

5.0 THE BARONAGE

5.1 The term of office of the Baron/Baroness is three (3) years, starting on the day of their investiture. Investiture shall take place at Pax Interruptus, unless unforeseen circumstances dictate otherwise.

[5.2 Vote of Confidence: At the September business meeting prior to the end of a Baronial term, the Seneschal will conduct an anonymous vote of confidence of the membership of the Barony concerning the Baron/Baroness continuing in office. Advice from the Baronial officers will be considered.]

- ***NEW 5.2. In June prior to the end of the Baronial term, the Seneschal shall conduct a Vote of Confidence, asking whether the current Baronage should continue in the office. This may be done by electronic means. The results will be confidential to the Seneschal and the Baronage. A Vote of Confidence will not be held in the final year of any term extension.***

[5.3 Term limits are one three-year term plus up to three extensions with the Baron/Baroness specifying either one or two years each time for a total of up to nine (9) years. However, the Baron and/or Baroness may step down at any other time as they desire (see Sections 5.5.4 and 5.5.5).]

5.3.1 Announcement of Intention: The current Baron/Baroness will announce their intention to continue in office for one or two years or step down at or before Baronial Court at Pennsic.

- ***New 5.3. Term limits are one three-year term plus a single one-year extension if desired. The Baronage may not serve a consecutive term beyond their first term. The Baronage may resign at any time they think proper. The Baronage shall state their desire to take the one-year extension or to step down at or before the Baronial Court at Pennsic***

5.4 The Baronial Selection Process

5.4.1 Procedure for Vote of Confidence

5.4.1.1 With a simple majority of the Barony membership in favor of their continuance, the Baron/Baroness may opt to continue in office.

5.4.1.2 With less than a simple majority in favor, the Baron/Baroness must step down at the end of their current term.

5.4.1.3 If the current Baron/Baroness chooses to step down with notice, they may retain their titles until the investiture of the new Baron/Baroness and participate in that investiture.

5.4.2 Nominations and the Nominating Process

[5.4.2.1 The nomination period for the Baronial succession will open at the October Social meeting following publication of Their Excellencies' intent to step down, and will remain open for a total of three consecutive meetings.]

New 5.4.2.1. The Nomination period for the Baronial Succession will open on 1 September and close on 31 October. Nominations may be made by electronic form or in person at a business meeting.

5.4.2.2 Anyone may nominate a candidate with their permission.

5.4.2.3 All nominees must be seconded.

5.4.2.4 All candidates must be at least 18 years of age and be paid members of the SCA.

5.4.2.5 All candidates must either accept or turn down the nomination in person or in a letter to the Seneschal.

5.4.2.6 At the end of the nominating period as defined in Section 5.4.2.1 the Seneschal will close the nominations and announce the list of candidates.

5.4.3 Voting Process

5.4.3.1 The Seneschal will send a ballot with the candidates listed to each paid member in the Barony who meet the Society and Kingdom minimum voting age. The ballot must also contain a vote on maintaining the status of the group as a Barony, a lateral change in group status to a Province, a downgrade in group status to a Shire, or dissolution of the group.

5.4.3.2 All ballots returned within 30 days of the mailing will be counted by the Seneschal and the Exchequer. Any ballots not returned on time will be considered abstentions.

5.4.3.3 If there are one or two nominations, then a straight ballot will be conducted with the voter selecting his or her favorite choice. The winner will be selected by a majority vote (at least 50% + 1) of ballots returned.

- If there are three or more nominees, then a weighted ballot will be used. The voter will rank the nominees in order of preference and the ballots will be counted in a weighted manner, as follows.
 - The first selection on each ballot will receive a point total equal to the number of nominees (i.e., if there are four nominees, the first choice will receive four points). The second selection will receive 1 point less than the first selection, and so on (i.e., in a four-nominee election, the 2nd choice will receive 3 points, the 3rd choice will receive 2 points, and the 4th choice will receive 1 point).
 - If a voter lists only one choice, then the other nominees will be considered to be equally ranked by the voter. (If a voter places nominee A as his first selection and either lists no other nominees, marks nominee A in all slots on his ballot, or does not rank all the other nominees, then the other nominees

will equally divide the remaining points for that ballot. For example, in a four-nominee election, if the voter marked nominee A as his selection, then nominee A would receive 4 points, and nominees B, C, and D would each receive 2 points (3 points for 2nd, 2 points for 3rd, and 1 point for 4th evenly divided).

- In an election involving three or more sets of candidates, if a candidate has more than 50% of the primary (first place) votes after the balloting, then that candidate will be declared the victor without using the weighted point allotment. Otherwise, the nominee receiving the highest number of points will be elected.

5.4.3.4 In the event of an exact tie the Crown shall cast the deciding vote, per Kingdom law.

[5.4.4 Appointment of Vicars

5.5.4.1 If the current Baron/Baroness must step down suddenly, the Seneschal must request that the Crown appoint a Vicar. The selection process will then begin as per Baronial Policy outlined in section 5.4]

As this is covered by Kingdom Law, I will move to strike this section of the policies.

5.5 Duties of the Baron and/or Baroness

- Hold the Barony in fealty to the Crown of Æthelmearc.
- Attend as many Baronial events as possible.
- Give Baronial awards. ☞ Make recommendations to the Crown and Heirs regarding Kingdom awards for members of the Barony.
- Be accessible to the members of the Barony.
- Handle issues of courtesy and interpersonal relationships within the Barony.
- Hold court as necessary; a court must traditionally be held at Pax Interruptus and at the College of Three Ravens [(the event formerly known as UWEKAT)].
- ***The last parenthetical is no longer needed.***
- Work closely with the Seneschal and other Baronial officers, seeking and giving advice as necessary.
- [Be members of the SCA and have access to Æstel and Fewmet.]
- ***This subsection is already covered under 5.4.2.4.***