Champion Guide Pathfinder 2e

Champion Guide for Pathfinder 2E: Mastering the Classic Fighter

Pathfinder 2nd Edition has revitalized the beloved champion archetype, offering a streamlined, high-impact playstyle that rewards tactical thinking and disciplined combat. Whether you're a veteran of the first edition or a newcomer to the world of Golarion, this guide will walk you through the champion's core mechanics, optimal builds, and practical tips to dominate the battlefield.

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Understanding the Champion’s Core Features

1. The Champion’s Purpose

Champions are martial heroes who combine relentless combat prowess with a deep sense of purpose. Their abilities focus on dealing damage, protecting allies, and turning the tide of battle with a single well-timed strike.

2. Key Class Features

- **Champion’s Path:** Choose a path that defines your combat style—Tactics, Valor, or Valor’s counterpart, the *Champion’s Path of the Crusader*—each granting unique feats and bonuses.
- **Divine Discipline:** Gain access to a small pool of divine spells that heal or buff allies, or hinder enemies.
- **Weapon Proficiency:** Champions are proficient with all simple and martial weapons, making them versatile in any combat situation.
- **Combat Flexibility:** The class’s high base attack bonus and numerous

attack actions allow you to keep the pressure on opponents.

3. The Champion’s Ability Score Priorities

To excel, prioritize Strength (for damage), Constitution (for HP), and Dexterity (for AC and initiative). Wisdom and Charisma can be useful for certain feats and spellcasting, but are secondary.

Optimal Champion Builds

1. The Tactics Champion

Specializing in battlefield control, the Tactics Champion excels at positioning allies and enemies. Focus on feats like *Precision Attack* and *Combat Mastery* to maximize damage output while using the *Battlefield Tactics* path to create advantageous combat scenarios.

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2. The Valor Champion

Valor champions are the frontline defenders. Their abilities grant them higher hit points and the ability to shield allies with *Shield of Faith* or *Divine Protection*. Prioritize feats that enhance your defensive capabilities and support your party.

3. The Crusader (Champion’s Path of the Crusader)

Crusaders combine the best of both worlds—high damage output and robust defensive options. Their *Crusader's Oath* grants bonuses to attack rolls and saves against certain conditions, making them formidable in prolonged encounters.

Essential Feats and Equipment

1. Must-Have Feats

1. **Improved Initiative** – Keep the initiative order in your favor.
2. **Weapon Focus** – Add a +1 bonus to attack rolls with a chosen weapon.
3. **Deflect Arrows** – Reduce damage from ranged attacks.
4. **Power Attack** – Trade accuracy for increased damage.

2. Recommended Gear

- **Weapon:** A versatile weapon like a longsword or greataxe, depending on your chosen build.
- **Armor:** Medium armor (e.g., chain mail) for a solid AC, or heavy armor for maximum protection.
- **Shield:** A shield that complements your armor class and offers additional bonuses.
- **Adventuring Gear:** Items that boost your hit points or grant extra attack actions (e.g., *Amulet of Health*, *Boots of Speed*).

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Gameplay Tips for Champion Players

1. Positioning is Key

Use your high movement speed and combat maneuvers to flank enemies, creating advantage on attack rolls and forcing foes to choose between you and your allies.

2. Leverage Your Divine Spells

Even with a limited spell list, choose spells that provide critical support—*Healing Word*, *Shield of Faith*, or *Divine Favor* can turn the tide in tight battles.

3. Coordinate with the Party

As a champion, you are a natural leader. Work with spellcasters to set up area control spells, and with rogues to secure high-value targets. Your

presence on the front lines allows your teammates to focus on crowd control or damage.

Conclusion

The champion in Pathfinder 2E remains one of the most iconic and effective martial classes. By understanding its core features, selecting a build that suits your playstyle, and employing strategic positioning, you can become a decisive force in any campaign. Whether you choose the tactical mastermind, the stalwart defender, or the holy crusader, the champion's blend of strength, resilience, and divine support makes for an unforgettable tabletop experience.

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