

Rules of the Mess

- 1. Mr. Vice will monitor the behavior of the Mess throughout the evening. He will carefully identify any violations of the rules of the mess. Members of the Mess may request to address the Mess in their own defense. The diagnoses of Mr. Vice are final and may not be appealed, unless overturned by the President.*
- 2. Members may request to address thy Mess by standing up at their seat and asking, "Mr. Vice, [State your preferred form of address and last name, such as "Mrs. McNamara"] requests permission to address the Mess." Guests at the Head Table, however, are not required to request permission before addressing the Mess directly.*
- 3. Any member of the Mess addressed directly by the President of the Mess may respond directly, without requesting permission from Mr. Vice.*
- 4. Thou Shalt be punctual.*
- 5. Thou Shalt wear appropriate attire, and shall at no time wear an ill-fitting, ill-prepared, or discolored uniform. Clip-on ties are completely prohibited.*
- 6. Thou shalt move to the mess when thee hears the chimes and remain standing until seated by the President.*
- 7. Thou Shalt not murder the Queen's English.*
- 8. Thou Shalt not use foul language, or use loud, obtrusive remarks in any language.*
- 9. Thou Shalt not pick thy nose, ears, or arse.*
- 10. Thou Shalt not flatuate, lest thou be severely punished.*
- 11. Thou Shalt not chew gum, spit tobacco, or smoke until the smoking lamp is lit.*
- 12. Exclusive of actual emergencies, no member shall leave the dining area until thy head table has exited*

13. *Thou shalt keep toasts and comments within the limits of good taste and mutual respect. Degrading or insulting remarks will be frowned upon by the membership. However, good natured needling is ENCOURAGED.*
14. *When the Mess adjourns, Thou Shalt rise and wait for the President and guests to leave.*
15. *Thou Shalt not start a course before the President.*
16. *Thou Shalt use proper toasting protocol.*
17. *Thou Shalt ensure that thy glass is always charged while toasting.*
18. *Thou Shalt participate in all toasts unless thyself or the group is honored with the toast.*
19. *Thou Shalt not rise with smoking material in mouth or hand.*
20. *Members of the Mess shall not maintain a debt against the Mess. Thou Shalt faithfully pay all fines before departing the Mess, or deposit instructions for swift collection of such fines after the Mess has concluded.*
21. *Thou Shalt not have a copy of these rules while in the Mess.*
22. *Thou shalt have a great time!*