Swords & Sorcery Fighting Techniques

Default Rules

One-Handed Weapon and Shield: A combatant using a one-handed weapon with a small or large shield attacks and does damage as normal. The shield improves his armour class by one against most attacks, and by two against ranged attacks in the case of a large shield on account of its size.

One-Handed Weapon: A combatant using a one-handed weapon and who has a free second hand increases the average damage he does with it by one; that is to say, 1d8 becomes 1d10, and 2d4 becomes 2d4+1 (or 1d4+1d6, if preferred).

Two One-Handed Weapons: A combatant using two one-handed weapons in combination improves his armour class against melee attacks by one, and may attack with either weapon, but gains no extra attacks on account of his second weapon.

Two-Handed Weapon: A combatant using a two-handed weapon adds one to his attack roll and increases the average damage he does with it by two; that is to say 1d10 becomes 1d12+1 and 2d4 becomes 2d6. Against large targets use the higher of the two damage ranges.

Combat Actions

Strong Counter: A combatant who has the initiative and is fighting with a one-handed weapon and a strapped small shield may give up the initiative to leave go and execute a stronger counter attack. The combatant may attack as though he was not using a shield any opponent who rolled an attack against him, but the benefit that the shield would otherwise provide does not apply for the rest of the round.

Throw Down: A combatant who has the initiative and is fighting with a one-handed weapon and a free second hand may give up the initiative for the chance to execute a throw. He gains a 50% chance of throwing an opponent to the ground who has attacked him with an unmodified roll of 1-10. The combatant may then make an immediate attack against the prone opponent with a +4 to hit.

Second Weapon: A combatant fighting with two weapons may take a penalty to hit with all attacks this round to gain the chance of an extra attack. The penalty is -4 if both weapons are heavy, -3 if one weapon is light, and -2 if both weapons are light; he may also use his dexterity modifier instead of his strength modifier to offset these penalties. When he makes his first attack, an unmodified roll of 16-20 allows him to make an attack with the second weapon at an appropriate point in the round.

Fake Out: A combatant who has the initiative and is fighting with a short hafted pole-axe or hammer may give up the initiative to make a feint, seemingly attempting an overhead blow only to jab with the haft spike before executing the attack. As a result of baiting his opponent, the combatant worsens his armour class by one point for the round, but if the unmodified attack roll of his opponent is 1-10 he gains +2 to hit and +2 to damage with his next attack.

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