



Brighton and Hove Fencing Club Rules and Etiquette

Our club aims to provide fencers with a happy and safe environment in which to fence. Fencers have a great deal of freedom to choose what they want to do, but obviously there are some safety and conduct rules.

General Rules

We don't have a lot of rules but the ones we do have are important for everyone's safety. Some of the most important rules are:

- ◇ Full safety equipment must be used unless the coach says it is not necessary for an activity
- ◇ No bare skin when training or fencing.
- ◇ Do not turn your back on anyone who is fencing or even just has a weapon in their hand.
- ◇ Apply common sense when fencing is taking place. Wait for a safe moment to pass by and never wander through the middle of a sword fight.
- ◇ Coaches and club officials have the right to stop any activity on safety grounds
- ◇ Respect our kit and return it, neat and tidy, to the appropriate place.
- ◇ Be respectful of others around you and no bad language
- ◇ Fencers who have the last bout of the evening are responsible for neatly packing up and returning the piste equipment to the cages.

Etiquette

Our club is pretty informal, but we do have a basic etiquette. Common courtesy also applies – keeping coaches or other fencers waiting while you fuff about is ill-mannered at best. There are no special titles or modes of address for coaches, but a certain level of mutual respect is necessary. Because we prefer to keep the club informal, instructions are usually phrased as polite requests. They still need to be followed, and of course members are expected not to behave in a way that makes it difficult for coaches to coach or fencers to fence.

Courtesy is part of fencing

Rather than trying to score points by any means and arguing about whether a given hit should count or not, we expect fencers to acknowledge hits against them fairly and to refuse to accept a hit that they think is too marginal to be valid. It is still possible to be highly competitive in this environment; we simply expect courtesy and fair play.

Courtesy also includes taking care not to hit hard and following the agreed rules of a bout. Issues of this sort can become a safety matter for the club to deal with, but most problems simply do not happen if good manners are observed. Common sense and courtesy ensure that most safety rules are never needed.

Enjoy your fencing!