

Bylaws of the Crown Province of Østgarðr

Draft As Of March 2019

This draft represents a proposal for a significant overhaul of the provincial bylaws.

It incorporates changes collected during the prior rounds of discussions in 2017 and 2018, but also substantially reorganizes the existing material and attempts to clarify some issues. The draft Procedures Manual which was separated in 2013 has been re-integrated into the main document, and some topics which were covered in the 1998 version but removed in 2006 have been restored.

I. THE PROVINCE

- A. The Crown Province of Østgarðr (the “Province”) is a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (the "Society"), an educational nonprofit corporation.
- B. The Province operates within the Society’s Kingdom of the East (the “Kingdom”) with the same responsibilities and privileges as a Barony.
- C. The purpose of the Province is to further the mission and activities of the Society within its territory.
- D. The territory of the Province consists of New York City and adjacent portions of New York State, within boundaries which are defined more precisely by the Kingdom.
- E. The Province’s Cantons are Society branches that cover a region within the Province’s territorial boundaries.
- F. The Province’s Populace includes currently enrolled members of the Society whose residence is within the Province’s territorial boundaries (the “Membership”) as well as all people who regularly participate in the Province’s events and activities, and all newcomers who are interested in participating.

II. BYLAWS

- A. These Bylaws describe the local operating procedures of the Province.
- B. All activities of the Province are governed by applicable modern law, [the Governing Documents of the Society](#), and [the Laws of the East Kingdom](#), each of which supersede this document.
 - 1. Where possible, these Bylaws should be interpreted to be consistent with those Superseding Documents.
 - 2. If these Bylaws are found to require revision to comply with those Superseding Documents, the Officers’ Council should make any necessary revisions in no more than three months.

- C. These Bylaws, and any future proposed revisions to them, must be announced and published in draft form at least twenty-eight days before they are voted on by the Provincial Officers' Council, in order to allow them to be discussed by the Officers and the Populace.
- D. These Bylaws take effect and are binding on the Province when they have been approved by at least two-thirds of the members of the Provincial Officers' Council.
- E. Revisions to these Bylaws may be proposed by anyone in the Populace in a Provincial Commons Meeting or Officers' Council Meeting, either by appearing in person, or by sending suggested revisions to the Seneschal in writing, which the Seneschal shall then present for consideration at an upcoming meeting.
- F. Revisions to these bylaws must be approved by at least two-thirds of the members of the Provincial Officers' Council in order to take effect.
- G. Notwithstanding the above, revisions to the bylaws which contain only changes that fall into the categories shown below do not require prior announcement and may be approved by a simple majority vote of the Officers' Council:
 - 1. Addition of new Provincial Awards or Championships to be granted by the Viceregents.
 - 2. Addition of Lesser Offices, or elimination of vacant Lesser Offices.
 - 3. Changes to make the Bylaws conform to the Superseding Documents.
 - 4. Corrections of typographical or grammatical errors that do not change the intended meaning of any provisions.
- H. The Bylaws that are currently in effect shall be made readily available to everyone on the Province's web site.
- I. Provisions of these Bylaws that address the operations of the Cantons and their officers are binding on each of the Cantons.
- J. Cantons may create their own bylaws to govern their internal affairs. Canton bylaws do not supersede those of the Province, and cannot create binding obligations for the Province without the Province's consent.

III. NOTIFICATIONS

- A. When making required announcements to the Populace, the Province will use its primary official communication channel and at least one of its other official communications channels.
- B. The Province's primary official communications channel is the Province's official populace mailing list.
- C. The Province's other official communications channels are:

1. The Province's official website.
 2. The Province's official newsletter.
 3. The Populace's official social media presences.
- D. Notifications, approvals, or authorizations provided for or required herein may be delivered by any means approved by the Kingdom for Officers' written communication, including:
1. In writing delivered in person.
 2. In writing delivered by postal mail.
 3. In writing delivered by email, using EastKingdom.org email addresses for each party who possesses one.

IV. VICEREGENTS

- A. The Viceregents are the titular heads of the Province.
1. There may be one or two Viceregents at a time.
 2. Viceregents may choose to take the title of Viceroy, Vicereine, Viceregent, or an equivalent title in another language of the Society.
- B. The responsibilities and privileges of the Viceregents include the following:
1. To represent the interests of the Kingdom within the Province.
 2. To represent the interests of the Province and its Populace to the Kingdom.
 3. To serve as exemplars of service and comportment, encouraging the Populace to excel and present their best selves within the Society.
 4. To participate in the deliberations and voting of the Provincial Officers' Council, as described more fully below.
 5. To call for and preside over Provincial court.
 6. To fairly and appropriately bestow such Provincial awards as are established in these Bylaws.
 7. To preside over the selection of Provincial Champions.
 8. To invite Royalty to Provincial events.
 9. To preside at High Table at events in the Province if they so wish, or in accordance with Their Majesties' wishes if Kingdom Royalty is present.
- C. The term of office for Viceregents is three years.
1. Viceregents may serve for a second term of three years if they so wish, and if affirmed by a majority vote of the Officers' Council.
 2. Viceregents may choose to step down before the end of their term.

D. The procedures for succession of the Viceregents are as follows:

1. Prior to the expected end of the Viceregents' term, or upon the position becoming unexpectedly vacant, the Provincial Seneschal shall announce these succession procedures to the Populace, along with a deadline for nomination of candidates.
2. Any person meeting the eligibility requirements for Territorial Baronage under the Governing Documents of the Society and East Kingdom Law may become a candidate for Viceregent if they have held a legal residence within the territory of the Province for at least the past year.
3. All candidates for Viceregents shall be self-nominated.
4. Candidates may run either individually or as part of a two-person candidate pair, but not both.
5. Candidates must notify the Provincial Seneschal in writing, and include their legal names and signatures, Society names and proof of membership, home mailing addresses and proof of residency.
6. No more than twenty-eight days after the deadline for nominations, the Provincial Seneschal shall notify the Kingdom Seneschal or their designee, providing the names of the candidates, and requesting that a polling be conducted as set forth in Kingdom Law.
7. The Provincial Seneschal shall request that the Kingdom tabulate the results of the polling using the "Borda Count" method described below.

V. PROVINCIAL OFFICERS

- A. The Province will maintain a full roster of those officers required by Kingdom law (the "Greater Offices"). The Greater Offices are Seneschal, Herald, Knight Marshal, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Chronicler, Minister of Arts and Sciences, Minister of Lists, and Chatelaine.
- B. In addition, the Province may establish any other offices that it feels are appropriate or necessary (the "Lesser Offices"). The Lesser Offices are Webminister, Historian, Chamberlain, Marshal of Fence, Captain of Archers, and Youth Marshal.
- C. The Seneschals of the Cantons are simultaneously Canton Officers, and Provincial Officers, and deputies of the Provincial Seneschal.
- D. Provincial Officers agree to fulfill the responsibilities of their Office.
 1. All Officers with a kingdom-level counterpart are subject to the rules and requirements of those offices, including timely filing of all required reports.

2. Provincial Officers must provide regular reports to the Seneschal and the Officers' Council on their activities and any issues that need to be addressed.
3. Provincial Officers should participate in at least half of the Province's Commons Meetings each year, either in person or by phone or video conference when those options are available.
4. Provincial Officers who are required to file written reports with Kingdom or Regional counterparts must send a copy of those reports to the Provincial Seneschal. (Copies may consist of email CCs, screenshots, photocopies, or any other equivalent.)
5. Officers may act on behalf of the Province as required within their areas of responsibility and subject to the limitations of authority set forth herein. Execution of contracts on behalf of the Province requires the authorization of the Provincial Seneschal.

E. The Seneschal is the chief administrative Officer of the Province.

1. The duties and responsibilities of the office are set forth in East Kingdom Law and the East Kingdom Seneschal's Handbook.
2. The Provincial Seneschal should attend and participate in at least three quarters of the Province's Commons Meetings per annum.
3. The Kingdom Seneschal's Policies state that Seneschals must either attend all of the events sponsored by their branch, or ensure that a deputy will attend in their absence.

F. All Provincial Officers' terms last for two years, except as provided for below.

1. Officers may serve multiple terms except as limited by East Kingdom Law and Kingdom Officers' policies.
2. The schedule of Officers' terms will correspond to calendar years, with new officers generally being selected near the end of the calendar year and new terms beginning at the start of January.
3. The exact date of the selection and seating of new Officers may be adjusted by the Seneschal based on the schedule of meetings or other considerations.
4. If an office becomes vacant, and a new Officer fills that position at a time other than that regularly scheduled for that office, their first term shall consist of completing the regularly-scheduled term of office of their predecessor.

5. The Province may seat an officer for a term of one year in order to avoid having the terms of office of the Seneschal and Exchequer both end at the same time, to provide stability to the Province's financial management.
 6. Any Officer may resign at any time without prejudice by writing to the Provincial Seneschal, and to their corresponding Kingdom Officer and Kingdom regional deputy if applicable.
- G. The Provincial Seneschal will call for candidates to fill Provincial Offices.
1. Prior to the scheduled end of each Office's term, or upon such an Office becoming unexpectedly vacant, the Provincial Seneschal shall issue an announcement specifying the due date and procedure for nominations.
 2. Candidates for Provincial Offices must meet any requirements set by the Kingdom or the Society for that office, including holding a paid membership in the Society at the time of their selection and maintaining it throughout their term of office.
 3. Candidates for Greater Offices must have, for at least six months before the expected start of their term, either been a resident of the Province, or been a non-resident who was regularly active in the Province's activities.
 4. Anyone interested in serving the next term of a Provincial Office, including the current office holder, should notify the Provincial Seneschal and the Viceregents in writing, and show they meet the requirements of the office, including a current Society membership and any pre-approvals or authorizations from the Kingdom or Society required for that office. A summary of their background and a statement of their intentions for the coming term, while not mandatory, may be included to help the Officers and Membership evaluate their candidacy.
 5. Candidates for Provincial Offices (other than Canton Seneschals) must be approved by the Provincial Seneschal and the Viceregents, who may veto a candidate by unanimous decision.
- H. When there is a single candidate for an office, they may be confirmed or rejected for the position by a simple majority vote of the Officers Council.
- I. When there is more than one candidate for an office, a vote of the Membership shall be held.
1. After the closing of nominations, the Provincial Seneschal shall announce a vote to the Officers and Membership, informing them of the candidates and specifying a due date for replies that is at least twenty-eight days in the future.
 2. The Officers and the Membership are eligible to vote by submitting to the Provincial Seneschal their preferences in writing, via a paper ballot

presented in person or any other means approved by the Kingdom for Officer communication, including email, and on the due date their preferences shall be tallied using the “Borda Count” method described below.

3. The candidate favored by this vote shall succeed to the office, pending approval or rostering by the relevant Kingdom superior if necessary for that office. If the selected candidate is not approved by their Kingdom superior, or if they fail to submit their request for rostering / warranting within twenty-eight days, the office shall go to the next-highest-ranked candidate, continuing until a candidate is selected.

J. If a Provincial Office is vacant, the following procedures shall be used:

1. In an emergency, the Provincial Seneschal may make a temporary appointment of an officer to a term of not more than three months so that a normal selection may take place, subject to the corresponding Kingdom Officer’s approval, if applicable. The temporary nature of the appointment will be indicated by use of the term “Acting” before the Officer’s title.
2. If there are no suitable volunteers for a Greater Office, the Seneschal, Viceregents, and outgoing officer shall act as search committee with the goal of recruiting a candidate who may be appointed to the position on an “Acting” basis as provided for above .
3. If there are no suitable volunteers for a Lesser Office, the position may remain vacant, to be re-announced in the Province’s official communications channels until the position is filled.

K. Provincial Officers may be removed from office for cause as set forth below.

1. If an Officer is not fulfilling their responsibilities or is acting contrary to the best interests of the Province, the Provincial Seneschal, a Viceregent, or a petition of three Officers may request that the Officers’ Council discuss the issue at an upcoming meeting.
2. The Provincial Seneschal will decide whether this will be discussed at the next Commons Meeting, or if a Special Meeting shall be called.
3. The Officer in question, and all members of the Officers’ Council, must be given at least fourteen days notice of this meeting and the topic to be discussed, in order to allow them to make arrangements to attend.
4. Following the discussion, the Officers’ Council may decide that no further action is required, or may advise the Officer of the problem and outline steps that they should take to address it, or may recommend the Officer’s removal.

5. A decision to recommend removal from office requires the agreement of at least two-thirds of the members of the Provincial Officers' Council.
 6. If the Officers' Council recommends the removal of an Officer whose position requires approval or rostering by a corresponding Kingdom Officer, the Provincial Seneschal shall communicate the recommendation to that Kingdom Officer and Kingdom Seneschal; otherwise the removal shall take effect immediately.
- L. Any Officer may appoint their own deputies as needed.
1. Officers are encouraged to recruit deputies and train them in their responsibilities to ensure a pool of experienced candidates will be available to help fill their position should it become vacant in the future.
 2. Members of the Populace interested in taking on a Provincial Office in the future are encouraged to contact the current Officer and volunteer as a deputy.
 3. Appointments as a deputy last until the end of the officer's term and may be renewed by the Officer if desired.
 4. Appointments as a deputy may be terminated by the Officer at any time.
 5. Deputies may resign their own appointment at any time and are not obligated to volunteer for the office in the future.

VI. OFFICERS' COUNCIL

- A. The Officers' Council is the general decision-making body for the Province.
- B. The Officers' Council includes the Viceregents, all of the Greater and Lesser Officers of the Province, and the Canton Seneschals. Officers' deputies and Event Stewards are not voting members of the Officers' Council.
- C. Votes may be held when necessary to determine the will of the Officers' Council.
 1. On matters requiring a vote of the Officers' Council, each person on the Council shall have one vote, even if they hold more than one office.
 2. Votes of the Officers' Council shall not be binding without the participation of a quorum, consisting of a majority of those persons who currently have a seat on the council.
 3. An Officer who is unable to attend or participate in a meeting of the Council may delegate another person to cast their vote by providing a written proxy which specifies the topic areas it covers and the dates on which it may be used. Proxies do not count towards quorum.
- D. The Officers' Council may establish Committees with specific areas of responsibility, which may either be permanent or temporary.

1. The Finance Committee is a permanent committee that consists of at least the Viceregents, the Provincial Seneschal, and the Provincial Exchequer. Those permanent members of this committee may also designate up to two additional people to serve on the committee with them. All expenditures or financial commitments on behalf of the Province require the approval of the Finance Committee.
- E. The Officers' Council will hold meetings on a regular basis to review officers' reports, make decisions, discuss upcoming events, and conduct any other necessary business.
1. Meetings of the Officers' Council will be chaired by the Provincial Seneschal, their deputy, or another person designated by the Seneschal.
 2. Provincial Commons Meetings serve as public meetings of the Officers' Council.
 3. An agenda for the next meeting should be made available in advance of the meeting by the Seneschal or another person they designate.
 4. Meetings shall be made accessible via telephone or video conference when possible to allow the participation of those unable to attend in person.
 5. Written records of all meetings and any decisions made therein (the "Minutes") shall be made available to all Officers and the Populace within no more than twenty-eight days.
- F. Special Meetings may be called when the Officers' Council needs to gather in private or at a time that no Commons Meeting has been scheduled.
1. Special Meetings may be called by either the Seneschal or a Viceregent.
 2. If three members of the Officers' Council petition the Seneschal in writing, the Seneschal will schedule a Special Meeting within the next forty-five days.
 3. Advance notice must be provided to all Provincial Officers at least fourteen days before any Special Meeting.
 4. Special Meetings will be open only to members of the Officers' Council, unless otherwise agreed to by a majority vote of the Council.
 5. Individuals who are not on the Officers' Council may be invited to attend and participate in all or part of a Special Meeting by a Viceregent, Seneschal, or by three members of the Officers' Council.

VII. COMMONS MEETINGS

- A. The Province will hold public gatherings known as "Commons Meetings" on a regular basis to facilitate meetings of the Officers' Council and gatherings of the Populace.

- B. Commons Meetings are open to the Populace, and may include time set aside for informal conversation and other activities in addition to a formal meeting.
- C. Commons Meetings are usually held on the third Friday of each calendar month.
 - 1. A Commons Meeting may be rescheduled by the Seneschal if needed to avoid conflict with holidays or other activities.
 - 2. The Commons Meeting for a given month may be canceled by the Seneschal due to officer availability or other issues, as long as at least one meeting is held in every calendar quarter.
- D. Commons Meetings will rotate through various locations from month to month, and should include sites in each Canton and in the non-Canton areas of the Province on a regular basis to facilitate attendance by the Populace from all parts of the Province.

VIII. BORDA COUNT

- A. When a voice vote or show of hands is insufficient to determine agreement, or when a secret ballot is required, the Province will use the Borda Count mechanism of ranked-choice voting described below.
- B. The polling announcement or paper ballots will ask voters to unambiguously rank the choices from “most preferred” to “least preferred.”
- C. Each ballot returned by an eligible voter will be tallied to allocate points to the choices in the order in which they were ranked, with the top-ranked choice receiving as many points as the number of choices ranked on that ballot, and each subsequent lower-ranked choice receiving one point less than the choice before it.
- D. After all votes have been tallied, the choices will be ordered by the points each received, with the one receiving the highest score being the winner.
- E. In the case of a tie, the Provincial Seneschal’s preference between the tied choices will determine the winner.

IX. ORDERS AND AWARDS

- A. The Orders and Awards set forth below may be granted by the Viceregents at their discretion, based on their judgement and on the feedback of the Populace. The Populace are encouraged to contact the Viceregents to nominate others worthy of these awards.
- B. The Order of the Seahorse is granted to members of the Populace or other supporters of the Province who have served Østgarðr or who have distinguished themselves in the arts and sciences.
- C. The Order of the Sea Dog is granted to members of the Populace for service at the Canton level.

- D. The Order of the Silver Sea-Lion is granted to members of the Populace who both excel in the martial arts and also provide leadership and training in these areas.
- E. The Order of the Silver Lantern is granted to members of the Populace who both excel in the arts and sciences and also help to spread that knowledge to others.
- F. The Order of the Sea-Urchin is granted to members of the Populace under the age of eighteen who have distinguished themselves in service, arts and sciences, combat, or other areas of the Province's activities.
- G. The Award of the Sea Star is bestowed upon individuals who have, on a particular occasion, served the Province well and "made things happen." It may be given more than once.

X. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

- A. The Province will hold contests on an annual basis to determine the provincial champion in the following categories:
 - 1. Armored Combat
 - 2. Fencing
 - 3. Archery
 - 4. Thrown Weapons
 - 5. Arts and Sciences
 - 6. Bardic
 - 7. Youth Combat
- B. Each Provincial Champion will serve for one year in the Viceregents' guard and is expected to assist in organizing the championship to select their successor.
- C. The Viceregents reserve the right to deny any competitor admittance to the championship contest.

XI. EVENTS AND DEMOS

- A. The Province sponsors events for the Populace and their guests, and demos which are open to the public.
- B. The Provincial Seneschal shall maintain a calendar of upcoming events and demos in and around the Province.
 - 1. Every event or demo to be sponsored by the Province (a "Provincial event") must have the approval of the Provincial Seneschal.
 - 2. The Provincial Seneschal shall notify the Provincial Chatelaine of all upcoming public demos.

3. The Provincial Seneschal shall generally avoid approving multiple events or demos within the Province on the same day, unless in their judgement the events do not conflict with each other.
 4. The Provincial Seneschal shall consult with other members of the Provincial Officers' Council before approving a bid for a Kingdom-level event.
- C. The Provincial Seneschal will coordinate with other branches to ensure events and demos are scheduled appropriately.
1. If the Province wishes to sponsor an event or demo outside of its territory, the Provincial Seneschal or Viceregents will seek the agreement of the group within whose territory the site lies.
 2. Any Canton which wishes to sponsor an event or demo within the territory of the Province must have the approval of the Provincial Seneschal, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.
 3. Any other Kingdom branch which wishes to sponsor an event or demo at a site within the territory of the Province should contact the Provincial Seneschal, who shall be the sole Officer authorized to issue an approval.
- D. Each Provincial event must have a designated Event Steward (sometimes informally called an "autocrat") who is responsible for coordinating it.
1. Events may have two co-Stewards.
 2. First-time Event Stewards are strongly encouraged to have an experienced co-Steward.
 3. Event Stewards must be eligible to serve as an Officer of the Province.
 4. Event Stewards are considered temporary Officers of the Province from the date their event is approved through the date of the event and the conclusion of any subsequent business related to it, including the filing of all required reports.
- E. Any invitations to Royalty to attend an event within the territory of the Province must be made by the Viceregents. Event Stewards for such events are responsible for working with the Viceregents to determine the details of the visit and the wording of the invitation.
- F. Anyone proposing a Provincial event should prepare an Event Bid document setting forth the details of the event. The Bid should contain an estimated budget including the following:
1. The price of attendance and any other fees to be charged;
 2. Estimated number of attendees in each fee category;

3. Other sources of income (e.g. raffles, auctions, donations, etc.);
 4. Total expected income (calculated from the above);
 5. Fixed costs (e.g. site fee, equipment rental, tourney prizes, etc.);
 6. Variable costs (e.g. food);
 7. Contingency fund for last-minute unexpected expenses (as a rule of thumb, this is often about ten percent of the total known expenses);
 8. Total expected expenses (calculated from the above); and
 9. Net income/loss (i.e. expected income minus expected expenses).
- G. Expenses related to a Provincial event will normally be committed or disbursed only after the Event Bid has been approved by the Seneschal and the event budget has been approved by the Finance Committee.
- However, the Finance Committee can authorize such expenditures, and will typically do so for event-specific insurance, refundable site deposits necessary to reserve a date, and other time-sensitive expenses related to the event.
- H. Between ten and fifteen days before a Provincial event, the Event Steward must provide the Finance Committee with a revised budget proposal reflecting the following:
1. Pre-registrations received to date in each category;
 2. Projected future registrations in each category; and
 3. Anything that has changed from the original bid.
- I. After receipt of the revised budget proposal, the Finance Committee may modify the event budget as it deems necessary.
1. If the Finance Committee does not provide the Event Steward with a modified event budget within three days of receipt of the revised budget proposal, the original budget remains in force.
 2. After receiving a modified event budget from the Finance Committee, the Event Steward may ask the Finance Committee for an additional budget modification in response to last-minute changes that may affect the budget; if the Finance Committee does not modify the budget within three days of receipt of the request, the most recently approved budget remains in force.
- J. Event Stewards are authorized to make expenditures on behalf of the Province as set forth in the approved budget, and are to be reimbursed for those expenses promptly following the completion of the event.

1. Expenses significantly above those set forth in the approved budget must be authorized in advance by the Finance Committee or Officers' Committee.
 2. The Province is not required to reimburse Event Stewards for unauthorized spending above that set forth in the approved budget, but may choose to do so if the Finance Committee decides it was appropriate.
- K. Event Stewards must maintain adequate records to account for all funds received and expended.
- L. Within fifteen days of the end of a Provincial event, or an event sponsored by a group whose funds are held in trust by the Province, the Event Steward will ensure that all cash and checks received must be turned over to the Provincial Exchequer, or to a designated representative who shall make that deposit and provide a copy or image of the bank-verified deposit slip to the Provincial Exchequer within fifteen days of the deposit.
- M. Within ten days of the end of a Provincial event, or an event sponsored by a group whose funds are held in trust by the Province, the Event Steward will report to the Provincial Exchequer the amount of Non-Member Surcharge fees collected, and the Provincial Exchequer will forward the required report and payment due to the designated Kingdom representative.
- N. Within three weeks of the end of a Provincial event, the Event Steward shall present to the Provincial Exchequer a financial report for the event in the form specified by the Society.
1. The financial report for the event must accurately reflect all event-related income, expenses, reimbursement requests, Non-Member Surcharge fees collected and disbursed, and any profit share distributed to the Kingdom.
 2. It is the responsibility of the Event Steward and the Provincial Exchequer to work together, including others as needed, to ensure that all event reports required by Kingdom are properly filed within thirty days.
- O. The Event Steward shall ensure that any required waivers are collected at the event and submitted to the Provincial Seneschal, who shall forward them to the Kingdom Waiver Secretary or their designated representative.

XII. INFORMAL ACTIVITIES

- A. The Province organizes informal activities for the Populace and their guests. Informal activities may include social gatherings, classes and workshops in the arts and sciences, martial practices, and other types of undertakings.
- B. Activities other than events and demos may be organized by any Officer and do not require advance approval by the Officers' Council.

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