

MK Youth Combat Weapons

These are general guidelines for making weapons for youth combat in the Middle Kingdom. Refer to the MK and Society youth combat rules for more information.

Materials

No weapon may use any material that might shatter or splinter on impact.

No metal may be used in any weapons. This includes, but is not limited to: basket hilts, pommel weights, and hose clamps.

Acceptable core materials are Golf tubes, High Density Polyethylene (HDPE), and rattan. Golf tubes may only be used for division 1 weapons.

Approved forms of HDPE are irrigation pipe (Sil-o-flex and its equivalents), and PEX. Any nominal size of HDPE may be used provided the ACTUAL outside diameter of the pipe is no less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inches and the child can grip it securely. HDPE must be capped or plugged with plastic or rubber materials. Caps should fit snugly or be secured using strapping tape. Round the edges of caps and plugs as necessary.

Rattan may be natural (with skin) or shaved. The diameter must be between $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and 1 inch for all weapons. (Maximum of 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ inch for division 3 two-handed weapons over 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet only.) Rattan must have the tips and striking edges rounded.

Rattan is allowed, but not recommended, for division 1 weapons.

Padding and Tape

Taping of rattan and HDPE cores, under the foam, is not required. One layer of tape is recommended on exposed surfaces of "shaved" rattan.

The striking surfaces of all weapons must be covered with a minimum of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch of closed cell foam. Foam must cover all sides of the core material. The foam covering on weapons, without a thrusting tip, must extend at least 1 inch past the end of the core material and any cap or plug. The foam must be covered with a single loose layer of duct tape or a cloth sleeve.

Striking edges and thrusting tips must be covered with a contrasting color tape.

Thrusting Tips

All thrusting tips must be at least 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and extend at least 2 inches past the end of the core and any cap or plug.

The non-thrusting or pommel end of any weapons must be padded with a minimum of $\frac{3}{8}$ inches of closed-cell foam.

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General

The maximum weight of any youth combat weapon shall be 8 ounces per foot.
(Example: a 6-foot polearm may weigh no more than 3 pounds.)

Flails and pole axes are not permitted. No weapon may have a cutting and/or smashing surface at both ends.

Lanyards or triggers are required on all single-handed weapons.
Basket hilts are permitted on single-handed weapons.

Division 1 (Ages 6-9)

Butt spikes are NOT permitted on any weapon in Division 1.
All weapons must be proportional to the combatant. The maximum length is 5 feet.
Spears are not permitted in Division 1.

Division 2 (Ages 10-13)

Butt spikes are permitted on polearms.
All weapons must be proportional to the combatant. The maximum length is 5-½ feet.
Spears are not permitted in Division 2.

Division 3 (Ages 14-17)

Spears up to 7-½ feet are permitted. They may not have butt spikes.
The maximum length of all other weapons is 6 feet.
Butt spikes are permitted on polearms.
Hafts on two-handed swords may not exceed 18 inches in length.
Weapons longer than 5.5 feet may use rattan up to, but not exceeding, 1-¼ inches in diameter.

Javelins

Javelins are made of one diameter of HDPE, capped or plugged on both ends. The thrusting tip must conform to standard weapon thrusting tips. The backend must be padded with foam so that it will not penetrate a 2 inch opening. Fins or stabilizers of foam or duct tape may be attached near the backend.

Javelins must be between 4 and 5-½ feet long.

THL Nyilas Kazmer
Middle Kingdom Deputy Earl Marshal Youth Combat