

# YOUTH COMBAT

Greetings from Mistress Acelina of Derelei, Youth Combat Marshal, Pennsic 38 and the staff of Youth Combat at Pennsic 38;

All youths ages 6-17 are invited to join us on the Battlefield for the Pennsic Youth Combat Program. The program is open to all youths whether your home Kingdom has a program or not. The divisions will be, Division 1 ages 6-9, Division 2 ages 10-13 and Division 3 is for ages 14-17. We look forward to seeing our returning youth and we all look forward to meeting new faces on the Youth Lists. There's more than combat for youth at Pennsic, but sure to check out the Youth Activities Page.

## **REGISTRATION**

For children or youths to participate in the Pennsic Youth Combat Program, a parent or legal guardian must accompany their child/youth to the field and complete the registration process.

## **SUPERVISION**

After careful consideration of the Pennsic Policy for Minors and Youth Combat Program supervision requirements in light of the reality that many of our Youth's parents/legal guardians are part of Pennsic staff or teach or volunteer or any number of things that make Pennsic possible, we have developed new supervision policies for the Pennsic Youth Combat Program.

**Division 1** participants (by age) must accompanied by an adult, age 18 or older, as designated by their parent/legal guardian, during Youth Combat sessions.

The parent/legal guardian would identify and introduce the responsible adult to the youth marshals in charge so that the youth marshals can confirm the parent-approved responsible adult designation and make sure that rapid contact information (cell phone numbers or two way radio information) is documented on the youth combat sign-in forms; in addition, the Designated Responsible adult would be required to have the rapid contact information with them during the Youth Combat sessions. Parents would repeat the above procedure if they decide to appoint additional or different responsible adults during the course of Pennsic.

**Division 2** participants under the age of 12 must be within voice range or in sight of a responsible adult or teenager (of at least 16 years of age) while participating in Youth Combat. This would encompass the area immediately surrounding the Youth List Field.

All Youth Combatants, and their responsible adult/teenager (as applicable), will sign in with us each session. Even if a Youth Combatant has attended the morning session, a separate sign-in will be necessary for the afternoon session.

## **SCHEDULE**

The Youth Combat program will run from Friday July 31st, through Saturday August 8th. Sessions are scheduled from 8 - 10:30 am and 3 - 5 pm daily; (most days) on the last Saturday we will enjoy storming the Fort between 9 am and noon.

A [preliminary schedule](#) will be on-line; we may need to change the times for our sessions if necessary to avoid conflicting with major battles.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

We will have a limited number of tournaments at Pennsic. As of this writing, there will be a Tournament on Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm, jointly hosted by the Kingdoms of the East and Midrealm. We will announce any other tournaments in advance during our regular combat sessions. Tournaments will be open to any youths participating in the Pennsic Youth Combat Program.

## **INSPECTIONS**

- Authorized youths residing in the Midrealm, East and Aethelmearc will be inspected to their Kingdoms. For all other Kingdoms, armor will need to meet the minimum standards of the Middle Kingdom Youth Combat Program. These rules can be found at [www.midrealm.org/marshal/documents/youthactivities/rules](http://www.midrealm.org/marshal/documents/youthactivities/rules)
- Weapons must meet the standards of the East, Middle or Aethelmearc.
- Those not authorized or without a program in their own Kingdom will be inspected to a generally accepted standard between the rules of the East, Midrealm, and Æthelmearc programs. Information on this will be available at the Youth Lists.

## **THE FOLLOWING ARE NEW RULES AS OF PENNSIC 38:**

Shield requirements:

- 1) Due to a lack of control of shields that are overly large for combatants, a size rule will be adopted for Pennsic 38. Large “war” shields will be proportional to the size of the fighters. Shields on any fighter shall not extend farther than from the knees of the combatant to the armpit of the combatant, and no wider than 24 inches.
- 2) Shields must have soft edging around them to reduce the number of weapons failures. This can consist of either foam or hose (such as garden hose).

Weapon inspection checks:

Due to a high incidence of weapons failures due to improper construction of the weapons (specifically a lack of strapping tape totally enclosing the PVC) there will be mandatory inspections of all Div. 2 and 3 weapons. This will consist of a small cut THROUGH the foam of the weapon (preferably the lower, non-blade edge portion of the weapon) such that the marshal can see through to the PVC and insure that the PVC is properly strapped. Weapons will then be spray painted a youth combat only color to prove that the weapon has passed the inspection. Weapons failing to be passed will need to be broken down, rebuilt, and reinspected. All “new” weapons will be required to be inspected in such a fashion. Gray duct tape will be provided to cover the slit made by the inspection.

## **LOANER GEAR**

- Limited loaner armor and weapons will be available and shared amongst our participants.

## **CLASSES**

We will hold at least one weapons making session to be announced during the week.

## **AUTHORIZATIONS**

Each Kingdom may elect to hold authorization sessions for Youth Combat during the week. We will announce these in advance.

## **SERVICE**

As always, our contribution to Pennsic will take the form of service after our sessions, such as field sweeps for trash and water bottles in our own lists as well as the main battlefield, weapon repairs area, etc.

## **YOUTH RATTAN**

Special practice sessions for youths authorized in rattan combat in their Kingdom of Residence will be announced at the field. Proof of authorization must be provided to the Marshal in Charge before the youth will be allowed to participate in Youth Rattan practices.

### **Pennsic Youth Combat Marshal Background Check Policy**

In 2008, SCA, Inc. and all the Kingdoms adopted the Background Check Policy for all ministers of youth programs, including Youth Combat. This policy applies to those adults who hold a supervisory role over the SCA's youth. The youth marshals in charge of Youth Combat at Pennsic, as listed on the Pennsic staff list, must present proof of successful completion of an SCA background check before they can assume their roles at Pennsic. Additionally, the Background Check Policy applies to those marshals in charge of the individual list fields for Divisions 1, 2 and 3, youth armored combat, the equipment repair tent, and the youth marshal administration tent. As in the past, we encourage parents and marshals in training to assist the youth combat marshals on the Youth Combat list. We still welcome assistance however any unwarranted individuals must work under the supervision of a warranted youth marshal. Failure to have a warranted youth marshal at a list field will result in the shutting down of that list field.