



Irish Academy of Arms Technical Training Criteria

The Irish Academy of Arms (Académie d'Armes d'Irlande) has adopted the Draft Criteria for Technical Training as proposed at the Vichy Congress of the Académie d'Armes Internationale. The criteria are appropriate to all three weapons, as the Diploma of Maître d'Armes must address all subjects pertaining to fencing. However, the criteria may be applied to one weapon for the levels after Entraîneur and up to and including Maître d'Arme.

In the event of failure, there should to be a 6-month interval before the candidate may again take the examination of the same level.

Ideally the candidate should study under the guidance of an existing master who will act as mentor/tutor. However, due to the current lack of coincidence between the availability of teaching masters in any particular locus and candidates in that location, self-guided study is the norm and courses are run at the various levels to aid in this process. Hours, in brackets, are suggested minima for master-mentored study.

The candidate has the freedom to take courses and examinations in the Academy of his choice.

Entraîneur (1st Level)

Definition:

The Entraîneur is an assistant to the higher-level instructors and, after completing their training, can work autonomously. The Entraîneur provides instructions for less experienced fencers with activities which provide an understanding of the basic preparatory physical actions of fencing. The Entraîneur works collectively with groups, as well as with individuals.

Skills:

To gather together a group of pupils and organise activities according to the resources available; to express instructions in simple terms in order to hold the pupils' attention and to be sympathetic.

To instruct newcomers on life in their club; traditions of fencing in their country; rules and the most important competitions.

To convey to the pupils self sufficiency, to inform them regarding the proper clothing and the safety rules which one must follow from the beginning of fencing practice.

To gain the confidence of the group, to lay out a program alternating between activities that are playful and activities that are specifically for maintaining interest and participation.

Admission Requirements:

A minimum of 18 years of age. To have aptitude for teaching sports (30 hours), and to have received a certificate of completion that demonstrates the candidate's ability to teach a group of pupils about basic motor function and fencing apprenticeship appropriate to their age, or other appropriate qualifications or practical ability.

Duration of Training:

Theory and elementary fencing education (20 hours).

Fencing practice with general components and components specific to each weapon (40 hours).

Apprenticeship in a fencing hall or primary school or recreational centre (30 hours).

Examination Location - Commission - Evaluation Criteria:

These are set by the Academy.

Examination Program: 1st Level

Theoretical Component:

- a) Definitions, terminology, fencing instruction in the fundamental aspects and the basics of the three weapons.
- b) Rules of fencing (the fundamentals, basic rules) particularly related to actions for the very young.
- c) Organization of related fencing activities, and individual and team competitions in the form of a game.
- d) Organization and demonstration of elementary fencing group lessons.
- e) Extracurricular: general and specific components, the same as in the training courses (health & safety, child protection, first aid, etc).

Practical Component:

- a) The correct demonstration of the fencing movements of attack and defence.
- b) Group fencing lessons for improving the fundamentals (in game form), aptitude tests, exercises for two.

Specific Aspects of Training: 1st Level

Theoretical Component:

Fencing terminology, organization, functioning, the manner of holding the three weapons.

Weapon hand position, valid targets in all three weapons, fundamental positions and movements of the legs. Positions and movements of the weapon hand.

Fundamental attacks, principle exercises with the blade.

The defence.

To perceive the counter-attack.

The notion of timing, speed, and distance (20 hours).

Practical Component - Related to All Three Weapons:

Basic movements for placement of the fencer (preparatory positioning, the salute, the on-guard, the lunge, return to on-guard, placement on the piste) executed individually or collectively, in twos, by precision exercises and competitions, supported with executive verification (10 hours).

Foil:

Weapon hand position. Work with weapon blade (engagements and change of engagements, beats, pressure).

Parries with the blade (direct, circular, semi-circular, diagonal, opposition). Simple and compound ripostes (with or without blade contact). Perceiving the counter-attack (20 hours).

Epée and Sabre:

Correct demonstration of: the manner of holding the weapon, the principle differences in making a valid hit, the diversity of targets, and competition rules (5 hours + 5 hours).

Apprenticeship Education:

During training, the candidate should acquire the experiences available from: fencing clubs, primary schools, community centres, recreational centres or other organizations for children where he can maintain a specific connection with the sport of fencing (30 hours).

Moniteur (2nd Level of Instruction)

Definition:

This is the first real level for trained personnel appointed to work in the fencing hall. They follow the technical objectives set up by their superiors and progress towards being able to independently teach pupils in the practice of basic fencing.

Skills:

To continue the activity of an Entraîneur in a concrete manner. To be able to follow a training schedule, taking examples from his superiors, for improving the technical qualities of the group that has been assigned to him. To distinguish very clearly the requisite teaching differences of the three weapons. To be capable of running a class for beginners, no matter what their age.

Admission Requirements:

To be in possession of the title of Entraîneur.

Duration of Training:

Theory of fencing with analysis of the themes of each weapon (30 hours).

Fencing practice with a common partner, with specifics for each weapon. (60 hours).

Developing an extracurricular relationship with an athletic centre to ensure the continuity of study and pedagogical teaching (30 hours).

Educational experiences in a fencing hall (6 months).

Examination Location - Commission - Evaluation Criteria:

These are to be set by the Academy.

Examination Program: 2nd Level

Theoretical Component:

- a) Theory, techniques, instruction of fencing common to the three weapons.
- b) Theory, techniques, instruction specific to each weapon.
- c) Knowledge of the fencing rules.
- d) Extracurricular: general and specific components, the same as in the training courses.

Practical Component:

- a) Three lessons in the three weapons, passed with a fencing Maître, correctly demonstrating the principle actions of fencing.
- b) Three lessons in the three weapons given to a pupil, demonstrating: knowledge of the fundamentals and basics of attack actions, of defence, of the counterattack, to know how to correctly give the blade to the pupil, the appropriate choice of distance, and the time of execution.
- c) Know how to referee a fencing bout for the youngest categories, and to organise a simple fencing tournament in a pool or direct elimination.
- d) Be able to prepare group lessons for a basic fencing position.
- e) Be able to conduct a simple session of quality basic fencing.

Specific Aspects of Training: 2nd Level

Theoretical Components:

Foil:

Knowledge of the specific conventional aspects of the weapon.

Basic attacks by opposition to the position of the opponent's weapon arm.

The compound attacks.

Defence with the blade by opposition to the opponent's attack, and the types of ripostes (simple, compound).

Study of counter-time and second intention attacks. (10 hours)

Sabre:

Position of the weapon arm while giving different hits.

The targets and where to deliver the different hits - of attack, of defence, and of counterattack.

The basic attacks in opposition to the position of the opponent's weapon arm. Compound attacks and auxiliary attacks.

Defence with the blade by opposition to the opponent's attacks, and the types of riposte.

The time-hit/ counter-attack with opposition and its applications.

Study of simultaneous actions, counter-time and second intention attacks. (10 hours)

Epée:

Settling to on-guard and placement on the piste.

The cover and movement of the weapon arm.

Attack with and without contact of the blade.

The counterattack.

Study of counter-time and second intention attack. (10 hours)

Practical Component:

In relation to all three weapons: the candidate should be essentially training to direct an individual lesson of the basic, principal actions of attack, defence, and counterattack.

Know how to give the blade to the pupil for the correct execution of a hit.

To know the exact distance and the right timing.

Know how to give instructions according to the type of lesson (prepared, silent, with different executions on the changes of position) (30 hours)

Foil:

Movement of the feet in all situations (with tactical comment).

Working with the blade for improving sensitivity to/with the weapon

Attacks: simple and compound.

Different types of parries and ripostes.

Time-hit/ counter-attack with opposition.

Counter-time exercises. (10 hours)

Sabre:

Movement of the feet in all situations (with tactical examples).

Giving hits with exercises for suppleness of the weapon arm.

Anticipation of the weapon arm in coordination with the execution of hits. Different types of parries and ripostes.

The counterattack.

The exercises in simultaneous attacks and counter-time (10 hours).

Epée:

Footwork in all the situations (with tactical insertions).

Protection of the weapon arm. Giving hits.

Angular hits, oppositions, remises.

Defence with the blade and distance.

Counterattacking with the stop-hit.

Exercises in counter-time and second intention attacks. (10 hours)

Extracurricular:

Analysis of fencing movements.

Emergency care and first-aid (related to fencing).

Psychological and physical preparation for competing in combative sports.

Training plans.

General aspects of managing a fencing hall.

Knowledge of fencing history (30 hours).

Prévôt (3rd Level of Instruction)

Definition:

Starting at this level, one truly enters into the fencing profession. The Prévôt is a fencing teacher with total self-management in the fencing hall, who, in the absence of the fencing Maître, can replace the Maître without any technical or pedagogical problems.

Skills:

In-depth knowledge of the instruction and practice of fencing. Knowing how to provide for the individual and collective needs of all the pupils of the fencing club where he works. To plan the education of a group of pupils entrusted to him by the fencing Maître, and to aid their preparation for competition. To know how to accompany the fencers of the club to competitions of different technical levels.

Admission Requirements:

To be in possession of the Diploma of Moniteur.

Duration of Training:

Theory of fencing with analysis of the themes, techniques and tactics relative to the three weapons (60 hours).

Fencing practice to improve the manner of giving lessons (individuals, groups) with a thorough treatment of competitive tactics (90 hours).

Extracurricular activities (general and specific components), developed at an athletic training centre to assure the continuity of scientific study and pedagogical teaching (30 hours).

Educational experiences in a fencing hall (minimum 12 months). Adjournment seminars (90 hours).

Enrolment in the above course should take place over a minimum of eighteen months.

Examination Location - Commission - Evaluation Criteria:

In addition to what has been mentioned for the preceding levels, the Irish Academy of Arms requires the presence of an external examiner (being an accredited senior Maître from a member Academy of the A.A.I.).

Examination Program: 3rd Level

Theoretical Component:

- a) A very good knowledge of fencing theory, of the instruction of competitive tactics for the general and specific components of all three weapons.
- b) A written test concerning the functioning of the fencing hall and the management and planning of fencing activities.
- c) A very thorough knowledge of the F.I.E. rules and of their application in the organization of a tournament.
- d) Extracurricular activities (general and specific components, the same as in the training courses).
- e) Knowledge of fencing history.

Practical Component:

- a) A fencing lesson for each weapon given to a pupil who has a minimum of three years competitive experience, firmly demonstrating the use of sound instruction in the progression of actions, and with tactical comments on fencing strategies.
- b) Demonstrate how to conduct group/class exercises (with two, in several positions) to prepare a performance to promote fencing.
- c) Practical knowledge of fencing history.

Specific Aspects of Training: 3rd Level**Theoretical Component:****Foil - Sabre- Epée:**

Deepen the principles already acquired in the preceding levels. Study of strategies and statistics of competition. The modern fencing competition and the different applications of theory. Outline the theory of different types of lessons or exercises for two in order to improve the fencers' techniques and tactics (60 hours).

Practical Component:**Foil:**

Exercises to improve instruction practice.

The teaching of the modern fencing hits (flicks, oppositions on the blade, angular hits).

Study of different types of lessons (pre-competition warm-up, precision, mechanical, specific, tactical).

The written study of foil, and practical application of the rules (30 hours).

Sabre:

Exercises to improve practice instruction, particularly to promote the quick and agile use of the sabre.

Tactical work on distances with exercises in different situations on the piste.

Study of the different types of lessons (pre-competition warm-up, precision, mechanical, specific, tactical) (30 hours).

Epée:

Exercises to improve practice instruction through progressive hits.

The protection of the weapon arm and absence of the passive phase in the consecutive execution of hits.

Study of the different types of lesson (pre-competition warm-up, precision, mechanical, specific, tactical) (30 hours).

Group Courses - Schools - Sessions - Fencing History:

Training courses and educational experiences developed under the direction of a fencing Maître (30 hours).

Extracurricular:

Tactics and strategies in combative sports.

The mental approach to competition.

The role of the coach in the athletic structure (juridical, economic, and administrative considerations).

Thorough acquisition and consolidation of knowledge of fencing history and sports for the handicapped, with an emphasis on fencing.

Knowledge of principle fencing terms in the French language (30 hours).

Maître d'Arme (4th Level of Instruction)

Definition:

The Maître's diploma is the culmination of the training course as for the Maître d'Armes (q.v.) but is confined to **one weapon only**.

The Maître is the point of reference for all technical, didactic, and competitive issues in a fencing hall.

Skills:

Planning of all fencing activity (promotional, recreational, competitive, handicapped, historical) in the fencing hall where he works.

Coordinates the competitive activity by programming fencer training and fencer participation in competitions.

Organises demonstrations of all levels and of different types, with a flawless knowledge of refereeing and management of tournaments.

Admission Requirements:

Diploma of Prévôt.

Certificate in subjects of a general character (pedagogy and education, training theory, physiology, emergency care, child protection, first-aid) and specific to fencing (combative sports, fencer training, the role of the coach in management, juridical studies, administration of an athletic club).

Certificate of tournament referee and Director of tournament at the national level, where applicable.

Duration of Training:

Perfect knowledge of theory and terminology of fencing (60 hours).

Absolute mastery of conducting different types of lessons with an individual or group in all three weapons (60 hours).

Participation in the CPD seminars at the national and international level in three weapons, or specifically for each weapon (120 hours).

Teaching experience in a fencing hall (a minimum 18 months).

Participation in the following: extracurricular activities (20 hours), historical fencing (20 hours)

Examination Location - Commission - Evaluation Criteria:

In addition to what has been mentioned for the preceding levels, the Irish Academy of Arms requires the presence of an external examiner (being an accredited senior Maître from a member Academy of the A.A.I.). A National Maître is recognized under the guidelines of the A.A.I. and the F.I.E., with the issue of the diploma with an official seal of the A.A.I. and F.I.E.

Examination Program: 4th Level

Theoretical Component:

Since the evaluation is a rigorous curriculum of study, it will also require a thesis on a subject chosen by the candidate and his mentor.

The candidate must demonstrate professional character and a thorough knowledge of fencing in general, along with its specific requirements.

Practical Component:

Three lessons given to fencers of advanced competitive level, with a technical and tactical analysis; each lesson embodies different objectives to be attained by coherent instruction. The candidate must be certain to demonstrate in his conduct of the exercises, an absolute mastery of weapons, and a professional character while executing fencing actions with a pupil.

Specific Aspects of Training: 4th Level

During the training, the candidate will continue to update his skills; his apprenticeship should at the same time continue to pursue fencing concerns in order to reach its objectives.

Theoretical Component:

Perfect knowledge of fencing theory, of the appropriate terminology of each action, perfect knowledge of the F.I.E. competition rules, with appropriate terminology and mastery of fencing technical vocabulary, accompanied by fluent expression in the French language.

Practical Component:

To refine the instruction of the chosen weapon. Acquisition of a work method. Adapting to any pupil in the lesson, whatsoever. Extending the knowledge of the different types of lesson (with the right hand or the left hand) and the different kinds of lesson (prepared, silent, with change of type: of tactic, of distance, of rhythm, of speed).

Maître d'Armes (5th Level of Instruction)

Definition:

The Maître's diploma is the culmination of the training course. The Maître is the point of reference for all technical, didactic, and competitive issues in a fencing hall.

Skills:

Planning of all fencing activity (promotional, recreational, competitive, handicapped, historical) in the fencing hall where he works.

Coordinates the competitive activity by programming fencer training and fencer participation in competitions.

Organises demonstrations of all levels and of different types, with a flawless knowledge of refereeing and management of tournaments.

Admission Requirements:

Diploma of Prévôt.

Certificate in subjects of a general character (pedagogy and education, training theory, physiology, emergency care, child protection, first-aid) and specific to fencing (combative sports, fencer training, the role of the coach in management, juridical studies, administration of an athletic club).

Certificate of tournament referee and Director of tournament at the national level, where applicable.

Duration of Training:

Perfect knowledge of theory and terminology of fencing (60 hours).

Absolute mastery of conducting different types of lessons with an individual or group in all three weapons (60 hours).

Participation in the CPD seminars at the national and international level in three weapons, or specifically for each weapon (120 hours).

Teaching experience in a fencing hall (a minimum 18 months).

Participation in the following: extracurricular activities (20 hours), historical fencing (20 hours)

Examination Location - Commission - Evaluation Criteria:

In addition to what has been mentioned for the preceding levels, the Irish Academy of Arms requires the presence of an external examiner (being an accredited senior Maître from a member Academy of the A.A.I.). A National Maître is recognized under the guidelines of the A.A.I. and the F.I.E., with the issue of the diploma with an official seal of the A.A.I. and F.I.E.

Examination Program: 5th Level

Theoretical Component:

Since the evaluation is a rigorous curriculum of study, it will also require a thesis on a subject chosen by the candidate and his mentor.

The candidate must demonstrate professional character and a thorough knowledge of fencing in general, along with its specific requirements.

Practical Component:

Three lessons (one for each weapon) given to fencers of advanced competitive level, with a technical and tactical analysis; each lesson embodies different objectives to be attained by coherent instruction. The candidate must be certain to demonstrate in his conduct of the exercises, an absolute mastery of weapons, and a professional character while executing fencing actions with a pupil.

Specific Aspects of Training: 5th Level

During the training, the candidate will continue to update his skills; his apprenticeship should at the same time continue to pursue fencing concerns in order to reach its objectives.

Theoretical Component:

Perfect knowledge of fencing theory, of the appropriate terminology of each action, perfect knowledge of the F.I.E. competition rules, with appropriate terminology and mastery of fencing technical vocabulary, accompanied by fluent expression in the French language.

Practical Component:

To refine the instruction of all three weapons. Acquisition of a work method. Adapting to any pupil in the lesson, whatsoever. Extending the knowledge of the different types of lesson (with the right hand or the left hand) and the different kinds of lesson (prepared, silent, with change of type: of tactic, of distance, of rhythm, of speed).

Maître d'Esgrime (6th Level of Instruction)

Definition:

The qualification for a Maître in Artistic Fencing.

The Curriculum for Maitre d'Esgrime is under development.