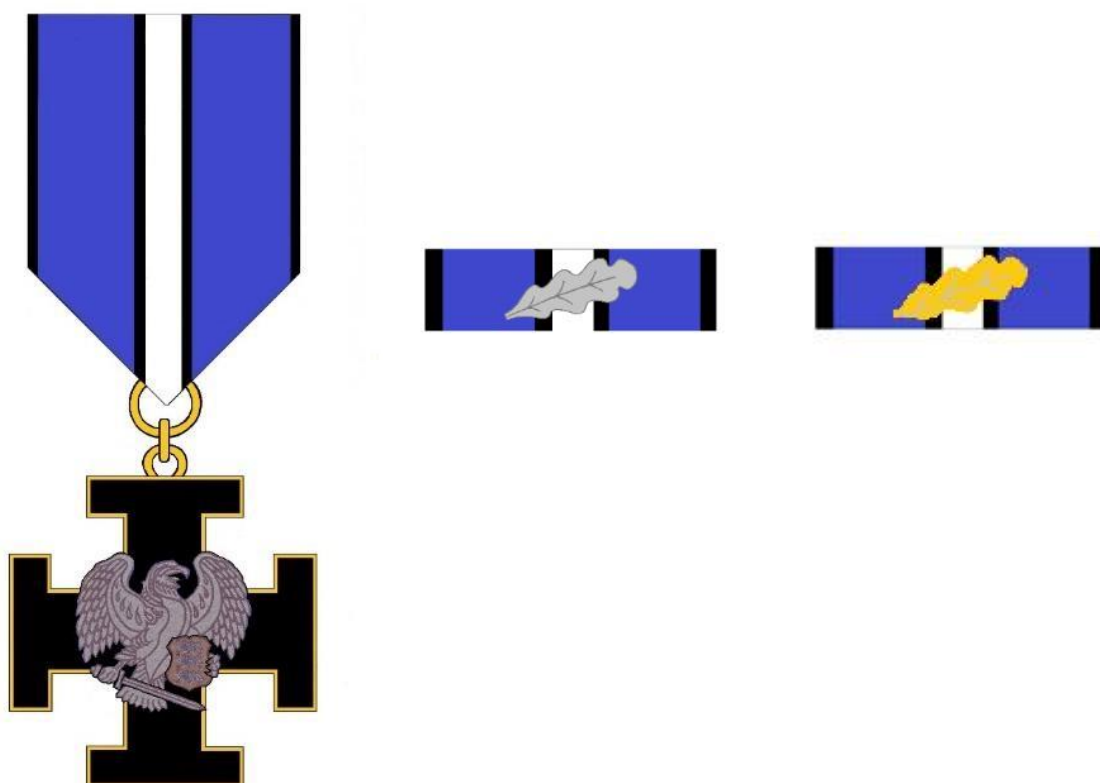


## STATUTES OF THE CROSS OF MERIT OF THE ESTONIAN DEFENCE LEAGUE

### § 1 DESCRIPTION OF THE CROSS OF MERIT OF THE ESTONIAN DEFENCE LEAGUE

- (1) The Cross of Merit of the Estonian Defence League (EDL) is a cross potent made of tombac and covered in gold, and its arms are covered in hot enamel coating (PMS Black C); it has a silver relief of the eagle of the EDL in the front centre. The height and width of the cross is 40 mm. The height of the eagle is 22 mm and its width is 23 mm. The back of the cross is smooth and has the number of the Cross of Merit engraved in it.
- (2) The Cross of Merit is worn on a 35 mm wide moiré ribbon with the following coloured stripes: black 2 mm, blue 11 mm, black 2 mm, white 5 mm, black 2 mm, blue 11 mm, and black 2 mm. The tone of the blue is PMS 285; the tone of the black is PMS Black C, the tone of the white is PMS White C. The total width of the ribbon is 35 mm.



*Figure 3: The Cross of Merit of the Estonian Defence League and the insignia of the Second Class (silver oak leaf) and First Class (golden oak leaf) cuts of ribbon*

- (3) The Cross of Merit has three classes: First Class, Second Class and Third Class. The classes are distinguished as follows:
  - 1.3.1. Third Class Cross of Merit – the cross of merit
  - 1.3.2. Second Class Cross of Merit – has a silver oak leaf on the ribbon

### 1.3.3. First Class Cross of Merit – has a golden oak leaf on the ribbon

## § 2 BESTOWAL OF THE CROSS OF MERIT OF THE ESTONIAN DEFENCE LEAGUE

- (1) The decision to award someone with the Cross of Merit is made by the Central Management of the Estonian Defence League. On urgent cases when the Central Management of the EDL cannot be assembled, the Cross of Merit can be awarded with the decision of the Commander of the EDL who will inform the Central Management.
- (2) Crosses of Merit are ceremonially bestowed three times a year – the Independence Day, the Victory Day and the anniversary of the Estonian Defence League. On rare cases and with the decision of the Central Management of the EDL, the Cross of Merit can be bestowed on other occasions.
- (3) The Cross of Merit, the White Cross and the Medal of Merit are never bestowed concurrently. The Cross of Merit can be bestowed if at least two years have passed from when the person received either the White Cross or the Medal of Merit (except for the special class).
- (4) Crosses of Merit are awarded in the order of classes.
- (5) For the Second Class and the First Class Cross of Merit, the person is only bestowed a ribbon (without the cross) along with a devise/clasp that certifies the class of the Cross of Merit.
- (6) The Cross of Merit cannot be awarded to a person with a valid disciplinary punishment, a person whose punishment for offense has not been deleted, or a member of the EDL with the obligation to pay membership fee who has not paid their fee for the last calendar years.
- (7) The Central Management of the EDL is not obligated to justify the decision to not award someone with the Cross of Merit.
- (8) The Cross of Merit can be applied for by submitting a motion to the Human Resources Department of the Headquarters of the EDL (Annex 1).
- (9) Crosses of Merit are awarded in compliance with the following principles.

Cross of merit	Reason	Preconditions
<b>First Class</b>	For long-term and persistent outstanding contributions to activities related with the EDL	1) Member of the EDL 2) At least 2 years have passed since being awarded with a decoration of the EDL 3) Having been awarded the First Class Medal of Merit
<b>Second Class</b>	For repeated outstanding contributions to activities related with the EDL	1) Member of the EDL 2) At least 2 years have passed since being awarded with a decoration of the EDL
<b>Third Class</b>	For an outstanding contribution to activities related with the EDL	1) Member of the EDL 2) Having been awarded with the Third Class Medal of Merit 3) At least 2 years have passed since being awarded with a decoration of the EDL

10) The bestowal of the Cross of Merit is verified with a certificate with the first and last name of the recipient, an imprint of the relief seal of the Estonian Defence League, the number of the Cross of Merit (for Third Class Crosses of Merit), the date of the Central Management meeting, and the number of the decision. The certificate is signed by the Commander of the Estonian Defence League and a member of the Central Management.

11) The bestowal of the Second and First Class Crosses of Merit is verified with a certificate with the first and last name of the recipient, an imprint of the relief seal of the Estonian Defence League, the number of the cut of ribbon, the date of the Central Management meeting, and the number of the decision. The certificate is signed by the Commander of the Estonian Defence League and a member of the Central Management.

12) The duplicates of Cross of Merit, the ribbon, the devise/clasp and the certificate are ordered by the issuing institution, based on an application of the recipient of the Cross of Merit. The duplicate is paid for by the applicant.

### **§ 3 WEARING THE CROSS OF MERIT OF THE ESTONIAN DEFENCE LEAGUE**

- (1) The Cross of Merit is worn with the ribbon on the left side of the chest, before the Medal of Merit and after the White Cross.
- (2) The miniature of the Cross of Merit is a copy of the cross, reduced to 1/3 of its original size.
- (3) Instead of wearing the Cross of Merit, a person can only wear the ribbon or the miniature. The miniature of the Cross of Merit is worn on the left lapel of a suit jacket.
- (4) A person who has been awarded with different classes of the Cross of Merit will only wear the ribbon with the devise/clasp of their highest class Cross of Merit.