

The Customs of the Barony of Blatha an Oir

Article I. The Customary

1. The Baronial Customs are compiled into this document: The Customary of the Barony of Blatha An Oir, hereafter referred to as The Customary.
2. The Customary is used to govern all official activities and events of the Barony of Blatha an Oir. Its purpose is to administer the affairs of this Barony and promote the welfare, harmony, and enjoyment of the populace of the Barony.
3. The Customary is superseded by the Constitution of the United States, the laws of the United States, the laws of the State of Washington and its subdivisions, the Corpora of the Society of Creative Anachronism and the laws of the Kingdom of An Tir.
4. The Customary can be revised through popular consensus and is administered by the Seneschal upon petition, setting forth by article and section number the proposed revision. The Seneschal shall publish the text of the proposed revision in the next Baronial newsletter, together with the notice of the date of the Baronial meeting where the populace will consider the proposed revision.
5. Petitions for revisions to The Customary are accepted and reviewed as follows:
 - a. From the Baron, Baroness, or Seneschal on any matter concerning the Barony.
 - b. From any Officer of the Barony with respect to their area of responsibility.
 - c. Upon receipt of a petition for revision signed by at least five members in good standing.
 - d. The petition revisions shall be posted on the Baronial web site for a period of not less than 30 days.
 - e. Commentary by members in good standing shall be sent to the Seneschal.
 - f. The revisions and commentary will be discussed and the revisions voted on at the next Baronial business meeting. The majority vote of the members in good standing in attendance at the meeting will determine if the petition revisions are adopted or not.
 - g. If the petition revisions are adopted, the changes are made to the Baronial Customary, and are published in the Baronial newsletter and on the Baronial website.
 - h. If the petition revisions are rejected, then no further action is taken. A petition revision that has been rejected must be revised before it can be resubmitted.

Article II. The Baronage

1. The Baronage's primary responsibility is to represent the Crown within their lands. They convey Their Majesties' words and represent the Royal Presence to the populace in Their Majesties' absence.
2. The Baronage shall be considered an officer of Blatha an Oir. Officers and the populace shall attend the Baronage's word, for they speak as the local representative of The Crown. The

Baronage, through the Seneschal, is responsible for the administration of the Barony and activities. The Baronage shall:

- a. Preside at Baronial Courts.
 - b. Be ceremonial representatives of The Crown and the Barony.
 - c. Nominate the incoming Seneschal based upon the current Seneschal's recommendation.
 - d. Fulfill the duties in the absence of the Seneschal.
 - e. Foster the growth of the Arts and Sciences.
 - f. Encourage and reward chivalric behavior of their subjects.
 - g. Invest and accept the fealty and/or service of the Defenders of Blatha an Oir.
 - h. Receive petitions from and offer counsel to the populace and officers in matters regarding the Barony. They will forward these concerns to the appropriate officers and/or The Crown as the situation dictates.
3. The Baroness shall be the inspirational light of the Barony of Blatha An Oir.
 4. The Seneschal shall administer selection of the Baronage, upon vacancy of the office, as follows:
 - a. The laws of the Crown of An Tir will always be followed when choosing a new Baronage by Baronial Polling.
 - b. The Seneschal shall publish a call for applications in the An Tir Kingdom Newsletter. Requirements for applications, procedures for nomination, and the date of the pre-polling Baronial meeting shall also be published.

Article III. Baronial Officers and Duties

1. The Great Offices of the Barony shall be the Baronage, Seneschal, Baronial Heavy Marshal, Minister of Arts and Sciences, Exchequer, Herald, Chronicler, Family Activities Minister, Scribe, and Chatelaine.
2. The Lesser Offices and Deputies of the Barony shall be the Archery Marshal, Thrown Weapons Marshal, Rapier Marshal, Chamberlain, Minister of the Lists, Gold Key Coordinator, Demo Coordinator, Hospitality Coordinator, Web Minister, the principal officer of each guild, and the Sergeant Major.
3. The deputies of the officers shall report to their superior.
4. The officers of the Barony shall be responsible to their Kingdom superiors, and serve at the pleasure of the Baronage. They shall abide by these Baronial Customs and all higher laws of the Kingdom of An Tir and the Society for Creative Anachronism. In all matters of their office they shall safeguard the honor of the Society and the Baronage, and serve the interests of the populace of the Blatha An Oir.
5. The requirements for holding a Baronial Office are:
 - a. Must be a member of the SCA in good standing, in accordance with Corpora and the Kingdom Laws of An Tir.
 - b. Be responsible for reporting as required, to the Baronage, Baronial Seneschal and his/her Kingdom Officer.

- c. Must attend Baronial councils and meetings, or provide notice and a written report to the Seneschal.
- 6. The Seneschal is the Barony's chief administrative officer, and shall recognize the authority of the Baronage as representative of the Crown within the Barony. The Seneschal is also answerable to the Kingdom Seneschal for reporting and administrative duties. The Seneschal shall:
 - a. Serve as the principal legal representative of the Barony of Blatha an Oir.
 - b. Serve in place of the Baronage in their absence.
 - c. Have the ultimate responsibility for planning, scheduling, and carrying out the official events of the Barony.
 - d. Supervise the Event Stewards of all Baronial events and activities.
 - e. Attend the Kingdom Seneschals meetings.
 - f. Follow An Tir Law in accordance with Corpora.
 - g. Establish guidelines for operation of Baronial councils and meetings.
 - h. Arbitrate local disputes in accordance with Corpora, Kingdom Law and Baronial Custom, consulting with the Baronage as the situation dictates.
 - i. Chair Baronial councils and meetings.
 - j. Make timely, public announcements of all meeting times and places.
 - k. Work with the Exchequer and Financial Committee to insure the proper collection, disbursement, and recording of Baronial funds and assets.
- 7. The Baronial Exchequer is the Chief Financial Officer of The Barony. The Exchequer is responsible for the financial records of the Barony. The Exchequer will ensure all money and assets belonging to the Barony are well-maintained and available for review by any member in good standing. The Exchequer is the head of the Financial Committee. The Exchequer, with the help of the Financial Committee, is responsible for knowing and understanding the financial policies of the Barony as set forth in the Baronial Financial Policy, as well as maintaining compliance with An Tir Kingdom Law.
- 8. The Baronial Minister of Arts and Sciences is the chief artistic and scientific officer of the Barony. They shall encourage the research and development of historically accurate period art forms, technologies, and philosophies.
- 9. The Baronial Chatelaine is the chief newcomers welcome officer for the Barony. The Baronial Chatelaine shall be responsible for the introduction of new and prospective members, provide education on the conventions of the current Middle Ages and this Kingdom and Barony, encourage active participation, chivalric behavior, and coordinate with Gold Key to make period clothing accessible to new members.
- 10. The Baronial Herald is the chief heraldic officer and advisor of the Barony. They shall advise the Baronage on matters of ceremony and protocol and be the voice of the Barony in all Baronial Courts. The Baronial Herald has the primary responsibility to submit all new Baronial Award information to the An Tir Order of Precedence Roster in a timely manner, and to ensure that the An Tir Order of Precedence contains accurate information for all Blatha an Oir Baronial Awards.

11. The Baronial Family Activities Minister shall organize activities for children under 17 at Baronial Events, promote the welfare of children at Society events, educate children on age-related topics on aspects of the Society and our historical period of study, share knowledge with Interested persons on children's activities, establish guidelines and coordinate activities for all children at Baronial Events, and comply with all Kingdom laws of An Tir regarding this office.
12. Baronial Heavy Marshal is the chief heavy marshal for the Barony. The Baronial Heavy Marshal shall be responsible for obtaining and maintaining equipment and supplies for heavy fighting within the Barony, make sure there is a warranted marshal present during practices and events that have heavy fighting, and promote heavy fighting within the Barony.
13. The Baronial Archery Marshal is the chief archery marshal for the Barony. The Baronial Archery Marshal shall be responsible for obtaining and maintaining equipment and supplies for archery within the Barony, make sure there is a warranted marshal present during practices and events that have archery, and promote archery within the Barony.
14. The Baronial Thrown Weapons Marshal is the chief thrown weapons marshal for the Barony. The Thrown Weapons Marshal shall be responsible for obtaining and maintaining equipment and supplies for thrown weapons, make sure there is a warranted marshal present during practices and events that have thrown weapons, and promote thrown weapons within the Barony.
15. The Baronial Rapier Marshal is the chief rapier marshal for the Barony. The Baronial Rapier Marshal shall be responsible for obtaining and maintaining equipment and supplies for Rapier fighting with the Barony, make sure there is a warranted marshal present during practices and events that have rapier fighting, and promote rapier fighting within the Barony.
16. The Baronial Minister of the Lists is the chief Lists manager for the Barony. The Baronial Minister of the Lists shall confirm that all combatants fighting in a Baronial Tournament have fighter authorization cards, arrange and record the pairing of fighters at Baronial Tournaments and Demonstrations, see that combat waivers are brought to and used at all events which might involve fighting, as well as work in conjunction and cooperation with the Marshals and Heralds to ensure smoothly-run tournaments.
17. The Baronial Chronicler is the chief record-keeper for the Barony, and is in charge of all official publications within the Barony. The Baronial Chronicler shall take the minutes at all Baronial meetings and councils, shall publish and distribute the Baronial Newsletter (The Blatherings), and assist with the production of polling materials and event site copy.
18. The Baronial Scribe organizes the production of award Charters, and Scrolls, and Seals for the Barony. The Baronial Scribe shall coordinate and maintain supplies for Charters and Seals, and with the assistance of the Baronial Herald, shall maintain the Blatha an Oir Ceremonial, containing all of the approved Baronial award names and the current complete award text for all Baronial Awards and Baronial Courts. The Baronial Scribe shall work with the Royal Scribe to coordinate painting of Kingdom Charters by Blatha an Oir Scribes, provide instruction in the scribal arts, and provide support to the Baron and Baroness for award presentations prior to and during Baronial Courts.

19. The Baronial Social Media Officer is in charge of maintaining the group's social media presence on all society approved social media sites. The Social Media Officer works with the regional and An Tir Kingdom Social Media Officers to ensure that all Baronial social media presence is in line with Society as outlined in the Social Media policy. The Social Media Officer reports to the Baronial Web Minister and the Seneschal.
20. The Baronial Web Minister is responsible for maintaining current and accessible information on the Baronial website, by working with event stewards, Baronial Officers, the Chronicler, the Seneschal, and the Baronage.
21. The Baronial Chamberlain is responsible for the inventory and safekeeping of the durable assets of the Barony, including the maintenance of the storage locker and the Baronial trailer. The Chamberlain reports to the Exchequer.
22. The Baronial Gold Key Coordinator is responsible for the acquisition, storage, maintenance, transport and provision of loaner garb for newcomers at Baronial events.
23. The Baronial Demo Coordinator is the primary Baronial contact for requests for Demos by the Barony and is responsible for scheduling and staffing of the Demos.
24. The Baronial Hospitality Coordinator is responsible for coordinating Baronial Hospitality activities including staffing and consumables for Hospitality rooms at events such as 12th Night, and outdoor events where a Hospitality tent or table is sponsored by the Barony.
25. The Baronial Sergeant Major is responsible for being a liaison between the Sergeantry and the Baroness and the populace, maintaining the Sergeantry Roll of Arms, being an advisor for their Excellencies, scheduling and running the Sergeantry meetings, and overseeing or delegating the scheduling and the testing of Sergeantry Candidates.
26. Baronial Officers may appoint Deputies with approval of the Baronage and the other Baronial Officers.
27. In addition to the primary Baronial responsibilities listed in the previous sections, Baronial Officers may also have additional duties and responsibilities as appropriate to their office and/or as directed by their Kingdom superiors.

Article IV. Appointment and Removal of Officers

1. Resignation or Vacancy of Office
 - a. Any officer wanting to vacate their office should give their notice in writing to the Baronage and the Seneschal at a Baronial Business meeting; however, verbal resignations will also be accepted.
 - b. The Seneschal shall announce all Baronial Office vacancies at the next Baronial Business meeting. Office openings must also be published on the Baronial website and the Baronial email list.
 - c. The vacating Officer shall return all Baronial regalia and property related to that office to the Seneschal within 30 days of vacating the office.
 - d. Applications for vacant offices will be accepted for 60 days following the announcement of the vacancy at the Baronial Business meeting.

2. Selection of Officers
 - a. The Seneschal shall consider the wishes and advice of the Baronage and recommendations of the retiring officer and the populace.
 - b. The Seneschal shall also consider the qualifications of the candidate(s).
 - c. The Seneschal shall announce their decision to appoint the new Officer at the next Baronial Business meeting. The new officer shall be sworn in at the next Baronial Court.
3. Removal of an Officer
 - a. One or more of the following shall be considered grounds for removal from office for cause:
 - i. Failure to maintain at least a sustaining or family membership in the SCA, with a lapse of more than two months.
 - ii. Missing two successive Baronial business meetings without notice to the Seneschal. This may be considered abandonment of office at the behest of either the Seneschal or the Baronage.
 - iii. Failure to perform the customary duties of the office.
 - iv. Failure to uphold the honor and laws of the Kingdom of An Tir and the SCA.
 - v. Failure to take the oath of office and swear fealty or service after a change in Baronage.
 - b. The Seneschal shall make the final decision and announce the removal of an Officer at the next Baronial Business meeting. After the announcement, the Vacancy of Office process shall be followed to appoint a replacement officer.

Article V. Expenditure of Baronial Funds

1. Policy and procedures for management and expenditure of Baronial Funds are located in the *Financial Policy of the Barony of Blatha an Oir* document. This document is maintained by the Exchequer, is approved by the An Tir Kingdom Exchequer, and is posted on the Baronial website.

Article VI. Baronial Awards

1. Recipients of Baronial Awards shall stand in precedence with recipients of similar honors in other Baronies.
2. The Blatha an Oir Ceremonial, maintained by the Baronial Scribe with the assistance of the Baronial Herald, contains the Baronial award names, their purpose, and the current complete award text for all Baronial Awards.
3. The Baron and Baroness, the Scribe and their Deputies, the Herald and their Deputies, the Head of Retinue, and the Seneschal shall receive a printed copy of the Blatha An Oir Ceremonial after any major updates are made. The Ceremonial may also be published on the Baronial website.
4. The Baronage may create new awards, as they deem necessary for the recognition of outstanding individuals or circumstances within the Barony, working with the Baronial Herald

and Baronial Scribe following Kingdom and Society policy and procedure for approval of the award names.

Article VII. Champions (Defenders) of Blatha an Oir

1. Blatha an Oir shall have the following Champions (Defenders): Lord Defender, Rapier, Archery, Thrown Weapons, Arts and Sciences, Shield of the Barony, Bardic Champion, and Baronial Page.
2. Defenders of the Barony shall be selected in an open tourney to be held yearly.
 - a. Tournament styles for all Defenders shall be set by the current Defender, with consultation and approval by the Coronets.
 - b. Any judges selected to assist the current Defenders in choosing their successor shall be approved by the Coronets.
 - c. Final selection of a new Defender will be determined by the current Defender and the Coronets based on input from those panels and populace input.
3. Individuals who want to compete for the honor of being a Defender of Blatha an Oir shall present themselves to the Baronage in Court prior to the start of the tournament, where they shall swear to the Baronage that they will compete fairly and in a chivalric manner.
4. Competitors shall affirm that, should they be victorious, they are able and willing to serve, faithfully fulfilling all the duties of Defender for a period of one year.
5. The Defenders of Blatha An Oir shall have the following duties:
 - a. Serve for a period of one year from the time of their investiture, until a new Defender is selected in their area of responsibility.
 - b. Be invested in a Baronial court. At their investiture, the Defenders shall swear fealty or service to the Baronage of Blatha an Oir.
 - c. Swear fealty or service to the new Baronage should a change of Baronage take place during their term as Defenders.
 - d. Be charged with defending the safety and honor of Blatha an Oir through their demeanor, chivalric behavior, knowledge, and prowess.
 - e. Take the field upon the request or at the need of the Baronage of Blatha an Oir.
 - f. Encourage and advance the Arts Martial and the other Arts and Sciences through teaching and instruction, as well as furthering their own knowledge and skills.
 - g. Advise and consult with the Baronage and Baronial Officers in matters of their area of expertise.
 - h. Assist in the selection of their successors, serving as required upon request of the Baronage.
 - i. Attend no less than two Baronial courts during their time as champion in addition to the tournament to choose their successor.
6. The Defenders of Blatha an Oir shall have the following rights and privileges:
 - a. Be held in esteem by the Baronage, officers and populace of Blatha an Oir.
 - b. Be held as equals of the Champions and Defenders of all other Baronies.

- c. Have the right to receive the symbols of their office from the hands of the Baronage of Blatha an Oir upon their investiture, and to bear and display the symbols of their office at all times and in all such places as they and the Baronage deem appropriate, in keeping with Kingdom Law.
- d. Are charged with the safe keeping and care of all such symbols of their office given over to their care, and shall return all symbols to the hands of the Baronage or place them either upon the person or in the hands of their successor at Baronial Court according to custom or at the direction of the Baronage.
- e. Shall have the right to hold a place of honor at all Baronial courts, feasts, and ceremonial events.
- f. Are allowed to waive their own site fee for any Baronial Event they attend, not including feast fees.

Article VIII. **Sergeantry of Blatha An Oir**

1. Duties and Obligations of the members of the Sergeantry of Blatha an Oir include the following:
 - a. Shall swear an Oath of Fealty to the Baroness of Blatha An Oir and through Her to The Crown.
 - b. Shall protect and defend The Barony, its people and its worthy honor with their every effort.
 - c. Shall be in the forefront in the instruction of the populace in matters of the combat arts, arts and sciences, and other forms of courteous and noble behavior.
 - d. Shall uphold the ideals of chivalry, courtesy, and nobility with their every word and deed.
 - e. Shall strive to maintain their skills, and to increase them, to such extent that, should Coronet or Crown have need of them, they are ready.
2. Rights and Responsibilities of members of the Sergeantry include:
 - a. The right to wear upon their person the Regalia of The Order:
 - i. A belt bearing a buckle inscribed with a briar tangle and the letters BAO.
 - ii. A cloak of royal blue bearing the Daffodils in Saltire, the Badge of Specialty, and optionally held with a clasp bearing the Arms of Blatha an Oir.
 - iii. A pin or pendant inscribed with the briar tangle and the letters BAO.
 - b. The sole right to form The Baroness's Guard of Honor in audience, in court, on fields of war, and other circumstances as Her Excellency commands.
 - c. Other privileges shall be extended as seen appropriate or by command of Her Excellency.
3. Additional duties, requirements, and procedures governing the Sergeantry of Blatha An Oir and the Sergeantry Candidates are located in a separate document: *The Requirements of the Sergeantry of Blatha An Oir*. This document is maintained by the Sergeant Major in consultation with the members of the Sergeantry of Blatha An Oir and Her Excellency. It is posted on the

Baronial website for all to use as a resource. The original is kept in the files on the BAO Sergeant's Facebook page.

Article IX. Terms and Definitions

Terms used in this document shall have the following definitions. If there is a discrepancy between these definitions and definitions in official documents of the Kingdom of An Tir, the Kingdom definition shall be followed.

1. The Crown: The King and Queen acting together.
2. The Baronage: The office of Baron and/or Baroness.
3. Approval by Majority: A process administered by the Seneschal for the expression of choice of the populace and officers.
4. Nominate: The process whereby the Baronage recommends a candidate to the Crown of An Tir and to the appropriate Kingdom officer, requesting a warrant for that candidate.
5. Member or Subject in good standing: Any subject of the Kingdom of An Tir whose SCA membership dues are paid, and declaring his/her primary SCA affiliation to be within the Barony of Blatha an Oir.
6. Proxy: Any subject in good standing unable to attend a General Business meeting or officers council may give a written expression of opinion on any matters to the Seneschal. The Seneschal shall include all proxies in the official counts as if that subject had been personally present at the meeting or council.
7. Baronial Event: Is an event sponsored by the Barony of Blatha an Oir, approved by the Seneschal, publicized to the membership, and conducted according to Society rules and Kingdom Law. The event must be registered on the Kingdom Calendar following the An Tir Kingdom Calendar policy.
8. Baronial Court: A ceremonial event presided over by the Baronage.
9. Officers Council: A gathering of Baronial officers to conduct Baronial affairs. It must include a majority of the Great Officers. Such council will be presided over by the Seneschal. The Populace of the Barony may attend the council.
10. Baronial Meetings: A meeting of the populace and officers of the Barony presided over by the Seneschal.
11. Baronial Financial Committee: Comprised of the Baronage (one vote), the Exchequer (one vote) and the Seneschal (one vote). Members of the Committee may admit either officers of the Barony or subjects in good standing so that their views into the financial health of the Barony might be considered.
12. Financial Committee Meeting: A meeting of the Financial Committee presided over by the Exchequer.
13. Valid Petitions: Those written items by a subject in good standing and received by the Baronage or Seneschal.