

Membership Agreement and Safety Rules

Dominion Fencing

MEMBERSHIP at Dominion Fencing is a privilege, not a right, and along with this privilege come certain expectations of behavior on the part of members, staff and coaches. Policy on this behavior is outlined below, and is subject to revision by the Board of Directors as it sees fit:

MEMBERSHIP in Dominion Fencing is open to anyone with an interest in promoting or engaging in the art and sport of fencing. Members of Dominion Fencing are to be free of discrimination or harassment by members, staff, or instructors on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or sexual orientation.

MEMBERS of Dominion Fencing are obligated to support the club in accordance with policy determined by the Board of Directors, including but not limited to, prompt payment of dues, fulfillment of coordinator activities and teaching duties.

ANY fencer who declares affiliation to Dominion Fencing, including those fencers who do not physically reside in the Fairfax Country area or who do not regularly fence at Dominion Fencing's physical location, are bound by this agreement.

PHYSICAL well being of the membership is a priority at Dominion Fencing. While it is understood that fencing is a combat sport, and entails a level of risk, members of Dominion Fencing are expected to behave in a manner as outlined in the USFA rules.

ALL bouts at Dominion Fencing are to be conducted in the spirit of a “. . . courteous encounter . . .”. Specifically, each fencer should be free from fear of injury from another fencer in the course of a bout, outside of the physical risks normally associated with the sport. Each fencer is expected to exercise control of his or her actions and demeanor while fencing. Discussions of priority and valid touches are to be resolved quickly and amiably between competitors, and if no agreement is possible, must be thrown out. Non-electrically scored touches are to be acknowledged honestly by each competitor. In refereed bouts, the referee's decision is final. In addition, the following safety rules must be followed at all times:

1. No practice, lesson, bout, or demonstration can take place without participants in full uniform. This includes covering of the legs, a protective plastron, and a mask free of defects.
2. No blade should be pointed at anyone not wearing a mask. Do not gesture or “point” with any weapon.
3. Weapons are to be carried point down at all times.
4. Inspect your equipment before each use. Do not use masks or jackets with holes or tears.
5. Stop fencing immediately if a weapon breaks. Every weapon is to have a rubber or electric tip affixed to the end, with the exception of sabers, which must have the FIE approved “curl”.
6. Violent fencing actions are not permitted. Each fencer must control parries and attacks so that whipping or hard hitting actions of the blade does not injure the opponent. Do not cause body contact nor use the unarmed hand against the opponent or the opponent's blade or to “protect” your target.
7. Do not turn your back to your opponent. Do not walk directly behind on going bouts on the fencing floor.
8. Report injuries immediately to an instructor, club officer, or building personnel.

MEMBERS of Dominion Fencing must not interfere with an ongoing activity to the extent of disrupting either the activity or the instructor. On going programs must be treated with respect by the non-involved members.

MEMBERS attending tournaments represent Dominion Fencing to the wider fencing community. Members are bound under Dominion Fencing, USFA, and USOC codes of conduct when fencing in competitions. Any fencer representing Dominion Fencing at competitions who regularly breeches codes of conduct for the USFA or USOC may be subject to discipline within the club.

THE Board of Directors, when shown cause, may review the membership privileges of any member(s). Upon a unanimous vote by a quorum of the Board of Directors, the membership privileges of any member(s) may be revoked, for any length of time. This vote is not subject to an appeal by the member(s) affected. During any meeting(s) of which this vote may be taken, the affected member(s) have a right to be present and make a statement, including the presentation of any witnesses or evidence bearing on the decision.

IF at any time a member's safety or property is threatened by another member, any member of the Board of Directors or the Coaching Staff may remove a club member or visitor immediately from the premises, if, in the opinion of the acting member, such action is necessary to preserve order, safety, or property. Upon this action, the Board of Directors must confirm this decision (and any subsequent penalties) within 10 days of the occurrence.

Waiver of Liability and Consent to Treatment

Coaches and trainers are trained to provide fencing instruction. They are not experts in examining or treating medical conditions of any kind. Participation in any fencing activity may result in accident, injury, disability or death.

Participants or guests agree that they are in good physical and mental condition and have no mental or physical impairment that would prevent participation in fencing classes.

Participants and guests agree to assume these risks and release and discharge Dominion Fencing, Officers, operators, the USFA, The Langley School, and all other participants in all fencing activities of and from all claims, demands, actions and causes of actions of any sort, for injuries sustained to the participants or guests person and/or property during the members participation in all fencing activities due to negligence, or any other fault.

Participants and guests agree to allow instructors and representatives to obtain medical services from a licensed medical doctor or hospital if the participant or guest becomes ill or injured during any fencing or other Virginia SportFencing activities.

Participants and guests, by signing below, agree to be bound by Dominion Fencing facility, equipment, and safety rules, as well as USFA rules and regulations.

Member Signature _____ Date _____

Member Printed Name _____

Guardian Signature _____
(Required for students under 18)