

Membership Regulations

Subscription

- 1/ There is an annual charge for membership of Gael Agus Gall.
This is designed to cover the cost of public liability insurance, and other items.
- 2/ The annual membership fees are to be set at the A.G.M.
The current fees are as follows:

Adults [18 years and over]:	€__
Students/Unwaged:	€__
Under 18 [with parent/guardian]:	€__
Under 5's:	Free
Family [any number]:	€__

The family membership covers one or two adults joining with one or more U18's.

- 3/ Membership is renewable on January 1st, and can be paid at the first meeting of the new year. Fees must be paid within the month of January to the current treasurer. You should receive a receipt for any monetary transaction. People joining after Hallowe'en (October 31st.) have the option of deferring their annual fee payments until the new year.

Requirements and Rules, including Shows

- 1/ Members can only take part in shows when they have met kit requirements. All members will be subject to an authenticity check before shows. The Authenticity Officer's decision is final. Be aware that you may be disallowed from participation in a show if any item of your kit fails inspection.
- 2/ The Basic Kit Requirements apply to all members and are as follows:

Tunic (Cotton acceptable, linen preferable)
Overtunic and/or brát (Must be of wool)
Trews (For men of appropriate rank. Must be of wool)
Leather shoes
A belt of wool or leather with appropriate buckle
A pin to fasten their brát
(please see additional kit guidelines available on request, or visit www.gaelagusgall.org)

- 3/ Members may carry a sharp knife in a leather sheath (and/or a small pair of snips), subject to authenticity and safety checks.
- 4/ All members should endeavour to develop one craft skill.
- 5/ Combat Requirements are as follows:

All combatants must be 18 and over
The first level of training will last as long as necessary in order to satisfy the Training Officer that a competent level of safety is being displayed.
Until a trainee has passed this level, they may only fight with spears of up to seven feet in length.
Trainee's spears must display a brightly-coloured pennant attached to the spearhead.
All spearheads must have a ball end (one-piece spearhead is preferable).
All combatants at public shows must have a shield with a shield boss.
At no stage must weapons be thrust into the ground.
All weapons/armour will be subject to a safety and authenticity check.

- 6/ Following sufficient training (at the discretion of the Training Officer), a combatant may use a short sword, hand axe or scramseax and spears up to eight feet long without pennant. A fully trained warrior will have use of the Dane axe and broadsword and spear up to nine feet long. (9' spears must have a brightly coloured pennant). Normally, this level of training would require a year's experience with weapons.

Women are encouraged to train and fight. They must make a reasonable attempt to dress as men for public shows. This is in keeping with our time frame, as we have no evidence of women in combat during the last centuries of the first millennium.

- 7/ All weapons and tools (including knives) are subject to routine checks before and after shows. These items are to be kept free of nicks, burrs and rust. Unsafe items will be removed from the site.
- 8/ There will be no selling of any items at public shows for personal profit, unless by prior agreement.

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Enrollment and Meetings

NB: AS STATED ON THE APPLICATION FORM, MEMBERS MUST BE 18 OR OVER, UNLESS JOINING WITH A PARENT OR GUARDIAN. UNDER 18'S ARE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

- 1/ A person's first official contact with Gael Agus Gall is considered to be at their first meeting. They will be asked to fill in an application form if one has not already been issued. No fees will be paid at this stage. The person is welcome to attend the next meeting and must return within six weeks (or nearest meeting after this time) with ONE item of soft kit finished. This item is to be one of the Basic Kit Requirements.
- 2/ If a prospective member meets the requirements (one item of soft kit and fees paid where applicable and have returned their application form), they will be issued with a membership card. They then have a further four months in order to complete the Basic Kit Requirements.
- 3/ Persons not attending 3 meetings in a row are considered not interested in further participation. They will be contacted once by a committee member for return of membership card (where necessary).
- 4/ There will be an Annual General Meeting during the month of January chiefly in order to elect a new committee and collect fees. The current committee positions are as follows:

Chairperson (in charge of meetings, bookings, shows, etc.)
Secretary (in charge of membership, forms, p.r. etc.)
Treasurer (in charge of fees, accounts, purchasing, funding etc.)
Authenticity Officer (in charge of inspections, sites, members etc.)
Training Officer (in charge of safety, first aid, training etc.)

- 5/ The group may at any stage wish to elect an officer to act as an assistant to any of the official positions. A member will be proposed, seconded and voted in in the normal fashion. The assistant position carries the same duties as the regular officer. In normal disputes regarding kit, the assistant Authenticity Officer has the casting vote.

If a dispute cannot be settled satisfactorily, the matter is raised at the next meeting. As is usual in proving a claim regarding kit of any kind, some form of documentary evidence is preferable.

- 6/ Ranking:

Members must join at lowest level in terms of social ranking. This means a basic kit requirement that is achievable in the time allowed. It represents the class of tenant farmer, small land holder, lesser tradesperson or paid foot soldier, etc.

Until a member has passed their first six months with the group, no further rise in rank is allowed. This gives the person time to build up the kit and knowledge essential to accurately portray their character at shows. Tests will include a character analysis and skills in weaving, spinning dyeing and combat where applicable. At all times, a member must match all items of their kit together with the relevant knowledge of their character according to the rank they are assuming.

- 7/ Members will be encouraged to focus on a skill in order that they may both demonstrate to the public and also barter amongst the group for other items.
- 8/ Regular breaches of rules will lead to members being barred from shows and possible dismissal from the group. This would be by a group vote and would require a majority of 2 to 1. At least two thirds of the group must be present.
- 9/ Regular meetings to discuss ongoing matters, give demonstrations etc. will take place monthly where possible. There may be a nominal charge to cover the hire of a suitable premises and to provide refreshments. Members will be notified of upcoming meetings in advance (i.e. at the current meeting), by email or by post.