



INFORMATION

# CHAMPIONS' ARENA

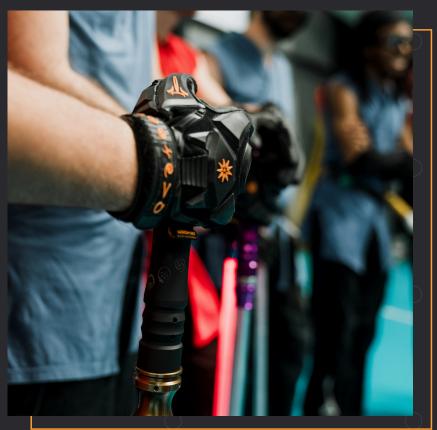
## **MANCHESTER - UNITED KINGDOM**

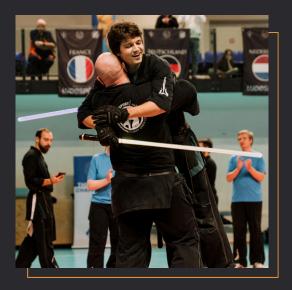
We're incredibly proud to welcome the international LudoSport community to the United Kingdom for this year's Champions' Arena 2025. This is the first time the UK has hosted Champions' Arena, and we couldn't be more excited to bring it to British soil and in Manchester - a city known for its energy, diversity, and love of sport.

Champions' Arena is one of the biggest events in the LudoSport calendar, bringing together top athletes from around the world to compete, connect, and celebrate everything we love about the sport. It's more than just a tournament — it's a chance for our global community to come together, share knowledge, and make unforgettable memories.

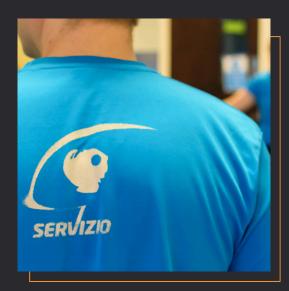
We've worked hard behind the scenes to create an event that's welcoming, well-organised, and full of opportunities — both on and off the arena floor. Whether you're here to fight, support, judge, or simply soak in the atmosphere, we hope you feel right at home.

Let's make this one to remember. Welcome to the United Kingdom and welcome to Champions' Arena 2025!









## CONTENTS

## Welcome!

### 1. Welcome to Manchester

- City overview and culture
- Local climate and what to expect

### 2. Event Overview

- What is Champions Arena?
- The format and schedule highlights

### 3. Venue Information

- Address and map
- Venue facilities and accessibility

### 4. Registration & Check-In

- Athlete check-in process
- Equipment checks
- Spectator information

### 5. Accommodation

- Recommended hotels and Airbnbs near the venue
- Budget, mid-range, and premium options

### 6. Travel to & in Manchester

- From Manchester Airport
- From other places
- Train, and local network

### 7. Visa & Entry Requirements

- Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)
- Who needs one and how to apply
- Cost, timing, and official links

### 8. Things to Do in Manchester

- Food, attractions, shopping, and nightlife
- Museums, music, and football landmarks
- Ideas for free time before/after the event

### 9. Porkside

Where, when, what, how to get there!

### 10. Useful Contacts & Emergency Information

- Event organisers and local coordinators
- Emergency services and health care

### 11. What to bring!

- Packing & Preparation Checklist
- Travel essentials
- Event gear and uniforms
- Weather-appropriate clothing

# Welcome to Manchester

Manchester is a city full of identity, energy, and culture. Known for its strong character and proud working-class roots, Manchester is the kind of place that leaves an impression on everyone who visits.

## **City History:**

Manchester played a central role in the Industrial Revolution and helped shape the modern world. Today, the city's old mills and factories have become galleries, bars, studios, and creative spaces. In the Northern Quarter, you'll see Victorian architecture mixed with bold street art, record shops, independent cafes, and live music venues tucked away down side streets.

It is a city that blends the past with the present, without trying to be anything other than itself.

## **Culture and Community:**

Manchester is known for being diverse, progressive, and unapologetically independent. This is the birthplace of the suffragette movement, the home of iconic bands like Oasis and Joy Division, and a hub for innovation in science, tech, and the arts.

If you have time to explore, check out:

- Manchester Museum or the Science and Industry Museum
- HOME, a venue for independent film, theatre, and visual art
- The Whitworth, an award-winning gallery set in parkland

## **A Sporting Powerhouse:**

Sport runs deep in Manchester. It is home to two of the most famous football clubs in the world, and has a lot of history in everything from cycling to MMA - including current UFC heavyweight Champion - Tom Aspinall .

The city lives and breathes athletic competition.

That makes it the perfect stage for Champions' Arena 2025. Whether you're stepping into the arena or cheering from the sidelines, you're part of a city that knows what competition means.

## Food, Nightlife, and Local Favourites:

When the matches are over, Manchester is just getting started. You can grab late-night food on Curry Mile, sip craft beer in Ancoats, or explore the food halls and cocktail bars around Deansgate and Spinningfields.

You'll find something for every taste and budget, from traditional pies and pints in an old pub to vegan street food or high-end dining in a rooftop restaurant. The city's nightlife is vibrant but relaxed, welcoming locals and visitors alike.

# Event Overview

## **WHAT IS CHAMPIONS ARENA?**

Champions' Arena is one of the most prestigious tournaments in the international LudoSport calendar. Open to athletes from all LudoSport Academies across the world, it is a competition that celebrates skill, discipline, and sportsmanship.

Unlike National Tournaments, Champions' Arena offers a rare chance for 64 athletes to test themselves against international opponents from all over the world, of all ranks and Forms. It is open to all levels (through qualifying from your own National Tournament), allowing for a diverse, exciting competition.

It is not just about victory — Champions' Arena is also about community, growth, and the shared experience of competing with fairness and elegance, true to the LudoSport Code.



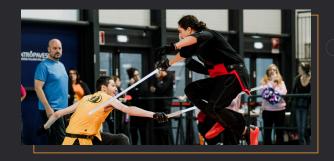
## **TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

### Saturday: Rough timings

- Athlete Check-in 9:30am
- Opening Ceremony photos 10:30
- Group photos, National photos 11:00
- Pools Phase 11:30
- Lunch Food will be available All day.
- Knockouts / Final Phase Afternoon
- Awards Ceremony 5:00pm
- Closing Ceremony 5:30pm
- Porkside from 7:30pm

### Sunday

- LudoSport Team Tournament
  - "The Great British Saber Off!"
  - More details coming soon!



# Venue Information

## LOCATION

## The Address:

Platt Lane Sports Complex Yew Tree Road **Fallowfield** Manchester M14 7UU **United Kingdom** 



## **Accessibility**

The venue is fully wheelchair accessible,

- Step-free entry
- · Disabled parking spaces available
- · Accessible toilets and changing areas Other Notes
- · Sabers checks will be conducted onsite (details in Check-In section).
- There is no smoking or vaping permitted inside the venue.
- Please keep all personal belongings secure; the organisers are not responsible for lost items.





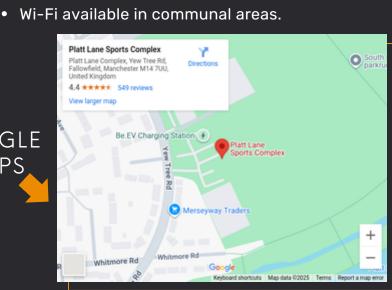
CLICK ME! This links to the location

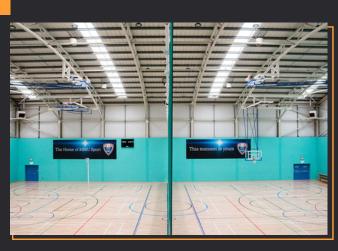


Platt Lane Sports Complex is a modern, spacious facility originally built as a training ground for Manchester City Football Club. It now serves as a high-quality community and University sports centre, offering an excellent space for large-scale events and, of course, tournaments.

The venue includes:

- Changing rooms with showers and lockers
- Spectator space for guests and supporters
- · A café and vending machines on site (light refreshments only)





## Registration & Check in

## **ATHLETE CHECK-IN**

Doors open at 09:30 sharp — please arrive in good time to get settled. Upon arrival, all athletes must check in at the Registration Desk, where you'll receive your participant credentials.

Our Sabersmiths will be on hand throughout the morning to inspect and approve sabers for tournament compliance. Please make this your first stop after registration to avoid delays. Changing areas and warm-up zones will be clearly marked and open from arrival. We encourage all athletes to be changed, armed, and ready for the Opening Ceremony at 10:30.

## **EQUIPMENT CHECKS**

Three types of light saber can be used for the sport: Long Saber, Dual Sabers, Saberstaff.

Specifications for the three types are listed to the right. Note that these specifications are equivalent to those listed in the SLM Rules but are herein formulated including the tolerances for ease of use.

Weight is measured without the installed blade; the length is measured including the cap.

Hilts are one of the following models:

- Lamadiluce SSe-1
- Lamadiluce SSe-2
- Lamadiluce SSe-3
- Lamadiluce EVO
- Nordic Sabers Arctic Storm
- Crystal Cave Adam
- Mi&Ti Horayzon3
- Atlas Serie Mk

Or hilt is a commercial model bought before 2019;

Or hilt is self-built.

In cases of the last two, the hilts must be certified by the Rector of the Academy of the competitor as compliant to all technical requirements listed herein.

### 2.1.1 Long Saber

Hilt length: from 258 to 322 mm.

Hilt weight: 440 to 730 g. Blade diameter: 25 mm. Blade thickness: 2 mm.

Out of the hilt: from 865 to 875 mm. Blade material: polycarbonate (PC).

### 2.1.2 Dual Sabers

Hilt length: from 178 to 262 mm.

Hilt weight: 340 to 630 g. Blade diameter: 25 mm. Blade thickness: 2 mm.

Out of the hilt: from 595 to 605 mm. Blade material: polycarbonate (PC).

### 2.1.3 Saberstaff

Hilt length: from 358 to 542 mm.

Hilt weight: 520 to 830 g. Blade diameter: 25 mm. Blade thickness: 2 mm.

Out of the hilt: from 725 to 735 mm. Blade material: polycarbonate (PC).



ITR Version 3.5.1
If in doubt - please check the ITR.

## Registration & Check in

## **SPECTATOR INFORMATION**

Doors open at **09:30am** — all spectators are welcome to arrive from this time to soak in the atmosphere, grab a good seat, and browse the venue before the action begins. Entry is free but we do require you to get your FREE ticket via our website. For tickets, visit our website to purchase. (same for the PorkSide ticket) Turn up, cheer loudly, and enjoy a day of LudoSport lightsaber combat! There will be:

- A spectator area with clear views of all main arenas
- Live Stream, Commentary and match updates throughout the day
- An Official LamaDiLuce Shop area
- The Opening Ceremony begins at 10:30am, and matches will run throughout the day

   including the dramatic finals in the late afternoon.

Come for the duels, stay for the community. Whether you're a long-time fan or completely new to the world of LudoSport, Champions' Arena 2025 is an event you won't want to miss out on!



## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

All athletes are expected to compete in full awareness of LudoSport's official tournament rules. Ignorance of the rules will not be accepted as an excuse on the day.

You can access the complete

INCOM Tournament Rules by clicking the ITR button.

Uniform checks will be carried out during registration and briefing. The Head Official will have final say on compliance.



ITR Version 3.5.1

### **Uniform & Safety Guidelines:**

We recommend reading the following for uniform and safety rules:

- 2.2 The Uniform
- 2.3 Safety Requirements
- 2.3.1 General Requirements
- 2.3.1.1 No cosplay elements or
- excessive decoration
- 2.3.1.2 Clear vision and hearing required at all times

## Accomodation

## **Staying in Manchester**

If you're travelling to Manchester for Champions' Arena 2025, we've got you covered with a selection of accommodation options to suit all budgets. Whether you're looking to stay close to the Platt Lane Sports Complex (M14 7UU) - where the main tournament action happens - or near The Black Friars (M3 7DB) - the site of the Porkside evening

- you'll find something that works!

Each listing includes:

- Average Prices per night (Rough rates)
- Distance to venues
- Direct booking links to save you time.

We recommend booking as soon as possible, hotels all over tend to fill up quickly.

Another option is to search on AirBnB - grab some friends and get a house!

We suggest taking a look at the transport page to organise how to get to the venue!

Uber is easily accessible as is the Manchester Transport Network!

## **Hotels Near Platt Lane Sports Complex**

Manchester Stay Hotel - Free Parking

Price: £60/night

Distance: 0.2 miles (Platt Lane), 2.5 miles

(Black Friars)
Booking Link:

https://www.booking.com/hotel/gb/yally.html

Chancellors Hotel Price: £75/night

Distance: 0.5 miles (Platt Lane), 2.6 miles

(Black Friars)
Booking Link:

https://www.conference.manchester.ac.uk/

chancellorshotel

Manchester South Hotel, Sure Hotel

Collection by Best Western

Price: £80/night

Distance: 0.7 miles (Platt Lane), 2.8 miles

(Black Friars)
Booking Link:

https://www.booking.com/hotel/gb/manchester-inn-sure-hotel-collection-by-best-

<u>western.html</u>

Elton Bank Hotel

Price: £65/night

Distance: 0.3 miles (Platt Lane), 2.7 miles

(Black Friars)
Booking Link:

https://eltonbank.atmanchesterhotels.com/en/

The Fallowfield Lodge

Price: £70/night

Distance: 0.4 miles (Platt Lane), 2.9 miles

(Black Friars)
Booking Link:

https://www.thefallowfieldlodge.co.uk/booking

**Hyatt House Manchester** 

Price: £116/night

Distance: 1.5 miles (both locations)

**Booking Link:** 

https://www.hyatt.com/hyatt-house/en-US/manxm-hyatt-house-manchester

## Accomodation

## Hotels - Continued

Whitworth Locke Price: £87/night

Distance: 1.8 miles (Platt Lane), 1.2 miles

(Black Friars) Booking Link:

https://www.booking.com/hotel/gb/whitworth-locke.html

Kimpton Clocktower by IHG

Price: £104/night

Distance: 2 miles (Platt Lane), 1 mile (Black

Friars)

**Booking Link:** 

https://www.kimptonclocktowerhotel.com

## Hotels - Near Porkside

Stay Inn Hotel Manchester

Price: £68/night

Distance: 0.1 miles (Black Friars), 2.5

miles (Platt Lane)

Booking Link: https://www.stayinn.co.uk

Travelodge Manchester Central

Price: £70/night

Distance: 0.3 miles (Black Friars), 2.7

miles (Platt Lane) Booking Link:

https://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/153/

Manchester-Central-hotel

Premier Inn Manchester City Centre

Price: £75/night

Distance: 0.4 miles (Black Friars), 2.8

miles (Platt Lane) Booking Link:

https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/en

gland/greater-

manchester/salford/manchester-city-centre-

arenaprintworks.html

The Britannia Hotel Price: £138/night

Distance: 3.2 miles (Platt Lane), 1.6 miles

(Black Friars)
Booking Link:

https://www.britanniahotels.com/hotels/the-britannia-hotel-manchester



The Lowry Hotel Price: £150/night

Distance: 0.5 miles (Black Friars), 2.9

miles (Platt Lane) Booking Link:

https://www.millenniumhotels.com/en/

manchester/the-lowry-hotel

The Ainscow Hotel Price: £90/night

Distance: 0.6 miles (Black Friars), 2.8

miles (Platt Lane) Booking Link:

https://theainscow.com

Holiday Inn Manchester - City Centre

Price: £85/night

Distance: 0.8 miles (Black Friars), 2.5

miles (Platt Lane) Booking Link:

https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/gb/en/manchester/mchcc/hoteldetail

## Travel to Manchester

## **ALL THINGS TRAVEL**

Whether you're flying in from abroad or coming from another UK city, getting to Champions' Arena 2025 is straightforward. Manchester is well connected and compact, with plenty of public transport options once you're in the city. Below are your main options for getting to the event venues:

## **From Manchester Airport**

Manchester Airport is around 9 miles from the city centre and serves flights from across Europe and beyond.

To reach the city from the airport:

- Train: Direct trains run from Manchester Airport to Manchester Oxford Road or Manchester Piccadilly (20–25 minutes). From there, you can connect to buses, trams, or taxis.
- Taxi or Uber: Around 25–30 minutes to Platt Lane or Black Friars, depending on traffic. Cost: approx £25–£35.
- Bus: The 43 bus runs frequently between the airport and central Manchester. It's slower (~60 minutes) but cheap.

## By Train (UK Travel)

Manchester is served by three main city-centre stations:

Manchester Piccadilly, Manchester Victoria, and Oxford Road.

- From London: 2 hours via direct train from London Euston
- From Birmingham: 1 hour 30 minutes
- From Liverpool: 50 minutes
- From Leeds: 1 hour
- From Glasgow/Edinburgh: 3–3.5 hours

Booking tip: Use National Rail, Trainline, or Split My Fare for the best deals.

Advance tickets are usually cheaper.

## **Getting Around Manchester**

Once you're in Manchester, getting around is easy with The Bee Network. Transport for Manchester

Trams (Metrolink): Fast, regular, and ideal for moving between city zones. Most lines run through the city centre. Tap-on-tap-off using contactless cards or phones.

Buses: Bee-branded yellow buses now operate on a growing number of routes across Greater Manchester. These are capped at £2 per trip and accept contactless.

Uber/Taxi: Uber is easily accessible and is the easiest option to get around.





https://tfgm.com

For route planning and updates: Use the link!

# VISA & Entry Requirments

## **ETA & TRAVEL**

An electronic travel authorisation (ETA) lets you travel to the UK for tourism, visiting family or certain other reasons for up to 6 months. It is **IMPORTANT** to get this.

An ETA costs £16.

Other websites may charge more to apply.

Avoid websites that imitate government services.

An ETA does not guarantee entry to the UK. Who needs an ETA:

Most visitors travelling to the UK need an ETA or a visa. What you need depends on:

- Your nationality
- Why you're coming to the UK

<u>Check if you need an ETA or visa to come to the UK</u>

There are some <u>people who do not need an</u> <u>ETA</u>, for example if you have:

A British or Irish passport

embed link below.

• Permission to live, work or study in the UK

If you're travelling as a family or group: Each person travelling needs an ETA, including babies and children. We advise using the official GOV.uk website

You usually need an ETA rather than a visa if you're from Europe, the USA, Australia, Canada or certain other countries.

An Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) is valid for 2 years and allows you to travel to the UK for tourism, visiting family, or other specific purposes, for stays of up to 6 months at a time.

Valid for two years! Perfect, because Reignite the Light 5.0 is at the end of January!

European citizens need a valid passport and an approved ETA to enter the UK.

The ETA is electronically linked to the passport used during the application, there's no need

to print anything, but always helpful to have a back-up!

Apply in advance — most applications are processed in minutes, but approval can take up to 3 working days. You can also apply using the Official UK ETA mobile app, which works well and is easy to use.

It's available for iOS and Android.





https://www.gov.uk/eta

# Electronic Travel Authorisation

(ETA)

The cost for the ETA is currently: £16 GBP

Italy Netherlands, France,

Germany, Ireland: €18.38 EUR

Sweden: 205.50kr SEK Japan: ¥3,138 JPY

USA: \$21.28 USD

Canada: \$29.40 CAD Brazil: R\$119.10 BRL

Based on current exchange rate: 05/08/2025

# Things to do

## **VISITING THE CITY**

Whether you're arriving early, hanging back after the finals, or just squeezing in a little sightseeing – Manchester is absolutely worth exploring.

A city bursting with energy, creativity, and character, Manchester offers a perfect mix of industrial heritage, modern culture, and welcoming northern charm. From iconic football stadiums to quirky cafés, from art galleries to secret speakeasies

- there's something here for everyone.

### **Culture & Arts**

- Manchester Art Gallery Free to enter.
- Science and Industry Museum Explore
   Manchester's industrial and scientific history,
   from early computing to locomotives.
- The John Rylands Library A neo-Gothic architectural wonder and home to rare manuscripts and stunning reading rooms.

### **Sport & Stadiums**

- Old Trafford Home of Manchester United.
   Take a stadium tour or catch a match if you're lucky!
- Etihad Stadium Home of Manchester City.
   Stadium tours available with behind-the-scenes access.
- National Football Museum Celebrate England's favourite sport in this interactive museum in the city centre.

### Music & Nightlife

- The AO Arena Hosting major concerts and live shows year-round.
- Albert Hall A unique venue inside a converted chapel; check listings for live music or club nights.
- Canal Street The heart of Manchester's LGBTQ+ scene, full of bars, clubs, and friendly vibes.

#### Shopping

- Manchester Arndale Central indoor shopping centre with high-street and designer shops.
- Afflecks An iconic alternative shopping emporium – think vintage clothes, comics, jewellery, and more.
- The Trafford Centre Massive mall just outside the city with entertainment, restaurants, and a kitschy Roman theme.

### Food & Drink

- Mackie Mayor A beautifully restored food hall with a range of independent vendors under one roof.
- Chinatown One of the largest in Europe. A great place for authentic Asian cuisine.
- Curry Mile (Rusholme) Legendary for South Asian food – a must-visit for spicy food lovers!
- Northern Quarter Packed with cool spots!

#### For the 'GRAM!

### Instagram-Friendly Spots

- The Alan Turing Memorial In Sackville Gardens, near Canal Street.
- The Manchester Bee Street Art Spot beethemed murals all over the city, symbolising Manchester's worker bee spirit.
- Salford Quays Home to MediaCityUK, modern waterside vibes and BBC studios.

### Fancy a Day Trip? Try Liverpool!

- Just under an hour from Manchester by train,
   Liverpool is a vibrant city packed with music
   history, and striking architecture.
- It's famously the birthplace of The Beatles and offers a completely different vibe worth exploring.

### Top Places to Visit in Liverpool:

- The Beatles Story An immersive museum dedicated to the Fab Four.
- Royal Albert Dock A scenic waterfront area full of restaurants, museums, & art galleries.
- Anfield Stadium Home of Liverpool FC. Stadium tours available for football fans.
- Getting There: Regular direct trains from Manchester Piccadilly to Liverpool Lime Street take around 50 minutes.

## **PORKSIDE**

## **EAT, DRINK, BE MERRY**

After a day of duelling, spectating, staffing, style judging, officiating or anything else! it's time to swap your combat tunic for your party gear.

Join us for Porkside – the Official Champions' Arena 2025 Social Event – an evening of food, drinks, music, and great company.

This is your chance to unwind, celebrate, and connect with athletes, organisers, and friends from across the LudoSport Network!

### Venue:

The Black Friar 41–43 Blackfriars Road Salford, Manchester, M3 7DB

### **Date & Time:**

Saturday 29th November 2025 7:30pm – 2:00am

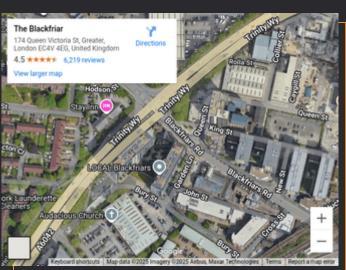
## Tickets:

Details and booking link will be available soon on our website – keep an eye out and don't miss your chance to be part of the fun. Tickets will include food options and

access to our reserved space.



The Black Friar 41-43 Blackfriars Road Salford, Manchester, M3 7DB



We would recommend that you get changed, spruced up, & get your dancing shoes on! Order an UBER/Taxi to the Porkside location from wherever you are! Easiest way to travel!



# Useful Contacts & Emergency Information

## Who we are

The Champions' Arena 2025 is being brought to you by <u>LudoSport Britannia</u> with <u>Luke Tull</u> as the Event Manager – We also have a team of dedicated volunteers from across the UK and the LudoSport Network.

Most of you already know most of us, but in case you need anything:

- ☑ General Enquiries / Questions: [bristol@ludosport.net] Luke Tull
- Local Contact Number (During Event Days): [+44 74 6306 6689] Luke Tull

We will have a Welcome Desk available on-site at the venue each day to assist you with:

- Scheduling or registration questions
- Lost & found
- General support and directions

We're here to help make your stay smooth and memorable – don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything, big or small.

## **Event organiser and local coordinators**

- Luke Tull
  - Telegram: <u>@Lux\_Ludo</u>
  - Phone Number / WhatsApp: +44 74 6306 6689
- Dan Sammons
  - Telegram: @x8BitDanx
- Hannah Sammons
  - Telegram: @Hannah\_Sammons







For Team Tournament & PorkSide equiries:

- Seb Ferris
  - Telegram: <u>@Seb\_Ferris</u>

## **Emergency services and health care**

If you require urgent help in the UK, dial **999** or **112** for emergency services (Police, Ambulance, or Fire). These numbers are free to call from any phone.

#### **Health Care & Assistance**

- The UK has a public health system called the NHS (National Health Service).
- Emergency treatment is <u>free</u> at NHS hospitals, even for overseas visitors.
- Pharmacies (often inside supermarkets or on high streets)

### Nearest Emergency Hospital:

- Manchester Royal
   Infirmary (MRI), Oxford
   Road, Manchester M13
   9WL
- Phone: +44 (0)161 2761234
- Open 24/7 Accident & Emergency Department (A&E)

### Late Night Pharmacy:

- Boots MarketStreet
- 32 Market Street,
   Manchester M1 1PL
- Open until late most nights (check locally for weekend hours)

## What to bring!

## **Packing & Preparation Checklist**

Heading to the Champions' Arena?

Here's a quick checklist to help make sure you arrive ready

- in and out of the arena!

### **Travel Essentials**

- Valid passport (check expiry date!)
- Travel insurance documents
- · Printed event tickets or digital confirmations
- Currency/card (UK uses GBP Pound Sterling)
- Chargers and UK plug adapter
- Any necessary visas or entry documentation
- Personal medication (with prescription if needed)
- Event Gear & LudoSport Uniform

Make sure you bring everything required! Double-check your gear is in good condition!

### **Essentials:**

- Full LudoSport uniform to your rank:
  - Combat Tee or Subtunic
  - Combat Belt
  - Combat Pants
  - Combat Tunic (The UK is cold in November!)
- Indoor training shoes with non-marking soles
- Lightsaber (with fully charged batteries)
- Arena Sabers will be on each arena
  - Protective equipment (based on your needs and what is required)

## Clothing for UK Weather:

The UK's weather is famously unpredictable — even in summer. Be ready for sunshine, wind, rain, snow, sleet, tornadoes (yes, we have had them before) and everything in between (sometimes all in one day).

### Pack:

- A light waterproof jacket or compact umbrella
- Layered clothing hoodies, T-shirts, long sleeves
- Comfortable shoes
- Casual clothes for downtime and exploring the city
- Reusable water bottle hydration is key!







