

FENCING EQUIPMENT - CLEANING GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS FOR SHARED EQUIPMENT

Last Updated: 20th June 2022

1. PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This document sets out the recommended equipment cleaning protocols and measures for community fencing clubs.

Cleaning protocols are one way to reduce infection transmission risk so the information in this document may be useful within your Club Risk Assessment.

As a reminder the best way to reduce transmission of respiratory viruses is to regularly clean/sanitise hands, fence in a well-ventilated space, avoid close contact as much as possible and avoid touching your face.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

Individuals - it is the responsibility of the person that owns (or is renting) equipment to clean it in accordance with the guidance and follow any additional instructions given by the club for using any shared equipment (eg spools, boxes).

Clubs – It is the responsibility of the club to

- communicate this guidance to all members as appropriate.
- establish and implement club protocols for any shared equipment either during sessions or between sessions.

3. GENERAL ADVICE ON FENCING EQUIPMENT USAGE AND SHARING

3.1 PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

All fencers should, wherever possible, use only their own personal fencing equipment. It is recommended that personal equipment should not be shared within a session, in particular all items of clothing, masks, gloves, lames, and chest protectors. Weapons, swords and bodywires can be shared within a session.

Fencing Equipment Cleaning Protocols

Fencers that own (or are renting) their own personal equipment are expected to maintain hygiene standards:

- Clothing (breeches, jackets, socks, gloves, etc) should be washed on a regular basis.
- Recommended cleaning protocols for other equipment (see below) should be followed.

3.2 SHARED EQUIPMENT

It is recommended that Clubs establish suitable cleaning/hygiene protocols in line with the protocols in section 4.2.

It is recommended that clubs continue to try to reduce equipment sharing – for example allocating equipment to individual members, renting out masks/jackets/breeches for exclusive use for a term. Allocated/rented kit should be taken home and cleaned on a regular basis unless the club provides an alternative option under these guidelines.

4. FENCING EQUIPMENT - CLEANING PROTOCOLS

4.1 GENERAL POINTS

Manufacturer instructions – Before undertaking any cleaning *you must check manufacturer instructions*. BF is not liable for any issues that arise out of following manufacturer instructions, or the protocols below.

Disinfectants - Before use check that the disinfectant is virucidal as well as anti-bacterial; bleach is not recommended for fencing kit. If using disinfectant on clothing, use ones recommended for use on fabrics. Please always read the label on the disinfectant and take the appropriate precautions for safe use.

For items that cannot be put in the wash it is recommended to follow a **disinfecting procedure**:

- Step 1: wipe down carefully using a clean cloth/paper towel soaked in disinfectant
- Step 2: leave for 2-3 minutes
- Step 3: if necessary wipe of any excess disinfectant with another clean cloth/paper towel
- Step 4: Dispose of the paper towel (or if using cotton cloths these can be washed at high temperature)

We do not recommend the direct use of disinfecting spray on equipment, particularly for items that have metal and are part of the scoring equipment. If using a spray it should be sprayed onto the cleaning cloth before use.

4.2 SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT PROTOCOLS FOR SHARED EQUIPMENT

Equipment	Protocols for Sharing
Jacket/ Breeches/ Plastron	Can be shared between sessions. Good practice is that kit is clean and dry before use.
Gloves	<p>Can be shared between sessions with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of disinfectant (outside) OR • wash with detergent OR • quarantine for 1 day, OR • wearers must sanitise/wash hands before and after, <p>Glove must be dry before use.</p> <p>Strongly recommended that members purchase their own gloves if they can or have exclusive use of a club glove.</p>
Chest protectors	Can be shared between sessions.
Lames	Can be shared between sessions. Good practice is that lames are dry before use.
Masks:	<p>Disinfection procedure inside is recommended for all masks being shared within a 24hr period.</p> <p>Any removeable padding should also be washed regularly according to manufacturer instructions.</p>
Body Wires	No specific recommendations or protocols.
Spools, scoring boxes, ground wires	No specific recommendations or protocols.
Weapons (metal or plastic)	Consider using disinfection procedure on handles in same day, multi-user situations.
Coaching Plastrons /Sleeves	Can be shared between sessions. Good practice is that kit is clean and dry before use. Please follow the manufacturer instructions for cleaning/wiping down.