

Risk Assessment – Fencing (Covering Foil and Go-Fencing)

Baseline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Site Specific		Vulnerable Person		Temporary		Version	2020.1.0	Date of issue:	20/01/2020
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Operating notes:

- Supervision ratio is 1 activity leader to 15 participants with an additional adult
- Activity Leader holds Fencing Activity Leader Award or Go Fence Leaders Award (for Go Fence delivery only), as well as completing in-house familiarisation for the activity.
- Chief instructor holds the same level qualification or higher. Technical advice from the British Fencing Association, via Group Activities Manager.
- Fencing Salle should be marked by warning signs at entrance points when fencing session is in progress, or take place in a marked area specifically for the activity. A clearly defined safety area away from the pistes must be used when foil fencing is taking place.

Risk – Benefit Statement: There is a low risk of injury resulting from being struck by a foil, however high levels of participation in a potentially new activity where participants focus on learning new techniques makes the risk tolerable.

Hazard Description and activities giving rise to risk	Who may be harmed	Control Measures	Risk Rating
Objects in fencing area giving rise to slips trips and falls	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the fencing area before you begin and move equipment, furniture or other obstacles that may be in your way. 	Low
Equipment fault – wear and tear	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the condition of the equipment before you begin using it. • Ensure every foil is fitted with a rubber button covering its point. 	Low
Being struck by a foil – arising from poor group management/ group behaviour	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all spectators remain in the safety area when fencing is taking place. • A maximum of 8 metal foils should be in use at any one time to allow for quality of supervision and coaching to be upheld. • Anyone (including the Activity Leader) in the fencing area whilst metal foils are in use must wear a mask, full length trousers and fencing jacket. Participants dueling must wear a glove on their sword hand. • Anyone (including the Activity Leader) in the fencing area when plastic foils are in use must wear a mask and a long sleeved top. • Insist on correct technique, especially the placing of the participants' free arm behind their backs. 	Very Low
Muscle strain	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include warm-up activities before beginning full fencing moves. Choose games that suit the space available and the immediate surroundings 	Low
Overheating	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor participants through the session and allow for adequate breaks if it gets hot. 	Low