



2022 Le Kaua Ailao: Battle of the Blades

Rules and Criteria

The following rules and criteria were formulated with the competitor in mind, specifically for this competition. The goal of setting a strong foundation of rules and criteria is to keep our competitors, staff, and audience as safe as possible, while allowing our talent to perform at the best of their abilities. As a representation of your home, your family, and your culture, it is important that you follow these rules to the highest extent possible and in return will be positioned to receive the most points possible for your performance. Only rules and criteria that are mentioned in this guide will be considered in the judging process. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the rules and criteria, please feel free to contact us at info@hikuauuli.com and we will be more than happy to answer your questions in hopes of satisfying any concerns you may have.

Participation and Contracting

Talofa! We are excited to welcome you to the first annual “Le Kaua Ailao” Fire Knife Competition, also known as “**Battle of the Blades**”, at the Hawai’i Kuauuli Pacific & Asia Cultural Festival. This competition has been designed to serve our growing fire knife community by giving warriors from all around the world an opportunity to showcase their talents and skills in hopes of receiving a world title. Being that participation has been limited, it is important that all participating individuals behave in a respectful and highly professional manner. Any unacceptable behavior may result in the competitor being asked to leave the competition with the possibility of not participating in following years. Listed below are a few examples of unacceptable behavior:

- Participating while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other illegal substances.
- Slandering, disgracing, or bad-mouthing the culture, event, sponsors, staff, or other competitors in a public form (e.g. social media posts, causing a scene in a public area, etc.).
- Misbehaving during the event (e.g. obnoxious yelling, swearing, fighting, etc.)
- Creating a hostile environment for all competitors, staff, audience members.

We are excited to present this event to the world and we are even more excited to include you as part of this competition. We, Hawai’i Island Pacific & Asia Cultural Celebrations, the Siva Afi Company, along with our many sponsors, have carefully designed this competition to give you the opportunity you have been waiting for and our audience the show of a lifetime.

Knife Regulations

1. Every competitor is responsible for providing three knives of their own; one single knife to be used for the single knife routine; a set of two matching double knives to be used for the double knife routine.
2. Competitors are NOT allowed to share knives or borrow knives from another competitor.
3. All knives must have a hook at the end of the blade, large enough to hook the knives together as traditionally done.
4. Every competitor is responsible for the integrity of their knives. Any compromised equipment will result in immediate disqualification with the inability to win or place. The following is considered compromised:
 - a. Blades that bend at a noticeable degree when dropped
 - b. Blades that break off from their handle (including hooks that break off from the blade).
 - c. Handles that are not strong or secured, resulting in flying or broken parts during the routine.
 - d. Boards or donuts that break, resulting in them flying from the knife during the routine.
5. **Knife measurements** will be relative to the size of the competitor using them and will be measured as follows:
 - a. All measurements will be judged off of the competitor; the distance from the center of their chest to the tip of their middle finger, called the **base measurement**.
 - b. The overall length of the single knife must be two inches longer than the base measurement at minimum; the overall length of the double knives must be the base measurement at minimum.
 - c. ALL BLADES must be a minimum of 1/3 the length of their relative knife, from the earliest point where it protrudes from the handle, to the top-most edge of the blade.
6. Once knives have been measured, competitors are NOT ALLOWED to use anything besides what has been measured. Any attempts at cheating this rule will result in automatic disqualification and the competitor will not be asked to participate in future events.
7. **** Hollow style blades ARE ALLOWED. ****

Costume Regulations

1. All costumes must be based off of the traditional performance attire of the Samoan culture.
2. Any leggings, hanging accessories, or dangling adornments must be made of fresh leaves and materials or non- flammable materials. NO dried leaves or raffia/cloth-based adornments will be allowed in this sense for the safety of the performers and staff.

3. All competitors are responsible for securing their costume and accessories to their body. Any broken pieces that fall off during the routine can result in being scored lower in the costuming category.

Routine and Performance Regulations

The following criteria will be used in the judging process. Keep in mind that your performance on stage, as well as some off-stage elements will be considered in formulating your scores.

Category	Detailed Explanation	Points Possible
Entrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The competitor enters the stage in a definitive manner, portraying a warrior, with a well-planned and developed routine. • The competitor is able to get both sides of the knife lit in a timely manner, without too many failed attempts. 	5
Exits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The competitor exits the stage while still in character, portraying a warrior. • The competitor keeps their composure while in judges' site, without looking like they are completely out of breath, unconditioned, or tired. 	5
Overall Character/ Costuming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The competitor displays the character of a warrior throughout the entire routine. • The competitor's costume is a clear reflection of their cultural knowledge. • Any speeches or vocal calls made are in the Samoan language and are representative of a Samoan warrior. 	5

<p>Spinning Speed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed of the knife is fast enough to give off a visually seamless ring of fire. • Speed is consistent throughout entire routine, mending together transitions and tricks without coming to a jerking stop or slowing down. • Speed of throws, while the knife is in the air, remains consistent with speed of entire routine. • Speed at the end of the routine is consistent with the speed at the beginning of the routine, showing minimal signs of fatigue and stress. 	<p>15</p>
<p>Height of Throws</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Height of “high” throws are at least two times the competitor’s height. • High throws must make up for 15% of each of the single knife routine and the double knife routine. • Height of “low” throws must be high enough to allow the knife to spin 1-2 times in the air before being caught. 	<p>15</p>
<p>Difficulty of Motions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both single and double knife routine should consist of at least 2 difficult motion sequences or combinations. • Uses concepts such as blind catching, misdirection, and consistent flow to build complex motions and combos. 	<p>15</p>
<p>Originality of Routine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displays 2-3 original motions or original combinations of motions or tricks per routine. • Develops their own sense of showmanship and style from the moment they enter the stage to when they leave. 	<p>15</p>

Traditional Style Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proves their knowledge and respect of traditional movements and style, eg.: foot stomping, double kakai throws, being mindful of the blade's presence, always catching the knife and spinning with the blade up, etc. 	10
Modern Style Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proves their knowledge and respect of modern movements and style, eg.: flat throws, whip and cut motions, flick throws and motions, etc. 	10
Crowd Captivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitor is able to perform with confidence and control, resulting in the crowd's liveliness. Performs not only to the crowd, but also to the judges. 	5
Total Points Possible		100

Deductions

Infraction	Detailed Explanation	Points Deducted
Knife Measurements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any knives do not meet the given measurement regulations as mentioned above. 	3
Drops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anytime the knife leaves both hands and touches the ground. **Intentionally throwing or placing the knife on the ground will count as a drop. Remember that you are using a weapon. Losing control of your knife in battle means you die. ** 	3 per knife dropped
Excessive Rest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every competitor is allowed 5 seconds of rest between their single and double knife routine. This count will begin at the moment the competitor throws their single knife off stage without direct exchange for their double knives. 	3

Other Considerations:

The competitor must be mindful of how they prep their knives for their routines. **Competitors scorable routines will end once the flames on their knives die.**

Above all, have fun and leave your best out on the stage. We are excited to have you as part of this event and we look forward to the results. May the best warrior win!

