

BARONY OF SOUTH DOWNS

PROCEDURE FOR SUCCESSION OF THE BARONIAL SEAT

Approved 04 Jan 2023

Baronial succession shall be determined by the rules and procedures laid out in Corpora, the Society Seneschal Handbook, Meridian kingdom law, the Meridies Seneschals Handbook, and in this document. No part of this document supercedes any of the aforementioned documents.

1. Definitions

- a. "Active Member": Any paid SCA member living within the zip codes assigned to the Barony of South Downs, or any paid SCA member living outside the assigned zip codes who has attended Baronial meetings, classes, activities and events for a period of one year (365 days) prior to the Baronage's announcement of their intent to step down and has attended at least 8 Baronial qualifying events, 6 of which must have occurred within the previous 6 months.
- b. "Barony"/"Baronial": Except where noted, references to the barony shall be assumed to include the Barony of South Downs and any constituent cantons, colleges, or other ridings.
- c. "Nominating Forum": The setting(s) in which candidates for baronage may be nominated.
- d. "Poll"/"Polling": the opportunity for the populace to express to the Crown their opinion as to the choice of Baronage via ballot and/or letter.
- e. "Polling Date": The date marking the conclusion of all polling activities (return of completed ballots). Except in extraordinary circumstances, the Polling Date should be a minimum of three months before the date on which the current Baronage steps down from the baronial seat.
- f. "Publish": Announce in a Barony of South Downs meeting and/or publish on the barony's official website(s) and other media.
- g. "Qualifying Events": Qualifying Events shall be any official baronial activity (baronial events, meetings, practices, classes, project nights, socials, demos, etc). Attendance may be in person or virtual via videoconference. At each Qualifying Event, members present should be noted on an attendance sheet, which sheets shall be placed in the

custody of the Seneschal.

2. Eligibility for the Baronial Seat

Any individual wishing to be considered by the Crown for the honor of Baronage of South Downs must meet in full all of the following criteria:

- a. The individual shall be a member in good standing of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (the "SCA");
- b. The individual shall be an Active Member of the barony;
- c. The individual shall have maintained three (3) consecutive years of active participation in the barony before the date of the current Baronage's announcement of their intent to step down.

3. Polling Process

a. Publication of Intent to Poll

No later than three months before the Polling Date, an announcement of Intent to Poll shall be published. At this time, the South Downs Seneschal shall also notify the Crown, any heirs to the Crown, and the Kingdom Seneschal of the Intent to Poll and of the proposed Polling Date.

b. Nominating Fora

The next South Downs business meeting occurring after the publication of the Intent to Poll shall be the Nominating Forum, to accept nominations for the honor of Baronage. The Baronage and South Downs Seneschal, in consultation, may also specify and publish other nominating fora (other meetings, email, etc).

c. Nominations

Any Active Member may nominate candidates for polling. Any active member meeting the eligibility criteria may be nominated or may nominate themselves. The South Downs Seneschal shall publish a deadline for receipt of nominations. Should the Seneschal be nominated, they must designate a non-nominee member to take over the remaining Seneschal duties for the succession process specified in this document.

The South Downs Seneschal shall vet the nominees to confirm their eligibility and willingness to be nominated and shall inform all nominees of the results of the vetting process one week after the nomination deadline. The list of nominees shall be published prior to the next South Downs business meeting.

d. Question and Answer session(s)

During the South Downs business meeting following the nomination deadline the nominees shall answer questions from the populace allowing the populace to better understand the nominees. The South Downs Seneschal may specify and publish other venues for candidate Q&A (a virtual Q&A session, social media, etc).

e. Ballot

A ballot shall be created listing all the verified nominees. The polling member's name and membership number will be recorded on the ballot. The ballot shall include the name of the nominees and a space for comments for each nominee. Polling will be ranked-choice voting unless otherwise determined and published by the Kingdom and South Downs Seneschal(s).

f. Polling

This ballot shall be distributed to all paid members residing in the baronial zip codes via the available method(s) and procedure(s) specified in kingdom law and the kingdom seneschal's handbook.

Any active members residing outside the baronial zip codes may request a ballot through the South Downs Seneschal. The South Downs Seneschal will provide a list of these members to the Kingdom Seneschal to coordinate distribution of ballots to them.

The completed ballots shall be provided to the Kingdom Seneschal who will provide the results to the Crown for consideration in the choice of Baronage. The polling results shall not bind the Crown in any manner outside of Kingdom Law.

Any member (including members not meeting the definition of "active member") of the populace may contact the Crown by any means to express their opinion.

4. Variances

a. Military/Government Deployment:

If members of the barony are deployed by the military or other government agencies, or companies contracted with the military or government, the time of deployment shall not be counted as inactive time. The determination of "Active Member" shall be the previous 365 days that the member was physically within the Kingdom of Meridies from the date the Baronage announced their intent to step down.

b. Challenging a member's eligibility for nomination

If an active member believes a verified nominee does not meet the criteria for eligibility, they may submit their objection in writing to the South Downs Seneschal, who will consult with the South Downs Financial Committee to determine the validity of the objection. The objection should specify and document the criteria the nominee fails to meet. The nominee will be notified of the objection and the grounds for objecting, and given the opportunity to respond. The objector's name and identifying information will not be revealed to the nominee. The objection and the nominee's response will be reviewed by Seneschal and a final determination of eligibility will be made.

If the nominee is determined to be ineligible, their name will be removed from the ballot (if possible) and their ineligibility will be announced and published to the barony. The grounds for ineligibility will not be disclosed.

c. Appeals from disqualification as an Active Member or Eligible Nominee

If a member feels they have been disqualified from active status or eligibility in error, they may petition the Seneschal in writing to challenge the disqualification. The petition should establish and document their qualification. If disqualification is due to activity, the petition should document regular attendance at non-Qualifying Events, or any other activities that exhibit the individual's regular participation in the business of the Barony. The financial committee shall review the petition and shall jointly decide the outcome of any such appeal.