

**ACWC General Rules and Regulations**  
Revision 2015

**I. EVENT REGULATIONS**

**A. REGISTRATION.** Registration may be required, by mail or at events, if a fee or special requirements may apply.

**B. PERIOD ATTIRE REQUIREMENTS.**  
(non military)

1. MEN: Shirts and trousers of correct pattern and material.
2. WOMEN: Blouse and skirt or dress of correct pattern and material.
3. FOOT WEAR. Acceptable period correct appearance of footwear for each impression.
4. ATTIRE. When in camp during normal event hours, period attire is expected by participants and guests (unless brief visit). Modern attire will be tolerated up to 1/2 hr. before or 1/2 hr. after event hours.
5. **Eye wear: Glasses are to be of the appropriate size that existed during the 1860's, also keep in mind "sunglasses" were NOT standard issue for 1860 era.**

**C. CAMPFIRES.** Natural, Contained, **no unattended fires at any time. A safety area of 10 feet is required between any fire and tents, (this does not apply to fires built under flies during the rain; soaked canvas does not burn.)**

**D. LITTER.** Period sack or under cover, it is each participant is responsibility to pick up their own trash.

**E. NON PERIOD MATERIAL.** No non-period equipment or clothing of any type will remain exposed after camp has been established, only exception will be during camp set-up or breaking down; this shall be kept to a minimum.

**F. CHILDREN/PETS.** Children under age of 18, or pets, are the responsibility of the parent or guardian, which are responsible for behavior and actions. Contain them, we are not automatic baby-sitters.

**G. VEHICLES.** No Vehicle will remain in or around camp more then 30 minutes or by event start time. All vehicles will be parked out of sight of camp, unless otherwise directed.

**H. SUTLERS.** All items displayed must be "period correct" items, (original or reproduction). Only authentic sutlers can be allowed.

**J. WEAPONS.** Line infantry should be armed with 3 band (reproduction) rifled muskets. Special unit images may be armed with their appropriate weapon. Model 1841 (Mississippi) Rifles and Model 1863 (Zouave) Rifles, must be approved, but are discouraged. No civilian type weapons (e.g. Hawken or Pennsylvania Rifles) will be allowed in the Military Units.

1. No weapons are to be allowed to be handled by any minor child of the "public" spectators.

**K. GUARDIANSHIP AUTHORIZATION.** For any participant under 18 years old, a form must be completed with the parents authorized signature, and a copy kept with Unit at all times of attendance, in the event emergency medical attention is required.

**II. SAFETY REGULATIONS.**

**A. General**

1. **ATTITUDE AND COOPERATION.** Anyone acting in an unsafe, uncooperative or disorderly manner will be **EXPELLED** from the event and may be restricted from attending future events. Conduct should be appropriate for period and image portrayed. No Consumption of alcohol during public hours.

2. **SMOKING AND OPEN FLAME** is prohibited during the following times: When handling powder in any form., within the artillery powder magazine safety zone; and after battles until all weapons and cartridges have been secured.

3. Anyone assigned to an Infantry Company who is not in formation for weapons and cartridge inspection **PRIOR TO MARCHING TO THE BATTLEFIELD, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PEFORM THAT BATTLE SENERIO.** They will remain in camp as **CAMP GUARD** or fall in on the sidelines as crowd control. **NO LAST MINUTE WEAPONS INSPECTION WILL BE ALLOWED.**

## B. Battlefield Safety

1. **1 AGE FOR MILITARY TROOPS.** Participants must be over the age of sixteen (16) to use weapons in battle demonstrations. A waiver may be extended for the age of 15 1/2 , with an inspection of the soldier before ACWC NCO staff, on the school of the soldier. This will allow the soldier to accompany his/her parent/guardian, at a maximum distance of 10 feet, in a battle demonstration, with a weapon. This waiver is revocable.

2. No person partaking of alcohol or drugs will handle or participate in any demonstrations relating with weapons. **IF YOU WANT TO DRINK, YOU DON'T HANDLE WEAPONS.**

3. No swinging of muskets, flag staffs, or swords at "opponents", except for pre-rehearsed use of sabers, or with prior approval of event committee.

4. No live ammunition or loose bullets will be carried. Any demonstration ammunition must be secured or **disabled** in a manner as to not be able to be loaded.

5. **COMBAT CONTACT.** No unrehearsed hand to hand contact will be permitted; any rehearsed acts require prior approval by the event committee or combined Unit leaders.

6. **CAPTURING ITEMS.** No "capturing" or removal of flags, guns, or other personal property. You should only handle another person's equipment if you have their permission or think it might be "lost", then turn into your Officer or NCO staff.

7. Mounted troops will not ride through a line of combatants on foot, nor come within 10 yards (30 feet) during any "battle" demonstration.

8. It shall be the responsibility of the Unit leaders to thoroughly review safety rules and the scripted battle plan with the troops prior to each engagement.

9. Representatives from each non-infantry battle participants group shall confer among themselves and establish safety parameters within their area of responsibilities for each battle, and coordinate information with Field Committee.

10. The call **"MEDIC"** is for use in **actual emergencies only!** For living history call "surgeon", "stretcher bearer," or other period terms.

11. During battlefield activities any member, observing any violation of a safety rule, may attempt to correct the situation immediately, if unresolved, **MAY** call a **CEASE FIRE**, which shall remain in effect until issue is corrected.

## USE OF WEAPONS

**2. 1. FIRING.** No small arms firing at less than 10 yards (30 feet) between "opponents". No aiming directly at anyone at any distance. **Artillery/horses shall be a minimum closure of 20 yds./60 ft.**

2. **WEAPON.** Officer / NCO(s) will inspect all weapons and equipment before each battle and inspect cartridges for safe powder charge. **All weapons shall be cleaned and in good repair prior to use.**

3. **CARTRIDGES.** For blank loads, paper only, no heavy wadding, wax, staples, foil cardboard or soggy material will be used, Maximum of **70** grain Black Powder for .58 (.577) caliber. Maximum of 90 grains for .69 calibers. Appropriate measures for other calibers. **Only FF or FFF grade Black Powder or Re-enactor Powder equivalent will be used. High velocity muzzle loading, i.e. Pyrex will not be substituted, for safety concerns. [No smoke, no sound]**

4. **LOADING.** After the powder has been poured into the muzzle of the barrel, the weapon **MUST** be in the half cock prior to placement of the cap, and remain so until ready to fire.

5. **FLASKS, CANS.** No loading directly from flasks or powder containers (except for pistols). No "loose" powder on field. No throwing or placing of "grenades", explosive or smoke devices of any type, except with prior approval of event committee.

6. **RAMRODS.** Will not be drawn during battles. In case of a malfunction the individual will contact an NCO, (or die) or leave battle area until malfunction is cleared.

7. **BAYONETS, KNIVES.** Will not be unsheathed during battles, except swords of officers, NCO's and cavalry, or by prior approval of the event committee. Knives will be tied to scabbards.

**8. Clearing of weapons outside of the battlefield must be authorized and supervised by a member of the unit leadership. Safety distances must be maintained at all times.**

**9. PISTOLS.** All pistols are carried in a holster, whether loaded or not. Carrying in a waistband is prohibited.

**10. FIREARMS AND POWDER** supplies will never be out of possession, sight or control. No loaded weapons, caps, ammunition or powder will be put into the hands of spectators, minors, or noncombatants. The individual gun or powder owner will be held responsible.

## SAFETY AROUND ARTILLERY

**3. 1. The area around the placement of an Artillery position is to be considered by the Infantry to be "off limits" during any battle scenario. The Ammunition Box [Limber] will be at least 10 yards 30 ft. to the**

rear of the cannon and 20 yards /60 ft. from the nearest public. No{Infantry} firing is to be within 10 yds./30 ft. from their "safety zones".

2. A safety zone for firing effect will [usually] be marked off in front of the cannon for its blast with RED markers. For your safety look for these markers and DO NOT ENTER when Artillery personnel are around the equipment.

3. The loading implements [ Rammer & Worm] will be held vertically over the cannons wheels, or hub, when the cannon is loaded and is ready to fire.

4. The loading implements [ Rammer & Worm] will be held over the cannon in a "X" formation when the cannon is loaded and misfired and the gun crew is attempting to refire.

### **III. MILITARY**

A. All NCO's must be approved by majority vote within each Unit.

All Officers must be approved by majority vote of all ACWC Military members.

Specialized "Ranks" i.e. QM-Sgt. or Surgeon, must be approved by all ACWC Military members.

### **B. US SERVICE STRIPES**

Service stripes (for 5 yr. service) shall be awarded only by the US units in ACWC, based on documented active membership. Attending 1 or 2 events a year does not equal a year's service.

"War Service" stripe requires minimum 5 combat events a year for 5 years. Valid documentation must be provided by the applicant.

### **C. MEDALS**

As we wish to authentically represent American Civil War soldiers, and no medals were issued during the war to regular troops, medals will only be worn at public activities, on a full dress uniform, such as Memorial Day. Not at a battle, not on sack [fatigue] coat.

### **D. DUTIES OF "RANK" / POSITION OF INFANTRY**

1. **Corporal.** Act as Safety officer at all times, Know and instruct in the School of the Soldier, Act as a sponsor when needed. Be aware of authenticity in camp area at all times when public is present.

2. **Sergeant.** Assist 1st Sgt. in all appropriate duties, instruct in School of the Soldier, drill unit. Assume role of 1st Sgt. when necessary. Act as safety officer at all times. Be aware of authenticity in camp area at all times when public is present.

3. **1st Sergeant.** Assume command duties and position of Unit Leader/Officer when appropriate, Drill unit on a regular basis, Act as safety and Authenticity coordinator.

4. **Officer.** Command unit on field. Responsibility of Unit at all times.

5. **Event Registrar.** Possible list of functions, this position will only cover the time of participant's arrival until public arrival.

- Catalog names of participant with affiliated units.
- Collect registration fee (if any).
- Distribute event information packet.
- Distribute "Pass" with individual's name, stating acceptance to written safety rules.

### **IV. CIVILIANS**

Their official functions are not camp guards and not baby-sitters of other people's children. They shall conduct period images of the time frame, with such duties as they are able to portray, that would be consistent with life at that time.

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