

EXPLANATION OF INHERENT RISKS AND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

Each fencer on the team must sign a participation agreement. If a fencer has already done this as part of his or her individual entry, then a second participation agreement is not needed.

Name of athlete (please print) _____

Name of team _____

Tournament fencing is an exciting competitive sport that involves frequent contact with steel swords, as well as occasional contact between fencers, in the course of an intense aerobic physical activity. The sport also requires layers of protective clothing that can be hot. Because of these conditions inherent to the sport, participation in tournament fencing exposes athletes to many risks of injury. Those injuries include, but are not limited to, death; paralysis due to serious neck and back injuries; brain damage; impalement; damage to the eyes and face; damage to internal organs; heat illness; serious injuries to the bones, ligaments, joints, and tendons; cuts and bruises; and general deterioration of health. Such injuries can result not only in temporary loss of function, but also in serious impairment of future physical, psychological, and social abilities, including the ability to earn a living.

In an effort to make the sport of tournament fencing as safe as it can be, the tournament officials will enforce the equipment requirements for this tournament, as well as the rules of this tournament. It is vital that athletes follow the officials' instructions, the tournament rules, and the equipment requirements in order to decrease the possibility of serious injury. Tournament rules and equipment requirements are provided to all tournament participants, and can be found on our web site.

I/we certify that the above-named athlete is in good health and that there is no physical or emotional reason prohibiting my/his/her participation in the sport of tournament fencing. I/we understand that any violations of proper conduct or safety rules (including improper or inadequate equipment) may result in participation privileges being revoked without refund of fees. I/we understand that the success of this tournament is based on the efforts of volunteers. I/we will try to provide an enjoyable experience for all participants.

I/we have read the information above concerning the risks of tournament fencing. I/we understand and assume all risks associated with competing in the sport of tournament fencing. I/we further agree to hold the employees, representatives, instructors, coaches, officials, volunteers, and agents of the following organizations (as well as the organizations themselves, harmless in any and all liability actions, claims, or additional legal action in connection with participation in any activities related to participation as a fencer under the auspices of Salem Classical Fencing and the American Fencing League:

Salem Classical Fencing
American Fencing League
owners and management of tournament venue

In signing this form, I/we assume the inherent risks of tournament fencing and waive future legal action by my/our heirs, estate, executor, administrator, assignees, family members, and myself/ourselves.

X _____ Date: _____
Signature of athlete (regardless of age)

X _____ Date: _____
Signature of father/legal guardian (if participant is under 18 years of age)

X _____ Date: _____
Signature of mother/legal guardian (if participant is under 18 years of age)

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The athlete and both parents or legal guardians (if living) must sign this form before any athlete under the age of 18 may participate in the fencing tournament. If one parent or guardian is deceased, please indicate so on the appropriate line. If only one parent's signature appears above, that parent assumes responsibility for informing the other parent of the inherent risks of tournament fencing.