



Who can compete in Herne's Cup?

Herne's Cup is an intermediate-level tournament aimed at developing the next generation of top HEMA competitors. Herne's Cup is an opportunity to test your skills against your peers, ready to compete at the highest level.

As an intermediate-level tournament, our aim is to exclude the top tier of fencers to allow a level playing field for new and developing fencers. We want our competitors to stand out from the crowd and grow in confidence to enter future UK-based and international tournaments.

As such, the following criteria are in place for entering Herne's Cup.

Open tournaments:

Fencers matching any of the following criteria cannot compete:

- Ranked 1 to 1000 in Open Longsword on HEMA Ratings
- Ranked 1 to 100 in Open Sabre, Rapier & Dagger, or Sword & Buckler on HEMA Ratings.
- Have won any medal in an Open tournament with rankings on HEMA ratings (note - Beginner-level tournaments do not count)

All other fencers are eligible to enter. Entries will be checked against HEMA Ratings and any ineligible fencers will be refunded.

Women and Under-represented Gender (W+) tournaments:

Fencers matching the following criteria cannot compete:

- Ranked 1 to 100 in W+ Longsword on HEMA Ratings.

All other WURG fencers are eligible to enter. Entries will be checked against HEMA Ratings and any ineligible fencers will be refunded.



FAQ

- *I am ineligible for Women's + tournaments due to my W+ Longsword ranking, but I do qualify for the Open tournaments. Can I take part in the Open tournaments?*
 - Yes you can.
- *I have won a medal at Wessex League Open Longsword B. Does this disqualify me from entering Open tournaments at Herne's Cup?*
 - Yes, Wessex Longsword B medals do count towards our medal criteria.
- *I have won a medal in a W+ tournament. Am I still eligible to enter?*
 - Yes, W+ medalists can enter as long as they are not in the top 100 of W+ Longsword on HEMA Ratings
- *I am ineligible for a tournament due to rating or medal wins in one weapon. Does this mean I am ineligible for other weapons where I am not ranked / have not medalled?*
 - Yes, if you are ineligible for one tournament across Opens or W+, you are ineligible for them all. Your success proves you are an accomplished fencer already, regardless of weapon. We treat Open and W+ as separate, however, so if you are ineligible for W+ but not Opens, you can compete in the Opens.
- *Why is W+ Longsword the only criteria for rankings for W+ tournaments? Also, why are medallists not excluded?*
 - HEMA Ratings only has official rankings for Women's + Longsword on their site, with other rankings being unofficial. W+ tournaments outside of Longsword are also quite rare in the UK, meaning any rankings outside of Longsword will not have a large enough sample size. As such, we have taken the rankings for W+ Longsword as our means test for W+ fencers. We hope to use more ranking data from HEMA Ratings for future events.
 - We also want to ensure as many W+ fencers get a chance to compete at Herne's Cup as possible, which is why we have not excluded all medallists. We want Herne's Cup to showcase the growing strength of W+ HEMA in the UK, and therefore did not want to exclude a significant proportion of the W+ competing population.