



Club Armoury Policy

We are revising our policy on equipment maintenance and borrowing to ensure our kit lasts longer, keeps club fees down, and gives fencers the best experience on the piste.



Basic Armoury & Maintenance

It is essential that all fencers develop basic fault-finding and servicing skills for their own wires and foils. This is not just a club requirement; it is a fundamental part of competitive fencing that helps you maintain your kit, prolong its life, and prevent frustrating breakdowns.

Armoury Courses: We will run a **Basic Armoury Course** once per term on a Wednesday evening. The next course is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 10th, 2025**. We strongly encourage **fencers AND their parents/guardians** to attend.

Armoury Support: Starting in January, we will provide a table with basic tools on club nights for quick fixes, such as tightening a foil handle or a body wire socket.

Please Note: Club night is **not** the time for repairs such as cleaning tips or re-taping blades. Please arrive with your personal kit in good working order to maximise your fencing time.

Maintenance Resources: In January, each new evening club fencer will receive a small **tool kit** and a **booklet** explaining how to look after and service their equipment.

An armoury course will be run early in each new term.



Borrowing Club Foils and Wires

Cambridge Sword is generous in lending club equipment, an arrangement many other clubs (such as Newham, FCL, Boston, FF) do not offer. However, due to a noticeable increase in broken and missing club foils, we must introduce a stricter borrowing policy.

The cost of purchasing and maintaining club equipment directly affects club session fees, so it is in everyone's interest to minimise these costs.

New Borrowing Rules (Effective Immediately):

1. **Sign-Out Required:** Foils and wires **CANNOT** be taken from the bag without being signed out by a coach or designated person. This process is being

streamlined this week by senior fencer Ethan Smith and will be managed via a new app by January.

2. **Size 5 Foils:** We do not keep spare size 5 foils. Fencers using size 5s are expected to own their own equipment, as picking up a random club foil will not aid performance.

Foil Hire & Equipment Expectations

- **First Term Exception:** Fencers in their first term are provided with one club foil and body-wire free of charge. This is NOT to be taken home and must be signed back in at the end of the session.
- **Post-First Term Hire:** Anyone using a club foil or wire after their first term will be charged **£5 per week** for a maximum of **4 weeks** after which no foil/wire-no fence! This is a hire fee (not a new rule, but it will now be enforced) and the equipment cannot be taken home. You will be invoiced.
- **Broken Personal Foils:** If you break your own foil or wire you may hire a club foil or wire for **£5 per week** for a maximum of **4 weeks** after which no foil/wire-no fence!. It cannot be taken home. You will be invoiced.
- **Compulsory Kit:** We recommend that committed fencers attending club nights, competitions, or squads own at least **two foils and two wires**. Those putting significant time into fencing should ideally have at least three foils, as personalising your equipment is vital for success.

Charges for Damage & Repairs

Damage to Club Equipment

- **Broken Club Blade:** If you break a club blade, you will be required to pay for its replacement. This is not a new rule but will now be enforced. The current charge for a replacement blade is **£58**. You will be invoiced.

External Repair Services

If your personal equipment requires servicing beyond basic maintenance:

- **Blade Rewiring:** We can send your blade away for rewiring, and you will be invoiced for the cost.
- **Basic Servicing:** We can also send foils and wires for basic servicing to our armourers, subject to a minimum charge of **£10**. Remember, tasks like cleaning/re-taping and tightening screws take minutes and should ideally be done by the fencer or a parent/guardian.