



ARA Safety Principles November 2012

Introduction

The *ARA Safety Principles* have been compiled for the safe conduct of member activities as outlined in the ARA Constitution and amendments.

These general principles of safety must be followed at any event or activity organised or undertaken by a Member, or a Member's Affiliated Group (MAG).

These *ARA Safety Principles*:

- Are not just for events or activities involving the use or display of swords, firearms or other weapons.
- Are not restricted by the nature of the event (private or public, display or skirmish etc.)

In general, these principles cover every living history or historical re-enactment activity ARA Members undertake. The ARA acknowledges that all events vary in form and nature. However member Members must adhere to the following principles in order to minimise any risk of injury during a member activity, to maximise safe conduct, and to ensure continued public liability insurance coverage for our members.

The related ARA Safety Documents are available to Members for assistance in interpreting and meeting the requirements of the following principles.

About the documents

- **Safety Principles:** This document which outlines the high level principles that govern all activities or events. Members must comply with all the safety principles at all times.
- **Safety Briefs** are short documents listing the safety considerations that must be taken in to account in any activity or event. All Members must follow the safety documents that are relevant to their activity or event. For example, a Dark Age event will not need to take the firearms safety brief in to account.
- **Good Practices** are larger documents that draw from the experience of re-enactment Members worldwide, modified to fit Australian legislative requirements and provide examples of safe use and templates for things like evidence of competency in weapon use. Using these documents will save Members a lot of time in developing their own. Members are expected to follow good practice or have their own documented process that at least meets the minimum requirements of good practice.

Definitions

In these documents:

- The word **must** indicates a mandatory rule. Members must follow mandatory rules.
- The word **should** indicates an advisory rule. Members must follow an advisory rule or have their own rule or risk management step in place to address the risk.
- The word **may** indicates an optional guideline. Members may observe an optional guideline.
- The word **Member** means a person who has been accepted for Ordinary or Guest membership in the ARA
- The words **Members Affiliated Group (MAG)** or **Affiliated Group** means any formal or informal group of people that an ARA Member undertakes or shares ARA activities with.
 - Any reference to such a group also includes a reference to independent ARA members.

ARA Safety Principles

1. **Legislative Compliance:** ARA members are required to fully comply with any legislative instrument governing the use of weapons or the undertaking of historical re-enactment applicable in the relevant state or territory.
1. **Safe Conduct:** No individual shall deliberately or intentionally aim to injure or harm another individual.
2. **Storage and Security:** All weapons, including imitations, reproductions, prohibited and non-prohibited, and all types of weapons including swords, firearms, etc., are to be safely secured at all times, including when travelling to and from events and during events. Members incorporating weapons in 'touch and feel' type displays must have appropriate risk mitigation strategies in place.
3. **Display Boundaries:** All displays of any type shall have clearly defined public areas with safety boundaries. These boundaries are to be regularly checked and, where a potentially unsafe situation may occur, or where prohibited or restricted weapons are on display, are to be constantly monitored.
4. **Events/Activity:** All participants in any group sanctioned event or activity (such as, but not restricted to combat or weapon firing/use) shall hold all current relevant government permits, licenses or other forms of compliance necessary for the undertaking in public or private of such event or activity. The record or evidence of such compliance will be provided on request to the ARA or any relevant authority.
5. **Competency:** All members of member Members are to be competent in any approved activity undertaken. The record or evidence of such competency will be provided on request to the ARA or any relevant authority by the member group.
6. **Contingency:** Medical and emergency contingency procedures are to be maintained and regularly reviewed, with evidence of such review available on request. A risk assessment is to be completed for each event or activity, clearly identifying contingency responses.
7. **Safety Control:** A 'Safety Officer' will be appointed at every event/activity. The Safety Officer will be responsible for overall event/activity safety and specifically for monitoring weapons safety procedures (particularly firearms). They shall be an experienced participant, authorised to halt any activities they judge unsafe or non-compliant with these principles or any relevant legislation. Safety officers may nominate deputies.
8. **Events Notifications:** Adequate and proper notification is to be made to any relevant Authority for any applicable event (i.e. use of Historical Re-enactment Permits or Populous Place Permits for firearms).
9. **General Safety:** A risk analysis for all events/activities is to be undertaken. This is to highlight specific risk hazards such as fire, tent ropes, ground conditions, vehicle movements, security, drugs and alcohol or similar hazards or activities and determine relevant responses.