

Advance

Taking a step towards one's opponent.

En Garde

Position taken before fencing commences.

Feint

A false attack intended to get a defensive reaction from the opposing fencer, thus creating the opportunity for a genuine attack.

Flunge

Action unique to saber – a combination of a lunge and a fleche.

Lunge

The fencer launches themselves at their opponent by pushing off from the back leg.

Parry

Defensive action to deflect an opponent's attack by opposing forte to opponent's foible.

Pool

The grouping of fencers or teams in a competition.

Beat

Sharp tap on the opponent's blade to initiate an attack or provoke a reaction.

Engagement

Contact between the fencers' blades – often as the prelude to an attack.

Fleche

Explosive, running attack.

Guard

Part action in which a fencer blocks his opponent's blade.

On guard

The stance adopted in fencing.

Point-in-Line

Action in which the fencer, who is generally out of attacking range, points their weapon at their opponent with their arm fully extended. A fencer who establishes a point in line has right-of-way, and their opponent cannot attack until they remove the blade from line by executing a beat.



Quarte

High line, semi-supinated guard on the non-sword-arm side.

Recover

The return to the en garde position after lunging.

Riposte

Defender's offensive action immediately after parrying their opponent's attack.

Stop Hit, Stop Cut

A counter-action made at the moment of an opponent's hesitation, feint, or poorly executed attack. To be awarded the point, the fencer attempting to stop hit must clearly catch their opponent's tempo. Hence, if their Stop Hit is not "in time," the referee may award the touch to their attacker.

Quinte

Low line, pronated guard on the non-sword-arm side at foil and epee; and a high guard at sabre to protect the head.

Right of way

The decision criterion used to determine which fencer receives the touch, or point, when both fencers land a hit within the same short time-frame.

Second Intention

A tactic in which a fencer executes a convincing, yet false, action in hopes of drawing a true, committed reaction from their opponent.

Strip

Fencing area, 14 meters long by 2 meters wide (approximately 45.9 feet long by 6.6 feet wide).

