

# Helsinki Bolognese open 2017

## Form Rules

**These rules are subject to change at any notice.**

### Equipment

Participants will be provided with a historically accurate blunt sidesword, should they need it. You can use your own sidesword, as long as it is classed as a sidesword, with finger rings and a simple or semicomplex hilt. Arming swords and rapiers are not allowed.

### Safety

Observe the following safety guidelines at all times. A violation of these guidelines may result in a warning or immediate dismissal from the tournament at the sole discretion of the tournament staff:

1. Always follow the instructions of the tournament staff without hesitation or argument.
2. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
3. Do not swing your sword if there are people near you and especially behind you.
4. The tournament staff will indicate when they are ready to evaluate your sequence. Do not start before then.

### Tournament Staff

The following is a list of the tournament staff and their roles:

**Tournament Manager:** The Tournament Manager is responsible for the running of the tournament and is the primary/head judge. The Tournament Manager's decision in all matters related to the tournament is final.

**Technical Judges:** The Technical Judges (one of which is the Tournament Manager) are responsible for observing the actions of the participant and assigning penalties as necessary.

**Auxiliary Judges:** These judges will be responsible for time keeping, observing form, and/or functions that support the technical judges.

### Tournament format

The tournament will be three rounds, with cumulative scoring. The final score after the third round will determine the first, second and third place. In case of a tie, the total penalties will be reviewed, with the competitor with fewer serious infractions winning.

There are no gear requirements other than that the sword must conform to the form being displayed. In the first two rounds, a sidesword is required, and one can be borrowed if needed.

In the third round, use a weapon appropriate for the source material.

Sharp swords are allowed, but extra caution must be taken with them.

## Competition procedure

When your name is called, go to the designated area with your sword. The judges will ask you if you are ready. If you answer in the affirmative, the judges will instruct you to begin. When you've finished your form, say, "Done", salute the judges, and leave the tournament floor. Whenever you are walking to or from the starting position with your sword, carry it in a safe manner with the sword pointing in a safe direction (straight up or straight down).

The time limit for the form is 2 minutes, and you are allowed to restart. Restarting will impact the scoring.

## Scoring

A perfect score will be 100% (higher is possible with innovative interpretations), and deviation from perfection will result in penalties. Scoring will be based on four criteria, weighted unevenly.

### 1. Interpretation

Does the interpretation conform to the text, and how precise is the interpretation? Innovations are allowed, but must be justified.

### 2. Clarity and efficiency

All movements and sequences are to be clear and performed with efficiency. Sloppy bladework and unjustified movements out of tempo will be penalized.

### 3. Flow

How the movements fit together as a whole. You are allowed to make pauses during the display, but remember that we are looking at a sequence, not a series of unconnected techniques.

### 4. Aesthetics

A subjective evaluation of the gracefulness of the performance.

Scoring will be cumulative (the score will be tallied from each round).

All performances will be filmed for judging purposes.

## Penalties

The set forms are presented later in this rule set. Mistakes made will result in subtraction of percentage points. The reduction will be based on the total number of penalties, as well as the seriousness of the penalties. Some penalties (e.g. performing the wrong form) may result in immediate elimination. The penalties listed are not the only penalties you can

receive, though all mistakes will be allocated to one of the penalties listed and scored accordingly.

If you make multiple mistakes during a single technique (e.g. cutting a mandritto intero when the text says to cut a mezzo mandritto while stepping with the wrong foot) you will be penalized only for the mistake that incurs the highest penalty loss.

**The following mistakes will incur a 2% penalty:**

- Sword point traverses clearly beyond the end point of the cut, "weak wrists"
- Small mistake in the flow (e.g. fumbling)

**The following mistakes will incur a 4% penalty:**

- Sloppy posture (remember sprezzatura!)
- Off hand straying or waving around

**The following mistakes will incur an 8% penalty:**

- Hitting the floor lightly
- Restarting the form just after starting it
- Hitting yourself
- Taking unjustifiably long pauses

**The following mistakes will incur a 12% penalty or elimination:**

- Hitting the floor hard (if the form is performed with a sharp sword, this may result in immediate elimination)
- Restarting the form after several techniques have passed
- Arguing with the judges
- Hitting anyone else with the sword

\* Depending on the severity of these mistakes, you may be eliminated from the tournament.

## The sources

Rounds 1 and 2 will be determined using two forms from Giovanni dall'Agocchie's *Dell'Arte di Scrimia*, 1572. The forms are:

**Round 1:** Passeggiata nelle guardie (Stepping through the guards)

The original text can be found on page 11, starting on the fifth line:

<https://books.google.fi/books?id=70dbAAAACAAJ&pg=PA11-IA1#v=onepage&q&f=false>

**Round 2:** Tutte le guardie insieme (All guards together)

The original text can be found on page 22, starting on the fourth line from the bottom:

<https://books.google.fi/books?id=70dbAAAACAAJ&pg=PA22#v=onepage&q&f=false>

A translation in table form is provided on the event page for both forms.

**Round 3:** For the final round you can choose your own form, as long as it can be found in one of the five primary Bolognese sources of the 16th century:

Antonio Manciolino - *Opera Nova* (1520's/1531)

Achille Marozzo - *Opera Nova* (1536 or later)

*Anonimo Bolognese* (first half of the 16th century)

Giovanni dall'Agocchie - *Dell'Arte di Scrimia* (1572)

Angelo Viggiani - *Lo Schermo* (1550/1575)

The chosen form shall be announced to the organizers of the competition beforehand, to allow the judges to familiarize themselves with the material. Please provide a detailed transcript of the starting and ending guards, blade actions and footwork.

