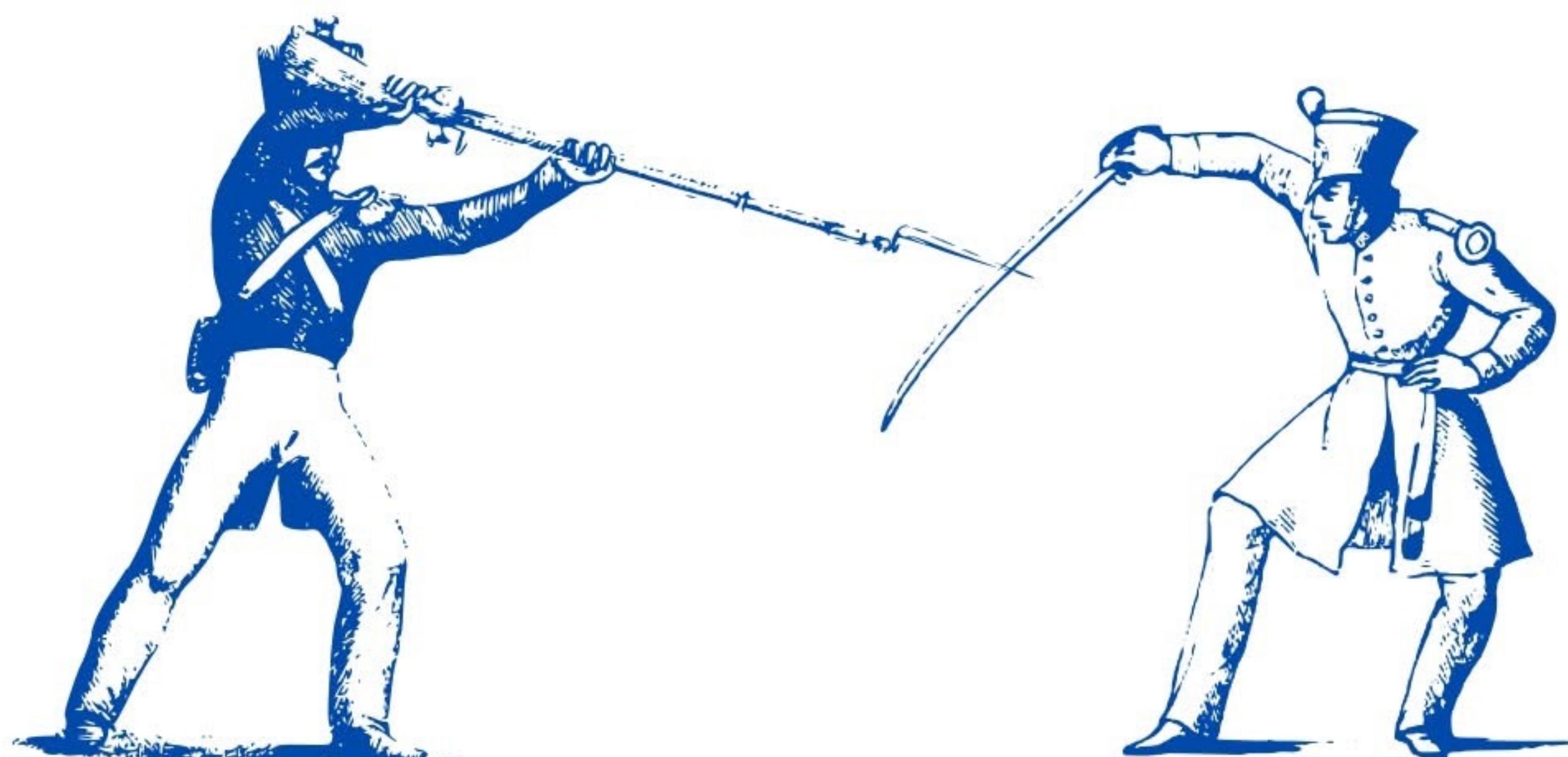


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# PARIS MILITARY FENCING TOURNAMENT

## AT LA SALLE D'ARMES



• OFFICIAL RULESET •

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# PARIS MILITARY FENCING TOURNAMENT

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## SUMMARY

Matches of 6 points in pool rounds and 10 points in elimination rounds

A single valid hit scores 2 points

In case of double hit, each hit scores 1 point

Match durations : 3 minutes in pool rounds, 5 minutes in elimination rounds

Valid hits with the tip, the cutting edge and back edge in sabre

Valid hits with the tip in bayonet

Wrestling and disarming are prohibited

Afterblows are not valid

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## TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The sabre and bayonet events are conducted in two phases: a pool phase and a knockout phase.

During the pool phase, all fencers face each other in bouts to 6 points, with a maximum effective fighting time of three minutes. The winner of a bout is the first fencer to reach or exceed 6 points, or, if the time limit is reached, the fencer with the higher score. Pools consist of approximately 6 fencers each. At the end of the pool phase, a general ranking is established based on the number of victories, points scored, and points conceded.

The top 16 fencers in the general ranking advance to the knockout phase. In this phase, fencers compete in direct elimination bouts. Elimination bouts are fought until 10 points, with a maximum effective fighting time of five minutes. The winner is the first fencer to reach or exceed 10 points, or, if the time limit is reached, the fencer with the higher score.

The small final and final take place at the end of the day. They are conducted as best-of-two bouts, each until 10 points.

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## MATCH PROCEDURE

Fencers begin the match by saluting their opponent and the referee from their en garde line.

Matches are fought until 6 or 10 points.

Each single hit scores 2 points.

In the case of a simultaneous touch, each hit scores 1 point.

Effective fighting time is 3 or 5 minutes, depending on the bout.

When one fencer reaches 6 or 10 points, the referee stops the bout and declares the winner.

If both fencers reach 6 or 10 points simultaneously, or if they are tied at the end of the effective fighting time, the fencer who landed the first single touch is declared the winner.

In the event of a tie with no single touches scored, the referee calls a « sudden death » according to the convention rules.

Priority is given to the fencer who extends the arm first.

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## EXCHANGE PROCEDURE

Each exchange begins with the fencers on their en garde lines.

The referee announces “En garde” (“On guard”). The fencers must take their guard and remain still.

The referee asks, “Êtes-vous prêts ?” (“Are you ready?”) The fencers remain still.

If the fencers answer “Yes” or do not respond, the referee announces “Allez” (“Go”), and the exchange begins.

When one fencer is hit, the referee calls “Halte.” The fencers must immediately stop the exchange, remain immobile while the referee announces the phrase of arms and awards points, and then return to their en garde lines.

Afterblows are not valid.

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## PROTESTS AND FAIR PLAY

Fencers are not allowed to dispute the referee's decisions or lodge any protest. They may, however, raise their hand to concede a touch that should be awarded to their opponent if they wish.

## VALID HITS

In sabre, valid hits may be made with the point, the cutting edge, or the back edge of the blade. In bayonet, valid hits may only be made with the point.

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## PROHIBITED ACTIONS

Several actions are prohibited for safety reasons or to ensure fair play:

It is forbidden to expose a prohibited target.

It is forbidden to strike a prohibited target.

Wrestling or grappling is forbidden.

It is forbidden to grab the opponent's weapon.

It is forbidden to hold the sabre with both hands.

It is forbidden to strike with the sabre's guard (capuce or hand guard).

It is forbidden to strike with the rifle's butt.

It is forbidden to drop one's weapon. The weapon must always be held: the sabre in the weapon hand, the bayonet with at least one hand.

Changing the hand holding the sabre during a bout is forbidden, except in the case of a verified injury that requires a hand change but does not prevent continuation of the bout.

Deliberately pushing the opponent is forbidden.

In general, any excessively violent action that does not constitute fencing is prohibited.

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## VALID TARGETS

Hits are only valid if delivered to a valid target.

Valid targets are:

Head

Torso

Arms

Hands

Legs

## PROHIBITED TARGETS

For safety reasons, certain targets are forbidden.

Prohibited targets are:

The nape of the neck

The back

The groin

The feet

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## OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

The referee is the director of the bout. As such, they are responsible for ensuring both fair play and the safety of the fencers. The referee may impose penalties for infractions. There are three categories of offences: minor offences, major offences, and disqualifying offences.

Minor offences are first sanctioned with a verbal warning, then with a yellow card. These include: not being ready on the en garde line, stepping laterally off the piste, using excessive force to score a touch, accidentally committing a prohibited action, continuing the exchange after “Halt” and arguing with the referee.

Major offences are sanctioned with a red card, which awards 1 point to the opponent. These include: repeating a minor offence and intentionally committing a prohibited action.

Disqualifying offences are sanctioned with a black card, which results in loss of the bout and disqualification from the tournament. The organizing team will ask the fencer to leave the fencing hall. These include: refusing to salute the opponent or the referee, physically assaulting the opponent (kicking, punching, etc.) and insulting the opponent or the referee.

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## WEAPONS

Weapons are provided by the tournament organizers. Fencers are not allowed to compete with their own weapons.

An exception may be granted if a fencer owns exactly the same model as the official tournament weapon and has obtained permission from the organizing team to use it.

For the sabre tournament, the official weapon is the « Easton Sabre 3 » by Kvetun Armoury (length: 1010 mm; weight: 800 g).

For the bayonet tournament, the official weapon is the « 1816 Musket with bayonet » by Black Fencer (length: 1850 mm; weight: 2000 g).

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## PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Each fencer must wear a complete set of protective gear in good condition. The organization reserves the right to refuse any fencer whose equipment does not meet safety standards.

Each fencer must have:

Fencing mask rated 350N minimum

Fencing overlay (mask cover)

Gorget (throat protector)

Fencing jacket and trousers, rated 350N minimum

Plastron (under-plastron)

Groin protector (optional for women)

Elbow protectors

Knee protectors

Shin guards

Gloves\*

\* For the sabre tournament, fencers must use HEMA-grade sabre gloves (Kevlar, Red Dragons, HF Firestone, Thokk, etc.).

\* For the bayonet tournament, fencers must use an HEMA-grade sabre glove on the rear hand and a heavy “longsword-type” glove on the lead hand (Spes Lobster, Kvetun Xiphora, HF Black Knight, Sparring Gloves, etc.).

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## PRIZES AND MILITARY BIATHLON

The fencer who wins the sabre event is awarded the title of « Grand vainqueur de contre-pointe » of the Paris Military Fencing Tournament.

The fencer who wins the bayonet event is awarded the title of « Grand vainqueur de baïonnette » of the Paris Military Fencing Tournament. The Military Biathlon combines the sabre and bayonet events. Any fencer participating in both events is automatically entered into the Military Biathlon.

The Biathlon ranking is determined by combining the results from both the sabre and bayonet tournaments. At the end of the day, the fencer with the best overall ranking wins the Military Biathlon and is proclaimed « Grand vainqueur » of the Paris Military Fencing Tournament.

## FENCING PISTE

The fencing piste measures 10 meters in length and 2 meters in width. The en garde lines are spaced 4 meters apart.

Fencers must always keep at least one foot on the piste. If a fencer steps off the back end of the piste, 1 point is awarded to their opponent.

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## THE SPIRIT AND HISTORY OF THE RULESET

La Salle d'Armes has chosen not to apply the rule of “convention” and to allow all target areas to be valid. This decision follows in the tradition of military fencing tournaments and the *Règlement d'escrime, approuvé par le ministre de la Guerre le 6 mars 1908*, which advocate « bringing the assault closer to the truth of combat, making it as complete a preparation as possible for fighting on the battlefield. »

Translated excerpt:

*Even more than in foil fencing, it seemed logical to bring the assault closer to the truth of combat, to make it as complete a preparation as possible for fighting on the battlefield—the precise goal, the natural outcome, and the military purpose of sabre fencing in the salle being to make the cavalryman more agile and strong, and to give him the eye, composure, and skill he will need to use his weapon effectively in all circumstances of war.*

*Indeed, while some advocates of the foil may invoke legalistic arguments and claim that fencing with the épée, so-called ‘practical’ fencing, deserves that name only in countries that, like ours, hold a particular conception of honor and dueling; while they may see fencing merely as a sport or an art—and therefore believe that foil fencing suffices unto itself—they cannot deny that combat with the sabre, on foot or on horseback, is a reality of war, a battlefield necessity, for which every soldier carrying that weapon has a duty to prepare.*

# TOURNOI D'ESCRIME MILITAIRE DE PARIS

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*Limiting the valid target area to the torso, as is done in foil, would therefore be meaningless; including the head but excluding the legs, as is currently practiced, would be equally unjustified; decreeing, in imitation of Italian fencing, that every simple attack must always be parried, on account of the counter-attack it allows, would be a regression—a denial of both military theory and pedagogical principle, which equally affirm the superiority of the thrust over the cut, of tactical truth over convention, and of logical action over mere gesture.*

*For these reasons, the Regulations extend the valid target area to the entire body, beyond the head and forearm already accepted, reserving for foil fencing alone the sole remaining convention in the art of arms.*

Ministère de la Guerre, Règlement d'escrime (fleuret, épée, sabre),  
approuvé par le ministre de la Guerre le 6 mars 1908, 1908.