



# **RULES & REGULATIONS**

## **2001**

## Part Four - OFFICIAL POLICIES

### RULES & REGULATIONS

#### General

- 1.1 The name of the Association will be the Southern Skirmish Association.
- 1.2 The Association will be historical in outlook to advance the education of the public in the history of the American Civil War. In furtherance of the said object, but not otherwise, the Association will :
  - a) promote living history displays,
  - b) engage in research in the American Civil War, and publish the results thereof.
- 1.3 The Association will have no political attachments.
- 1.4 In the event of the Association winding up, all assets will be transferred to a charitable institution or institutions having objectives similar to the Association.
- 1.5 No alterations shall be made to the Rules and Regulations without the prior approval of the Charity Commissioners, and no alterations shall be made which would cause the Association to cease to be a Charity a Law.
- 1.6 All Southern Skirmish Association publications are copyright, and no whole or part of them may be reproduced without the permission of the Editor.

#### Membership

- 2.1 The Association's membership will be open to all people, regardless of race, colour, religion or sex.
- 2.2 The Association will embrace both postal and active members.
- 2.3 The Association will embrace three types of membership consisting of the following :
  - \* Senior 18 + years of age
  - \* Junior 14 - 17 years of age
  - \* Cadet 10 - 13 years of age

Cadet members will not be allowed to participate in battle re-enactments.

- 2.4 Members between the ages of 14 and 16 may only take part in re-enactments in non-combatant roles, e.g. musician or standard-bearer.
- 2.5 All members between the ages of 14 and 18 will have a parent or guardian's consent for participation in battle re-enactments.

- 8.6 The accepted Military Drill Manuals of the Association are the relevant period Drill Manuals for each branch of the Armies. All Officers and NCOs will be expected to know, and instruct their companies in this drill. *(Amended 1998)*
- 8.7 The following Drill Manuals, with modern safety adjustments have been agreed as the Official Manuals for the Association.
  - a) For the Confederate Infantry, Hardee's Infantry and Rifle Tactics, 1861.
  - b) For the Union Infantry, Casey's Infantry Tactics, 1861.
  - c) For both Confederate and Union Cavalry, Cooke's Cavalry Tactics. 1861.
  - d) For both Confederate and Union Artillery, Field Artillery Tactics (1864), French, Barry and Hunt. *(Amended 1998)*
- 8.8 Any Regiment which has decided that it is prepared to galvanise must make this clear to any new recruit, also making certain that this fact is made clear in the Regiment's publicity and recruitment material. *(Amended 1999)*
- 8.9 Each Army will ratify the ranks of it's own Officers. *(Amended 1999)*

*Southern Skirmish Association. February 2001.*

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a) individual regiments having made the decision through their membership on this matter, and

b) women wishing to participate as soldiers must appear appropriately dressed and equipped to reasonable standards as the Executive Committee may determine, and be commensurate with the image and appearance of the unit they are portraying. *(Amended 1991)*

**7.4** On the day of any Southern Skirmish Association event, all members are expected to wear costume or uniform of the period. Members will be expected to change into costume as soon as is reasonably possible after their arrival.

**7.5** Officers and NCOs will be in control of their companies, and their guests, from the time of their arrival at the event, and for the duration of their stay whilst on site. *(Amended 2000)*

**7.6** At events, it is the duty of all NCOs to report any misbehaviour of members to the Officer in Charge. It will be at the Officer's discretion to take action whilst a display is being performed. This should be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee after the display.

**7.7** A Duty Officer will be appointed at Association events to keep and maintain a notice board showing the day's timetable and a membership signing in book. The Duty Officer will also supervise the duties and functions of the Duty Company.

**7.8** It is the duty of all members (unless otherwise directed) to remain on the field of battle until it has been officially declared clear of debris by the Officer in Charge.

**7.9** With the exception of members' children under the age of ten, formally invited guests, and current members of an invited Guest Society, no non-member will be allowed to camp at an Association event. *(Amended 1999)*

**7.10** Only SOSKAN registered Sutlers will be allowed to trade at SOSKAN events. *(Amended 1999)*

## Field Organisation

**8.1** Military rank will have no meaning in the Association except on projects.

**8.2** No new company may be formed without the consent of the Executive Committee.

**8.3** The size and strength of companies will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

**8.4** The Executive Committee will propose members for the position of Officer rank, and the said proposals will be voted on from the floor. The Executive Committee also reserves the right to withdraw positions of rank should anyone not meet the necessary requirements.

**8.5** Officers and NCOs will be elected democratically by ALL company members in accordance with the defined structure. *(Amended 1999)*

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**2.6** Only members aged 14 years and over will have the right to vote on annual issues and at the AGM. (Election of candidates to the Executive Committee and any Rule changes, amendments or additions). *(Amended 1999)*

**2.7** All members, irrespective of age, will be entitled to battle points for each event, which they attend. *(Amended 2000)*

**2.8** The Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse membership to any applicant. *(Amended 2000)*

**2.9** All members who do not renew their membership within one month of the due date, will lose all rights and reapply for membership as a new member. *(Amended 1999)*

**2.10** Battle points will only be awarded for attendance and participation at events authorised by SOSKAN. *(Amended 1999)*

## General Meetings.

**3.1** The Executive Committee must give 28 days notice in writing of an Annual General Meeting, (January) or as required by English Law.

**3.2** Membership cards must be carried at all times on Association events. Any member without a valid card may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, be refused the right to participate.

**3.3** Constitution amendments require members' approval at the AGM. i.e. 75% majority of the total vote. *(Amended 1999)*

## Executive Committee

**4.1** The Executive Committee will be the management and ruling body of the Association.

**4.2** No two members of the same family, whether married or not, shall serve a term or terms, on the Executive Committee, together, at any time. *(Amended 1995)*

**4.3** A proposer or seconder, may only propose or second, one nominee for a single position on the Executive Committee. They may not propose or second anyone else. Nominated members may not propose or second anyone for any Executive Committee position. *(Amended 1995)*

**4.4** The Executive Committee will control all financial matters and conduct all dealings with any persons or organisations external to the Association.

**4.5** The Executive Committee will consist of nine members elected annually at a General Meeting, by members of the Association, by secret ballot. Nominations for election will take place in November. *(Amended 2001)*

**4.6** The members of the Executive Committee will be equal in rank and consist of nine, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Membership Secretary, Projects Director, Publicity Officer and two Committee Officers. The meetings of the Executive Committee

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and the Association will be conducted by the Chairperson. *(Amended 2001)*

- 4.7 At meetings of the Executive Committee, a motion will only be carried if at least five (5) Executive Committee members agree.
- 4.8 An Executive Committee member is not entitled to vote at a General Meeting. The Chairperson holds the casting vote.
- 4.9 In order to hold his position, each Executive Committee member must attend at least 75% of the Executive Committee meetings held during each year.
- 4.10 If, in the opinion of the balance of the Executive Committee, a Committee member is not performing their duties in a satisfactory manner, the said member can be asked to resign. Should a resignation not be forthcoming, then the matter shall be put before the membership for their vote.
- 4.11 The Executive Committee, like all members, shall obey the Rules and Regulations of the Association, and additionally, the Rules and Regulations set out for Executive Committee members.
- 4.12 The Executive Committee shall keep the Association in good standing with all Civil Authorities.
- 4.13 An Executive Committee member must give at least 28 days notice in writing by Registered Mail to the Chairperson of intention to resign. If the Chairperson wishes to resign, he/she must give notice as above to the Secretary.
- 4.14 An audited account will be prepared annually, after 31st October, of all monies spent throughout the year. This will be presented at the AGM and published thereafter.
- 4.15 The Executive Committee must be capable of producing in a full year, one journal, and as many newsletters as are required.
- 4.16 Any co-opted Executive Committee member shall have full voting rights on the Executive Committee. *(Amended 1996)*
- 4.17 Life membership of the Association may be granted by the Executive Committee to any Founder Member whose actions merit such an award. *(Amended 1999)*

## Conduct of Members

- 5.1 Members will be expected to conduct themselves in a civil manner at all times and uphold the good name of the Association.
- 5.2 Trespass on private property is prohibited, and will not be condoned, nor will the molesting of private citizens.
- 5.3 No member may undertake any project, whether display or publicity, using the name of Southern Skirmish Association without the express permission of the Executive Committee.

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- 5.4 Members who disregard any Rules and Regulations will be answerable to the Executive Committee who reserve the right to expel any offending member. *(Amended 2000)*

## Firearms and Safety

- 6.1 Any member applying for a shotgun license, firearms certificate or a black powder license for use on Southern Skirmish Association functions must first apply to the Secretary for permission.
- 6.2 Anyone having, or wishing to use more than one gun, will only be allowed to use one of them on the field, except where written into a script, and with Executive Committee permission. *(Amended 1996)*
- 6.3 All guns must be checked by a Safety Officer before each display, and must be found to be in a reasonable and clean condition.
- 6.4 Anyone acting in a manner likely to cause harm or damage to a person or property will be subject to disciplinary action. *(Amended 2000)*
- 6.5 No guns will be discharged off the battlefield without the express permission of an Officer or NCO.
- 6.6 No illegal guns will be allowed on the field.
- 6.7 No edged weapons will be carried during close combat, and are only to be carried by Officers and NCOs unless otherwise directed. Bayonets must be securely fastened in their scabbards.
- 6.8 Musket ramrods may be carried, but not used, on the battlefield, with the exception of one per regiment, carried by a designated member of the regiment, for the sole purpose of clearing fouled musket barrels. *(Amended 1999)*
- 6.9 Only members who have attended the Pyrotechnics training course and have obtained a certificate proving their competence will be permitted to handle pyrotechnics at Association events. *(Amended 1996)*
- 6.10 All members will be required to produce ALL licenses for examination at each event, especially before being issued with Black Powder cartridges. *(Amended 1997)*

## Camps and Displays

- 7.1 All members, on taking active part in their first display, will, in the interests of their own safety, be expected to take a non-competent role.
- 7.2 All members will dress in American Civil War costume or uniform as recommended by the Association.
- 7.3 Female members are permitted to participate in all events of the Association, including being armed, equipped, and dressed as men, and in the ranks of the regiments, subject to :