

# Gear and equipment requirements for HEMA WashFechten 2024

The following are the gear and equipment requirements we will be looking for at HEMA WashFechten 2024.

Owning one's own equipment is a necessary requirement to participate in the tournament. Wearing all the pieces of the protective equipment is obligatory during participation in the tournament matches.

In case a participant has need to rent any piece of equipment for the competition, they can ask the tournament organisers in advance if such equipment is available for let by email at [tercafencing@gmail.com](mailto:tercafencing@gmail.com)

Participants that rent equipment agree in advance that any equipment damaged, broken or lost during the tournament will be refunded to the organisers.

We require each fighter to be equipped with the following:

- **Steel sword**

The sword must be of the appropriate type to the discipline the participant is participating in.

The sword must not be sharp, with a safe and secured tip (back folded, widened or rounded), not too stiff or too wobbly. Below are required characteristics of each sword type:

Longswords:

- Total length (from pommel to tip): between 110 cm and 140 cm.
- Blade length (from crossguard to tip): between 93 cm and 110cm.
  - "Feder" type blades only. "Blunt Longsword" blades will not be deemed acceptable.
  - "Schiltless feders" like the Sigi "King" type swords are an acceptable alternative due to their flex and spatulated tip, as well as similar models from other makers.
- Weight: between 1200 g and 1600 g.
- Crossguard: max 30 cm.

The length, weight, stiffness of the blade, condition of blade edges and the secured tip of each sword will be checked by the organisers during the gear check. The blade must have a blunt edge that is well maintained and free of damage (cracks, fissures, crevices, etc.) If it is deemed necessary, additional padding may be required to be added to the tips of the blade, or have the edge filed down to minimise the risk of injury.

Blades that pass the gear check will have the tip marked with tape - any previous tape must be removed.

- **Fencing mask**

With steel face mesh required, not overly damaged. Masks deemed unsafe will not be allowed.

- CEN 2 level mesh, FIE 1600 N masks required

- **Back of the head protection**

Back of the head needs to be a solid, rigid protector, and must cover both the neck and the nape without significant gaps. Mask overlay recommended, but not required.

- **Neck protection (gorget)**

The neck protection must be a solid throat guard covering the front of the throat, Vytis style gorgets recommended but not required

- **Rigid chest protection (plastron)**

Rigid chest protection is required. The chest protection should cover the front of the rib cage, and should be worn under the jacket. Extended chest protection optional.

- **Fencing jacket**

A well padded HEMA jacket, without gaps (including potential gaps at fastening points) must be worn. Blade catcher or "Polish apron" or similar guard to stop the blade from going under the mask bib recommended.

- **Protective gloves**

- Must be high intensity tournament appropriate longsword gloves.
- Examples of acceptable gloves:  
Kvetun Xiphosura with adequate thumbs, HF armory Black Knight, CHFG Michael/Gabriel/Raphael models, SPES Lobster with adequate thumbs, Sparring Glove Mittens/Hoofs/Infinity Gauntlets or similar
- Examples of unacceptable gloves: Red Dragon, Thokk weapon gauntlets(even with add ons) are not allowed.
- If you have any other glove model or think your particular glove pair protection is appropriate message the organizers in advance but expect that your glove may not pass gear check and try to find a replacement option

- **Arm and leg protection**

Rigid elbow and forearm protection as well as rigid shin and knee protection required. Extra forearm protection isn't necessary in the case of glove cuffs covering the arm until the elbow guard.

- **Groin guard**

Groin guard is required for all participants, and is to be worn under the garments.

We accept equipment made by renowned makers as well as some DIY pieces (namely jackets and back of the head protection). All equipment must go through a gear check before the start of the tournament it will be used for approval.