

Classical Foil Exhibition

Welcome to the Full Circle Open Classical Foil Exhibition!

This exhibition is designed to give our modern sport fencers a taste of the history of the sport, and what it was like fencing back around the turn of the century. The rules we will be fencing under are:

- ★ Fencers must be at least D rated, at least a 7 foil ref, or started fencing prior to 1970.
- ★ Fencers must use a dry French or Italian foil.
- ★ The event will follow the 1905 AFLA Rule Book for foil (reproduced below) as closely as possible.

Judging

Idle fencers will serve as judges (3 to a strip). During a bout, judges will silently and independently score the match. The director will not interpret the action in the modern manner - each judge and fencer must do this for themselves. If a fencer is hit on or off target and he knows his opponent had the right of way, he should raise his unarmed hand to signal the director to call halt, then declare the touch valid or off target. Likewise, if a judge sees a hit, he should raise his hand to signal the director. The director's job is simply to stop and start the action, and serve as a judge equal to the others. A fencer may not signal for a halt because he thinks he has hit - it is up to his opponent and the judges to see it. At the end of the 4 minutes, the judges will confer and award the victory to one fencer or the other (they do not need to agree on the score, just who they thought was the better fencer). In the event of a split decision, majority rules. If the judges are truly unable to make a decision, the fencers fence for 1 more touch.

1905 AFLA Rule Book for Foil

1. Foil competition shall be conducted by 3 or more judges (one of whom may act as director) who shall be experienced fencers, and whose decision shall be final and without appeal.
2. Each bout shall consist of 4 minutes of actual fencing. The contestants shall change places half way through the bout.
3. Each judge shall make his final award without consulting his fellow judges, taking into account the general bearing of the competitors, the number and value of the touches, and the general form shown in defense and attack.
4. Touches shall count only when made on the body, within the limits bounded by the collar of the fencing jacket and the median line, the hip, and a line drawn from the hip to the posterior limit of the armpit around the front of the arm and along the crest of the shoulder to the collar.
5. When a touch is made outside the limits and it is evident to the judges that it would have been good if the adversary had not made an illegal movement, it shall count. An illegal movement is one by which the adversary seeks to avoid a touch by purposely presenting some other part of his body to the point of the weapon.
6. The competitor attacked should parry. If a stop thrust be made it shall only count in favor of the giver provided he be not touched at all.
7. A touch, whether fair or foul, invalidates the riposte. (ed. note: this means if the attack lands before the parry, the defender's riposte doesn't count)
8. A touch is of no value when the point is twisted on to the body after a slap of the foil.
9. The judge must stop a corps-a-corps as soon as it is made.
10. A disarmament is of no value. A touch immediately following a disarmament counts.
11. A point scored from a thrust started with the elbow behind the body (jab thrust) shall not count.
12. Each contestant shall fence with the same hand throughout the bout.
13. Contestants shall fence within a marked space of 20 feet long by 3 feet wide, with a mark plainly indicating the middle.

14. When a contestant oversteps the limits a judge shall stop the bout and each judge shall award a touch to the opponent. The director shall start the contestants again, in the middle of the marked space.

15. Should a competitor seek to evade the point of the attacking weapon by movements inconsistent with good form (such as corps-a-corps, ducking or dodging) the judges may award a point to his opponent.

16. Contestants should acknowledge all touches in an audible voice. A persistent failure to do so is an offense against form and shall be considered by the judges in making the final award.