

# Astolat Rules Draft - Rapier and Dagger

## Summary of Summaries

- Pool phase, then double-elimination repêchage
- Each pool bout to 7 exchanges, eliminations to 11 exchanges
- Winning a pools match is 3 match points, drawing is 1, losing is 0
- Head and torso thrusts with the rapier score 3 points, all other hits are 1 point
- Repeated doubles incur penalties
- No grappling!

[Summary of Summaries:](#)

[Bout Outline](#)

[Scoring in Exchanges](#)

[Judging](#)

[Afterblows, Doubles, and Other Crimes of Note](#)

[Fouls](#)

[Protests and Discussions](#)

## Tournament Outline

The tournaments will have a two part structure, consisting of a **pools stage** followed by an **eliminations** bracket.

Pools will be drawn up by separating club members, then randomly.

During the pool stage a fencer will get **3 match points for a win**, while **a draw gives both fencers 1 point**. As mentioned below, every second double in a bout decreases match points by 1 point.

Brackets will be assembled from these match points, taking the top fighters to a convenient power of 2, ranked so that the 1st place after the pools fights the 16th, 2nd fights 15th etc. There will be a repechage bracket for those eliminated in this stage to culminate in a match for 3rd and 4th place.

## Bout Outline

Bouts will take place to **7 exchanges** (Pools) or to **11 exchanges/5 minutes** (Eliminations, whichever is reached first). In the case of Eliminations matches which end on a tie, they will continue until a scoring exchange occurs.

When the match is over, the score-keeper will call "**End of match**" after confirming that they have put down the last score, then read back the final scores. In the case of elimination brackets matches that reach 5 minutes, the time-keeper will call "**Time!**", which will prompt the referee to shout "Halt!", ending the exchange as normal.

**Each exchange will be recorded, even if it did not produce points** for either fencer. The score-keeper will confirm back what they recorded to the referee, to ensure correct scoring.

## Scoring in Exchanges

Only attacks with the edge, point or pommel score points. So don't punch with the guard. All strikes must be executed in a controlled fashion.

**A rapier thrust to the torso or the head is worth 3 points.** All other legal targets are worth **1 point**, including all attacks with the dagger regardless of target.

Incidental strikes, cuts with questionable edge alignment, very light cuts with the point and cuts made with a very small arc does not score. It is up to the fencers to demonstrate "good" hits.

**Slicing cuts** require the edge of the sword to move across the target area (pushed or pulled), with positive pressure onto the target.

**"Percussive" cuts may score if:** they are properly controlled, the sword rotates at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  circle, and the sword does not "bounce" off the target.

**Thrusts must fix the point** onto the target with positive pressure.

**Grappling is not permitted.**

## Judging

Judging is based on "sport" judging system. There will be **4 judges** and **1 referee**. Each judge looks only after one fencer, so each fencer is assigned two judges.

When a judge sees a valid hit, he raises his hand, signalling the referee, and shows the score on his fingers. The Referee allows one tempo (for afterblow) before the command "Halt" or "Stop". Then the referee awards points based on the judges' decision.

If two judges watching the same fighter show different results, then referee makes a decision based on from which judge's side the hit had been placed to give a corresponding score.

## Afterblows, Doubles, and Other Crimes of Note

**Afterblows are fully weighted** - that is to say that provided it was delivered within a single tempo, you can get score by hitting second e.g. thrust to your arm is followed by you thrusting to the mask scores 2 points.

**Doubles are simultaneous attacks without intention to defend**, which led to same time hits. The second double in a bout on pool stage will decrease the match point scoring for determining ranking to eliminations etc. If during the elimination stage the fencers reach **3 doubles**, the fight stops and the fencer with the higher score will proceed through the bracket (in case of a draw, the fencers fence a sudden death) but the opponent in the next stage will begin with three points.

**Leaving the fencing area is a 1 point penalty.**

## Fouls

Fouls may be incurred by:

**Failing to obey** or ignoring a referee's instructions, including continuing to attack after a halt is called.

Deliberately or negligently injuring an opponent (or **dangerous actions** likely to do so) - this covers not just banned techniques such as grappling or kicking, but also uncontrolled strikes with the weapon, deliberately targeting less protected areas with hard shots etc.

**Interfering with the conduct of the bout** - calling halts without reason, repeated protests against referee's calls without reason etc.

**Unsportsmanlike conduct** - verbal abuse of opponent or officials, displays of disrespect etc.

Referees are given **wide powers of discretion** in both deciding what is a foul and what the punishment is appropriate. A more severe infraction (whether in result or malice) will incur more severe repercussions. As a rough guide: accidental or procedural fouls (prolonged delays due to kit failures, repeated unfounded protests, a severe strike that was not intentionally so) will be given a warning, potentially dangerous or unsportsmanlike conduct will be punished by deduction of a point, and fouls resulting in actual or near-miss injuries or obvious malice will be punished by forfeit of the bout (and potentially expulsion from the tournament).

## Protests and Discussions

If a referee has given their verdict after an exchange and a fencer disagrees with it materially, they **may protest** by raising a hand or also by having their corner signal also. They will then be given a chance to explain their version of events to the referee, who may in consequence discuss with the assistant and the opponent if they judge it necessary.

A referee may also, of course, initiate such discussions on their own initiative.

Note that abusing this to raise spurious objections to every point scored against oneself is very likely to be considered a foul as unsportsmanlike, disruptive or both!