

# Spirit of 76 Living History Association (Spirit of 76 LHA)

## Safety Standards and Waiver

The Spirit of 76 LHA is a formally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Liability insurance has been secured from Scottish American via Rhodes Warden Insurance Agency; membership includes liability insurance protection from third party claims. Insurance coverage does not protect you from other living historians/reenactors and it does not include medical coverage for yourself in case of injury.

Following are minimum safety standards that the Spirit of 76 LHA expects its members to abide by.

All participants using black powder must attend a scheduled safety brief and be conversant with the guidelines and display proficiency with their weapons.

### I. Weapons Safety

#### Firearms

1. All firearms should arrive at the field unloaded.
2. All flintlock weapons must have installed flashguard and hamerstall.
3. No weapon will be allowed to field if it slips out of half cock when activated by the trigger on your finger.
4. All parts of the firearm must fit tightly and properly, and no weapon may field with cracks in the stock.
5. No smokeless powder in muzzle loading weapons.
6. Muzzle-loaded weapons to use black powder per manufacturer's specifications.
7. Never aim at an opponent at a range of less than 100 feet.
8. The minimum safe firing distance is 30 feet. All weapons must be elevated (aimed above head height) at ranges under 100 feet
9. No unplanned, unchoreographed, unauthorized hand-to hand combat. Never discharge any weapon in camp.

#### Maximum Blank Loads

Pistol, Rifle	70 grains FFFg/ 90 grains FFg
Fowler, Brown Bess, Charleville	110 grains FFFg/125 grains FFg

#### Edged Weapons

1. A proper scabbard is required for edged weapons, including but not limited to swords, bayonets, knives, tomahawks, and hatchets.
2. No knives, tomahawks, or hatchets may be drawn on the field.
3. Bayonet charges no nearer opposing side than 20 feet.

4. Rehearsed and choreographed bayonet, cutlass, pike and sword demonstrations are permitted if deemed safe by the Safety Officer. No unplanned, unchoreographed, unauthorized hand-to hand combat.

### **Artillery**

1. All members on a team to know job requirements and relevant safety rules.
2. The powder box to be maintained 15 feet to the rear of the trails.
3. No more than 4 oz per charge.

## **II. Camp and Field Safety**

### **Gun Powder**

1. No loose powder in camp. All rounds for muskets and artillery must be pre-rolled prior to the event and stored in spark resistant, fireproof containers – no plastic containers.
2. Keep powder away from fire pits, pipes, cigars, cigarettes and other sources of fires or sparks.
3. Store powder no less than 25 feet from fire pits.
4. Powder horns should not contain powder at any time, including weapon loading.

### **Fires**

1. Build fires in a firebox, pit or on a steel plate.
2. Fires to be built 12 feet minimum from tents, with a water filled bucket at each pit.
3. Fires must be always attended.
4. Children must not tend fires and are not to play around fires.
5. No garbage in the fire.
6. When done, the fire should be soaked with water, stirred, and soaked again. The earth should be leveled to original appearance.

### **First Aid**

1. Groups should maintain a list of members who are medically trained. When possible, first aid should be administered by those medically trained.
2. Each group must maintain a list of members who have illnesses or medical conditions, as well as a list of medications to help medical personnel if needed. [Alternatively, keep a note or other documentation on yourself listing medical conditions and medications.]

### **Animals**

1. When animals are present, a knowledgeable safety officer should be present (for cavalry), and domestic animals should be in the direct control of their owner when in camp.
2. Only working animals to be allowed and should be kept away from the public and tents with a picket, rope line or corral.

3. Be aware of proper paperwork required by state laws. If the Event Host prohibits animals on site, then animals are not allowed.

### **Alcohol and Drugs**

1. No alcohol or marijuana to be consumed during public hours of the event. Intoxicants may be prohibited depending on event host rules and applicable law. Intoxication may result in banishment from participation.
2. Drunkenness, non-prescribed drug use or being under the influence of a hallucinogenic substance is a safety violation and requires immediate event expulsion.

## **III. Public Safety**

### **Camp**

1. Maintain walkways through and around camp. Allow sufficient access for emergency vehicles in the camp layout.
2. Attend campfires and keep spectators at a safe distance.
3. No bonfires.
4. No firing of weapons in camp areas.
5. 'Quiet Time' is 11pm until 7am. Please be respectful.

### **Demonstrations**

1. The public must be at least 30 feet from the action behind a rope line.
2. The public to be located at rear of closest participants or parallel to opposing lines. Participants must never fire in the direction of the public.
3. Public to be at least 30 feet away from powder boxes and not ahead of the end of the trails. The size of guns should be considered when planning public lines.
4. Public should not be closer than 100 feet from gun muzzle and allow greater consideration for larger guns [cannon]. Participants should be made aware of pertinent physical distances during the morning safety brief.
5. A cannon crew should be 25 feet from roped off public viewing area and artillery must be fired away from the rope line. Public should be no closer than 100 feet from cannons on field.
6. No firing or handling of weapons by public.

### **Buildings**

*Do not use building if there is any possibility of causing damage.*

1. If building use is allowed, be careful of all glass and old wood.
2. Clean up before leaving building.
3. Do not fire cannons at buildings unless permission granted by site. Cannons should be at least 100 feet from the building with greater distances for larger guns.

## General

We invite people of all ages to attend and enjoy our living history presentations as participants and spectators. Please be respectful of those around you.

\*\*\* END OF SAFETY STANDARDS. \*\*\*

**I agree to abide by all prudent safety guidelines and regulations, as published by Spirit of 76 LHA, or those comparable guidelines provided by units while participating in reenactment and living history activities.**

**Member Signature (parent or guardian please sign for minor):**

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**For Family Membership, please have additional members sign below:**

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Print Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Spirit of 76 Living History Association  
Olympia, Washington

GENERAL RELEASE OF LIABILITY

Since living history and reenacting activities are potentially dangerous, we require all participants to assume all risk by signing this General Release of Liability.

I/WE, \_\_\_\_\_ (please print your name(s))  
acknowledge that reenacting, black powder shooting, and related activities are HAZARDOUS activities, and that I/WE have made a voluntary choice to participate in those activities despite the risks that they may present. In consideration of my being permitted to participate in the activities described above, I/WE agree to assume ANY AND ALL RISKS OF INJURY OR DEATH, which might be associated with or result from my participation in such events.

I/WE further Release, Waive, Discharge and Covenant not to sue the Spirit of 76 Living History Association (LHA), associated entities and organizers of any event, the trustees of, officers of, agents of, employers of or members of the Spirit of 76 LHA or associated entity, or the owner or lessor of any interest through myself, for all loss or damage or demand therefore on account of injury to the person or property or death of myself whether caused by their NEGLIGENCE or for any other reason, while preparing for, practicing, traveling to, or participating in any Spirit of 76 LHA event.

I further INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS the parties released above and each of them from loss, liability, damage, or claim they may incur due to my actions during Spirit of 76 LHA activities whether caused by their negligence or otherwise. It is the intent of the undersigned that the above release be as broad and inclusive as allowed by law and that if any portion is invalid, the remainder shall continue in full force and effect. The release is entered into solely for the benefit of the Spirit of 76 LHA, its officers, trustees, agents and members; as well as associated entities, event landowners and lessors; when engaged in activities which promote the participation in Spirit of 76 LHA sanctioned events, or the preparation for or travel to and from such events and does not confer a Release upon parties not acting in such capacity.

I/WE further acknowledge and accept the possibility that my photograph may be taken by members and the general public and that said photos or videos can be made part of the public domain.

I/WE, the undersigned, have read and understood this Release and all its terms. I/WE warrant that the above is true and correct in all respects and that no oral representatives, statements or inducements apart from the foregoing have been made. I/WE consent to whatever medical care might be provided or available for injury occurring during the above activities. I/WE agree to abide by the rules of the Spirit of 76 LHA and associated entities conducting sanctioned events.

*If this release is for a minor, parent or guardian must sign for minor below: For the above-named minor, I hereby acknowledge that I am fully aware of the nature and purpose of the activities of the Spirit of 76 LHA. I understand that these activities are potentially dangerous, and I voluntarily accept any risks involved.*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Signature(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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