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## RANKS & TITLES

For hundreds of years fencing schools have used various ranks and titles to distinguish between students and school officers. Our traditional titles come from the 19th Century civilian and military academies of France.

### **Maestro**

(Maître d'Armes -Fr.)

The highest rank an individual can achieve in his/her career as a professional fencer. Our fencing masters are Maestro Ramon Martinez and Maestro Jeannette Acosta-Martinez.

### **Provost**

(Prévôt d'Armes -Fr.)

A provost is the highest ranking assistant to a fencing master and has been certified to teach all weapons within a particular system(s).

### **Instructor**

(Instructeur d'Armes -Fr.)

An instructor is an individual who has been certified to teach in one or more weapons forms.

### **Chef de Salle**

The Chef de Salle serves as the sergeant of the salle. It is his/her duty to settle disputes and ensure that all safety guidelines and protocols are followed.

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## CLASSICAL FENCING

Classical fencing or what is considered fencing's "golden age" flourished during the 19th Century when the fencing arts were highly systematized, codified, and thoroughly documented. During this time, training with the dueling sword and dueling sabre was conducted under serious conditions as if one were preparing for the eventuality of a duel. The practice of foil, not technically considered a weapon, allowed the art of fencing to be developed to a virtuosic height, with an exacting focus placed on the perfection of form, grace of carriage, flawless accuracy and genius of execution.

While foil, dueling sword and dueling sabre were the three core weapons practiced in the New World and in European fencing schools of the day, instruction was not necessarily limited to those three. Cane, great stick, bayonet, dagger, pugilism, savate and in some instances, a few earlier historical weapons (such as rapier and small-sword) remained in the curriculum.

There are still a small number of fencing Masters who come from living lineages dating back to the classical period and who continue to teach these traditional systems of fence.

SALLE SAINT-GEORGE  
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# SALLE SAINT-GEORGE



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Guidelines For New Students

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### GENERAL SALLE ETIQUETTE

- ❖ No offensive language or behavior is permitted in the salle.
- ❖ Personal items should be placed out of the way, under the benches.
- ❖ Do not leave personal items in the salle after class.
- ❖ Always place weapons where they cannot be tripped over, stepped on or damaged.
- ❖ Please silence all pagers, cell phones, etc., unless your profession requires you to be available in case of emergency.
- ❖ Only Instructors, Provosts and the Maestros are permitted to correct students.
- ❖ Class fees are payable at the first class of every month and payments should be deposited into the cashbox.

### SAFETY & SALLE FLOOR PROTOCOL

#### *When handling weapons in the salle:*

- ❖ Always carry a weapon with the point down.
- ❖ Never gesture with the weapon.
- ❖ Never place the point/button of a practice weapon on the floor, as this could soil the button and thus the uniforms of your training partners.

#### *When practicing on the salle floor:*

- ❖ Be aware of what is happening around you.
- ❖ When working with a partner, always dress in all mandated safety equipment: jacket, mask, gloves and all protectors.
- ❖ Always salute before and after working with any partner whether it is for drills, demonstrations, practice or assaults. Also, salute fencing targets before and after your exercise.
- ❖ Always appel to end any portion of an activity for any reason and please obey all signals to halt.
- ❖ Please refrain from any non-class related conversation on the salle floor. If necessary, move to the foyer, entry door or porch to converse.

♣ Salle d'Armes (or salle) is French, referring to the fencing hall or room. Literally translated it means hall of arms.

### SALLE UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

- ❖ After one year, students should obtain the proper salle uniform and any personal equipment necessary to continue their training.
  - ❖ The salle colors for student uniforms are as follows: white fencing jacket, charcoal-gray fencing pants/knickers or skirt, black socks and shoes.
  - ❖ Professionally constructed three weapons rated fencing masks (12 kg punch test) are required.
  - ❖ Jackets should be made of a strong, heavily-padded cotton duck or equivalent and must not have any customized markings other than the academy/salle patch, which will be made available to dedicated students who pass their public exhibition or prize fight.
  - ❖ Long pants, knickers or fencing skirts must be constructed out of 12-ounce cotton duck or the equivalent. If knickers or skirts are worn, long socks must be worn to prevent the exposure of any bare skin.
  - ❖ Shoes for the fencing salle must not be worn outside as street shoes.
  - ❖ Breast protectors are required for women and rigid groin cups are strongly recommended for men.
  - ❖ An underarm protector is recommended, under the fencing jacket, for the historical weapons.
  - ❖ A cuffed, leather glove is required for the armed hand with classical weapons. Gloves for both hands are required for the historical weapons. Cuffs must overlap the outside of the jacket sleeves by at least 3 inches.
- ♣♣ Please consult with the instructor(s) for specific details before purchasing any weapons, uniforms or other equipment.