

Saber Regional Tournament Beginner's Guide

Salt City Swords, 9/7/2026

Goal for Your First Tournament: Learn how the event works and get some good bouts in — don't stress about results yet.

Saber Gear Requirements

- 2 full electric weapons
- 2 body cords
- 2 mask cords
- FIE glove (800N)
- Saber mask
- Lamé (electric jacket)
- Underarm protector (plastron)
- Knickers (pants)
- Knee-high socks
- White jacket

Gear checked at armory / weapons check

Best to do this the day before the event if possible, or early the day of the event. At larger events, plan for at least 45 minutes.

- Cords (mask and body) - tagged (*make sure to remove any existing tags before checking*)
- Glove - stamped
- Lamé - stamped
- Mask - stamped

Blades are not checked for saber - do not bring weapons up to the weapons check desk.

Checking In

Arrive **at least 1 hour before** the event starts. Normally you'll scan your membership card or manually check in, depending on the event. This gives you plenty of time to warm up and get your gear on. There's often a designated gear area to drop your bags.

Warming Up

Do a basic warm-up and footwork, then put your full gear on and head to the strip to warm up with other fencers. Normal etiquette is to referee a bout, then fence two bouts.

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Backup Gear

I'd suggest keeping your spare blade and cords by the side of the strip in case you need them mid-bout. Fencers should not leave the strip during the bout to retrieve spare gear - make sure a parent or teammate is available to get the replacement equipment.

The Event Itself

fencingtimelive.com is your new best friend, especially for larger events. You'll need to find your pool number and strip assignment to figure out where to go. The interface will look something like the photo below.



The screenshot shows the 'POOLS' tab selected in the top navigation bar. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'FENCING / Nevada / USA'. The main content area displays 'POOL #12' with a 'DETAILS' button. Below this, it says 'ON STRIP B12'. The main table shows the results for Pool #12, with columns for fencer names, pool numbers, and various statistics.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	V	V / M	TS	TR	Ind
GARDNER David AGFC (CA) / Southern California / USA	1	D2	D2	D2	V5	V5	V5	3	0.50	21	20	+1
GREMILLION Obadiah CALI / Orange Coast / USA	2	V5	V5	V5	D4	V5	V5	5	0.83	29	16	+13
ASHBY Ethan J. SCSWORDS / Utah-Southern Idaho / USA	3	V5	D2	V5	V5	V5	V5	5	0.83	27	16	+11
GEOFFROY Quentin HALBERSTADT / FRA	4	V5	D4	D4	V5	V5	V5	4	0.67	28	21	+7
JOUFFLINEAU Yohann WESTCOASTFA / Orange Coast / USA	5	D2	V5	D1	D3	V5	D0	2	0.33	16	26	-10
YANG Jake LAFAP / Southern California / USA	6	D0	D2	D2	D4	D2	D4	0	0.00	14	30	-16
LUC Linkin PREMIERFA / Mountain Valley / USA	7	D3	D1	D2	D2	V5	V5	2	0.33	18	24	-6

Equipment Check at the Strip

Once at your strip, you'll show your underarm protector by unzipping your jacket, and also show your mask, glove, and jacket stamp, along with the tag on your cord.

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Bout Order

Once the referee has checked you in, you'll need to look at the bout order and track it to see when you fence. Referees will often only call fencers by number, so make sure to pay close attention and know when you are up. Remember: the fencer listed and called first will be on the right of the referee. On FencingTimeLive, It'll look something like the one below.

BOUT ORDER

#	Right Fencer			Left Fencer			#
1	GARDNER David	D2	V5	GEOFFROY Quentin			4
5	JOUFFLINEAU Yohann	V5	D4	GREMILLION Obadiah			2
6	YANG Jake	D2	V5	ASHBY Ethan J.			3
7	LUC Linkin	D3	V5	GARDNER David			1
5	JOUFFLINEAU Yohann	D3	V5	GEOFFROY Quentin			4
2	GREMILLION Obadiah	V5	D2	ASHBY Ethan J.			3
6	YANG Jake	D4	V5	LUC Linkin			7
5	JOUFFLINEAU Yohann	D2	V5	GARDNER David			1
4	GEOFFROY Quentin	D4	V5	ASHBY Ethan J.			3
6	YANG Jake	D2	V5	GREMILLION Obadiah			2
5	JOUFFLINEAU Yohann	D0	V5	LUC Linkin			7
1	GARDNER David	D2	V5	ASHBY Ethan J.			3

IMPORTANT - Bout Etiquette

Remember to salute your opponent and referee at the **beginning AND end of the bout**, test your weapon at the beginning, and shake hands at the end. When testing at the beginning, take care to keep your weapon low to avoid accidentally hitting your opponent.

In no circumstances should you argue with the referee, even if you believe a call to be entirely incorrect. You can always approach the referee after the bout to clarify why they called an action a certain way, and coaches will intervene if necessary.

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After Your Pool

Once you've fenced all of your bouts, you'll sign the scoresheet and shake hands with the referee. Make sure to actually read the scoresheet and make sure that scores are correct.

Direct Eliminations (DEs)

After pool results have been entered, the Direct Elimination Tableau will be published. This will usually be announced over the loudspeaker, and fencers will be told to report to their strips. Often everyone is sent to the same pod for the tournament, so the DE bracket will list the same strip number for multiple bouts - this does not mean you'll fence on that strip. That number just indicates where the pod captain (assigning referee) will be. It'll look something like the one below. Going to 15 points with a 1 minute break at 8 points, if you lose in DE you are out of that event. If you lose a DE, we highly recommend watching the next bout(s) of the opponent you lost to. This is a great way to learn and see how others adapt to a certain fencing style.

SCHEDULE	MY FENCERS	FENCERS	FORMAT	POOLS
←	PRIMARY TABLEAU ▾	→	☐ Hide referees	
Table of 128		Table of 64		
(1) WANG Joey SWORDSFS / Southern California / USA		(1) WANG Joey		
(128) - BYE -				
(65) DIETZ Adam CAN				
(64) SANKEY Levi EBFG / MGL		Strip C4		
(33) BROWN Korbyn LVFA / Nevada / USA				
(96) LOUIE Joseph AFM / Central California / USA		Strip C4		

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It is also a good idea to record all your bouts. This is very helpful for reviewing afterwards and seeing what went well and what needs work.

Most importantly, remember to have fun. Regional events can be intimidating at first, but you will meet lots of cool people and learn a ton. Your goal is to get to know people, fence as many bouts as you can (including warmups), and watch other bouts.

Remember, there are no expectations for your first (or second or third) tournament other than learning the format, meeting new people, and getting a feel for competition. It often takes dozens of events to get used to the environment.

As always, please reach out to your coaches with **any** questions:

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