

Schola Saint George
Skills / Testing Progression Requirements
Level 3 – Tigro (green) – *Scolaro*

Intent

In order to make use of the first two modules, students seeking to complete level 3 should concentrate on integrating both the foundational elements presented in the *Ellefante* course (level 1) and Fiore's tactical framework (level 2) for encounters with the sword in two hands in the *zogho largo*. This level is an integration / performance grading rather than the simple knowledge grading of the yellow and blue levels.

Students should therefore engage in concentrated sparring to build their integration, reviewing the previous plays, using the *quattro magistri dell'entrata*, striving to get "underneath" the techniques themselves and make use of the principles underlying each play.

As technique is only a part of fighting, however, the goal of level 3 is to recognize combatants who have achieved this integration such that Fiore's style is recognizable when they fight with the sword in two hands. Additionally, they should be able to extend or transfer this knowledge to another weapon, hence the requirement for a "breadth weapon" demonstration.

Finally, they should demonstrate an increased awareness of the historical framework in which these arts were practiced. To this end, the reading list was created.

Form of the Test

Prior to testing, the students must indicate their readiness by completion of the readings and having sufficient confidence and control shown in their sparring / integration work. Unlike the previous test, this test is done in two parts, generally performed on different days, but close to one another.

Part 1- Interrogative test, following the material below, as with the previous tests.

Part 2- Defense in a tournament environment.

Participation Requirements

Complete sufficient focused and open sparring to have the confidence of the instructor in terms of working within Fiore's system and exhibiting control over both force of blows employed and character displayed.

Have completed and read the two required texts, *Chivalry* by Maurice Keen and BR Price's *Book of the Tournament*, plus one other from the *scolaro* list.

Possess a gambeson, helmet, gauntlets, medieval shoes and weapon simulator.

Have accounted for yourself well and honorably in several tournaments or in coaching circumstances, demonstrating confidence and prowess, as well as concern with the whole of the chivalric virtues.

Pledge to continue your study in companionship with the other Schola students.

Knowledge Requirements

Be able to apply Fiore's *segno* to discuss different approaches to any of the Fiore plays discussed.

Place Fiore into the context of Western martial arts generally, giving a brief discussion of what is known about him and about the other medieval manuscripts that date from a similar time (see *Sword in Two Hands*).

Know the rules for a formal *pas d'armes*, and be able to talk about the role of the medieval tournament in the development of renown.

Discuss renown and its relationship to the rest of the chivalric virtues, as well as the chivalric duties (see *Book of the Tournament*).

Talk about some of the ideas in Maurice Keen's book *Chivalry*. Why do you think we read this book, and what kinds of things were interesting about it? What were some of the things you learned?

Discuss the duties of a combatant in sparring, with peers and with combatants more and less skilled than the candidate.

Discuss different methods of drawing an expenditure or over-commitment from an opponent.

Discuss methods of falsing or feinting. What does this accomplish?

Talk about the use of compound blows in *Arte d'Armizare*. Do they have a place? If so, how should they be used, or if not, why?

Skills Requirements

Demonstrate and explain each of the *quattro magistri dell'entrata*, and saying also which the candidate does well and which are less well integrated.

Demonstrate the effective use of feints and falsing in a free-sparring encounter.

Demonstrate the effective use of compound blows in a free-sparring encounter.

Using a breadth weapon of the combatant's choice, demonstrate selected plays from the *ellefante* and *zogho largo* material.

Demonstrate effective counters devised for at least 4 plays drawn from the *zogho largo*.

PART II – Pas d'Armes

The *scolaro*-candidate should actively participate in the *pas d'armes*, helping to ensure that as many participate as possible, organizing refreshment for the challengers, and making sure that their equipment is ready. If the tournament is outside, the candidates testing should secure a site, arrange for the list enclosure or fence to be transported and set up, and one or more pavilions (if available).

Prior to the tournament, Part I of this test should be completed.

Full *scolari* candidates are to be the main defenders throughout the course of the day, although other combatants may be asked to add weight to the defender's side.

Scolari should endeavor to present their best possible appearance and treat the tournament as a formal affair, even if in the form of a small "errants" pas. They should have all of the requisite equipment in excellent repair.

Throughout the course of the tournament, which should last at least three passes, *scolari* should engage with as many of their *compagni* as possible, but should strongly favor the use of the sword in two hand or their breadth weapon.

Blow acknowledgment must be excellent, and courtesy must be displayed in terms of their opponent's acknowledgment.

Acknowledgement of the new *Scolaro's* status should be recognized at the end of the tournament.