



## **Weapons Control – Policy [March 2014]**

### **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 – things that are tested for in Weapons Control, things that are tested on the strip, and things that are advisable for a fencer to check and maintain themselves to ensure that they are not disadvantaged in a bout.

### **Weapons Control**

Note that 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, 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.

### **Relevant Events**

This document applies to the following events:

- All Open National events
- Under-15s / Cadet Nationals
- Junior 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.

### **2013/14 Updates**

The information below reflects the fact that visor masks are no longer permitted for any weapon.



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FOIL

Component	Check
<b>Blade</b>	FIE notation
<b>Guard</b>	No substantial deformities where points could catch.
	Wires sheathed up to the connection with no tape covering them.
	Grip and pommel insulated, or at least the projecting points of a pistol grip
	Has a pad to protect wires from fingers
	No wires projecting from the connections.
<b>Body wire</b>	Conductivity – 2-4 ohm [FIE: 1 ohm] resistance maximum
	Earth wire: 'A' line soldered to clip, and clip at least 10mm wide
	No exposed metal cable
	Does not exceed maximum resistance when cable is "wiggled"
	Alligator clip must run separately for at least 40cm
<b>Mask wire</b>	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"
<b>Lame</b>	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
<b>Mask</b>	FIE notation; <b>no visor masks permitted</b>
	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
	[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
<b>Mask - bib</b>	No holes
	Conductivity – [FIE: 5 ohms] 10 ohms resistance maximum esp. in stitching ribs.



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### EPEE

Component	Check
<b>Blade</b>	FIE notation
<b>Guard</b>	No substantial deformities where points could catch.
	No rust
	Wires sheathed separately up to the connection with no tape covering them.
	Pad in place to protect wires.
	No wires projecting from the connections.
<b>Body wire</b>	Conductivity – 2-4 ohm [FIE: 1 ohm] resistance maximum
	No exposed metal cable
	Does not exceed maximum resistance when cable is “wiggled”
<b>Mask</b>	FIE notation; <b>no visor masks permitted</b>
	Is not permitted to have conductive bib (even if taped at the bottom).
	For masks with replaceable bibs, and the mask has already passed through 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
	[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



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### SABRE

Component	Check
<b>Blade</b>	S2000 notation Button (“fold-over”) on tip intact
<b>Guard</b>	No substantial deformities where points could catch. Insulation on lower part of guard and pommel
<b>Body wire</b>	Conductivity – 2-4 ohm [FIE: 1 ohm] resistance maximum Earth wire: ‘A’ line soldered to clip, and clip at least 10mm wide No exposed metal cable Does not exceed maximum resistance when cable is “wiggled”
<b>Mask wire</b>	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”
<b>Lame</b>	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
<b>Mask</b>	FIE notation; <b>no visor masks permitted</b> 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 [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
<b>Cuff / glove</b>	No holes 800N notation (from AFC2-2104 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



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### On-strip Testing

#### FOIL

<b>Component</b>	<b>Check</b>
<b>Blade</b>	Weapons Control mark
	Weight (will lift 500g weight)
	Bend on blade less than 1cm from guard to tip
<b>Body wire</b>	Weapons Control mark
	Securing device for wire to weapon
<b>Mask wire</b>	Weapons Control mark
<b>Lame</b>	Weapons Control mark
	Covers target; i.e. the flat base reaches top of the hip bone when on guard.
<b>Mask</b>	Weapons Control mark
<b>Breeches, Jacket, Plastron</b>	FIE notation

#### EPEE

<b>Component</b>	<b>Check</b>
<b>Blade</b>	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)
<b>Body wire</b>	Weapons Control mark
<b>Mask</b>	Weapons Control mark
	Reaches tips of collar bones
<b>Breeches, Jacket, Plastron</b>	FIE notation

#### SABRE

<b>Component</b>	<b>Check</b>
<b>Blade</b>	Weapons Control mark
	Bend on blade less than 4cm from guard to tip
<b>Body wire</b>	Weapons Control mark
<b>Mask wire</b>	Weapons Control mark
<b>Lame</b>	Weapons Control mark
<b>Mask</b>	Weapons Control mark
<b>Cuff / Glove</b>	Weapons Control mark
<b>Breeches, Jacket, Plastron</b>	FIE notation



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### 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
<b>Foil</b>	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
<b>Epee</b>	Blade	Wires to come up from the pad between the guard and the connections	Stops breakages of wires by hand
		2 ohms resistance	Ensures hit is recorded correctly
<b>Sabre</b>	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.