



# **FENB Return to Competition Protocols**

**October 2020**

Please note: This is a working document and these protocols are subject to change as understanding of best practices evolves and the situation in the province changes.

Effective Date: October 6, 2020

## **Tournament Plan**

Tournament organizers are responsible for creating an operational plan, including a map of the venue and outlining the safety measures in place. Safety measures must adhere to current provincial guidelines. Attendees must be part of the Atlantic bubble in order to participate. Social distancing must be maintained at all times during the competition, except during matches themselves. At this time, only one event should be run in a venue at a time, with 30 minutes between events.

## **Eligible Fencers for Competition**

Fencers must be a FENB Fencing Member in good standing in order to compete (Recreational fencing members are not permitted). You are still permitted to compete even if your club has not reopened. You must pre-screen yourself for COVID-19 symptoms prior to showing up at the venue.

## **Audience**

At this time, no spectators will be allowed in the venue.

## **Venue Layout**

The host venue must adhere to current provincial guidelines as to the maximum number of people in an indoor space. Pistes must be separated by at least 3 metres, and have adequate space around it for eight fencers to physically distance when not on piste. Each athlete should have a designated space to be stationed at while not fencing.

Traffic flow through the gym should have a one-way flow with separate entrance and exit doors where possible. The venue should be adequately ventilated, with doors open to the outside where possible. There should be adequate space and time for warm-up to preserve physical distancing guidelines. However, it is recommended that fencers warm up outside when possible.

### **Check-In and Screening**

Check-in and screening should take place outside the gym. Temperature checks should be done where thermometers are available. All persons entering the venue must be screened, and will be given a paper bracelet to show screening has been done. Contact information for each person entering the venue must be kept by the tournament organizers for tracing purposes. See Appendix A for current screening questions.

### **Athletes**

Face masks: Athletes are not required to wear face masks during fencing activities, including warm up and between pool matches and rest periods of DEs. They must wear face masks whenever they move about the venue.

Normal fencing rules will apply to competitions, though in-fighting is discouraged.

No screaming: The practice of fencers screaming after the hit is scored (whether on or off the strip) or at any time is not recommended.

Shaking hands: At the end of a match fencers should salute from the en garde line; shaking hands, fist bumps, etc. are not permitted.

### **Coaches**

Coaches are allowed in the venue, but must wear a face mask at all times. If coaching during the tournament, they must wear a face shield as well as a face mask when communicating with fencers.

### **Referees**

Referees must wear face masks and face shields when working. Only the referee is permitted to touch the scoring box, weights, travel gauges, and pool and DE sheets. Fencers and coaches must maintain physical distancing when talking with referees.

### **Armoury**

Armoury should be in a separate room from the fencing gym. There should be a clear flow to the armourer for equipment check, in a one-way direction, with physically distanced waiting spaces.

Equipment check will be for masks and gloves only. Masks and gloves should be clean and free of sweat when taken to the armourer.

Even though body cords and electric equipment (lames, masks, manchettes) will not be tested by the armourer before competition, all equipment is expected to be in working order and conform to regulations. Weapons will still be tested on piste, and the appropriate penalties for any equipment failure will still be applied during matches.

### **Secretariat**

Secretariat should be in a separate room from the fencing gym. Only the tournament organizer and referees should interact with the secretariat.

## Appendix A: Screening Questions

Before going to any tournament, all attendees must complete a health self-assessment by answering the following questions:

1. Have I tested positive for COVID-19 or have been tested and are awaiting results?
2. Has Public Health informed me that I may have been exposed to COVID-19?
3. Have I travelled outside of the Atlantic provinces in the last 14 days?
4. Have I had any **two or more** of the following symptoms in the last 24 hours?
  - Fever over 38 degrees Celsius
  - A new cough, or worsening chronic cough
  - Runny nose
  - Sore throat
  - Headache (unexplained)
  - Diarrhea
  - Trouble breathing
  - New onset of fatigue
  - New onset of muscle pain (unexplained)
  - Loss of sense of taste
  - Loss of sense of smell
  - Purple markings on fingers or toes

***If you are experiencing any two of the above-mentioned symptoms, contact your primary health care provider or call 811.***

Please consult Public Health resources for [more information on the symptoms of COVID-19](#) and for [further self-assessment tools](#).

Attendees who have answered YES to any of questions 1-4 are restricted from entering the venue, and must contact the Tournament Organizer. They also should self-monitor for symptoms and contact 811 or their primary health care provider if symptoms develop.