

## INTRODUCTION

### THE VIKINGS OF VALHALLA

*The Valhalla Wolfshead is a part of the Vikings of Valhalla. Members of the Wolfshead are automatically members of the Vikings of Valhalla, but this does not apply the other way around. To be a member of the Wolfshead, you must be a fully paid up N.F.P.S. member.*

*The Vikings of Valhalla are part of the Fantasy Army, the other part of which are the 'Fantasy Knights'. The Fantasy Army was formed to enact Fantasy battles as opposed to historical re-enactment as is the case with most other groups. The fees raised by the performance of Fantasy Army shows, are put towards the group costumes and weapons of a specifically Fantasy nature, to supply members with as appropriate to any particular script. We will also be using group funds to try and put a professional roadshow together with our own P.A., transport, special effects etc.*

*Knights and Vikings of the Fantasy Army must therefore be prepared at sometime to lay aside their normal costume to take part as an Orc, Zombie, or specialist character, (Scout, Cleric, Wizard etc.) as the script dictates. While the group will try to provide most of the extra costumes etc, needed, it is of course quite acceptable for members of the group to accoutre themselves for one of these special roles in addition to their normal Knights or Vikings costumes. Please check with me before you do this though, to make sure the materials you intend to use, and designs etc; are appropriate and acceptable.*

*The Fantasy Army was originally formed to promote Treasure Trap at Peckforton Castle. As Treasure Trap is not there any longer and has entered limbo, with no sign of reemerging, we are taking the Fantasy Army totally independent, and as such will soon be looking for a base to operate adventures from, as well as the more normal shows.*

## GENERAL RULES

- 1) If a member drinks in excess of four points\* of alcohol within six hours prior to a show, he must not be allowed to go on the field.  
\*( 1 point =  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of beer or equivalent; 1 glass of wine, 1 measure of spirit or equivalent).
- 2) No member must go on the field with a sharp weapon or tool.
- 3) No member must draw a weapon in public, other than when on the field enacting a show. If you wish to carry weapons in public to enhance your appearance, it is suggested that you only carry a dagger or sword at the most. It is probably best that weapons are not carried in public.
- 4) At all times when you are in costume you are representing the society. Make sure, that whatever the situation, you are aware of this and conduct yourself appropriately.
- 5) Where possible, definitely on the field, try and act as much in period as possible; ie; do not smoke or wear watches or glasses when on the field or when being photographed. Remember the image that you create.
- 6) Particularly when camping, use the Country Code. Leave places in a BETTER state than you find them in. Our reputations depend on your actions.
- 7) Attend training sessions whenever possible. Improve your individual skills and your ability to fight as a united group. Better skills individually make us a more skilfull group as a whole.
- 8) A points system is in operation to assess a members conduct based on the above rules. If a members total reaches a low enough negative, he may be expelled from the group. If a members positive total is not high enough, he will not be considered for promotions etc.

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RESTRICTIONS AND PRIVILEGES OF RANK AND OFFICE

1. RESTRICTIONS ON A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

- a) He may not take part in a show until he has passed the basic combat training.
- b) If he takes part in a show he must attire and equip himself as a Bondi. Prospective members may borrow equipment to do this, but will not be accepted as a member until they own this equipment personally. He may not use any equipment additional to that specified for the Bondi.
- c) Prospective members must be accepted by ALL voting members of the group.

2. RESTRICTIONS ON BONDR - RANK - NEPS - VV

- a) A bondi must attire and equip himself in the appropriate costume. He may not use any other equipment or weapons.
- b) Bondr are not voting members of the group.
- c) In order to be accepted as a Huscarle, a Bondi must attend at least three shows and provide himself with the appropriate weapons and training. He must maintain a high standard in his other equipment.

3. RESTRICTIONS AND PRIVILEGES OF HUSCARLES - RANK - VV

- a) A Huscarle must, if called on to do so by the group leader, equip himself as appropriate to the Huscarle. At other times he may use any dress or weapons appropriate to the Vikings.
- b) It is up to the Huscarle to set a high standard in dress, equipment and conduct, as an example to the Bondr.
- c) A Huscarle is not a voting member of the group.
- d) If a Huscarle wishes to be selected as a Baresarker he must :-
  - i) have an appropriate basic appearance.
  - ii) acquire the additional weapon skill required.
  - iii) pass certain combat tests, both of individual skill and group combat.

4. RESTRICTIONS AND PRIVILEGES OF FREEMEN - OFFICE - NFPS - VV

- a) *In order to be bestowed with Freemanship, a Bondi or a Huscarle must; have attended a minimum of six shows (NFPS only), of which two must be NFPS designated 'big' shows; be appropriately attired and equipped; have been a paid up member for at least one year; have conducted himself in a proper manner befitting the society in his time as a Bondr. The Group Leader keeps a points total record of a members conduct to assess this.*
- b) *Freemen of the group are the people with the vote. As such they must conduct themselves in the most exemplary manner. A Freeman has one vote.*
- c) *A Freeman may nominate prospective members.*

\* *As a general rule, people will not be awarded Freemanship unless they have attended 15 - 20 shows.*

\* *For members of the Vikings of Valhalla, not N.F.P.S. members, we will award a Valhalla Freemanship which confers a vote within the Vikings of Valhalla. This award has no standing in the N.F.P.S. Nomination will be decided by the voting members of the group.*

5. RESTRICTIONS ON BARESARKERS - COMBAT - VV.

- a) *A Baresarker must, if called on to do so by the group leader, equip himself as appropriate to the Baresarker. At other times, he must follow the rules governing the Huscarle, from the ranks of which he will be drawn.*
  
- b) *The Baresarker is not a voting member of the group.*

6. THE JOMSVIK - OFFICE - NFPS - VV

- a) *The term Jomsvik is applied to a member of the group who is called upon to fulfill some official function concerned with the running of the group. A Jomsvik will therefore be selected from the most trusted members of the group.*
- b) *He is responsible for the task entrusted to him, and must fulfill it to the best of his ability.*
- c) *The office of Jomsvik confers no other special restrictions or privileges.*



7. THE VARANGIAN - COMBAT - NFPS - VV

- a) *This is a new title being introduced by the NFPS Head Quarters. As such it is not fully formulated, but a combination of weapon skills are tested, as are dress and conduct. More details of this grade will be given when appropriate.*
  
- b) *The Varangian will not be a voting member of the group.*

8. THE JARL (GROUP LEADER) - OFFICE - NFPS - VV

- a) *The Jarl is responsible for the overall running of the group. His decision in all matters is final. As such, he in effect has one more vote than all the other voting members of the group combined.*
  
- b) *The Jarl is solely responsible for the promotion of members and allocation of offices or titles, or for the removal such, or the dismissal of members.*
  
- c) *The Jarl is responsible to NFPS Head Quarters.*

## APPROPRIATE COSTUMES, ARMOUR, WEAPONS AND TRAINING

Restrictions are imposed on ranks and combat grades but not offices. Obviously a member whose equipment is not of a sufficiently high standard, will not be elected for an office.

### 1) PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

As Bondr.

### 2) BONDR

The Bondi's costume should consist of :-

a tunic of mid-thigh to knee length, (Viking tunics were quite long) and made of a natural material such as linen or wool. Any appropriate colour may be used.

trousers again in an appropriate material, NOT denims or similar.

Personally I think cords are okay if worn in conjunction with leggings, though there is a movement away from these in the N.F.P.S.

fur leggings with bindings, real fur only please, as synthetics look bad and quickly wear out. If your trousers and footwear are good enough you can dispense with the leggings, (which is probably more authentic) but still use bindings.

if you don't wear leggings the only adequate footwear is either home-made authentic boots or shoes or some ethnic looking high boots. With leggings you can wear suede or pigskin desert boots or similar, as long as the fur hides the modern lacings etc.

A good tunic and pair of leggings can hide a multitude of sins!

The Bondi may NOT wear any metallic body armour, (chain-mail). He may wear leather armour, but it is really not necessary.

The Bondi MUST use a single handed axe and a shield. The larger the shield the better, (up to 28") as the Bondr will quite often be called on to fight in shield walls. Centre-bossed shields are more authentic and are therefore recommended. They are actually more effective as well, which is probably why the Vikings used them. The axe has been picked as the Bondr weapon because it looks ferocious and so is in keeping with the Viking image, once mastered is very effective, learning other weapons comes very easily after it, it is cheap so new members can afford it easily and finally it is authentic. The only weapon used more by the

*Vikings was the spear, and as special training is needed before this can be used safely, the axe was chosen in preference.*

*Bondr have the option of using a Scramasax or dagger (one only), as a back weapon, but may NOT use any other weapons.*

*Weapon restrictions do not apply in training sessions unless so specified.*

*Female Bondr may use back-up weapon in preference to the axe if they wish.*

3) HUSCARLES

*The Huscarle must have the same costume as for the Bondr, and preferably of a higher standard. For example; a Bondi need not have braid or embroidery on his tunic, but a Huscarle is advised to.*

*The Huscarle MUST have chain-mail body armour, or an authentic METALLIC equivalent, (Lamellar etc). Leather armour is NOT acceptable.*

*The Huscarle must also have a 1½ handed axe, two handed axe or pole axe, and be trained to use it.*

*Huscarles have the option of using any other weapons or combinations that they are trained for, providing they are authentic, when not called on by the leader to fight with an axe.*

*Female Huscarles are known as 'Shield Maidens' and use the long sword and shield in place of a large axe. Female Huscarles must also have chain mail or equivalent.*

4) FREEMEN

*No special restrictions.*

5) BARESARKERS

*Ideally a Baresarker should be stripped down to the waist or have his body clothed in the skins of ferocious animals (bears, wolves etc.)*

*Baresarkers MUST NOT wear ANY armour, except those which are compulsory as mentioned below.*

*He must be trained in ambidextrous weapon combat and have two*

sidearms (eg; 2 swords, sword and axe), and a 1½ handed axe, two handed axe or pole-axe.

As with the Huscarle, the Baresarker may use any other ethnic weapons or combinations which he has had the training to use, when not called on by the leader to use a specific combination.

6) JOMSVIK

No special restrictions.

7) VARANGIAN

As specified by H.Q. when decided upon.

8) JARL

As Huscarle or Baresarker.

Apart from the above restrictions it is compulsory for ALL members of whatever grade, to wear protective gloves and arm-guards. In addition to these, it is also compulsory in the N.F.P.S. to wear a helmet.