

Middle Kingdom New Groups Policy
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Rev. 2004-06-04

This document is an attempt to answer the common questions about the New Groups Policy. It is issued by the New Groups Deputy to the Middle Kingdom Seneschal, but it is explanatory material and *not* in itself an official policy document.

Q: Why is this policy being made?

A: The old policy was largely word-of-mouth, not clearly documented. Also, the process of warranting officers of incipient groups was at odds with Corpora, a situation which needed to be corrected. Finally, the multiple levels of pre-proto-incipient, proto-incipient, incipient, and full status were confusing. The new policy aligns fully with Corpora, is clearly documented, and simplifies group status changes.

Q: Will the forms for group creation and advancement change?

A: Yes. The New Groups Deputy is working on new forms and a new version of the New Groups Handbook, which is very useful but now out of date. Both of these projects needed to wait until this new policy was finalized and approved by Curia. In the meantime, direct questions to your administering branch officers or to the New Groups Deputy.

Q: Do our Marshals and Chirurgeons lose their warrants in a new group?

A: No, these two officers are warranted at-large by the Kingdom directly. The Knights Marshal of your *group* will now be a deputy of the Knights Marshal of the administering branch, but individual fighting, archery, youth, and rapier Marshals, and Chirurgeons, are warranted at-large.

Q: We were a proto-incipient group under the old nomenclature. What are we now?

A: Depending on the group's tenure as proto-incipient, you will either become an Applicant group or an Incipient group under the new policy. Consult the New Groups Deputy to discuss the status of your particular group.

Q: Will our group be listed in The Pale? On Midrealm.org?

A: All incipient and full status groups will be listed in both venues. The incipient groups will be in a separate listing from full status groups, for legal reasons.

Q: We have been incipient (or proto-incipient) for longer than three years before the policy became effective. Are we already in trouble?

A: In a word, no. The policy only calls for a *review* of status after three years to see if the formation of the group is still viable. The review process is not a punishment, but rather a mechanism to help ensure that groups deserving of advancement do not fall into a kind of limbo at the incipient level. The

review helps to identify what is holding up advancement, and focuses attention on moving the group forward.

Q: What about our Chronicler and Webminister? If they are not warranted, do they lose SCA liability insurance protection for their publications?

A: These officers act as deputies of their counterparts at the administering branch. Since the administering officers are warranted, the deputy will be protected by SCA sanction as well. Ultimately, the administering officer is accountable for the actions of his or her deputy, so there is an expectation of active supervision and mentoring.

Q: What's the difference between "administering branch" and "sponsor"?

A: The term "administering branch" is used so that Midrealm policy and Corpora use the same wording, and to emphasize the fact that there is now a requirement, not merely an option, for an ongoing oversight and mentoring relationship between the incipient and administering groups.

Q: We are an incipient canton of a barony, but want to be administered by one of its cantons rather than by the barony itself. We want to claim land that is currently part of the barony but not of any of its cantons. Can we do be sponsored by a canton?

A: Baronies have the authority to designate a full-status canton as an administering branch for an incipient canton.

Q: We are an incipient canton of a barony, and our proposed lands fall within the boundaries of an existing canton. Who is our administering branch?

A: This is decided by the Baronial Seneschal, Baron, and Baroness after consultation with the proposed and existing cantons. Note, however, that (per the policy) the existing canton cannot be compelled to release territory for the formation of a new group.

Q: We want to form a new group where none currently exists. Under this new policy, what do we do first?

A: Contact the Kingdom Seneschal's New Groups Deputy for instructions and an information packet. He or she will instruct you which group in your area should be contacted by you to ask about being your administering branch.