

## SAFD Actor/Combatant Status and SPTs

**1.01 Actor/Combatant.** A candidate for the status of Actor/Combatant must pass the Actor/Combatant Skills Proficiency Test as defined by the SAFD and adjudicated by a Fight Master. Actor/Combatant status is valid for a period of three years from date of issue. To maintain or reinstate Actor/Combatant status an individual must be reexamined by either renewing status as per Section 2.04 below or passing a Skills Proficiency Test (SPT). The SAFD Actor/Combatant Skills Proficiency Test rules and regulations are delineated below.

- I. Implementation of the following test rules and compulsory moves are the responsibility of the teacher. No teachers may adjudicate their own students, except at the National Stage Combat Workshops. No Skills Proficiency Tests shall be offered within four weeks on either side of the NSCW without express written consent of the Governing Body.
  - A. The SAFD will adjudicate only Actor/Combatant Skills Proficiency Tests taught by Certified Teachers, Fight Directors or Fight Masters.
    1. The SAFD requires that institutions and organizations hire Certified Teachers, Fight Directors or Fight Masters to teach SAFD Actor/Combatant Skills Proficiency Test classes.
    2. The SAFD recommends a minimum of 90 student contact hours for an Actor/Combatant Skills Proficiency Test class and suggests that these hours be spread over a minimum of 30 weeks. Individual weapons require a minimum of 30 hours (for exceptions see 2.01 III B).
  - B. The test must be adjudicated by a SAFD Fight Master in good standing.
  - C. The test sponsor is responsible for the arrangement and payment of transportation, housing and other adjudication expenses.
  - D. The teacher or sponsor will make arrangements with the adjudicator that will include the date and time of the test, travel arrangements, fees and per diem, a minimum of eight weeks prior to the test date.
  - E. If an adjudicator must withdraw from their commitment, said adjudicator must provide a replacement and reimburse any funds expended by the host organization or Certified Teacher to secure the services of said adjudicator (such as non-refundable plane tickets). Personal or professional emergencies excepted.
  - F. There is a test fee of \$35 per student. This fee covers all SPTs performed in the same session, in addition to any renewals that the student may be performing. This money is to be used to cover the adjudication costs
    1. Testing fee for the adjudicator:
      - a. \$200 - Adjudication fee for 1-19 students
      - b. \$300 - Adjudication fee for 20-29 students
      - c. \$400 - Adjudication fee for 30-39 students
      - d. \$500 - Adjudication fee for 40-49 students
      - e. \$600 - Adjudication fee for 50-59 students
      - f. \$700 - Adjudication fee for over 60 students in one test
    2. \$30 - per diem for each work/travel day or part thereof
    3. Adjudicator housing
    4. Adjudicator travel, including incidental parking, etc.
    5. Further, a minimum of \$50 must be paid by check (on the day of the test) to the SAFD. If the total amount of student test fees exceeds the amount necessary to cover the expenses listed above; the balance goes to the SAFD treasury. If the total amount does not cover these expenses, the sponsor is responsible for the balance.
  - G. The teacher or sponsor of the Skills Proficiency Test is responsible for filing all paperwork concerning the test, including but not limited to test results, student names and contact

information, test fees and student dues. All such materials (excluding the adjudicator fee, per diem, and travel) must be sent directly to the SAFD Treasurer within one week (seven days) after the test has been completed. Upon receiving the test materials the Treasurer shall deposit any and all checks into the appropriate SAFD account. As funds clear the bank process, copies of all checks and all pertinent test information would then be forwarded to the Secretary for data entry. Data entry of tests and membership will not take place until after any and all funds have cleared through the banking process.

- H. The SAFD will cover Fight Master expenses for an Actor/Combatant Skills Proficiency Test if an individual or sponsor should default on payment.
- I. Actor/Combatant testing by the SAFD does not include membership.
  - 1. Individuals wishing to join the Society for the first time on the day of the test may do so at the reduced rate of \$20. This reduced rate will serve as dues for the remainder of the first year. Individuals testing for the first time in the months of September through December will be credited with membership beginning with the next calendar year.
  - 2. Renewal of membership will be at the published rate thereafter.
- II. The Actor/Combatant Skills Proficiency Test is in two parts.
  - A. Part one of the test is the performance of the test choreography in the context of a scene that is both safe and dramatically effective.
    - 1. The combatants must perform at least an unarmed fight, a rapier and dagger or single sword fight, and one other movement discipline from the list provided by the SAFD.
    - 2. The choreography must include the minimum compulsory techniques as defined by the SAFD (Section 2.03).
    - 3. The SAFD recommends that individuals elect to test using a separate scene for each discipline. Further, the SAFD suggests that all scenes come from existing *dramatic* literature. Individuals may, however, combine two or three weapons into one scene with the consent of the teacher. The scene or scenes must establish character and a cause for the fight, as well as *demonstrate an appropriate level of emotional commitment to the violence*.
    - 4. The choice of scene(s) and character should not interfere with the combatants' ability to perform the required techniques in a realistic manner, either for comedic or dramatic affect; but *there must be a sense of tension and the illusion of danger in the fight*.
    - 5. Dialogue within the choreography of the fight must be restricted to lines that enhance and relate to the action, and be kept to a minimum.
    - 6. *The combatants will perform the test at performance speed with acting beats carefully worked out.*
    - 7. The Actor/Combatant Skills Proficiency Test performance is not to exceed seven minutes in length for three weapons. An additional three minutes is allowed for each added discipline.
    - 8. The test material for part one may be performed in any order.
    - 9. Candidates who pass individual weapons tests shall receive certificates of proficiency for those particular weapons. Candidates must pass Rapier & Dagger or Single Sword, Unarmed and one other discipline in order to be granted Actor/Combatant status.
    - 10. The performance should be in a proscenium format.
    - 11. Part one is open to the public.
  - B. Part two of the test will consist of further evaluation of the candidate's skills using choreography created by the adjudicator. Part two is a mandatory part of the SPT, except in tests that include large numbers of students, tests taken on videotape and/or at the National Stage Combat Workshops.
    - 1. Candidates will work with different partners in part two.

2. Part two is closed to the public.
  - C. Candidates who take the Actor/Combatant Skills Proficiency Test may either pass or not pass.
    1. Candidates who pass in all the weapon styles required for Actor/Combatant status (as listed in 2.01, II.A.1-11) will receive documentation sanction by the SAFD, to be signed by the adjudicating Fight Master (see Section 2.01).
    2. Candidates who pass in one or more weapon style but do not meet all the requirements for Actor/Combatant status (as listed in 2.01, II.A.1-11) will receive SAFD sanction certificates of proficiency for those individual weapons in which they passed, to be signed by the adjudicating Fight Master (see Section 2.01).
    3. Candidates who do not pass will receive documentation acknowledging completion of the SPT course signed by the course instructor.
  - D. In addition to a basic pass, the candidate may pass with an "Examiner's Award for Excellence".
    1. This additional recognition may be awarded to an individual for exemplary work in one or more weapon style performed on the day of the test.
    2. This additional recognition carries with it no other privileges.
    3. This recognition is to be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicating Fight Master.
    4. All candidates passing the Actor/Combatant Skills Proficiency Test with the Examiner's Award for Excellence shall receive the same documentation and sanction by the SAFD and must list this status on a resume as specified in section 2.01, VII.
  - E. Actor/Combatant recognition expires three years from issuance.
  - F. Teachers should not partner with students in the test unless approved in advance by the adjudicating Fight Master.
  - G. Teachers should devote an equal and equitable amount of time to the coaching of each fight test scene.
  - H. The names of newly recognized Actor/Combatants will be published in the SAFD journal The Fight Master after all test fees have been paid to the Treasurer (see Section 2.01, I.G).
- III. Candidates may also test in individual weapons at any time. This test will be in two parts.
- A. Any number of individual weapon tests taken on the same day, within the same SPT adjudication, by any single student, are considered one test. Test fees for any and all such tests shall be the same as those for the Actor/Combatant Skills Proficiency Test, see section 2.01, I a-f.
  - B. A minimum of 30 contact hours are required for each weapon test. However, if a teacher has directed a student for ten or more hours as a combatant in a theatrical, film or television event with the weapon to be tested, then the teacher may elect to waive 5 hours from the required thirty-hour (30) minimum.
  - C. Part one of the test is the performance of the test choreography in the context of a scene that is both safe and dramatically effective.
    1. The choreography must include the minimum compulsory techniques as defined by the SAFD (Section 2.03).
    2. The SAFD recommends that individuals elect to test using a separate scene for each discipline. Further, the SAFD suggests that all scenes come from existing *dramatic* literature. Individuals may, however, combine two or three weapons into one scene with the consent of the teacher. The scene or scenes must establish character and a cause for the fight, as well as *demonstrate an appropriate level of emotional commitment to the violence*.
    3. The order of testing, i.e., whether a student performs two or more fights for the adjudicator together or at different times throughout the adjudication process, will be at the discretion of the teacher.

4. The choice of scene(s) and character should not interfere with the combatants' ability to perform the required techniques in a realistic manner, either for comedic or dramatic affect; but *there must be a sense of tension and the illusion of danger in the fight.*
  5. Dialogue within the choreography of the fight must be restricted to lines that enhance and relate to the action, and be kept to a minimum.
  6. The combatants will perform the test(s) *at performance speed with acting beats carefully worked out.*
  7. Each weapon will be allowed a maximum three minute testing period. Should a teacher wish to extend the individual time period for each weapon beyond three minutes, then the teacher must receive permission from the adjudicator at least one week prior to the test.
  8. Candidates who take individual weapons tests may either pass or not pass.
    - a. Candidates who pass will receive certificates of proficiency for those individual weapons sanctioned by the SAFD, to be signed by the adjudicating Fight Master (see Section 2.01).
    - b. Candidates who do not pass will receive documentation acknowledging completion of the course signed by the course instructor.
  9. The performance should be in a proscenium format.
  10. Part one is open to the public.
- D. Part two of the test will consist of further evaluation of the candidate's skills using choreography created by the adjudicator. Part two is a mandatory part of the SPT, except in tests that include large numbers of students, tests taken on videotape and/or at the National Stage Combat Workshops.
1. Candidates will work with a different partner in part two.
  2. Part two is closed to the public.
- E. Candidates who test in individual weapons may either pass or not pass.
- F. In addition to a basic pass, the candidate may pass with an "Examiners Award for Excellence".
1. This additional recognition may be awarded to an individual for exemplary work in one or more weapon style performed on the day of the test.
  2. This additional recognition carries with it no other privileges.
  3. This recognition is to be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicating Fight Master.
  4. All candidates passing an individual Skills Proficiency Test with the Examiner's Award for Excellence shall receive the same documentation and sanction by the SAFD and must list this status on a resume as specified in section 2.01, VII.
- G. Proficiency recognition expires three years from issuance.
- H. At the discretion of the adjudicating Fight Master a candidate who has passed a Proficiency Skills Test for Unarmed, Rapier and Dagger or Single Sword, and a third weapon (providing the candidate has maintained said skills and that the proficiencies are current as per 2.01, III.G above) may receive a certificate awarding them the status of Actor/Combatant in addition to any other Certificates of Proficiency they may hold. The newly awarded status of Actor/Combatant expires three years from issuance.
- I. Students must present any current Certificates of Proficiency when testing in other weapons in order to be considered for Actor/Combatant status (unless student is testing for all three weapons at one time.)
- J. Teachers should not partner with students in the test unless approved by the adjudicating Fight Master.
- K. Teachers should devote an equal and equitable amount of time to the coaching of each fight test scene.
- L. The names of these newly recognized individuals will be published in the SAFD journal The Fight Master after all test fees have been paid to the Treasurer (see 2.02, I.G).

- IV. When it proves impossible to bring in a Fight Master to adjudicate a test in person, a videotape of the test may be used.
- A. A request must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the SAFD stating why the test cannot be adjudicated in person.
  - B. The Secretary of the SAFD shall determine the eligibility of using a videotaped test.
  - C. The videotape cannot be edited and the camera must be in a stationary position. The performer's full figure must be in view at all times and should fill the frame as much as possible. Panning and zooming are permissible.
  - D. If a videotape test is determined necessary, the Secretary will determine which Fight Master will receive the videotape for adjudication. Any videotape tests processed without the written consent of the Secretary will be considered null and void.
  - E. Test fees for video tests shall be the same as those for the Actor/Combatant Skills Proficiency Test, see section 2.01, I a-f. All checks must accompany the video test. No tests will be adjudicated or processed until the proper individuals have received all funds.
  - F. Within one week (seven days) the teacher will present to a Fight Master, either in person or by mail, their written evaluation and recommendation of each fighter along with any other pertinent support materials, the videotape, and payment.
  - G. The Fight Master will adjudicate the students based on the test and the teacher's recommendations, and will send certificates along with written evaluations (when applicable) to the applicants within two weeks of receipt.