

EQUIPMENT SCREENING

*See SMA Weapons Glossary for legal saber types.

All competition weaponry and safety equipment (aka “gear”) is subject to Gear Check-In immediately upon arrival/registration, each day of competition. Approved SMA Officials will tag legal gear at the Check-In station, which will remain active periodically throughout the competition. All gear is also subject to cursory review & approval by the active SMA Head Judge/Referee prior to each match. Any SMA HJ/R may restrict a competitor’s gear from competition at any point for failure to meet criteria, intentional or otherwise, with the approval of at least one other SMA HJ/R. No fighter is permitted to legalize or restrict a competition saber for any reason or anyone. Intentional failure to meet any safety requirements may be grounds for immediate dismissal from competition at the discretion of a SMA HJ/R, with the approval of at least one other SMA HJ/R. We really do want this to be fun and exciting from a martial standpoint, so please pay attention to the gear requirements and your gear will likely meet approval. We welcome all inquiries regarding competition-legal sabers and protection, so if you’re not sure whether your gear meets requirements, please just ask! Bring alternatives (or spares) for anything you are unsure of.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT (Juyo Division & all LED sparring)

Head: 350n fencing mask or higher

Saber: Blades may only be 1” or $\frac{7}{8}$ ” heavy-grades, with blunt/rounded tips only. Hilt must be made of aluminum or carbon fiber and have *no tactile claws, spikes, teeth, or sharpening*. All other saber requirements and restrictions are outlined in the Official SMA Weapons Glossary and competition weaponry must adhere to that glossary.

Hands: Lacrosse, hockey, or weapon-martial-arts grade gloves

Feet: Closed-toe athletic shoes or martial arts shoes (no bare feet, flip-flops, crocs, sandals, etc.) when outdoors. Indoor footwear regulations will depend on the hosting facility’s rules and must be clarified by an HJ/R or equipment Official (in writing or verbally) prior to allowing participants onto the competition floor. A safe assumption is that only bare feet or martial arts/wrestling shoes will be approved for use on mats and similar surfaces.

Torso: Hard/dense foam, plastic, or coated-metal chest protection (rated for high-impact sports such as hockey or dedicated martial arts gear) that covers the solar plexus, sternum, front and sides of the ribs, and both clavicles. The addition of back protection and hip protection is highly recommended, but not required.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT (open sparring)

Head: 350n fencing mask (or higher) OR any martial arts foam sparring helmet with polycarbonate face shield or cage (eyes will be taped with clear tape to prevent thrusts from penetrating)

Saber: SMA-provided ActionFlex (or comparable) foam weaponry

Torso: any martial arts chest protection that covers the solar plexus, sternum, front and sides of the ribs, and both clavicles, or contact-sports chest protection of similar coverage and function

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT (all sparring)

Head: Rubber mouthguard, back-of-head protection

Neck: Dense/hard foam, plastic, or coated-metal gorget, or goalie-style neck protection (e.g. heavy cloth/leather/polycarbonate chin hangers, or comparable) *Mixed Sabers sparring will REQUIRE dedicated neck protection

Torso: contact-sports protective bra (females), complete-coverage (base of neck to top of hips/pelvis) protection in the materials listed above

Arms: Dense/hard foam, plastic, or coated-metal elbow and shoulder protection

Legs: Dense/hard foam, plastic, or coated-metal knee, thigh, and shin protection

Groin: Athletic support cup, or harness-style integrated groin & hip protection for contact sports (i.e. codpiece)

WEAPONS GLOSSARY

STANDARD SABER:

- Single hilt & polycarbonate blade (1" heavy-grade or $\frac{7}{8}$ " heavy-grade for tournament sparring only)
 - Hilt 6"-16" max length (aluminum or carbon fiber hilts *only* in LED sparring divisions)
 - In competition, any tsuba extending more than 1" past the main hilt's outer diameter (OD) are **not permitted**; any protrusions (spikes, claws, hooks, extended tsuba, etc.) must be removed prior to official weapons check-in.
 - Blade 24"-36" From Emitter (FE)
 - Overall Length (OL) of any Standard Saber may not exceed 48" (OL defined as length from pommel to tip of blade when blade is fully seated and tightened in)
 - Blade Depth (BD) for *all saber-types* must be 2" or greater, as measured by a Tournament Official, when fully seated in the hilt and tightened in with *at least 1* retention screw. This rule applies to crossguard quillons.
 - Only round/dome-shaped tips are permitted in competition. Pointed tips must be sanded down and resubmitted to weapons check-in, or replaced with round tips. *All blade tips must be securely taped with clear heavy-duty tape or shrink wrap and inspected by a Tournament Official at weapons check-in* (Officials are permitted, and expected, to tape blade tips if necessary, and may do so at any time during competition; competitors may not deny them access to tape their blades).

NON-STANDARD or "MIXED SABERS" WEAPONRY DEFINED:

- Shoto/Parrying Saber: single blade 8-24" From Emitter (FE)
 - Standard hilt 6.5-14"

- Tonfa-style hilt (length may not exceed 2" past the user's elbow when held in reverse grip) permissible if adhering to blade specs above and weaponry is treated "as a real lightsaber"
 - Tonfa-grips are permitted. However, the user must hold the weapon by the perpendicular tonfa-grip in sparring divisions. Holding tonfa-sabers by the main hilt will earn the user warnings and/or disqualifications, as the tonfa-grip itself would be considered a "protrusion" in this orientation. In Forms/Choreography, tonfa-sabers may be wielded however the user desires.
- OL (pommel to blade-tip) may not exceed 34"
- Jar'Kai/Paired Sabers: wielding two single-bladed sabers, each between 8-36" FE
 - Hilt 6-16" each
- Double-Bladed Saber: central hilt with blade on each end, each between 8-30" FE
 - Hilt 16-40" (not including standard coupler. Any coupler over 2" will be counted against hilt length)
 - OL may not exceed 84" (tip to tip)
- Crossguard Saber: single blade 12-36" FE with up to two quillons, each being 2-6" FE (may include Greatsabers as defined below in exception to length)
 - Hilt 6.5-18"
- Saber Spear/Pike/Naginata: single blade 8-24" FE
 - Hilt 48-72" (may not fall short of 65% nor exceed 90% of overall weapon length)
 - Overall Weapon Length 54-84"
- Greatsaber: single blade 37-50" FE (hilt may include up to 2 quillons, each being 2"-6" FE)
 - Hilt 12-24" (may not exceed 40% of overall weapon length)

Weaponry allowable in competition: ANY non-standard saber or combination of standard and/or non-standard sabers (i.e. pairing, or anything that is commonly referred to as "exotic" saber-styles; in official SMA competitions these divisions may also be referred to as "Mixed Sabers").

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT PERMITTED IN SPARRING:

- Whips
- Fantasy-shaped blades (e.g. light-axe, darksaber blades, etc.)
- Scythe
- Kama
- Sai/Trident (or similarly "pronged" weaponry)

The weaponry listed above **may** be used in Kata/Forms and Choreography **with prior permission by the Tournament Director(s)**, provided the weaponry is treated "as a real lightsaber": anything the illuminated blade touches will be considered "hit" and the user's score will reflect any "self-strikes".

Tournament Director(s) and the Captain of Judges & Referees reserve the right to deny any weapon's competition eligibility at any time for safety or other logistical reasons.