



Official Rule Book

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A short history of competitive cutting

The idea of one knife performing better than another can be dated back to the origin of edged tools themselves. Archaeological digs bear evidence that flint and obsidian were traded over great distances based on superior knapping properties from one region to another. Medieval history tells of contests utilizing swords and lances to prove the skills of a knight and the talent of the village smith. Pocket knife traders have argued the virtues of one brand over another on courthouse squares for decades. Savvy collectors have been comparing smooth shaven arms to attest to the keenness of their favorite makers' blades at knife shows since the early 1970's when The Knife makers' Guild first got its start.

The legendary Bill Moran, co-founder of the American Blade smith Society, may have been the originator of cutting competitions as we know them today. Mr. Moran kept a brush pile behind his shop where he would test his knives cutting tree limbs. He continued this practice even after his knives were selling for thousands of dollars. The way a knife cut was vitally important to him — an importance fundamental to the advancement criteria of American Blade smith Society, assuring that function always be inherent to the art of the forged blade. With the ABS requirements of cutting a 1" free-hanging rope then chopping through 2X4's as part of the tests for Journeyman and Master Smith rating, two components of modern day cutting competitions were in place.

Beginning in the 1980's, cutting demonstrations were held in meeting rooms at the Blade Show. The Oregon Knife Collectors Association Show added a rope cutting competition to their event about the same time; ropes were added one at a time until a winner was declared by cutting more ropes with a single swipe than anyone else. The magic of contemporary cutting competitions was born in the 1990's at an American Blade smith Society Hammer-in; a contest was proposed to pit participants against one another in a series of cutting feats. The contest was held and a victor declared. The broad appeal of cutting competitions was obvious when Blade smith Jim Crowell was featured on the cover of the Wall Street Journal after winning one of these informal events.

Soon cutting competitions became a standard feature of the ABS Hammer-ins. The number of competitors and spectators grew rapidly; sparking an international following for the events. Eventually, points were awarded at ABS sponsored cuts, with the top qualifiers vying for the title of World Cutting Competition Champion at the annual Blade Show and International Cutlery Fair. Past winners include Reggie Barker and Jim Crowell.

One drawback to these organized competitions was that a person had to be an ABS member, having forged his or her own knife, to be eligible to participate. The Knifemakers' Guild added a cutting contest to its show in 2004, opening competition to both forged and stock-removal handmade blades. All participants were required to make their own knives and complete approved Cutting/Safety Seminars.

Spectators enticed by the excitement took classes and began making their own knives for a chance to compete. The addictiveness of competitive cutting prompted longtime stock-removal makers to join American Blade smith Society and learn to forge, just so they could take part in ABS events.

Allure of competition continued to grow. In 2005 a few knife cutting enthusiasts began discussing a worldwide competition open to all types of knives, including factory made pieces. They visualized a sporting event open to a diverse group of competitors. By demonstrating safe and practical use in public forums, they envisioned a positive image for the cutlery industry — much needed to counter the rising tide of anti-knife sentiment in some circles.

BladeSports International, Inc. memberships are available to competitors, sponsors and fans of competitive cutting — offering awards, demonstrations, schools and workshops. Competition is open, not just to knife makers, but also to anyone fulfilling certification requirements. The *BladeSports International, Inc.* events will be held at knife shows and retail venues throughout the country, culminating with an international championship each year.

A knife is a tool. It is natural that one knife will cut better than the other and that one cutter may outperform another. The correct combination of both creates a winner — many will strive to attain that title — and many others will enjoy watching their pursuit.

Membership Levels

#1 – **Associate Member**: This membership is for individuals and corporate sponsors with an interest in BladeSports International, Inc. competitions but have no interest in competing in the cutting competitions. Membership package includes the following.

- Membership card
- Free admittance to BladeSports International, Inc. events
- Reduced prices on BladeSports International, Inc. merchandise

#2 – **Non-Knife makers**: This membership is for individuals who desire to cut in BladeSports International, Inc. events. (Must be at least 18 years old). Membership package includes the following.

- Biography on BladeSports International, Inc. web site
- Certification to cut in BladeSports International, Inc. competitions
- Membership card
- Free admittance to BladeSports International, Inc. events
- Reduced prices on BladeSports International, Inc. merchandise

#3 – **Knife maker**: This membership is for individuals who desire to cut in BladeSports International, Inc. events using a knife of their own making. (Must be at least 18years old.) Membership package includes the following.

- Biography on BladeSports International, Inc. web site
- Certification to cut in BladeSports International, Inc. competition
- Membership card
- Free admittance to BladeSports International, Inc. events
- Reduced prices on BladeSports International, Inc. merchandise

(A Knife maker is someone who is engaged in the making of handmade knives for sale to the public.)

Cutter Certification

To cut in BladeSports International, Inc. competition a member must have current Cutter Certification.

Cutter Certification must be renewed within a one-year period to stay current.

Participation in any BladeSports International, Inc. event or training session constitutes a renewal.

There are 2 ways to gain Cutter Certification Participation in a BladeSports International, Inc. recognized Cutting School. Personal training by a BladeSports International, Inc. "Cutter /Instructor".

Upon completion of a training session the participant will receive a form to send to BladeSports International, Inc. The Cutter will then be sent a Certification card to be presented at BladeSports International, Inc. events designating the member as a Certified Cutter. The Cutter will also be added to the BladeSports International, Inc. database and all participation in BladeSports International, Inc. events will be recorded. A notification will be sent to the Cutter prior to loss of Cutter eligibility. Participation once every season is required to maintain Cutter Certification.

Upon check-in at a BladeSports International, Inc. event participants will present a copy of their Cutter Certification.

To participate in an event, the Cutter must sign a Release of Liability.

BladeSports International, Inc., its board of directors and members, event organizers, and property owners are not responsible for any injuries or death while participating in any event, training session or individual practice.

Do not attempt any competition-type cutting without proper training. Do not attempt personal training while alone.

No Person will be allowed to cut in any BladeSports International, Inc. competition without CURRENT Cutter Certification (see above).

Cutter Levels

There will be 2 Cutter Levels — Red and White. A cutter's first cut will be in the White level

- A white level Cutter may move to Red level if he wins a 1st overall in any event in the season.
- White level Cutters who place 1st or 2nd twice in a season may move from White level to Red level. Any Cutter who has competed in at least 5 BladeSports International, Inc. events may choose to compete in the Red level.

Knifemaker Members must use an approved knife made by a Certified Knifemaker Member or an approved production knife. (see pages 9,10)

Non-knife maker Members must use an approved knife made by a Certified Knife maker Member or an approved production knife, or an approved knife of his own making. (see pages 9,10)

Points will be awarded for all events and totals will determine overall winners. Accumulated points over a BladeSports International, Inc. season will determine the year's champion.

World Championship- In the United States there are presently 10 slots for this event. To qualify, one must cut in at least 2 events to be invited to the National Championship. At the National Championship the highest ten cutters go on to the World Championship. The Number of participants is subject to change as we grown and acquire international affiliates. Each International affiliate is allotted 2 slots at the World Championship.*

*as we grow in size, and throughout the world, these rules may change.

Instructorship

Any Certified Cutter may become an Instructor if he/she meets the requirements for certification.

The Instructor will determine Training/Certification fees without assessment by the BladeSports International, Inc. (This policy may change in the future as necessary.)

To become an instructor an individual must apply to the Board of Directors in writing. There are two instructor levels:

School Instructor

- Must be an experienced cutter (past or present)
- Must be able to officiate a competition at all levels
- Must be able to score a contest
- Must be able to design & organize a competition
- Must be able to judge knife safety
- Must be able to educate others in techniques etc.
- Must know the rules & regulations of BladeSports International, Inc.
- Must have access to or own regulation & safe equipment etc

Certification Instructors

- Must have been a competitor
- Must be able to educate others in cutting safely
- Must be able to educate others in coarse events. (i.e. have as many of our common cuts
- available on safe equipment)

#1 Maximum knife size specifications:

- Blade Length – 10" (measured from the front of the handle to the blade tip)
- Overall Length – 15" (measured from the back of the handle to the blade tip) Blade Width – 2" (measured at the widest part of the blade)
- Blade and Handle Thickness – No restrictions

#2 From the plunge cut at the ricasso through the knife tip must be a single plane. No swells or bulges are allowed.

#3 False edges and grinds along the spine to reduce weight or drag are allowed.

#4 Added weights forward of the handle are not allowed.

#5 No holes in the blade forward of the handle will be allowed except for integrals where the blade is measured from the plunge line. The lanyard hole can be placed to the rear of the plunge line which would be in the guard or ferrule on an integral.

#6 All Handles must have at least 1 visible pin or tube that passes through the handle material and tang.

#7 All Knives must have a secure lanyard hole with a sturdy wrist lanyard. BladeSports International, Inc. event officials may disqualify any knife if the lanyard system, in any way, presents a safety hazard.

#8 The Osborne Safety Lanyard is recommended. This forward style lanyard provides a higher level of safety and retention to the cutter

#9 All Knives must have a sturdy sheath to be allowed in the event area and be eligible for competition. Sheaths are required to have a secondary means of retention. (i.e. strap, lock, kydex retention, etc.)

#10 It is recommended that knives be built with a full or a full tapered tang. Hidden tang designs are acceptable with the following restrictions:

- Only tangs that have been drawn soft to eliminate brittleness are to be used for hidden tang designs.

- The event officials at any BladeSports International, Inc. gathering may ask questions to determine if hidden tang knives meet specifications.
- Due to the possible loss of strength in the tang area a lanyard must not pass through the tang on a hidden tang knife, unless it is an extended tang behind the hand grip area.
- All hidden tang knives made with air hardened steels should be submitted to the Board for approval before a competition.

#11 All knives must have been tested prior to competition.

#12 All knife design features are subject to the approval of Officials

#13 – Production Knives

A knife will be considered a “production knife” if more than 20 of the same design are manufactured commercially by a BladeSports International, Inc. sponsor in a 1-year period.

- Two (2) finished models and one (1) heat-treated blade blank must be sent to a designated
- BladeSports International, Inc. official for testing prior to approval.
- Production knives must conform to all current BladeSports International, Inc. knife specifications.
- Each approved production knife will have a certificate designating it as a tested and approved model.

BladeSports International, Inc. accepts no responsibility and gives no guarantees for the performance of any knife. Knives that are submitted must successfully pass a number of extreme tests before the design is approved.

Knife Penalties and Disqualification

At any time if a cutter loses control of the knife it will result in disqualification. Losing control is defined as follows:

- having less than 3 fingers on the handle (not to include a controlled re-gripping of the knife performed safely and prior to the initiation of a swing)
- the blade contacting any part of the body or extremity
- the knife coming completely out of the hand
- any other way the knife poses a threat to the cutter as deemed by the officials.

All penalties are left to the determination of the officials at the event. A knife damaged during an event that poses a threat to either spectators, Officials, other Cutters or the Cutter him/herself will result in the Cutter being disqualified. The Cutter will receive 0 (zero) points for the event.

Damage to a knife during an event that is determined to be minor will result in a 5 (five) point deduction from the Cutter's score or a 5 (five) second addition to the Cutter's time, depending on the type of event.

BladeSports International, Inc. event officials may request possession of any disqualified knife for evaluation. The surrendered knife will be returned to the owner after it has been evaluated. (This action will help to improve the understanding of knife performance. Useful information gathered from study will be made available to BladeSports International, Inc. members.)

Standard Event/Safety Rules

All competitors must sign a Release of Liability prior to each event.

All individuals within the event space during a competition must sign a Release of Liability form or vacate the event area. (i.e. officials who are not also competing, timers, course marshals, photographers)

All competitors must abide by all instructions given by BladeSports International, Inc. event officials.

Cutters must be at least 18 years old.

All competitors must have a valid cutter certification (see page 6). All competitors must attend a safety meeting prior to each event. You must attend the entire safety meeting, if you are late you will not compete

Only knives that have a sturdy sheath **with secondary retention** will be allowed in event area. Zipper cases will not be allowed.

No slick soled or open-toed footwear will be allowed in event area.

Eye protection must be worn at all times while in event area.

Alcohol, performance enhancing drugs or illegal substances will not be tolerated at any BladeSports International, Inc. event, workshop, training session or demonstration.

All knives must be placed and remain in an area designated by event officials at the time of an event.

Only one (1) knife will be unsheathed at a time unless directed by event officials.

Event officials will inspect all knives prior to the start of each competition for adherence to BladeSports International, Inc. knife specifications. Officials will also inspect knives for any noticeable damage during events.

Penalties will be administered for any safety, rules or procedure infraction. Penalties will range from a warning, up to and including loss of Cutter Certification.

Infractions posing a threat to spectators, officials, other Cutters or the Cutter him/herself will result in immediate disqualification. Disqualified Cutters will receive 0 (zero) points for the Event.

Infractions determined to be minor will result in a five (5) point deduction from the Cutter's score or a five (5) second addition to the Cutter's time, depending on the type of event.

For additional Safety Procedures see the Safety Meeting Form

Event Types

There will be different types of planned events at BladeSports International, Inc. competitions. A competition may include any or all event types. Space requirements will be provided by Event Sponsors for each type of event.

There must be a minimum of 4 participants in an event to qualify it as a points event. To have a separate woman's class a minimum of 3 woman must be competing. If there are less than 3 woman competitors, but more than 4 total competitors, then the woman competitors may compete in the same class for the event as the men. Competing as white level cutters.

New events may be added to BladeSports International, Inc. competitions. Space requirements will be determined as new events are planned.

A competition venue must be provided by a sponsor that offers adequate space for the planned events.

Barriers will be placed for crowd control and event assistants will be located at strategic locations to halt an event should spectators cross the control boundaries.

- Event type #1 – 2 x 4 speed cut (36ft x 36ft)
- Event type #2 – Free hanging rope cut (36ft x 36ft)
- Event type #3 – Multi station course cut (75ft x 36ft)
- Event type #4 – Single Station Multi-cut Event (36ft x 36ft)

If space is provided for the Multi Station Course, additional space is not needed for the 2 x 4 cut or the Rope cut.

2 x 4 Speed cut – This will be a timed event. The top 3 finishers may be awarded prizes. Points may be awarded for event totals and yearly totals.

Free Hanging Rope Cut – This will be an elimination style cut. The top 3 cutters may be awarded prizes. Points may be awarded for event totals and yearly totals. In case of a tie awards will be shared.

Multi Station Course – The course will be designed on a per event basis. This will be a timed event. The top 3 finishers may be awarded prizes. Points may be awarded for event totals and yearly totals.

Single Station Multi-cut – This event will have a single table where different cuts will be set-up — 2 x 4, rope cut and other cuts as determined by event officials. Prizes may be awarded to the top 3 Cutters. Points will be awarded for event totals and yearly totals.

BladeSports International, Inc. World Record Criteria

1. BladeSports International, Inc. knife specifications and rules apply to all knives used in any BladeSports International, Inc. competition or event, this includes BSI World Records.
 - a. A full list of Knife Specifications can be found at www.bladesports.org/WP/training/knife-specifications
 - b. A BSI world record knife can be different from a normal competition knife but still has to follow the above rules.
2. All BSI world records are only recorded at an official BladeSports International, Inc. event. Videos of world records will not be accepted.
3. Anyone wishing to attempt a BSI World Record must be a BSI member and certified cutter in good standing.

4. All knives used in BSI, Inc. events have to be made or manufactured by an approved or certified maker or manufacturer.
5. BladeSports will supply the material for attempts at world record cuts for a fee. Material can also be supplied by the cutter, but must be approved.

Criteria for Water bottle Record:

1. Knife must meet BladeSports International, Inc. specifications and rules.
2. 16.9 Oz bottles must be sitting in a single file row in a straight line on a 2X4 that is mounted to a BSI, Inc regulation height cutting bench.
3. One swing
4. All bottles must be cut. Including the label.
5. The target area for the bottle is below the neck and above the bottom imprint line.
6. Record only counts if all attempted bottles are cut.
 - a. i.e. Current record as of 2-12-16 is 27. You can't attempt 30 bottles, cut 28 and count that as the new record. If you attempt 30 and cut 28 it is a failed attempt.
7. No ties, you have to attempt to break the record.

Criteria for 2X4 Record:

1. Knife must meet BladeSports International, Inc. specifications and rules.
2. Time starts on first hit of 2X4 and ends when 2X4 is completely cut in two.
3. No splinters left on the board. The board has to be cut, not broken.
4. 2x4 must be in a BSI, Inc regulation bench at the regulation height.

Criteria for 2X6 Record:

1. Knife must meet BladeSports International, Inc. specifications and rules.
2. Time starts on first hit of 2X9 and ends when 2X6 is completely cut in two.
3. No splinters left on the board. The board has to be cut, not broken.

Criteria for 1" Rope Record:

1. Knife must meet BladeSports International, Inc. specifications and rules.
2. One swing
3. All ropes must be cut. No strands left hanging below the cut.
4. Record only counts if all attempted ropes are cut.
 - a. i.e. Current record as of 2-12-16 is 15. You can't attempt 18 ropes, cut 17 and count that as the new record. If you attempt 18 and cut 17 it is a failed attempt.
5. No ties, you have to attempt to break the record.
6. 1" Manilla

Event Procedures

- In an event with 10 or fewer competitors all cutters will compete together with awards being given to the top finishers for each cutter level. Accumulated points will go to each competitor in the overall standings for the season.
- In an event with more than 10 competitors, event officials may have qualifying matches to determine the top 10 finishers that will compete in the main event. If either level has fewer than 5 competitors the event officials may qualify more than 5 competitors from either level to make 10 main event competitors.
- Event Officials will inspect all knives prior to the start of each competition for adherence to

BladeSports International, Inc. knife specifications (See page 9,10).

- A cutter may sharpen his/her knife between separate events but not during an event between cuts.
 - *Example:* A knife may be sharpened between a qualifying event and the main competition event. A knife may not be sharpened between the 2x4 Cut and the Rope Cut (or any subsequent cuts) during a multi-cut event.
- A competitor may challenge a call from an official. Event officials will evaluate the challenge and make a ruling. Competitors must abide by the ruling.
- Video review shall not be permissible or considered for challenge. The prohibitive cost, lack of equipment consistency, and personnel prevent this from being a feasible option across competitions.
- One official will start each cut. Any official may stop any cut.
- A time/point penalty will follow any minor deviation from procedure or cut instructions.
- Penalties will be administered for any safety, rules or procedure infraction. These will range from a warning up to and including loss of Cutter Certification.
- A competitor may refuse a cut if there is a question of safety or fairness. Event officials will make a determination and will implement any necessary changes to set-up and/or materials.

Our Mission

BladeSports International, Inc., Inc., was organized as a Texas non-profit corporation exclusively for charitable, scientific, or educational purposes . . . and more specifically to:

- (a) Inform and educate the public with regard to the safe use of a knife as a tool
- (b) strengthen, support and enhance the public's knowledge of knives

- (c) aid and assist its members with regard to developing their knowledge of a knife as a tool

- (d) aid and assist its members with regard to the safe use of a knife as a tool;

- (e) aid and assist its members in the making, design and safety of competition knives;

- (f) provide workshops and cutting events throughout the year so that interested members may immerse themselves in learning and gain invaluable knowledge through hands-on experience

- (g) support knife making as an art.

(A copy of the bylaws of the corporation is available. Please email the Secretary/Treasurer or send a self-addressed stamped envelope.)

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP/ Competition Dress code

General information for ALL sponsorship levels:

1. In line with BladeSports' mission of supporting knife making as an art, a BladeSports member/certified cutter who is a knife maker is offered the privilege of wearing his knife maker's logo (maximum size: 2"x3") in ONE place (chest OR sleeve OR hat). Note: If the cutter/knife maker is sponsored by a Platinum/Gold/Silver level sponsor, he cannot display his own logo without prior approval of that sponsor.

2. The only logos to be displayed anywhere are those of BladeSports, paid sponsors, and independent/custom knife makers (see #1 above). No personal or other company's logos are allowed. Small-size shirt manufacturers logos are accepted (example: Nike Swoosh, Under Armour – UA logo, North Face).

3. Clothing: Only BladeSports, Platinum sponsor, or neutral-color shirts/hats are allowed. Camouflage apparel is prohibited.

4. Any agreement between a sponsor and certified cutter is the sole responsibility of those two parties.

5. Any other form of sponsorship need to be presented to the BladeSports Board of Directors for approval.

6. No one will be allowed to advertise or promote tactical or paramilitary knives or paraphernalia at any BladeSports event or through any BladeSports media (newsletter, website, etc.).

BladeSports International, Inc.

Contact:

Website: www.bladesports.org:

Workshops/Cutting Schools

BladeSports International, Inc. will sponsor workshops and cutting schools from time to time. For more information please contact one of the board members listed on the website. www.bladesports.org

Cutter Certifications are available at these workshops. A fee for these events are charged.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WARNING AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Please Read Carefully

I hereby voluntarily request to participate in the _____ Cutting Competition/Training conducted by BladeSports International, Inc. I understand that this type of Competition/Training is dangerous and that it includes risks, dangers and hazards that may cause serious personal injury or death and those injuries are a common and ordinary occurrence in this sport and in this Competition/Training. I freely accept and assume the risks associated with cutting Competition/Training in its various forms.

I represent that I possess the necessary skills and physical ability to participate in the Competition/Training in such a manner that I will not endanger myself, other competitors and trainees, spectators or other persons.

In consideration of the permission to participate in the Competition/Training as well as the use of any of the facilities and the use of any equipment of the below listed Released Parties, I hereby:

- 1) **Waive and release any and all claims, including any claim of negligence**, related to the Competition/Training that I may have in the future against any of the following named persons or entities:
 - a. Other: _____
 - b. BladeSports International, Inc., a Texas nonprofit corporation;
 - c. All officials presiding over the Competition/Training;
 - d. All sponsors of the Competition/Training; and
 - e. Their directors, officers, owners, employees, sponsors, agents, independent contractors and volunteers (Hereinafter referred to as "Released Parties");
- 2) Release the Released Parties from all liability and responsibility, whatsoever, for any claim or cause of action in law or equity (including but not limited to reasonable attorney's fees and legal cost) that I, my estate, heirs, executors or assigns may have for wrongful death, whether caused by the active or passive negligence, product liability or breach of warranty of the Released Parties or otherwise; and
- 3) Hold the Released Parties harmless for any injury (personal or property) or death which may occur to me while participating in any phase of the Competition/Training, within or without the premises, including but not limited to, all endeavors, parking facilities and every other area of the Competition/Training or connection with the same, including the preparation, organization, coordination, operation and supervision of the Competition/Training; the preparation, design, location, construction, installation, inspection, maintenance, supervision of the Competition / Training course(s) or any party thereof; the instructions given or not given to me concerning the Competition / Training or the competition/training course(s).

I accept full responsibility for any injury or damage which may result from participation in the Competition/Training, and I agree not to bring any legal action against the above named Released Parties.

I consent to the use and reproduction, without compensation, of all photos or other visual representations made of me in connection with the Competition/Training.

I have carefully read this Release of Liability, Warning and Assumption of Risk, understand it, and accept its terms. I am aware that by signing this document I am waiving certain legal rights, including the right to sue the Released Parties named above, their directors, officers, employees, sponsors, agents, independent contractors and volunteers.

Participant Name (Print): _____

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

*****You must be at least 18 years of age to participate*****



SAFETY MEETING

BEFORE the safety meeting starts:

- All cutters must complete the Release of Liability, Warning and Assumption of Risk Form.
- All cutters must complete the Competition Sign-up Form and pay the competition entry fee.
- All cutters and officials must attend the safety meeting. Failure to attend the entire safety meeting will result in disqualification from the competition (Be on time, don't be late!).
- All knives must be placed on designated table.
- Identify if there are new knives that have NOT been used in previous competitions. Determine who made the knife (cutter, BSI certified knife maker, production knife) and who tested the knife.
- All knives must be inspected and measured by official. A knife will be excluded from competition if it does not pass the pre-cut inspection **or have a sheath with effective secondary retention.**

Call safety meeting to order:

- Confirm all 6 check boxes above.
- Cutter order will be announced (randomly determined by drawing numbers).
- Announce course officials.
- Announce master of ceremony.

Cutting event procedure:

- A cutter will be called (one at a time) to start position by course official. At that time the cutter will put his lanyard on and wait for ready signal. At signal of course official, he may unsheath knife and cut.
- At any given time during the competition there may be only ONE cutter with an unsheathed knife in hand.
- After the cutter has completed the course; the knife must be sheathed immediately, then remove the lanyard and place the knife on the designated table for inspection.
- The cutter and course official will perform a post-cut walk-through.
- The course will be re-set.
- Next cutter should be ready to pick up knife (from designated table) and move to start position at official's signal.

Handling of knives:

- During the entire event, all knives are to remain on the designated table. Knives may be handled only at the direction of the course officials.
- Post-cut, each knife will be inspected for damage by the officials.

Course cut:

- Each cut will be explained in detail by the official at the pre-cut walk-through (example: what constitutes a clean cut, how many swings per cut, how many points per cut, penalties, etc.).
- Cutters can ask questions during or after the walk-through.
- Time will start at the first cut and end on completion of the last cut.
- Speed of movement: No running. One foot must be on the ground at all times.
- The cutter is allowed to perform a pre-cut walk-through. It is the cutter's responsibility to ensure that the course is set up correctly.
- The final point score is calculated as follows: The cutter's time in seconds, PLUS 100, MINUS the points scored for each cut. The cutter with the lowest score wins.
- Assign responsibility for re-setting the cutting benches (also assign back-ups).
- Assign responsibility for stopwatch timing (also assign back-ups).
- No untrained volunteers are to be used for critical element of the competition.

Safety:

- Stance. All cutters will start with off-leg behind or parallel (not in front) with strong-leg. Off-hand and arm must be kept in a safe position at all times. For the rope cut: the cutter's off-leg MUST be BEHIND the strong- leg.
- Cutter may NOT use, at any time, his off-hand to touch the object being cut, the cutting bench, or the knife. The off- hand may only be used to pull the dowels from the rolling ball tube.
- Cutter may NOT wipe the knife off on his pants leg.
- The officials can stop the cutter at any time for safety reasons. The cutter will receive a complete re-cut if the cut is stopped for reasons not the fault of the cutter.
- If the cutter notices anything that is unsafe, he may choose to stop. If the officials agree that an unsafe condition existed, the cutter will receive a complete re-cut.
- At any time, when the cutter hears a course official shout the word "STOP!", the cutter must stop immediately. It will be for safety reasons.
- Glasses, safety glasses, or goggles must be worn by every cutter and official while on the course.
- Shoes must have some kind of tread (no slick or leather soles). No open toe shoes are allowed.

Infractions/deductions:

- At the discretion of officials, the cutter may get 5 points deduction for safety infractions.
 - There will be 5 points deduction for not following course direction (as demonstrated during the pre-cut walk-through) or for going between benches.
- There will be 5 points deduction for any damage to the knife – chip or wrinkle.

- Cutter may be disqualified if the damage to the knife poses a threat to spectators, officials, other cutters, or the cutter himself.
- Cutter may go back and complete a missed cut and resume cut (at the same place) without penalty. The extra time it takes to go back is the penalty.
- Penalty for bypassing a cut is: double the point value of that cut. For example: if the cutter can earn 5 points for cutting a drinking straw, the penalty for bypassing the straw is 10 points deduction (2 x 5 points).
- Rope cut foot fault box: If the cutter's foot crosses the line of the foot fault box, the penalty is: no points for the cut (even if the rope was cut) in addition to 5 points deduction.
- At the discretion of officials, the cutter may get 3-5 points deduction for inappropriate language and/or obscene gestures.

Reminders:

- To cutters: Perform a pre-cut walk-through and check setup before cutting.
- To those responsible for re-setting the course: Place cut materials on table for scoring.

Master of ceremony:

- Explain course to the audience.
- Introduce officials.
- Introduce cutter and give sponsor's name.
- Recognize all sponsors.
- Return all materials/cuts (balls, rope, cardboard rings, etc.) to officials to calculate points.
- Warning to the audience: "DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME."

Safety meeting performed by:

Name (print): _____

Event: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Course officials:

Lead official: _____

2nd official: _____

3rd official: _____

Timer: _____

Timer: _____

NOTE:

Upon completion of the competition, please submit the following to the Secretary of BladeSports International, Inc.:

- Completed Competition Sign-in Form
- Completed Safety Meeting Form
- Completed Release of Liability, Warning and Assumption of Risk Forms
- Competition scores
- Competition fees



Cutter Certification

*****You must be at least 18 years of age to participate*****

There are 2 ways to obtain Cutter Certification:

- 1) Participation in a BladeSports recognized cutting school.
- 2) Personal training by a BladeSports instructor.

Upon successful completion of a cutter certification training session, the participant will receive a Cutter Certification Form. The Cutter Certification Form has to be completed by both instructor and participant, and sent to BladeSports International, Inc. The Certified Cutter will be added to the BladeSports database and all participation in BladeSports events will be recorded. The Certified Cutter is eligible to participate in BladeSports events for a one-year period from the date of certification.

IMPORTANT:

- To participate in BladeSports competitions, a member must have a valid Cutter Certification. No person will be allowed to cut in any BladeSports competition without valid Cutter Certification.

- The Cutter Certification is valid for a one-year period.
- Participation in any BladeSports cutting event or training session, during the one-year period, constitutes renewal of Cutter Certification.
- In the event that the Cutter Certification has expired (i.e. the Cutter did not participate in a BladeSports cutting event or training session within a one-year period after being certified), the Cutter has to be re-certified at the expense of the Cutter.
- Upon check-in at a BladeSports event, participants will present a copy of their Cutter Certification.
- To participate in any BladeSports cutting event or training session, the Cutter must sign the BladeSports Release of Liability, Warning and Assumption of Risk Form.
- Do not attempt any competition type cutting without proper training.
- Do not attempt personal training while by yourself.
- BladeSports International, Inc., its Board of Directors and members, event organizers, and property owners are not responsible for any injuries or death while participating in any cutting event, training session or individual practice.

Training Checklist:

Cutter:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable knife design | <input type="checkbox"/> Leg position during cuts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wrist lanyard use | <input type="checkbox"/> Arm position during cuts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sheath use | <input type="checkbox"/> Instructions on entry and exit from cutting stations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cutter's knife on table | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe motion between cutting stations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Footwear | <input type="checkbox"/> When re-cuts are allowed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection | <input type="checkbox"/> When re-cuts are not allowed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness of surroundings |

Officials:

- Cutters must follow all instructions given by event officials

- Cutters must abide by Officials' decisions
- Cutter may challenge a decision by an Official at which time the Officials presiding over the event will vote on a ruling
- Lead Official will start each cut
- Any Official may stop any cut
- A time/point penalty will follow any deviation from safety procedure or cut instructions
- Disqualification will follow any unsafe action as decided by Officials
- Cutters must be at least 18 years of age to participate

Training cuts:

(Training cuts are for practice only and do not have to be completed successfully during a training session)

- 2" x 4"
- Single rope
- ¾" Dowel
- Aluminum can
- Plastic water bottle
- Other: _____

Cutter Certification

This document is to certify that (name) _____ has successfully completed a cutter certification training session and is knowledgeable in safe cutter procedures as required by BladeSports International, Inc.

The Cutter named above is eligible to participate in BladeSports events for a one-year period from the date of certification.

Certification may be revoked by Officials of BladeSports for unsafe practices at any BladeSports event.

Date: _____

Instructor name (print): _____

Instructor signature: _____

Cutter name (print): _____

Cutter signature: _____

Mail to: BladeSports International, Inc.
c/o Donavon Phillips
905 Line Prairie Rd.
Morton, MS 39117



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Membership: Associate
 Non-Knife Maker
 Knife Maker

Annual membership dues are **\$40.00**. Please make your check payable to **BladeSports International, Inc.**, and mail it, together with this completed Membership Application form to:

BladeSports International, Inc.
c/o **Donavon Phillips**
905 Line Prairie Rd.
Morton, MS 39117

Please print:

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip code: _____

Telephonenumber: _____ Cell phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Website: _____

I understand that knives are sharp and have the potential to be dangerous. I will not hold BladeSports International, Inc., its directors or members responsible for any injuries as a result of cutting activity.

Signature of applicant: _____

Upon acceptance of your application, a membership card will be mailed to you.

Member accepted: _____
(Signature of BladeSports Director)



CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

BladeSports International, Inc., a Texas nonprofit corporation ("BladeSports"), has the pleasure of offering corporate sponsorship at three levels: Platinum, Gold and Silver. The advantages vary per level. Please review the information below and do not hesitate to contact a BladeSports Board member if you require any further details.

PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORSHIP

Platinum level sponsoring provides the following advantages:

- Display ONE or maximum TWO (depending on available space) large size banners or signs (maximum size: 24" x 42") at all BladeSports events. Banner(s) will be given priority placement in order to provide best possible visibility.
- BladeSports website: Scrolling logo on all web pages and prime logo/feature on sponsor page. Including the option to promote one sponsor's product on the BladeSports website (maximum 4 different products per year).
- Option to provide full sponsorship to TWO or MORE BladeSports certified cutters.
- Logos: The certified cutters with full sponsorship may wear sponsor's clothing without any limitations on size, number, or placement of the logos displayed.
- Secondary logos: In addition to the fully sponsored cutters, the sponsor has the option to negotiate with ANY number of other cutters to wear the following logo on a BladeSports or plain colored shirt or hat: ONE small logo (maximum size: 2"x3") on chest OR sleeve OR hat.
- In summary: the maximum number of cutters that can wear sponsor's logos is: unlimited.
- Option to develop and market a BladeSports endorsed production/competition knife.
- Option to organize and sponsor one exclusive BladeSports event during the year at an additional cost of \$300.00. No other sponsor's banners will be displayed at the event.
- Option to give out sponsor's products at BladeSports events.
- Option to include sponsor's logo in selected communication to BladeSports membership.

GOLD LEVEL SPONSORSHIP

Gold level sponsoring provides the following advantages:

- Display ONE medium size banner or sign (maximum size: 12" x 24") at all BladeSports events.
- BladeSports website: Medium size logo/feature on sponsor page (below Platinum level sponsors).
- Option to provide full sponsorship to ONE BladeSports certified cutter.
- Logos: If the Gold level sponsor is a cutter himself, he can wear the following logos on a BladeSports or plain colored shirt or hat: ONE small logo (maximum size: 2"x3") on chest OR sleeve AND hat. The fully sponsored cutter can wear the same logos.

Note: If the Gold sponsor is a Platinum sponsored cutter himself, he cannot display his own logos without prior approval of the Platinum sponsor.

- Secondary logos: In addition to the 1 fully sponsored cutter, the sponsor has the option to negotiate with ONE additional cutter to wear the following logo on a BladeSports or plain colored shirt or hat: ONE small logo (maximum size: 2"x3") on chest OR sleeve OR hat.
Note: If the Gold sponsor is NOT a cutter, or he is a cutter and did not get approval from his Platinum sponsor, the sponsor has the option to negotiate with TWO additional cutters to wear a secondary logo
- In summary: the maximum number of cutters that can wear sponsor's logos is: 3.
- Option to give out sponsor's products at BladeSports events.

SILVER LEVEL SPONSORSHIP

Silver level sponsoring provides the following advantages:

- All Silver level sponsors will be displayed combined on ONE medium size banner or sign (maximum size: 12" x 24") at all BladeSports events. The maximum number of logos per banner will not exceed six. Each silver level sponsor can display ONE logo (maximum size: 4"x6").
- BladeSports website: Small size logo/feature on sponsor page (below Platinum and Gold level sponsors).
- Logos: The Silver level sponsor can select ONE cutter (either himself OR another cutter) to wear the following logo on a BladeSports or plain colored shirt or hat: ONE small logo (maximum size: 2"x3") on chest OR sleeve OR hat.
Note: If the Silver sponsor is a Platinum or Gold sponsored cutter himself, he cannot display his own logo without prior approval of the Platinum or Gold sponsor.
- In summary: the maximum number of cutters that can wear sponsor's logos is: 1.

General information for ALL sponsorship levels:

1. In line with BladeSports' mission of supporting knife making as an art, a BladeSports member/certified cutter who is a knife maker is offered the privilege of wearing his knife maker's logo (maximum size: 2"x3") in ONE place (chest OR sleeve OR hat). Note: If the cutter/knife maker is sponsored by a Platinum/Gold/Silver level sponsor, he cannot display his own logo without prior approval of that sponsor.
2. The only logos to be displayed anywhere are those of BladeSports, paid sponsors, and independent/custom knife makers (see #1 above). No personal or other company's logos are allowed. Small-size shirt manufacturer's logos are accepted (example: Nike Swoosh, Under Armour – UA logo, North Face).
3. Clothing: Only BladeSports, Platinum sponsor, or neutral-color shirts/hats are allowed. Camouflage apparel is prohibited.
4. Any agreement between a sponsor and certified cutter is the sole responsibility of those two parties.
5. Any other form of sponsorship need to be presented to the BladeSports Board of Directors for approval.
6. No one will be allowed to advertise or promote tactical or paramilitary knives or paraphernalia at any BladeSports event or through any BladeSports media (newsletter, website, etc.).



Summary Table

	PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER
Banners	Minimum 1, maximum 2 (depending on available space) large size banner(s)	1 Medium size banners	All silver level sponsors' logos (maximum size: 4"x6") will be displayed combined on 1 medium size banner.
Banner size	Maximum size: 24" x 42"	Maximum size: 12" x 24"	Maximum size: 12" x 24" (displays potentially 6 sponsor logos)
Priority placement of banner	YES	NO	NO
Sponsor logo displayed on BladeSports website	Scrolling logo on ALL pages plus prime logo/feature on "sponsor" page	Medium size logo/feature on "sponsor" page (below Platinum level sponsors)	Small size logo/feature on "sponsor" page (below Platinum and Gold sponsors)
Advertising in BladeSports newsletter	1 full page advertising per issue	1 half page advertising per issue	1 eighth page advertising per issue
Number of cutters that can be offered FULL sponsorship	2 or more certified cutters	1 certified cutter	No full sponsorship allowed
Sponsor logo on cutters' clothing	No size, number, or placement limitation	If the Gold sponsor is a cutter himself, he can wear the following logos on a BladeSports or plain colored shirt or hat: ONE small logo (maximum size: 2"x3") on chest OR sleeve AND hat The fully sponsored cutter can wear the same logos Note: If the Gold sponsor is a Platinum sponsored cutter himself, he cannot display his own logos without prior approval of the Platinum sponsor.	The Silver sponsor can select ONE cutter (either himself OR another cutter) to wear the following logo on a BladeSports or plain colored shirt or hat: ONE small logo (maximum size: 2"x3") on chest OR sleeve OR hat. Note: If the Silver sponsor is a Platinum or Gold sponsored cutter himself, he cannot display his own logo without prior approval of the Platinum or Gold sponsor.
Secondary logos on cutters' clothing	In addition to the 2 or more fully sponsored cutters, the sponsor has the option to negotiate with any number of other certified cutters to wear the following (secondary) logo on a BladeSports or plain colored shirt or hat: ONE small logo (maximum size: 2"x3") on chest OR sleeve OR hat	In addition to the 1 fully sponsored cutter, the sponsor has the option to negotiate with ONE additional cutter to wear the following (secondary) logo on a BladeSports or plain colored shirt or hat: ONE small logo (maximum size: 2"x3") on chest OR sleeve OR hat Note: If the Gold sponsor is NOT a cutter, or he is a cutter and did not get approval from his Platinum sponsor, the sponsor has the option to negotiate with TWO additional cutters to wear a secondary logo	NO
Maximum number of cutters that can wear sponsor's logos (including secondary logos)	Unlimited	Maximum 3	Maximum 1
Option to develop and market a BladeSports endorsed production/competition knife	YES	NO	NO
Option to organize and sponsor ONE exclusive cutting event	YES (at an additional cost of \$300.00) Note: No other sponsor's banners will be displayed at the event	NO	NO
Option to promote ONE product on BladeSports website	YES (maximum of 4 different products per year)	NO	NO
Option to give out sponsor's products at BladeSports events	YES	YES	NO
Option to include sponsor's logo in selected communication to BladeSports membership	YES	NO	NO
PRICE	\$900.00	\$450.00	\$150.00

SPONSORING AGREEMENT

Please complete this form (and check the appropriate boxes) and mail it, together with a check made payable to BladeSports International, Inc., to the address provided below.

Platinum Sponsor:

- We wish to join BladeSports as a PLATINUM Sponsor. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$900.00 for the 2015-2016 competition season (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016).
- We will supply 4 banners (maximum size: 24"(h) x 42" (w)).
- We request BladeSports to supply banners at a cost of \$150.00 each. Artwork will be provided.
- We wish to organize and sponsor one exclusive cutting event at an additional cost of \$300.00. This additional fee will be due and payable when the place and time of the venue is agreed upon.
- We may develop and market a BladeSports endorsed production/competition knife in the future.
- We would like to sponsor the following certified cutter(s):
 - Name of certified cutter: _____
 - Name of certified cutter: _____
 - Name of certified cutter: _____

Gold Sponsor:

- We wish to join BladeSports as a GOLD Sponsor. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$450.00 for the 2015-2016 competition season (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016).
- We will supply 2 banners (maximum size: 12"(h) x 24" (w)).
- We request BladeSports to supply banners at a cost of \$100.00 each. Artwork will be provided.
- We would like to sponsor the following certified cutter:
 - Name of certified cutter:_____ **Silver Sponsor:**

- We wish to join BladeSports as a SILVER Sponsor. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$150.00 for the 2015-2016 competition season (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016).
- Artwork for the banner will be provided to BladeSports.

Name of Corporate Sponsor (Print)_____

Signature of Corporate Sponsor:_____

Date:_____

Mail to: BladeSports International, Inc.
 c/o Donavon Phillips
 905 Line Prairie Rd.
 Morton, MS 39117