

Symphony of Steel

Equipment specifications

Version 1.6 from 31.12.2023



These equipment specifications are based on the DDHF Rule Framework Version 5.0.

Participants Requirements

In order to participate in the tournament, you must meet the following requirements so as not to pose a threat to yourself or your opponents:

1. You must be physically fit and uninjured.
2. You are not allowed to take drugs, alcohol or doping substances during and before the tournament.
3. You must be at least 18 years old.
4. You must know, understand and abide by the tournament rules.

Wrestling

Wrestling on the sword is an important part of historical martial arts with its own challenges in equipment, technique and body control. We therefore recommend preparing for safe falling during throws and takedowns (fall school, Ukemi) and practicing safe falling even in full protective gear with a sword.

A match is interrupted in wrestling if the protective effect of the equipment is no longer guaranteed due to slipping or loss. Nevertheless, care should be taken to ensure that one's own protective equipment fits as tightly as possible, even in the event of external impact by the opponent.

Personal equipment and weapons

The fencers must compete in sportswear suitable for fencing, which covers the whole body covered except for the hands and head (no visible naked parts). Prohibited from wearing jewelry, watches, etc. The review and approval of the Equipment and weapons will be provided by the tournament management or the commissioned Protection master before the start of the tournament.

For the initial equipment check, bring the sword and put on all protective equipment including the mask so that the correct fit of the equipment can be checked. Judges are required to recheck your equipment before each round. We reserve the right to check your equipment at any time in between. If your equipment does not meet the requirements, you will be excluded from the tournament.

Personal protective equipment

You must wear at least the following equipment during the tournament. All equipment must be in good condition and have no obvious defects.

1. **Head protection** - A fencing mask FIE standard level 2 with a stab resistance of at least 1600N, which protects against stabs and blows. The mask must be in good condition, i.e., it must not be deformed, have cracks, major dents, or other damage that may cast doubt on its suitability for use. The mask must fit well and must not loosen when the head is shaken. If you wear glasses, it is recommended to wear contact lenses during the competition.
2. **Rear head guard** - A rear head guard made of a hard material that protects the back of the head and neck from blows. The back of the head protection must be rigid enough that it can be bent only under strong force.
3. **Neck guard** - A neck guard made of a hard material that covers the entire larynx and protects the neck from impact.
4. **Upper body protection** - An upper body protector with a recommended stab resistance of at least 350N that covers the upper body from the hips (even with the arms raised above the head) to the neck, and the arms to the wrists, front and back, protecting the upper body from blows and stabs.
The collar must close reliably with the neck guard on. The jacket must be padded throughout, non-padded fencing jackets e.g., from Olympic fencing are not allowed.
5. **Leg protection** - A leg protector made of a hard material that protects the knees, the sides of the knees, and shins up to the ankle from blows. Furthermore, the thigh and hip must be protected with material that has a puncture resistance of at least 350N.
6. **Hand protection** - Gloves made of a hard material that protect fingers and wrist from blows. They must have reinforced cuffs that protect the entire wrist (e.g., Sparring Gloves, Spes Heavys or Koning Gloves).
An inner glove must be worn on models with an open palm (e.g., Sparring Gloves, Neyman Pig Hoof).
Lacrosse Gloves, Red Dragon Gloves, and steel reenactment/buhurt gloves are not allowed.
7. **Groin guard** - For men, a groin guard made of a hard material that protects the genital area from blows. For women, this is optional but recommended. The groin protector must be worn under clothing.
8. **Chest protector** - For the women, a chest protector made of a hard material that protects the upper body from blows and thrusts. For men, this is optional, but recommended.
9. **Forearm and elbow protector** - A protector made of a hard material that protects the entire forearm and elbow joint on both arms from blows.
10. **Shoes** - Sports shoes that are appropriate for the surface and do not leave marks or traces on the hall floor.
11. It is permitted to wear **additional personal protective equipment** (such as back protectors, mouth and teeth protectors, ankle protectors, etc.).

Any protective equipment that poses a danger to the opponent is prohibited. Among them fall: the use of protectors with sharp edges or pointed corners, potentially metal armor parts, and loose or damaged protectors or equipment.

Swords

Any equipment in this category, in the following called “weapons”, controlled and acknowledged by the tournament management is marked in an appropriate way, for example, using colored tape. The marking may only be removed after the tournament.

All blades are subjected to a bend test before the tournament. Thereby the weapon is set up vertically with the location on the ground and the appropriate test weight on the Pommel applied. The blade must show a visible deflection at the widest point of the blade at the latest at maximum load, but it may deflect at a lower applied force as well.

If during the tournament the fencer needs or wants to change their weapon, this new weapon must also have been tested beforehand.

As weapons, exclusively fencing feathers or feather swords with the following properties are allowed:

For all swords applies:

- **Tip** - The tip of the blade (the Ort) must be blunt and rounded, if necessary, apply plastic or leather protectors.
- **Edge** - Both edges of the blade must be blunt.
- **Parrying elements** - The ends of the cross guard and other parrying elements must be rounded, and plastic or leather protectors must be applied if necessary.

Swords with parry rings are not allowed, as they provide unfair advantages in attacks to the hand.

- **Pommel** - The **pommel** must be rounded and have no protruding points or edges.
- **Blade Quality** - The blade must not have any cutting or tearing burrs or nicks.
- **Blade length** - The length of the blade must not exceed 105 cm.
- **Overall length** - The overall length of the weapon must not exceed 140 cm.
- **Length of the guard** - The length of the guard must be between 20cm and 30cm.
- **Mass** - The total mass of the weapon must be between 1.2kg and 1.8kg.
- **Bending behavior** - The blade must visibly yield at a test weight of 15kg.
- **Shield** - The shield must be rounded, injury to the opponent from possible spikes must be excluded.

We reserve the right to exclude swords that show a clear S-curve or remain deformed after a thrust from the tournament.