

# **SwordMaster**

## **Beyond Skill Is Mastery Fencing Excellence, Fencing Mastery**

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### **Making Dreams Come True**

#### **The SwordMaster Fencer Development Programme:**

SwordMaster brings together the elements of technique, tactics, rules and refereeing in a learning package designed to achieve fencing mastery.

The program comprises a seven level structured hierarchy for learning. It has been designed by SwordMaster to aid the students and coach to achieve effective learning for fencing mastery.

On satisfactory completion of each program level, the fencer receives the SwordMaster award badge and achievement certificate.

**Fig 1. Typical Award Badge**



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**Fig 2. Structure of the SwordMaster Fencer Development program:**

FOIL EPEE SABRE	SAFETY	TECHNIQUE	ETIQUETTE	RULES
<b>0</b>	Introduce fencing safety.	Introduce fundamental fencing techniques.	Introduce fencing ethics and principles which underpin the sport.	Introduce fundamental rules of fencing and sportsmanship for fencing as a game to play for fun.
LEVEL	TECHNIQUE	TACTICS	RULES	REFEREEING
<b>1</b>	The physical weapon manipulation skills, which also includes foot work and the use of space, is covered by Technique.	Tactical mastery is achieved through a foundation of strategic and tactical principles. The process of tactical analysis and decision making is underpinned in the SwordMaster program by the development of observation skills which are required to objectively inform the decision making process.	Participants learn the rules of fencing as a dimension of the fencing game. It is an enquiry into the full potential of what is possible and what they can create within the framework of the game, defined by the rules.	A SwordMaster foundation principle is the game requires two fencers and a referee. It reinforces the fencer's concentration and observational skills.
<b>2</b>				
<b>3</b>	This includes the preparations (with and without the blade), offensives, defensives, counter-offensives and variations of the attack.			Learning refereeing fundamentals enhances the depth of understanding, insights and self-confidence for mastery of the fencing game. This includes skills from time keeping, scoring and corner judging through to refereeing a whole pool.
<b>4</b>	The program's progressions apply irrespective of the school of technique to be taught; French, Italian, Hungarian, etc.			
<b>5</b>				
<b>6</b>				

## **How The SwordMaster Fencer Development Programme Works:**

The club/coach uses the SwordMaster program from the Level 0 introductory level through to Level 6 in the weapon of their choice (foil, epee, sabre) to provide the fencers and coaches with a structured skill learning programme.

SwordMaster strongly believes in the concept of Athlete Centered Coaching, and encourages coaches, through our Coach Training Programme, to plan and prepare their own lessons and progressions in function of their pupils needs. SwordMaster can provide lesson plans if required, on request.

Programme participants receive a small booklet for the level they are preparing which outlines the skills and abilities they are learning to master. It includes text and drawings which highlight the key coaching points. The coach has a copy of the Programme Structure to use for developing their progressions and session lesson plans.

On successful completion of the programme by participants, as assessed by a SwordMaster Coach, participants receive the appropriate Programme Level Award. Assessment will normally be conducted by the coach or another independent coach up to Level 4 inclusively. For Level 5 and 6 coaches and clubs may require more than one coach to assist with the skill and mastery assessment.

### **Technique:**

In the SwordMaster program the physical weapon manipulation skills, which also includes foot work and the use of space, is covered by Technique. This includes the preparations (with and without the blade), offensives, defensives, counteroffensives and variations of the attack. The program's progressions apply irrespective of the school of technique to be taught; French, Italian, Hungarian, etc.

If required, supplementary to the program, SwordMaster can provide specific information, resources and coaching instruction to coaches and clubs on teaching the technique which will be consistent with the French School/style of fencing.

### **Tactics:**

Tactical mastery is achieved through a foundation of strategic and tactical principles. The process of tactical analysis and decision making is under pinned in the SwordMaster Program by the development of observation skills.

The ability to observe, identify "cues" and to understand the significance to the game, while fencing, is an important tactical skill to master. It is an essential step which objectively informs a fencer and underpins their tactical and strategic decision making processes.

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## **Rules:**

Participants learn the rules of fencing as a dimension of the fencing game. It is an enquiry into the full potential of what is possible and what they can create within the framework of the game, defined by the rules.

## **Refereeing:**

A SwordMaster foundation principle is the game requires two fencers and a referee. It reinforces the fencer's concentration and observational skills. Learning the refereeing fundamentals enhances the depth of understanding, insights and self-confidence for mastery of the fencing game. This includes skills from time keeping, scoring and corner judging through to refereeing a whole pool.

## **SwordMaster Programme Support:**

SwordMaster can provide support for coaches and clubs in the form of training and resources for both coaches and fencers who engage to use the SwordMaster programs.

Coach training is available, conducted as part of the Oceania Fencing Masters Academy training. Participant coaches will work towards their internationally recognised fencing coach qualifications while learning the techniques for delivery of the SwordMaster program.

Fencer training sessions can be provided by SwordMaster on request as required. This includes options for assessments, advanced training, fitness and mental skills training. SwordMaster can also provide general and personalised training plans, annualised for competition and training.

## **SwordMaster Design and Copyright:**

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