



## Oxford Sword and Staff Ranks

The Oxford Sword and Staff uses an internal ranking system, represented by coloured sashes worn around the waist. This system is designed as a guide for a member's training and to inspire progression during their studies at the OSS. The ranks reflect an individual's accumulated knowledge, skills, and time committed to studying at OSS, as well as your ability to deploy the principles and techniques you have learned in combat.

These ranks are awarded by the Committee once an individual has met the requirements set below;

### 1st Rank - "Rekrut" (White Sash)

#### Requirements

- Has completed the Registration Procedure and is a Member of the OSS.
- Knows the name of the Oxford Sword and Staffs chosen master.
- Knows the details of the treatise we study (name, date and disciplines covered).

#### Benefits

- Can take part in the open study sessions.
- Access to all benefits that come with being an OSS member.
- Priority access to any available loan gear.
- Can spar but **must** be monitored/coached

### 2nd Rank - "Scholler" (Green Sash)

- Has completed an introductory course and have continued studying their chosen weapon for no less than 3 months of study.
- Can demonstrate an understanding of key concepts regarding the weapon which have been covered during the course.
- Has procured their own mask, gloves and weapon.

- Can demonstrate control and safe practices when sparring, to the satisfaction of the coaching team.
- Has successfully completed a 15 min prizing against any challengers.

#### Benefits

- Is cleared to spar freely with members of the same rank or higher with no monitoring.

### 3rd Rank - “Fechter” (Red Sash)

- Has attended the club regularly for at least 12 months of taught sessions.
- Has proven themselves to be consistently responsible and safe in all combat activities
- Has studied at least two of Meyer’s covered weapons (depending on availability this can be Longsword, Dussack, Dagger, Rapier or a choice of Quarterstaff, Halberd or Pike) for a minimum of 16 hours within taught sessions.
- Has completed a prizing of 30 minutes

#### Benefits

- Is endorsed by the club to assist others in their learning.
- Can put themselves forward to become a Coach/Mentor

### 4th Rank - “Freifechter” (Purple Sash)

- Has studied each of Meyers covered weapon categories (Longsword, Dussack, Rapier, Dagger and a choice of either Quarterstaff, Halberd or Pike) for a minimum of 40 hours each. This can include personal study but must be recorded.
- Has put together and delivered a 90 minute lesson plan **OR** a 15 minute lecture on a subject of their choice, the only requirement is that it relates to material covered by or pertinent to Joachim Meyer’s teachings.
- Has completed a 1 hour prizing.

#### Benefits

- Can (with approval from the committee) set up OSS subgroups.

## Prizings

Prizings are a person's opportunity to showcase their skill-at-arms to their peers and any invited attendees. Successful prizing earns the right to wear a Rank's coloured sash.

- The Challenger will be expected to fight near-continuously for a predetermined period of time, the length of which is dependant on the rank they are challenging for.
- The Challenger is not expected to win every exchange but they should aim to display their skills and understanding of techniques they have studied to the best of their abilities
- The Prizing will be witnessed by at least three peers from the club, one of which must be a committee member.
- Opponents for the prizing must make a formal declaration to the Challenger beforehand.
- The pace and intensity of fencing should be moderate. Enough to test the Challengers skills but not so much that no-one could be expected to maintain the pace for the duration of the prize.

## Additional Ranks

### Coach (Blue Sash)

- Coaches must have attained the Rank of Scholler at minimum.
- The decision to award the title of Coach lies exclusively with the committee.
- Coaches are included in all discussions concerning lesson subjects and have a higher level of authority in the club than other ranks.
- Coaches are expected to specialise in specific weapon systems and, if necessary, be able to run sessions for that weapon from a plan written or pre-agreed by a Mentor.

### Mentor (Yellow Sash)

- Mentors are the Oxford Sword and Staff equivalent of "Instructors".
- A Mentor is expected to be able to write and deliver sessions on any of the official club subjects.
- Must be able to demonstrate and communicate subject matter to a class at a high level of proficiency.
- Must have an exceptionally high level of commitment.
- A Mentor will have completed a 1 hour Prizing, using all weapons covered in The Art of Combat.