



MHS rules of padded sword competition v1.2¹ (with special padded longswords)

Specially for:

- unexperienced fighters with only few pieces of equipment
- who want to try his/her fencing skill without risks of steel weapon in a friendly competition
- and of course for high-level fighters as challenge and fun :)

Equipment requirements:

- The internationally prescribed 350N or 1600N fencing mask is obligatory.
- Throat protection: Only equipment covering the whole throat, fixed at the back of the neck, produced specially for this task are acceptable.
- Male participants have to wear suspensors
- Have to use simple leather gloves at least. (You can use better protection of course.)
- Participants have to use special MHS padded longswords. We provide it for foreign fencers.²
- Breast protector for female fencers.

Rules:

We ask fencers to be fair and show their taken blows. Please take into account that this competition is not for win by any means, but it is a friendly competition in the Gathering's program to reach and attract as much people for HEMA competitions (including beginners) as possible. Only one judge for one pair, his/her word is supreme in case of moot points.

- Zones to hit are divided into two sections:

Head: 2 points; Torso and Limbs: 1 point (except forearms, hands and nape). **The forearms and the hands are not valid targets.** But if you (intentionally or unintentionally) defend a blow to valid target with these parts, the judge will score the points for hidden parts. Only intentional hits score points, unintentional ones don't.

- Points can be scored both by the edge and the flat of the sword. But for safety reasons it is prohibited to thrust. You can't take valid hit from one handed actions – you have to hold your sword with both hands.

- Doubles and after blows: Targets of the same level, no score. In case of higher level blows (e.g. head contra torso) one point for higher lever hitter.

¹ Hungarian fencers who have gained 1st-4ths places in the last year on any MHS's feder or nylon tournament, are prohibited to fight in the next 365 days on official MHS padded sword competitions.

² Hungarian fencers of MHS's fencing societies can use their padded swords. But these swords are not the officially marketed „standard” and „heavy” swords of Go-Now.



- It is prohibited to launch an attack after a judge's "Stop!" mark, however already launched attacks do not get invalidated by the "Stop!" mark. The bout and any actions can start after the judge's "Start!" mark.
- In every situation, the first valid point counts (it does not matter if the sword bounces further or changes directions) – except in the case of a clear hit, where the blade moves further without changing directions and hits an area worth higher amount of points.
- Leaving the fighting circle (pushing out the opponent) is worth 1 points – but for a valid push out, one has to leave the fighting circle (or the area above it) with both feet. Pushing out can be unintentional, it will still score points.
- Disarming, even in the case of an unintentional loss/drop of the weapon instantly scores 2 points for the opponent.
- It is prohibited to use the pommel, the cross guard to score hits (it can result in a penalty), just as it is to hit with the hands and kick. It is prohibited to grab the opponent's sword. It is allowed to shove the opponent in order to push him out, but any wrestling techniques are prohibited!
- There is no time limit. The end of the bout is announced after five valid hits. Valid hits of both fencers are counted together – so afterblows and doubles are counts two hits of course. (E.g. the bout ends after two double and one other valid hit.)
- At the end of the pool only the score difference(s) counts. (E.g. if you win a bout for 3-2, you would get +1 point on the pool.)

With any questions about the ruleset please contact András Csaba Horváth at: horvath.csubi@gmail.com