AUSTRALIAN FENCING FEDERATION
WEAPONS CONTROL POLICY

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The National Competition Committee is responsible for this document.	

1. Introduction

Weapons Control is an integral part of all Australian Fencing Federation tournaments. It is in place to ensure that all competitors comply with a minimum level of safety, and so that the running of our competitions is not held up by weapons issues. By setting a standard for all fencers, this also reflects the pride that we have in our sport and its honourable history, and aims to establish an equitable benchmark for fair competition.

The information below is divided up into three parts – equipment that is tested for in Weapons Control, equipment that is tested on the strip, and items that are advisable for a fencer to check and maintain themselves to ensure that they are not disadvantaged in a bout.

2. Weapons Control

Items that will be tested on the strip (below) are not tested during Weapons Control. The reference document for the various measurements below is the FIE's Rules for Competitions, Book 3 – Material Rules (Chapters 1-2). Where the FIE rule differs to Australian weapons control testing for specific measurements of impedance resistance, the FIE figures are mentioned (in square brackets).

Where a fencer disputes the decision by those people authorised to undertake weapons control regarding whether an item is passed or not passed, this can only be reviewed by the DT at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the relevant event. The DT's decision will be final in this case.

Weapons Control staff have the right to refuse to test bodywires which are tangled or tightly coiled, or which have an excessive number of tags from previous events. It is the fencer's responsibility to remove these once an event is finished and present the wires in such a way that they can be tested easily.

The host state may decide to limit the number of items accepted for checking to 4 weapons, 3 bodywires, 3 mask wires, 2 masks, 2 lames and 2 gloves per event per fencer. Such limits may be applied throughout the tournament or only at certain times, and the limits may be applied without prior warning.

3. Relevant Events

This document applies to the following events:

- Australian Fencing Circuit National events
- Australian Senior and Veteran National Championships
- Youth National Championships
- Junior and Cadet National Championships
- Australian Youth Circuit events
- Intermediate and Senior School National events
- Australian University Sport Nationals

The AFF may choose to apply this in part or in whole to any other event. Where that is the case, States will be informed in advance of the relevant event so that they may inform their members.

4. Previous Updates

4.1 2015 Updates

The information below reflects the fact that masks now require two separate fixing points, as well as the enforcement of the FIE's tighter enforcement of rule m25.6 for foil/epee gloves.

4.2 2016 Updates

From 1 January 2017, the FIE's rule regarding mask wires (m27.3 / m32.4) will apply. Following AFC2, rule m25.6 will now be dealt with at Weapons Control (not on-strip).

4.3 2022 Updates

From 1 January 2023, the FIE's rule regarding Sabre Blades to be Maraging (m.2.1) will apply.

5. Items tested at Weapons Control

5.1 FOIL

Component	**Check**
Blade	FIE notation – if rust or other markings make it impossible for the control staff to see the notation, then the weapon will be rejected.
Guard	No substantial deformities where points could catch.
	Wires sheathed up to the connection with no tape covering them.
	Has a pad to protect wires from fingers
	No wires projecting from the connections.
Body wire	Conductivity – 2-4 ohm [FIE: 1 ohm] resistance maximum
	Earth wire: 'A' line soldered to clip, and clip at least 10mm wide
	End connectors are not required to be transparent
	Leon Paul-style bayonet connectors are acceptable at least until the end of the 2028-9 AFF season.
	No exposed metal cable
	Does not exceed maximum resistance when cable is "wiggled" or pulled
	Alligator clip must run separately for at least 40cm
	Has a security device to prevent disconnection from the socket (either bayonet style or two prong clip). An exception is allowed for Prieur-style two prong plugs which are made to be held by a clip on the socket – in this case, the fencer must be able to show that these clips are present on their weapons.
Mask wire	Conductivity – 2-4 ohm [FIE: 1 ohm] resistance maximum
	Wire to be soldered in place to alligator clips at both ends
	No exposed metal cable
	Does not exceed maximum resistance when cable is "wiggled" or pulled
	Must be straight (not coiled), 30-40cm (from AFC1-2017 onwards)
Lame	No holes

	Conductivity – [FIE: 5 ohms resistance maximum between all points] 5 ohms between each point, though small areas, not exceeding approx. 5x5cm, may have a resistance of up to 10 ohms if they are on the collar or back, excluding the tag for the mask line
Glove	No visible holes (inc body wire hole). Gloves with tape on them will not be accepted at Equipment Control.
Mask	FIE notation; no visor masks permitted. The FIE notation must be clearly visible – if it is covered by tape, the checkers should remove the tape to verify.
	Rubber / tape / cloth seal around edge of face intact and safe and adhering to mesh
	No holes in mesh
	No rust or oxidisation
	Mesh insulation reasonably intact
	Rear strap or clasp intact. Where fixing is Velcro-based, Velcro working and stitching holding it down. Where fixing is spring-based, spring should not be loose. The spring should not be held in place or 'stabilised' by tape or other extemporised methods – if tape is present, the checkers should remove it to ensure that the spring is firm and undamaged.
	[FIE: No dents in mask mesh]. Small dents acceptable as long as there is no sign of damage to or separation of the wires in the mesh
Mask - bib	No holes
	[FIE: fixing points]. Masks which do not have a Spring Tab must also have the magnetic retaining strap fitted.
	Conductivity – [FIE: 5 ohms] 10 ohms resistance maximum esp. in stitching ribs.

5.2 EPEE

Component	Check
Blade	FIE notation – if rust or other markings make it impossible for the control staff to see the notation, then the weapon will be rejected.
Guard	No substantial deformities where points could catch.
	No rust
	Wires sheathed separately up to the connection with no tape covering them.
	Each wire passes through a separate hole in the socket.
	Pad in place to protect wires.
	No wires projecting from the connections.
	Security device present to prevent the bodywire being accidentally disconnected.
Body wire	Conductivity – 2-4 ohm [FIE: 1 ohm] resistance maximum
	End connectors are not required to be transparent
	No exposed metal cable
	Does not exceed maximum resistance when cable is “wiggled” or pulled
Glove	No visible holes (inc body wire hole) Gloves with tape on them will not be accepted at Equipment Control.
Mask	FIE notation; no visor masks permitted. The FIE notation must be clearly visible – if it is covered by tape, the checkers should remove the tape to verify
	Is not permitted to have conductive bib (even if taped over).
	For masks with replaceable bibs, and the mask has already passed though weapons control for foil, bib must be stamped (not mask).
	Rubber / tape / cloth seal around edge of face intact and safe and adhering to mesh
	No holes in mesh
	No rust or oxidisation
	Rear strap or clasp intact. Where fixing is Velcro-based, Velcro working and stitching holding it down. Where fixing is spring-based, spring should not be loose. The spring should not be held in place or ‘stabilised’ by tape or other extemporised methods – if tape is present, the checkers should remove it to ensure that the spring is firm and undamaged.
	[FIE: No dents in mask mesh]. Small dents acceptable as long as there is no sign of damage to or separation of the wires in the mesh
	[FIE: fixing points]. Masks which do not have a Spring Tab must also have the magnetic retaining strap fitted.

5.3 SABRE

Component	Check
Blade	Has either FIE or 'M' or 'Maraging' notation – if rust or other markings make it impossible for the control staff to see the notation, then the weapon will be rejected.
	Button ("fold-over") on tip intact
Guard	No substantial deformities where points could catch.
	Insulation on lower part of guard and pommel
	Pads are not required on sabres
	Interior of the guard must be insulated by either paint or a pad covering the entire inner surface of the guard
Body wire	Conductivity – 2-4 ohm [FIE: 1 ohm] resistance maximum
	Earth wire: 'A' line soldered to clip, and clip at least 10mm wide
	End connectors are not required to be transparent
	Leon Paul-style bayonet connectors are acceptable at least until the end of the 2028-9 AFF season.
	No exposed metal cable
	Does not exceed maximum resistance when cable is "wiggled" or pulled
	Alligator clip must run separately for at least 40cm
	Has a security device to prevent disconnection from the socket (either bayonet style or two prong clip). An exception is allowed for Prieur-style two prong plugs which are made to be held by a clip on the socket – in this case, the fencer must be able to show that these clips are present on their weapons.
Mask wire	Conductivity – 2-4 ohm [FIE: 1 ohm] resistance maximum
	Wire to be soldered in place to alligator clips at both ends
	No exposed metal cable
	Does not exceed maximum resistance when cable is "wiggled" or pulled
	Must be straight (not coiled), 30-40cm
Lame	No holes, esp under arms
	Conductivity – [FIE: 5 ohms resistance maximum between all points] 5 ohms between each point, though small areas, not exceeding approx. 5x5cm, may have a resistance of up to 10 ohms if they are on the collar or back, excluding the tag for the mask line
Mask	FIE notation; no visor masks permitted. The FIE notation must be clearly visible – if it is covered by tape, the checkers should remove the tape to verify
	Conductivity – [FIE: 5 ohms] 10 ohms resistance maximum esp. in stitching ribs.
	No holes in mesh

	No projecting points which could catch a blade (esp corners of the bib or their covers).
	No rust or oxidisation
	Rear strap or clasp intact. Where fixing is Velcro-based, Velcro working and stitching holding it down. Where fixing is spring-based, spring should not be loose. The spring should not be held in place or 'stabilised' by tape – if tape is present the checkers should remove it to ensure that the spring is firm and undamaged.
	[FIE: No dents in mask mesh]. Small dents acceptable as long as there is no sign of damage to or separation of the wires in the mesh
	[FIE: fixing points]. Masks which do not have a Spring Tab must also have the magnetic retaining strap fitted.
Glove	No holes Gloves with tape on them will not be accepted at Equipment Control.
	800N notation (from AFC2-2014 onwards)
	Minimum 5cm on inside for connection.
	Conductivity – [FIE: 5 ohms resistance maximum between all points] 5 ohms between each point, though small areas, not exceeding approx. 5x5cm, may have a resistance of up to 10 ohms

6. Items tested on the strip

6.1 FOIL

Component	Check
Blade	Weapons Control mark
	Weight (will lift 500g weight)
	Bend on blade less than 1cm from guard to tip
Body wire	Weapons Control mark
Mask wire	Weapons Control mark
Lame	Weapons Control mark
	Covers target; i.e. the flat base reaches top of the hip bone when on guard.
Mask	Weapons Control mark
	Fits fencer reasonably well, with Velcro strap properly secured and, where fitted, the spring bent down to a sufficient angle to hold the mask on independently of the strap.
Glove	Weapons Control mark
Breeches, Jacket, Plastron	FIE notation
	Soft cover over chest protector (M25.4.c)

6.2 EPEE

Component	Check
Blade	Weapons Control mark
	Weight (will lift 750g weight)
	Bend on blade less than 1cm from guard to tip
	Both grub screws present
	Gauge (clearance when tip depressed)
	Gauge (clearance when tip not depressed)
Body wire	Weapons Control mark
Mask	Weapons Control mark
	Reaches tips of collar bones
	Fits fencer reasonably well, with Velcro strap properly secured and, where fitted, the spring bent down to a sufficient angle to hold the mask on independently of the strap.

Glove	Weapons Control mark
Breeches, Jacket, Plastron	FIE notation

6.3 SABRE

Component	**Check**
Blade	Weapons Control mark
	Bend on blade less than 4cm from guard to tip
Body wire	Weapons Control mark
Mask wire	Weapons Control mark
Lame	Weapons Control mark
Mask	Weapons Control mark
	Fits fencer reasonably well, with Velcro strap properly secured and, where fitted, the spring bent down to a sufficient angle to hold the mask on independently of the strap.
Cuff / Glove	Weapons Control mark
Breeches, Jacket, Plastron	FIE notation

7. Suggested items

The table below shows a number of items which are **not** included as part of weapons check, so they are not mandatory. However, practice has shown that they are useful to attend to as part of a fencer's competition preparation.

Weapon	**Component**	**Suggestion**	**Rationale**
Foil	Blade	The blade taped for a length of 10-15 cm	A bare tip will not register a "hit" on a lame
		No rust or oxidisation	These items will affect conductivity of weapon and will cause incorrect "off-targets"
		Both grub screws intact	A missing grub screw may cause tip to fly off, or failure to record a hit on a lame
		2 ohms resistance	Ensures hit is recorded correctly
Epee	Blade	2 ohms resistance	Ensures hit is recorded correctly
Sabre	Blade	No rust or oxidisation	These items will affect conductivity of weapon and may cause hit to not register.
		Shorted connection	Should have some means of shorting the B and C lines to prevent the "off-target" light.