**Spectator Behaviour Guidelines for Fencing Competitions**

To ensure a positive, respectful, and safe environment for all participants at fencing competitions, all attendees, including parents, guardians, friends, and general audience members, are expected to follow these guidelines at all times. Also, please refer to the CFF [Safe sport information page](https://fencing.ca/safe-sport/) and the CFF [Safe Sport Policy Manual](https://fencing.ca/wp-content/uploads/CFF-Safe-Sport-Policy-Manual-March-29-2023.pdf) for more information regarding the Code of Conduct and Ethics and the Discipline and Complaints policy.

**1. Competition Area**

* Remain outside the designated competition area at all times.

**2. Respect for Athletes**

* Cheer positively and respectfully for all fencers.
* Do not shout instructions or coach athletes from the sidelines.
* Avoid comments that may distract, intimidate, or discourage any athlete.

**3. Respect for Officials**

* Accept the decisions of referees without dissent or argument.
* Refrain from any criticism or vocal disapproval of officiating.
* Address any concerns through proper event channels, not during live competition.

**4. Respect for Other Spectators**

* Remain courteous and considerate to others in the audience.
* Avoid blocking views, crowding areas, or engaging in loud or disruptive behavior.
* Follow venue rules regarding seating, standing, and movement during bouts.

**5. Zero Tolerance for Abuse or Harassment**

* Any form of verbal abuse, threats, discrimination, or harassment toward athletes, coaches, officials, or spectators will not be tolerated.
* Violations may result in immediate removal from the venue and possible future bans.

**6. Photography and Filming**

* Filming or photography of matches is allowed only from designated spectator areas and must not interfere with the competition or violate privacy policies.
* Flash photography is strictly prohibited during bouts.

**7. Young Spectators**

* Children must be supervised at all times.
* Running, shouting, or playing in competition areas is not permitted.

**Consequences for Breach of Policy**

Violations of this policy may result in:

* A verbal warning
* Removal from the venue
* Suspension from future events
* Referral to the relevant fencing governing body for further disciplinary action

**Thank you for supporting fencing and helping create a respectful and safe environment.**