


RISK ASSESSMENT

LOCATION/ACTIVITY/ISSUE BEING ASSESSED:	Fencing
SERVICE/TEAM:	Countryside Service
NAME OF ASSESSOR(s):	Mike Bennett
DATE OF ASSESSMENT:	1 st December 2025
DATE FOR REVIEW:	March 2026
APPROVED BY:	Signature:  Date: 01/03/2026 Name: Gemma Wilford

SUMMARY (* delete as appropriate)	
Risk level without additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW*
Additional control measures required:	YES / NO*
Risk level with additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW*

What are the significant hazards?	What could go wrong? Who could be harmed and how?	What is being done to control the risks?	Amendment notes
Hit by Foil	<p>Injury to hands, arms, legs, face, torso caused by the foil.</p> <p>Could cause bruising or scratches</p> <p>Horseplay and misuse of the foils</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Safe zone established in safety briefing and clearly marked with cones or rope.</p> <p>Strict instructions on safe use of foils by instructor and any participants not adhering will be removed from the session</p> <p>Instructor to follow British Fencing techniques and instruction.</p> <p>Supervision of participants in the salle (activity area) is constant, attentive, and active.</p>	

		<p>Full face helmets and tabards to be put on before stepping into the salle and only taken off in safe zone.</p> <p>Participants advised to wear long sleeved clothing.</p> <p>Foils left in piste when participants in safe zone.</p> <p>Fencing operation and supervision by suitably qualified instructors under strict ratios of maximum 1:12.</p> <p>Foils are plastic with a plastic ball on the end to reduce injury due to impact.</p> <p>Foam foils available as an alternative.</p> <p>Equipment locked away before, between and after sessions</p>	
Slips and trips in the Salle	<p>Tripping over in the Activity Hall</p> <p>Tripping over if activity occurring outside</p> <p>Strains, sprains, fractures, cuts and grazes to knees, limbs</p> <p>Head injury</p> <p>Participants</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>General Public</p>	<p>Visual check of piste areas before each session</p> <p>Instructor to ensure salle is clear of hazards before and during activity session</p> <p>Participants to leave belongings neatly in the safe zone to avoid trip hazards</p> <p>All instructors are first aid trained and first aid kit taken into the salle</p>	
Unauthorised or unsupervised use of equipment	<p>If equipment is left unattended it could be misused outside of the operating procedures. This could harm anyone.</p>	<p>All equipment locked away when the salle is unsupervised. Access to the storage restricted to authorised instructors.</p>	

	<p>Horseplay with helmets</p> <p>Participants Staff General Public</p>	<p>Instructors to enforce good practise with PPE and explain helmets are not to be bumped together.</p> <p>Equipment locked away between sessions.</p>	
<p>Refusal by participant to wear safety equipment.</p>	<p>Participants with sensory issues, additional needs, cultural attire or simply refusing to wear full face helmet would be at risk of face and eye injury</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Instructors to delicately explain that anyone who takes part in the activity involving foils must wear a helmet</p> <p>Anyone who is unwilling to wear a helmet must not take part in the activity involving foils</p> <p>All efforts should be made to help participants with cultural headwear to adjust the helmets to help them fit</p> <p>Participants can still take part in games and drills that do not require the whole group kitted up</p> <p>Participants not taking part must stay in the Safe Zone</p>	
<p>Injury during a bout or physical exercise</p>	<p>Fencing is a physical and fast paced activity during bouts and as such injuries may occur</p> <p>Physical exercise causing muscle strains</p> <p>Hard hitting – bruising caused by foils hitting too hard</p> <p>Strained or sprained ankles</p> <p>Incorrect use of or ill-fitting safety equipment</p>	<p>Warmups at the start of each activity session. Warm downs encouraged to promote recovery</p> <p>Correct technique taught by instructors and supervised/corrected during session</p> <p>Regular breaks between extended physical activity</p> <p>Regular drinks breaks are encouraged</p>	

	<p>Participants too close together</p> <p>Participants Staff General Public (if activity outside)</p>	<p>Equipment to be checked and adjusted by instructors</p> <p>Participants briefed on use of and helped into PPE. Instructor to monitor PPE use during session.</p> <p>Participants to spread out in lines facing each other to avoid sideways collision. Fencing is linear so instructors to use the command 'halt' or similar if participants get too close to each other.</p> <p>Correct distance between opponents to be demonstrated and monitored by instructor throughout activity session</p> <p>Coach to position themselves in a position to monitor group but at a safe distance to avoid injury to themselves</p> <p>If other staff members or members of the public enter the salle during a session, instructor to 'halt' the activity until safe to carry on</p>	
Broken Foil	<p>Sword breaking during bout or practicing manoeuvres injuring participant or opponent.</p> <p>Participants Staff General Public (if activity outside)</p>	<p>Visual check of equipment before each session and monitored during activity</p> <p>Quarterly checks of equipment</p> <p>Broken equipment removed from use immediately</p>	
Generic Equipment failure	<p>Broken Visor/Helmet Ripped Tabard</p>	<p>Equipment is checked thoroughly for damage or signs of stress according to specified schedule and damaged equipment fixed or retired.</p>	

		Daily checks before and during sessions are also carried out of helmets, foils, and tabards	
PPE Hygiene	<p>Shared helmets and tabards</p> <p>Bacteria/viruses transferred from visors which cover the participants face</p> <p>Sharing foils</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>PPE issued for sole use of participant for the duration of the session</p> <p>All visors to be cleaned between participants/groups or left for 72 hours between next usage</p> <p>Tabards cleaned as required to remove sweat and odours</p> <p>Participants advised to wash their hands before and after activity session</p>	
Injury caused by jewellery, glasses, or sunglasses.	<p>Jewellery such as earrings or nose piercings can get caught during activity session or on the helmet/visor mesh</p> <p>Body piercings such as nipple or belly button being hit by foil</p> <p>Glasses may dig into participants faces/fog up under the helmet</p> <p>Rings caught by the foil</p>	<p>All jewellery to be removed or taped up.</p> <p>Caution when participants require glasses to see or need sunglasses. Extra care needed and tuition from instructor to reduce the risk.</p> <p>PPE to be adjusted correctly to avoid glasses digging in. If participant cannot see due to glasses fogging up, they must move back to the safe zone to demist before returning to the salle.</p> <p>Participants with torso piercings to inform instructor and opponents to try and avoid said areas during a bout (if they cannot be removed)</p>	

<p>Dogs off leads entering outside activity area.</p>	<p>If running fencing outside in the DAC garden or other outside spaces on Lea Heath, potential for dogs off leads entering activity area</p> <p>Members of the public following their pets at risk of injury by participants</p> <p>Dogs being frightened by participants in face visors and wielding swords may attack or bark at students</p> <p>Dog faeces</p> <p>Staff Participants Members of the Public</p>	<p>Instructors to brief students before activity begins of potential of dogs running into the activity area. Participants advised to cease all activity and put equipment on the floor. Return to safe zone and remove masks</p> <p>Instructors and participants to remain vigilant throughout activity session</p> <p>Curious members of the public asked politely to move from the area</p> <p>If participants come into contact with dog faeces, they will be told to wash the area thoroughly immediately</p>	
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REVIEWS AND REVISIONS					
Review date	Name of Assessor	Is assessment still valid?	If not, list adjustments with details of who will action and by when	Approved by Manager	Date of next review
Feb 2023	Isabel R.S.	Yes	<p>Updated Summary Table - Risk with additional controls line added</p> <p>Updated Hit by Foil - "Correct holding" changed to "Instructor to follow British Fencing techniques and instruction."</p>	Richard Ashwell	March 2024
Dec 2024	Mike Bennett	Yes	No Changes	Richard Ashwell	March 2025
Dec 24	Isabel R.S. & Chloe Zmuda	Yes	DAC Gargen Fenced & Gated – removed due to new building layout.	Mike Bennett	Dec 2025