



## **Steps to Start a New Fencing Program in Your Community**

### Initial Contact:

The FENB Executive Director is set up to guide you through the following steps and provide advice on how to establish a sustainable fencing program in your community.

### Step 1: Instructor Development

If there is no certified fencing instructor in your community, FENB can provide an instructor training program. An FENB approved learning facilitator will be assigned to work with a group of instructor candidates in your community. These candidates must be a minimum of 16 years old and it is recommended that the group size be a minimum of four (4) candidates. All candidates must register as members of FENB and CFF. The community instructor course length is a minimum of 12 hours of practical work and 4 hours of theory. FENB provides the fencing equipment required for this training. The learning facilitator may recommend additional training sessions, if required.

### Step 2: Equipment Sourcing

The fencing equipment required to run a beginner program can be sourced by renting equipment from FENB, seeking out equipment loans or rentals from other clubs, and purchasing new equipment. Your group may be eligible for grants to assist in the purchase of equipment.

Since proper sizing of masks and jackets is important for safety, participants will need to be sized for equipment at the beginning of the program.

### Step 3: Facility Access

Fencing requires a room with good gym-type flooring or flooring that has some "give" to it. Fencing should not take place on concrete, tile-covered concrete or similar hard surfaces due to the prospect of knee, heel & hip joint injuries. A group of 10 fencers will need a minimum area of 18 m. X 8 m. School gyms, community centres and church halls are common sources of fencing spaces in New Brunswick.

### Step 4: Program Organization

To be covered for liability and accident insurance, fencing programs sanctioned by FENB

must ensure the following organizational requirements are met:

1. Program instructors & coaches must submit a criminal record / vulnerable sector check to the Executive Director of FENB.
2. All participants, instructors and coaches must be registered members of FENB & the Canadian Fencing Federation (CFF).
3. A program registration form, including the FENB waiver & copy of the Code of Conduct must be completed and signed by the participant or by a legal guardian of the participant in under 18 years old.
4. All programs must have an Emergency Action Plan. FENB can provide examples.

#### Step 5: Participant Recruitment

Now that the instructors are ready, the equipment is available, the facility is booked and the organizational details are in place, it is time to let your potential participants know when & where they can get involved in the program. FENB can provide you with some sample promotional materials if you wish.

#### Step 6: Program Implementation

“En-garde !” The program is ready to start.

For further information, contact:  
FENB Executive Director

