

A Brief History of Fencing:

Many factors led to the development of the modern style of Fencing, including:

- use of swords that were light enough to handle quickly
- increased use of the sword's point for thrusting
- a decline in the use of shields and armor



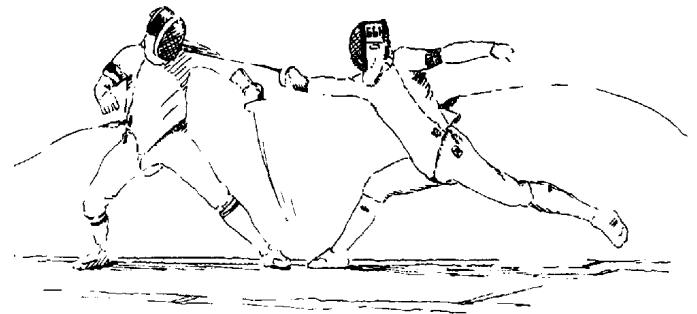
By the late Renaissance, the type of sword in use allowed a style of fencing very similar to today's

emerged. Although banned by most governments, dueling with swords was practiced all over Europe and in the United States even into the 20th Century. The formalized type of duel, begun in the 18th Century, provided the basis for the rules of modern fencing. Unlike a duel, however, modern Fencing uses blunted, flexible weapons and safety equipment.

Fencing was one of the sports in the first Modern Olympics. The

technology for scoring has changed considerably since then, but the sport's fundamentals and spirit remain the same.

Fencing was initially directed by a referee and side judges who watched for touches. By 1940, Epee was 'electrified' by putting a push-button tip on the end of the weapon, and connecting it to a scoring box with lights and a buzzer. Foil was electrified soon after. Only in the past few years has electrically scored Sabre also been used in the Olympics and World Championships.



Called physical chess, and a martial art, Fencing teaches concentration and tactical thinking. Swordplay promotes quick reflexes and builds confidence. Fencing is rooted in the "Old World aristocratic tradition - the white uniform, the sword, the duel of honor "and is enjoyed as a life long sport.

For more information contact the Oregon Fencing Alliance 503-643-7218.