

THE HALLOWEEN TOURNEY, GRAND TOURNAMENT LXXX AND TOURNAMENT OF THE DEAD XXX!

A gust of crispy fall air blew through the tavern as the gladiator slipped in, letting her eyes adjust to the dimness. Looking around and quickly spotting Debby and Olaf, she glided over and slid onto a stool.

Debbie looked up and started so abruptly that she dislodged her drink's delicate, pink umbrella, sending it flying across the table and leaving an artistic diagonal orange swoosh across Olaf's tunic and a bit on the troll behind his shoulder, but luckily the troll didn't notice. Olaf scowled, but Debby laser-focused on the newcomer.

"Layla?! It's so good.. What-" she stopped, watching as her friend's face fell and tears started to roll. Debi grasped her friend's hand across the table. "Are you okay?" Surprise at seeing her friend turned to worry.

Olaf wisely kept his mouth shut and motioned for a towel and another round of drinks.

Two and a half hours, eight drinks, and quite a lot of tears later, Debi had her story. Layla had never heard of Lady Greywand's Frankenstein chamber and her manager only told her that she and her friends were being rewarded with a special spa day. After a day of beauty treatments and a glorious nap, she woke up to find her friends gone and.. a monster in their place with the eyes of one, the nose of another... and so on.

After telling her story, Layla was slumped across the table, exhausted. Debbie and Olaf looked at each other, horror in their eyes. They'd never really thought about how the Frankenstein chamber worked, or the toll it took. They sat silently for the longest time, each thinking thoughts about what they could do to right these wrongs.

Across the land of Alastari the word is going out. All Hallows Eve, the night the dead come to life, has been ordained as the time for Grand Tourney LXXX, our eightieth Grand Tournament, the Halloween Tourney. This tournament will be held on Halloween weekend (Saturday, October 26), and will be a Mail-in tournament only.

The DM Grand Tournament is a premier competition. Only the strong will survive; only the best will win! And for this tournament only, managers of Tournament Champions will earn an opportunity that ranks as every guildmaster's greatest dream: Lady Greywand will grant the winner of each tourney a single use of her Frankenstein chamber. Two warriors enter... and one monster emerges! These warriors must both be natural and not yet called to fight in ADM. The manager of this unholy amalgamation may choose the starting style and which set of starting attributes and favorites to keep and the mystical chamber will do the rest, keeping the best bonuses and other aspects of the two warriors! All Dead Tourney Tournament Champions will be resurrected and granted immortality; Tournament Victors of the Dead Tourneys will only be resurrected. Immortal warriors may not challenge the Dark Arena. (You don't have to kill off a member of your team when the dead warrior is resurrected; you can wait for an opening on the team to occur naturally any time in the next six months.) Remember, all tournament prizes must be used within six months.

In addition, one bonus skill potion will be awarded to the manager of each of the Stylemasters for all tournaments (except the Tournament Champion). Primus bonus potions must be used on a Primus warrior of the same style; ADM bonus potions must be used on an ADM warrior of the same style; basic DM potions may be used on any living warrior on the same team. Stylemaster potions may be traded 1:1 but may not be sold. Unused stylemaster prizes expire after six months.

In this Grand Tournament, honors will be awarded to warriors in sixteen categories of competition: five tournaments for ADM, six tournaments for regular DM, and five tournaments in the Tournament of the Dead. Warriors will fight according to their total number of fights as follows:

TOURNAMENT CLASSES

Warrior Category

Primus Inducted
Primus Contenders
Primus Eligible
All ADM warriors not in another class
All new ADM warriors and ADM Freshmen
31+ fights as of the Tournament
21+ fights as of the Tournament
11-20 fights as of the Tournament
5-10 fights as of the Tournament
1-4 fights as of the Tournament
0 fights as of the Tournament

If Alive will fight in:

The Primus Tournament
The Contenders Tournament
The Eligibles Tournament
The ADM. Tournament
The Freshmen Tournament
The Challengers Tournament
The Champions Tournament
The Adepts Tournament
The Initiates Tournament
The Apprentices Tournament
The Rookies Tournament

If Dead will fight in:

(not applicable)
(not applicable)
(not applicable)
(not applicable)
(not applicable)
The Dead Challengers Tournament
The Dead Champions Tournament
The Dead Adepts Tournament
The Dead Initiates Tournament
The Dead Apprentices Tournament
The Dead Apprentices Tournament

All warriors who have graduated to ADM before the tournament (due dates on or before Thursday, October 24), as well as warriors who were classified as Freshmen as of the Fall 2024 freeze or the time they graduated, will fight in the Freshman Tournament. All ADM warriors who are not Freshmen or Primus qualified (Eligible) or inducted (Contenders or Primus) will fight in the ADM tourney. A warrior's number of fights is calculated by adding his regular arena bouts and roughly half of his previous tournament fights. Please note that all games due on Thursday will process before the tournament, while games due on Friday and Saturday will run after. A warrior's fight total is determined by his record and statistics as of the day of the tournament; the freeze date for ADM warriors was September 15 at 10:44pm.

There will be at least ten rounds of combat. Pairings in the tournaments are random. In all tournament classes except Primus and Contenders, your warrior must win one of his first two fights to avoid being eliminated from the tournament. After that, his third loss will drop him from the tournament. In the Primus and Contenders Tourneys, warriors will not be eliminated until after Round 5; at that point and thereafter, warriors with three losses will be eliminated. All tournaments will continue past round ten in the same fashion, with warriors being eliminated only when they reach three losses, until one warrior remains. That warrior shall be designated the Tournament Champion! On the average, each warrior will fight five fights, with a minimum of two fights for each warrior, barring death. Learning, experience, and the likelihood of dying are all at half of their normal rates. (Only so much can be learned in such a short time, fighting with blunted weapons.) The record and popularity of your warriors in the tournament does not count towards their record in regular arena play.

Those warriors who win eight or more fights in the regular tourney and are alive at the end of Round Ten will be declared Tournament Victors. Tournament Victors may write "Tournament Victor" next to one of their challenges each turn in regular arena play to receive increased priority on their challenge. Tournament of the Dead Champions and Victors do not receive a TV challenge. The warrior with the best overall record at the end of each regular Grand Tournament will be declared Tournament Champion and will fight for free in regular arena play. Tournament Victor and Champion status are great honors that last until the next Grand Tournament or until six months have passed.

You may enter as many of your gladiators in the tourney as you wish. The cost is \$7.00 per warrior, which includes postage. Your account will be billed when we run the tournament. If your account does not have sufficient funds, we may not process your warriors. Strategy sheets for all warriors you want to participate in the tourney must arrive at RSI by Wednesday, October 23. We will not accept phoned-in strategy sheets, though you may fax them.

Below is a strategy sheet request slip for the Halloween Mail-in Tourney. You will also receive a copy of a strategy sheet. To speed up the processing of your warriors, you may copy this strategy sheet, fill them in and send them back. They are also online. If you'd rather have us mail you strategy sheets, fill out the request slip and note how many you need. Your warriors will be officially entered into the tourney when we receive your completed mail-in strategy sheets. The strategy sheet allows you to specify your gladiator's training for each fight up to the tenth round. You may also designate one alternate strategy against up to five different fighting styles.

If you want your warrior to fight only in the Living Tourney, check the "Living Tourney Only" box on the strategy sheet. (Even if he's alive now, what if he dies, the gods forbid, between now and the tourney? Check this box only if you don't want him to fight in the Dead Tourney if he dies between now and the tournament.)

Is your warrior the best in his class? How does your Adept measure up to the Adepts in other arenas? Do you have the strategy it takes to survive ten+ duels against foes from across the land of Alastari? Don't just ponder these questions! Register today for the Duellmasters Grand Tournament.

Who:	You! And every other dedicated manager
What:	Ten+ rounds of intense Duellmasters fights
When:	October 26 (Strategy sheets due Wednesday, October 23)
Where:	At the RSI secret underground production facility
Why:	If you've fought in a Grand Tourney before, you know why!

Mail-In Grand Tourney LXXX Strategy Sheet Request Form

Request for Strategy Sheets due Wednesday, October 16!

Your Name: _____ Account #: _____ Send me _____ Mail-in strategy sheets!