



IGX 2019 Cutting Tournament Rules

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Safety Rules

The following safety guidelines are to be followed at all times. Failure to follow these rules can result in a warning or dismissal from the tournament or the entire Iron Gate Exhibition event. The tournament organizers reserve the right to impose penalties without a warning first, based upon circumstances.

1. Always follow the instructions of the staff promptly and without argument.
2. Always be aware of your surroundings.
3. Do not swing the sword if there are people near you or if you are unsure about your surroundings (i.e. do not cut without checking first).
4. Ensure that hands and hilt are dry before picking up the sword or cutting.
5. Do not touch the tatami. Tournament staff will handle this task in all cases.
6. Do not cut before the 'go' signal has been given by the Director.
7. Always approach the target from the specified direction.
8. Maintain both hands on the sword while cutting (except as noted).
9. Whenever the sword is handed from one person to another it is to be held in one hand, point down.
10. Do not cut downward over the leading leg.

Remember, you have a deadly weapon in your hands; treat it with appropriate respect and concern.

Tournament Logistics

Andrew Kilgore is the Director for this competition; he or his designee will administer all tests. All rounds will be videotaped for judging purposes. Competitors are encouraged to review tape with Director while scoring.

All competitors are encouraged to spike their own mats. Andrew Kilgore or his designee will spike it for any competitor that asks and will inspect that the mat is secure and untampered with before cutting commences.

All competitors are expected to help with the setup and cleanup of the test cutting area. This will ensure competitors' familiarity with the competition layout and reduce strain placed on tournament staff.

The Cutting Tournament is scheduled during the first half of the Mixed Weapons tournament pools. Please arrive on time at the start of each round so judge(s) can clearly explain expectations to all competitors at the same time. If your schedule prevents you from arriving on

time, make arrangements with the Director in advance. We may allow people who have more pressing time constraints to go first.

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of the tournament, your feedback and input is welcome and encouraged. Please address your concerns directly to the Director when he is not actively observing cutting.

Equipment

All competitors will use a loaner sword for all stages of the competition. There will be an Albion Crecy and Albion single-hander available.

Scoring

Scoring is designed to test edge alignment and energy transference. Targeting is self penalizing and applies to all stations. Competitors will be asked to cut three single vertically standing mats and one horizontal free standing half mat over the course of three stations, each with a different pattern. The primary criteria examined is the direction the severed piece of tatami moves. Subtleties such as scalloping and angle of cut are more difficult to apply uniformly across large groups of competitors and intrinsically influence the movement of severed tatami.

Another criteria being measured this year are pauses between prescribed actions. To be clear, there is no expectation of continuous motion. However, prolonged pauses between actions, defined here as two seconds between the end of one action and the start of the next as observed on the video recording, will incur penalties. This can be thought of as an objective measurement for an in-range rule.

Take your time and cut well. A perfect score for each station would be zero penalties.

Penalty Table

Action	Penalty
Piece travels inside trajectory of cut.	0
Piece travels along trajectory of cut	1
Piece travels outside trajectory of cut	2
Two Second Pause between actions	2
Thrust that cannot be seen to exit tatami	2
Failed cut - any cut that does not cut all the way through the mat, including mountains, valleys, dangling bits, or complete misses	3
Cut or thrust that does not contact the tatami	4
Stand knocked over	4 + failed cut for all subsequent cuts
Hit stand or peg	Disqualified

Patterns

Exact patterns will be demonstrated in a video and posted to the event page shortly before the event.

The format has been adjusted to resemble that of the most recent Longpoint cutting rule set. All competitors will get a chance to perform the same set of actions. Each station has a unique pattern of actions. Competitors will be told when to start at each station. The two second pause rule will be in effect at each station and will serve as an objective measure of martiality.

Competitors should assume they will be expected to perform all manner of cuts and thrusts with a sword while moving in and out of range of a motionless target. There is one dynamic defensive action that will be described in a video on the event page shortly before the event, so stay tuned and get excited!