



PARAFENCING AT A GLANCE

Wheelchair fencing, known as Parafencing in the United States, has been part of the Paralympic program since Rome 1960. People with eligible permanent impairments, as defined by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing, may compete in epee, foil or saber. The International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) is the global governing body of the sport.



WEAPON: FOIL

The foil is a light weapon derived from the court sword.

TARGET AREA

The trunk.

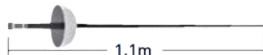


HITS SCORED

When the point of the weapon makes contact with the opponent's metallic jacket, and the button at the end of the weapon is depressed fully. A fencer must earn the right of way in foil.

RIGHT OF WAY

A fencer earns the right of way in foil by:
Being the first to attack their opponent.
Parrying or blocking their opponent's attack.
Taking their opponent's blade.



WEAPON: EPEE

The epee is derived from the traditional dueling sword.

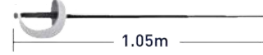
TARGET AREA

The whole body above the waist.



HITS SCORED

When the point of the weapon makes contact with the opponent on the target area, and the button at the end of the weapon is depressed fully. Both fencers may score hits simultaneously.



WEAPON: SABER

The saber is derived from the cavalry sword.

TARGET AREA

The whole body above the waist.



HITS SCORED

When some part of the weapon comes into contact with the opponent's metallic lame jacket or face mask. The saber is a cutting weapon so the whole weapon is electrified, not just the point. As with the foil, the fencer must earn the right of way to score the point.

RIGHT OF WAY:

A fencer earns the right of way in saber by being the first to attack their opponent, parrying or blocking their opponent's attack, making their opponent miss with their attack.

To ensure the two fencers can reach each other their distance has to be measured and the frame adjusted as required. Once the wheelchair is fixed into the frame, the distance is measured with one fencer extending their fencing arm with their weapon attached and the other fencer bending their arm.



The national governing body for the Olympic and Paralympic sport of fencing in the United States

When you're ready to give fencing or parafencing a try yourself, find a club near you at member.usafencing.org/clubs.

