

**As an amateur sport, fencing has a long history of courtesy and good sportsmanship. We believe that history is important to the enjoyment of swordplay. Therefore members of the Club and visitors are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the following Club customs and courtesies:**

1. Fencers are expected to fence in an honest and courteous manner and all Club members must behave in a civil and educated manner.
2. Members should greet and introduce themselves to any guest, visitor or new member, and make every effort to make the visitor feel welcome.
3. Fencing lessons and bouts start with the salute and end with the salute, a handshake, and thanks for the opportunity to cross swords.
4. Members should willingly fence with anyone who requests a bout.
5. Fencers are expected to acknowledge when they are touched by their opponents and to point out the location of the hit.
6. If a fencer is accidentally disarmed, the fencer doing the disarm should not attempt to hit the unarmed opponent and should make a point of picking up and returning the dropped weapon.
7. Hard hitting is not permitted; apologize immediately for any accidental hard hit.
8. Individual touches and victories should not be celebrated at the expense of the opponent; yelling, doing victory dances, or other such manifestations of poor sportsmanship are inappropriate. Similarly, disappointment at the result should never result in throwing weapons or equipment or similar displays of bad temper.
9. If a borrowed weapon is broken (excluding Club weapons), the individual who borrowed the weapon is responsible for the replacement of the blade.
10. When fencing bouts, votes of the judges and decisions of the referee, director, or president of the jury will not be questioned. At the end of the bout, fencers will thank their fellow Club members for serving as officials.
11. Members using training equipment such as lunging pads or spadassins should relinquish the equipment to others who wish to use it on request after a reasonable interval of use.
12. The instructions of the Captain (Head Instructor) or other professional coaches should be followed without hesitation or resentment.
13. Each member is responsible at all times for stowing his or her equipment neatly and for not creating disorder on the fencing floor that inconveniences others or presents a bad impression of the Club to visitors.
14. Spills of liquids should be cleaned up immediately by those spilling, and trash should be deposited in trash cans to keep the facilities neat and safe.

**The following rules supplement the rules of fencing and the customs of the Club to provide a safe environment for all club members:**

1. It is obligatory that everyone wishing to fence with the Club must first sign a waiver of liability.
2. It is prohibited to engage in any exercise of arms without a protective jacket, glove, and mask appropriate to the weapon in use, in order to prevent accidents.
3. Fencers will carry their weapons point down at all times.
4. Fencers will maintain their uniforms in good repair and clean them regularly. Members will notify the armourer of any club equipment that is worn and must be replaced and weapons that need to be sanded (to prevent corrosion, nicks, and steel splinters) or repaired. Fencers will visually inspect their masks before use and immediately contact the armourer or captain to correct dents and displaced mesh.
5. Before fencing fencers will check the buttons of their weapons to ensure the button is in place and in good condition.
6. Fencers will wear an underarm plastron in any external competition where excessive force may be encountered. Plastrons are encouraged for internal Club competitions.
7. Female fencers must wear plastic chest protectors.
8. Individuals giving instruction are advised to wear an appropriate coach's jacket or additional padded chest protection and sleeve. When giving epee lessons that involve foot or leg hits, a leg and foot protector is advised.
9. Fencers will fence according to the rules using good fencing technique. Heavy hits are prohibited, as are attempts to physically intimidate opponents or deliberate collisions.
10. Students may free fence only after completing the appropriate ranking exam and the captain approves the permission.
11. Fencers will bring any injury, howsoever small, to the attention of a captain. This includes injuries sustained outside of fencing.
12. Any fencer who observes an unsafe situation should immediately loudly call "Halt." Every fencer in the Club hearing such a call will stop fencing until the unsafe condition can be corrected.
13. In the event of serious injury or other emergency all fencers in the Club will follow the direction of the Captain or senior member present in responding to the emergency.
14. Every fencer is responsible for the safety of their opponent and for the safety of others in the Club. Fencers will not cross pistes behind other fencers. Fencers will not run their opponent backward so that they run off the rear of the piste.
15. Hazing, horseplay, running, or other unsafe behaviors are prohibited.