

# Risk Assessment for Fencing (Foil)



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## Reviews

Completed By	Revision Date	Approved By	Approval Date
R Shanks	23/07/2018	D Davidson	23/07/2018

Risk level	Action required/approval
<b>Medium</b> Some chance of an incident and injury	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Document (ALP) controls in planning. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consider obtaining parental/carer permission. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALP = Activity Lesson Plan for Fencing

### Minimum Supervision

At least 1 qualified Activity Instructor is to be present to run Fencing

### Recommendations

Recommended age/grade for Fencing is grade 4 or 10 years old and higher.

It is recommended that at least 1 group teacher/supervisor is present to assist with student behaviours

### Qualifications

All Apex staff and contractors hold at a minimum ,one of the following qualifications /skills sets or other recognised skill sets/ qualifications from another jurisdiction, along with mandatory First Aid/ CPR and QLD Blue Card, working with children check.

- Certificate 3 Outdoor Recreation
- Certificate 4 Outdoor Recreation
- Diploma Outdoor Recreation
- Australian Fencing Federation - Level O Coach

Through the use of well maintained equipment, training and accredited staff and sound operating procedures and policies Apex Camps control the “real risks” associated with this activity

In assessing the level of risk, considerations such as the likelihood of an incident happening in combination with the seriousness of a consequence are used to gauge the overall risk level for an activity. The matrix below has been used as a guide to assist with developing the risk assessment:

Likelihood	Consequence				
	1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Critical
5 Almost Certain	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme
4 Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Extreme
3 Possible	Low	Medium	High	High	High
2 Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
1 Rare	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium

Risk Level	
Low	Little chance of incident or serious injury.
Medium	Some chance of an incident and injury requiring first aid.
High	Likely chance of a serious incident and injury requiring medical treatment.
Extreme	High chance of a serious incident resulting in highly debilitating injury.

## Minimum Equipment/Facilities

First aid kit suitable for activity

Sun Safety equipment (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, shirt etc) if outside .

Equipment that is appropriately sized to match the ability and levels of students

Clear separation between access to protective cloth Masks and weapons

Clearly marked exclusion zones

Enclosed footwear

Firmly-fitting clothes, mask and plastron

Hazards/Risks	Control Measures
<p><b>Biological material</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bodily fluids (e.g. blood, sweat, saliva)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comply with HLS-PR-004: Infection Control and Management of Prescribed Contagious Conditions and Infection Control Guidelines. Students with open cuts and abrasions are to be removed from the activity and treated immediately. If bleeding cannot be controlled completely, the participant should not be allowed to return the activity. All clothing, equipment and surfaces contaminated by blood should be treated as potentially infectious.</li> <li>• Have sufficient and suitable containment material (bandages, etc) available</li> <li>• Ensure that personal items are not shared.</li> <li>• Plastrons and fencing masks are shared items any participant with infectious conditions are not able to use the equipment unless approved by management and sterilized after use.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Animal bites/ diseases</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insects</li> <li>• Dangerous/ poisonous organisms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supply and provision of insect repellent</li> <li>• Ensure areas where fencing is conducted does not have any ant nests before commencement.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environmental conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weather</li> <li>• Surfaces</li> <li>• Surrounds</li> <li>• Temperatures</li> <li>• Isolation</li> <li>• Plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure students bring appropriate clothing</li> <li>• Assess weather conditions before and during activity (e.g. temperature, storms)</li> <li>• Check and assess surrounds for loose items, debris and hazards and suitability of participants.</li> <li>• Consider hazards associated with types of fencing material, gates and other infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Physical exertion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strains and sprains</li> <li>• Cramps</li> <li>• Exhaustion and fatigue</li> <li>• Slip and fall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the suitability and competency of students participating in the activity</li> <li>• Constantly monitor students for fatigue and exhaustion</li> <li>• Participants to be made aware that the activities involve fast movements be aware of falls slips and trips.</li> <li>• Warm up activities for all participants “musketeer tricks”</li> <li>• Site assessed for potential hazards such as slippery floors ,wet spots, dusty surfaces. Clean prepare area as necessary.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Obstructions surrounding hazards</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure there is an area clear from obstructions like tables, chairs, signs and swinging doors</li> </ul>

<p><b>Equipment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment failure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct regular equipment checks prior to start of sessions.</li> <li>• Check for worn or faulty equipment</li> <li>• Supply all equipment in a clean and serviceable condition</li> <li>• Check equipment before use</li> <li>• Provide specific (written and verbal) training in and awareness of safety requirements.</li> <li>• Foil button tips inspected before use . Button to be present on foil tip before any match play. Instruct participants to constantly monitor foil button tip to make sure it is present and is not broken.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Injury from foil</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strike to face, arm or eye</li> </ul> <p><b>Injury from pommel</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All participants to have helmet remain on when any fencing is being conducted</li> <li>• Show participants safety area where they can put foil down and then proceed to safety area before removing mask. Mask can only be removed in safety area</li> <li>• whenever touching a foil plastron “protective jacket” face mask must be worn</li> <li>• Foils “swords” may only be picked up under the direction of the instructor</li> <li>• Ensure that the participants know where and how to move whilst changing activities or partners, don’t walk through centre of the fencing area, always around the back.</li> <li>• Supervise approach to fencing areas at all times</li> <li>• Use a very clear command sequence to inform the participants when to start and stop fencing as “on guard “ Ready “fence “. “halt”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Contact to arm or armpit</b></p> <p><b>Contact injury from foils when doing tricks</b></p>	<p>Instruct students regarding safety rules and procedures including the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not run while carrying a weapon</li> <li>• Do not take pick up a weapon unless invited to do so</li> <li>• Do not run at your opponent</li> <li>• Do not throw a weapon or any other fencing equipment</li> <li>• Make sure you obey all commands from the instructor, especially “halt” meaning stop all activities immediately</li> <li>• When waiting for instructions, always point the weapon tip down</li> <li>• Treat your opponent fair</li> <li>• Any participant engaging in violent actions or hits delivered with undue violence or hits delivered intentionally at any parts of the body other than the target area is to be excluded from participating</li> <li>• Only ever aim for the allocated target, there are no swings or slashes, only the chest abdomen is the target which is the area of the plastron.</li> <li>• Instruct “parry” to suitable aged participants, recommended years 6 and above. The parry is a defensive strike where two swords hit then attack. Instruct participants with demonstration on how to perform a safe parry. Eg. no sideways striking as to hit legs or arms.</li> <li>• Instructor train participants in awareness of “touch“ with foil tip not “strike”</li> <li>• A distance of two metres apart from each participant when doing “musketeer “ Tricks</li> </ul>

<p><b>Emergency Procedures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.Effect Rescue as required.</li><li>2.Conduct First Aid as required.</li><li>3.Contact Emergency Services via mobile phone, radio.</li><li>4.Dependent on injury: Stabilise patient and await ambulance or remove patient to appropriate site to recover.</li><li>5.In the event of serious injury, suspend activity until incident can be investigated</li></ol>	<p><b>Teacher/group leader responsibilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inform &amp; liaise with Activity Staff regarding any potential issues with group (behavioural, disabilities, injuries)</li><li>• Listen to activity briefings and assist Staff in procedural aspects of session as required, such as helping students to belay under supervision of Activity Staff</li><li>• Monitor &amp; take charge of behavioural issues if needed and attend to any pre-existing medical conditions</li></ul>	<p><b>Participant Briefing Instructor should cover:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Challenge by Choice Philosophy</li><li>•Session Objectives</li><li>•OH&amp;S Brief</li><li>•Safety Brief</li><li>•Equipment Familiarisation</li><li>•Skills Demo &amp; Practice</li></ul>	<p><b>Participant Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•sunscreen, insect repellent</li><li>•medication (if relevant)</li><li>•water bottle</li><li>•fully enclosed shoes, hat</li><li>•minimum of sleeved shirt that covers midriff when arms are raised</li><li>•shorts/leggings that preferably cover knees (to prevent grazes)</li><li>•hair tied back, jewellery removed</li></ul>
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