



Living History Exhibit (LHE) Regulations

Version 1.0

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Introduction

The responsibilities of the Living History Co-ordinator, as defined by the Code of Law (2Bvd):

“He shall have final responsibility for the image presented by the LHE and for ensuring, as far as is possible, the authentic portrayal of life at public displays involving the LHE. All members of the Society shall fall under his jurisdiction (within the CoL) whilst they are within the bounds of the LHE. He shall work closely with the AO in this regard, and may amend but not lessen the force of the rulings of the AO in these matters.”

Aims and Objectives

The Regia Anglorum Living History Exhibit exists to represent and demonstrate to the public snapshots of daily life, activities and crafts from the society's period of interest.

It educates the public and trains its members. As a result, it will necessarily change and grow, and these regulations will therefore be reviewed annually.

The aims and objectives of the society with respect to living history are continuously to improve the quality of the exhibit, and thus enhance the reputation of Regia Anglorum in the field of Historical Re-enactment.

The regulations are written with this in mind.

Regulations

1. Structures

- i. The LHE consists of a number of authentic tents, work shelters and fire covers. These are used as a 'vehicle' to display daily life, activities and crafts of Regia's period.
- ii. Tents will be of an authentic design for Regia's period (but can be side-opening for the purpose of displaying their contents).
- iii. Tents will be open throughout public hours and must be appropriately dressed. For those wics with a number of tents, with the agreement of the LHE Coordinator, one tent may be kept closed as a storage tent.
- iv. Workshelters/firecovers have no authentic model. They should be of a simple design so as not to detract from the overall site image. It is the contents that should stand out for public scrutiny.

2. Roping off

- i. The LHE must have a physical barrier between the exhibits and the public, which should be placed in such a way as to
 - a) Enclose all obstacles such as guy ropes & pegs.
 - b) Place all moveable items of LHE equipment beyond arms length of the public.
- ii. Each wic must provide its own ropes and pins/stakes (or other acceptable barrier) sufficient to seal off both the front and rear of their exhibit.
- iii. Where possible the LHEC should arrange to have the LHE roped off by the client, with two entrances. This will enable the LHE to be sealed off to the public when closed.

3. Fires

- i. Many sites are archaeologically sensitive and firepits are not allowed. In these cases fires must be in a container and raised above the ground. Fireboxes and altar fires are both acceptable.
- ii. Members should check permissible constructional materials/techniques with the LHEC before committing money to their fire containers.
- iii. There must be a container of water next to them and a fire extinguisher nearby.
- iv. Fires must always be attended.
- v. **An unattended fire may be extinguished by the LHEC or deputy**

4. Conduct on the LHE

- i. The LHE is open to the public throughout the day.
- ii. Occupants must be operational from 30 mins before opening time. During this period the LHEC and deputies will inspect to make sure that everything and everybody is authentic and there are no anachronisms.
- iii. All tents, unless specifically authorized to be closed, must be open and appropriately dressed.
- iv. Those people talking to the public must be competent to do so. If they are not able to answer a question they should be able to indicate someone who is. Regia must not misinform the public.
- v. Members of Regia on the LHE should be aware of and ready to engage with the public at all times. Members should take care not to exclude the public, either physically (eg by forming closed circles) or verbally (eg by discussing last night's TV amongst themselves).
- vi. Although the LHE is open all day, it does not mean that everyone is to be there throughout. Most wics have sufficient people to enable some to have time off during the day.
- vii. Only members of Regia *in full kit* may be within the roped-off areas of the LHE during public hours.
- viii. Children on the LHE are the sole responsibility of their parents/guardians
- ix. Foul language is not acceptable
- x. Smoking and the consumption of alcohol are not permitted anywhere within the confines of the LHE during public hours.
- xi. Any person not complying with these regulations shall be required to leave the LHE.**

5. Food on the LHE

- i. Those wics who cook on site must use authentic equipment and should ensure as far as is reasonable that only authentic foods are used (eg modern carrots are acceptable, tomatoes are not). If in doubt refer to LHEC or deputy.
- ii. Any food on site during public hours must appear to be authentic and carried in or eaten from authentic containers.
- iii. Members must ensure that the public do not have access to foodstuffs *with or without permission*, as Regia is neither equipped nor insured for food supply to non-members.

6. Clothing on the LHE

- i. All clothing is to be correct for the dateline of the show, appropriate to the task or activity in hand and may be checked by the AO and deputies.
- ii. All clothing is to be “finished” - ie all hems, cuffs, and necklines sewn correctly. Any embroidery must be complete (not ending halfway round)
- iii. No mixture of modern and authentic clothing is acceptable whilst on duty.
- iv. LHE personnel necessarily come under close public scrutiny. Under these conditions the convincing portrayal of the opposite gender would seem to be virtually impossible and is therefore not encouraged. Should an individual find it necessary to portray a member of the opposite gender the following minimum standards will be rigorously applied:
 - a) Legs, arms & hair must be fully covered.
 - b) Gender-specific characteristics must be adequately disguised.
 - c) The role must be maintained consistently whilst on the LHE.
- v. **Any person not complying with these regulations shall be required to leave the LHE**

7. Demonstrations & Displays

- i. All demonstrations & displays must feature only authentic tools and materials.
- ii. Demonstrators must be prepared to talk about their craft/display to the public.
- iii. They must know the provenance of the crafts and equipment they demonstrate.
- iv. Subject to the permission of the LHEC and the cognizance of the Merchandizing Officer, demonstrators may sell authentic items they have made, but no signs or labels may be on show.
- v. All relevant safety precautions appertaining to their craft/display must be taken.

8. Weapons and Armour

- i. Only full, adult, competent members may act in an interpretive role in respect of weapons handling.
- ii. An armoury must be sufficiently well staffed to ensure the safety of the exhibit and the public.
- iii. It must be the personal decision of the individual interpreter whether or not to allow a particular member of the public to handle wargear.
- iv. Members of the public handling weapons and armour must do so at a designated armoury area. Children should be supervised by a parent or guardian.
- v. Weapons and armour must never be left unattended.
- vi. An armoury is a display, not a weapons store. Individuals must store their combat equipment safely, out of reach of the public, and without obstructing the exhibits.
- vii. Competent females, with sufficiently high ranking female kit may discuss arms and armour with the public at an armoury.
- viii. **The LHEC will consult whenever necessary with the MAA and MTO with regard to weapons and armour on the LHE**

9. Wic Areas and Leaders

- i. Each wic shall have a Wic Leader who is responsible to the LHEC for all aspects of his/her wic for the duration of the show, including set-up and pack.
- ii. The name of the Wic leader shall be notified to the LHEC.
- iii. Wics must never be left unattended
- iv. Fires must never be unattended
- v. Knives, tools etc. must never be left unattended or within reach of the public.
- vi. Potentially dangerous activities such as wood-chopping are to take place only in designated areas approved by the LHEC.
- vii. Wic areas must be left clean and tidy at the end of the show.
- viii. Animals may only be brought onto the LHE subject to the Livestock Regulations.

10. Curfew

- i. Due to the hours kept by the LHE and the early start necessary to ensure a smooth beginning to the day, from midnight to seven am are designated quiet hours.
- ii. Anyone disturbing the peace during these hours may be asked to leave the site.

Appendix - Introduction to the Living History Exhibit & Site

The Living History Exhibit exists to represent and demonstrate to the public snapshots of daily life, activities and crafts from Regia's period of interest.

It is open to the public all day and any member of Regia in kit must consider him/herself to be on duty while within its boundaries.

From 30 minutes before opening time until close all aspects of the LHE must be authentic and accurate.

Who Can Take Part?

Any competent member of Regia who is willing to abide by the site regulations, meet the authenticity standards necessary for close public scrutiny, and who is willing to take an active part when on site.

How it Works

The LHE is organized in "Wics" (an Old English word meaning a dwelling place, a lodging, habitation, camp, castle or house).

A wic may be one or more groups organized to share cooking and other daily tasks in order to free members to demonstrate crafts/talk to the public.

Individuals wishing to join the LHE may be attached to established Wics, either by personal negotiation or through the LHE Co-ordinator.

What a Wic Needs

Named Wic leader for the event

Shelter	Cooking utensils	Axe
Firebox	Storage containers for food	Water Containers
Table	Seating	First Aid Kit

Fire extinguisher(s)

What each member needs

Appropriate soft kit for dateline, ethnic background, geographical area of the show etc. and the task they plan to undertake, regardless of their normal group status.

Eating and drinking utensils and Authentic containers

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Other documents available (or available soon):

Code of Law
National Battlefield and Military Training Policy
Master at Arms Regulations
Health and Safety Guidance
Authenticity Guidance
New Members Handbook
Prospective Members Handbook
Press Releases

For further information please contact: cynewulf@ntlworld.com

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