

# Kingdom of Westmarch Knight's Charter

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<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10xnBDL2z0gKwum8XQd8bo8llrM9kyehFgHsg0g62aw/edit#>

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## Purpose

This document is to provide a set of guidelines by which the Circle of Knights (COK) should follow and describe the activities which take place within the circle. Last, there is a goal that this document should provide more transparency and a clear understanding to the people of Westmarch regarding the activities of the Knights Circle.

## Mission Statement

The Westmarch Circle of Knights exists to provide several functions. Its goal is to encourage, teach, and guide the next generation of leaders, teachers and those that seek assistance within the Kingdom. It will provide an advisory function to the Kingdom Monarchy. It will vote on citizens of Westmarch that the monarch brings forth who are eligible per the Amtgard Rules of Play and the Westmarch Corpora, to see if they should be elevated to Knighthood.

## Guildmaster of Knights

Guildmaster of Knights (GMoK), provides a leadership function within the COK.

They should be the primary contact for all official communication from within the Circle. Their job is to act as a liaison with the Kingdom Monarchy and distill the many different views and opinions from within the Circle to provide clear messaging for both the Kingdom Monarch and candidates.

Additionally, they plan Circle meetings, set the agenda for those meetings, and provide any administrative functions that are necessary for the Circle to operate.

## Knight's Meetings

The Circle of Knight's should officially convene at least once a reign. This can be either online or in person. But all votes must be available online.

The GMK shall set the agenda for the meeting. Any Knight may bring up new items for discussion either before or during the meeting. Circle meetings are concluded with a majority vote.

People from outside the WM COK may request to speak at a meeting. This would be approved by the Speaker. The Speaker may also invite those outside the WM COK to attend. Examples in both instances would include potential candidates for knighthood or the WM Monarch.

Meeting minutes must be taken for every COK meeting, and must be posted wherever the WM COK holds its official online presence. Minutes must include complete notes on candidates which should reflect the general view of the COK.

## Online Presence

The COK shall establish and maintain an official online presence that is open to only the Knights of Westmarch (both active and inactive). Today that official online presence is located on Facebook.

This online gathering place will be used to contain and keep a record of previous COK minutes, decisions, and discussions. This is used as a place to plan upcoming meetings, and hopefully come to a consensus on issues before votes are held.

## Voting

All decisions within the Circle require a majority to pass. Abstentions count towards quorum, but do not count towards any vote total. The GMK shall decide all ties.

- All knights who are voting eligible shall be contacted. Announcements for voting will be posted in the WMCOK Facebook page, which is our official site.
- Announcements will additionally be listed in Discord, caamtgard, and a WMCOK Blog. This will ensure that all Knights have a platform to be informed.
- Announcements will be posted with an open voting period of two weeks. Votes will be collected, tabulated and results posted in the WMCOK page, with links posted in the supplementary sites.
- All Knights will be given the opportunity to decline voting.
- For those voting eligible Knights who choose not to vote, at the end of the open voting period, their vote will be automatically an "abstain" to meet the quorum requirements that all Knights must be consulted and vote.

Any item may be brought for discussion to the circle by the GMK. If the Guildmaster of Knights does not bring an item for vote, any new item can be brought for discussion (and potential vote) as long as the item is proposed and seconded. The COK cannot make decisions which conflict the WM Corpora or Rules of Play.

Things that may come up for voting by the COK can include (but are not limited to): Recommendations for Knighthood, COK charter changes, language for COK communication, COK agenda items.

## Advocates

An Advocate is a member of the COK who is able to speak on behalf of a candidate to the rest of the Circle. Most often this position would be for candidates who are either not Squired or who's knights are not active within the Kingdom of Westmarch.

The job of the Advocate is to speak to the COK on the progress of the Candidate. Additionally, they should also assist the candidate in their progression towards elevation to Knighthood where possible. Their job is to act as best as they are able as a mentor and guide to the candidate.

If asked to find an advocate, the Circle will select an individual to represent the Candidate. These requests may either come from the Monarch or they may come from an individual qualified for Knighthood.

## Candidates for Knighthood

One of the primary functions of the COK is to vote on qualified candidates for Knighthood. The COK will then provide the results of their votes (pass/fail) along with any other recommendations to the Monarch.

In general, qualified candidates for knighthood should be discussed and voted on every year. Additionally the COK must vote on any candidates as requested by the Kingdom Monarch.

The standards of what makes a Knight, and will reach a "yes" vote is different for every individual Knight. Historically some of the factors that the COK will take into account when voting on a candidate will include:

- Good character and attitude
- Exemplary skill and achievement in the path for which they are qualified
- The ability of a candidate to teach and pass what they know down to others.

This short list is a subjective standard that goes beyond award qualifications. This is to try to ensure that Knighthood as an award goes to those in the Kingdom that are good representatives of the club, role models for others, and people that will use their talents to improve the Kingdom.

Any time a knight votes against a candidate being elevated - they should be able to provide specific reasoning as to why they do not think the candidate should pass.

When a candidate fails a vote, the Circle will need to come to a consensus of why that candidate did not pass, and what steps would lead that candidate to passing a future vote.

**Commented [1]:** three months? should be long enough for feedback, allow consideration of feedback by the candidate as soon as they have been awarded their Masterhood? up for discussion and consideration ASAP after that?

**Commented [2]:** The intent is to set a minimum baseline. Not whenever we meet.

In general, I do not think we should be discussing candidates right after they get their masterhoods. It feels like we've been doing that a bit and we need to stop. A year minimum is a good amount of time for a qualified candidate to be a master.

Second on those that fail their votes (and we have a few that continually not pass) - I would argue that it will or should often take longer than a year to clear up issues in regards to their vote.

A good example of this is Roark. He needs time to mature and learn how to refine his message so that when he opens his hole, shitty things do not come out of it. This is not an overnight process in my mind.

Should we have more frequent discussions on candidates? Absolutely. It would be a good way to track progress. But I don't think the charter should trap us in a corner where we end up making bad decisions.

So now back to the original wording - it says "should be discussed". That is a suggestion of a minimum baseline. Perhaps wording could be included to encourage more discussion and allow (not mandate) more opportunities for voting.

Those are my two cents.

**Commented [3]:** Should we switch these? putting exemplary skill...first and good character and attitude either second or third?

These steps would need to be specific and actionable. They should also allow for multiple paths for the candidate to improve and pass their next vote if those steps are successfully taken.

The result of this consensus would need to be reflected in the COK meeting minutes, and also result in a discussion between a representative of the COK and the candidate.

Those items should then be communicated to the candidate by the Circle. This can be done by inviting the candidate to the Circle meeting, by the Speaker themselves, the Candidate's Knight (if they have one), or another representative chosen by the Circle.

ADDENDUM: Waiver for voting

WAIVER FOR WMCOK voting

I elect not to participate in COK voting. As such, I would like not to be contacted and authorize my vote to be included as "abstain" for all future voting as long as I remain voting eligible, unless I inform the GMoK that I would like to participate.

Acknowledgement of receipt of this document and acceptance of it's terms will either be by direct reply to this message, or communication through a COK representative.