



Olympic Sports: Fencing

About Olympic Fencing

Individual Competitions

Foil: Men and Women's

Epee: Men and Women's

Sabre: Men and Women's

Team Competitions

Foil: Men and Women's

Epee: Women's

Sabre: Men's



Epee competition at the 2004 Olympics

Fencing is a sport where athletes use swords to score points, called touches, against an opponent. Three different types of swords are used in Olympic fencing events: a foil, an epee and a sabre. A foil is a light, flexible weapon while an epee is heavier and less flexible. A sabre is heavier than an epee and has a wider blade.



A sabre fencer

Fencing is dangerous and athletes must wear protective clothing to prevent injury. All fencers must wear masks and padded vests.

Points are scored when a fencer touches his sword to the target area of the opponent's body. Historically, judges would watch to see if the weapon touched and if it did, would award a point. Today, many fencing tournaments, including the Olympics, use an electronic system which senses the touch.

Fencing is one of the oldest events at the Olympics. There have been fencing competitions in every modern Olympics since the first Olympics in 1896.

Secret Code Word

Use the secret code to find a word about fencing events. Write the letter in the blank that matches the number from the code.

T	O	U	C	H
20	15	21	3	8

Secret code

1 = A	7 = G	13 = M	19 = S	25 = Y
2 = B	8 = H	14 = N	20 = T	26 = Z
3 = C	9 = I	15 = O	21 = U	
4 = D	10 = J	16 = P	22 = V	
5 = E	11 = K	17 = Q	23 = W	
6 = F	12 = L	18 = R	24 = X	

Q&A

What are the three types of swords used in Olympic fencing?

Foil, epee and sabre

What do fencers wear to prevent injuries?

Masks and padded vests

When was the first fencing competition at the Olympics?

1896

What is a point called in fencing?

A touch