

***15th***  
**Annual**  
**WORLD FIRE KNIFE DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
2007

**RULES AND CRITERIA**

The criteria listed below are written for the warriors who are invited to participate in the World Fire Knife Dance Championship. It is to maintain the integrity of the event and the high quality level of performance. We also hope it will enhance their cultural knowledge and understanding of the origin of the Samoan nifo'oti, the ceremony for which the dance was derived, the style, and the fundamentals of the "ailao" (dance).

**RULES**

1. All competitors must fill out the registration form and turned it in to Tali Galeai before the dead line April 16, 2007.
2. All competitors must have three dancing knives to perform in the competition. 1 single and two doubles. Warriors must also have extras knives in case of breakage.
3. All knives must be made with hard metal and a wooden handle (The handle can either be metal or wood (hard metal is required to prevent accidents).
4. The length of the single knife must be no less than 37" (The measurement begins from the tip of the hook to the end of the handle).
5. The blade of the single knife must be no less than 14.5 inches short, from the tip of the hook to where the blade flares out from the handle.
6. The length of double knives must be 35 inches minimum and no less, from the tip of the hook to the end of the handle.
7. Double knife blade must be 13.5 inches long from tip of the hook to where the blade flares out by the handle.
8. All knives must have a minimum of two metal rivets to hold the metal blade in place through the wooden handle.
9. All knives must have hooks large enough to hook together as part of the competition criteria (Knife hooks must be free at all angles when hooked together to prevent injury to the performer or the spectators).
10. The weight of the knife is the preference of the warrior.
11. Competitors may NOT borrow another warrior's knife during the competition. This may cause disqualification to both involved.
12. Any knife that doesn't comply with these standards will cause them to lose points or may be disqualified by the judges.
13. All competitors must report back stage to the event director by 6:00pm, one hour before the competition. Competitors must sign in anytime before 6:00pm.
14. The fire on knives must be renewed one hour before the competition.
15. All competitors must attend the final meeting at 6:00pm in the Samoan fale.
16. Families may not gather at the dressing room at anytime. However, if the dancer is 12 years or younger, a father or a family member may assist.

17. Warrior's may not use any special effect without consulting and get approval from the event director.
18. No special effects or any part of the routine that is assisted by another may be counted as points. Points are only accumulated when the performer's starts his moves and actions, this also include assisted throws.
19. Routine during competition must be no less than 7 minutes long and no longer than 11 minutes.
20. All competitors must dance to the event drummers. No outside drummer is permitted unless approved by the drummer coordinator. No instrumental, recorded tracks or singing music allowed. Absolutely, all must dance to the house live drummers.
21. Each registered competitor will receive two entrance passes for him and one guest. The pass will allow them admission to PCC and all festival activities from May 16-18. (These passes do not include meals or admission to the night show. However, dinners and night show tickets may be upgraded only at the box office at a cost and upon availability.
22. All competitors must wear their event pass to enter and be identified.
23. Observe PCC dress code: dress appropriately and modestly.
24. Consuming of alcohol, beer and drugs is totally prohibited in the center. Smoking areas are posted for those who do. PCC holds the right to disqualify anyone in violation of this rule.
25. In the exchange from 1 to 2 knives, only PCC approved knife throwers will be tossing the knives approved by the tournament chairman. No family members.
26. Only 20 seconds allowed between one knife and the tossing in of the two knives.
27. The winner will be invited to defend his title the following year. However, if he is the winner for a second consecutive year, he will then sit out one year and not compete. After the bi year, he will be eligible and invited back to compete.

### **FIRE RULES**

1. The fire for the single knife must be 10 inches long and 2 inches wide no less.
2. The fire for the double knife is 7.5 inches long and 1.5 inches wide and no less.
3. Fire can be doubled if the warrior decides to do so, but never smaller than given measurements.
4. Each warrior must have a damp towel for putting out the fire (not soaked with water), for night of competition PCC will provide the damp cloth.
5. No automobile gas should be brought into the center or used at the competition.

### **COSTUMES:**

1. All competitors must wear a Samoan printed lava-lava. Lava-lava must be trimmed and cut modestly. No suggestive costumes that are too short or too small will be permitted (chairman will approve).
2. Warriors must wear a Samoan necklace made of shells, leaves, beads or any Samoan material.
3. Anglers must also be worn. Samoan materials no foreign materials to be used.

4. Facial war paint is a must.
5. Skirts are part of the costumes (optional).
6. A pale (head crown) made of leaves, flowers, shells, beads is also part of the costume (optional).

## **CRITERIAS:**

### **BASIC MOVES REQUIRED:**

1. Must vili tasi (One hand spin)
2. Must vililua (Two hand spin)
3. Must kakai with the left and the right. Kakai in and kakai out and over the palm (Over hand connection move).
4. Must toss up and catch in the back.
5. Must toss in the air 2.5 times and catch behind the back (Height)
6. Must do under the legs motions
7. Must do around the neck motion
8. Must do around the angle and catch under the leg motions
9. Feet stamping and body movement required
10. Head and upper body movements (express strength and energy)
11. Stage showmanship (Portraying a warrior)

### **ROUTINE MINIMUM MOTIONS:**

1. 8 minimum stand up motions
2. 5 kneeling moves
3. 5 lying moves
4. 3 double knife hooked motions
5. Entrance and exits to be exciting

## **JUDGES SCORING CRITERIAS**

1. Height of throws (double your height or higher)
2. Difficulty of motions (blind double and notions hard to keep knife from falling)
3. Speed of actions(synchronizing to drumming and maintain)
4. Vigor and energetic, Samoan warrior's moves (Portraying a fighting warrior)
5. Drops (A maximum of three (3) points deducted for every drop)

**Please go over the rules and criteria to fully prepare yourself for this the tournament of the champions.**

**Note: WE HAVE A NEW FEATURE IN OUR PROGRAM THIS YEAR. GET TOGETHER WITH ANOTHER WARRIOR AND PREPARE A KNIFE ROUTINE TO ENTER THE 2007 DUET CHAMPIONSHIP.**