

Code of Conduct

The Ellis Fencing Club is open to any third grade student currently attending Charles Ellis Montessori Academy who is interested in the sport of Olympic fencing. Upon entering the Ellis Fencing Club, all individuals including Ellis Fencing Club members, guests, coaches, and staff, agree to follow these rules, along with adhering to the rules of fencing as adopted by the United States Fencing Association (USFA). The Ellis Fencing Club reserves the right to revoke membership or any privileges of any person who has been found in violation of these rules. Fencing at our club constitutes acceptance of these rules and code of conduct.

CONDUCT

- All fencers and visitors to the club are responsible for the safety and well-being of all the other fencers and visitors to the club. Be helpful, constructive, and respectful in your interactions.
- Never criticize an opponent or minimize his or her fencing skills. Congratulate opponents on nice moves, skilled touches, and victories.
- Be welcoming and inclusive to new-comers.
- Each fencer will salute his or her opponent before every bout, and salute and shake hands after every bout.
- Fencers may not jostle or fight during a bout, curse in anger, engage in intimidation or threats, or make overly emotional displays to indicate their displeasure at losing a point or a bout, or for any other reason. The club is not a place to bring your outside issues or arguments with another fencer. Disrespect and unsportsmanlike behavior are not allowed.
- Fencers will refrain from non-emergency interruptions of classes or lessons.
- Fencers will respond to a coach's request promptly and respectfully.
- The fencing floor is for fencing and training. If you're not fencing or training, get off the floor.
- No equipment bags, food or uncovered beverages are allowed on the fencing floor. Covered water bottles only.
- Fencers will return all borrowed equipment to its rack, hanger, or bin when not in use.
- Fencers will look after and store their own belongings neatly while at the club, and demonstrate courtesy toward others in shared spaces.

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SAFETY

- Safety precautions must be observed at all times.
- Under no circumstances raise a weapon's tip above waist height except when on the strip and facing an opponent in a salute, test, or bout. Salutes must be done beyond the range for touching the other fencer with the weapon. Tests must be done slowly and cautiously as instructed by the coach. Hits or cuts may never be made against a fencer who is not wearing a mask. Never raise your weapon and then turn around with the weapon in the air.
- Do not turn your back on your opponent during an action. Do not cause body contact or move the unarmed hand forward while fencing.
- A mask, jacket, glove, pants (not shorts), and shoes must always be worn when fencing. Fencers must always wear masks when weapons are raised. Fencers should wear clean, dry rubber-soled shoes. No sandals, cleats, or slippery shoes may be worn while fencing, nor are wet or muddy shoes or boots allowed on the fencing floor.
- Fencers may not run with weapons, hit things with weapons, or throw weapons or gear.
- Violent or uncontrolled fencing actions are not permitted. Fencers must control their actions.
- If you feel a fencer is behaving in a dangerous or uncontrolled fashion, report it to a coach.
- Do not cross fencing strips while there is fencing going on. Walk at the ends of the fencing strips and be cautious of the fencers' actions. Wait until the action is over if necessary.
- Inspect your gear before and after each time you use it. Do not fence with broken equipment or blades. Do not put broken equipment back for someone else to get hurt – bring it to the attention of the coach.
- If you think a weapon, uniform, lamé, or mask is broken, stop fencing immediately.
- Stop fencing immediately if you are hurt or sick, if your opponent ceases fencing, waves the unarmed hand, or gives any sign of wanting to stop. If someone is injured, halt the action and shout out for the coach or another staff member. **DO NOT RUN** in an emergency until others are aware and stop fencing.
- Warm up before you begin fencing, and keep hydrated.
- Pace yourself. If you feel sick, dizzy, dehydrated, overheated, or overtired, take a break and consider whether you should continue today.

OVERALL

The comfort, safety, and well-being of everyone at Ellis Fencing rely on respectful observation of this Code. Make jokes and fencing boasts, laugh at the silly moves you make, encourage your opponents, novices, and young fencers when they do anything well, and have an all-around great time. After all, what could be more fun than hitting someone with a sword?

Fencer Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____