

WMAW 2026

MiniDeed

Equipment Requirements

IMPORTANT: All competitors intending to participate in the WMAW 2026 MiniDeed must submit a photo of the armor they intend to wear for pre-approval no later than September 9. Earlier is better in case the event organizers require that you modify your armor before approval. Also note that initial pre-approval via photo does not guarantee that your armor will pass the required in-person inspection.

OVERVIEW

-Participants are expected to wear historical European-styled armor contemporary, or close to contemporary, of a person of rank as seen in the time periods of the treatises that detail armored combat techniques. The armor can be styled after historical armor from approximately the late 14th century to early 16th. Despite the wide range of time period allowed, combatants should do their best to keep their own harness cohesive to a single time period and not “mix and match” elements of different eras. Ideally, armor should not have elements that would have existed more than 20 years before or after any other element on a person’s harness. (E.g. a 16th century armet should not be paired with a 14th century coat of plates) Combatants are expected to wear a complete harness suitable for fighting in the lists of judicial combat rather than one specialized for warfare or other forms of combat.

-Safety always trumps authenticity. If a combatant does not have period-styled protection where it is required, modern safety gear must be worn in its place (see *Requirements* below). Combatants should try to conceal modern elements as much as is reasonably possible (e.g. boots to cover plastic shin guards; modern throat guards hidden under fabric or mail, etc.) These safety elements will be treated as “unarmored” for scoring purposes. Visible authenticity should still be striven for whenever possible.

-Metal components of armor should be made of steel or iron (stainless steel is acceptable). Aluminum, titanium, or any other modern alloy is only allowed in the same way that other modern rigid defenses are: As safety equipment that should be hidden when possible. As with other non-period safety gear, these elements will be treated as “unarmored” for scoring purposes.

-Armor is treated “as worn”. E.g. a person who chooses to wear only mail on the shoulders will be scored on differently than a person who wears steel pauldrons. This means that different armor configurations may have slightly different targets (see below for scoring). All modern protection is treated as “unarmored” for the sake of scoring.

- Combatants are not allowed to wear blatant fantasy armor or armor that is blatantly non-European or non-historical in style. Although this is not a Living History event, and therefore strict historical accuracy is not the intended goal, this is still an event directly rooted in the revival of history, and the armor usage should be treated as such.

-Tournament organizers have the right to fail an armor on the basis of suitability. This not only includes safety issues but also blatant historical inaccuracy issues as well. For example, a historical Japanese suit of armor is not suitable for the goals of this tournament.

GENERAL ARMOR REQUIREMENTS.

-A combatant is expected to wear predominately steel plate armor which covers the head, front of the torso, limbs and hands. Optional areas to cover with plate are the back of the torso, the shoulders, the underside of the arms, the back of the legs, the feet and the shins (though the shins need rigid plastic if not covered by plate).

-Hardened leather is an acceptable alternative to plate as long as it is worn in a historical manner (NO FANTASY LEATHER ARMOR!). The overall harness should still be predominantly steel, however. (see *Other Plate Requirements* below) Please note that if the leather shows signs of breakage, the Marshal is allowed to reject the use of that armor.

-Areas of the torso that are uncoverable by rigid protection (such as the armpits) must be covered by mail. Non-torso areas (such as the inside of the elbow) are not required to have mail, but should be covered by heavy fabric such as linen, canvas or puncture resistant material such as the fabric used for modern sport fencing equipment. Absolutely no bare skin is allowed to be showing.

-Combinations of plate and fabric/leather (such as a Coat of Plates or a splinted vambrace) is equal to plate armor provided there are no obvious gaps. If such defenses show significant gaps between the plates so as to make the armor exceptionally flexible, the Staff may rule that this armor is to be treated as "light armor" (equivalent to mail) for the purposes of scoring. Combatants will be notified ahead of time if this is the case.

-Shins, throat and, for male combatants, the groin, must be covered by rigid protection, even if the combatant must use modern protection such as impact resistant plastic. Combatants should attempt to hide modern protection as best as possible.

-All armor is expected to be in good working condition. Tournament organizers have the right to reject any armor due to damage or anything where there is a safety concern to either the wearer or opponents.

HEAD AND NECK REQUIREMENTS

-Helmets must be of at least 16-gauge thickness or thicker (preferably thicker if mild steel), lined with a suspension liner (period or modern) or else padded with a minimum of 0.5" of closed cell foam or equivalent. This requirement is in addition to an optional arming cap (i.e. less protection is not allowed even if the combatant is wearing an arming cap).

-A helmet must completely enclose the face so that the point of a weapon may not slip inside. Use of an "open faced" helmet is only allowed if the full opening is covered by perforated steel plate (and the perforated plate will be considered "unarmored" for scoring).

-Openings for vision, breathing, or any other gaps in the face of the helmet absolutely may not allow penetration to the wearer from a 0.25 inch x 0.5 inch bar. Any opening larger than this must be covered by perforated plate (and that opening will still be treated as "unarmored" for scoring).

-Other openings of the helmet for the sides and top may not allow penetration to the wearer from a 0.5 inch bar. This includes the opening at the base of the helmet. In helmet designs such as a sallet, which can have a larger opening at the base of the rear, the neck must be completely covered by a minimum of a mail standard or equivalent.

-A moveable visor must be firmly held in place during a match. This can be via spring pin, latch, buckled strap or tying it into place. If the visor can move enough that an opening appears which allows a 0.25 inch x 0.5 inch bar to enter, the helmet will not be allowed.

-Solid neck protection for the cervical area, clavicles, and larynx must be worn, regardless of its historical suitability for the armor style chosen, and the throat in particular must be covered by rigid protection. A modern throat guard is acceptable, although combatants are encouraged to hide this if possible. Wearing mail alone for the throat is not enough, although a mail standard (pisane) with a hidden trauma plate is acceptable, as is wearing a rigid throat protector hidden by a mail aventail. Please note that a mail aventail worn with a 14th/early 15th century-styled bascinet will always be treated as "light armor" (i.e. mail) for scoring, even if the combatant wears a steel gorget underneath (since the use of a steel gorget is anachronistic for that style of armor).

GAUNTLETS

Hands and wrists must be covered by steel plate gauntlets of at least 18-gauge steel or thicker (preferably thicker if mild steel) so that the back of the hand and fingers are protected. The palm-side of the hand must be completely covered in leather or heavy fabric such as canvas so that no skin is showing.

OTHER PLATE REQUIREMENTS

All other plate armor must be at a minimum of 18-gauge steel or thicker, although thicker steel is strongly encouraged for the joints and the torso protection if made of mild steel. Hardened leather of at least 3 mm thickness is allowed in place of steel for the upper and lower cannons of the arms, the cuisses, greaves and breastplate. Note that equally thick but unhardened leather will be treated as "light armor" for scoring, just as mail armor. Steel must be used for elbows, knees, gauntlets and head.

Since limbs cannot be completely covered by plate, such as at the armpit, all exposed areas should be covered by heavy fabric (such linen or canvas) or puncture resistant fabric such as that used for modern fencing.

MAIL

Mail is required for any areas of the torso not covered by plate. All other areas are optional. If the combatant forgoes mail for unarmored areas, heavy material or puncture resistant fabric should be worn (such as a modern fencing under arm protector underneath the shirt).

Mail links should be rivetted, welded, or a combination of rivetted and solid rings made of iron, steel or brass. Absolutely no aluminum or titanium mail. Butted mail is not allowed.

SHOES

Combatants are encouraged to wear period shoes. However, if modern shoes are worn, they should be athletic shoes with a light tread (no combat boots or similar, which can cause knee damage during wrestling), and the combatant is encouraged to either use shoes that are a solid dark color to make them less noticeable, or else covered by sabatons of mail or plate.

UNDER CLOTHING

Combatants are not required to wear period clothing underneath the armor. Pants, if not period hosen, should either be athletic pants or fencing/HEMA pants, though it is encouraged that combatants not wear pants that blatantly visually stand out as modern from a distance.

WEAPON SPECIFICATIONS

Combatants will use weapons provided by the WMAW MiniDeed. Optionally, combatants may carry their own dagger as a back up weapon if fighting a spear or sword match, though a back up dagger must be removed if fighting a dagger match.

SPEAR: Spears will be the Armored Training Spear by Darkwood Armory. These will be provided by the event.

SWORD: Swords are the specially designed “Mordschlag Swords” by Jesse Belsky Stageswords. These will be provided by the event. These swords use hard rubber fittings to allow safer use of strikes and grappling actions with the hilt.

DAGGER: Daggers will be Purpleheart Armory Wooden Rondels provided by the event.

Combatants choosing to carry their own back up dagger for sword or spear matches are allowed, though the dagger must be removed for any dagger matches. Back up daggers may have a blade no longer than 16 inches in length. The dagger must be European in design appropriate to the period of acceptable armor (late 14th to early 16th century). The guard of the dagger should be no wider than 3 inches, and no part of the hilt should be excessively pointed or dangerous. There should be no sharp nicks or burrs anywhere on the weapon.

The blade can be steel, aluminum, wood, or an unmodified Cold Steel synthetic dagger. The point must be a minimum of 3/8 inch by 5/8 inch in size.

Steel blades must have a minimum edge width of 1/16 inch. The blade should be designed for armored combat, and therefore should not be overly flexible. We recommend the armored combat rondel dagger made by Darkwood Armory (note that this is not the standard offering that is on their website). If the point of the dagger does not have a welded ball a rubber or leather stopper is required to cover the point, even for nail head and rolled points. If there is no nail head or rolled point, a metal washer must be inside the stopper to prevent the blade from piercing it. In addition, a rubber or leather stopper **MUST BE SECURELY ATTACHED BY EPOXY SO THAT THE BLUNT CANNOT COME OFF WHEN THE DAGGER IS DRAWN.** The stopper must completely cover the point of the dagger and at least overlap one inch of the blade beyond the point. If the stopper comes off in the middle of a bout, it will be instantly rejected from further use for the rest of the event.

Aluminum blades should have a minimum edge width of 1/4 inch. We recommend daggers made by Jesse Belsky Stageswords that have widened points for armored combat.

Wooden daggers must be made of a hardwood, be constructed of one solid piece, and be no smaller than 3/4 inch at any part of the weapon. Wooden daggers are required to have a “ball” carved onto the point. The wood should be sanded so that there are no dangerous gouges or weak points. We highly recommend the standard Purpleheart Armory rondel dagger trainer for this.

The dagger may be worn tucked into a belt or else hanging from a sheath, but should not be in a position in which it may fall out easily. The Marshal has the right to disallow a dagger if it is not secure.