

SABER ACADEMY

Weapons Policy

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March 2025

To be reviewed March 2029

Weapons Policy

Weapons training is included in the Saber Academy Syllabus. As such it is important that all club members who seek to train in and possess a training weapon are familiar with relevant state and local weapons laws.

Definitions:

i) Prohibited Weapons:

Any weapon listed as prohibited under relevant state laws. These typically include:

- Knives
- Ballistic knife where the blade is fired by explosion, mechanics or percussion
- Butterfly knife / Bali knife / Balisong knife
- Fighting knives - a knife (other than a bayonet or sword) designed for hand to hand fighting, for example, a butterfly knife, dagger, flick-knife, push knife or trench knife
- Knife belt that conceals or disguises the knife
- Star knife / shuriken / ninja star / throwing star
- Whole or part of a knife that cannot be detected by a metal detector or x-ray
- Daggers
- Double-sided blade or spike-style blade daggers
- Traditional Scottish daggers - Dirk and Sgian dhu

Other weapons

- Nunchakus martial arts weapon
- Bayonet
- Brace catapult / slingshot
- Concealed weapons
- Extendable baton
- Full-size or pistol cross-bow
- Hand or foot claws / ninja claws
- Knuckle duster including weighted or studded gloves
- Laser pointer of more than 1 milliwatt
- Morning star, also known as English or medieval mace
- Poniard, a Masonic ceremonial weapon
- Tear gas where the chemical is CN, CS or DM tear gas

ii) Offensive Weapons:

A rifle, gun, pistol, knife, sword, club, bludgeon, truncheon or other offensive or lethal weapon or instrument but does not include a prohibited weapon.

No prohibited weapons may be used during training in any circumstance.

For the purposes of this document any weapon not classified as a prohibited weapon may be further differentiated under the following categories:

- a. **Class A:** Any metal item with a sharp edge or point, such as a sword or knife
- b. **Class B:** Any metal item with a blunt edge or point
- c. **Class C:** Any wooden item with a sharp edge or point
- d. **Class D:** Wooden items not having a sharp edge or point and which are capable of causing damage through impacting, such as weapons commonly known as bo, jo, hanbo, bokken, and short sticks (such as used in Kali or Escrima)
- e. **Class E:** Wooden composite (e.g., bamboo segments) and polycarbonate items used in kendo or saber combat, such as a shinai or lightsaber, where participants are wearing protective equipment as specified in each of the respective handbooks
- f. **Class F:** Any item made from foam, soft rubber or padding

Training and Sparring Regulations:

No weapon of classes A, B, C and D may be used in free sparring irrespective of the skill of the participants involved (Refer to Sparring Standards for definition of "free-sparring" and "controlled sparring"). No weapon of classes A, B, and C may be used for control-sparring by any practitioner with less than four (4) hours training in the use of the weapon

Weapons of class A may be used for:

- The solo implementation of predetermined patterns (such patterns being commonly referred to as forms or katas)

Weapons of classes B, C, D, E and F may be used for:

- Control-sparring; or
- The solo implementation of predetermined patterns (such patterns being commonly referred to as forms or katas)

Weapons of classes E and F may be used for:

- Sparring where students adhere to the ruleset and protective equipment requirements described in the respective handbook (e.g., Kendo, Saber Combat)

When weapons of all classes are used, a safety zone surrounding the practitioner(s) must be maintained. The safety zone is defined as being a minimum distance from surrounding persons of the length reachable by any of the practitioners when holding the weapon plus two meters.

Class A weapons must be sheathed and secured at all times when not performing kata
All instructors supervising weapons training must have specific weapons training qualification and relevant experience with the weapons being used.

For online training sessions involving weapons, participants must ensure they have adequate space clear of obstacles and other people before beginning practice.

All weapons must be inspected before use to ensure they are in good condition and safe for training.

Participants in lightsaber or foam combat must follow the specific safety protocols outlined in the Saber Academy Saber Skirmish or Foam Wars ruleset regarding equipment specifications, protective gear, and combat rules.

All contracted instructors and affiliated clubs must comply with this policy when conducting weapons training under the Saber Academy banner.