

## Fencing Equipment List

The following is a list of the equipment that each fencer will need. Fencing uniforms and equipment are generally only available at fencing supply stores. You can buy online from several vendors including Absolute Fencing ([www.absolutefencinggear.com](http://www.absolutefencinggear.com)). If you buy online, don't forget to check for clearance items which are usually listed on a separate page. The style of fencing we practice is called épée, so you need equipment for an épée fencer (not foil or sabre).

You can also buy second hand. We will buy used equipment from Pope fencers at about half the price of new equipment and resell it at the same price (ask at practice if you are interested). Craigslist is also a good source (<http://atlanta.craigslist.org/sss/>) and might save you up to 50% compared to buying new. [Play It Again Sports](#) (with locations in Roswell and Kennesaw) have been known to carry épée fencing gear.

### Beginner's fencing uniform and equipment

The range of equipment available can be bewildering. This section describes a set that includes everything a beginning fencer needs. The items are one step up in protection (350N – see next page) and quality from the most basic ones, but the price of the set is about the same as buying the basic items separately. As of July 2017, the price (including the two extra items **highlighted** type below) is \$274 for men and \$296.95 for women.

To find the set, go to [www.absolutefencinggear.com](http://www.absolutefencinggear.com), type **DEE001** in the search box at the top right and hit enter. The search should find *deluxe electric 8-piece epee* priced at \$267; click on that item. The set includes:

- Front zip jacket, pants and underarm protector (plastron); 350N protection in a cotton/polyester blend
- Épée mask; 350N with a removable lining
- Washable glove
- Electric épée and body cord
- Fencing equipment bag; large size

There are still some options and sizes that you need to pick. Sizing for fencing uniforms is strange; **click on “Do you need sizing help?” near the bottom of the web page for information on how to measure your fencer.**

- Mask size. Chose XS, S, M, L or XL.
- Gender (Male/Female). Uniforms are cut differently for men and women.
- L/R Hand (left/right). Jackets, épées and gloves are different for left and right handers.
- Jacket type. Keep the default (CE 350 N Jacket) or select Elite Stretchy (\$12 extra) for more comfort but slightly less protection from bruises.
- Jacket size (32-60). Use the sizing chart for “Men's Jacket” or Women's Jacket to find the right size. Size 50-60 cost an extra \$5.80.
- Underarm protector type. Keep the default (CE 350 N Comfort).
- Underarm protector size. Chose XS, S, M, L, XL or XXL.
- Glove size. Chose XS, 7.5, 8, 8.5, 9, 9.5, 10, 10.5.
- Pants type. Keep default (CE 350 N Comfort Pants) or pay \$2 more for “Elite Stretchy to match jacket.
- Pants size. Chose pants by waist size (measured just **above** the belly button).
- Épée grip type. Ask the armorers or other fencers for advice, if unsure keep the default (French grip).
- Point. **Choose German (\$7 extra)** rather than Absolute. We only have spare parts for German points.
- Blade size. Chose #5 (standard).
- Bag. Chose a colour.
- Chest protector. **Required for women (\$22.95 extra)**, generally not used by men. Chose sizes XS – XL.

If you buy an épée with a French grip and later decide you prefer one of the pistol grips (Visconti, Belgian and Russian are common types of pistol grip), you can buy just a new grip and the armorers can help you fit the grip to your existing épée. If you buy an épée with a pistol grip, you can't later fit a French grip on it.

At tournaments, fencers must have access to a second épée and body cord. At league tournaments, Pope has a few spares that fencers can use if necessary. We recommend that fencers buy a second épée and body cord as soon as they can afford them.

## Buying separately

These notes may be of use if you are not buying a beginner's complete set.

There are three levels of protection for fencing uniforms; from lowest to highest they are: (1) unrated, (2) 350N, also called CE level 1, and (3) 800N, also called FIE or CE level 2. High school fencers usually use unrated or 350N uniforms. Cotton uniforms are cheaper than blends, but tend to be heavier and more likely to shrink.

Jackets, pants and plastrons may be listed as men's, women's or unisex. If ordering online, be sure to check the website's sizing guide as they probably don't measure people the way you do. You will need:

- Jacket. Avoid those with a back zipper. For front zipper models, specify right- or left-handed.
- Underarm protector (plastron). Most plastrons are reversible and so fit right- and left-handers.
- Pants (knickers).
- Mask. You need an épée mask although it might also be labeled "foil & épée", or "3-weapon".
- Glove. For the weapon hand only. Specify left- or right-handed. You do **not** need a sabre glove.
- Chest protector (required for women). The one-piece version is most commonly used.
- Electric épée. You need size 5 (also called standard, full size or 35"), specify right- or left-handed. You should choose an épée with **German points**, we don't have parts for other types of points.
- Body cord. You need an épée body cord (both plugs have three prongs), not a foil/sabre body cord.
- Fencing bag. Optional but recommended (they can hold everything including a bulky mask and 2 épées).

## Other clothing and equipment

While you can buy shoes and socks specially designed for fencing, they tend to be more expensive and are not really required for beginners.

- General athletic shoes will work. Indoor court shoes such as those used for volleyball and racquetball are recommended.
- Socks should be thick like soccer socks and higher than knee length (fencing pants end not far below the knee and must overlap the socks). Each season the club provides a pair of uniform socks in Pope colours for each fencer to wear at tournaments, but another pair of any colour is a recommended for practice. Additional uniform socks can be ordered for \$5.
- Men will need an athletic supporter.
- T-shirts are worn under the jacket and plastron (to absorb the worst of the sweat!). Each season, the club provides a team T-shirt for each fencer. Additional shirts can be ordered for \$10 (\$15 for size XXL).
- The club will provide each new fencer a club patch to be worn on the non-weapon sleeve of the jacket. If you buy a new jacket, you should transfer the patch. Additional patches can be ordered for \$5.
- The club will also arrange for the fencer's name to be printed on the back of each jacket you buy at no charge. If you buy a used jacket, the existing name can be covered up.
- The club will provide a hard protective cover for one épée. Additional covers are available for \$1.
- We have Pope Fencing car magnets available for \$3.
- We have yard signs ("Home of a Pope Fencer") available for \$15.

## Additional optional equipment

This additional equipment is appropriate as fencers become more experienced and fence outside the league. The equipment is listed in order of priority.

- Spare épée and body cord. Required for USA Fencing tournaments, we have spares for league events.
- Épée test kit. Includes a test box, weight and shims for testing épées. The club has test equipment, but fencers with their own test kit can check their épées without having to wait for an armorer to do it.
- Inside or outside hex key. This is used to tighten the nut that holds a pistol grip. Most grips need an inside hex key but check what kind your grip needs.
- Additional spare parts for épée repairs. Each fencer is given a small supply of spare parts for German tips. Our armorers will fit these parts for you at no cost. Once you have used up your supply you will need to buy more.