



# FENCING – TEAM RELAY

## Quick introduction

A simplified form of fencing where fencers in two teams of three fence each member of the opposition.

## Getting started

- Teams of three fencers.
- Fencers numbered 1, 2 and 3 in team A and 4, 5 and 6 in team B.
- Each fencer fences each member of the opposite team.



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## Hints and tips

- Fencers can't score at the same time. The fencer who starts the attack has priority. If unsure call "halt" and re-start from the position the fencers are in.
- If an opponent attacks, the attack must be stopped by blocking (parry) or making them miss before attacking them (riposte).
- Foils should bend when making a hit on the opponent (the bend should be an upward arc).

## Leadership and volunteering opportunities

- Equipment managers could monitor equipment and check for cracks and chips in the guard and blade or missing tips from the foils.
- Young officials can referee bouts and fill in scoresheets.
- Team managers can manage teams and give fencers feedback on their performance.

## Officiating

- Start the bout with the instructions "En Garde (On Guard)! Are you ready?" then following a "yes" from all fencers "Fence!".
- To stop play call "Halt!" 1. when a hit is scored (on or off target) 2. when the rules are infringed or there is a safety issue 3. when the time is up.

- Award hits and determine the winner of each bout and of the match. After a successful hit is made, fencers return to their on guard lines in the centre. Bouts may be self-refereed by the fencers.
- Ensure the etiquette of the sport is followed. Fencers salute each other and the officials at the start and end of the bout and fencers shake hands with their non-sword hand at the end of the bout.

## Think inclusively (STEP)

### Space

- Some young people may require more space; for example, if they are using the support of a mobility aid (e.g. crutch).

### Task

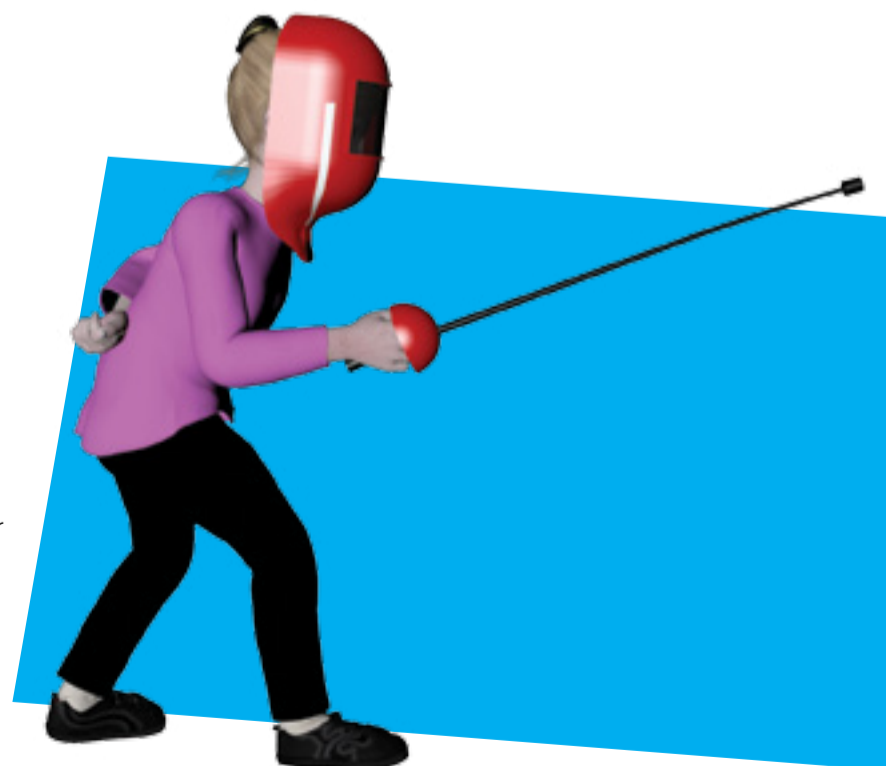
- Vary the length of each bout and/or the number of hits eg first to one hit only, or first to four hits in two minutes.

### Equipment

- If there are no or not enough foils/masks fencers can play 'tag fencing' – instead of aiming for the torso with a foil, fencers must tap the inside of the opponent's knee with their hand. Tag rugby belts can be used as targets to remove from your opponent.
- Foam foils may be used rather than plastic foils.

### People

- Wheelchair users can fence other wheelchair users or non-disabled fencers sitting in a chair; chairs should remain stationary and be placed sideways at a foil distance apart.



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## Equipment required

- GO/FENCE plastic or foam foils.
- GO/FENCE masks.
- Chest protectors (optional).
- Tag rugby belts as an alternative to foils.

## Quick rules

- The target area is the torso (from waist up to neck, not including arms).
- Order of bouts as follows: 1v4, 2v5, 3v6, 1v5, 2v6, 3v4, 1v6, 2v4, 3v5.
- Each bout is the first fencer to two hits in maximum of one minute.
- Fencers should thrust and hit with the tip of the blade, not slap with the side.
- Penalties can be awarded for hard hitting or dangerous play.
- The winning team is the team that wins the most bouts.

## Health and safety

- Check equipment to ensure rubber tips are in place on foils and there are no cracks/chips in the blade or guard. Masks should have all rivets in place with the visor fixed in place and the Velcro fastening functional.
- Ensure there is plenty of space between each pair of fencers (1.5m width minimum).
- All bouts should take place in the same direction (e.g. up and down the hall, ideally marked at 12m in length).
- Fencers should keep their non-sword arm behind their back to avoid it being hit. It is recommend that fencers wear long sleeves and trousers.
- Fencers should never turn their back on an opponent.



## FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

### Think tactics

Before you start focus really carefully on the target area of your opponent and work out how you might hit it.

### Spirit of the Games: Excellence through Competition



Make sure you own up when you feel a hit on your target area.