

Parents' Guide to D'Artagnan Competitions

What to look for during your child's fencing bouts

Please arrive 15 minutes before the competition starting time, and check with the office.

We recommend the fencers to check in, not the parents, like in a real life competition outside of the club.

Fencers, proceed on the fencing floor and start gearing up; you may do some warm up bouts with any of the competitors (ask nicely).

At the beginning of the event, we'll bring everyone in a circle, and remind about the rules of the competitions. It's very likely that we'll have fencers new to competition every time, so they need to be filled in as well.

During the competition

The competition consists of two parts: **Pools** (the Fencing Time software is assigning these randomly, so each competitor is fencing all others in their pool), and **Direct Eliminations**.

Follow the referees' directions:

- Go to your assigned strip; bring your weapon(s), body cord(s), glove and water bottle with you.
- A brief weapon check will be performed (in a real life competition, these are done before the competition starts, and it's more complex; the details for these are at the bottom of this page, in a QR form)
 - i. Pool bouts are **3 minutes long**.
 - ii. Direct Elimination bouts are **2 periods of 3-minutes** (if you are in the Y8/Y10 event) or 3 periods of 3-minutes (if you are in a Y12 event or above).
 - iii. If your fencer and their opponent are tied at the end of the bout, the referee will bring them into an "overtime" period

known as “**priority**.” This period is only 1-minute, and it will end once one, single touch (one light goes off) has been scored.

(Read more about priority in the glossary at the bottom of this page).

- At the beginning of each bout, after being prompted to (**En Garde**), the fencers should go to their starting line, and start fencing as soon as they hear: “**Ready? Fence!**”

- Stop any action as soon as you hear “**Halt**” (stop)
- Don’t turn your back at the opponent (yellow card)
- Don’t take your mask off until the referee signals that you may do so.
- Don’t stop to look at the scoring board.

You may politely raise your hand and ask the referee how much **time** you have left, or what’s the **score** (only if they consider you’re not disrupting the bout)

- After each bout, check to make sure both tip screws are still in your weapon. (If not, use another weapon).
- At the end of the pools, the referee will ask you to check over the score sheet and make sure everything is correct – please **take your time to read it correctly** and ask them about any discrepancies you see.

FENCERS DON’T FORGET!

You can always stop the bout (do not do so in the middle of a fencing action) by backing up out of fencing distance and ***raising your hand***, if:

1. **Think you had a touch but the light didn’t go off:** ask the referee to check your weapon/body-cord. It may have been a floor touch also, so you won’t receive a point if the referee sees it this way.

2. **Hair/sweat is in your eyes:** anything that makes you uncomfortable and unable to focus can be fixed – ask the referee to give you a few seconds. This also gives you a second to take a deep breath and think about your fencing actions for the bout.
3. **You're hurt:** if something really hurts and you are unable to continue, you are entitled to up to 10 minutes for medical break (If you fake it, it's a red card/your opponent gets a touch).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS DURING BOUTS

In the club, we don't allow the parents to "coach" their children, in respect to all our students whose parents may not have fencing knowledge.

You are welcome to give them a few tips or words of encouragement between the bouts.

You may

- Let them know if they are getting close to the **back of the strip**. They are allowed one foot off, but if both feet go off, the opponent is awarded a point. You may shout "Strip!" (or another short, similar statement) to your fencer during the bout.
- If your fencer is losing the bout and **time** on the clock is running low, you can call out the time to your fencer (ie., "30 seconds!," "10 seconds!").

Please note that, in real life, the parents can be carded just like the fencers, and asked to leave the venue.

- i. While you can politely address a call/or ask a question after the referee says halt, do not extensively argue with the referee.
- ii. Examples: floor touch, faulty fencing, confusion over a rule.
- iii. The referee's decision cannot be appealed – insulting a referee can get you black carded.