

# Preparation of the Crown Tourney and Invocation Court

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**Crown Tournaments** are run to a certain formula. Below are the requirements for the determination of the Lists, presentation of Combatants and Consorts to the Crown, and the requirements of the Crown and the Heralds. NOTE: the Court Herald is not necessarily the same person as the Tourney Herald, and if they are different people, they should work together where appropriate.

Once their armour has been inspected, the combatants should sign in with the **Lists Officer**, who should record the following:

- ❖ Combatant's name in full, with phonetic pronunciation if not obvious (err on the side of caution.)
- ❖ Opinion is split as to if only titles earned on the field of combat should be used on the field. If it is the Crown's whim that this be the case, then record:  
Combatant's full rank and any titles earned on the field of combat (Chivalry, Viscounty, County, Duchy) AND which **single** title they wish to use. Note: If the combatant is a member of the Order of Defense, they may choose to use the title of Master/Mistress, as it is a title earned on the field of combat, albeit not heavy combat. If the combatant is a Landed Baron/ess, they may choose to use the title of Baron/ess; holders of a Court Barony **may not** (this is because a Landed Barony is held in direct relation to the Crown). Otherwise, record the Combatant's full rank and preferred **single** title.
- ❖ Combatant's Consort's name in full, with phonetic pronunciation.
- ❖ Consort's full rank and preferred **single** title.
- ❖ If the Consort is present on the day or not.

These details should be provided as soon as possible to the **Crown**, the **Tourney Herald** and the **Court Herald**. The list provided should be in two parts – the members of the Order of Chivalry, in order of precedence, and all other fighters. NB. A list of the phonetic pronunciation of the Combatants names, with their preferred title, should be made for each field herald.

While the **Crown** will determine the format of the Tournament, the most usual format is double elimination, best of three (i.e. a bout of three fights each round, winner is best of three; second lost round sees removal from the lists). The number of fields running concurrently depends on the number of combatants entering. If running multiple fields, the semi-finals and final rounds (i.e. the last four combatants vying for the final, and the final pair vying for the Crown) are fought on a single field.

By custom, the first round is based on the members of the Order of Chivalry meeting the unbelted fighters, where the Unbelted in order challenge a member of the Chivalry. The **Lists Officer** should be set up and ready to record the challenges so as to have the first round ready as soon as is possible.

The order for Invocation Court is as follows:

- ❖ The populace, Combatants and their Consorts, are summoned to Court.
- ❖ The Crown addresses the gathering
- ❖ The Marshal is called upon to declare the format and rules of the day

- ❖ The Combatants and their Consorts are presented to the Crown, in the order provided by the Lists Officer (Order of Chivalry first).
- ❖ The Members of the Order of Chivalry are directed to form a line on the Sovereign's side\*
- ❖ The unbelted fighters are directed to form a line on the Royal Consort's side.\*
- ❖ \* if there is an uneven number of Chivalry. Vs Unbelted, the Crown will direct individuals to join the other side (see "Balancing the List" below).
- ❖ The Combatants are called upon to swear to uphold the honour of the list and abide by the rules of the tournament.
- ❖ The Combatants and the Consorts are called upon to swear/confirm they can fulfil the duties of the Crown if they are successful in winning the day, and that they will do so with honour and in accordance to the laws of the Kingdom and the Society.
- ❖ The fighters on the side of the Royal Consort will, in order that they were called forward, step forward and challenge any person standing on the side of the Sovereign.
- ❖ The Lists Officer should take note of the Challenge
- ❖ The Challenged Combatant should either kneel or move across to meet with the Challenger (to be identified as no longer available to be challenged)
- ❖ When all the challenges have been made, the Crown may choose to speak
- ❖ Invocation Court should be ended with no other business that does not directly pertain to the running of the tournament, and the Lists Officer should draw up the lists for the first round and make them available to the Tourney Herald as quickly as possible.
- ❖ The Tourney Herald, as soon as the List is available, should announce which fields each fighter is assigned to.

### **Balancing the Lists**

It is very unlikely that there will be an even number of members of the Order of Chivalry ("Chivalry") and other fighters ("Unbelted"). As the first round, by tradition, sees the Unbelted challenge the Chivalry, and as Invocation Court sees Combatants line up in equal numbers on the side of the Sovereign by Right of Arms and the side of the Royal Consort, there needs to be a way to balance the numbers.

The Crown will need to review the list of combatants **before** Invocation Court to determine how they will balance the lists.

If there are more Unbelted than Chivalry, as the Unbelted are called forward, the Crown will ask certain Unbelted they determine to be worthy of honour to join the Belted Fighters for the day. This is effectively asking the Combatant to be an honorary knight, so the character as well as the prowess of the person selected should be considered. The Crown may also wish to consider if they hold another peerage, **especially** if a member of the Order of Defense.

If there are more Chivalry than Unbelted, the Crown will need to ask one or more of the Chivalry to stand with the Unbelted. While this should not be considered a dishonour, those asked should be approached before the court to be advised of the Crown's wishes. It is **strongly** recommended that when calling the Combatants forward, the Consort make an especial request that those members of the Chivalry being asked to stand on the Royal Consort's side do so to honour her/him personally.