



# FOCUS

ON

» FORGING «

## 2025 International Bladesmithing Competition

Competition  
specification  
and rules



# OBJECTIVE:

To forge a hunter/camp style blade which will be hardened tempered and hafted in 4 hours. This can be brut de forge or clean finish. Blade shape and design will be of competitors choice. Blade must be of full tang construction, with at least 2 pins included in the handle. Cutting edge should be between 5 and 6 inches, measured front tip to front of ricasso. Depth of blade to be minimum of 1 inch. Blade required to have a ricasso area.

# HEAT TREATMENT:

All blades to be heated for hardening from the forge. The temperature range for heat treatment is 795c to 815c and no hold time is required for this steel. The oil provided will be rye 50 quench oil. The blades must be fully hardened by the end of the first 2 hours to then go into a 2 hour heat treatment cycle before the second 2 hour segment of the competition begins. Failure to achieve a fully hardened blade by the end of the first segment of the competition, may lead to elimination from testing.

# SCHEDULE:

There will be a maximum of 16 competitors split into 2 groups.

Start time 8am for 1st group, 10am for 2nd group.

## 1st two hours:

Forging

Pre-heat treatment grind

Hardening

2 hour temper - in heat treatment oven.

This will be set at 215°C

## 2nd 2 hours:

Final grind

Hafting (with two pins)

Sharpening

# TESTING:

4.30pm-5pm

There will be 3 tests.

1st test - Batton a 12" birch wood log

2nd test - Leather slice

3rd test - TBC

# TEST CRITERIA:

To be marked out of 100 points.

40 points testing performance  
20 points build and finish quality  
10 points edge retention  
10 points design for purpose  
10 points accuracy to parameters  
10 points aesthetics

# MATERIALS:

Materials provided -

8" x 40mm x 4mm 1080 high carbon steel  
5mm brass pins  
Range of handle scales  
Glue, acetone and relevant gluing materials

# EQUIPMENT:

Equipment provided -

Forge, anvil, leg vices  
2"x48" belt grinder for each competitor with a range of belts  
Pillar drill with 5mm drill bits  
Map gas and propane torches  
Quench tanks & Quench oil

## ***EQUIPMENT NOT PROVIDED -***

***Forging and hand tools such as files, tongs, clamps, hammers, woodworking tools, PPE etc will not be provided, it will be up to each competitor to provide their own.***

## HEALTH & SAFETY:

Steel toe cap boots to be worn for the duration of the competition.

Safety glasses to be worn throughout all sessions.

BFBA guidelines will be followed throughout the competition in line with health and safety regulations.

