

SAFETY REGULATIONS

It has been apparent recently that British Fencing guidelines in safety standards for clothing are not being adhered to, particularly with regard to breeches and socks.

The situation at Elizabeth College is different as the College insurance is more lenient than British Fencing's. But anywhere where British Fencing insurance cover is required, British Fencing Guidelines should be followed (i.e. on Thursday evenings at Beau Sejour, or any other venue, and on Monday nights at Vale Douzaine Rooms, etc etc).

Full guidelines can be found on British Fencing website <http://www.britishfencing.com/governance/guidelines/safety-guidelines>

And on the GUE website

<http://www.guernseyfencing.com/policies/policy-fencing-clothing>

SSC Committee strongly recommend that for your own protection and safety you read and observe these guidelines.

In very brief summary (and it is stressed that this is not a summary of all the points covered):

"The BFA now specifies certain minimum safety standards for fencing clothing in terms of the European CEN standards.

These standards apply to all BFA fencing with steel weapons at competitions and everywhere else that fencing is taking place.

The standards are shown in a chart at the end of these Safety Guidelines.

.....
Fencers are responsible for ensuring that their personal equipment is in a safe condition, and it particular that it conforms to the following requirement:-

.....
b) Jackets & Breeches

.....
v) *Breeches must comply with the minimum safety standard of CEN1 (350N). Breeches should be closed below the knee.*

.....
d) Socks should always be covered by the bottom of the breeches, so that no bare skin is showing.

With regard to lessons:-

"a) *During lessons – both individual and class – when steel weapons are being used:-*

.....
i) *..... The pupil should normally at a minimum wear the full protective clothing required for those fencing non-electric foil (see chart at end of these Safety Guidelines)."*

There is, however, a slight relaxation of this:

"ii) *In the case of pupils aged 18 or older (and for pupils under the age of 18, with written parental / guardian consent), if the instructor considers that particular circumstances justify less than full protective clothing being worn, they should draw pupils' attention to any accident or injury that could result because full protective clothing is not worn."*

CHART OF BFA CLOTHING RULES FOR FENCING

The following minimum safety standards came into force on January 1, 2006:-

A) Those fencing with size 3 or smaller blades, electric or non-electric, all 3 weapons (both fencers) AND those fencing with non-electric foil blades (both fencers)*

	<i>Jackets</i>	<i>Plastrons</i>	<i>Trousers/breeches</i>	<i>Masks</i>
Either	CEN 1 350 Newtons	CEN 1 350 Newtons	Trousers with openings / pockets zipped/sewn/taped closed, or fencing breeches – <u>not</u> shorts	CEN 1 (350N.bib)#
or	350 Newton +	integrated 350N plastron	As above	CEN 1 (350.bib)#
or	CEN 2 800 Newtons	NA	As above	CEN 1 (350.bib)#

B) FIE official competitions (A-grades and Satellites, World Championships)

	<i>Jackets</i>	<i>Plastrons</i>	<i>Trousers/breeches</i>	<i>Masks</i>
	CEN 2 800 Newtons	CEN 2 800 Newtons	CEN 2 800 Newtons	CEN 2 (1600N.bib)#

C) All other fencing, all weapons

	<i>Jackets</i>	<i>Plastrons</i>	<i>Trousers/breeches</i>	<i>Masks</i>
	CEN 1 350 Newtons	CEN 2 800 Newtons	CEN 1 350 Newtons	CEN 1 (350N.bib)#

* 'Non-electric foil blades' does not mean dummy electric foil blades fitted with a button. To qualify for this level of clothing standard, both fencers must be using the traditional lightweight non-electric foil blade as, for example, used universally before the invention of electric foil

All masks must be fitted with safety back straps.