



NSWFA PRACTICAL SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR FENCING CLUBS

NSW workplace safety law imposes a duty on NSWFA and Affiliated/Registered Clubs to take all reasonable precautions to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of workers, including volunteers.

NSW Affiliated and Registered Fencing Clubs should:

1. Appoint a Safety Officer who may be a member of the Club executive committee, a member of the Club or a volunteer.
2. The Safety Officer should be familiar with the requirements of the NSW Work, Health and Safety Act and develop a set of Safety Rules in the context of the Club's activities which are approved by the Club executive committee.
3. The Club Safety Rules should be communicated to club members and posted on a notice board where they can clearly be seen by members.
4. The Club Safety Rules should include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. Before fencing activities commence, the premises should be checked for hazards, e.g. obstacles that may cause trip and fall incidents, wet and slippery floors.
 - b. All fencing activities should be supervised by a responsible adult, usually a club coach or member of the executive committee.
 - c. Children under the age of 16 must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.
 - d. Weapons must only be used for fencing on the piste or in practice drills. Off the piste, fencers should carry weapons with tip to floor and with care they do not hit anyone.
 - e. Fencers must be properly attired with a mask secured by a tang and an elastic strap, under plastron, jacket, fencing breeches or long track suit pants, fencing shoes or trainers and a glove. Women and girls should wear chest protectors. It is recommended that men and boys should wear groin protectors.

f. Fencing equipment must be in good condition with no severely bent or broken blades and without rough or sharp edges on weapons. The protective mesh on masks should be in good condition without rust or dents. The seal around the mesh should not have any holes or gaps.

g. Broken blades must be disposed of carefully – keep a container for this purpose.

h. Electrical equipment must be in good condition with no damaged cords or connections.

i. Electrical cords should be kept tidy by cable ties, taped to the floor or covered by protective covers.

j. Fencing bags should be stored away from pistes and practice areas so they are not a trip hazard.

5. The Club should encourage members to be qualified in first aid and the names of qualified members should be displayed on a notice board.

6. Contact numbers and addresses for ambulance, hospital casualty departments and the nearest medical centres should be kept on the club notice board.

7. Any failure of FIE labelled equipment should be reported.

8. Any accidents or safety incidents should be noted in a register (template below) and advised as soon as possible to secretary@nswfencing.org.au

9. For assistance with the development and implementation of club safety policies, please contact: secretary@nswfencing.org.au

NOTE: Clubs must comply with current NSW Public Health Orders relating to COVID-19.

Updated November 2021

Register of Safety Incidents

Name of Club:

Club contact:

Time Date	Location	Describe Incident (what happened)	Person(s) involved	If injury caused, action taken	Other relevant info.	NSWFA advised Y/N

If injury caused, please send report to secretary@nswfencing.org.au