying Siege Engines and Structures

### *Replacement of a sentence in VII.B :*

The proper way to destroy these weapons is to safely approach the engine or structure, lay your weapon on it, and declare "this weapon is destroyed" (as with a declared kill from behind). This shall be done in a safe and deliberate manner, not in a rush while engaged with another opponent. Siege engine crews are required to wear SCA minimum armor and should be treated as any other fighter on the field. If they are authorized for armored combat and have a secondary weapon, they may use it. If not, they may be killed as an unarmed or helpless opponent; if they yield, do not strike them. ~~Fighting should never take place over or around an active siege engine.~~ Active combat should not take place within 5 feet (1.52 meters) of an active siege engine. If this situation arises, a hold should be called and the engine declared destroyed. Siege engines and structures may also be destroyed by siege class munitions fired from a siege engine.

The Siege Handbook will be updated to include the metric equivalents to the standard dimensions for the ease of use of our foreign members. The dimensions in question and their metric equivalents are as follows:

$$1/16" = 2\text{mm}$$

$$1/8" = 4\text{mm}$$

$$1" = 2.5\text{cm}$$

$$1.25" = 3.2\text{cm}$$

$$2" = 5.1\text{cm}$$

$$2.5" = 6.4\text{cm}$$

$$3" = 7.6\text{cm}$$

$$6" = 15.2\text{cm}$$

$$6.5" = 16.5\text{cm}$$

$$36" = .91 \text{ meters}$$

$$48" = 1.22 \text{ meters}$$

$$5' = 1.52 \text{ meters}$$

$$4 \text{ sq feet} = .37 \text{ sq meters}$$

$$12 \text{ sq feet} = 1.11 \text{ sq meters}$$

$$18 \text{ sq feet} = 1.67 \text{ sq meters}$$

$$30' = 9.2 \text{ meters}$$

$$40 \text{ yards} = 36.6 \text{ meters}$$

$$80 \text{ yards} = 73.2 \text{ meters}$$

$$1 \text{ pound} / 16 \text{ ounces} = .45 \text{ kg}$$

$$300 \text{ pounds} = 135 \text{ Kilograms.}$$

There may be others, and they will be updated as they are found.