

NZMG 2010 DUNEDIN

FENCING

Classic Fencing – From the period 1900 to 1960 with a focus on the 1930s

Salle Angelo, a classic fencing club in Dunedin, organised the first fencing competition for the Masters Games in 2004. We repeated this in 2006 and 2008. For the Masters Games in 2010, we continue classic fencing with visual weapons and four events.

Salle Angelo considers the 60 years of club and competition fencing from around 1900 to 1960, before the electric foil was introduced, produced the best form, style and enjoyment in sports fencing.

The precedent was set in 2006 that electric fencers affiliated to Fencing NZ can enter the classic Masters Games competitions as Fencing NZ considers them to be informal and recreational.

Fencing is an individual sport, one against one. Each weapon will be fought in pools, where everyone fences everyone else. Beginners in fencing are more likely to injure themselves and others. If beginners fence beginners, this likelihood increases. At least one year of experience in fencing and competence in at least one weapon are required of entrants for health and safety reasons.

Fencers are asked to enter as many events as they can depending on their abilities. Fencing weapons must have flexible blades, and foils and epees must have French or Italian guards and handles, all of modern manufacture. Figure-of-eight guards are an exception and may be used on foils. Masks with bibs, to protect the eyes, face and throat, and plastrons, the under garment to protect the heart and lungs, are required and must also all be of modern manufacture. 350 Newtons is recommended for these.

Full fencing whites, being jacket, breeches, glove and stockings must be worn. All clothing must be made from strong material and be in a good and safe state of repair. 350 Newtons is again recommended for clothes. Fencers may wear a half jacket rather than a full torso jacket, but the bottom of the jacket must be at the hip line and fully overlap the breeches. Metal or other buttons may be worn to close and secure the jacket.

All age groups and genders will fence together in mixed pools for every event. In classic fencing hits are scored against the fencer who receives them, and 5 hit bouts will last a maximum of 5 minutes. At the end of an event, the winners for each age group and gender will be taken from the overall results. Safety is a major element of the Masters Games. All entrants must consider their own and others safety and well being.

The target for foil in classic fencing ends at the hip line as for sabre. The groin area has been removed. With epee, glancing hits on the forearm may not be judged valid because they do not fix, but it makes for more angulated or deeper epee attacks. Sabre hits are only valid when made with a cutting edge, not the flat. Classic bouts require four corner judges as well as a president. The other fencers in the pool usually act as the judges.

In the Master of Arms bouts the three weapons are changed after every hit in the order sabre – epee – foil. A corner judge holds the other two weapons for the fencer during each active weapon phrase.

The Salle Angelo rules for classic fencing are a modification of the 1937 American rules. Visit our website www.salle.angelo.gen.nz to read these rules, and for further information and updates for the Master Games competition. A president has the right to exclude fencers from competing due to inadequate weapons, masks or protective clothing. A president also has the right to warn fencers for dangerous fencing, and if it continues, to disqualify them from competing. Finally, under both the FIE and Salle Angelo rules, fencers arm, equip and clothe themselves and fence at their own responsibility and at their own risk.

P.S. Flexible electric sabre blades and electric epee blades may be used for the Masters Games, with the proviso that electric epee points do not make an audible ‘click’ on contact which can influence the corner judges. Stop the travel of the electric epee point with a washer, or by winding a thread to fill the gap. Electric foil blades are considered too rigid for visual foil fencing.