

JOUSTING RULES

John Tiptoft (1420–1470), **Earl of Worcester** and Constable of England

Windsor, 19 March 1466

How many ways the prize is won

- First, whoso breaks most spears as they ought to be broken shall have the prize.
- Whoso breaks three times, in the sight of the helm, shall have the prize.
- Whoso meets two times, coronal to coronal, shall have the prize.
- Whoso bears a man down with stroke of spear shall have the prize.

How many ways the prize shall be lost

- First, whoso strikes a horse shall have no prize.
- Who strikes a man, his back turned or disarmed of his spear, shall have no prize.
- Whoso hits the toile three times shall have no prize.
- Whoso unhelms himself two times shall have no prize, unless his horse do fail him.

How broken spears shall be allowed

- First, whoso breaks a speak between the saddle and the coronal of the helm shall be allowed for one.
- Whoso breaks a spear from the coronal upwards shall be allowed for two.
- Whoso breaks a spear so that he strikes his adversary down, or put him out of his saddle, or disarms him in such wise as he may not run the next course after, or breaks his spear coronal to coronal shall be allowed as three spears broken.

How spears broken shall be disallowed

- First, whoso breaks on the saddle shall be disallowed for spear-breaking.
- Whoso hits the toile once shall be disallowed for two.
- Whoso hits the toil shall, for that blow the second time, be disallowed three.
- Whoso breaks a spear within a foot to the coronal, shall be adjudged as no spear broken, but a faint attainit

For the prize to be given and who shall be preferred

- First, whoso bears a man down out of the saddle, or puts him to the earth, horse and man, shall have the prize before him that strikes coronal to coronal two times.
- He that strikes coronal to coronal two times shall have the prize before him that strikes the sight three times.
- He that strikes the sight three times shall have the prize before him that breaks more spears.
- If there be any man that furnishes in this wise, which shall be deemed to have been longest in the field helmed, and to have run the fairest course, and to have given the greatest strokes, and to have helped himself best with his spear he shall have the prize.

At Tourney

- Two blows at the passage, and ten at the joining, more or less as they make it. All gripings, shocks, and foul play forbidden.

How prizes and tourney and barrier are to be lost

- He that gives a stroke with a pike from the girdle downwards, or under the barrier, shall win no prize.
- He that shall have a close gauntlet, or anything to fasten his sword to his hand, shall have no prize.
- He whose sword falls out of his hand shall win no prize.
- He that stays his hands in fight or the barrier shall win no prize.
- He whosoever shall fight and does not show his sword to the judges before, shall win no prize.
- Yet it is to be understood that the challengers may win all these prizes against the defendants.
- The maintainers may take aid or assistance of the noblemen of such as they shall like best.