

Arts & Sciences Competition Rules and Regulations for the Kingdom of Atenveldt

Revised April 2009 CE

I. Statement of Purpose

The Kingdom of Atenveldt A&S Competition provides a venue wherein interested artisans may have their artworks, based upon pre-17th century æsthetics, methods, and/or functionality, critiqued; where the populace may view the works of these artisans; where outstanding artisans may be recognized; and, by means of which an Atenveldt Kingdom A&S Champion (Champion) may be selected to represent the glorious Kingdom of Atenveldt.

II. The Arts & Sciences Competition

1. The Kingdom A&S Competition shall be held annually on a date determined as specified in *Lex Atenveldtus*.
2. The Kingdom A&S Competition will consist of two (2) separate, individual competitions, held at the Kingdom A&S Competition event, as follows:
 - a. The General Competition is open to all entrants.
 - b. The Champion Competition is open only to entrants competing for the title of Champion.
3. The Atenveldt Kingdom Minister of Arts & Sciences (KMOAS) will be responsible for all Competition aspects of the event. While the KMOAS may delegate any part of the Competition work, the KMOAS shall be the final arbiter of the delegated work and remains responsible to the Crown.
4. Prospective competitors and/or judges may request that the KMOAS add or modify a Category or Subcategory no later than eight (8) months prior to the competition. The request must include an explanation why a proposed addition or modification of a Category or Subcategory would be beneficial.
5. The KMOAS shall be responsible each year for the timely updating and making available to the populace the following items. The KMOAS may delegate this responsibility, but must approve these items prior to publication:
 - a. The A&S Competition Rules;
 - b. The A&S Category/Subcategory List;
 - c. The A&S Judging Sheets;
 - d. Any Judging Handbook that will apply to the current year's A&S Competition; and,
 - e. Any Judging Certification training materials.
6. The KMOAS and/or the current Champion shall be responsible for producing or commissioning all original scrolls and/or awards needed for the A&S Competition, as determined by the KMOAS.
7. Any complaints an entrant has concerning judging decisions must be submitted directly to the KMOAS for review. The KMOAS is responsible for the informing of, and for any warranted discussions with, the judge(s) in question. If no solution may be agreed upon, further steps may be taken by the KMOAS and/or the Crown as needed to resolve the issue(s).

8. The KMOAS shall be responsible for publishing the names of the Champion, Populace Choices, and 1st place Category or Subcategory winners in both Novice and Open Divisions, in *Southwind*.

III. Rules for Entry

1. No item may be entered that has previously been entered in an official Atenveldt Kingdom A&S Competition.
2. Entrants not entering the Champion Competition do not have to be present at the Competition to enter as long as a designated representative has all required information and the ability to act on behalf of the entrant.
3. For the General Competition there shall be two Divisions of competition: “Open” and “Novice.” Within a Category or Subcategory, each Division shall be judged separately by the same judges. There shall be a separate Category or Subcategory winner for the Open and Novice Divisions where entries exist within a Category or Subcategory in both Divisions. [NOTE: The Champion Competition has no Divisions.]
 - a. The Open Division has no restrictions to entry.
 - b. The Novice Division is restricted to entrants who have never entered any Kingdom-level A&S competition, regardless of the skill of the artisan. Artisans who have never entered a Kingdom level A&S Competition may choose to enter their items in the Open Division, if desired. [NOTE: The purpose of the Novice Division is to give new entrants at a Kingdom-level competition a chance to experience the entry requirements, documentation, and how the judging criteria work first-hand without having to “compete” with experienced entrants for recognition. Entrants in the Novice Division will receive feedback better enabling them to be fully prepared for entry in the Open Division in the future.]
4. Entries must be placed by entrants into designated Categories or Subcategories, as follows:
 - a. In cases where a Category has no designated Subcategories, an entry must be placed at the Category level.
 - b. In cases where a main Category contains designated Subcategories, an entry must be placed within one of the designated Subcategories.
 - c. In cases where an entrant cannot select a Category or Subcategory best suited to their entry, an entrant should consult with the KMOAS to determine whether they may place their entry into the “Other” Category, as follows:
 - i. The “Other” Category is designed specifically for entries where the finished product cannot be entered into and/or adequately and completely judged within any other extant Category or Subcategory.
 - ii. Entries may not be placed into the “Other” Category without first obtaining written permission following consultation with and agreement of the KMOAS (i.e., this is a restricted category).
5. Each entrant is allowed a maximum of eight (8) individual entries.
6. Dual Entries (one entry placed in two Categories or Subcategories) are prohibited.
7. Group Entries (i.e., two or more artisans working on the same entry) are allowed in the General Competition only. No Group Entries will be accepted in the Champion Competition.
 - a. Each artisan involved in a Group Entry must count this entry among his/her total of allowed entries.

- b. A Group Entry may only be entered in a single Division of competition (Open or Novice).
 - c. All participants within a Group Entry are considered part of the Group Entry, which will be judged as a whole. The total points awarded to a Group Entry will be allotted to each member of a group [EXAMPLE: A Group Entry scored a total of 45 points—in this case, 45 points will be recorded for each member of the group.]
 - d. Documentation is not considered a separate portion of a group entry (i.e., an entry where one or more artisans have worked on the entry itself and a separate individual has completed the documentation is not allowed).
8. Entrants may place a maximum of two (2) entries into any Category or Subcategory open in the Competition. Each entry must be distinct and individually unique from any others entered by the same entrant.
9. Each entry must be accompanied by documentation.
 - a. Lack of documentation will result in disqualification of an entry.
 - b. Documentation must be provided in a written format. If handwritten, documentation must be legible. [NOTE: We recommend that documentation should be typed in 12-point font size (no less than 10-pt) in an easily readable font.]
 - c. Entrants must author their own documentation.
 - d. Entrants must provide four (4) copies of documentation with each entry (i.e., one for each judge to read and one for populace access).
 - e. Documentation may not exceed ten (10) written pages. While other materials and references may be displayed for interest, they may not be used as a substitute for documentation. Documentation must not require the judges to reference a book or any other associated materials (e.g., an entrant may not state, "Please see pages 54-75 in book A.").
 - f. Documentation must include:
 - i. Information relating to the entry's pre-17th century authenticity and use;
 - ii. A general description of the entry, methods of construction and/or production, and materials/tools/techniques used to produce the entry [SUGGESTION: Artisans should preview the judging sheets for each Category or Subcategory they plan to enter and approach the documentation accordingly.]; and,
 - iii. A reference list and/or footnotes/endnotes indicating source(s) (references) as needed.
 - g. All documentation must have the entrant number and the associated entry number placed on the first page at time of registration at the Competition. [NOTE: This is handled by the KMOAS competition staff during on-site registration.]
10. Items entered, as well as documentation, may have the entrant's name applied or attached to the entry and/or to associated documentation. [NOTE: This is completely voluntary— anonymity (required in earlier Competitions) is no longer a requirement. However, artisans wishing to make use of blind judging may do so as desired.]
11. All entries must be pre-registered in order to be entered into the Atenveldt A&S Competition, [NOTE: This will save a fully pre-registered entrant, and staff, a considerable amount of time (and frustration) on the day of the Competition!] as follows:
 - a. Entrants must provide a listing of their proposed entry Categories to the KMOAS postmarked/transmitted at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Competition.

- b. Pre-registration may be made by email, post (of hard copy), or by other means acceptable to the KMOAS.
 - c. Pre-registration info must include:
 - i. For the General Competition:
 - (1) The SCA name, mundane name, and complete contact information for the proposed entrant;
 - (2) The Category (and Subcategory where applicable) into which each proposed entry will be placed; and,
 - (3) The Division (Novice or Open) in which each proposed entry will be entered.
 - ii. For the Champion Competition:
 - (1) The SCA name, mundane name, and complete contact information for the proposed entrant;
 - (2) The Category (and Subcategory where applicable) into which each proposed entry will be placed;
 - (3) Indication of which five (5) entries will comprise the entrant's Championship Display (see rule IV.3); and,
 - (4) A name or description of each proposed entry.
 - d. Entrants are not required to actually enter any or all of their proposed (pre-registered) entries. [NOTE: The purpose of pre-registration is to allow timely selection of appropriate judges and to make sure appropriate judges and facilities are available. This will ease cases of administrative confusion, frustration, and error, and will make the event more enjoyable by all present.]
 - e. If an entrant in the General Competition also includes a name or description of each proposed entry, the A&S Competition Staff will prepare all of the paperwork (otherwise handled the morning of on-site registration) for the entrant. All necessary paperwork will be prepared for entrants in the Champion Competition [NOTE: Champion entrants have already provided entry names/descriptions—see rule III.11.c.ii.4].
12. All entrants (or their representatives) arriving at the Competition must check in on site at a time designated prior to, or at the beginning of, the Competition for their item(s) to be eligible for judging.
 13. Each entrant, or their representative, is responsible for the timely setup and removal of their display(s).
 14. When an entry includes like items where only one item will be judged, the item to be judged must be clearly indicated. Under such circumstances it is the entrant's responsibility to mark or clearly indicate item(s) to be judged. [EXAMPLE: If a necklace of stone beads is displayed and only one bead is to be judged, the specific bead to be judged must be clearly indicated.]
 15. Display of items related to the entry may be exhibited together as long as apparent and obvious clarification is given as to which item is being entered. [EXAMPLE: Where a hat pin has been entered and is displayed upon a hat, documentation and/or judging sheets should clearly state that only the hat pin is under consideration.]
 16. Due to limited judging time, certain Categories or Subcategories will be subject to limits, as follows:
 - a. In the Performing Arts Category performance time will be limited to five (5) minutes per entry, with the exception of plays, where the performance time limit shall be fifteen (15) minutes.

- b. Entries in the Demonstration Projects and Historical Combat Categories shall be limited to a maximum fifteen (15) minutes performance time per entry.
 - c. Entries in the Dance Category shall be limited to a maximum fifteen (15) minutes performance time per entry.
 - d. In the Writing Category there will be a limit of ten (10) pages or 2,500 words designated to be judged. Fragments of larger works may be entered, but these must be cohesive and able to stand alone.
17. At the Crown's pleasure, a sword oath shall be given. If given, this oath shall be mandatory for all entrants and judges. The oath shall consist of all participants affirming to uphold the rules of the Kingdom A&S Competition, and all judges affirming to judge honorably and fairly.
 18. Any entrant found to have falsely represented an entry shall be disqualified from the Competition.

IV. Competing for “Kingdom A&S Champion”

1. In order for an entrant to be eligible for the title of Champion of the Arts and Sciences of the Kingdom of Atenveldt, the entrant must send a letter of intent to the Crown and the KMOAS, to be postmarked no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Competition. This letter should state the qualifications and goals of the entrant, should the entrant prove victorious.
2. On the day of Competition entrants competing for Champion must show proof of current SCA membership within the Kingdom of Atenveldt boundaries. The entrant must have been a resident of the Kingdom of Atenveldt for at least six (6) months prior to the Competition and must attest to this residency at time of registration, listing the group(s)/branch(es) where entrant has resided.
3. To compete for the title of Champion, the entrant must specify five (5) individually different items in four (4) different Categories (not Subcategories) to be placed into the Champion Competition, as follows:
 - a. Only these five individually different items will be considered for tallying purposes for Champion. These five entries will form the entrant’s Championship Display.
 - b. The entries selected for an entrant’s Championship Display must be specified during the pre-registration process. Once these five entries have been pre-registered, no substitution will be allowed without first obtaining permission from the KMOAS.
 - c. An entrant’s Championship Display will be displayed together in a single area. [NOTE: Special consideration will be given when an entrant’s Championship Display contains entries of a size (e.g., a siege engine or pavilion) or nature (e.g., a historical combat entry) that cannot be easily or safely situated with the remainder of the Championship Display].
 - d. Group entries may not be entered as a part of an entrant’s Championship Display (see rule III.7). [NOTE: Group Entries submitted by Champion candidates not included in the Championship Display may be placed in any Category or Subcategory in the General Competition.]
 - e. Entries specified as part of a Championship Display will not be considered for blind judging (i.e., a Championship Competition entrant’s name will be associated with the entries in their Championship Display—see rules III.10 and VI.B.2 for explanation).
4. Any remaining allowable entries (up to 3) may be entered into the General Competition by the Champion candidate) but will not be counted towards the title of Champion. These entries may be considered for blind judging if so desired by the entrant (see rule III.10).

5. Entrants declaring for Champion must be on site during the Competition and available at the Crown's pleasure.

V. Responsibilities of the Champion

1. The winner of the Kingdom A&S Competition shall hold the title of “Champion of the Arts and Sciences of the Kingdom of Atenveldt” until the next Kingdom-level competition is held.
2. The Champion shall have the honor of representing the Kingdom of Atenveldt as its official traveling A&S ambassador.
3. The Champion shall have the right to wear the Arts and Sciences Collar as a symbol of his/her achievement throughout his/her tenure. This item of regalia must be returned to the KMOAS or Crown prior to or at the subsequent Competition.
4. The Champion shall serve the Kingdom by organizing some kind of A&S competition or display at a Kingdom event or other large event of their choice as circumstances allow.
5. The Champion shall serve the populace of the Kingdom by promoting, participating in, educating, and demonstrating the A&S to the best of their ability.
6. The Champion, after consultation with the Crown, shall create and complete an item of Kingdom regalia or shall design and complete a Kingdom level A&S project that demonstrates to all the Champion’s A&S ability or talent while contributing to the enduring glory of the Crown and Kingdom of Atenveldt.
7. The Champion shall participate in the interview process at the following Kingdom A&S Competition (during their tenure) as directed by the Crown and/or the KMOAS.
8. The Champion must return all regalia when their tenure of service is completed or at the request of the Crown.
9. The Champion is encouraged to make suggestions to the KMOAS concerning the A&S Office and the goals and responsibilities thereof, including Kingdom A&S Competition rules.

VI. Judges, Judging, and Scoring:

- A. For the General Competition, judges, judging, and scoring shall be as follows:
 1. The KMOAS, and/or his appointed deputy, may select judges prior to the competition. Judges may, should the need arise, be chosen from the populace in attendance who have expertise in any Category or Subcategory requiring an additional judge.
 2. All judges are required to be certified. However, the KMOAS, and/or appointed deputies, may appoint emergency judges as needed at the Competition to fulfill judging requirements.
 3. All judges must be available at the Competition at the convenience of the Crown and/or KMOAS, as follows:
 - a. A brief meeting in the morning immediately following opening court. This mandatory meeting will take place at each Competition—the time will be announced. Judges are responsible to ensure that they are informed of the meeting time and location.
 - b. During the hour prior to final court in case questions have arisen.
 - c. At any other time designated at the pleasure of the Crown.
 4. There shall be three judges per Category or Subcategory. Each judge shall score each entry on a separate judging sheet. Judges are permitted (and encouraged) to consult with one another.
 5. Entrants may be judges provided they are not judging a Category or Subcategory in which they are entered. Certified Champion Competition entrants are encouraged to assist with judging in

the General Competition. [NOTE: as the General and Champion Competitions have been separated, there is no foreseeable conflict of interest here.]

6. Each entry will be judged on official judging sheets. The judging sheets used will be Category- or Subcategory-specific and will award each entry numeric scores. The numeric scores will be utilized to determine the 1st place winners in each Category or Subcategory in each Division.
 7. All judges must provide written commentary on the judging sheets in every criteria section. No judging sheets will be accepted without commentary.
 8. Each entry must be judged on an individual basis; that is, judges will not compare one entry (or entrant) against another. Each entry must be judged individually, using the criteria presented on the judging sheets. Judges must evaluate each criterion individually.
 9. Judges must sign and print their name on each of their assigned judging sheets. Judges' contact information will be provided to entrants upon request to the KMOAS.
 10. Category or Subcategory "winners" will be determined as follows:
 - a. In all cases (where possible), "winners" will be determined for both the Open and Novice Divisions within each Category or Subcategory.
 - b. In cases where a Category has no Subcategories, the entrant(s) with the highest total score(s) in a Category shall be declared the "winner(s)" for that Category.
 - c. In cases where designated Subcategories exist within a main Category, the entrant(s) with the highest total score(s) in each Subcategory shall be declared the "winner(s)" for that Subcategory. In such instances no main Category winner shall be declared. [NOTE: This system gives entrants more opportunities to be recognized.]
 - d. In cases where tied high scores exist for entrants in each Division within Categories or Subcategories, those entrants will share the winning status.
 11. The KMOAS, or a designated deputy, shall prepare ballots for Populace Choice in both "performance arts" (i.e., the Performing Arts, Demonstration, and Historic Combat Categories or Subcategories) and "static arts" (all other Categories or Subcategories). Both the "Open" and "Novice" Divisions within each Category or Subcategory will qualify for Populace Choice awards. In addition, a Populace Choice shall be awarded to an entry specifically from the Championship Displays. Ballots will be made available to the populace at the event and collected at an announced time and location. The ballots will be tabulated and the entry with the largest number of votes shall receive the award of Populace Choice in five areas:
 - a. Populace Choice—Static Arts, Open Division
 - b. Populace Choice—Performance Arts, Open Division
 - c. Populace Choice—Static Arts, Novice Division
 - d. Populace Choice—Performance Arts, Novice Division
 - e. Populace Choice—Championship Entry
- B. For the Champion Competition, evaluation shall be as follows:
1. Championship candidates' entries will be evaluated by a Champion Selection Committee (CSC), as follows:
 - a. The CSC will include the Crown, the current Kingdom A&S Champion, the KMOAS, the Heirs (if present at the Competition), and any other advisors desired by the Crown.
 - b. Members of the CSC need not be Atenveldt certified judges [NOTE: The KMOAS respectfully recommends, however, that at least one member of the CSC is a certified judge.]
 2. Evaluation of Championship Displays will be conducted on a face-to-face (FTF) basis, as follows:

- a. After consultation with the Crown, the KMOAS will establish a schedule for the FTF evaluation sessions with each Champion candidate. Championship candidates will be expected to attend their Championship Displays at their appointed times to await their session with the CSC.
 - b. Each Championship candidate will invited by the CSC to present, and to discuss, each of the entries in their Championship Display. Any performance entries will need to be presented at this time. [NOTE: Entrants should be knowledgeable about their entries and should be prepared for questions and feedback from, as well as discussion with, the CSC]
 - c. While each entry must be presented and may be discussed, overall evaluation will apply to an entrant's entire Championship Display, rather than to each of the five individual entries.
 - d. Each CSC member will complete simple numeric feedback for criteria on individual evaluation sheets for each Championship Display evaluated. No detailed feedback (commentary) is required of the CSC. [NOTE: Criteria will include assessment of an entrant's presentation and ability to discuss their entries. As a Champion candidate may well be the most knowledgeable individual present with respect to their entries, lengthy feedback concerning individual entries is not required here.]
3. Evaluation sheet sets will be collected and tallied for the CSC prior to Champion interviews, and will be made available for each entrant following the competition by the KMOAS (or appointed deputy).
 4. All entrants who have declared for Champion must participate in an interview with the Crown, with the CSC attending. During the interview, they will be asked to explain how they would further the goals of fostering the A&S as discussed in the statement of purpose above. Other pertinent questions may be asked as well. [NOTE: The Champion candidate interviews may be held in conjunction with the FTF Champion Display evaluation, or separately, as desired by the Crown.]
 5. Final selection of the new Kingdom of Atenveldt A&S Champion is the prerogative of the Crown (following consultation with the CSC).