

AYRETON BARONIAL CHARTER

Adopted September 2018

Preamble

Whereas the purpose of a Barony is to provide new opportunities for fun in the SCA and to create new traditions, let it be known that the Barony of Ayreton claims no jurisdiction over the internal activities of the Cantons, with respect to Canton events, officers, and financial decisions, as long as the Cantons remain sanctioned. The Barony of Ayreton will respect and honor the traditions and customs of the Cantons. All participation in the Baronial activities is strictly voluntary and cooperative.

Article I. Baronial Curia

- A. The duly designated representatives of the Crown, Their Excellency(ies) Ayreton, shall be referred to in this document as the Baronage. One person may be selected, or two individuals of any relationship.
- B. The Baronial Curia is composed of the Baronage, Seneschal, Exchequer, Pursuivant, Minister of Arts and Sciences, Knights Marshal, and Chronicler.
- C. A Quorum of the Baronial Curia shall consist of the Baronage, Seneschal, and two additional members of the Baronial Curia. A quorum is required for all decisions made by Baronial Curia. Written proxies may be counted to achieve a quorum for decisions.
- D. Additional officer positions may be established by the Baronial Curia, and such additional officers will not be members of the Baronial Curia. The Baronial Curia will define the qualifications necessary to hold additional officer positions they may create in their discretion.
- E. Officers
 - a. All Officers are expected to send copies of reports required by their office to the Baronial Seneschal and to the Baronage.
 - b. Officers are expected to present a briefing on their area of responsibility at every Baronial Meeting, either in person or through a designee.
 - c. All Officers are encouraged to select and train a deputy, that they may assist with the duties of the office, act as a successor should the officeholder need/desire to step down, and retain institutional knowledge of the position.
 - d. All officers must pass along all materials and files of the office to their successor, along with access to electronic accounts.
- F. Terms of Office
 - a. All Baronial positions will have a term of two years from their election.
- G. Officer Transitions
 - a. Officer selection will be done annually at the Summer Baronial Meeting. Those selected will take office at the next Baronial Curia Meeting.
 - b. Officer selection is done by either voice vote or a show of hands, at the Seneschal's discretion, unless someone requests a secret ballot. If a secret ballot is requested, a paper ballot will be collected and counted.
 - c. If an officeholder must step down voluntarily out of cycle, they may name their successor (generally expected to be their deputy), for approval by the Baronage. The replacement will then serve out the remainder of the term for that office, as subject to I.F.a-b.

- d. If an officeholder is removed for cause, the Baronage may offer the role to the deputy. If the deputy is found to be unsuitable, or there is none, the Baronage will have the Seneschal issue a call for volunteers, and the Baronage will select from among the available candidates. The replacement will then serve out the remainder of the term for that office, as subject to I.F.i-iii.
- e. Due to the additional legal responsibilities and possible liabilities incumbent in their positions, candidates for Seneschal and Exchequer **must** comply with I.G.g.i-iii, unless they are the incumbent officer seeking re-election
- f. All other officers are encouraged to comply with I.g.i-iii, but if there are no candidates by the Summer meeting, nominations may be made at the meeting for immediate voting by the Populace, as long as the person being nominated is present or has sent a written proxy statement.
- g. Members of the Barony interested in taking office or intending to step down from office should:
 - i. announce their interest/intention by the Spring Baronial Meeting;
 - ii. submit an application in writing to Seneschal, who will provide courtesy copies to the appropriate Baronial officer and the Baronage; and
 - iii. meet all requirements for the position they are applying for as defined by the Baronial Curia.
- h. Given their considerable responsibilities and requirements for training, the Exchequer and the Seneschal shall not be elected in the same year, with Exchequers being elected in odd years, and Seneschals in even years. All other officers positions may be on any schedule.
- i. The Barony acknowledges that the Crown and Kingdom Curia have the right to approve or disapprove any local officer. This procedure for selecting an officer is how we choose who we will recommend that Kingdom approve, but Kingdom has the right to accept or reject our recommendation without comment.
 - i. If Regional, Kingdom, or Society officers refuse to warrant a Baronial officer, then the Seneschal(or Baronage, if necessary) will immediately announce this to the Barony, and solicit applications for the office, to be voted on at the next meeting
- j. In accordance with Society Policy, the Seneschal and Exchequer may not live in the same household, nor may they deputy for each other.

H. Officer Conduct

- a. Concerns about the official conduct of any Baronial officer other than the Exchequer or Seneschal should be referred to the Seneschal and the Baronage for resolution.
- b. Concerns about the official conduct of the Baronial Seneschal should be referred to the Baronage. If the complaint is found to have merit, the Baronage may ask the Seneschal to step down, may terminate the Seneschal for cause, and will refer the matter to the Regional Seneschal, and the Kingdom Seneschal.
- c. Concerns about the official conduct of the Baronial Exchequer should be referred to the Baronage and the Seneschal. If the complaint is found to have merit, the Baronage may ask the Exchequer to step down, may terminate the Exchequer for cause, and will refer

the matter to the Regional Exchequer, and the Kingdom Exchequer.

Article II. Decision making

- A. When a decision is required of the Baronage, it must be made with the agreement of both individuals, if appropriate. When both are not in agreement on a matter which requires resolution, either individual may refer the matter; to the Crown for resolution of an external matter, or to the Baronial Curia for resolution of an internal matter.

Article III. Meetings

- A. The members of the Barony shall meet at least quarterly.
- B. The Baronage will conduct the Baronial Meeting, or they may delegate the Seneschal to conduct the meeting on their behalf.
- C. Proxy voting
 - a. An officer or member of the Barony of Ayreton who wishes to vote on an issue when they cannot physically attend the meeting may provide a written proxy to a specific individual covering a specific topic. A proxy vote must be in writing. A hard copy of a written electronic communication is acceptable. The written proxy shall be given to the Seneschal for inclusion with the records of that meeting.
 - b. An officer or member of the Barony may also attend a meeting electronically, for example via telephone or video conferencing, if the officer or member makes the appropriate arrangements at his or her own expense.

Article IV. Changes and Amendments to the Charter

A. The Ayreton Baronial Charter shall be reviewed by the Seneschal or designated deputy at least once during each Baronial tenure. The review process should be scheduled so as to be completed prior to the Baronage investiture or renewal.

B. All proposed changes and amendments to the Baronial Charter must be published for comment at least once in the Zephyr. The commenting period must then be open for at least 30 days, and any changes or amendments must be discussed at a Baronial Meeting before being approved.

C. Approval of changes or amendments to the charter shall be by a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority of the members attending the Baronial Meeting at which it has been announced that decisions are to be made on proposed changes and amendments. Proxies will not be accepted for Charter change or amendment decisions.

Article V. Ceremony

- A. Awards and Orders
 - a. The Baronage will create, name and bestow awards and orders as they see fit. These awards and orders will be created primarily to encourage and recognize achievement, as well as to foster group identity and ceremony.
 - i. A Baronial Award may be given repeatedly to the same recipient unless otherwise noted.
 - b. The Award of the Pleiades of Ayreton is given to an individual for any form of general service to the Barony.

- c. A Baronial Order may be given only once to a single individual.
 - i. The Order of Atlas of Ayreton is a high service honor, given to a person for any form of service to the Barony.
 - ii. The Order of Ursis of Ayreton is a martial arts order, given to a person who excels in any form of martial art.
 - iii. The Order of Leo of Ayreton is an arts and sciences order, given to a person who excels in any field of the arts and sciences.
 - iv. The Order of Scorpius of Ayreton is an archery order, given to a person who excels in the field of archery.
 - v. The Order of Réalta Ríáin (also known as The Order of Ríáin's Star) is a youth order, given to a person for service and dedication to the youth of the Barony and/or Society.
- B. Champions
 - a. Baronial Champions are chosen by the Baronage and serve at Their discretion.
- C. Regalia
 - a. The Baronage is responsible for the design of Regalia, with the sage counsel of the Baronial Curia.
 - b. The Baronial Exchequer shall maintain an inventory of all Baronial regalia in accordance with Midrealm policy

Article VI. Events

- A. Upcoming Baronial Events will be announced sufficiently in advance to allow all members of Ayreton the opportunity to submit an Event Bid for running the event.
- B. An Event Bid shall include the proposed date, location, Event Steward, Feast Steward, and budget.
- C. Baronial Events will be approved by a simple majority of members in attendance at a Baronial Meeting at which the final bid is presented.

Article VII. Guilds

- A. The Barony of Ayreton supports its artisans in their Arts and Sciences endeavors. To that end, the Barony encourages the formation of Guilds. Approval by the Baronial Curia is required to use the name "Ayreton" in the name of any Guild.