

# Equipment requirements

## 1. Protection

Fencers are themselves responsible that the equipment they use on the mat is functional and meets tournament requirements. This does not apply to the longsword since these are provided by the tournament.

The equipment checks that take place during the tournament are only to help the organizer to monitor the compliance to the regulations and aid fencers to comply with the same. Equipment checks may not be invoked to eliminate fencers' responsibility in the case of a violation of requirements.

All equipment must be whole, clean and adequate for the tournament. **Fencers are to dress professionally and in a manner appropriate to a serious tournament.** Loose sweat pants, tatty trousers or similar are inappropriate. Clothes must overlap: so skin must not be exposed at any time. Breeches are therefore highly recommended.

Seconds are to be dressed in a professional way, preferably in club clothing or jacket and dress shirt/blouse. However, it is permitted for fencers in gear to coach other fencers.

The following equipment is mandatory for all fencers:

- Mask
- Throat guard
- Protective jacket
- Gloves
- Elbow and knee guards
- Shin guards
- Shoes
- Athletic cup (men only)
- Chest protector (Rapier & dagger and women's longsword only)

Use of additional protective gear is allowed.

Metal protection, aside from the mask mesh, is not permitted.

No bare skin may be exposed, except for the palms of the hands, when the fencer stands in any guard.

**Throat guards, athletic cup and chest protectors are to be worn under the outermost layer of clothing.**

### **1.1. Mask**

The mask must be in good condition, with no tears or large dents. The mask must fit the fencer; a mask that comes off too easily will be disallowed.

The mask must include a protection for the back of the head.

### **1.2 Throat guard**

The throat guard must be reasonably rigid and constructed so that it will stop a thrust from a broken blade.

### **1.3 Protective jacket**

The protective jacket must be reasonably padded and constructed so that it will stop a thrust from a broken blade. Jackets with armpit holes or jackets that are open in the front are not allowed.

For rapier a lighter jacket is enough.

### **1.4 Gloves**

Gloves must protect all fingers, the back of the hand and the wrist.

For longsword we require sturdy gloves with a high level of protection. We recommend Sparring gloves, Black Lance, Neyman, Koenig gloves or SPES heavy gloves. Lacrosse and Red Dragon gloves are not allowed.

For rapier, lighter protection gloves are enough.

### **1.5 Elbow and knee guards**

Elbow and knee guards must also protect the side of the joint and should not displace too easily.

### **1.6 Shin guards**

Shin guards must protect the shinbone from the knee guard down, more or less, all the way to the foot.

### **1.7 Shoes**

Shoes must enclose all toes. Hardened (such as steel) soles or caps are not allowed.

### **1.8 Athletic cup**

The athletic cup must be reasonably rigid and may be metal.

### **1.9 Chest protector**

The chest protector must be rigid enough to protect in case of a blade break.

## **Weapons**

Weapons for longsword are supplied by the tournament. For rapier the fencers are to bring their own.

Rapiers must be a maximum of 45" / 114.5 cm blade length from cross-piece to tip, and must be diamond section or similar. Epée blades or similar are prohibited. Darkwood square 'rapier foils' are prohibited. All blades must be flexible, blunt, rounded and tipped or nail-tipped. 'Rapiers' or sideswords used for Meyer or Bolognese styles are inappropriate.

Daggers must be a maximum of 18" / 46 cm in blade length from cross-piece to tip. Blades must be flexible, blunt, rounded and tipped or nail-tipped. Hanwei dagger blades are prohibited.

All equipment must be free from rust and be serviceable.

Regardless of whatever safety certification the weapons may have received, tournament staff reserves the right to refuse any equipment which is deemed unsafe or unsuitable for tournament use.