



The Vikings

Membership and General Rules

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Membership

1. General points

- a.** A member of The Vikings is any person who has paid his/her annual subscription to the Society for the current year and who has been granted a membership card. Only those whose dues are fully paid are entitled to the privileges of membership. The Vikings reserves the right to refuse membership without explanation. The Vikings has the right to withdraw membership from any individual or group should it consider this action to be in the best interests of The Vikings. All membership applications must be submitted to the Membership Thegn and will be not be effective until the date of issue of a membership card.
- b.** A voting member is any adult member (i.e. over 18 years of age) who has 18 months of continuous membership within the Society.
- c.** Membership expires on the 31st December of each year. Members must have paid their renewal fees before attending any function in the following year. Late renewals will incur a penalty fee unless extenuating circumstances exist.
- d.** The minimum age for adult membership is 18 years. Junior membership is available with parental consent. Only members of The Vikings may take part in events.
- e.** The member agrees to be bound by the rules of The Vikings made now or in the future and by the terms of any contract entered into by The Vikings on his/her behalf
- f.** The Vikings is not liable for any injury, loss or damage incurred by a member arising from any of the activities organised by The Vikings.
- g.** The Vikings is not liable for any injury, loss or damage inflicted by a member on a member of the public during any event, if that member was acting in contravention of the rules The Vikings.
- h.** The member agrees not to organise musters, shows, or commit The Vikings to any undertaking without the approval of the Konungr.
- i.** Any member appearing in a public display must be suitably dressed and equipped. The member agrees to dress and equip himself/herself in accordance with the Authenticity guidelines laid down by The Vikings and to accept the authority of the Authenticity Thegn in judging the standard of this equipment. The member should never combine 21st Century apparel with period costume when on a show ground or representing The Vikings in any way.
- j.** All members are expected to comply with safety guidelines, whether laid down by The Vikings or event organisers. All members are expected to be conversant with safety rules - ignorance is not accepted as an excuse.
- k.** All members are expected to obey orders given to them by an Officer of The Vikings. Grievances must be aired afterwards, in private.
- l.** Members are at all times responsible for the welfare and behaviour of any children or animals in their care.
- m.** The member agrees to assign to The Vikings the copyright of any photographic, film or written material, which the member either produces or appears in, on behalf of The Vikings. The member retains no rights over the subsequent use of the material by The Vikings for advertising or promotional purposes.



1.1 Membership of a Herred/Lethang

- a.** Any Herred/Lethang has the right to refuse an applicant membership of that Herred/Lethang, but may not deny that individual membership of the Society.
- b.** Members of a Herred/Lethang are expected to obey the rules of that Herred/Lethang. Any disobedience of these rules is a matter to be dealt with internally by that Herred/Lethang unless a contravention of Society rules is involved. Society rules will always take precedence over Herred/Lethang rules.
- c.** Herred/Lethang members will normally be expected to pay a supplemental membership fee to that Herred/Lethang. Failure to do so is a matter to be dealt with internally by that Herred/Lethang.

1.2 Provincial membership

Provincial members are the responsibility of the Provincial Members' Officer and must, at times, accept his/her decisions made on their behalf. Any grievances should be addressed primarily to the Provincial Members' Officer or, in the event of the matter being unresolved, to the Konungr.

1.3 Lapsed membership

- a.** A member is deemed to have lapsed when he/she has not paid membership for more than 1 year. Late membership fees will be accepted up until 31st December of each year provided that the penalty fee is paid.
- b.** A lapsed member, of any rank, is not guaranteed an automatic right to renew his/her membership and may be refused membership without explanation.
- c.** A lapsed member, of any rank, must retake the appropriate assessment(s) before being allowed to take part in a show in any capacity.
- d.** A lapsed member, below the rank of Dreng, will only be re-admitted as a prospective member with the rank of Thrall.
- e.** A lapsed Dreng whose membership has lapsed by less than 1 year will be allowed to retain that rank but must retake any specialist weapons tests before being allowed to use that weapon at a Society event. Once membership has lapsed by more than 1 year the lapsed member will only be re-admitted as a prospective member with the rank of Thrall. For example, a Dreng who has not paid his/her membership for 1 year and 1 day may retain their rank, but must retake weapons assessments. A Dreng who has not paid his/her membership for 2 years and 1 day becomes a Thrall.
- f.** A holder of the Silver Yggdrasil or a Silver Thegn whose membership has lapsed by less than 3 years will be allowed to retain the rank and privileges of that award, but must retake any specialist weapons assessments before being allowed to use that weapon at a Society event. Once membership has lapsed by more than 3 years, the lapsed member will only be re-admitted as a prospective member with the rank of Thrall.

1.4 Guest Membership

- a.** Any member of another re-enactment society or non-member of the Society wishing to take part in a show on a particular day must become a guest member of the Society for a specific period of time. Permission for this person to take part must be obtained by a sponsoring



member from the Konungr or a nominated deputy before the event. The sponsoring member will be held responsible for ensuring that the guest member has the necessary skills to safely take part in a display and for their behaviour throughout the period of their guest membership. A charge may be levied for guest membership, this will be deducted from the cost of full membership if this is taken out in the same calendar year.

b. Guest members are bound by the rules and regulations of the Society for the period of their guest membership.

1.5 International Membership

a. The society has found itself expanding into countries other than the UK and in order to facilitate the smooth administration and running of these international members the rank of international membership has been established.

For clarity the following sections 1.5 and 1.6 use the term The Vikings (UK) as meaning the original UK society compared with the global overall society of which the International Members are part.

b. An international member of The Vikings is anyone who lives outside of the UK and therefore cannot normally get to UK based shows. The member may be an individual or part of a group depending upon circumstances.

c. The type of international membership available depends upon the state of development of the region in question.

i. In geographical areas where several groups have formed and have proven to be able to act together, then the society has the right to form a Felag.

In geographical areas where a Felag has been established all new and lapsed members living in the area or territory governed by the Felag must join The Vikings as a member of the Felag. For details of Felag membership see section 1.6.

ii. In geographical areas where a Felag has not been established then a prospective member may join the Vikings (UK) directly as an independent international provincial member or as a member of an independent international group as described under clauses 1.5d and 1.5 e).

d. Individual international members who join the society as a new member, directly outside of any group are designated as International Provincials and come under the same umbrella as UK provincials. If they live in a geographical area governed by a Felag they must then join the society via the Felag. International Provincial Members may, when a Felag is established, maintain their original status but they are encouraged to join the Felag. If they choose not to, they may be asked to take out guest membership in order to attend local events. If their membership lapses for any reason then, on renewal, they will be required to re-join through the Felag administration body and fall under the jurisdiction of the Felag. Existing members of The Vikings (UK) or of a Felag who move into an area governed by a Felag may choose to remain a member of their original geographical Society and take guest membership of the local society, if needed, to attend local events. Should their membership lapse, they will be expected to rejoin through the area Felag. The same rule applies to members of a Felag moving to the UK.

International Provincials must follow the same rules and regulations as UK provincials, amended and adjusted as necessary for the country/state/province in which they live.

e. Groups may join the society directly and are designated as Independent International Groups. For groups to qualify for international membership they must be based outside of the UK and all of its members must reside outside of the UK.

If the group is based within a geographical area governed by a Felag the group must join the society via the Felag. Independent International Groups must follow the same rules and



regulations as they pertain to UK based groups amended and adjusted as necessary for the country/state/province in which they are based.

f. Notwithstanding the above provisions all international based members, groups and Felags will not be covered by the Vikings UK insurances, except when attending events in the UK, and will not be eligible for international travelling expenses. As such they will pay a reduced membership fee to the Vikings (UK) to be decided in the same way as ordinary membership fees.

g. When organizing events and the like, international members, groups, and Felags must ensure that adequate insurance is provided, and health and safety rules and regulations are followed in accordance with the standing statutory requirements of the country/state/province in which the event takes place. All general society rules and regulations pertaining to combat, authenticity, LHE and other relevant matters must be followed.

1.6 International Felag Membership

These rules for international Felag membership apply in conjunction with and should be regarded as supplemental to the requirements of section 1.5 as applicable.

a. Where a geographical area has several full members groups, and these groups have proven to be able to act together, then in order to facilitate the administration of these groups the Vikings (UK) may ask them to form an administrative body to be known as a Felag, and which will act as the UK society's ambassadors and administrators of the society for the geographical area or territory concerned.

b. After a Felag is established :-

- i. The Vikings (UK) will formally recognize this Felag as the administrative governors of their designated territory.
- ii. The Vikings (UK) will treat with the Felag in respect of all matters as if the Felag were a department within the society.
- iii. All new and lapsed members resident within the Felag's defined territory must join The Vikings via the Felag.

c. All membership enquiries from prospective members living within the Felag's designated territory will be directed to the Felag.

d. The Felag will define the types of membership that will be available within their own territory ; and which should generally align with but need not be exactly the same as those offered by the Vikings (UK)

e. On an annual basis to a timescale as defined by The Vikings (UK) the Felag will be responsible for collecting all of it's members annual membership subscriptions due to the Vikings (UK) and will send such subscriptions to The Vikings (UK) together with a full list of all members covered by the same.

f. The Felag will have the right to run its members in their territory in accordance with their own constitution which they must submit to and have approved by The Vikings (UK) ; such constitution to always be subservient to and not be contrary to the constitution of The Vikings



(UK) and/or any associated administrative documents as published by the society ; save for any localised amendment and/or adjustment as necessary for compliance with the legal requirements of the country/state/province in which they are based.

g. The Felag is required and agrees to appoint officers to undertake the various tasks required to run the society in their territory.

h. The Felag will upon request provide The Vikings (UK) with any and all documentation as might be requested and as deemed necessary to prove correct administration of the Felag on behalf of The Vikings (UK).



2. Junior and Youth Membership

- a.** All Junior Members must have signed parental consent before being accepted into The Vikings.
- b.** All children wishing to take an active part in events, must be registered with the Membership Officer as Junior Members and have a membership card issued. A nominal fee will be charged, to cover the cost of running this branch of The Vikings. Children who are not Junior Members will not be allowed to take part in events, irrespective of the standard of their kit or their craft/acting abilities.
- c.** All children aged 16+ taking part in combat must have signed parental consent and take out youth membership.

2.1 13-18 year olds

- a.** Junior members may attend and take part in weapons training sessions, subject to the agreement of the Training Officer in charge of that session. 16 –18 year olds may participate in full training sessions, subject to the agreement of the Training Officer in charge of that session. They will be restricted to the weapons allowed them by that Training Officer and must wear full safety equipment.
- b.** Junior members must wait until they are 16 years of age before being allowed to use weapons on the field at events, subject to having taken out Youth Membership.
- c.** 13-16 year olds are called Fostrar. They are allowed behind the battle field, to dispense water, dispatch the wounded, or patch them up and help them to their feet if they can carry on. They may scurry for arrows and occasionally throw papier maché rocks.

2.2 Participation in Shows

- a.** All Junior Members wishing to take part in shows will be expected to have fully authentic kit suitable to the display in question. This includes any toys or other props the child may wish to use in the display.
- b.** Junior Members may only take part in any display if accompanied by a responsible adult. Living history displays are not to be regarded as a convenient crèche. Any adult abandoning a child without ensuring that an adult will take full responsibility for its actions will be subject to disciplinary action.
- c.** Junior members will only be allowed on the field if this is a scripted event and all combatants have been made fully aware of their presence. The responsible adult must make sure that they are kept well away from the combat and visible to the combatants at all times. This is particularly important if there are archers on the field. Children under the age of 16 may not appear in the battle lines.

2.3 Promotion for Junior Members

- a.** Junior members, of any age, may take craft and acting tests, subject to the agreement of the testing officer, but the standard of the test should be maintained.
- b.** 16-17 year olds may take combat tests, subject to the agreement of the testing officer.
- c.** Junior members may be promoted to the rank of Fri-hals, at their group leader's discretion. All events attended and all test points accumulated by Junior members will count towards the award of Dreng, however this will not be awarded until they reach 18 years of age.



3. GENERAL RULES

3.1 At all Times

- a.** The rules of The Vikings are subject to prevailing regulations as defined by National Laws and Regulations, Local Laws and Regulations, and Event Specified Regulations as appropriate. Where any of these conflict, the most rigorous will take precedent.
- b.** Whenever appearing in costume in public, the member must remember that they are representing the Society and act accordingly. Never do anything which may damage the reputation of the Society.
- c.** Weapons should not be carried in public, unless being specifically used in a display, or transported to or from a Society event. Make every effort to keep weapons secure and hidden from view. Sharp or blunted weapons should not be worn on social occasions in public.
- d.** Never use a weapon against a member of the public or against a member of the Society who has not been trained to receive attacks or who is not expecting an attack.
- e.** Never use weapons in an area where a member of the public, or their property, may be damaged.
- f.** Any member of the Society caught using of illegal drugs, misusing prescription drugs or committing substance abuse at a Society event or when representing the Society will be automatically expelled from the Society.
- g.** Any member of the Society who has taken medication and been advised against driving, must not take part as a combatant or villager at a Society event. If they intend to take part in a non-combatant role, the Society Health and Safety Officer or responsible First Aid Officer should be informed of the condition, in case of accidents.
- h.** No one should take part in a show when under the influence of alcohol. The guidelines on alcohol intake permitted to car drivers should be followed and, in the case of any dispute, the decision of the Konungr, or senior officer present at an event, is final.

3.2 When Camping

- a.** Keep campsites tidy at all times. Obey the Country Code and treat the area with respect. All rubbish must be tidied away into appropriate containers when a campsite is being cleared. Try to leave the site in a better condition than before.
- b.** Do not light fires without the organiser's/land owner's permission. Where fires are allowed, use fire boxes when appropriate, and ensure the fire is kept well away from tents and under control at all times. Only use dead wood, which has not been designated for any other purpose, as fuel. Do not leave fires unattended and tidy the fire pit the following morning and fill in when finished with.
- c.** Dogs, and other pets, are the owner's responsibility at all times. Do not bring animals to shows unless you can guarantee having the spare time to care for them. Dogs must be under control, or suitably confined, at all times, unless there is an area suitable for supervised exercise, away from the campsite. The Society is not responsible for any damage caused by an animal belonging to a Society member. Remember to clean up after them.
- d.** If an area has been designated for quiet sleeping, respect this and confine the noise to other areas of the campsite. If you require an early night, please camp in these areas and do not expect people using other parts of the site to be quiet on your behalf.
- e.** Only use areas well away from tents, cars and other pieces of peoples' property for weapons training sessions. At all times be aware of the presence of children and members of the public.



3.3 On the Show Ground

- a.** The rules laid down by the show organisers must be obeyed at all times, even if these are more restrictive than those usually followed by the Society.
- b.** There should be no mixing of Dark Age and 21st century costume when on the show ground. This may be relaxed on the campsite, away from public view.
- c.** Fighting of any description should only take part in designated areas and at designated times. Any impromptu training should take place in the campsite, unless permission has been given to use an area of the show ground where members of the public will not be involved.
- d.** Any questions asked by members of the public must be answered politely and as accurately as possible.
- e.** Traders may only set up stalls on the show ground if permission has been granted or a pitch has been paid for.

3.4 During a Display

- a.** The safety of the public is paramount. Never engage in any activity which may result in a member of the public being injured, even if this interferes with a previously planned event or script. Crowd charges are not allowed, under any circumstances.
- b.** Safety ropes are there for a reason. Keep all aspects of the display inside the designated area and do not allow members of the public to cross into the designated area. All warriors involved in a melee must be aware of the position of the crowd and stop combat before it endangers the public.
- c.** Arrive at muster points on or before the stated times and with all necessary kit, ready to take part in a display at the required time.
- d.** No swearing or offensive language or gestures are allowed at any time.
- e.** Combatants should be aware of the presence of non-combatants and take care not to injure them during a melee. Non-combatants should be aware of the fighting at all times and take care to position themselves where they should not be inadvertently injured. If children are on the field they must be under the close supervision of a responsible adult and never be positioned where their presence may be accidentally hidden by an adult from the combatants.
- f.** No member should attempt to use a weapon which they have not been fully trained in. No Non-combatant or Junior member should pick up and attempt to use a weapon during a show, unless as part of a carefully scripted routine.