

ALLEGHENY FENCING CLUB

RULES FOR CONDUCT AND SAFETY¹ 2007-2008 Season

Membership in the Allegheny Fencing Club is a privilege, not a right, and along with this privilege come certain expectations of behavior on the part of members.

Glove, jacket, and mask are required for all combat and paired practice drills. Wear proper foot gear for fencing and be sure shoes are clean when you enter the room to avoid dust and dirt buildup which makes the floor slippery. Shoes should have flat soles and socks are required.

Inspect your equipment each time you use it. Inspect masks and weapons carefully, and inspect tips occasionally during bouts. Every weapon is to have a rubber or electric tip affixed to the end, with the exception of sabers, which must have an FIE approved curl. If you are using club gear and find any problem, report it to one of the officers or instructors. Do not put the item in question back into club storage without reporting it.

Stop fencing immediately if you think something is wrong or if your opponent retreats and waves the unarmed hand or gives any sign of wanting to stop. Stop fencing immediately if a weapon breaks.

Report injuries immediately to an instructor.

If you think a fencer is behaving in a dangerous or uncontrolled fashion, report it to one of the instructors.

Participants must always be masked when weapons are raised, point forward. This means for *all* occasions. No blade should be pointed at anyone not wearing a mask. Do not gesture or point with any weapon. A weapon is only pointed at another person when that person is fully masked and ready to fence or drill. Weapons are to be carried point down or by the point at all times when not actually fencing or practicing. The weapons are to be treated with respect and awareness at all times. They are not toys.

Fencers are expected to exercise control of their actions and demeanor while fencing. Discussions of valid touches are to be resolved quickly and amiably between competitors, and if no agreement is possible, the touch must be thrown out. Non-electrically scored touches are to be acknowledged honestly by each competitor. In refereed bouts, the referee's decision is final.

Violent fencing actions are not permitted. Fencers must control attacks and parries so that whipping or hard stabbing actions of the blade do not injure their opponents. If you counterattack, you are responsible for preventing *corps-a-corps* (body contact), injury from weapons, and weapon breakage. Do not cause body contact or use the unarmed hand against the

¹ Variations of these rules can be found on many sites on the internet. For example:
<http://www.fencing.calpoly.edu/Documentation/safteyrules.pdf> or www.oxfordfencing.com/about/policy.htm.

opponent or the opponent's blade to protect your target area. Do not turn your back on your opponent.

Fleche and running attacks must be made so as to pass beside the opponent as they finish. You are not allowed to make these attacks until you are able to bend the arm the instant your point arrives on target so as to relieve the pressure on the point. Initiators of these attacks are responsible for preventing *corps-a-corps*, injury and weapon breakage. Do not do these attacks until you have had instruction and practices.

Pairs of fencers must work parallel to one another; individuals not fencing must take care not to work behind a fencer in combat who may retreat suddenly. Instructors have the power during recreational fencing to tell fencers where they can work.

Members must not interfere with an ongoing activity to the extent of disrupting either the activity or the instructor. Fencers on the floor have right of way. Persons not fencing are obligated to keep themselves and their gear clear of fencers on the floor.

Members attending tournaments represent Allegheny College and the Fencing Club to the wider fencing community. Members are bound by Club, United States Fencing Association, and the United States Olympic Committee codes of conduct when fencing in competitions. Any fencer who breaches the codes of conduct may be subject to discipline within the Club.

If at any time a member's safety or property is threatened by another member, any instructor or officer may remove the offending member immediately from the premises, if in the opinion of the instructor or officer, such action is necessary to preserve order, safety, or property.

The instructors and officers, when shown cause, may review the membership privileges of any member, and may modify, restrict, or revoke for any length of time the privileges of any member. This vote is not subject to appeal.