



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.

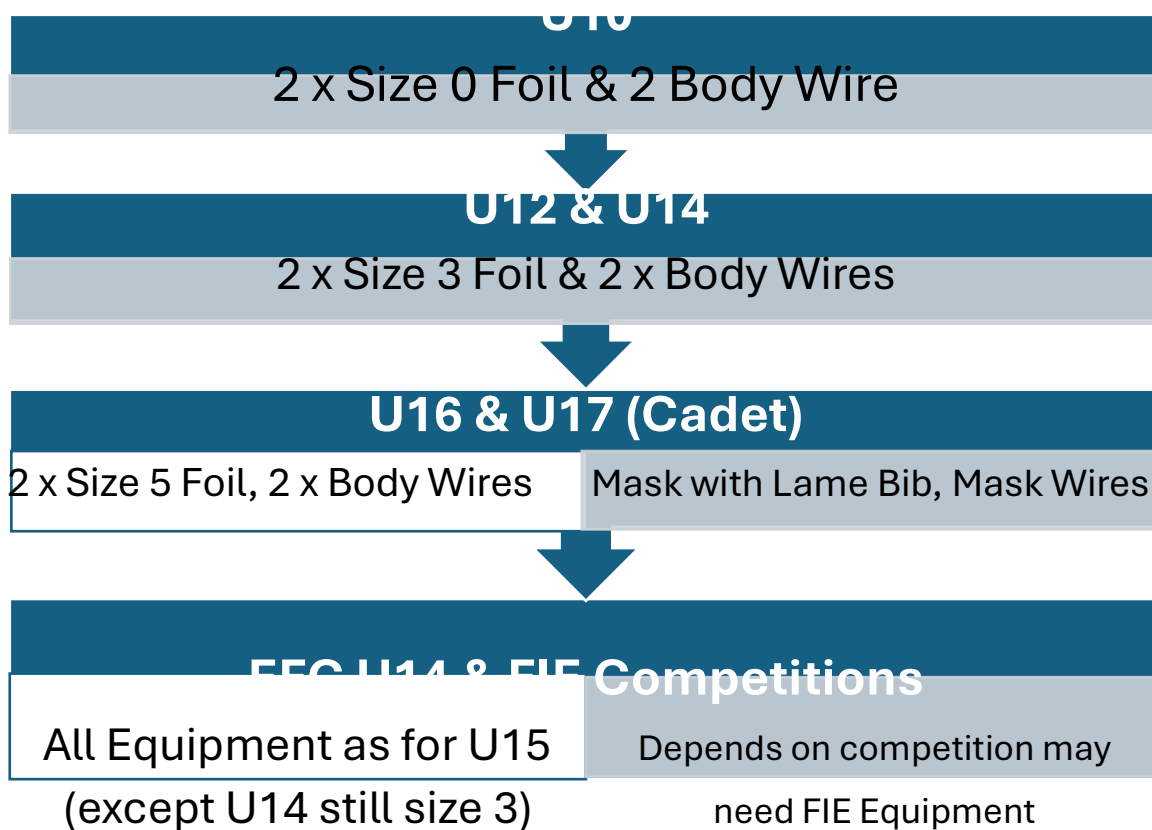
Equipment required for competitions

(we will lend this for the first few your fencer attends)

If your fencer is a novice competitor (first or second competition), one foil and body wire is ok

If your fencer competes regularly, it is advisable to invest in FIE maraging blades from size 3 to size 5 as these blades will last longer than standard etoile blades. Available from Leon Paul & PBT.

It is ideal to have three foils in a foil carrier to carry en piste.



WHAT SIZE BLADE DOES MY FENCER NEED?

Under 10 Years Old - Size 0

10 - 14 Years Old - Size 3

15 Years and Over - Size 5

The only time you will require 2 sizes of blades is when you are 13 at the beginning of the year and you are eligible to enter U14 and Cadet competitions. U14 competitions will mean you need a Size 3 blade but at Cadet you will need a Size 5 blade!



Evening Session Equipment Policy

This outlines the club's policy on loaning equipment, purchasing personal kit, and responsibility for broken blades.



Club Kit Loan Policy

- **Availability:** Full kit (excluding foils and wires) is available for loan for those attending evening sessions. **Full kit, including breeches, is required for all evening sessions.**
- **Booking:** All loaned kit **must be booked** via the club's booking website.
- **Foils:** Foils and body wires are **not** hired out from the general club stock. Coaches will provide foils at the relevant sessions as needed.
- **Eligibility:** Kit hire is only available to fencers whose named club is **Cambridge Sword**. It is not a resource for members of other clubs.



Required Personal Kit Purchases

We can hire kit to fencers, but we expect all fencers attending evening sessions to purchase their own equipment according to the following schedule:

Timeline	Item to Purchase	Estimated Cost
1st Term	Glove	Approx. £25
2nd Term	Foil and Body Wire	Approx. £110
3rd Term	Lame (Electric Jack)	Approx. £85
4th Term	Mask	Approx. £75



Note on Lame Bib Masks

If you are entering competitions that require a lame bib mask, you must purchase your own before your second event. The club cannot supply and maintain these, as they wear out quickly in communal storage.

- **Support:** We can advise on the best sources for kit and obtain **discounts** from certain retailers.

- **Second-Hand:** We will organize a **second-hand kit sale and exchange** to help fencers acquire equipment affordably.
- **Buy-Back Guarantee:** If a fencer does not continue with the club, we will buy back this required personal kit at a fair, agreed-upon price.

Blade Breakages & Replacements

Responsibility for Club Blades

Effective from **Summer Term 2024**, fencers who break a club blade will be required to replace it.

- **Cost:** The current cost for replacing a club blade is **approximately £58**. We will invoice you for broken blades.
- **Grace Period (First Term Fencers):** Fencers still in their first term (who have not yet purchased their own foil) are granted a **one-blade grace period**. They must, however, purchase a replacement when a **second** club blade is broken.

Blade Breakage: While one broken blade per term can be considered normal wear and tear for a club fencer, more frequent breakages often happen when fencers are too close. For competitive fencers, breakages may be more common.

Recommendations for Personal Blades

We strongly recommend that fencers invest in **FIE maraging blades** for their personal foils, as these last significantly longer. We can provide advice on selecting the right blade.

Competition Equipment Expectations

Foil is a highly personal piece of kit, and you need reliable back-up.

- If you are attending your **third competition or more**, you are expected to have **at least two of your own working foils and body wires**.
- The foils and wires provided by coaches at competitions are strictly for backup purposes if your own equipment fails.
- Serious competitive fencers will typically have at least **three working foils** to account for electrical failures, dirty points, and breakages.

Size 5 Foils: The club maintains a limited, legacy stock of size 5 foils and they are not regularly replaced. If you use a size 5 and yours is broken or in for repair, be aware you may have to use a Size 3 club foil. You should own at least two working size 5 foils.