

CAPITOL CLASH

WASHINGTON DC HEMA OPEN 2017

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS: RAPIER & DAGGER (YOUTH CATEGORY)

Note: In the event of an equipment failure (e.g. blade breakage, straps for forearm guards ripping, etc.) the competitor has 10 minutes to find a replacement or must forfeit the match.

Weapon:

RAPIER: The Youth category of the rapier tournament requires a standard size 5 sport fencing epee blade attached to a historical rapier hilt. The blade must be completely free of burrs or heavy nicks. Blades must be free of s-curves or hard, dangerous bends (a slight bend is acceptable.) The blade must have a plastic or rubber blunt over the point that is affixed with tape.

Hilt design can be any reasonably historical style from the 16th to 17th century. No blatant fantasy designs (we are promoting historical martial arts, not fantasy role-playing). No modern fencing hilts: The hilt must allow the forefinger to wrap around the ricasso (whether or not the fencer chooses to do so) and must have a cross guard.

Fencers are encouraged to bring a spare blade in case their main one is damaged during the tournament.

DAGGER: Participants of both the Adult and Teen categories of the rapier tournament are required to use a flexible dagger simulator designed specifically for historical rapier fencing. The blade must be flexible on the thrust, blunt and completely free of burrs or heavy nicks. Blades must be free of s-curves or hard, dangerous bends (a slight bend is normal and acceptable.) Blade length can be no shorter than 8 inches and no longer than 18 inches. All blades must be capped with a rubber blunt or leather wrapped over the point and affixed with tape, even if the blade has a nail head or rolled over point. The final decision as to whether a weapon is acceptable or not lies with the tournament staff.

Hilt design can be any reasonably historical style from the 16th to 17th century. No blatant fantasy designs are allowed (we are promoting historical martial arts, not fantasy role-playing).

Acceptable brands of fencing weapons:

- Hanwei epee-bladed rapier
- Triplette Competition Arms/Zen Warrior Armory

Note that many manufacturers, such as Darkwood Armory or Castille Armory, sell the rapier hilt alone and can be asked to make the hilt compatible with an epee blade. Please contact us if you would like to use a weapon not listed above.

Apparel:

–HEMA jacket, fencing jacket, gambeson or equivalent that covers all skin.

–Long athletic pants or fencing/HEMA pants combined with long socks. No shorts, no jeans, no cargo pants. All skin must be completely covered, and there must be complete overlap between the pants and jacket at all times (fencing/HEMA pants with a high waist are therefore highly recommended) If you lift your arms and bare skin can be seen under the jacket, you will not be allowed to participate.

–Fencing mask (or equivalent) with back of the head protection. The back of the head protection can be integrated, or it can be a separate add-on to the mask.

–Rigid throat guard or gorget.

–Gloves that overlap the cuff of the jacket and cover all skin. Gloves should be made of heavy canvas or leather, or else should be padded.

–Elbow and knee protectors.

–Forearm and shin guards. Forearm guards can be substituted with a heavily padded jacket (such as the jackets used by the brand SPES).

–Athletic cup for male competitors.

Additional Suggestions:

- Rigid chest protector

-Padded undershirt (such as the padded t-shirts worn for hockey and lacrosse)

-Padding for thighs (such as padded hockey shorts to wear underneath pants, or else padded HEMA pants)

-Spare rubber blunt and tape

-Spare blade