

MEMBERSHIP AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT



THE SABER LEGION, LLC
United Through Sabers

TSL - MEMBERSHIP AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

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Mandatory steps to become a TSL member

- Like and follow our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/TSLcombatLLC](https://www.facebook.com/TSLcombatLLC))
- Join our Facebook group ([Facebook.com/Groups/TheSaberLegion](https://www.facebook.com/Groups/TheSaberLegion))
- Read and sign this Membership and Hold Harmless Agreement
 - E-mail the signature page to Membership@saberlegion.org
 - The subject line of your e-mail should be your name, your Facebook name or any other aliases you use on social media, and your local Charter or geographic location. Example: "Joseph B. Saberist – Joe B A Jedi – Cityville, Wisconsin, USA"
- Finally, if you have not already, you can join your local Charter by:
 - using the drop-down menu in the Join Us! section of the website (SaberLegion.org), or
 - introducing yourself and posting your location in the Welcome announcement thread on the Facebook group, and your Charter Rep will respond to you.

Now you're a member!

Like and follow all our social media!

- YouTube: [YouTube.com/Channel/UCVzVJhEELb1Bju8xvaOVntg](https://www.YouTube.com/Channel/UCVzVJhEELb1Bju8xvaOVntg)
- Twitter: [Twitter.com/TheSaberLegion](https://www.Twitter.com/TheSaberLegion)
- Instagram: [Instagram.com/TheSaberLegion](https://www.Instagram.com/TheSaberLegion)
- E-Mailing List: <http://bit.ly/SaberLegionEmailList>

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Code of Conduct

The following rules and restrictions apply both online and in person, to all members at or on any TSL website, page, feed, group, video, comment thread, Charter meet, or live event:

- **COMMUNICATION:**
 - No bullying of any kind, including but not limited to: hate speech, racism, sexism, ableism, religious discrimination or any expression of exclusion or intolerance.
 - No disrespect, harassment, spamming, trolling, or threatening.
 - Please leave religious or spiritual belief systems, even those having to do with “Jedi,” “Sith,” or “The Force,” out of TSL completely.
 - Please refrain from using foul or obscene language, especially around minors.
 - We maintain friendly neutrality with other saber clubs and groups, so please no recruiting or poaching, and no negative commentary about other clubs, their members, or the way they operate. In addition, no bringing drama or issues from other clubs or groups into TSL.
- **BEHAVIOR:**
 - No use of alcohol or drugs before or during any official TSL event, including local meets.
 - If you take prescription medication that may significantly alter your perception of strength or pain, please consult your doctor to ensure that you are able to participate in a safe manner, both for yourself and other TSL members
 - No smoking during official TSL events except outside in designated areas.
 - No roleplaying, LARPing, or behavior that distracts or diverts from our purpose as a dueling club.
- **DUELING:**
 - No hand-to-hand combat (grappling, takedowns, checking, or blocking or striking with anything other than the saber blade)
 - No intentional targeting of non-scoring areas (including neck, groin, fingers, feet, or thrusts to the abdomen)
 - No unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind, including throwing sabers.
 - No pointed blade tips – only rounded. Also, if your saber tip comes off, you cannot duel until you have a complete blade. Packing tape or heat-shrink your tips to avoid this.
 - No metal claws, sharp protrusions, or quillions on dueling hilts.
 - No striking any unarmored parts of an opponent or fighting beyond the level of your opponent’s gear or skill.
 - Above all, fight with honor – *your opponent is a human being, and safety and fun are more important than winning any match or point.*

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- VENDORS:
 - Please direct all product questions and issues to the responsible vendor.
 - All vendor feedback must be professional and respectful.
- CHARTERS:
 - All ages are welcome. Parent or Legal Guardian signed permission, presence and supervision is required during all official TSL meets and events if the participant is under the age of 18.
 - A minimum of 3 people, each with their own saber and set of “Medium Sparring” level gear (see below: mask, torso, gloves, groin) are required to start a new Charter in a state or area where one does not currently exist.
 - If you want to become active in your local area (city, county) where meets are not currently held, but you are located within a currently defined Charter, speak to your Charter Rep about creating a “Satellite.”
 - TSL owners interview and appoint Charter Representatives as necessary. The Charter Representative is in charge of (and held responsible for) all official local TSL meets and events. Members must respect the position and take all local TSL-related directives from their Charter Rep. Issues pertaining to your Charter Rep should be submitted to the TSL Comments Box to be reviewed by the Owner and relevant Leadership positions.
 - Charters must have at least one meet per month to be considered “active.”
 - Charters must abide by all TSL safety rules.
- COPYRIGHT:
 - Any and all owned images, logos, characters, terms, or any other trademarks or intellectual property may not be used at or on any TSL website, page, feed, group, video, comment thread, Charter meet, or live event, or in association or conjunction with the TSL organization, including description, discussion, or recommendation.
 - Customizing your dueling armor to resemble an owned character or concept is exempt from this rule, as it is legally classified as “derivative work” and protected under the same Fair Use category as cosplay, though painting or wearing owned symbols on your armor is not.

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The Saber Legion Convention and Event Rules

- The table or booth should not be used as personal storage. Store all non-TSL-related items out of sight.
- The table or area will not be used as a break / eating area for anyone - No Exceptions.
- TSL members are encouraged to engage in conversations with convention members –that is the reason you are there. However, the space will not be used as a social gathering area. If you are not on shift, please move away from the area.
- Whether hosting a table or simply attending the event, if you are wearing any TSL branded gear, you are expected to follow all codes of conduct within TSL.
- Any TSL member hosting a table or booth will be required to wear an official TSL Charter or club shirt and/or other TSL official logo items while representing TSL. Costumes, such as but not limited to “Jedi” or “Sith” outfits may be allowed with approval. Approval may be granted by the TSL Owners and or Charter Reps.
- The table or booth should never be left unattended. If you are alone and require a break, please contact a backup person on the schedule.
- Please keep conversations and language appropriate for all ages – including no swearing, inappropriate content, or arguing.
- Under no circumstances should you ever pick up or hold a child (unless it is yours) regardless of the parents’ consent. The liability is not worth the action.
- Treat all sabers as if they were real weapons. If worn or carried, please remove the blade. Only have the blade in the saber for photo or demonstration purposes. It would be very unfortunate if a child were to be accidentally struck or anyone tripped because a member was not careful enough.
- Demonstrations must be conducted within a safe and clear area away from bystanders. Be aware of your surroundings and mindful of the people around you. More than just two duelists are required to carry out demonstrations – at least two others must be present to watch the area and control bystanders, and call holds when unsafe.
- Carrying and displaying weapons (such as, but not limited to: firearms, knives and swords) are strictly forbidden while representing TSL in any way. (This does not include your Sabers of course!)

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Merchandise and Branding Rules

- Any items or media bearing “The Saber Legion”, TSL, any TSL logo or club names, references, or websites are considered representative of The Saber Legion.
- Members creating any such items must submit the design, before public use, to The Saber Legion Owners and/or The Saber Legion Graphics Team who shall be responsible for the review and approval of any proposed TSL advertising or merchandise or any subdivision therein. In the case of questionable material, The Saber Legion Owners have the final word.
- All TSL items must be free of vulgarity.
- TSL items must be free of anyone else’s owned or copyrighted material, trademarks, or intellectual property.
- TSL items must be sold only to members of The Saber Legion and at cost, except in sanctioned cases of fundraising approved by The Saber Legion owners.
- TSL items must not be created by, manufactured by, or in any way tied to any outside commercial entity or venture without the express permission of TSL Owners.
- TSL items must not misrepresent or misidentify its user / wearer in any role other than as a member or supporter of The Saber Legion. No shirt will bear the label “Security” or “Staff” unless created with full permission of the event organizer and labeled for that event only.
- TSL items specifying a sub-unit of the club are allowed and encouraged. Such examples would be items promoting approved TSL Charters. All such items are still subject to the same rules that apply to all TSL merchandise.
- Each TSL Charter is responsible for the funding and production of their own Charter-exclusive merchandise such as apparel, patches, pins, handouts, business cards, and any other items related to that Charter. These items must be funded out-of-pocket or through donations and or fundraisers.

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Safety Guidelines

Our Members and How We Train

In The Saber Legion, we do not abide or allow bullies. Our members are adults and children who are interested in learning custom saber combat to further the development of their body, mind and spirit. Training may be achieved through a combination of solo drills, in which members learn the basic movements that will build techniques through repetition; Partner drills, in which members learn to apply those movements by working directly with another member; And Dueling or “free sparring” where you can spontaneously apply what you have learned.

Martial Roots

The custom saber skills used in The Saber Legion draw on “real world” martial techniques and are being applied in the format of Custom Saber combat. Take a moment to sense the significance of your presence in The Saber Legion every time you begin your training. Try to cultivate a feeling of appreciation for the fact that you are a part of these “traditional” arts’ historical legacy.

Relationship to Other Members

Treat members who have trained longer than you with respectful attention, and members who join after you with helpful care. The moment you become a member of The Saber Legion, you are now the “elder” of anyone who joins the group after you, and a custodian of TSL values and community. Take responsibility for introducing and recruiting new members in your Charters, social sites and events. It is everyone’s job to be welcoming, answer questions, and help new members adapt to being a member of The Saber Legion. Always remember our mission statement: “United Through Sabers.”

Safety

To properly cultivate skill, we must know that training is safe. Never force a technique on your partner beyond reasonable limits. No experience in The Saber Legion should ever reach the intensity and damage potential of an actual fight. There is no need to injure yourself or others to progress. Use artificial targets (punching bags, shields, etc.) to test your power, speed, and intensity. Use human partners to test coordination, spontaneity, distance, and timing in a manner safe for all. A larger, stronger, or faster partner requires better techniques - not more power, force, or speed. Be alert: actively and constantly keep safety in mind. Use common sense. If in doubt, always err on the side of safety.

- Eating, chewing gum, or wearing metal jewelry during training is not allowed.
- Tie back long hair for safety.

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- Dress to your training environment - wear comfortable shoes and clothing appropriate for the area you are training in.
- Use a saber or other training device (bamboo sword, wooden sword, stick, etc.) that is in good repair and safe to handle.
- If you are injured or prone to injury, wear proper-fitting, medically recommended preventative or therapeutic braces, tapes, pads, stabilizers, or other protective devices.

Training with a Partner

Anytime you train with another member of The Saber Legion you are both required to adhere to the safety gear guidelines listed below. This is to ensure all members are training in the safest way possible. We are here to have fun and enjoy the community of other saber enthusiasts, so show respect and concern for each other's wellbeing.

Training Gear

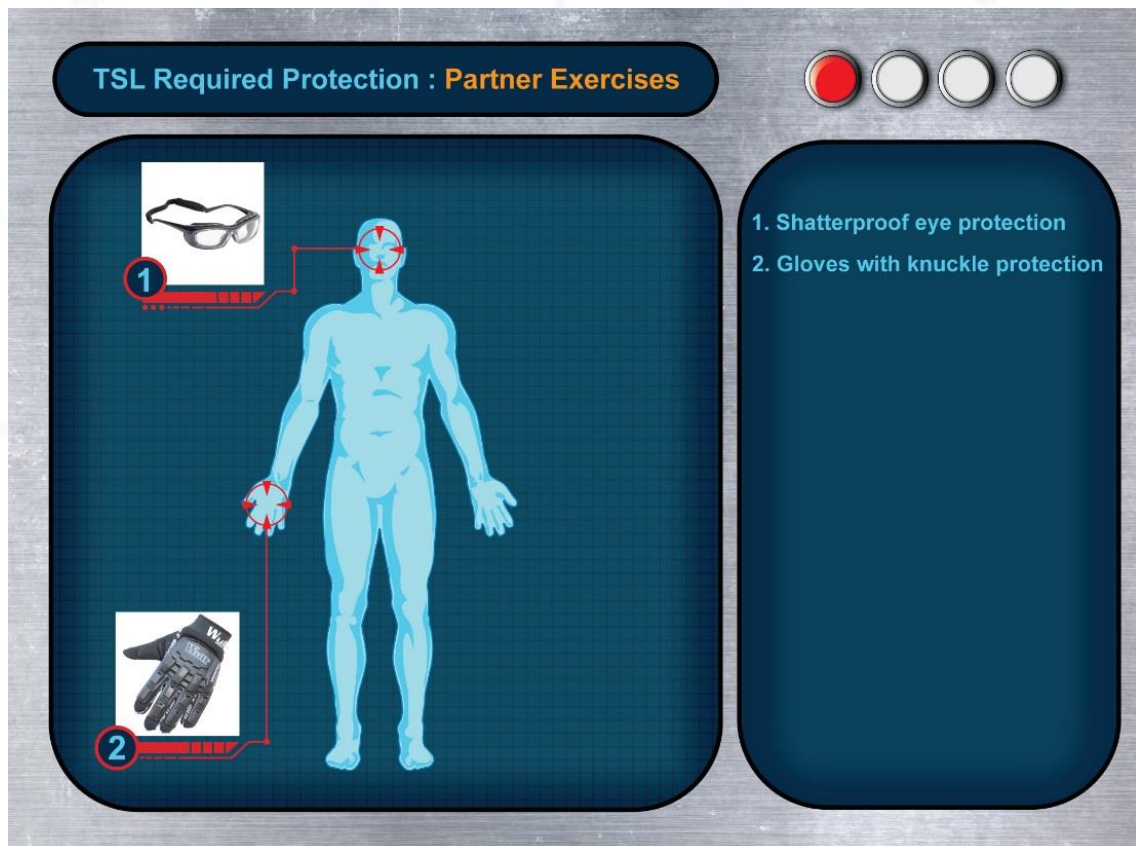
There are quite a few levels of training gear requirements in TSL. Each level includes the requirements of the level before it. Please read this carefully and often. If there are any questions, please reach out to an owner of The Saber Legion for guidance. Handle all training gear (sabers, pads, masks, etc.) with respect. Place them on the floor / ground out of the way when you are not using them. Never toss, drop, or throw an item onto the floor. Never kick an item and try not to step over or on any training gear. Take the time to respect the gear and move it gently if it is in the way.

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1. Partner Exercises

You will need a Custom Saber, shatterproof eye protection and gloves with knuckle protection. This level is required when working with another member on any technique. You are “working together” at this level; it is not a competition. No member is trying to beat the other and you are working together to learn a concept. The speed and intensity at this level should never be more than 10 – 20 percent of “real” or “combat” speed and intensity.

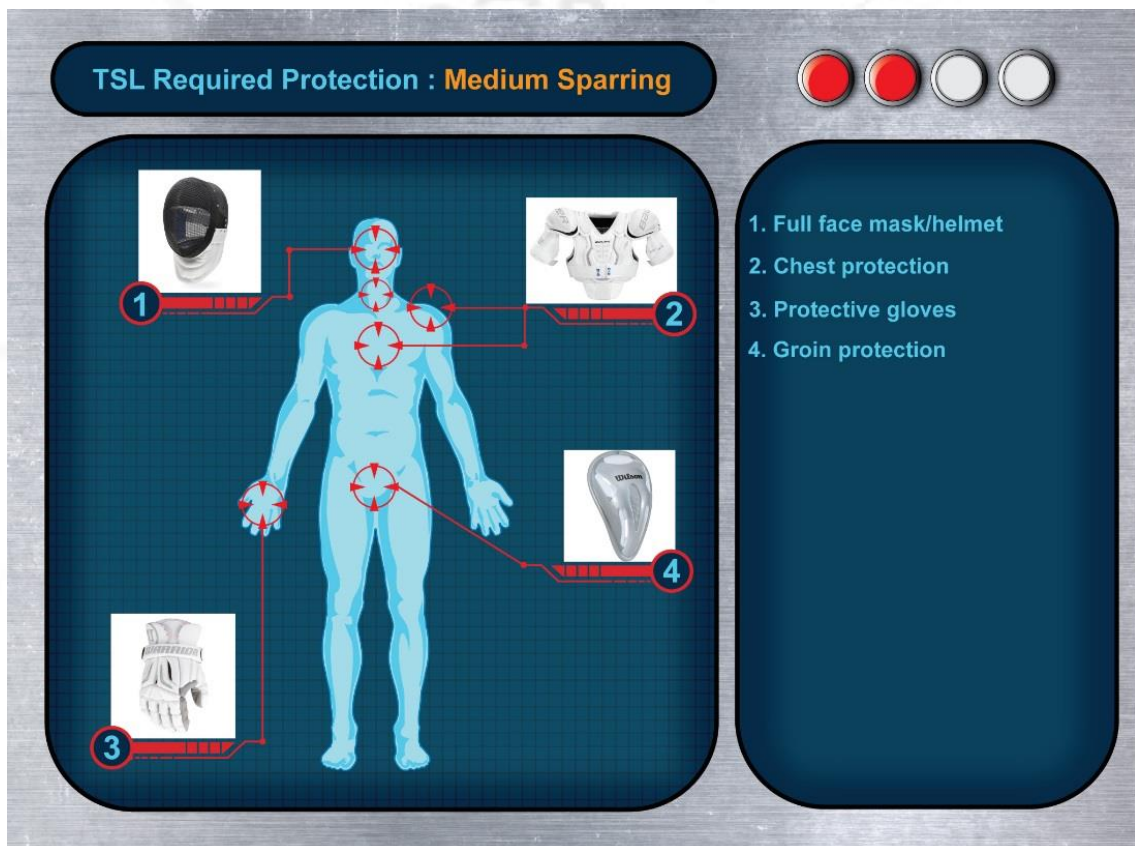


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2. Medium Sparring

This level is the minimum when members of The Saber Legion begin to duel or “free spar.” You are required to have a Fencing or HEMA (350N minimum) mask - ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS! You will also need better gloves and the addition of chest and shoulder protection. Lacrosse and Hockey (ice, field, or street) are the least expensive and most effective pads for this activity. Finally, you will need to add a “cup” or similar pelvic / groin protection. At this level the members are trying to use the skills they have learned in a spontaneous environment. This level should remain fun for most members. The speed and intensity should never be above 30 – 40 percent of “real” or “combat” speed and intensity.

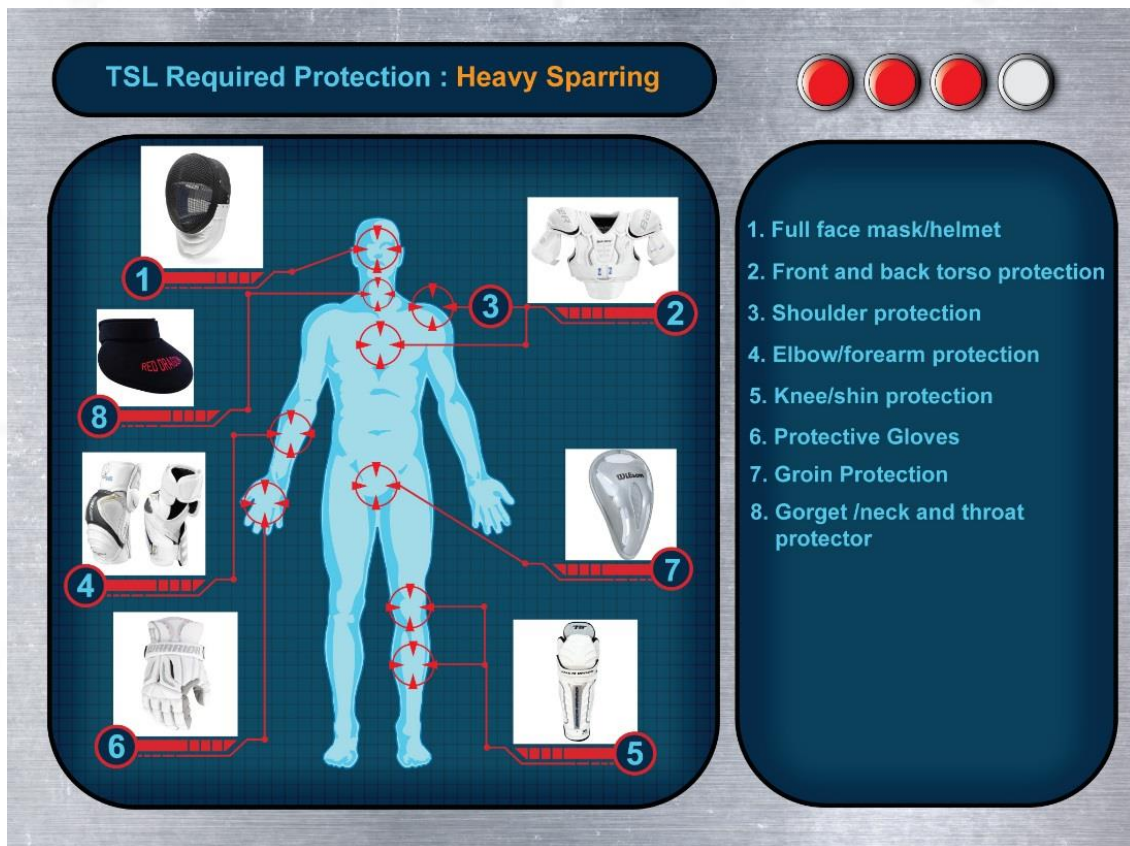


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3. Heavy Sparring

At this level, you will need to add torso (both front and back), shoulder, elbow, shin and knee as well as neck protection. Lacrosse and Hockey (ice, field, or street) pads are the least expensive and most effective pads. They are designed to protect the wearers from the impact of hockey or lacrosse “sticks”, similar to the heavy-grade blade of a custom saber. At this level, members are attempting to outwit and overcome an opponent. The speed and intensity should never be above 50 – 60 percent of “real” or “combat” speed and intensity.



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4. Tournament Sparring

This is the level one can expect when entering and participating in official TSL tournament events. Additional gear required at this level is a “plate” style gorget (neck and throat protector) and back-of-the-head protection. The gorget must be made with solid pieces of metal, regardless of additional covering or padding material. We allow thrusts to the chest and head to score points, (see the tournament rules for specifics) so the neck (while not a valid target) is vulnerable to being struck. The remainder of the gear is the same as the Heavy Sparring description. The speed of the dueling will be under the influence of adrenaline and can reach 70 – 80 percent of a full attack, however the participants are expected to show control and to “pull their punches” as the weapon impacts, so the force applied still falls into the 50 – 60 percent range described in the heavy sparring description. True safety at this level is achieved by having a partner with control, knowledge, skill, and experience. Please be aware of your opponent and keep in mind we are here to have fun and build community.



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5. Full Combat

This level is **NOT RECOMMENDED OR ENDORSED** for any member of The Saber legion as it holds a chance for real injury. **Please do not compete or participate at this level** thinking the gear outlined above will be enough to keep you safe. True safety at this level is achieved by having a partner with control, knowledge, skill, and experience. Rib, stomach, kidney, thigh, wrist, forearm, and extreme neck protection are needed at this level. This level should remain sportsmanlike and while the attacks of the encounter may reach full speeds the intensity never should.

Hold Harmless and Member Signature

By signing and submitting the following Membership and Hold Harmless Agreement Signature Page, you are stating that you have read, understood, and agree to all sections of this document, The Saber Legion Membership and Hold Harmless Agreement. Signing the Membership and Hold Harmless Agreement also acknowledges that you will remain up-to-date on the current rule set and policies held by The Saber Legion, LLC and abide by those during any participation with or representing The Saber Legion, LLC. Please make sure you have read and understood what TSL expects from its members. These rules are in place for your safety and to ensure all members of the club can enjoy TSL in the safest and most enjoyable way possible.

Failure to comply with any section of this document may lead to suspension or expulsion from The Saber Legion, with or without explanation.

Take the time to make sure you have read and understand all sections of this document before signing and submitting the Membership and Hold Harmless Agreement Signature Page.

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Membership and Hold Harmless Agreement Signature Page

I _____ (PRINT LEGIBLY) agree to obey all rules and regulations of **The Saber Legion** and the schools, Charters, and any practice or event locations, which are established for the purpose of keeping the order of the organization, and to reduce the potential for injury.

I _____ (PRINT LEGIBLY) acknowledge and hereby release and hold harmless the above organization, its officers, members, instructors, employees, volunteers, practice or event locations, and any authorized invited guests or observers from any and all claims for injury to person or property (whether or not said injuries are immediately apparent upon occurrence) which I may receive while participating in the activities of **The Saber Legion** or through the use of any or all facilities or locations connected herewith. The above activities of **The Saber Legion** include in specific but are not limited to, the following circumstances.

1. The accidental or unintentional injury by any member, guest, instructor, observer, officer, member, or employees of the above organization.
2. The risk to have direct or indirect contact with individuals who have been exposed to and/or diagnosed with one or more communicable diseases, including but not limited to COVID-19 or other medical conditions, diseases, or maladies, and/or any mutation or variation thereof, does exist and it is impossible to eliminate the risk that I could become infected through contact with or close proximity to an individual with a communicable disease.
3. Any injury, which may occur during the course of training. The term “during the course of training” shall include any period of time, which encompasses traveling to or from any training room, place of instruction, or demonstration. This shall also include any self-training or with others when training occurs outside of the premises of or in the supervision of an instructor of the above organization.
4. The signee and/or the applicant’s parent or legal guardian hereby agree that this hold harmless agreement shall extend to all claims for injury aforesaid including costs of litigation, attorney’s fees and other incidental expenses including costs incurred by **The Saber Legion** or its members in the defense of any lawsuit or to enforce this hold harmless agreement.

I also agree not to hold liable **The Saber Legion** or assigns for any injury incurred in the course of training as long as reasonable care and attention is taken by the instructors, members, or guests of the organization. I also agree not to open a club, group or school teaching the skills and techniques as taught in this organization within 2 years of termination of participation with **The Saber Legion**, without written permission of the Owner(s) of **The Saber Legion**.

DATE

APPLICANT’S SIGNATURE

APPLICANT’S CHARTER

DATE

PARENT OR GUARDIAN’S SIGNATURE (IF MEMBER IS UNDER 18)

DATE

TSL CHARTER REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

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