

## **Ed Hutson's Equipment check guidelines**

### **Jackets, Knickers & Plastrons –**

1. Make sure there are no holes or frayed edges or seams that could catch a blade or point.

### **Masks –**

2. Bibs firmly attached to the frame
3. No holes in the exterior of the bib
4. Examine mesh from inside, looking for separations, deformities or broken wires (if the later, the mask fails...plan on buying a new one)
5. Carefully pound out any noticeable dents...armorers most likely will test these areas first as the mesh has already been stressed there

### **Body cords, all –**

1. If you have access to a multi-meter, check the resistance of each line of the body cord...ideally there should be zero ohms of resistance in connections of this length
2. If you have translucent insulation, gently apply tension to the cord while running it between your hands...look for any separation between the wires. If you find a separation near enough to one end, you may be able to safely shorten the cord to remove the damage
3. Check that all connecting screws are tight at both reel and fencer ends of the cord
4. Use sandpaper or emery cloth to remove corrosion from connecting prongs and/or bayonet plug

### **Body cords, foil/saber –**

1. Check condition of crocodile clip on the "A"-line...wire needs to be firmly soldered to the clip (same applies to saber mask cords)
2. Sand the crocodile clip's teeth lightly to remove any corrosion

### **Lames –**

1. Recently laundered to remove salts from your sweat...give it a sponge bath in the tub using an ammonia/water solution or Woolite, rinse thoroughly, then hang it to air-dry on a plastic hanger
2. Examine for areas of high wear...generally you can see and feel the difference between the front and back of your lame
3. Is your name stenciled on your lame (or alternatively on your knickers)?

### All equipment –

Make sure that all of your stuff is labeled with your name and club in case you leave it at the strip, or someone picks it up mistakenly. This includes body cords, masks and weapons.

### General tips –

1. Remember when checking in at the airport, your gear is properly described as “sports equipment”, as opposed to “weapons”. In the past, airline staff has assumed my gear was golf clubs, but I don’t know how carefully they are checking now.
2. If possible, get your stuff inspected the day before you compete. The best time to do this is the late morning to mid afternoon, after the morning rush and the day’s major events have started. The armorers are usually feeling less pressured at that time.
3. At previous tournaments, TCFC members have staked out an area of the site where we all dump our gear (other clubs do this too). This is the counterpart of wearing club warm-ups to help identify teammates & coaches.
4. Make sure to take your spare weapon(s), body cord and tightening tool with you when you report to the strip. Also, remember to fill your water bottle.
5. Weight-test your weapon again at the end of each of your pool bouts (check with the referee first though!), to avoid any surprise yellow cards. If it doesn’t pass, then you have time to fix it before you need it again for the next bout. Test your weapon(s) again at the end of your pool.
6. If you need to find someone to fix a weapon or body cord, try to supply him or her with more information than “it doesn’t work/pass”. What about it needs repair? Does a weapon fail weight and/or shims? Does a body cord give a constant off-target (foil) or not work at all (epee)? This will help whoever is assisting you (be it Kate, Ro, a teammate or one of the armorers) to more quickly fix your equipment.