

Armory in the New Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory (formerly the Rules for Submissions)

A Brief Summary

Produced by the Laurel Office

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educational purposes.

Overall Organization

- Letters indicate the sections of the Standards:
 - ♦ GP — General Principles
 - ♦ PN — Personal Names
 - ♦ NPN — Non-Personal Names
 - ♦ A — Armory
- GP talks about underlying principles and defines several key terms, like ‘period’, ‘substantial’, and so on.
- PN, NPN, and A have several parts – Content, Style, Conflict, Presumption, and Offence
- Appendices all use “Appendix” (they’re awesome!)

Some Broad Categorizations

- SCA items: Conflict
 - Non-SCA items: Presumption
 - Relationships: Conflict
 - Powers, Rank, Position: Presumption
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- Fielded devices, arms, and badges
 - Fieldless badges
 - Augmentations of Arms

Why are SCA items counted differently from Non-SCA items?

SCA Items

- **Definition:** “To avoid undue confusion”
- All listed in the O&A
- Can get permission to conflict
- Only protect the exact item

Non-SCA Items

- **Definition:** “To prevent offense due to obvious usurpation of identity or armory”
- Most armory listed in the O&A, but few names listed
- Cannot get permission to conflict
- Protect names and some armory in multiple forms

Why is it organized this way?

Why is it so long?

- These Standards are 70 pages long; the Appendices are 30 pages. The old Rules were only 25 pages, but need 1000s of rulings to understand.
- These standards are designed around the most common use: *working on a single submission*
 - ♦ For example, Personal Names and Non-Personal Names have superficial similarities but also large differences – so they are separate.
- Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the main body of these Rules is examples to help understanding.

The Picture Wins

The picture wins because:

- ◆ Submitters decide what armory they want, but most of them don't know blazon. Not all heralds do, either!
- ◆ Blazon practices change over time (both in the real world and in the SCA!). This means older blazons aren't always accurate.
- ◆ Therefore, the pictures are the most reliable source we have of what the submitter actually wanted

SO

- ◆ We register the picture (emblazon) not the words (blazon).
- ◆ However: it must be blazonable (describable in heraldic terms) and recognizable (without the words)

Two Armory Style Standards

- Core Style Rules
 - Based on Anglo-Norman armory
 - Described in the Standards with more detail in Appendices, so –
 - Does not usually require further documentation
- Individually Attested Patterns
 - Every part must be documented
 - Multiple independent examples needed
 - Non-European armory usually must use this

Core Style Rules

- What most people think of as “armory”. Armory using these style standards must:
 - ♦ Use documented elements; no more than one Step From Period Practice; be drawn in an identifiable, heraldic, and period way
 - ♦ Have good contrast
 - ♦ Have clear charge groups
 - ♦ Be simple in overall design – slot machine rule, complexity count, unified posture/orientation, period arrangement of charges
 - ♦ Not too far from period style (not a landscape picture, etc.)
- A couple special rules
 - ♦ All parts of fieldless badges must touch
 - ♦ Voiding/Fimbriation: only central ordinaries/simple geometrics

Armory Conflict

- Based on charge group theory and medieval cadency: small changes to show close relationship with original arms
- Two kinds of changes you can make:
 - ♦ Substantial: not the kind of changes used for cadency
 - ♦ Distinct: the kind of changes used for cadency
- Bonus rules for changes to field-primary armory
- Visual Conflict: If they look too similar, even if technically different – they conflict

Armory Conflict Details

- Substantial changes (only need one)
 - ♦ Adding or removing the primary charge group
 - ♦ Changing the type of the entire primary charge group
 - ♦ Changing (in limited cases!) the number, arrangement, posture, orientation of primary charge group
- Distinct changes (like cadency, used to be CDs or significant differences) (need two)
 - ♦ Changing the field, adding/removing charge groups
 - ♦ Changing the tincture, type, number, arrangement, posture, orientation of any charge group
- Field-primary armory can get extra difference for the field

Armory Presumption & Offense

- Armory may not:
 - ◆ Use a charge that is restricted (that is, no one can register it)
 - ◆ Use a charge that is reserved unless the submitter documents the right to use it
 - ◆ Claim identity or relationship with non-SCA individuals, places, entities, orders, etc. which we consider important enough to protect; same standards as for conflict
 - ◆ Create an inappropriate claim through combination with a specific name even if the armory is not important enough to protect on its own
 - ◆ Make a claim to a combination or inheritance of arms, known as marshalled arms, when using per pale or quarterly field divisions
- Armory must not be offensive to a modern audience; the standards are quite high

Why Use Appendices?

- Faster updates because new precedents are easier to absorb
 - ♦ Changes to the Standards require Board approval in advance
 - ♦ Appendices only require notification to the Board after the fact
- Information on armory style
 - ♦ Documentable charge group arrangements
 - ♦ Standard arrangements, postures and orientations, charges that don't need documentation
- Collection of information that we've relied on senior commenters to provide late in the process
 - ♦ Items that are a step from period practice
 - ♦ Registerable low-contrast lines of division

Appendices are Awesome!

- Appendix F: Charges that don't need documentation
- Appendix G: List of SFPP things
- Appendix H: Low-contrast complex lines of division
- **Appendix I: Charge Group Theory**
- **Appendix J: Documentable charge group arrangements**
- Appendix K: Standard arrangements of charge groups
- Appendix L: List of postures and orientations
- **Appendix M: Resources for conflict checking**