The planning considerations that are common to all curriculum activities can be found in the CARA generic template. These must be considered as well as the activity-specific considerations outlined below.

Activity scope
This guideline relates to student participation in fencing as a curriculum activity, including skills development, training and competitions.

Mandatory/special requirements
Mandatory requirements must be met for the activity to be conducted. Special requirements are to be considered in the planning and delivery of this activity.

Actions of a fencer which result in hard hitting, jostling and body contact are prohibited.

Activity leaders must instruct students regarding the safety rules of fencing before equipment is issued.

For competitions, regulation fencing clothing (as determined by the competition organisers) is to be worn.

Risk level
- **High** risk: Teaching of fencing skills, training and competitions.

Minimum supervision requirements
- Covered in the Planning Considerations section as outlined in the CARA generic template.

Minimum qualifications for supervisors
- An adult with Fencing Instructor or Level 0 (or higher) coaching accreditation from the Australian Fencing Federation.

Minimum requirements for equipment/facilities
- A clearly marked area that is inaccessible to passersby and has at least 2m on either side of the area of instruction designated as a restricted area.
- Competition or training areas that are clear of obstructions and of sufficient area for the size of the group involved.
- Regulation fencing blades in a size that best suits each individual (i.e. weight-appropriate for each fencer considering their physical and fencing development).
- Protective tips (e.g. rubber, plastic) on foil blades.
- Protective equipment including:
  - padded jacket, plastron or fencing jacket with chest protector
  - minimum 350N fencing mask in good condition.
- Readily available ice/ice packs.
- Covered footwear with good grip.
### Hazards and controls

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<th>Hazards</th>
<th>Control measures</th>
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| **Environmental conditions** | • Ensure the practice and/or competition area is well lit, but not necessarily in bright sunlight, as this can cause a distortion in sense of distance when a fencing mask is worn.  
• Ensure that the space is sufficient to avoid interference with other fencers.  
• Ensure activities are conducted away from pedestrian traffic.  
• Ensure activity surfaces and surrounds are clear of debris. |
| **Equipment** | • Instruct students that they must correctly position masks with the chin inside the bottom section and the bib in front of the throat.  
• Check blades and protective equipment before and during activities.  
• Discard broken or severely bent blades – do not repair and use again.  
• Ensure appropriate protective equipment is worn during all fencing activities.  
• Instruct students to carry weapons by the guard or grip, pointing downwards when not in use.  
• Ensure females wear chest protectors during competitions.  
• Recommend groin and chest protectors for male participants.  
• Recommend participants wear gloves during training and skill development activities and ensure they are worn for all competitions. |
| **Physical exertion** | • Avoid lengthy competition and training periods.  
• Continuously monitor students for signs of fatigue and exhaustion. |
| **Student considerations** | • Instruct correct footwork to reduce the risk of sprain.  
• Teach the concept of distance (i.e. hits should be 'to' the opponent and not 'through' the opponent).  
• Ensure students have been briefed in the use and fitting of equipment, basic fencing techniques, target area for each weapon, appropriate communication signals and safety.  
• Instruct students that they must not engage in fencing activities unless the activity leader is present. |

### Additional links
- Australian Fencing Federation  
  [http://www.ausfencing.org/home/](http://www.ausfencing.org/home/)  
- International Rules of Fencing  
- Queensland Fencing Association  

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