

HMB Future Project Conclusions

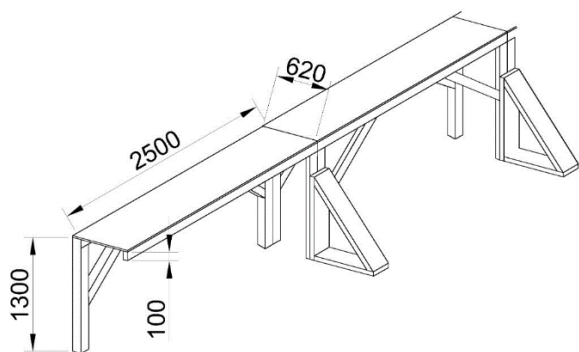
According to the announced HMBIA plans for 2021 that were posted in the beginning of January, the new set of tournament tests, codenamed HMB Future, aiming to possibly adjust the current rule set was planned by the Marshals Committee.

With the overall improvement of the HMB kits, safety and marshaling level it became possible to reconsider the current battle scheme for the sake of more dynamic actions in the list. Thanks to the additional agreement with the HMB Russia National Organization, which has one of the most developed and numerous communities and a huge number of small tournaments not included in the Buhurt League or National Championship rating system, it became possible to arrange several preliminary internal tests and even implemented the most working ideas at some large-scale tournaments.

The initial purpose of the HMB Future Project was identifying workable ideas for improving the current rules and regulations for group (buhurt) battles, aimed at increasing the entertainment of the competition without compromising the safety of fighters. At the 1st stage the most realistic ideas for improving the regulatory framework were identified and suggested for further tests. At the 2nd stage, a closed experimental tournament was held on the basis of the HMB Academy in St. Petersburg with the participation of the most experienced athletes of the country. At the 3rd stage different experimental changes were tested at the HMB Russia tournaments of different scales.

The 3rd stage of the Project is recognized as the most significant and important, it helped to implement and test the changes in the conditions of a real tournament and provided the working group with a lot of data for analysis. More than a hundred of fights were held in different group categories including 2vs2, 3 vs3, 5vs5, 12vs12 at such HMB Russia tournaments as Alexander Nevsky Cup, HMB Russia Academy Cup, Rekon. The level of tournaments varied from beginners and juniors to teams of international class and multiple world champions. After each tournament a

certain set of data was collected such as fighters' feedback, spectators' opinions, reports from marshals and medics with a full statistic of injuries taken into account.



Several changes and modifications were tried in the beginning of the year but only two of them were accepted for further tests by the working group and kept till the end of the Project:

- **adding of the top bar to the rails**
- **allowed hand\shield touch of the list surface after the throw**

Based on the results of the third stage of the Project, the following conclusions were made:

- proposed changes make it possible to significantly increase the attraction of fights in all categories, this is especially evident in the 5 vs 5 fights with the average time of the round being reduced by approximately 35%;
- the overall dynamics of the battle was increased thanks to the new list configuration with the top bar;
- number of controversial moments with the amplitude throwing techniques in the center of the list was decreased, fighters use stance wrestling skills more often;
- number of injuries was SIGNIFICANTLY reduced.

For example, at the Rekon 2021 tournament which is considered as the most challenging and big tournament of Russia with the participation of 20 strong and experienced teams, only ONE injury was recorded in two days of the event which required hospitalization of a fighter to provide him with medical care (knee joint injury). With the highest level of difficulty and density of fights in 5vs5 (men and women) and 12vs12 categories, it's an amazing result.

While running the Project the HMB Future working group fixed a number of flaws and inaccurate language in the current HMBIA rules and regulations. As a result, the necessary adjustments were made.

Conclusion:

Based on the results of the project it was recommended to introduce a new configuration of the list with the top bar as the primary one for all HMBIA tournaments.

It was recommended to change **paragraph 1.5.1** of the current Group Battles Rules and consider the following wording correct:

1.5.1 They touched the ground with the third point of contact (torso, hip, arm, knee or shield). The rule is applied if the fighter fell with the opponent.

Important!

The fighter is not considered grounded if he touched the surface of the list with the edge of a shield (not a flat part) during or immediately after a successful throw, but not before the throw.

The fighter is not considered grounded if he touched the surface of the list with a fist or a hand during or immediately after a successful throw, but not before the throw.

Important!

A pole or a steel part of a polearm or a sword blade are not considered as the third point of contact.

Other amendments to the Rules and Regulations of the group battles were placed in the related documents.