

Risk Assessment Activity – Fencing

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: James Kniffen		Assessed/ Reviewed:	Next Review Date
			10/01/2023 07/01/2025 12/12/2025	12/12/2026
Reviewed by:	Assist Chief: Max Bishop & Steph McMenemy	Dec 2025		
Reviewed by:	Senior Instructors: Andrew Evrard, Joseph Page, Kieren Plant & Ronan Halpenny Lead Instructors: Rebecca Arms			
Overview: Pioneer is an approved British Fencing Partner and staff will be trained by Steph McMenemy Senior Instructor and Core Coach Trainer to Core Coach standard. All procedures are in accordance with B.F. guidelines and overseen by Steph. All appropriate personal protective equipment is worn during sessions. Equipment is maintained on a regular basis with Bimonthly checks. Preferred Staff to Client ratio 1:12 with a maximum of 1:16 (14 Fencing at any one time). All instructors are first aid trained and emergency procedures are in place in case of a major accident.				
Hazards	Groups of People at Risk from the Hazards Identified	Probability	Control Measures – Reduces the severity and lowers the probability to acceptable levels	
		Severity		
		Risk Category		
Sharp objects – falling or walking into	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very unlikely	Bimonthly safety checks are carried out. All foils must have a rubber button on end. Masks, jackets, and gloves must be worn while handling foils. The instructor briefs the group on safety rules, provides group management and ensures equipment stays fit for use on session and any kit that gets damaged or broken is taken out of use until repaired or replaced.	
		Major		
		Medium		
Slips, trips and falls	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	The instructor visually checks the area upon arrival. Participants are briefed on hazards and group management provided by the instructor.	
		Minor		
		Medium		
Unauthorized access to equipment e.g. foils	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very unlikely	Equipment like foils is stored away when not in use or when an instructor is not going to be present.	
		Major		
		Medium		
Incorrect use of equipment	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	The instructor supervises all use of equipment. Participants briefed in detail on the use of fencing equipment and managed by instructor. If participants cannot comply with instructors, the session will stop and only restart if the instructor deems it safe to proceed with participants following directions or removed from the session.	
		Major		
		Medium		

Foil hitting face	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Instructors always brief the group to keep masks down in the active fencing zones and to always face partner and never turn away and will shout Stop/Halt in the event of a guest becoming unmasked whilst fencing is taking place.
		Major	
		Medium	