



Values and Standards

Introduction

The reputation of [THE RMRS](#) will frequently be judged by how event sponsors and the general public perceive the attitude, behaviour and conduct of the members of the Society. It is therefore important that a balance is reached ensuring the highest possible standards are maintained while providing a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere enjoyable for all. It follows that all members of [THE RMRS](#) shall be equally responsible for achieving the Society's standards.

The aim shall be to establish a philosophy for [THE RMRS](#)' activities in a manner agreeable to all members, guests and, where appropriate, members of the general public. Circumstances will always vary (e.g. financial constraints, number of members, locations, etc.) and so what may appear an acceptable practice one day may seem to be irritating and unnecessary on another. It is therefore expected that common sense, good manners and the Society's customs will prevail when interpreting the standards and behaviour established here.

General Standards of Accuracy

Equipment. The equipment used by [THE RMRS](#) shall be classified as either:

“Personal Equipment” owned, manufactured, held by and/or used by a single person, or

“Society Equipment” owned, manufactured and/or intended for the collective use of all members of [THE RMRS](#) .

“Society Equipment” may be stored centrally and/or issued to individuals for their safe-keeping as required. Such equipment may be purchased from the Society for a value agreed between the individual and [THE RMRS](#) Treasurer, who shall co-ordinate such transactions and collect payment.

In order to achieve the highest standards of accuracy, the design and materials used in the manufacture of any reproduction equipment shall be subject to the approval of [THE RMRS](#) Committee, or a body delegated for this purpose. This shall apply to items of privately owned equipment intended for use at any re-enactment, military display, Living History event or film work involving the participation of [THE RMRS](#) or its good name. While many members of the Society manufacture reproduction equipment, [THE RMRS](#) shall not be the exclusive supplier of such items. Outside sources may be used but the equipment purchased should conform to the standards set by the Society before being used during a public display.

Dress Standards. Members of [THE RMRS](#) shall only adopt those standards of dress appropriate to the Aims of the Society. Specifically, this shall be taken as portraying accurate reproductions of Roman military and civilian dress subject to the limits of up-to-date research and current knowledge. Such dress should be appropriate to the occasion. More generally, dress standards should not cause offence to other members of the Society or members of the public nor should it contravene UK legislation (i.e. the Public Decency Act).

Reproduction clothing and equipment must be as accurate as possible. Exposed stitching must be done by hand, but fabric need not be hand-woven or dyed with period dyes. Weapons, armour and other equipment need not be hand-forged. Iron, mild steel, bronze or brass are all perfectly acceptable, but stainless steel is forbidden.

In cold or wet weather, non-period clothing may be worn providing it is beneath period clothing and not readily visible. This clause is mainly intended for new members who lack sufficient period clothing to keep them as warm and dry as practicable.

Personal Adornment. The wearing of jewellery, body piercing, tattoos and other forms of personal adornment should conform to the standards at paragraph 3.3 above. Ideally, no modern effects should be worn; the only exception being wedding bands/rings since it can be argued that this practice is contemporary with the Roman period.

Personal Standards and Behaviour

Smoking. THE RMRS does not support a “no smoking” policy. In the interests of historical accuracy, however, tobacco products and thus smoking were not known in the Roman world. Individuals are therefore not to smoke tobacco products while portraying military or civilian life and while dressed as “Romans”. Smokers should make every effort to conceal smoking from plain sight by finding a location away from publicly accessible areas. All cigarette butts and other smoking related litter is to be disposed of either in receptacles provided for refuse or taken with the smoker. Extreme care is to be taken when disposing of lit or recently extinguished cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc. to avoid setting fires. In the interests of health and safety (i.e. fire prevention), smokers are to comply with any “no smoking” by-laws, instructions, rules or guidelines required by event sponsors or organisers.

Mobile Telephones. The use of mobile telephones should be avoided while portraying military and civilian life and dressed as “Romans”. During displays, mobile telephones should ideally be switched off or, where this is impractical, set to silent or vibrate mode.

Photography. The use of cameras should be avoided while portraying military and civilian life and dressed as “Romans”. At events, photography for our own purposes (PR, personal record, etc.) should take place after the public have left. Permission should be sought from the event sponsor to photograph our displays at other times and even then consideration should be given to adopting modern dress while doing so.

Misconduct. Serious misconduct or a breach of THE RMRS’ Constitution or its standards of behaviour shall be considered at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) convened for that purpose. The member(s) in question shall be invited to attend the EGM. The Society reserves the right to terminate membership and recover any money owed or Society property from said person(s).

Standards and Behaviour at Events

“Military Discipline”. It will be necessary for every soldier to give unhesitating and unquestioning obedience while representing a Roman army unit before the public. A high standard of military discipline, drill and showmanship must be maintained at all times when representing THE RMRS, especially while in “kit”. The standards are set deliberately high both in behaviour and equipment for legionaries and auxilia to create and maintain the illusion of Roman military life.

Living History Display. The positioning of both the military and civilian Living History displays shall be agreed with the event organiser/sponsor before being pitched. Deviations to the agreed layout shall be subject to negotiation between THE RMRS and the event organiser. The following practices shall apply:

Tents. Tents shall be contemporary with the period portrayed, constructed from leather or canvas over wooden supports.

Pegs. Wooden pegs shall be used for “authentic” tents. Ideally, these shall not penetrate more than 150mm (6 inches) below ground level to avoid damaging the site or underlying archaeology. Making large holes should be avoided, with any divots replaced and damage repaired wherever possible.

Use of Walls, Battlements or Structures. The Society’s shall always seek to preserve the archaeology on any site. Nothing, therefore, shall be fixed to the fabric of existing buildings, walls, battlements, etc. Flags or hangings must be attached to free standing structures.

Setting up and breaking camp. Access to a site shall be agreed with the event organiser/sponsor before the event. Setting up and breaking camp may be in modern dress but timings are usually strictly controlled. All members shall be “in kit”, i.e. dressed in accordance with the standard described above, before the event is open to the public. Our historical impression shall be maintained until the site or event closes daily to the public whereupon members may bring on site whatever bedding, food or other items (period or modern) they require (vehicles may or may not be permitted on site depending on the agreed terms). Member may dress, eat, sleep, etc. as they require while mindful that they still represent THE RMRS and should refrain from any activity that is unsafe and/or harmful to the Society’s reputation.

Barriers and Cords. Rope cordons supported by palisade stakes are to surround the military encampment and the cooking demonstration tent, also known as the “*Popina*” or “*Thermopolium*”, for the health and safety of visitors. Members of THE RMRS are to maintain a physical presence within these areas to ensure no visitor crosses the cordon. To avoid misunderstandings while the event is open to the public, members of THE RMRS should avoid entering cordoned areas if they are in modern dress.

Arenas. Arenas must be large enough for the activity (e.g. military drill/combat displays, displays involving horses and artillery/archery shoots). The position of the arena and arrangement of tape barriers shall be



agreed with the event organiser/sponsor before the activity commences. Arenas shall have double tape barriers, with a minimum gap of 2m, between the performers and the public. Where this is not achievable, an assessment of the risk is to be made and the activity tailored to meet health and safety requirements. No children (under 16s) or non-members are allowed into the arena unless part of a carefully scripted display. The event organiser/sponsor shall be informed of any such planned activity before the event. Furthermore, when working alongside other groups, no member of [THE RMRS](#) shall enter a shared arena during another's display unless previously invited to do so as part of a joint display or individual permission has been obtained.

Interacting with Visitors. Members of [THE RMRS](#) shall be courteous and considerate to all visitors. In accordance with the Society's Aims, educating visitors is paramount and thus answering questions must be truthful and the information accurate. Requests for help and assistance are to be dealt with professionally but in accordance with any guidelines established by the Event Sponsor. Visitors shall not be allowed to handle any projectile weapon, i.e. spears, javelins (*pila*), bows/arrows or artillery pieces. Hand held weapons, e.g. swords or daggers, may be handled by visitors providing they are under the closest supervision and control of the weapon is maintained by a member of [THE RMRS](#).

Open Fires. Fire pits are not to be dug at any site; our fires shall be set in the freestanding fireboxes specifically for that purpose. As these are raised approximately 125mm (5 inches) above ground level, damage to the site should be minimal. Care should still be taken not to scorch the grass beneath the firebox through heat transference. After use, burning embers, etc. are to be left to completely cool or be quenched with water. The resultant ash or debris shall be disposed as directed by the event organiser/sponsor.

FIRES ARE NEVER TO BE LEFT UNATTENDED

Food. While in the presence of visitors, members of [THE RMRS](#) should routinely avoid consuming modern foods inconsistent with period being displayed, e.g. sandwiches, sweets, ice cream, coffee, etc. (this list is not exhaustive). Modern foodstuffs used in the cooking demonstration are to be dispensed into period containers wherever possible or concealed from public sight, either beneath covers or in the small tent provided (nicknamed "the Bistro").

Alcohol and Illegal Drugs. The consumption of alcohol while the event or site is open to visitors is forbidden. Any member of [THE RMRS](#) found to be consuming intoxicating substances or returning to the site in a drunken or impaired state will be removed from the site. Likewise, the possession or taking of illegal drugs by members of [THE RMRS](#) will not be tolerated. Anyone found in possession or suspected of being under the influence of illegal drugs will be removed from the site.

First Aid. First Aid kits of sufficient size to treat most minor injuries will be discreetly concealed in both the military (or "*Contubernium*") tent and the cooking demonstration tent (the "*Popina*"). While certain members of [THE RMRS](#) are qualified to give first aid, all should:

- Be familiar with the basic principles.
- Know the location of the closest first aid kit.
- Know how to contact any on-site medical staff or the emergency services.

Medical Issues. Medical alert tags should be worn at all times beneath period clothing.

Personal Effects. Any essential personal effects (e.g. money, car keys, medication, etc.) should be concealed in a period bag on the person or in a period container within the Living History display area.

Animals. Domestic pets (i.e. cats, dogs, etc.) shall not normally be involved in the activities of [THE RMRS](#). Routinely, therefore, such animals should not be brought to events unless the welfare of said animals would be adversely affected. Prior permission may be required at certain venues, in particular overnight accommodation, from the event sponsor or organiser. The onus shall be on the animal owner to check such requirements, through [THE RMRS](#) Event Co-ordinator in the first instance, and make suitable arrangements. In the interests of health and safety owners shall comply with any by-laws, instructions, rules or guidelines required by the event organiser/sponsor.

Miscellaneous

E-mail. The use of e-mail brings many benefits including the improved flow of information, convenience of use and lowering costs. There are, however, certain risks attached to e-mail use such as misinterpretation of the content as such messages are often impersonal, and the increased risk of litigation (especially for libel). Members should check their mailboxes frequently. However, members should avoid sending unnecessary e-mails, using, for example, the "Reply to All" facility, as these are generally wasteful, sometimes intrusive and may be



annoying to recipients. The content and relevance of any e-mail should always be considered before sending:

- Avoid making offensive comments about another person.
- Never put something in an email that you would not wish to become public.
- Avoid using uppercase as this can be interpreted as shouting.

Defamation Act 1996. Members' should be aware of the Defamation Act 1996, especially in relation to e-mails, chat rooms, blogs and posting to [THE RMRS](#) website. A summary of the Act is as follows:

"In an action of defamation, the person who is the author or publisher, or who causes the publication of a defamatory statement, may be personally liable. Publications can be as simple as showing a defamatory statement made by one person about another to a third person. You must be aware that an action of defamation can result from an electronic communication or voicemail or a statement posted on the Internet."

