

Marshal's Section

Coursing is under the aegis of the Kingdom Earl Marshal (KEM) and shall be overseen by a Kingdom Coursing Officer(KCO). All Marshals shall report directly to the KCO.

I. Kingdom Coursing Officer (KCO)

A. Requirements:

1. Must be acceptable to the Crown and the Kingdom Earl Marshal (KEM).
The new KCO is most usually chosen with input from the former KCO.
2. Must be a member in good standing of the SCA, Inc.
3. Must have completed and maintain authorization as a Coursing Marshal of the Middle Kingdom.
4. Must be willing to serve a term of office of two years. Deputies to the Earl Marshal may stay in office for longer than two years, provided they are willing to do so and continue to be found acceptable to the Crown and KEM.
5. Must be willing and able to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the office.

B. Responsibilities and duties:

1. Oversight of coursing activities within the Kingdom. The KCO shall have authority to investigate and address incidents involving coursing activities. This authority includes the right to sanction individuals who engage in inappropriate behavior, up to and including the removal of coursing authorizations.
2. Submission of required reports to the KEM, including an annual Domesday.
3. Maintains current information on the modern laws pertaining to coursing in the states encompassed by the Middle Kingdom.
4. Monitors the need for additional Marshals in active areas, and warrants as necessary.
5. Can begin the process of certification for a Marshal.
6. The KCO is strongly discouraged from serving as the Marshal in Charge (MIC), Houndmaster, or Luremaster at events, as this represents a break of the chain of authority.

II. Marshal at Large

A. Requirements:

1. Must be a member in good standing of the SCA, Inc.
2. Must have completed and maintain authorization as a Coursing Marshal of the Middle Kingdom.
3. Must be familiar with the needs and physical requirements of hounds.
4. Must be willing and able to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the office.

B. Responsibilities and duties:

1. Must demonstrate a working knowledge of the regulations for canine conduct set forth by the Middle Kingdom Coursing Marsallate.
2. Serves as a pool from which MICs, Houndmasters, and Luremasters may be drawn.
3. Must submit an annual Domesday report to the KCO detailing coursing marshal activities for the year.
4. In order to maintain certification within the Coursing College, marshals must practice their craft at least once during the year at an official SCA coursing event.
5. A lapsed certification may be reactivated by performing the duties of a marshal at one event under the direct supervision of a certified marshal and receiving a signature that is sent to the Mistress of the List and the KCO. At the discretion of the KCO the marshal certification may be reactivated by successfully completing the written test.
6. Jobs of a Marshal at Large can include:
 - a. Houndmaster

Must be a fully warranted Marshal

- 1) Shall be in complete charge of all hounds and handlers on the field.
- 2) Must be a fully warranted Marshal
- 3) Shall call up each new hound once the previous hound has finished.
- 4) Is responsible for checking that slip collars are in the slip position.
- 5) Must explain release and retrieval procedures before each preliminary course.
- 6) Shall stand in close proximity to, but not in front of, the handlers and hounds.
- 7) Shall ensure that the lure is positioned in front of the hounds before the signal is given to start.

b. Luremaster

- 1) The Luremaster must be a fully warranted Coursing Marshal.
- 2) The Luremaster of the event shall be responsible for the safe and effective handling of the coursing rig.
- 3) The Luremaster shall be responsible for the placing of the course, and a trial run of said course will be run before the course is open to the hounds, to check that all equipment is running smoothly and safely.
- 4) Shall, together with the Marshal-in-charge, walk the course and verify the course is properly staked and is free from hazards as possible.
- 5) Shall make sure that the lure can be stopped immediately should it become necessary.

III. Marshal-in-charge (MIC)

- A. Must be a member in good standing of the SCA, Inc.
- B. Must have completed and maintain authorization as a Coursing Marshal of the Middle Kingdom.
- C. The MIC is responsible for hound activities at an event and all reporting requirements relating to that event.
- D. Must prepare and submit an event report to the KCO within two (2) weeks of an event.
- E. Shall be in charge of the coursing area and for determining how and when the hounds shall run.
- F. Shall be responsible for inspecting and recording authorizations, and vaccinations for the Handlers and Hounds.
- G. Shall, with the Luremaster, walk the course and verify that the course is properly staked and is as free from hazards as possible.
- H. Can act as Luremaster or Houndmaster at the event, but not both.
- I. Reserves the right to unconditionally deny participation to any hound or handler, or to request the removal of any hound or individual from the coursing area, if that hound or handler presents a danger to others, or does not meet the Kingdom requirements for Coursing.
- J. Shall be responsible for emergency Veterinary coordination.
 - a. Secure emergency Veterinarian to be on call for the day of the event.
 - b. Provide directions to the Vet's office.
 - c. Have phone numbers and a phone available.

IV. Marshal-in-training (MIT)

- A. A person interested in becoming a Hound Marshal should contact the KCO or a designated representative to begin the training process, assuming the candidate is willing and able to meet the requirements of the office.
- B. Shall be a member in good standing of the SCA, Inc.
- C. Shall be an authorized Handler.
- D. Must assist at least three coursing events, under the supervision of a senior Marshal within a period of two years.
- E. Must complete an MIT form with signatures stating that they have accomplished the following;
 - 1. Set up a lure course at two events.
 - 2. Acted as Houndmaster at two events.
 - 3. Train in hound safety and first aid.
 - 4. Been a Deputy Marshal-in-charge of one coursing event under the supervision of a senior Marshal, to include the completion of all event reports and paperwork.
- F. Must demonstrate a working knowledge of the coursing procedures.
- G. Once all other requirements have been signed off upon, the prospective Marshal shall take a written test administered by the KCO. The test will be open book and requires an 80% to successfully pass.
- H. Upon completion of the certification program and written test, the signed paperwork and authorization from the KCO, Kingdom Earl Marshal, or designated representative should be sent to the Mistress of the Lists for login the Martial Activity Database.

V. Reporting

- A. The MIC of an event will send in their report of an event no longer than two weeks after said event to the KCO.
- B. MITs will report to the KCO after each event that they work on.
- C. All Marshals will send a Domesday report to the KCO no later than December 1 and will include:
 - 1)SCA name
 - 2)Legal name
 - 3)Address
 - 4)Phone number
 - 5)Email address
 - 6)Membership number and expiration date
 - 7)All hound activity for that year

Authorization/Approval Section

I. Handler Authorization

- A. MIC will run Handler Authorizations prior to official coursing.
- B. Prior to running the course, the Handler must answer basic safety questions for hound handling at SCA events.
- C. Handler must show the ability to lead, release, and collect a hound.
- D. Upon successful completion of a trial run, the MIC will record the Handler as authorized.
- E. A failed authorization may retry at a later event.
- F. Authorization remains valid as long as the Handler participates in an official SCA coursing activity once per year.

II. Hound Approval_- All breeds of hounds may participate in Coursing, provided they meet safety requirements and pass a Hound Approval.

- A. The MIC will hold Hound Approval prior to the start of official coursing.
- B. Open to all hounds over the age of 1 year.
- C. Upon successful completion of a trial run and presentation of appropriate medical records, the MIC will record the hound as approved to course.
- D. Hounds that fail approval may try again at a later event.
- E. Coursing approval remains valid as long as the Hound participates in an official SCA coursing activity once per year.

Event Standards

I. Field Guidelines - If any obstructions can not be removed or controlled by clean up or rerouting the course, the field shall be declared unusable.

A. Outdoor Areas

- 1. Field shall be evaluated upon entry for the following
 - a. Size should be a minimum of 150 feet by 150 feet running area.
 - b. Terrain should be even and free of obstacles, such as brush or high grass.
 - c. Terrain shall not have sharp inclines, gullies, ravines or rocky protrusions.
- 2. Field shall be made ready for use
 - a. Grass should be mowed.
 - b. Clippings removed if excessive amounts and piles.
 - c. Ground must be dry and free of dew.

3. The field shall be walked and hazards removed
 - a.. Brush, fallen tree limbs, and debris shall be removed.
 - b. Rocks that are small and/or protruding shall be removed.
 - c. Holes that can be stepped on/in shall be filled and packed.

B. Indoor Arenas

1. Dirt/sand surfaces must be free of obstacles
 - a. Rocks and debris shall be removed.
 - b. Area must be dry.
 - c. Ventilation must be appropriate.
 - d. Area must be of adequate size to allow the course to include drift.
 - e. The surface must be dense enough to hold pulleys and not pull out.

II. Weather Guidelines

A. Normal conditions

1. Minimum temperature of 55 degrees fahrenheit.
2. Dry conditions only.

B. Cancellation of events

1. Inclement weather such as rain, lightning/thunderstorms.
2. Temperatures lower than 55 degrees fahrenheit.
3. Temperatures above 85 degrees fahrenheit with 60 percent humidity or higher.
4. Hounds showing signs of heat stress.
5. Winds in excess of 20 miles per hour, which can cause debris to be blown onto the course.

III. Equipment Guidelines

1. Lure and Drive Equipment; all equipment must be maintained and kept in working order. Battery must be maintained, connections should be kept clean, all bolts tight, kept charged, and no leaks. Bearings should be kept oiled and tested regularly for free movement.
2. Drive Machine must be maintained as described in the operator's manual. It should be inspected before each use making sure that it is well lubricated, that there are no shorts or breaks in the electrical unit, and that controls operate without sticking. A safety barrier should be installed to protect the hounds.

3. Pulleys must be inspected prior to use, making sure that there are no sharp edges or protruding parts that may contact a hound. Pulley should be no more than five inches in height above the ground. Bearings should be free spinning, and rollers must be tight in their holders and not show extreme wear on any surface.
4. Lure Line should be no smaller than 1/16" and no larger than 1/4" made out of non-stretch poly-cotton or nylon. The line must be long enough to make a full round of the circuit with only one knot.
5. Ground Spikes used for holding down pulleys and drives must be free from corrosion and dirt, and not be bent or deformed. It is suggested that they be made of steel, and be a minimum length of 7 1/2 inches but no more than 10 inches. The heads should be large enough so as not to pass through hold down plates, but fit through the holes of the equipment being held down.
6. Boundary Markers can be made from fiberglass driveway markers covered with a pool noodle. They should be inspected before each use to make sure none of the fiberglass is damaged. Markers should be installed securely into the ground. Caution tape can be secured to the top of the markers to further delineate the list boundaries.
7. Lure Marshal's Equipment should include a knife or tool to cut entangled string. The Lure Marshal should also have a set of tools to set up maintain the lure drive, battery, and pulleys.

IV. Hound Safety

1. Vaccinations: Owners are responsible to provide up to date written proof of current vaccinations. Hounds not having current vaccinations will not be allowed to participate, and may be asked to leave the site. Required vaccinations include:
 - a. Rabies (1 year or 3 year vaccination)
 - b. Parvovirus
 - c. Distemper (DHL)
 - d. Parainfluenza (CPI)
 - e. Bordetella
2. Fitness Inspection: Hounds will be inspected prior being allowed to run. Inspection shall include:
 - a. Paws, for any apparent injuries.
 - b. Foot pads, for any abrasions or cuts.
 - c. Nails, for breaks, damage, or for being too long.
 - d. Dew claws for tears or breaks.

- e. Hocks, for soundness; no swelling, no apparent injuries.
 - f. Legs for soundness; no swelling no apparent injuries.
 - g. Mouth for signs of stress.
3. Taping of hounds prior to course;
- a. Dew claws shall be wrapped to avoid string injuries.
 - b. Hocks may be wrapped to add additional support.
 - c. Wrap may be extended to include foot pad to prevent injury.
 - d. Wrap may be used to cover calluses or corns.
 - e. Any tags on the hounds collar must be wrapped flat to the collar while coursing.
4. Cool down (Handler responsibility)
- a. After a hound runs, it shall be walked for a minimum of 5 minutes to cool down.
 - b. Handlers/Owners shall evaluate hound in order to prevent cramping.
 - c. Handlers/Owners shall evaluate hound for heat stress and fatigue.
5. Food and Water Guidelines
- a. Pre-Course
 - 1. Food should be withheld a minimum of 4 hours prior to coursing.
 - 2. Water should be given sparingly prior to coursing.
 - b. Post-Course
 - 1. Food should be withheld for 1 hour after coursing.
 - 2. Small amounts of water should be provided after coursing.
 - 3. All hounds should be provided with a place to rest after coursing.

V. Handler/Owner Responsibilities

- 1. One hound per Handler.
- 2. Hounds must be kept under control at all times when not running. Loose hounds that are not on the course constitute a danger and distraction and are grounds for dismissal from the field.
- 3. Handlers under the age of 18 must have parental supervision and be able to control the hound.
- 4. Handlers are responsible for collecting their hounds at the end of each run. No further runs shall be made until all hounds have been retrieved from the coursing field.
- 5. Handlers must be able to wrap their own hound's dew claws.
- 6. Handlers must be able to walk and cool down hounds after coursing.

7. Handlers/owners will clean-up after the hounds and dispose of waste properly.
8. Hounds shall be equipped with the following;
 - a. A flat buckle collar, martingale collar or harness. If there are tags on a hounds collar they must be wrapped flat to the hounds collar while hound is coursing.
 - b. A leash.
 - c. A muzzle.
 - d. Vet Wrap.
 - e. Food and water with containers for both.
 - f. A safe resting place while not running.

VI. Course layout minimum requirements

1. Closed circuit layouts are to be used, the hound begins at start, runs the circuit, and returns to the starting point.
 2. Machine shall be set up inside the circuit to prevent hounds for colliding with the drive unit.
 3. Circuit size must be a minimum of 125 yards.
 4. Layout of the course is limited to the field size and the ability to position pulleys.
 5. There are two layout shapes
 - a. Modified Light bulb shaped course.
 - b. Oval course.
 6. There will be no angle greater than 45 degrees. Sharp turns can cause the hounds injury, and this allows for drift of the hounds making the turns easier.
 7. The lure line shall at no time cross itself.
 8. A run off area of at least 20 feet shall be maintained between the stopping point of the lure and the drive unit in order to assure the safety of the hounds and the Luremaster.
 9. Hounds shall be provided a 100 foot run off area at the start/finish area.
- G. Boundaries Standards
1. Spectator Barriers; a physical boundary shall be erected to prevent persons from accidentally walking onto the hound field and potentially injuring themselves or the hounds.
 2. Barriers shall be set at a minimum of 15 yards from the coursing line. This may need to be wider in the corners to allow for drift.

3. If there are other activities using adjacent areas of the field, a more substantial division should be used such as hay bales or storm fencing.
4. Once the course is set and barriers positioned, no movement of the barriers is allowed. If movement occurs the Hound Marshal shall be informed and the course halted until the barrier is replaced.
5. Spotters are highly recommended for events where crowded conditions are present.
 - a. Used when multiple activities are in progress.
 - b. Prevent bystanders from entering the field.
 - c. Provide safety for the hounds.
 - d. Shall call hold if encroachment occurs.

Coursing at Events

- A. The owner or handler entering a hound in coursing does so at his or her own risk and agrees to assume responsibility for any damage to facilities or persons, caused by him or her or by his or her hound(s).
- B. Any coursing at a sanctioned SCA event must be presided over by a fully warranted Coursing Marshal of the Middle Kingdom. Any group wishing to have coursing activities, which does not have a resident Coursing Marshal, must contact the KCO one month prior to the event in order to arrange for a Marshal at the event.
- C. There must be a minimum of two (2) Warranted Marshals at an event.
- D. Hounds in heat will not be allowed in the coursing area.
- E. All coursing activities are to be conducted in such a way as to minimize risks to spectators and hounds by use of barriers and flagging. (See Boundary Guidelines pg 9).
- F. The Middle Kingdom will always attempt to include as many hounds as possible at coursing events. However sites may limit what breeds will be allowed on site. Marshalls in Charge should be mindful of this and make announcements accordingly.
- G. For the safety of all hounds and handlers never disturb a hound or it's gear without permission of the owner unless a dire emergency is at hand. Keep in mind that virtually all hounds will scratch or bite when startled or provoked, all hounds should be supervised at all times by the owner/handler.
- H. All hounds known to bite must wear a muzzle while on site and the handler should carry proof of current rabies vaccination.

- I. Handlers/Owners should behave in a Chivalrous manner at all times. The idea behind the activity is to demonstrate the nature and beauty of each hound; anyone seen giving excessive punishment to his/her hound will be reported to the Marshal-in-Charge immediately and may be asked to leave the site.
- J. All participants must remember that coursing is for the fun of the hounds and the spectators, this is a non-competitive event.
- K. The lure shall be inspected after every course and replaced if needed.
- L. The use of "live" lures, such as rabbits, cats, or birds, is expressly forbidden and is not in keeping with Society intentions, no matter how authentic. Use of a live lure at an event is grounds for permanent removal of a MARshal's authorization.
- M. Example of a typical coursing session:
 - 1. The Houndmaster shall question the handlers in the following way;
"Handlers are you ready?"
 - 2. The Handlers will respond "yes" or "no"
 - 3. The Houndmaster will then warn the Handlers with hounds not running
"Hold your hounds"
 - 4. The next call will be "Here comes your lure"
 - 5. The handlers will maintain control of his/her hounds until the Houndmaster signals the release with the call of "Tally-ho" at which time the handlers will slip their hounds and then step aside to retrieve their hounds at the end of the course.
 - 6. The lure shall remain in motion, maintaining a lead appropriate to the breed of hound until the end of the course.
 - 7. The lure may be stopped during a run for the following;
 - a. To prevent injury to a hound tangled in the string.
 - b. To allow a hound that has lost sight of the lure to regain sight of it.