

Frequently Ask Questions for Fencing

Will my child have to wear a mask?

Yes. Instructor and all participants will be required to wear CDC and United States Fencing Association recommended face masks prior to entering the building and also at all times while inside the YMCA. Only while drinking water may masks be temporarily removed. Masks should cover mouth and nose area while not loose fitting to avoid falling off while donning a fencing mask over top.

Is there anything that I will need to buy?

Yes. All athletes will need to purchase a plastron/underarm protector. Females will need a plastic chest protector. Males are encouraged to also purchase a chest protector and a male cup. These items are to provide additional protection above YMCA provided equipment. These items can be kept in the YMCA provided fencing bag stored on site if you would prefer not to transport to and from YMCA on practice days. The following online vendors have these items for purchase. Please have them for week three of session to be allowed to start bladework. www.amazon.com, www.blue-gauntlet.com, www.absolutefencinggear.com, www.gladiusfencinggear.com

Will equipment be shared between athletes and how will it be cleaned?

No. We have enough equipment; masks, gloves, jackets, and foils that each participant will be assigned their own sets for the duration of the eight week session. Each piece will be labeled with the fencer's name and kept in a fencing bag also marked per athlete to be used solely by that individual. At the end of each class, all equipment will be sprayed with a disinfectant prior to storage in fencing bag. Jackets and gloves will be washed on a weekly basis.

How will social distancing be maintained?

Fencing is actually a sport that specifically teaches keeping distance from your opponent. The customary handshake at the end of a bout has been eliminated. Body to body contact is a penalty in fencing. Youth blades are 32 inches and teen/adult blades are 43 inches. Fencer's arm length also should be included in distance from opponent. Everyone should be three feet from others while actively using foils and six at all other times. We will be creating lanes on our gym floor and assigning fencers their own area to practice footwork. Two fencers will be in a lane while working on bladework and bouting with an empty lane between each pair of fencers. Again, face masks are to be worn at all times even under the fencing masks. Class size will be limited to eight participants with temperature checks upon arrival.

What do I need to bring/wear?

Comfortable shorts/pants and closed toe athletic shoes. I personally like wearing baseball/softball pants which has a slightly thicker material while still allowing for full range of motion. Any medium thickness legwear that allows for ease of movement is acceptable. Please arrive already in your workout clothes as the YMCA locker rooms are not currently in use. A single stall restroom is available for bathroom needs. A water bottle is also needed. Your athlete will be running back and forth clothed in multiple layers of protective gear. Water fountains at the YMCA are disconnected at this time in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Will parents be able to stay and watch?

No and yes. United States Fencing Association is recommending no spectators to practices at this time. Being in the gym while we are fencing is a safety concern due to not wearing protective clothing while participants are using weapons. Keeping numbers to a minimum will also help mitigate COVID-19 transmission concerns. However, we recognize that our younger fencers may not be comfortable not having a parent nearby. Therefore, we will have limited seating. Another option would be to enroll in fencing with your child. We have had entire families learn to fence together.