



QLHF Bayonet By-laws

PURPOSE

The purpose of these guidelines is to manage the safe usage & carriage of modern era bayonets for the group, the reenactor and the public during living history displays, public demonstrations & guards of honour or battle scenarios where bayonets may be required to be fixed to a rifle or otherwise used to enhance the scenario or display.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 While authenticity in appearance of group and individual uniform and equipment is important to properly educate others about military history, of paramount importance is safety.
- 1.2 Every QLHF member is responsible for adherence to the highest possibly safety standards and expectations and proactively remedy immediately any shortfalls or dangerous situations.
- 1.3 The term participants applies to reenactors, living historians and volunteers.

IMPORTANT NOTE: At all times, members are subject to relevant state and federal law. Where there is an inconsistency, the relevant law will be enforced.

2 MARSHALS

- 2.1 Please refer to the QLHF Marshal By-law for information on marshals. All marshals must be accredited by QLHF or their association.
- 2.2 This By-Law must be read in conjunction with the Marshal By-law.
- 2.3 Throughout this document where the following terms are used the relevant person must also be an QLHF Accredited Marshal. Where marshal is used refer to QLHF Marshal:
 - Safety Officer



3 INSURANCE

- 3.1 It is the duty of group hosting the event to insure that all participants are suitably insured (public liability insurance) for the activity being conducted (Note: QLHF members are provided insurance coverage as part of being a member).
- 3.2 QLHF members are NOT considered insured if the member has membership fees outstanding
- 3.3 It is the duty of the group to inform the QLHF committee of events that they are attending, preferably via E-mail. All events attended must be recording in the group's records such as Facebook.
- 3.4 If in doubt about any activity, the group is to contact the QLHF committee for clarification regarding clauses within the insurance policy.

4 MEDICAL

- 4.1 A comprehensive first aid kit is to be brought to the event:
- 4.2 A casualty evacuation plan should be prepared prior to the event and relevant medical facilities notified of the events existence and potential for injury.
- 4.3 Should an injury be serious or life threatening, all activity is to cease immediately and medical attention sort as a matter of urgency.

5 ALCOHOL, MEDICATION AND OTHER PERFORMANCE EFFECTING SUBSTANCES

- 5.1 No participant shall handle a weapon while under the influence of alcohol or other performance effecting substances.
- 5.2 Any participant found to be under the influence of alcohol or other performance effecting substances including prescribed medication, they will be barred from further participation at the event, suffer disciplinary action or may be expelled from the QLHF. If any participant has a pre-existing medical condition that could affect safety, it must be declared to the Marshal before participation.
- 5.3 The participant should provide sufficient information about the medication to allow the coordinator to make an informed decision or to refer to a medical officer or 1st aider.



6 EDGED WEAPONS & BAYONETS.

- 6.1 Trench or combat knives carried by participants will be of proper design & manufacture and carried safely secured in an appropriate sheath or scabbard.
- 6.2 Bayonets may be carried by Other Ranks, Enlisted Men (Terminology dependent on nationality) in accordance with the reenactors uniform and equipment but ONLY fixed to the rifle at the direction of the group safety officer or person commanding the group such as guard of honour, etc or in any other controlled scenario and in an area that isolates and protects all participants and spectators.
- 6.3 At all other times they shall be secured in a proper scabbard or folded under the rifle (if applicable). The scabbard must be of the correct pattern for said bayonet and have a metal tip (if applicable) and/or be able to be secured when not in use with no sharp edges exposed or be in danger of falling out.
- 6.4 While in drill formation the applicable spacing is adhered to for the time period. Alternatively as a default spacing all participants will maintain a two metre diameter zone free of obstruction around them, and from the next participant while in motion during any scenario while the bayonet is fixed to the rifle.
- 6.5 No hand to hand combat with any sharp edged weapon is permitted
- 6.6 At NO TIME will combat or trench knives be drawn during a scenario or demonstration unless this is prearranged and agreed with the marshal.
- 6.7 Hand to hand combat with blunt edged weapons is permitted with the permission of the marshal, however this must be undertaken in accordance with the QLHF Black Powder By-laws or the QLHF Blankfire By-laws.

7 STORAGE & SECURITY

- 7.1 All types of bayonets and other edged weapons are to be safely secured at all times either on the person, within the encampment and including when traveling to and from events and during events in accordance with the Weapons Act Qld.
- 7.2 All swords, bayonets, trench knives, etc should be covered and secured when not in use.
- 7.3 All individual QLHF members are responsible for their own kit and weapons security be it firearm, firearm replica or edged weapon.



8 DISPLAY BOUNDARIES

- 8.1 All scenarios or displays involving fixed bayonets shall take place within clearly defined area which exclude public access with safety boundaries visible to all participants.
- 8.2 These boundaries are to be regularly scanned by all participants during the scenario, display or guard and are to be constantly monitored by the safety officer and all members present during the scenario.
- 8.3 No display, skirmish, combat, battle or similar activity may commence until the field is clear of non-combatants and spectators. Once a scenario, skirmish or display has commenced, no participants may join in.
- 8.4 At completion of the scenario, safety inspections shall be allowed, bayonets unfixed and secured while within the display area either under command or individually before the group moves among any public in attendance.

9 Bayonet Training.

- 9.1 It is preferable that each QLHF Group familiarise themselves with the formal training conducted during their original time period, conduct their research consulting period publications and ensure appropriate training for their members so that each member is competent in handling a bayonet in accordance with proposed scenarios, whether handling generally or fitted to a rifle.
- 9.2 QLHF members should familiarise themselves in mounted or dismounted drills involving bayonets, the changes in characteristics in the handling of their rifle when the bayonet is fixed and the additional weight the bayonet adds to that of the rifle and that performed correctly, bayonet drill can add much to any, scenario parade or guard of honour.
- 9.3 Each Group's Safety Officer will assess their members competency and ensure group cohesion and confidence. Unless all are competent, the group safety officer will not authorise any member take to the field with a bayonet or participate adequate skill and confidence is acquired.

END



Contact Officer	QLHF Marshal
Date Approved	9 th October 2017
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Approval Authority	Queensland Living History Federation Committee
Related Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Forms or Templates	This by-law works in conjunction with all other QLHF by-laws, with particular reference to: QLHF Marshal By-law QLHF Black Powder By-laws QLHF Blankfire By-laws.
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