

Rules and Regulations of Company F of the Fourth Virginia

Updated November 27, 2004

Article I

Introduction

1. Company F of the Fourth Virginia Infantry Regiment (The Grayson County Daredevils) is comprised of individuals interested in the history of the American Civil War. This interest extends, but is not limited, to accurate portrayals of military and civilian personnel, participation in period social events, and study and discussion of American history spanning the Nineteenth Century.
2. Membership includes both combatants as well as civilian re-enactors. Members strive to foster and encourage a family-oriented environment within the constraints of an accurate period impression.
3. The articles contained herein shall apply to all military members and the civilian members of Company F.
4. ALL members must join the Northwest Civil War Council (NCWC) in order to become a member of Company F. All members of Company F of the Fourth Virginia will recognize the Constitution, rules and by-laws of the NCWC as established by the elected Board of Directors and as amended from time to time. Should any conflict arise between these rules and regulations and NCWC rules, the latter takes precedence.
5. In keeping with the purpose and ongoing active role of Company F of the Fourth Virginia as a 19th Century military unit, all members in active roles as military personnel will at all times when "in persona" follow the orders and directions of (a) those of higher rank within the Company, (b) the Confederate Brigade Staff of the NCWC, and (c) higher-ranked members of other Confederate units.
6. All rounds fired by any Company F member at any event at which the member is representing Company F shall be only from the Company supply of rounds. The Captain and the Second Sergeant are responsible for powder acquisition, storage, rounds rolling, and supervision and inspection of rounds at each event.

Article II

Rank Structure

7. Definitions of Rank: For purposes of administration and efficiency the following definitions of rank apply in Company F: Possible "Commissioned Officers" for Company F of the Fourth Virginia include Captain, First Lieutenant and Second Lieutenant. Possible Non-Commissioned Officers include First Sergeant; Second Sergeant; First Corporal, Second Corporal and Company Clerk. Other ranks may be established on an as-needed basis, in compliance with NCWC rules, as determined by the Company F staff and members.
8. Apportionment of officers in Company F will conform to the rules of the NCWC. The acting Commanding Officer of Company F may propose adopting a more conservative rank structure than that allowed by the NCWC. The rank structure for the upcoming year will be established by current Company staff at either the last NCWC regular event of the year (typically the Ft. Steven's event) or following a post-event conference. Any changes to this structure to be implemented during the current campaign year (March through September) must (a) conform to NCWC rules or be more conservative than those rules; (b) must be endorsed by the Commanding Officer of Company F, and (c) must be approved by a majority vote of eligible combatants.
9. Promotions into the roles of Commissioned Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers will be determined by a vote of eligible combatants at an annual Staff Election. Rules of this election are as follows:
 - a Only non-probationary Combatants are eligible to vote;
 1. Any member seeking to serve as Commissioned Officer must be an active member of the NCWC and Company F, and must have paid both the NCWC dues and Company F dues. "Active" is defined as having attended and participated in at least half of the battle-events in each of the last two years prior to the election. Any member elected to a leadership position but who has not renewed his or her membership by April 1st forfeits any elected position.
 2. A candidate for a Commissioned Officer must have served as a Non-Commissioned Officer with Company F of the Fourth Virginia in the immediately preceding year and have a minimum two years' experience as an NCO in the NCWC.
 3. A candidate for a Non-Commissioned Officer rank must have been an active, paid combatant member of Company F in the immediately preceding year.
 4. All active, paid combatant members of Company F from the immediately preceding year are eligible candidates at the next Election Meeting. The current Company Staff may permit members to exclude themselves from election to certain rank(s).

5. All non-probationary combatants will be asked to cast ballots on or before the Annual Election Meeting, which will be scheduled at the discretion of the current Company F Staff, but usually no earlier than the last day of the NCWC's last regular camping event of the year (typically Ft. Stevens). No fewer than three non-combatant members chosen by agreement of the Presiding Officer at the Election Meeting and one non-officer combatant will count ballots.
6. The counted Ballots will be preserved until the following January 1st.
7. A formal protest of Election results must be made in writing by January 1 to the existing Company Commander. A recount will be made at the first Company meeting held in the new year.
8. In case of an election tie for Commissioned Officer, the Non-Commissioned Officers who served at the last NCWC event of the year will either vote to break the tie or choose to conduct a second "run-off" general election.
10. Vacancies that arise after the Election Meeting are filled via promotion. The elected Company Staff shall make such promotions by confidential majority vote. Such promotions remain in effect for the year. The Officers' Staff may also by unanimous vote reduce an officer (who is not entitled to a vote in this decision) back to ranks for poor attendance or other conduct unbecoming an officer. The resulting vacancy is filled as directed by this subsection.
11. All officers must be combatants. Responsibilities of the various ranks are defined as follows:
 1. Commanding Officer (Captain and/or Lieutenant): battlefield command, representation of unit to brigade, representation of brigade to unit, mess supervision, unit morale;
 2. First Sergeant: drill supervision, roll call and morning reports, daily rosters, camp organization, cartridge and weapon inspection, unit discipline and morale;
 3. Second Sergeant: Chief Safety Officer; morning call and wake-up, drill, assigning details, forming the detachment, farb check, unit morale;
 4. Corporals: supervising squads and fatigue details, formations and rank integrity line dressing, unit morale;
 5. Company Clerk: record-keeping, paymaster, assisting in preparation of Reports, recruitment responsibilities at events, and other duties as requested by the Commanding Officer.

Article III

Safety

12. Safety is the first priority of Company F. The safety and welfare of all members, guests and the visiting public is the most important responsibility of every individual associated with Company F. Safety concerns take precedence over all other activities.
13. Each member is required to complete a safety examination every year prior to participating in a combat or firing event.
14. Each member is charged with the responsibility of reporting any perceived safety violations to any Officer at the earliest possible moment. The Second Sergeant is the chief safety officer of the unit and shall administer the safety test and maintain records of the results. The Second Sergeant is also responsible for supervising the training of new recruits, conducting random safety checks during the campaign year, and making daily safety reports to the Commanding Officer during each event.
15. Weapons will be cleaned and inspected daily during an event. All weapons are subject to inspection without prior notice by any Officer. Weapons found unacceptable will be banned from use and secured until cleaned and re-inspected. Any weapons deemed unsafe in any manner by an inspecting officer will be banned and secured by the Commanding Officer until the weapon is rendered safe and passes re-inspection by the Commanding Officer.
16. New weapons, or weapons previously unused for re-enacting, must be inspected and approved by the Commanding Officer or his designate prior to use at an event. This approval requires an examination for both authenticity and safety of the weapon. After any live firing event, all weapons must be inspected before being used again.
17. Absolutely no modern weapons will be allowed at any event. Any member possessing a modern weapon at a club gathering without explicit consent from the Commanding Officer or Brigade Commander is subject to immediate expulsion by the Commanding Officer.
18. All weapons must be cleaned, secured and properly stored as soon as practicable after the daily lowering of the colors at any event.
19. Firearms must be discharged only in the manner proscribed in the Rules of the NCWC, and only at such time it is safe to do so.
20. Sabers, or swords of any design, will be worn only by officers and with the explicit consent of the Commanding Officer.
21. Knives are banned from events unless prior approval has been obtained from the Commanding Officer. All bayonets, and blades of any kind must remain sheathed at all times while on the battlefield. Soldiers failing to comply are subject to expulsion.

Article IV
Authenticity

22. Authenticity is vital to re-enacting, and members of Company F of the Fourth Virginia will maintain a high level of accuracy in their clothing, equipment and behavior.
23. All members participating in any re-enacting event will dress and conduct themselves in such a manner as to accurately portray a character living in 1863, as further outlined in the Rules of the NCWC. It is the responsibility of all Officers (and all other members, as well) to monitor and promote this authenticity and to take any necessary measures to correct any deficiency.
24. For safety reasons and in keeping with the unit's dedication to authenticity, only active members in good standing of The Fourth Virginia, Company F of the age of 14 or above are eligible to portray combatant soldiers of Company F of the Fourth Virginia at any battles or tactical events.
25. At the discretion of the Commanding Officer, any member not properly attired or armed or not behaving in an appropriate manner may be expelled and prohibited from participating in any event or battlefield activity.
26. New members at their first few events will be shown tolerance as deemed necessary by the Commanding Officer. Members are to keep in mind that a poor impression by one member detracts from the well-developed impressions of the rest of the unit.
27. Camp activities during public hours will be conducted in a manner similar to those which would have occurred on an established military post during the Civil War. This includes all considerations of military courtesy (including proper salutes), well-defined manners, common civil courtesy, and the strict exclusion of all non-period items ("farb"). Every member of Company F must strive to conduct oneself in a manner that honors the soldiers and civilians who sacrificed their homes, families and lives during the Civil War.
28. Any weapons, clothing, tentage and equipment not previously used for re-enacting must be approved by the Commanding Officer or his designate prior to use at any event.

Article V
Discipline

29. Violators of the rules of Company F of the Fourth Virginia or the rules of the NCWC will be subject to disciplinary action by the Commanding Officer, or the senior Officer in his absence. Such action may include suspension from a portion of an event, suspension from an entire event, suspension for a fixed period of time, or expulsion from the club.
30. Suspension may involve non-participation in a portion of the event (e.g., a battle or dance) or may prohibit the violator from camping with the unit or being permitted to be present at an event, or limited or permanent expulsion. The Commanding Officer or senior Officer attending is empowered to order, and revoke, such suspensions.
31. In the case of any suspension beyond one day (e.g., for an entire event, a fixed period of time or permanent expulsion from the unit), the decision must be ratified by a vote with a majority of eligible, present members of the unit.
32. A Commissioned or Non-Commissioned Officer of Company F of the Fourth Virginia may be either temporarily or permanently relieved of rank for safety violations or insubordination by the Commanding Officer or the senior Officer present. The Captain may be relieved with by a two-thirds majority vote of the Officers' staff. The senior officer will privately inform the Captain.
33. All members are strictly forbidden to abuse, intimidate, or neglect any person in Company F, any other participant, or any member of the public. Such conduct will subject the perpetrator to immediate suspension and or expulsion.
34. All members must accept responsibility for monitoring and correcting any inappropriate behavior of any other member. Every Officer is required to report all incidents of inappropriate behavior or safety violations to the Commanding Officer, and if necessary, to the Confederate Brigade Staff.
35. All disciplinary actions involving suspensions or expulsions will be reported to Brigade Headquarters, and if necessary NCWC authorities.

Article VI

Probationary Rules

36. New members of Company F of the Fourth Virginia are considered on probationary status until they have fulfilled the requirements described below. Upon completion of these requirements, probationary members will be evaluated by the Commander and Officer staff for suitability to full membership. Final approval rests with the Commanding Officer alone.

37. Requirements for combatants:
 1. each must be a paid member of the NorthWest Civil War Council and a member in good standing with Company F of the Fourth Virginia.
 2. Each must have taken and passed the current year's Safety Questionnaire.
 3. Each must have attended four full days of Company sanctioned Public Events with Company F of the Fourth Virginia. A full day is defined as a day starting with Morning Inspection and running through until the Event is closed to the public.
 4. Each must have obtained:
 1. An approved long arm;
 2. Suitable leather accouterments, i.e. (belt, cap box, cartridge box, etc.);
 3. Appropriate, Company-approved uniform and footwear;
 4. Basic weapons cleaning kit;
 5. If a new member is defined as a minor by the NCWC application, then he or she must be sponsored by an adult member Combatant.

38. Requirements for non-combatants (when not part of a family membership with a combatant):
 1. Must be paid member of the Northwest Civil War Council and a member in good standing with Company F of the Fourth Virginia.
 2. Must attend four full days of Company sanctioned Public Events with Company F of the Fourth Virginia.
 3. Must have appropriate clothing for their persona;

39. Members on Probation have no voting rights in Company elections. (NOTE: for the Annual Election occurring on November 21, 2004, the possible probationary status of any paid combatant is temporarily suspended; all combatants who will have paid or will pay NCWC and Company F dues for the year 2005 will be permitted to vote in the Officers' Election). Probationary members may not sponsor minors. They may not hold rank or office within the Company. All non-probationary members (combat and civilian) may vote in company meetings on NON-MILITARY issues. For example, a civilian member (non-combatant) may vote regarding a company picnic or club dues but cannot vote in the Officer election. For purposes of the Officer Election, only active, dues-paying combatants.

40. Members of the Company Mess Staff, who report directly to the Captain, are permitted to vote for Captain vacancies.

Article VII

General Rules

41. All personnel camping with Company F of the Fourth Virginia must be members of the NCWC or a reciprocal organization.
42. In order to maintain a family oriented experience and insure the safety and comfort of all members of Company F of the Fourth Virginia; members or guests under the age of 18 whose parents/legal guardians are not camping in the Camp must (1) present a release form signed by a parent or guardian; and (2) must have their sleeping arrangements approved in writing on the release form by the Commanding Officer AND the First Sergeant prior to the start of the event.
43. All members must take an active role in the events and activities of the unit.
44. All members are encouraged to take an active role in the recruitment of new members.
45. All members must pay NCWC membership fees as they become due. All combatants and non-combatants over the age of 14 who camp/visit the camp regularly must pay Company F of the Fourth Virginia club dues, as established by the club. There is a maximum family amount of three times the current fee. The Commanding Officer can waive Club dues at his or her discretion.
46. Periodic unit meetings to conduct the business of the unit should be called on at least a monthly basis. While in-person meetings are best, the unit acknowledges that telephone calls or electronic communication may be sufficient on occasion.
47. The Commanding Officer shall be the voting representative for Company F at NCWC Board Meetings. The Commanding Office is empowered to appoint another member of the unit to represent the club.
48. Membership Dues for the year 2005 are set at \$15 for individual members of Company F; \$20 for a family membership (assuming one combatant; \$25 for two combatants); "Powder Dues," which fund ammunition expenses and other Company F costs are \$50 for the year, or \$15 per battle event. Those paying per event must pay before joining the Company on the battlefield. Membership fees for the NCWC are believed to be \$20 per individual, or \$30 for a family. These dues are subject to change.
49. Clerk duties include but are not limited to dues collection, supervision and maintenance of a Company checking account, providing treasury reports (oral or written) at meetings and events upon request of the Captain or the Officers' Staff, and keeping written records of memberships, revenue received and expenses paid, and supervising and recording other Company activities, including Internet-based communications and message boards.