

**Rules and Guidelines:  
Starting a Local Group.**

Here are the 'rules, 'guidelines,' and/or procedures for starting an official RANA group. Official guidelines are set out in the Code of the Law, which every member should have. In reference to this document, I have used version 6.2 issued in 2001. Under 5A Land Grants and Formation of Groups items VII through XXI apply. These Rules, Guidelines and Advisories apply in North America, including Mexico and the Caribbean.

**VIII** Any full member of the Society, resident in land already granted to a local group, may, with the consent of their existing Group Leader, apply to set up a new group. Application for the Grant of Land shall be made to the Eolder (Kim Siddorn) and the Law Speaker.

*[Since any request made to the Eolder or Law Speaker comes immediately back to their Group Leader, it may non-the-less be advantageous to start the process with the applicant's Group Leader]*

**IX** In all normal circumstances, the boundaries of a Grant of Land applied for under 5A viii above shall be drawn up by the group leader who already administers the land.

*[It is ideal to initially hand these out on a state or province basis, i.e. you would be granted the state of Arkansas, or Alaska, or the province of Alberta. This clearly defines boundaries of the initial new groups. If you have reasons for requesting a variance on this idea, the Group Leader should be willing to listen. Such initial grants of land can further be sub-divided under the same process as above].*

**X** Proposed grants of Land shall in all circumstances be drawn up in formal terms, giving exact geographical boundaries.

*[The idea of states and provinces does this nicely for us. The request for a Grant of Land can be written in formal terms referring to a particular state or province and listing group members who must be paid-up members of Regia Anglorum by their regular names. When you're ready contact your Group leader who will give you suggestions].*

*[The person requesting a grant of land will also need to consult with the existing group leader regarding the transfer of members. Upon their mutual agreement the person requesting the grant of land would then invite each Regia member who wishes to join the new group and whom resides within the proposed boundary to submit a brief letter (either hand-written or emailed). This letter will need to state their modern name and their desire to leave their current named group and to transfer their membership to the newly named group.*

*A sample letter follows:*

*'Regarding the pending Grant of Land request covering the state of California.*

*I, Janice Joplin, wish to make known my wish to leave Geforthian Strand and to transfer my membership to the requested grant of land of Ecgebert's Land'.*

*This may appear all very formal but the GL's of both affected groups need to have a joint hand in this process of members transferring from one group to another and subsequently the individual member needs to be consulted as otherwise they would remain within their original group.*

*Please note that even though a member may now reside within the new grant of land there is nothing compelling them to join and they are otherwise free to remain a member of their regular group.*

*Ordinarily, a minimum of five letters will need to be produced together with the G of L request before the Lawspeaker will proceed].*

**XI** Proposed Grants of Land shall be dated, and submitted to the Lawspeaker in triplicate for ratification. Copies of the proposed Grant of Land shall be sent by the Lawspeaker, to the Eolder, the National Membership Officer and anyone else who may be reasonably held to have an interest within seven days of the receipt of the proposal.

*[As previously advised it is probably better to send the three copies initially to the Group Leader to ensure there are no errors who will then forward them to the Lawspeaker in the UK. Email or telephone conversations before the paper work is actually submitted will save time and iron out any bugs. It is re-assuring to know that if your group leader is unresponsive to your request you can submit it directly to Regia UK, however, cooperation of all parties is in the best interests of everyone].*

**XII** If no objection is lodged within thirty days of the Lawspeaker's receipt of the proposal, the Lawspeaker shall proclaim the ratification of the Land Grant. He shall inform the Publications Officer and all of those he has previously informed of the proposal.

**XIII** An area for recruiting and administration shall be formed by the Grant of Land. All Grants of Land are of equal status and will survive the administrators responsible for their inception.

*[Recruit and grow within the bounds of your grant and be helpful to the formation of groups both inside and outside of your land grant. If the individual who starts the group moves, the group may maintain the Land Grant by appointing a new Group leader, maintaining the proper number of members, abiding to the terms of the Grant, and following the Code of the Law. A Land Grant will not disappear if the founder leaves; neither will it travel with him or her if they move to another state or province].*

**XIV** Grants of Land shall revert to the grantor group, whether the Society (under 5Aii) or the former group (5A viii) if they fall vacant.

*[If any groups fall vacant, described below, their grant reverts back to the grantor group in the first place. If, for example, Geforthian Strand became vacant, the land grant would revert back to the High Witan from whence it came. This might be the appropriate time to talk about subdividing Grants of Land. It should be each group leader's desire to subdivide their lands as the occasion arises thus allowing RANA to grow more rapidly. If, for example, with the approval of the Lawspeaker, a grant of Land for Montana were granted, it would be expected that their group leader (GL) would encourage and foster localized groups throughout the state. As these groups grew they would ask the GL of Montana for a grant of land from some of his/her land grant. Group Leaders get to hand out their own grants within the boundaries of their own land grant. For example, the GL of Montana sub-divides his/her land grant into Northern Montana and Southern Montana. In turn, the GL for Southern Montana could grant a smaller land grant, say, San Diego].*

**XV** An area shall vacant, and the local group cease to exist, if there are fewer than three paid up Full Members of the group resident within it both on 31st October and on the 1st of May immediately following.

*[In almost every case within North America an initial land grant will cover a much larger area than a land grant in the UK. Having noted this it is highly advisable that the minimum number of paid-up members be raised to five to ensure the vitality of the group due to greater distances between members].*

**XVI** All other alterations to group boundaries must be notified to the High Witan, through the

Lawspeaker. They shall be ratified using the procedures above.

*[Again, it would be helpful to initially approach and work with the grantor group leader regarding modifications or subdivisions. However, the Eolder, Lawspeaker, and High Witan are the ultimate authority on this issue.]*

**XVII** A group is recognized on the payment of, ideally, its fifth full capitation fee to Regia. It is highly advisable that no new group may receive a Grant of Land if it has fewer than five full members at the time of requesting a land grant.

*[As mentioned above in paragraph (XV) it is advisable to have five members to start a group in North America. Although the UK requires only three members, three people in a large North American land grant are not enough to really get that group moving. If one member drops out, the group would fall vacant. Because of our vast distances and isolation (which will change as we grow) our groups, initially, need to be strong and self-sufficient. We don't believe it is too much to ask for five members in any given state or province. Against Geforthian Strand's better judgement, it allowed it's 1st group to start with only three members and regrettably it fell vacant within the year despite that group's vigorous attempt to prevent this from happening. We will still, however, adhere to the minimum of three members before the land is considered vacant. By starting the group with five members it gives the group some cushion. In the UK groups are started only miles apart and invariably they can rely on each other for support and maintenance of membership. For North America, we will have to rely on ourselves until we develop more groups closer to one another].*

**XVIII** A group is deemed Established when it has ten paid-up adult members. Such Groups may act as Mentor Groups (provided they are themselves out of mentorship) and may create their own activities and affairs. Such regulations must not contravene the Code of the Law, nor lower the standards of the Society as laid down by the High Witan and the National Officers.

**XIX** A Group with thirty-six adult members may apply to the High Witan to be accorded the status of an Eorldom, and its leader to be accorded the status of an Eorl at a public ceremony if it be his wish.

*[An incentive for everyone to get those members and keep them!]*

**XX** An Eorldom's status shall revert to that of an Established Group if it does not have thirty-six adult members by 15th November in the following year.

**XXI** A local group shall accurately reflect the peoples found in the group's area within Regia's period.

*[Since Regia does not allow for the portrayal of Native American Indians, this issue does not bind us and a group is therefore free to select an area of the UK to portray].*

## **5B Management of Groups**

**I** All groups are branches of the Society, and are bound by the Code of the Law. All members of local groups are members of the Society, and are bound by the Code of the Law.

**II** The local group shall administer and enforce the Code of the Law within its area. Whilst the method by which this is carried out is to be decided by the local group, the following points must be adhered to.

**III** Each local group must have a group leader and a treasurer, these two posts must not be held by the same individual. [As previously mentioned, it is highly advisable that they have five members. They must also have at least one copy of the Code of the Law and attest to having read and understood it].

**IV** Each local group must have a bank or building society (credit union) account, in the name of the group.

**V** Each group must have an Authenticity Officer, and a Training Officer if the group has any combat members. Any member of the group may hold these posts.

**VI** The Group Leader is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Code of the Law in the group and the area of the group's Grant of Land.

**VII** The treasurer is primarily and solely responsible for the administration of the groups' bank or building society (credit union) accounts. The Society Treasurer must be informed of the identity of the group treasurer.

**VIII** The group leader and treasurer shall be responsible for the administration of the group's bank or building society (credit union) account.

**IX** The Training Officer is responsible for military training within the group. The National Training Officer shall be informed of the identity of the group Training Officer.

**X** The Authenticity Officer is responsible for all aspects of authenticity in the group. The National Authenticity Officer shall be informed of the identity of the group Authenticity Officer.

**XI** The sphere of authority of the above posts in the group shall mirror the authority of the relevant National Officer in the Society, as set down in the Code of the Law.

These are the basics for forming a group as established by the Code of the Law. Individuals who are considering forming a group need to have a copy of the Code of Law. This can be obtained from their respective Group Leader or Martin Field (N.A. Membership Contact), or Tom Sweeting (N.A. Publications Officer). In all normal circumstances, the Code of Law can be downloaded from either [www.regia.org](http://www.regia.org) or [www.ranamember.org](http://www.ranamember.org)

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