



# Fencing New Zealand

(New Zealand Amateur Fencing Association Inc.)

## FeNZ – MASKS – Weapon control/competition requirements – April 2018

1. The new FIE mask fastening requirements are not required at FeNZ competitions in the immediate future. NOTE they become effective for FIE competitions after World Championships 2018. New masks purchased should comply with the new requirements.
2. However, the following protocol is to be adopted and implemented immediately for FeNZ competitions (note that these are not new requirements - they are to highlight the existing rules and manufacturers' recommendations for masks):
  - The control and application of rules regarding masks and how they are worn shall be monitored closely, for example the condition of the elastic and the hook and loop fasteners
  - Both security systems in place on the mask shall be in good working order
  - The mask (the metal tongue variety) is to be worn in such a way that both security systems can independently hold the mask onto the fencer's head i.e. the metal tongue part is positioned correctly, and the elastic is worn correctly e.g. not on the metal tongue
  - The elastic shall be in good working order and return to original position – i.e. shall not be deformed and shall have elasticity
  - The hook and loop securing the elastic shall be in good order and capable of retaining the elastic and resist being removed (compare new vs older hook and loop). For example, does:
    - the hook and loop resist the holding the weight of mask?
    - The Leon Paul "Comfort Plus" mask to utilise
      - Second security device
      - Hook and loop fastening especially to be in good working order
      - Mask is to be worn in accordance with manufacturer's instructions – i.e. especially the internal forehead padding
  - The elastic is to be approximately 45mm wide. Some discretion should be given.

If a mask fails to function properly then it must be replaced immediately, even if during a bout. *In the main this is the elastic coming off the hook and loop fasteners as the fastening is old and not able to hold the elastic strip.*

If this occurs the referee shall inspect the mask, and may require the fencer to remedy or replace the mask as referee sees fit (e.g. require the tongue to be properly position, the Leon Paul mask to be fitted correctly etc).

A mask that fails in terms of the security devices should be treated the same way as a failed weapon or body wire.

In summary, masks are to be worn properly and be well-maintained, including the elastic and fastenings.