

Packing for the tournament

The night before the tournament, completely unpack your fencing bag. Then repack it with

- Mask
- Fencing jacket
- Plastron (underarm protector)
- Chest protector (women)
- Fencing glove
- Epée (and spare if you have one)
- Body cord (and spare if you have one)
- Notebook and pen/pencil

Other items to bring

- Water or sports drink in a container that will not leak
- Snack
- Either a nutritious lunch or money to buy whatever is on sale at the concessions stand
- If you like, music with a “relax” playlist and a “get fired up” playlist.

Arrive at the tournament already dressed in:

- T-shirt (team t-shirt or Pope t-shirt if you have one)
- Knickers (fencing pants)
- Athletic supporter (men)
- Team socks
- Athletic shoes

Arriving at the tournament

Sign in closing - typically 8:30 for men, and 10:00 for women, but this can change so confirm each time. **Make sure you arrive at least 30 minutes before sign in closes.** When you arrive:

- Find the sign in table and sign in. If you don't do this before sign in closes, you can't fence.
- Find the equipment check table and have your mask and glove checked and stamped.
- Look around and see where all strip numbers are. There may be strips not in the main room.
- Find the armorer.
- If you don't have a spare weapon and body cord, know where the team's spares are so that you can quickly get a replacement if you need one.
- Find designated school area to put your fencing bag.
- Warm up.
- When sign in closes, put on your chest protector, plastron and jacket.

Initial seeding

Shortly after sign in closes, the initial seeding will be posted (usually on a wall near scoring table).

- Everyone who is fencing should be on the list. If you don't see your name, go to the scoring table and tell the organizers and ask a teammate to tell Coach.
- Fencers are seeded based on their league ranking, unranked fencers are seeded at random after the ranked fencers.

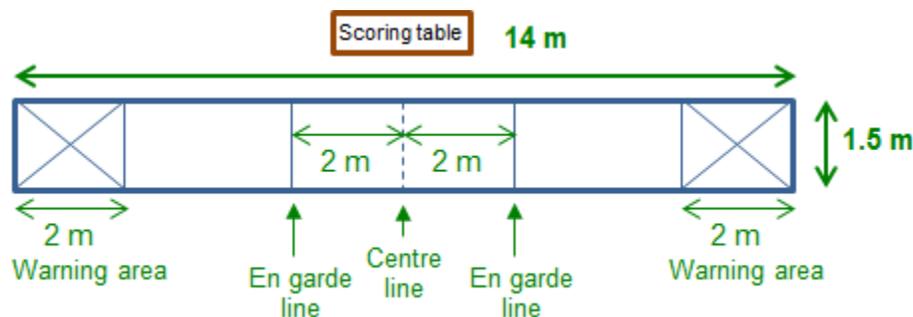
Pools

Fencing time software will split the fencers into pools of about 6 or 7 fencers and assignments posted on wall.

- Check the pool assignment sheet to see which pool number you are in and which strip number.
 - Sometimes the strip number will be blank. That means the strip has not yet been assigned – wait for an announcement to find out which strip your pool number should go to.
- Go to your strip. Make sure you take everything you need (mask, glove, epee(s), body cord(s), water and notebook).
- At the strip, the referee will check each fencer's uniform. That includes checking that your mask and glove have the correct stamp. You will also need to show that you are wearing a plastron and (in the case of women) a chest protector, so don't zip your jacket all the way up until you have been checked.

You will fence one 3-minute, 5-touch bout against each fencer in your pool. There will usually be one to three other bouts between each of your bouts. Stay close to the strip and listen for your name to be called. Never leave the area around the strip without asking the referee first.

The strip



Starting and ending a bout

When your name is called:

- Do not put on your mask yet.
- Hook up to the reel. The fencer whose name is called first is normally on the referee's right, but if a left-hander is fencing a right-hander, the left-hander will be on the referee's left regardless of whose name was called first. If you are not sure, ask the scorekeeper before you hook up.
- Go to your en garde line and hold out your epee, tip upwards, for the referee to check.
- After checking both epees, the referee will ask the fencers to touch bell guards. Extend your blade until the tip is touching your opponent's bell guard and push firmly.
- Go your en guard line, salute your opponent and the referee, then put on your mask and be ready to fence.

At the end of the bout

- Return to your en guard line, take off your mask and salute your opponent.
- Advance and shake your opponent's hand with your unarmed hand.
- Unhook from the reel. Do not let the cord whip back; hand it to the next fencer or gently lay it down next to the box.

Pool results

When the last bout of your pool has been fenced, you must check your scores on the score sheet and sign the sheet if you agree with them. **Do not sign if your scores are incorrect.**

When all pools have finished, the pool results will be posted and the top 80% of the fencers advance to the next round. Find your name on the results and see if it says you "Advance" or are "Eliminated". If you advance, the number to the left of your name is your seed for the next round. Most fencers may compete in several tournaments before they advance to DEs.

Direct Elimination

The next round is Direct Elimination (usually called DEs).

DE bouts are three 3-minute periods with a 1-minute break between periods. The first to 15 touches is the winner. During the 1-minute break, you can (and should) drink something to stay hydrated. When the minute is up, the scorekeeper will call "Time" and you should touch bell guards again, return to your en garde line, salute and then put on your mask.

After each bout, you must sign the score sheet (*but only if it is correct*). The scorekeeper will give the score sheet to the winner who must take it and hand it to the scorer/statistician (computer table).

The DE bracket should be posted near the other results. Sometimes the strips for each bout are listed on the bracket, other times the bouts will be announced on the PA system.

When you are eliminated, you are expected to stay and cheer on any still fencing teammates.