



Swindon *fencing* Club

www.swindonfencing.org.uk

SAFETY INDUCTION BRIEF - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Introduction

The Committee of Swindon Fencing Club wish to pursue a policy to promote safety in the Club and seeks co-operation of all club members for that purpose. The Club will provide conditions for fencing which comply with good standards of health and safety.

Particular regard will be paid to:

- Providing information, instruction and supervision to enable all new members to contribute positively to their safety while in the Club.
- Provide protective clothing for beginners to ensure that they are safe.
- Check such clothing at regular intervals and destroy items that do not provide adequate protection.
- Check weapons provided by the Club at regular intervals and isolate weak and broken weapons until such time as they can be repaired.
- Encourage members to purchase their own safety equipment.
- Encourage full members of the Club to join the British Fencing Association so that they have the benefit of insurance cover.
- To immediately bar any person behaving in any way that could cause injury.

Although the sport of fencing is low risk, accidents can happen in any environment and it is the Committee's objective to reduce the incidence of accidents and subsequent injury to an absolute minimum, not merely in keeping with but surpassing the best experience in other clubs.

This document describes the conditions that Swindon Fencing Club impose in order to provide a safe environment in which members and visitors to the Club can pursue the sport of fencing. It is provided to every new member and **must be read and understood BEFORE fencing in the Club.** It is the **club member's responsibility** to read and understand this briefing once they have received a membership pack.

2. Personal Responsibilities

Safety is the individual responsibility of every member of the Club. Members are responsible for the equipment they use and must ensure it is in good order.

Members should also be vigilant about their opponents' attitude to safety. A member must refuse to fence anyone who appears to have defective equipment.

The Armourer is a member of the Club Committee and takes responsibility for the maintenance of clothing, weapons and electric equipment owned by the Club. The Armourer also takes responsibility for checking Safety. The Armourer has the authority to stop a person fencing until such time as they have equipment that gives adequate protection. The Armourer supported by the Committee also has the authority to stop a person fencing if their behaviour is dangerous.

3. Equipment for Beginners

The Club maintains a stock of equipment for use by beginners:

Plastrons
Masks
Jackets
Fencing gloves
Breast protectors for ladies
Weapons (non-electric)

Within four months of starting to fence, a beginner should be thinking about buying their own equipment, to allow new beginners to use the limited club equipment.

4. Experienced Fencers

A fencer is expected to provide his/her own protective clothing and weapons. The stocks carried by the Club are intended for use by beginners only.

The following equipment is required:

Mask
Jacket
Breeches
Long socks
Glove
Plastron
Weapons

The Armourer has the authority to inspect personal equipment and to require you to repair or replace items considered defective or unsafe.

Check your equipment every time you use it. If in doubt, ASK the Armourer, Coach or a Committee Member.

Check the Mask for:

Rusting
Deformation
Weakness of the mesh
Decay or loosening of the fabric
Brittleness of the lining that could cause laceration to the face
Weakness in the bib or its attachment to the mesh

Check the Jacket for:

Holes
Split seams or decaying stitching
Split pockets for chest protectors
Split or cracked chest protectors (ladies only)

Check the Breeches for:

Holes
Split seams or decaying stitching

Check the Glove for:

Holes and splits
As soon as a glove cannot be satisfactorily repaired it should be replaced. Holes or splits which can trap a weapon are dangerous as they can cause a blade to snap.

Check the Plastron for:

Holes and splits or decaying stitching
A damaged plastron must be replaced. DO NOT repair it.

Check Weapons for:

Broken, cracked or split blades
Deformation of blades suggesting a weakness
Presence of an effective button on steam foils
Presence of an intact martingale on steam foils
Softening of a blade indicating imminent failure

Do **NOT** fence with a blade that you know to be defective.

Do **NOT** tamper with a weapon by:

Filing the blade
Heating the blade to modify its temper
Anyone found tampering with a weapon will be immediately banned

5. **Electric Recording Equipment (Boxes)**

The Club owns several battery powered boxes. If you find a cable or connector that is damaged or coming loose, notify the Armourer so that it can be repaired.

6. **Dangerous Behaviour**

The Armourer has the authority of the Committee to warn any fencer whose behaviour could cause injury to an opponent or himself/herself eg:

Hard or dangerous hitting
Jostling or violent physical contact
Unsafe protective clothing
Unsafe weapons

The Armourer has the authority of the Committee to immediately suspend any fencer, who in the opinion of the Armourer is likely to cause injury, eg:

Ignores warnings
Tampers with weapons

7. First Aid

A First Aid Kit is available in the Club. A list of qualified First Aiders is maintained on the notice board. If you are a qualified First Aider, please make this known to the Committee so that your name can be added to the list.

A telephone is available at reception for the calling of emergency services.

In the case of a minor accident, go to Reception and request assistance.

In the case of a major accident, see the Coach or a Committee Member.

Any accident should be recorded in the Accident Log (kept in the Club store locker) with the following details:

Date and Name of the person making the entry

Name of the person injured

Details of the injury

8. BFA Membership

The Club requests and strongly encourages every member to join the British Fencing Association (BFA). A member is then insured against claims made by a third party injured while the member was fencing.

Application forms for the BFA are available from the Club.

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