

FENB Return-to-Competition Protocol:

March 2021

FENB has updated our Return-to-Competition protocol to reflect the most up-to-date recommendations from the Government of New Brunswick and the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture—Sport and Recreation Branch. This document will be updated regularly as conditions change and government recommendations adapt to the state of the virus in our province. **The latest changes are highlighted in yellow.**

Effective Date: March 8th, 2021

Tournament Hosting

Tournaments may not be hosted in health zones designated as Lockdown, Red or Orange

Tournaments may be hosted in a health zone designated as yellow, provided that all participants, officials and spectators reside in the health zone in which the tournament is being hosted, **or are regular members of the host club.**

Province-wide tournaments are not permitted at this time.

Each club hosting a tournament must comply with the foundational guidelines outlined in the FENB Return-to-Play Protocol document as well as the guidelines listed herein.

Tournament organizers must submit an event-specific COVID-19 operational plan to FENB.

Physical distancing of 2 metres must be maintained at all times by all attendees during the competition, with the exception of athletes while participating in a match.

Only one event should be run in the venue at a time with a 30-minute break between events.

Tournament organizers are responsible for assigning volunteers/staff to disinfect high-touch surfaces (reels, scoring box, weights, travel gauges) between users.

Canteens may operate while following guideline set out by Worksafe NB. At this time it is recommended that only pre-packed beverages be sold.

Online payment and registration are highly recommended and are available through Fencing-Escime NB.

COVID-19 related PPE, screening bracelets and cleaning supplies are available from FENB. If you are in need of face masks, face shields, or disinfecting supplies for an event, contact the Executive Director at fencingnb@gmail.com.

Eligible Fencers for Competition

Fencers must be a FENB Fencing Member in good standing in order to compete (Recreational fencing members are not permitted). Athletes are permitted to compete within their health zone even if their home club has not yet reopened.

Athletes may not travel outside their health zone of residence to compete unless they are regular members of the host club.

Athletes and coaches must pre-screen themselves for COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving at the venue.

Spectators/Parents/Guardians

Spectators including parents/guardians may be permitted if the venue can accommodate a separate viewing area. Spectators must maintain 2-metre physical distancing at all times and must wear a face mask at all times while at the venue. Spectators must also pre-screen themselves for COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving at the venue.

Spectators and parents/guardians may not travel outside their health zone of residence for competitions unless they are from the same household as a participant who is a regular member of the host club.

Venue Layout

The host venue must adhere to current provincial guidelines as to the maximum number of people permitted in an indoor space. Attendance may not exceed 50% venue capacity.

Each piste must be separated by at least 3 metres, and have adequate space around it for eight fencers to physically distance when not fencing.

Each athlete should have a designated space to be stationed at while not fencing.

Traffic flow through the venue should have a one-way flow with separate entrance and exit doors where possible.

The venue should be adequately ventilated, with doors/windows open to the outside where possible.

There should be adequate space and time for warm-up to preserve physical distancing guidelines. If possible, it is recommended that fencers warm up outside.

Check-In and Screening

Check-in and screening should take place outside the gym.

All athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators should pre-screen themselves for COVID-19 symptoms before arrival at the venue.

Upon arrival, an additional ACTIVE screening will be conducted by an event staff member or volunteer.

Temperature checks should be done where thermometers are available.

Upon passing the ACTIVE screening process each person will be given a paper bracelet to show screening has been done.

Each attendee will be asked to sanitize their hands upon entering the building.

Contact information for each person entering the venue must be kept by the tournament organizers for tracing purposes.

See Appendix A for active screening questions.

Athletes

Athletes may not travel outside their health zone of residence to compete unless they are regular members of the host club.

Athletes must wear a face mask while travelling through public areas of the venue, and as much as possible while waiting between matches.

Athletes are not required to wear a face mask while warming up, fencing, or between pool matches and rest periods of DEs.

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

The practice of fencers yelling after a hit is scored (whether on or off the piste) or at any time is not recommended.

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

Coaches

Coaches may not travel outside their health zone of residence to for competition unless they are regular coaches of the host club.

Coaches 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.

Coaches will endeavour to maintain 2-metre physical distancing from others as much as possible.

Referees

Referees may not travel outside their health zone of residence for competition.

Referees must wear face masks and face shields while officiating.

Only the referee is permitted to touch the scoring box, weights, travel gauges, and pool and DE sheets.

Fencers and coaches must maintain 2-metre physical distancing when talking with referees.

Armoury

Tournament officials may not travel outside their health zone of residence for competition.

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 2-metre 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.

The armourer must wear a face mask at all times and a face shield while interacting with athletes and checking equipment.

Weapons will still be tested on piste, and the appropriate penalties for any equipment failure will be applied during matches.

Secretariat

Tournament officials may not travel outside their health zone of residence for competition.

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

The secretariat must wear a face mask at all times.

ACTIVE SCREENING:

Active screening is required upon arrival to the venue. Active screening means that a designated person from the event must ask all the questions from the below active screening questionnaire to everyone entering the venue. As an enhanced precaution, temperature checks can be performed at the facility. In addition, the person screening each participant must request all patrons to sanitize their hands upon entrance to the premises.

Active Assessment Questionnaire

1. Have you been advised by Public Health, a health-care provider, or a peace officer that you are currently required to self-isolate?
2. Are you waiting for a COVID-19 test or COVID-19 test result and have been told you need to self-isolate?
3. Have you travelled outside of New Brunswick or to an orange, red, or lockdown health zone in the past 14 days?
4. Has an individual in your household returned from outside New Brunswick or to an orange, red, or lockdown health zone AND now someone within the household has developed one or more symptoms of COVID-19 as listed below?
5. Do you have any **two or more** of the following symptoms:
 - 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

A fever of 38 degrees Celsius requires a person to leave the premises, even if the individual has no other symptoms.

An individual may not go to an event if they answer YES to any of the above questions.

All individuals must inform the Tournament Organizer if they answer YES to any of the above questions. Clubs are responsible for documenting this information and must follow the instructions of Public Health.

Individuals who have answered YES to any of questions 1–4 need to refrain from going to practice for at least 14 days or as directed by Public Health. They also must symptom-free for 48 hours prior to attending practice.