

The Constitution of
The University of West Florida
Renaissance Fencing Club:
Salle McAfee
Ratified October 24th, 2008

Article I

The name of the organization: The organization shall be called “Salle McAfee.” The University of West Florida Renaissance Fencing Club shall be named in honor of Ron McAfee, the previous instructor, and under no circumstances will it be altered in any way, shape, or form so that it does not honor Ron McAfee.

Purpose: The main objective of the UWF Fencing Club is to allow any person interested to participate in the art and science of fencing in the traditional fashion of the Renaissance era in a learning environment that promotes camaraderie and chivalry.

Article II

Membership: The UWF Fencing Club shall be open to all faculty, staff, students, and guest instructors at the approval of the club instructor, officers, and the Office of Sport Clubs. Anyone not a student, faculty, or staff member of UWF must ask permission from the instructor, officers, and the Office of Sports Clubs to participate in the fencing club’s activities. Membership and participation will be free from discrimination based on religion, age, sex, national origin/ ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, transgenderment, disability, or status as disabled, war veteran (to include Vietnam-era veterans). Current students wishing to join must have a GPA of no less than 2.0. The UWF Fencing Club adheres to the “no try-out policy.” The club is open to anyone regardless of experience.

All those wishing to become members must complete the required eligibility/release forms. Participants of Salle McAfee are recommended to attend at least one class per week.

Expulsion: In the event that a member of the UWF fencing club fails to adhere to the bylaws, upon three warnings, that member will face probation, suspension, and possibly expulsion. Each offense will be handled on a case-by-case method by a combination of the officers, the faculty/staff advisor, and the instructor, but it may be necessary to immediately expel a member for severe offenses. Expulsion and suspendable offenses will be defined in the attached bylaws.

Article III

Offices and Officers: University of West Florida Fencing Club will have the following offices: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Club officers reserve the capability to institute or abolish club fees and/or dues; however they are not exempt from paying them. Officers may be re-elected as many times as the club members will allow. Club officers may instate or amend bylaws with the approval of the organization. They are the final authority on electing the faculty/staff advisor. Officers will be elected every semester, but may be impeached with the approval of the instructor and a majority vote of the organization.

The President: The President is top authoritative figure responsible in the maintenance and well being of the organization. The president must delegate responsibility to his or her fellow officers. The main duties of the president include:

- The President is responsible for knowing, upholding, and adhering to the current UWF Sports Club Manual.
- Preside over all meetings and practices.
- Appoint committees for accomplishing goals for the better function and prosperity of the club, as well as keeping the goals on-track and to make sure deadlines are met.
- Act as the primary mediator of any dispute that may arise within the club.
- To act as the club's main representative and public figure to outside organizations and the general community.

The Vice President: The Vice President will carry the president's master-at-arms responsibilities in the president's absence. While in office, the vice president will assist the president and share in his or her duties. The vice president's duties also include:

- Sustain the safety during practice. This includes regular equipment inspection and maintenance as well as safety during sparring.
- Enforce the bylaws and act as master-at-arms.
- Assist in meeting all deadlines.

The Secretary: The Secretary is the ambassador to other organizations and is responsible for the organization of external affairs which includes:

- Reporting progress and upcoming changes and events to the UWF Sports Clubs Official(s).
- Obtaining and filling out any needed forms for the operation of the club.
- Scheduling meeting places and facilities for the club.
- Act as a representative to the university and other outside organizations.
- Assist president in setting up events on campus.
- Maintain club communication and correspondence.
- Keep an accurate sign-in sheet.
- Meet all deadlines.

Article III Continued

The Treasurer: The Treasurer manages the budget and controls spending for the club. The duties of the treasurer include:

- Keep an accurate record of spending.
- Prepare a budget and financial status reports to be presented to the UWF Sports Clubs Official(s).
- Preserve a precise inventory of UWF sports equipment.
- Enforce any due payments by members.
- Organize fundraising events.
- Meet all deadlines.

Note: If there are not enough eligible people to take on the responsibilities for each office, the president will delegate the remaining responsibility among the other officers.

Article IV

Voting Rights and Officer Requirements: Only UWF students maintaining the following reserve the right to vote, hold office, and participate in events:

- At least one semester of membership with good attendance, averaging at least once per week.
- Good academic standing; GPA of 2.5 or better.
- Good club standing; having no probations or suspensions on file.

Article V

Bylaws: All activities of this organization shall be conducted in accordance with all University of West Florida policies as well as the policies of the Office of Sports Clubs.

1. *General Conduct:* The following conduct must be adhered to whether one is in or out of the club:
 - Drug abuse of any kind will not be tolerated.
 - Illegal activities committed in the club are grounds for immediate expulsion; illegal activities committed outside of the club shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
 - Those representing Salle McAfee are expected to present themselves and their actions in a manner that upholds the bylaws of the club. During public events, members who fail to conduct themselves in accordance with the Fencing Club Constitution, Sports Clubs Manual, and the UWF Student Handbook will immediately face expulsion pending further discipline.
2. *Conduct of the Club:* While receiving instruction at Salle McAfee, the participants will adhere to the following rules:

- Respect the instructor.
 - Respect your opponents and fellow students.
 - Fence in a matter that is safe and fair.
 - Uphold the ways of chivalry, honor, and courtesy.
 - Always be courteous, polite, and well-mannered.
3. *Teaching Procedures:* Only the instructor and club officers will sanction advanced students to aid beginners in learning the basic fundamentals of fencing. Beginning and advanced students practicing outside of the club's designated practice session is permitted; however, all participants are responsible for knowing appropriate locations to conduct practice. Anyone practicing unsafely in or outside of club practice will be reprimanded in accordance to the constitution.
 4. *Sanctioned Events and Special Techniques:* The instructor and the club officers will be in charge of all officially club-sanctioned events, including, but not limited to: club tournaments, on-campus demonstrations, off campus demonstrations, and normal practice. The instructor and the officers reserve the right to withhold fencing privileges based on the grounds of safety, lack of regular attendance averaging once per week, or other reason as stated in this constitution. For events that would require a participant to use techniques normally considered to be too advanced for the scope of this club, that participant must have permission from the officers in advance and the technique must be used for display purposes only. Such techniques include, but are not limited to: disarming techniques, grappling, and styles based on antiquated manuscript.
 5. *Equipment:* Equipment will not be checked out under any circumstances with the exception only to be repaired. Participants wishing to continue in Salle McAfee may wish to purchase their own equipment; however, it is not required. In the event of a shortage of equipment, newer members shall take priority over more experienced members. In order to prevent a shortage, members who maintain club membership for over a year are highly encouraged to purchase their own equipment. Club storage spaces are to only be used to store club equipment belonging to the university. Club storage spaces are to only be opened and accessed by the club officers and the instructor. Combinations and keys are not to be distributed or transferred and must remain secret among the officers and the instructor in order to maintain the security of the equipment. Officers in violation of this rule face impeachment. Access to the cabinets by anyone other than the officers and the instructor is strictly prohibited. Violators will be suspended immediately.
 6. *Communications:* Club officers are the only members authorized to issue official club correspondence. This includes, but is not limited to: bulletins, announcements, postal mail, e-mail, and other digital resources. Club

members in violation of this bylaw face immediate probation. Repeat offenses will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

7. *Modern Styles*: At any point where an interest in Olympic or Modern fencing should develop within the club, the instructor and club officers shall address it, and will not be discouraged in any way.
8. *Procedures Manual*: All members must fully abide by the Salle McAfee Fencing Procedures Manual.

The University of West Florida
Renaissance Fencing Club: Salle McAfee
Fencing Procedures Manual

This manual is designed to be used in conjunction with the UWF Fencing Club Constitution in order to facilitate a safe fencing environment.

Protective Gear

The following protective gear is required for all participants unless otherwise noted:

- Fencing Jacket, Fencing Tunic, or equivalent (see below)
- Fencing Hood
- Gloves
- Gorget
- Fencing Mask
- Long Pants
- Closed-toe Shoes
- Athletic Cup (Men only)
- Breast Protectors (Women only)

Fencing Jacket/Tunic

A fencing jacket or tunic is required in order to protect the participant from the risk of abrasion or other injury that may result from an equipment failure. Jackets/Tunics from a commercial supplier are highly recommended. For participants seeking to make their own protective clothing, please see the "Constructing Protective Clothing" section.

Fencing Hood

A fencing hood is designed to help provide a snug fit for the mask as well as provide an additional layer of protection for the head and neck. The hood is to be worn directly on the head, under the gorget. A fencing hood is required for all participants. Hoods from a commercial supplier are highly recommended. For participants seeking to make their own protective clothing, please see the "Constructing Protective Clothing" section.

Gloves

Gloves are required in order to protect the hand from abrasion that may occur as a result of fencing. Gloves can be made of leather or its synthetic equivalent. Gloves must overlap the sleeves of the fencing jacket.

Gorget

A gorget is required to be worn while fencing. The gorget is to be worn around the neck and over a hood. Gorgets are to provide a rigid form of protection for the neck as well as the first four vertebrae.

Fencing Mask

A fencing mask from a commercial supplier is required to be worn while fencing.

Athletic Cups/Breast Protectors

All male fencers must wear a proper athletic cup. Female fencers must wear approved breast protectors. Both are designed to provide protection from impact to sensitive areas of the body.

All fencers must also wear long pants that cover the ankles and closed toed shoes. Sandals are not allowed. When fully suited up, no skin should be visible.

Rapiers

The form of fencing we practice revolves around the rapier. Rapiers must follow the following guidelines:

- Blades must be purchased from a commercial supplier.
- Blades may be 34 to 50 inches from tip to hilt.
- Blades may be Schlager, Practice Rapier, or Double-Wide Epee (musketeer).
- Sharp points, jagged edges, or corners are not allowed anywhere on the equipment.
- All equipment must be able to safely withstand all fencing stresses. Equipment that is likely to break or damage other equipment is strictly prohibited.
- Blades are not to be altered in any way. Only the tang may be modified.
- All blades must be reasonably flexible.
- All blades must be capped with a rubber tip. The tip must be taped firmly in place using electrical tape. The tape must highly contrast against both the blade and the rubber tip. Tips must have a flat striking surface of at least 3/8 inch (9mm) in diameter.
- Any blade that develops kinks, sharp bends, or cracks is not to be used. Blades that develop these defects cannot be repaired and must be retired immediately. Blades that develop an "S" curve can not be used unless it can properly be re-curved.
- Rapiers may use a hand guard such as a cup hilt, swept hilt, disc guard, or dome hilt. Quillions and knucklebows may be attached to the guard. Quillions cannot extend more than six inches from each side of the blade. The ends of the quillions must be blunt with a 1/4 inch minimum diameter.
- Orthopedic (pistol) grips are not to be used unless the participant has written approval for medical reasons by their doctor or physician.
- Rapiers with a blade length greater than forty inches may only be used with opponent's consent.

Daggers

Daggers are similar to rapiers in function, however, they are only about half of the size. In addition to the rapier guidelines above, daggers must also meet the following guidelines:

- Daggers must be between eighteen and twenty inches from tip to hilt.
- "Parrying Only" daggers made from cut down rapier blades are prohibited.
- Daggers also must meet all of the guidelines from the Rapier section above.

Parrying Devices

Parrying devices are to only be used for defensive purposes and are never to be used to directly attack an opponent. Parrying Devices can be broken down into two categories: hard and soft. Devices that would predictably cause entangling of an opponent, or their equipment, either by design or by repeated mishap, are not allowed. Offensive parrying devices are not permitted. This does not include daggers or a second rapier (case). A fencer may decline to fence against an opponent using non-standard devices without forfeiting a bout. Standard parrying devices include:

- Bucklers
- Cloaks
- Canes

Hard Parrying Devices

Solid parrying devices will be made of sturdy, lightweight materials and will be resistant to breakage and splintering. Bucklers may be of any size; however, bucklers of greater than 16 inch diameter (200 square inches) may be used only with opponent's consent.

Soft Parrying Devices

Soft, non-rigid devices such as cloaks may be made of cloth, foam, leather and similar materials. They may be weighted with soft material such as rope or rolled cloth; they shall not be weighted with any rigid material, or with materials which are heavy enough to turn the device into a flail or impact device.

Constructing Protective Clothing

Members who elect to construct their own protective clothing must follow the rules set forth in this section.

In order of increasing resistance:

- Abrasion-resistant material: material that will withstand normal fencing stresses (such as being snagged by an unbroken blade) without tearing. Examples include, but are not limited to: broadcloth, a single layer of heavy poplin cloth (35% cotton, 65% polyester, or "trigger" cloth)
- Opaque cotton, poly-cotton or lycra/spandex mix tights.
- Nylon pantyhose and cotton gauze shirts are examples of unacceptable materials.
- Puncture-resistant material: any fabric or combination of fabrics that will predictably withstand puncture. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Four-ounce (2 mm) leather;
 - Four layers of heavy poplin cloth;
 - Ballistic nylon rated to at least 550 Newtons;
 - Commercial fencing clothing rated to at least 550 Newtons.
- Kevlar is NOT an acceptable material, as it degrades rapidly.
- Rigid puncture-resistant material that will not significantly flex, spread apart, or deform under pressure of 12 Kg applied repeatedly to any single point. Examples of rigid material are: 22 gauge stainless steel (0.8 mm), 20 gauge mild steel (1.0 mm), 16 gauge aluminum, copper, or brass (1.6 mm).

Fencing Procedures

While fencing with Salle McAfee, all members are required to abide by the procedures and rules set forth in this section.

General Conduct: All participants shall obey the instructions of the instructor overseeing the area, or be removed from the area and be subject to subsequent disciplinary action. Disagreements with the instructor will be handled with the participants and the instructor. Each participant shall maintain control over his or her temper and behavior at all times. Striking an opponent with excessive force, or with deliberate intent to injure, is strictly forbidden.

Hold: Upon hearing the call of "Hold" all fencing shall immediately stop. The participants shall freeze, check for hazards in their immediate vicinity, and then assume a non-threatening position with their rapiers pointed down towards the floor. Conduct obstructive of normal fencing, such as consistent ignoring of blows, deliberate misuse of the rules (such as calling "Hold" whenever pressed), or the like, is forbidden.

Pre-bout: All participants will be in the required protective gear with a blade that is safe, that is not edged or sharp, has no pointed end, and is capped with a rubber tip that is properly taped on. Anyone who is not fully safe will not participate in practice bouts, or tournaments. Fencers shall shake hands with masks off before beginning any crossing of blades. Before a bout fencers will show respect to one another and salute: First, spectators or guests; then, their adversary.

Rapiers and Parrying Devices: Blows will be struck by: thrusting with the point of the blade (thrust); or sliding the edge of the blade by drawing (draw cut - min. 6 inches). Chopping or hacking blows are strictly prohibited. Fast circular movements (such as a disengagement) may, however, be used to place a rapier for draw cuts. Parrying devices may be used to move, deflect, or immobilize an opponent's rapier or parrying device in any manner, so long as such use does not endanger the safety of the participants or damage either fencer's equipment. Striking an opponent with any part of a rapier or parrying device not approved for that purpose is prohibited. Any participant being disarmed, or dropping a rapier, must be able to draw another offensive device from his/her person or yield. No hold will be called. His/her opponent may exploit an earned advantage. [NOTE: It is chivalrous to allow one's opponent the opportunity to retrieve a dropped rapier or secondary device; however, acts of chivalry are praiseworthy and are not required.]

Fencing Procedures Continued

Acknowledgment of Blows: In judging blows, all participants are presumed to be wearing common civil attire of the period, not armor. Special tournaments may be held which define areas of the body as armored, and to what degree, so long as all the participants are made aware of these special conditions prior to the start of fencing.

In fencing, blows will be counted as though they were struck with a real rapier, extremely sharp on point and edge. Any blow that would have penetrated the skin shall be counted a good blow. Any blow that strikes a mask or gorget shall be counted as though it struck flesh. A good thrust or draw cut to the following will be judged incapacitating, rendering the participant incapable of further fencing: head, neck, torso, inner groin (to the participant's hand width down the inner limb), or armpit (to the participant's inner hand width down the limb).

A good blow to the arm will disable the arm. A good blow to the hand shall render the hand useless; the rest of the arm may still be used to parry with a loose fist. Any additional hit to that hand will disable the arm.

A good blow to the foot or leg will disable the leg. The participant must then fence seated. They may not sit up off the ground to attack or parry.

Parries may be performed with rapiers, parrying devices, the gloved hand, or any other part of the body. Though the gloved hand may be used to parry an opponent's blade and hilt, it shall not be used to push, grasp or strike an opponent.

Participants may choose to grasp, rather than parry the blades. If the blade that is grasped moves or twists in the grasping hand, that hand is then disabled. Grasping techniques shall be used only to immobilize a blade momentarily and not to bend it or pull it from the opponent's grip. Grasping techniques are restricted to the blade and may not be used on the hilt.

If an effective thrust that was already in motion before, or on, the same moment as an event that would stop a bout (a "Hold" being called, the participant being "defeated" himself, etc.), the thrust shall count. If the thrust is made after the hold, winning thrust, or other event, it will not be counted.

Post Bout: After a bout has ended, fencers will remove masks, shake hands, and leave the fencing area.

Disabled Fencers: Any additional precautions and procedures for disabled participants will be handled on a case by case basis.