

Rules of the World Championship in knife and axe throwing, Herrischried, August 2022

In 2022, we will employ the European Knife and Axe Throwing Rules (**version 2019**).

There is a change with the 2019 rule set that you should bear in mind: All participants will now throw the walk-back, not only the top throwers.

The three countries with the best throwers will be recognised, based on the cumulative scores of the events walk-back precision throwing knife and axe of the top five throwers per country, women and men combined.

For each event, the thrower has to show up with **three throwing tools (knives/axes)**. Exceptions only for throwing tools damaged during the meeting.

If ties need to be resolved, the following additional ranking factor will be used: The number of times a participant scored a 5-point stick (further using 4-3-2 sticks if necessary).

The events in 2022:

- Walk-back precision knife throwing
- Walk-back precision axe throwing
- Long distance knife throwing
- Long distance axe throwing
- No-spin knife throwing (**min. 195g** - see also new rules!)
- Sports silhouette knife throwing
- Sports silhouette axe throwing
- Duel Cup
- Special secret events Herrischried 2022

European Knife- and Axe Throwing Rules (Version 2019)

Target / Points

The target is a circle measuring 50cm in diameter; it is partitioned into 5 concentric rings with the following diameters (and colours): 10cm (black), 20cm (white), 30cm (red), 40cm (white), 50cm (red).

Points: the centre (bullseye) earns 5 points, 4/3/2/1 points are awarded for the respective outer rings.

Heights of the targets (measured from the bullseye to the ground): 1.30m up to 1.60m.

Events

Standard events

Standard events are those events that are supposed to be held at any competition that follows European Knife Throwing and Axe Throwing Rules.

List of standard events:

- Walk-back precision throwing (knife, axe)
- Long distance (knife, axe)
- Sports silhouette throwing
- Duel-Cup (with time preselection round, if feasible)
- No spin knife throwing (suggestion: precision walk-back)

World Champions

World Champion titles are awarded in the following events: Walk-back precision throwing (male, female, axe, knife), No spin knife throwing (mixed), Long distance (female, male, knife, axe), Sports silhouette throwing (male, female), Duel Cup (mixed);

Walk-back precision throwing

The events will be held at the following marked distances: Knife 3m, 4m, 5m, 6m, 7m; Axe 4m, 5m, 7m, 8m, 10m;

The thrower will throw 4 runs. In each run, he will throw one round of three throws per distance mark - starting behind the closest distance mark and moving back behind the next distance mark after completing the previous round. He will thus throw from all distances in one run, resulting in a total number of 60 throws (5 distances x 3 throws per round x 4 runs).

The thrower does not have to stand directly at the distance marks, but can move back a maximum of 100cm minus the length of his foot.

Single distance precision

Knives 3m, Knives 5m and Knives 7m.

Axes 4m and Axes 7m.

Distances given for these events are minimum distances. You must not stand closer to the target, but can move a maximum of 2m back (both for knives and axes).

You have 21 throws per event. For each target you are allowed one test throw, which has to be declared as such in advance.

In case of bad weather, narrow time constraints or other emergency situations, the organiser can decide to hold only 15 throws instead of 21.

The points are summed up per event. Additionally, for informative purposes the fraction of the achieved points divided by the maximum number of points achievable in this event will be given in percent.

Long distance

Same rules for knives and axes.

Whether a throw is valid is decided analogously to the counting rules.

The target is a circle with a diameter of 1m.

The goal is to achieve a stick in this circle from the farthest distance.

The minimum distance to the target is 4m. From here, areas of 3m in length follow (that is, 4-7m, 7-10m, 10-13m,...). The contestant chooses a distance in the first area, from here he has 3 throws (there are no test throws). If he achieves a stick, he may proceed back further away from the target and has again 3 throws. He may go back at most into the next area. The procedure ends if 3 throws are unsuccessful; The distance achieved will be noted, measured to the centimetre. The areas only concern the measuring of the distance, not the throw itself (for example, it is allowed to throw from a distance of 6.99m even though one stands in two areas at once). After the first throw in an area, it is forbidden to go back to an area closer to the target. As a further restriction, once a distance is chosen, for the current 3 throws the contestant may change the distance only within the 2m-range of 1m towards and away from the target.

Sports Equipment

Knives

Only knives with a rigid blade, longer than 23cm and with a blade narrower than 6cm.

Axes

Minimum weight 500g, maximum breadth of the blade 12cm.

Counting / Schedule

After each evaluation, the arbiter retrieves the throwing tools and brings them back to the thrower.

The thrower can request that, before another throw at a target, the throwing tool sticking there be evaluated and removed.

The tool will be counted exactly as it is sticking in the target, it will not be redressed perpendicular to the target.

For a throw to be valid, a knife's tip and an axe's blade must stick.

With double-bladed axes, only sticks with the handle down are valid. If both blades touch the target, the throw is invalid.

The best ring that is cut will be counted (in doubt, pull out the blade to verify the cut).

Distances are measured from the tip of the foot that was closest to the target during the throw. It is thus forbidden to transgress the minimum distance lines, doing so will make the throw invalid (0 points).

If more than 5 women participate, there will be a separate ranking for them.

Throwers from all countries can participate in the contest. The nationality plays no role whatsoever in determining the rankings and winners. For the national championship only, organisers have the option to solely allow participants from their country; In this case, the exclusion of foreigners must be clearly communicated when advertising the event and inviting to it (even in-country).

Safety / Organisation

A first-aid kit must be available on site.

Throwing at the competition targets is only allowed under the supervision of an arbiter.

Throwing at the training targets is only allowed if an official range officer is present. The range officer observes the throwing and intervenes before dangerous situations arise.

The rectangular area 10m in front of and 3m to both sides of the targets is roped off, only contestants and arbiters are allowed here. It is forbidden to stay behind the targets.

There is a minimum distance of 6m between the targets.

Participants under 18 years must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

The main referee is always right. If you do not observe the rules, especially those meant for security, you will be disqualified and sent off the place.

Every participant has to have a third party liability insurance, if this insurance is offered as standard option by insurers in the thrower's home country.

Every participants has to sign that he accepts the rules, and that he takes part at his own risk.

Name of these Standard Rules

These rules are called „European Knife and Axe Throwing Rules“.

The official rule document is in English language, translations are provided for convenience only.

Sports Silhouette Throwing

Goal

Throwing 15 throwing tools precisely into target areas arranged around two red circles (the silhouette, see drawing below). The 15 circular target areas are of 10cm diameter each, and have a distance of 12cm to the silhouette.

Schedule

The thrower stands in front of the silhouette target, in a distance of at least 3m (knife) / 4m (axe).

The thrower has three test throws, which he can use on the targets he wants. He will tell the arbiter when he is ready to begin the event.

The mandatory throwing sequence is indicated in the drawing. There is exactly one throw for each number in the sequence. A throwing tool sticking in the wrong target counts zero points.

The sequence will usually be throw in five series of three throwing tools each.

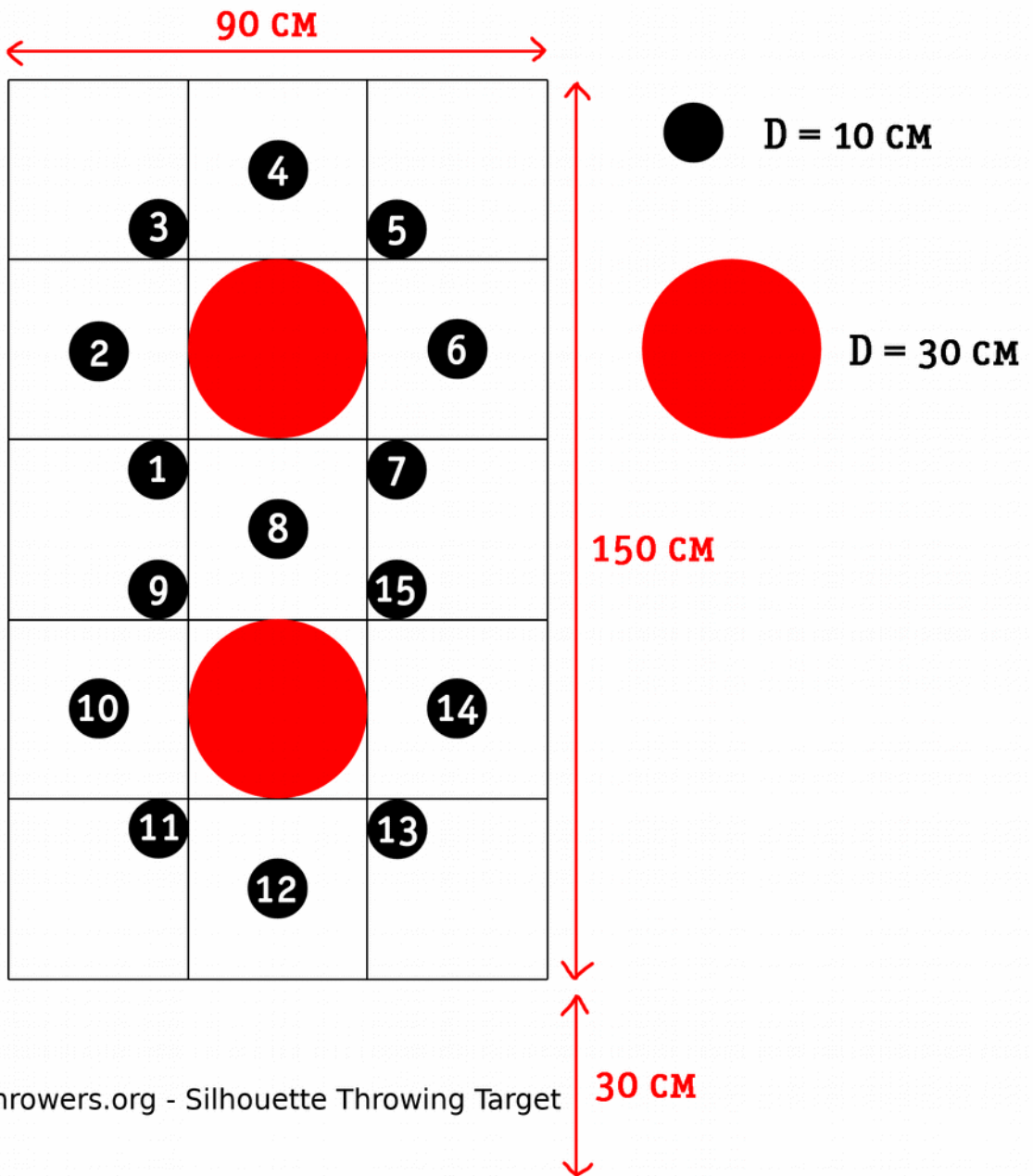
If a throwing tool sticking in the target blocks the next mandatory target, it will be scored and taken out.

Scoring

5 points for each stick in the right target. Minus 10 points if the sticking throwing tool touches a silhouette, or even sticks within the silhouette.

To demonstrate the responsible behaviour in our sport, please avoid sticking inside the silhouette also in test and training throws.

In case of ties for the Top 3, there will be additional throws. This additional throw will consist of two runs of three throwing tools each, with the same rules as before (that is, thrown at the first six target areas). The additional throws can be repeated again as often as required to break the tie.



Duel-Cup

In this knockout tournament, you compete in pairs (=duels). Only the winner of a duel goes on to the next round. The winner of the duel of the last round is the winner of the duel cup. Only the winner will be awarded.

This is a combined event for women and men.

A duel consists of 3 runs. He who wins the most runs wins the duel. If, after 3 runs, none of the participants has won a run, both throw at their target; the participant whose knife sticks closer to the centre wins the duel. If there is a 1:1 tie in runs, there will be more runs until one thrower wins a run. Before each duel, the participant is allowed one test throw.

The start pairings are drawn randomly.

It might be that for this knockout tournament, there are less than the fitting 2^n (example: 16, 32, 64) participants P . Then a number of participants will be randomly drawn - they receive a free bye and will go to the first round without throwing. The remaining participants compete in a preliminary round. The number X of participants drawn is such that there will be fittingly $2^{(n-1)}$ participants for the first round ($X = 2^n - P$).

(Example: If there are 23 participants, then this is less than the suitable 32. Thus $X = 32 - 23 = 9$. This means that 9 participants will be randomly drawn to go on without throwing. The remaining 14 compete in the preliminary round. The 7 participants that won in the preliminary round plus the 9 participants drawn make suitable 16 participants for the first round.)

A Run

The knives thrown must conform to the standard rules; Only throws from the handle are allowed.

The target diameter is 50cm. The two targets stand at least 4m apart.

The distance for the throw (front foot measured) is between 3m and 3.50m. The shoulder is parallel to the target, the face is oriented towards the target; the palms lay on the chest, directly under the throat, one hand atop of the other (= starting position).

The knife is in a sheath. The sheath is fixed on a belt, or it may be tugged into the clothing or belt. A thrower has the right to hold the sheath with his non-throwing hand (this hand then doesn't have to be placed on the chest). The middle of the knife is lower than the navel.

A referee enquires with "Ready for test?" (test throw) / "Ready for competition?" (competition throw) if both throwers are ready. After both affirm with „OK“, the referee confirms with „Start“. Then, the referee activates the duel measuring device: After a random time interval (1-4 seconds) the device gives the signal to throw. The signal is an optical one, which can be supplemented by an acoustic one. After the signal, the throwers have 5 seconds time for their throw.

The winner of the run is the thrower whose knife sticks in the target first. If the two knives hit at the same time, the thrower whose knife sticks closer to the target centre is the winner.

Referees and Decisions

The decision which of the both knives hit the target first will be taken by a duel measurement device (based on the readings of its sensors). The decision „same time“ can occur for hits within 10ms. The measuring device has a temporal resolution better than 1ms.

For each Duel: For his first false start, the thrower receives a warning. From his second false start on, the thrower loses the current run.

The main referee announces the pairings, and keeps the score (rounds and duels). He is responsible for the course of the competition, and takes final decisions.

For each two-target duel setup there will be two referees. Referee A operates the duel measurement device and - together with referee B - watches over the correct starting position and false starts (time, distances). If there is more than one duel setup, at each duel setup there will be a score keeper who communicates the results to the main referee.

To protect themselves, the referees do look out for rebounding knives, and do stand in a safe distance: at least 2m away from a thrower, at most 50cm closer to the target than a thrower, and not between the throwers.

Time Preselection Round

At big events (more than 38 participants), the following preselection round shall be used to make the Duel Cup more flexible and faster:

Each participant makes a time duel against a randomly selected opponent. For each participant, the times of the throws (signal until stick) are recorded, only the fastest time counts. If a participant has no valid hit, this time be 2000ms. If, after three runs, none of the participants has won a run, the duel terminates. If a participant wins the first two runs, the duel ends (same as in the later rounds). The winner of a duel gets a bonus of 50ms off his fastest time. Additional rules for false starts: The participant responsible for the false start receives a penalty of 100ms added to the fastest time, and the opponent has the right to three undisturbed throws. After the preselection round, the participants are then ordered by their fastest time. The 16 best participants, numbered 1 to 16, do enter the knockout tournament with the start pairings for the knockout pyramid as follows: 1,9;5,13;3,11;7,15;2,10;6,14;4,12;8,16; If this preselection round is employed, the three best participants can be awarded (using an additional duel to determine the third place).

The official rule document is in German, translations are provided for convenience only.

No-Spin Precision Knife Throwing

The Goal

- 1.1 Precision event testing the knife throwing skills using a specific throwing technique: "No Spin".
- 1.2 This is a combined event for women and men.

The Throw

- 2.1 The knife is to be held by the handle for throwing, and after release the knife may rotate (end-over-end, on lateral axis) for at most 180 degrees before sticking.

The Knives

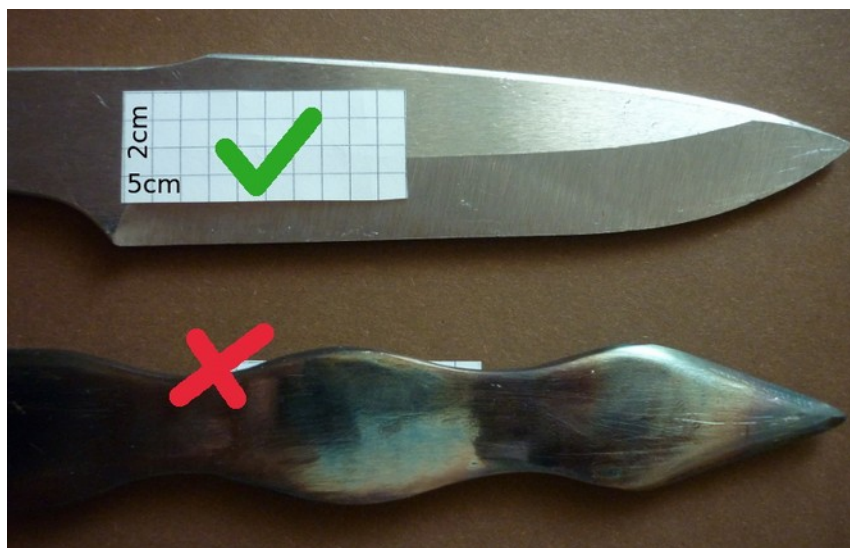
- 3.1 Only knives are to be thrown in this no-spin event.
- 3.2 For this no-spin event, the lower bound restrictions for a throwing knife from the standard rules do not apply.
- 3.3 A knife can not be a no-spin throwing knife for this event if it fails any of the following preconditions:
 - Minimum weight 195g.
 - Has clearly distinctive blade and handle.
 - Blade comprises at least 30% of the total length.
 - Width at least 2cm for a stretch of at least 5cm (anywhere on the knife).
- 3.4 The event tests the mastery of specific throwing techniques. Therefore the following limitations are imposed:
 - Prohibited are all devices stabilising the flight, such as feathers, wings or ribbons.
 - Prohibited are throwing aids such as Atlatl spear throwers, slings, or strings that impart rotation. The throwing aids include the Spanish Gyro throwing knives. Due to a number of factors (finger acting as spear thrower, stabilising rotation along the longitudinal axis), those throwing knives fly with the tip steadily pointing towards the target, thus reliably sticking independently of the distance or the skill of the thrower.
- 3.5 No-spin throwing knives will be marked with a "N" upon knife registration.

Schedule

- 4.1 This is a walk-back precision throwing event, as described in the standard rules.
(Throwing knives may rebound from the target to the thrower. To avoid injuries, by giving enough time for safely stepping away, the minimum distance is set at 3m.)
- 4.2 The thrower does have one test throw per distance, thus a total of five test throws for this event. He signals to the arbiter once ready to start the scoring throws.
- 4.3 For clarification: A competitor's position may change during the throw motion.

Measuring example: Minimum size requirements

As long as you can place the 2x5cm paper anywhere on the knife – blade or handle are ok – and it is completely covered by metal, the minimum size requirement is met.



International Starter Award

Why an International Starter Award?

If you are new to knife and axe throwing, maybe you got the feeling that you are not "good enough", and because it's your first international event, you don't want to compete with all the experienced throwers. I mean, you can always decide to only throw those events you feel good about. But, with the International Starter Award, you got the **option** to explicitly register to be ranked in the International Starter Award.

Who can throw as an International Starter?

Everybody who identifies as a beginner thrower (for example, throwing less than 12 months), and who has never competed at an international event.

Upon registering online (or latest once you arrive in Herrischried) you can indicate that you want to be ranked in the International Starter Award.

Can I participate both as International Starter and standard participant?

No, you have to choose. If you opt for International Starter, you will be ranked in the International Starter ranking in the knife precision and axe precision events. In the other events, should you want to throw them, you will of course be ranked in the standard common ranking with everybody else.

Is there a reduced registration fee if I compete as International Starter?

No. Since you can do about the same events as everybody else, the work for the organiser remains about the same.

What are the International Starter Award events?

- Knife precision walkback 3m / 4m / 5m (4 runs à 3 throws each); Maximum points Knife:
 $3*5*3 * 4 = 180$ points
- Axe precision walkback 4m / 5m / 7m (4 runs à 3 throws each); Maximum points Axe:
 $3*5*3 * 4 = 180$ points

There will be a separate ranking for knives and for axes. If more than 5 women participate in an event, there will be a separate ranking for them (as per our Standard Rules).

Herrischried 2022 special events: To be announced