



NVG

New Varangian Guard Inc.

Handakas Garrison

Martial Standing Orders

Last Amended 6/12/04

This document is to be read in addition to 'The Combat Rules and Safety Standards of The New Varangian Guard'.

Unless otherwise stated the guidelines of 'The Combat Rules and Safety Standards of The New Varangian Guard' should always be taken as base text.

The Martial Standing Orders apply only to members of Handakas Garrison when attending official Handakas garrison training times, displays and other official activities.

When attending functions held by other Garrisons, Handakas members are bound by any rules and guidelines specific to the host garrison.

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1.0 Authorisation processes

1.1 Authorisations

1.1.1 Minimum requirements to be eligible for authorisation are

- ⇒ The candidate must provide the minimum basic protection including groin and if female breast protection (**to be their own and not borrowed**), gauntlets, gambeson and arming cap. A gambeson is considered body armour so long as it meets the requirements of 'The Combat Rules and Safety Standards of The New Varangian Guard'. Where items are borrowed they must not deprive another member of its use and thereby prevent them from fighting.
- ⇒ The candidate shall provide a helmet. Where a candidate has borrowed a helmet it must not deprive another member of its use and thereby prevent them from fighting.
- ⇒ The candidate shall provide a basic weapon and where necessary a shield. Where a candidate has borrowed a weapon and / or a shield it must not deprive another member of its use and thereby prevent them from fighting.

1.1.2 Members should endeavour to return borrowed gear in the same or better condition that they found it in and / or agree to replace any damaged gear.

1.1.3 The member is considered re-authorised if the Training Officer (TO) with the assistance of other authorised combatants deems them to be "competent and safe"

1.1.4 The training officer will confer with authorised members in determining competence.

1.1.5 "Competent and safe" is defined using the following guidelines

- ⇒ Can accurately deliver all blows in a controlled and safe manner as outlined in section **1.6.1 'General'** in 'The Combat Rules and Safety Standards of The New Varangian Guard'.
- ⇒ Can safely place a blow without striking off target areas as outlined in section **1.6.2 'Off target areas'** in 'The Combat Rules and Safety Standards of The New Varangian Guard'.
- ⇒ Can accurately determine and act on the effects of legal blows in combat as outlined in sections **1.6.3 'The effects of legal blows in combat'** in 'The Combat Rules and Safety Standards of The New Varangian Guard'.

1.2 Re-Authorisation

It is felt that a clear line in the sand is needed so that a standardised approach to re-authorisation can be adopted and defended. It must be stressed that commonsense should always prevail and that the skill level of the returning member should be the only limitation to the timing and duration of re-authorisation.

Re-authorisation is required to ensure that all members undertaking combat during displays, inter and intra club activities are deemed safe and competent thereby meeting our duty of care to each other and the general public.

Re-authorisation is applied using the concepts of 'skills extinction' where skills are seen to diminish the longer they are left unused.

- 1.2.1 The time lapse before one requires re-authorisation is 4 weeks
 - 1.2.2 Where a member of the Garrison has been absent from combat training for a period of 4 weeks (or longer) they are required to undertake re-authorisation. General practice with a metal weapon is seen as being combat training.
 - 1.2.3 Re-authorisation shall consist of a minimum of three bouts, each with an authorised member.
 - 1.2.4 The member is considered re-authorised if the Training Officer (TO) with the assistance of other authorised combatants deems them to be competent and safe.
 - 1.2.5 The TO will confer with authorised members in determining competence
 - 1.2.6 "Competent and safe" is defined using the guidelines outlined in 1.1.5 above
 - 1.2.7 If the training officer (TO) is absent from the club for more than 4 weeks where possible the TO should appoint a senior authorised combatant to 'care take' the position. It would be the 'care taker' who would be responsible for the authorisation and re-authorisation of combatants including the re-authorisation of the returning TO.
 - 1.2.8 Should the TO be present at the club but unable to undertake active combat training for 4 weeks then the TO will appoint a senior authorised combatant to take up the role of managing and assessing the TO's re-authorisation.
- 1.3 Candidates Rights**
- 1.3.1 Should a candidate fail to successfully authorise or re authorise they are entitled to a debrief explaining the reasons for their failure and areas in which they need to improve
 - 1.3.2 The candidate is eligible to be retested 7 days after the initial test
 - 1.3.3 Should the candidate feel that they have not been fairly and adequately dealt with during this process they are entitled to appeal any decisions subject to the provisions outlined in the NVG constitution.
 - 1.3.4 Every attempt should be made on both the candidates and training officers' behalf prior to undertaking such an appeal.

2.0 Martial Skills Progression

- 2.1 All new members will be required to undertake and complete a 'basic package' of instruction based on a single handed weapons and shield to the satisfaction of the Training Officer (TO) with the assistance of senior authorised members.
- 2.2 For the purposes of the 'beginner's combat program' a single handed weapon is can include sword, sabre, and single handed axe or similar. It may not include maces, war hammers or other mass weapon.
- 2.3 The beginner's combat package will include lessons on aspects such as footwork, legal striking zones and blow delivery, as well as basic attacks, parries and shield work
- 2.4 Once a member has satisfied the TO that they have completed the 'beginner's combat program', and can safely train without supervision (by the TO or appointed senior authorised combatant) are they able to designate and begin training in a weapon of their choice.

- 2.5 ***All weapons must meet the approval of the TO and meet the NVG combat rules and safety standards.***
- 2.6 There are no set prerequisites preventing a member from designating any given weapon for initial authorisation subject to point 2.5 above.
- 2.7 **The Training Officer reserves the right to refuse to allow a member to train with a designated weapon if the training officer feels that the member would pose an unacceptable safety risk to other members.**
- 2.8 In the above instance the training officer must disclose their reasons and provide an adequate training pathway in order to allow the member to use the designated weapon in a timely manner.
- 2.9 Initial training in a newly designated weapon will be conducted under the supervision of the TO or a senior authorised combatant.
- 2.10 Once the member has satisfied the TO that they are able to undertake training with the designated weapon without supervision are they able to continue training in that weapon with the aim of achieving authorisation with it.
- 2.11 **A member is only considered competent in the weapon(s) they successfully authorise with.**
- 2.12 Once a member has achieved initial authorisation they are able to designate alternative weapons or weapons combinations
- 2.13 Should the member wish to develop new weapons competencies they must notify the TO of their intentions and seek permission to commence training with any new weapons or weapon combinations.
- 2.14 Authorised combatants are deemed competent in additional weapons or weapons combinations if they complete the equivalent of a 're-authorisation' bout using the new weapon / weapons combination, see section 1.2 above.
- 2.15 There is no time limit before an authorised member can request to have their competency in a new weapon or weapons combination assessed subject to the requirement of section 1.2 above.
- 2.16 **Once initial authorisation and additional weapon competencies are gained it is up to the individual member to maintain their skill levels in all of their weapons competencies.**
- 2.17 **The TO reserves the right to re-assess any weapons or weapons combinations a member has attained should the TO deem it necessary. In this instance the TO must disclose their reasons to the affected member.**
- 2.18 Absence from combat training for four or more weeks does not result in the loss of weapons competencies subject to point 2.17 above,
- 2.19 The member can undertake a re-authorisation after an absence of four or more weeks with the weapon / weapons combination of their choice, subject to section 2.7 above.
- 2.20 **A member is only able to use the weapons they are authorised in during official Handakas shows and demonstrations.**

**Interim measures pre 'beginner's combat package' development
as of 6/12/04**

Due to the fact that a basic training package is currently being developed and ratified, the following interim measures will be put in place.

- ⇒ All those currently training in wood and or under supervision, or have not undertaken any basic training at this stage will need to negotiate a training regime with the TO should they wish to pursue their initial authorisation with a weapon other than a single handed weapon.

Key targets for those above mentioned members will be the ability to undertake training bouts with a live steel single handed weapon without supervision and demonstrate the safe controlled delivery of both blows and defensive manoeuvres to the satisfaction of the TO (with the assistance of senior authorised members). Members meeting the above will be considered to have completed the equivalent of a 'beginner's combat program'.

- ⇒ All those members that are currently training with a steel single handed weapon without supervision but not yet authorised are considered to have progressed past their initial 'beginner's combat program'. These members are free to designate a weapon to authorise in so long as it meets the *NVG Combat Rules and Safety Standards* and the *TO's approval*.
- ⇒ All authorised members and their current core weapons and weapons combinations are considered competent and authorised in these pending discussion and approval of the TO (with the assistance of senior authorised combatants).
- ⇒ No competency will be extended to pole arms such as double handed axe and spear at this point. However all members that are deemed to have completed the equivalent of a 'beginner's combat package' are free to begin training in such weapons subject to point 2.5 and 2.7 of the martial skills progression