

# The Rules of Engagement

## 1. *Know Your Fight.*

Be certain of all choreography, & rehearse until it is 2<sup>nd</sup> nature. If not enough rehearsal time is provided, work privately & with your partner(s), and speak to your choreographer about getting more time.

## 2. *Know Your Equipment.*

Always use the same weapons, shoes, gloves, etc., and check all before each performance – pommels tight, grips secure, stage swept, wood weapons free of splinters, etc.

## 3. *Know Your Partner.*

Practice the fight twice before each show – once at half speed, and once at performance speed. If there are alternates, practice with them as well. Be aware of daily variables such as a tired partner, a sore ankle, etc. Make eye contact before & throughout any sequence.

## 4. *Know Your Tempo.*

Faster is not better, and may get someone hurt. Establish the performance speed with your choreographer, and stick to it, regardless of who is in the audience or how energized or confident you feel.

## 5. *Know The Illusion.*

A fight is not a set of monologues, but a physical scene. All participants must work together to present a unified piece to the audience.

*These rules were compiled by Brian Brockenshire, based upon personal experience, and the teachings of several eminent Fight Directors, including William Hobbs, J.P. Fournier, J.F. Gagnon, Robert Seal, and Paddy Crean.*



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