

Circle of Knights Charter

1. Membership

1.1. The Circle of Knights shall be composed of all Knights of Amtgard that claim as their home park one of the member parks of the Northern Lights.

1.1.1. Membership to online Circle of Knights forums (including Facebook and Discord) shall be composed of all Knights of Amtgard that claim as their home park one of the member parks of the Northern Lights. EXCEPTION: Non-local knights who have squires that are being discussed as candidates may be admitted to online forums until such time as their squire has passed a vote.

1.2. In order to cast a vote in a Circle of Knights meeting, the voter must be considered a Member in Good Standing (MiGS), as defined by the Northern Lights Corpora.

1.3. A Knight who is not MiGS is still welcome to attend, and contribute to, any meetings held.

1.4. The Monarch of the Northern Lights, if not already a Knight of Amtgard, will be an honorary member of the Circle of Knights during their time in office. Unless already a belted member, the Monarch will not have the ability to vote, but will be allowed to speak and discuss any candidate. EXCEPTION: If the Monarch of the Northern Lights is a candidate, they will not be allowed to discuss their own vote, unless invited by the circle to do so.

2. Powers and Responsibilities

2.1. Shall observe members of the Kingdom of the Northern Lights for those qualified to receive Knighthood.

2.2. Shall vote to approve/deny candidates.

2.3. May vote to rescind a candidate's passed vote.

2.3.1. Prior to the knighting ceremony, the Circle may vote to rescind a candidate's passed vote if there is reason to question that person's character based on new information that was not known at the time of the initial vote.

2.3.2. The vote shall follow the voting requirements outlined in Section 3.5.

2.4. May vote to remove a Knight's orders of Knighthood under the following conditions:

2.4.1. A vote for removal may only occur if the Knight has been subjected to disciplinary action by the Kingdom of the Northern Lights, or if the action was issued by another Kingdom, the Kingdom of the Northern Lights has formally elected to uphold that action.

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2.4.1.1. “Disciplinary action” refers to any formal sanction enacted by the Kingdom, including suspension, ban, or other penalties as defined in the Corpora or Rules of Play.

2.4.2. Once disciplinary action has been implemented, any member of the Circle of Knights may request that the Circle vote on removing that Knight’s orders of Knighthood.

2.4.3. If the Knight holds multiple orders of Knighthood, all orders shall be included in the vote. A Knight may not retain one order while losing others.

2.4.4. A vote for removal shall pass only with a 75% affirmative vote of all active Knights.

2.4.5. A successful vote of the Circle constitutes a formal recommendation to the Monarch, who shall enact the removal in accordance with the Corpora.

2.4.6. All discussions related to removal votes shall remain confidential within the Circle, except as required to be shared with the Kingdom Monarch.

2.4.7. The vote shall follow the voting requirements outlined in Section 3.5.

3. Meetings

3.1. Meetings shall be used to discuss and vote upon candidates.

3.1.1. A candidate must be a Member in Good Standing (MiGS) at the time of their Circle vote. The Circle’s approval is conditional and remains valid only while the candidate continues to be MiGS through the date of their knighting ceremony.

3.1.2. New Masterhood Candidates are initially put on the voting cycle they receive their masterhood (cycles defined in 3.7.1)

3.1.3. New candidates cannot be voted on until their anniversary event (‘Event’ meaning NL Coronation or Midreign).

3.2. Information shared on any Circle of Knights online forum or at Circle of Knights meetings is confidential. Those knights attending any Circle of Knights meeting or privy to online communication shall not share this information with those outside the Northern Lights Circle of Knights. EXCEPTION: Knights may discuss proceedings with non-local knights who sponsor a person being discussed as a candidate. Knights may also discuss matters pertaining to a candidate they sponsor with said candidate, on the condition that the source of the statements not be disclosed. Screenshots of online forums are not to be shared under any circumstances.

3.3. There shall be two scheduled meetings per reign, to be held within a window of two weeks before or two weeks after both Coronation and Midreign. Any additional Circle of Knights meetings may be called by the Speaker of Knights or the Monarch.

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3.4. Meetings which contain votes on candidates will have a listing of each member and their vote for accurate record keeping.

3.5. The following requirements apply to all votes conducted by the Circle of Knights unless otherwise stated:

3.5.1. A quorum is met when at least 75% of MiGS Knights cast a vote.

3.5.2. A vote passes with at least 75% "Yes" votes among votes cast (excluding abstentions).

3.5.3. Absentee votes may be submitted via conference call or web-based communication until the end of the scheduled meeting, or a date/time established by the Speaker.

3.5.4. Only MiGS Knights may vote.

3.5.5. Votes cast will be Yes, No, or Abstain.

3.5.6. Abstentions count toward quorum but not toward the passing threshold.

3.6. A candidate may only be voted on once within a given voting cycle.

3.6.1. A voting cycle is defined as Coronation to Coronation or Midreign to Midreign

3.7. A candidate or their sponsoring knight may request the candidate be removed from the ballot for any reason. If a candidate is removed from the ballot by their sponsoring knight or themselves, that candidate may not be placed back on the ballot until the next voting cycle.

3.8. Once a candidate passes a vote, the knighting ceremony must occur within 18 months from the date of the "yes" vote. If the candidate is not knighted within 18 months, the vote will be rescinded, without prejudice. The candidate may be placed back on the ballot for a new vote per the procedure in Section 3.

3.8.1. If the knighting ceremony cannot be conducted because the Monarch(s) refuse(s) to do so, the Speaker of Knights will discuss the matter with the Monarch(s) in question. If the Speaker of Knights cannot convince the Monarch(s) to hold the ceremony within the above timeline, the Speaker may, at their discretion, extend the ceremony deadline by up to 12 months (total).

4. Speaker of Knights

4.1. The Speaker of Knights shall be elected at every midreign from and by the Circle of Knights and must meet the Kingdom Officer eligibility requirements as outlined by the Northern Lights Corpora.

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4.2. The term for the Speaker of Knights is six months. The Speaker of Knights shall have a 2 consecutive term limit.

4.3. Shall maintain the agenda for the Circle of Knights meeting. Any new business presented at a meeting will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

4.4. Shall call the meeting of the Circle of Knights to order, and dismiss it after old business is concluded, and new business has been added to the minutes for the next meeting. May choose to utilize Robert's Rules of order during meetings.

4.5. Shall schedule meetings for the Circle of Knights. Meetings must have at least two weeks advanced notice which can be administered by the forums/Facebook.

4.6. May appoint a scribe for the duration of the meeting to keep track of the minutes. Minutes must be posted to the forums/Facebook by the Speaker of Knights within two weeks after the meeting is concluded.

4.7. The Speaker of Knights is responsible for contacting Knights of other Kingdoms, if that knights squire is being considered for Knighthood within the Northern Lights.

4.8. Shall maintain a list of qualified candidates that reside within the boundaries of the Northern Lights. This list should also contain players who have passed the Circle of Knights vote, but have not yet been granted knighthood.

4.9. Shall recommend to the Monarch candidates who have passed the Circle of Knights for the appropriate Order of Knighthood.

5. Revisions and Updates to the Northern Lights Circle of Knights Charter

5.1. This Charter may be revised or updated by a simple majority vote at the Kingdom Midreign or Kingdom Coronation Circle of Knights Meeting.

5.2. Charter Revision or Update Proposals must be submitted to the members of the Circle of Knights for independent review and possible discussion a minimum of four weeks prior to the Charter mandated Kingdom Mid-reign or Kingdom Coronation Circle of Knights Meeting.

5.2.1. Charter Revision or Update Proposals must be formatted in the manner they will be placed into the Charter.

5.2.2. Charter revision or update proposals must include a statement of purpose, identifying the intent of the proposed revision or update.

5.2.3. Charter revision or update proposals must include a statement of cause, identifying the reason that the proposed change is necessary.

Change Log:

Any changes prior to September 23rd 2017 were not logged formally.

Changes as of September 23rd, 2017:

Renumbered charter format for clarity.

Added the Following Items:

3.1.1 Candidates may be brought up for a vote no earlier than six months after they have been qualified.

3.5.1 If a candidate is already a knight or monarch they will not be allowed to attend while being discussed.

3.5.1.1 If a candidate is already a knight or monarch they will not be allowed to attend during a vote on themselves.

3.5.1.2 A knight may not vote on themselves. Said Knight also does not count towards quorum on this vote.

Changes as of March 24th, 2018:

Added the Following section:

5. Revisions and Updates to the Northern Lights Circle of Knights Charter

5.1 This Charter may be revised or updated by a simple majority vote at Kingdom Mid-reign or Kingdom Coronation Circle of Knights Meeting.

5.2 Charter Revision or Update Proposals must be submitted to the members of the Circle of Knights for independent review and possible discussion a minimum of four weeks prior to the Charter mandated Kingdom Mid-reign or Kingdom Coronation Circle of Knights Meeting.

5.2.1 Proposed changes to the Knights Charter must be properly worded and formatted in the manner in which they will be placed in the Knights Charter.

5.2.2 Proposed Knights Charter changes must include the intent of the proposed change(s) and the reason that the proposed change(s) is/are necessary.

5.2.3 Proposed Knights Charter changes must be submitted in PDF format.

Changes as of September 15th, 2018:

1) Knights Charter Position Identification does match with NL Corpora verbiage.

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Replace all instances of "GUILDMASTER of Knights" with "Speaker of Knights" in the Circle of Knights Corpora.

This occurs 6 time(s) [3.3, 4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.6, 4.7]

2) Speaker of Knights eligibility requirements do not coincide with NL Corpora.

Change from the current:

4.1. The Speaker of Knights shall be elected at every midreign from and by the Circle of Knights and must be a member in good standing as outlined in the Northern Lights Corpora.

TO

"4.1 . The Speaker of Knights shall be elected at every midreign from and by the Circle of Knights and must meet the Kingdom Officer eligibility requirements as outlined by the Northern Lights Corpora."

Change voted in October 1, 2022 (updated to Corpora March 19, 2024):

Remove 3.1.1 in its entirety.

3.1.1 Candidates may be brought up for a vote no earlier than six months after they have been qualified.

Changes voted in March 24, 2023 (updated to Corpora March 19, 2024):

Remove sections 3.5.1.1 and 3.5.1.2 and update Section 3.5.1 by removing "knight".

Change from the current:

3.5.1 If a candidate is knight or monarch they will not be allowed to attend while being discussed.

3.5.1.1 If a candidate is already a knight or monarch they will not be allowed to attend during a vote on themselves.

3.5.1.2 A knight may not vote on themselves. Said Knight also does not count towards quorum on this vote.

TO

3.5.1 If a candidate is monarch they will not be allowed to attend while being discussed.

ADDITION

3.1.1 Candidates for vote must be a Member in Good Standing in the Kingdom of the Northern Lights.

CHANGE

3.7 A candidate may only be voted upon once within a six month period of time

TO

3.7 A candidate may only be voted on once within a given voting cycle.

3.7.1 A voting cycle is defined as Coronation to coronation or Midreign to Midreign

Change voted in June 10, 2023 (updated to Corpora March 19, 2024):

ADDITION

2.3 May vote to rescind a candidate's passed vote.

2.3.1 Prior to the knighting ceremony, the Circle may vote to rescind a candidate's passed vote if there is reason to question that person's character based on new information that was not known at the time of the initial vote.

2.3.2 The vote shall require the same criteria as the vote to approve/deny a candidate as listed in 3.5, including quorum and passing requirement.

ADDITION

3.1.1 New Masterhood Candidates are initially put on the voting cycle they receive their masterhood (cycles defined in 3.7.1)

3.1.2 New candidates cannot be voted on until their anniversary event ('Event' meaning NL Coronation or Midreign)

Changes as of 06/12/2024

CHANGE:

3.2. Meetings of the Circle of Knights are confidential. Those knights attending the Circle of Knights meeting shall not discuss meeting proceedings with those outside the Northern Lights circle of knights. EXCEPTION: Knights may discuss proceedings with non-local knights who have squires that are being discussed as candidates.

TO:

3.2 Information shared on any Circle of Knights online forum or at Circle of Knights meetings is confidential. Those knights attending any Circle of Knights meeting or privy to online communication shall not share this information with those outside the Northern Lights Circle of Knights. EXCEPTION: Knights may discuss proceedings with non-local knights who sponsor a person being discussed as a candidate. Knights may also discuss matters pertaining to a candidate they sponsor with said candidate, on the condition that the source of the statements not be disclosed. Screenshots of online forums are not to be shared under any circumstances.

CHANGE:

5.2.1 Charter Revision or Update Proposals must be formatted in the manner they will be placed into the Charter.

5.2.2 Charter revision or update proposals must include a statement of purpose, identifying the intent of the proposed revision or update.

5.2.3 Charter revision or update proposals must include a statement of cause, identifying reason that the proposed change is necessary.

TO:

5.2.1 Charter Revision or Update Proposals must be formatted in the manner they will be placed into the Charter.

5.2.2 Charter revision or update proposals must include a statement of purpose, identifying the intent of the proposed revision or update.

5.2.3 Charter revision or update proposals must include a statement of cause, identifying the reason that the proposed change is necessary.

ADDITION:

1.1.1 Membership to online Circle of Knights forums (including Facebook and Discord) shall be composed of all Knights of Amtgard that claim as their home park one of the member parks of the Northern Lights. EXCEPTION: Non-local knights who have squires that are being discussed as candidates may be admitted to online forums until such time as their squire has passed a vote.

ADDITION:

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3.8 A candidate or their sponsoring knight may request the candidate be removed from the ballot for any reason. If a candidate is removed from the ballot by their sponsoring knight or themselves, that candidate may not be placed back on the ballot until the next voting cycle.

Changes voted in April 4, 2025 (updated to Corpora May 28, 2025):

CHANGE

1.2. In order to cast a vote upon a candidate, members of the circle of knights must be voter eligible per the requirements in the Northern Lights Corpora.

TO

1.2 In order to cast a vote in a Circle of Knights meeting, the voter must be considered a Member in Good Standing (MiGS), as defined by the Northern Lights Corpora.

CHANGE

1.3. Any knight that does not meet the attendance requirements may attend and speak at a Circle of Knights meeting, however they will not have a vote

TO

1.3. A Knight who is not MiGS is still welcome to attend, and contribute to, any meetings held.

CHANGE

1.4. The King/Queen of the Northern Lights, if not already a Knight of Amtgard, will be an honorary member of the Circle of Knights during their tenure as Monarch. Unless already a belted member, the King/Queen will not have the ability to vote, but will be allowed to speak and discuss any candidate. EXCEPTION: If the King/Queen of the Northern Lights is a candidate they will not be allowed to discuss their own vote.

TO

1.4. The Monarch of the Northern Lights, if not already a Knight of Amtgard, will be an honorary member of the Circle of Knights during their time in office. Unless already a belted member, the Monarch will not have the ability to vote, but will be allowed to speak and discuss any candidate. EXCEPTION: If the Monarch of the Northern Lights is a candidate, they will not be allowed to discuss their own vote, unless invited by the circle to do so.

CHANGE

3.6. Votes will contain a simple Yes or No.

TO

3.6. Votes cast will be Yes, No, or Abstain. Abstentions will be counted and noted in order to establish quorum.

CHANGE

4.4. Shall call the meeting of the Circle of Knights to order and dismiss it after business on the agenda is concluded. Robert's Rules of Order shall be observed during the meetings.

TO

4.4. Shall call the meeting of the Circle of Knights to order, and dismiss it after old business is concluded, and new business has been added to the minutes for the next meeting. May choose to utilize Robert's Rules of order during meetings.

CHANGE

4.9. Shall recommend to the King/Queen candidates who have passed the Circle of Knights for the appropriate Order of Knighthood.

TO

4.9. Shall recommend to the Monarch candidates who have passed the Circle of Knights for the appropriate Order of Knighthood.

CHANGE

3.5. Any person voted upon must receive a simple 75% yes vote to be recommended for an Order of Knighthood. This includes absentee votes, which can be accepted via conference call or web based until the end of the scheduled meeting. In order for a vote to be valid a quorum of 75% of the active knights must cast a vote.

3.5.1 If a candidate is monarch they will not be allowed to attend while being discussed.

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3.5.1.1 If a candidate is already a knight or monarch they will not be allowed to attend during a vote on themselves.

3.5.1.2 A knight may not vote on themselves. Said Knight also does not count towards quorum on this vote.

TO

3.5. Any person voted upon must receive a simple 75% yes vote to be recommended for an Order of Knighthood. This includes absentee votes, which can be accepted via conference call or web based until the end of the scheduled meeting. In order for a vote to be valid a quorum of 75% of the active knights must cast a vote.

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CHANGE

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TO

3.5. Any person voted upon must receive a simple 75% yes vote to be recommended for an Order of Knighthood. This includes absentee votes, which can be accepted via conference call or web based until the end of the scheduled meeting, or a date and time established by the Speaker. In order for a vote to be valid a quorum of 75% of the MiGS knights must cast a vote.

Change voted in at Winter Midreign 12/2025

ADD

3.9. Once a candidate passes a vote, the knighting ceremony must occur within 18 months from the date of the “yes” vote. If the candidate is not knighted within 18 months, the vote will be rescinded, without prejudice. The candidate may be placed back on the ballot for a new vote per the procedure in Section

3. 3.9.1. If the knighting ceremony cannot be conducted because the Monarch(s) refuse(s) to do so, the Speaker of Knights will discuss the matter with the Monarch(s) in question. If the Speaker of Knights cannot convince the Monarch(s) to hold the ceremony within the above timeline, the Speaker may, at their discretion, extend the ceremony deadline by up to 12 months (total).

Changes voted in at June Midreign 2026

REPLACE

3.3. There shall be 2 scheduled meetings per reign held on Coronation and Midreign. Any additional circle of Knights meetings may be called by the Speaker of Knights or the Monarch.

WITH

3.3 There shall be two scheduled meetings per reign, to be held within a window of two weeks before or two weeks after both Coronation and Midreign. Any additional Circle of Knights meetings may be called by the Speaker of Knights or the Monarch.

REPLACE

3.1.1 Candidates for vote must be a Member in Good Standing in the Kingdom of the Northern Lights.

WITH

3.1.1. A candidate must be a Member in Good Standing (MiGS) at the time of their Circle vote. The Circle's approval is conditional and remains valid only while the candidate continues to be MiGS through the date of their knighting ceremony.

3.1.1.1. Temporary lapses in MiGS status (such as brief gaps in dues or waiver renewal) do not void the approval unless the candidate is not MiGS on the date of the ceremony. If MiGS status is lost at that time, the approval is suspended and is automatically reinstated upon restoration of MiGS.

3.1.1.1.1 The Speaker of Knights shall make the final determination as to whether a lapse in MiGS status is significant enough to warrant suspension of approval.

3.1.1.2. Any suspension or reinstatement of Circle approval resulting from changes in MiGS status shall have no effect on the 18-month knighting window defined in Section 3.9. The 18-month period begins on the date of the affirmative vote and remains in effect regardless of any temporary lapse in MiGS.

ADD

2.4 May vote to remove a Knight's orders of Knighthood under the following conditions:

2.4.1. A vote for removal may only occur if the Knight has been subjected to disciplinary action by the Kingdom of the Northern Lights, or if the action was issued by another Kingdom, the Kingdom of the Northern Lights has formally elected to uphold that action.

2.4.1.1. "Disciplinary action" refers to any formal sanction enacted by the Kingdom, including suspension, ban, or other penalties as defined in the Corpora or Rules of Play.

2.4.2. Once disciplinary action has been implemented, any member of the Circle of Knights may request that the Circle vote on removing that Knight's orders of Knighthood.

2.4.3. If the Knight holds multiple orders of Knighthood, all orders shall be included in the vote. A Knight may not retain one order while losing others.

2.4.4. A vote for removal shall pass only with a 75% affirmative vote of all active Knights.

2.4.5. A successful vote of the Circle constitutes a formal recommendation to the Monarch, who shall enact the removal in accordance with the Corpora.

2.4.6. All discussions related to removal votes shall remain confidential within the Circle, except as required to be shared with the Kingdom Monarch.

2.4.7 The vote shall follow the voting requirements outlined in Section 3.5.

CHANGE

2.3.2 The vote shall require the same criteria as the vote to approve/deny a candidate as listed in 3.5, including quorum and passing requirement.

3.5. Any person voted upon must receive a simple 75% yes vote to be recommended for an Order of Knighthood. This includes absentee votes, which can be accepted via conference call or web based until the end of the scheduled meeting, or a date and time established by the Speaker. In order for a vote to be valid a quorum of 75% of the MiGS knights must cast a vote.

3.5.1 If a candidate is monarch they will not be allowed to attend while being discussed.

3.6. Votes cast will be Yes, No, or Abstain. Abstentions will be counted and noted in order to establish quorum.

TO

3.5 The following requirements apply to all votes conducted by the Circle of Knights unless otherwise stated:

3.5.1 A quorum is met when at least 75% of MiGS Knights cast a vote.

3.5.2 A vote passes with at least 75% "Yes" votes among votes cast (excluding abstentions).

3.5.3 Absentee votes may be submitted via conference call or web-based communication until the end of the scheduled meeting, or a date/time established by the Speaker.

3.5.4 Only MiGS Knights may vote.

3.5.5. Votes cast will be Yes, No, or Abstain.

3.5.6 Abstentions count toward quorum but not toward the passing threshold.

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2.3.2. The vote shall follow the voting requirements outlined in Section 3.5.

2.4.7 The vote shall follow the voting requirements outlined in Section 3.5.