



COVID-19 Policies & Procedures

At Ace Fencing Academy, our #1 priority is the health and safety of our members. While there is currently no way to completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 infection, the following policies aim to reduce that risk. They are based on guidance from federal and state authorities, as well as USA Fencing. While these procedures may be inconvenient, they will not be in place forever, and will be modified or phased out as circumstances and guidelines allow. Everyone must read these policies, and answer a brief COVID-19 questionnaire, before entering the club. Thank you for doing your part to keep everyone healthy.

- **All lessons AND open bouts by appointment only. No drop-ins please.** Fencers will be scheduled into cohorts containing a maximum of four fencers. Only those four fencers, plus coaches, may be in the club during the scheduled time. While Fencer #1 takes a private lesson, Fencers #2 and #3 can bout. While Fencer #2 takes a lesson, Fencers #3 and #4 can bout, and so on. We will also fit those who are not taking private lessons into cohorts for bouts, as well as new students as they sign up. If anyone *prefers* to come for private lessons only, with no other fencers in the club during their lesson time, that can be arranged. Members will always have at least the coaches, and potentially up to three other fencers in their cohort, to bout with. Once each cohort is complete, the facility will be cleaned before the next cohort arrives. Please do not arrive at the club more than **15 minutes** before your cohort is scheduled to begin.
- **Social distancing of six feet or more will be practiced, except for fencers and coaches actively engaged in fencing.** Seating will be spaced accordingly, and everyone must maintain social distancing when moving around the club, if not actively fencing. Please do not sit or stretch on the floor. We recommend stretching and warming-up at home before arriving at the club.
- **Per California's mandate on 6/18/20, EVERYONE entering the club must wear cloth or medical masks, including fencers beneath their fencing masks. Masks must cover both the mouth and nose at all times.** Your intrepid coaches have done some

practice bouts and lessons with medical masks on, and we promise it is not as difficult as it sounds! We have masks available for purchase if you need one, or forgot yours at home.

- **Everyone must be wearing cloth/medical masks BEFORE entering the club, and they must remain on the entire time you are at the club.**
- **No food or beverages may be consumed inside the facility.** Please go outside to consume food or beverages (including water), as it requires masks be removed.
- **A maximum of one parent or guardian may accompany fencers.** If you prefer to drop your fencer off and pick them up when they are done, we encourage you to do so. As much as we love visitors under normal circumstances, guests beyond one parent or guardian will be prohibited from entering. Depending how many people are in the club at one time, if we are unable to maintain social distancing, we may ask all non-fencers to leave and come back to pick up their fencer.
- **Do not come to the club if you feel sick.** Please self-monitor and be symptom free for at least 14 days before coming to the facility. Our usual cancellation policy is 24-hours notice for private lessons, however this policy is waived until further notice. You will not be charged for canceling at the last minute. Likewise, please excuse coaches for canceling lessons if they aren't feeling 100%, out of an abundance of caution.
- **Do not come to the club if you or someone you have come in close contact with is sick, or is known or believed to have COVID-19.** If you have or have had COVID-19, we require a minimum 14 day period away from the club, and a signed doctor's note clearing you to return.
- **We will take everyone's temperature upon entering the club using a NON-CONTACT forehead thermometer.** If you have a fever of 100.4 F or higher, we will have to ask you to leave.
- **Hand sanitizer will be provided.** Everyone must sanitize upon arrival, and is encouraged to do so often throughout their training session. Please follow general best-practices: wash or hand-sanitize often; avoid touching face, eyes and mouth; avoid direct physical contact with others; social distance.
- **Please arrive at the club in clean workout-ready clothes to minimize changing.** USA Fencing currently recommends all washable fencing gear be taken home and washed AFTER EACH PRACTICE. Fencers should not store fencing shoes alongside their masks. No personal gear may be left at the club.

- **No sharing of personal equipment is permitted.** This includes swords and body cords. If renting or borrowing gear from Ace on an ongoing basis, you will be assigned a set which you can take home, launder and re-use. We will ask for a fully-refundable \$75 deposit for equipment taken home during this time. All rental gear will be sanitized after every use.
- **Only staff are permitted to touch scoring machines.** Fencers should limit themselves to touching the reels when hooking up.
- **We offer a number of contactless ways to pay for membership and private lessons, including PayPal and Zelle.** We also accept checks and will have a contactless drop-box at the club for check or cash payments. All fees remain the same, as listed on our Website.
- **Salutes before and after lessons/bouting will be limited to blade motions from behind on guard lines.** There will be no shaking hands, fist bumping, elbow bumping, blade tapping, or physical contact of any kind.
- **We will not be offering group classes right away.** Part of the benefit of classes is learning through drills with classmates, and we feel it is not feasible yet. We have not forgotten about the Beginning Fencing students who signed up for Intermediate Fencing, nor our advanced footwork classes. **It is one of our top priorities to get classes going again in a safe manner in the coming weeks, and we will keep everyone updated as to when those will start up. If you don't want to wait, private lessons are available now!**

June 11, 2020