

# Charter of the Whidbey Swordplay Association

## Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the **Whidbey Swordplay Association** (WSA).

## Article II: Mission Statement

The Whidbey Swordplay Association is dedicated to the study, practice, and promotion of historical and modern European martial arts. Our mission is to foster a community of enthusiasts who appreciate the art, history, and discipline of swordsmanship, polearms, and other martial weapons, while ensuring a safe and respectful environment for all participants.

## Article III: Objectives

1. **Education:** To provide structured training sessions and workshops in various forms of swordplay, including but not limited to historical European martial arts (HEMA) and modern fencing techniques.
2. **Community Engagement:** To build a supportive community through events, competitions, and social gatherings that promote camaraderie and mutual respect.
3. **Safety and Respect:** To uphold high standards of safety and sportsmanship in all practices and events, ensuring a welcoming atmosphere for all members.
4. **Historical Appreciation:** To study and celebrate the rich history of swordsmanship and its cultural significance.
5. **Skill Development:** To help members improve their skills, knowledge, and confidence in martial weapons and combat through regular practice and mentorship.

## **Article IV: Membership**

1. **Eligibility:** Membership is open to individuals of all skill levels, ages, and backgrounds who have an interest in swordplay and martial combat.
2. **Dues:** Members shall pay annual dues, the amount of which shall be determined by the Executive Committee and reviewed annually.
3. **Rights and Responsibilities:** Members are expected to adhere to the principles of safety, respect, and good sportsmanship. They have the right to participate in all association activities and to request a vote on association matters.

## **Article V: Governance**

1. **Executive Committee:** The association shall be governed by an Executive Committee consisting of:
  - Head Instructor
  - First Instructor
  - Second Instructor
  - Third Instructor
2. **Meetings:** The Executive Committee shall meet monthly to discuss association matters, and a general membership meeting will be held quarterly to provide updates and gather input from members.

## **Article VI: Activities**

1. **Training Sessions:** Regular training sessions shall be held to develop skills in swordplay.
2. **Workshops and Seminars:** Special events featuring guest instructors and experts in swordsmanship and other martial weapons shall be organized periodically.

3. **Competitions:** The association may host friendly competitions to promote skill development and camaraderie among members.
4. **Social Events:** Social gatherings shall be organized to strengthen community bonds and celebrate achievements.

### **Article VII: Amendments**

This charter may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a general membership meeting. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

### **Article VIII: Dissolution**

In the event that the Whidbey Swordplay Association must be dissolved, any remaining assets after settling debts shall be donated to a local charity or organization that aligns with the mission and values of the association.

---

**Adoption of Charter:** This charter was adopted by the founding member of the Whidbey Swordplay Association on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

**Signature:**

Ryan Vogt

01/01/2024

