

Summer Messer Seminar 2018 Tournament Rules

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Introduction

The following document contains the rules for the tournament held during the Summer Messer Seminar 2018, in Strasbourg.

As Reinier van Noort wrote it in the IRS2014 tournament rules,¹ I do not believe myself that the following rule set should be used in all *messer* tournaments worldwide. I heartily believe that a diversity of rule sets can help exploring the historical material, by forcing fencers to fight under different conditions. For example, the following rules forces the fencers to fight permanently in unequal situations, when the standart for competition is to place the fighters in equal and symetric situation.

I hope that will result in cleaner, more technical fencing, but also with a better spirit.

The Rules in Short

The tournament form is an adaptation from historical prize fighting in France and England.

Each pool is divided into two groups, a patient and the agents.

During a session, the patient is challenged twice by every agents of his pool. Each patient has to manage two such sessions.

This means that every one in the pool endorsed two times the role of patient and had to face every other member of the pool in a raw.

Then the patient becomes an agent and an agent takes its place.

The pool fights ends when every one in the pool of fighters has endorsed two time the role of patient.

Hits to the entire body count.

Double hit: a double hit occurs when a fighter is touched while doing his attack, and his own attack reaches the opponent's body. A double touch following this definition is not necessarily a simultaneous hit.

In principle the patient has always the advantage on the agent in case of a double.

The tournament is to be fought with single messer, that means without dagger or buckler.

Finally, it will be then possible to select the best patient and best agent in each pool to have a specific final phase. This will be discussed before the tournament.

Weapons and safety equipment

The fights must take place with decent messer blades, with a safe, blunt tip and enough flexibility. The final decision on whether a blade is deemed acceptable lies with the tournament staff.

¹ <http://www.bruchius.com/docs/IRS2014%20Tournament%20Rules.pdf>

The following safety equipment is mandatory for fencers in the tournament:

- All bare skin must be covered.
- Fencing mask in good order (without hump or rust)
- A padded fencing jacket.
- Protective gloves.
- Groin protection, for men
- Solid breast plate, for women

Fencers are recommended to also wear the following:

- Mask cover

- solid breast plate for men
- rigid protected gloves

The participants

During a bout there are different type of people actives in or at the ring.

These are:

- The patient and the agent, the two people fighting.
- The referee - The referee's job is to coordinate the fight. He will be provided with a staff to separate fighters if necessary.
- the waiting fighters

The exchange and the bout

- An exchange (exchange of blows) begins when the referee calls "Fight!" or "Allez!" and ends when the referee calls "Halt!" or "Stop!"
- An exchange will be ended by the referee:
 - o for safety reasons,
 - o when a valid hit has been reported by the referee,
 - o when a fencer indicates that he received a hit
 - o when a fencer grapples his opponent,
 - o when one of the fencers has stepped out of the ring with one foot.

Warnings and penalties

Penalties can and will be awarded for the following offenses. Note that this list is not necessarily complete, and the referee may decide to give penalties for other behaviour as well.

- Indicating that you think to have scored can result in a warning.
- Verbally or otherwise abusing the referee or fighters can result in immediate disqualification.
- Causing injury to your opponent through unsafe behaviour will result in disqualification.

Whether an injury was caused through unsafe behaviour is decided at the discretion of the referee

- Receiving several warnings can result in a penalty, such as loss of venues or disqualification.
- The referee can give warnings and penalties at his discretion.

When a fencer is disqualified, he is removed from the tournament. He loses all venues and points, and cannot win any prizes. The outcomes of any bouts he fought before being disqualified do still count for the fencer's opponents.