



A BIT OF HISTORY

Fencing for blind was born by chance during a lesson of the fencing master Giancarlo Puglisi to one of his students from the master category. Both of them were engaged in an exercise with closed eyes, so they thought of letting their blind friend try the same exercise, and they immediately realized it was feasible.

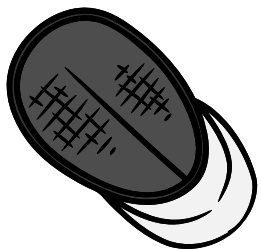
Everything started from there. There was no need to invent new rules. It was enough to work on the existent ones and make some adjustments in order to facilitate its practice by the visually impaired.

From what seemed to be just a bet, in 2010 a project was born. It has expanded from the city of Modica, meeting the favour of other companies in Bologna, Milan and then Rome.

In 2011 there were the first experimentations in dedicated tournaments and, from the beginning, the Italian Fencing Federation have shown their interest in this new discipline.

The success gained promoted the fencing for blind to competitive activity; in the season 2013/2014, in Acireale, were held the first official national competitions valid for the qualification to the Italian absolute Championship of fencing for blind.

Since then there has been a rise both in the technical level and in the number of athletes registered in the Italian Fencing Federation.



ITALIAN FENCING FOR BLIND

So far, in Italy we can count approximately 50 visually impaired athletes who practice this sport: 30 men and 20 women with more than 20 clubs that participate in the Italian Absolute Championship promoted by the Italian Fencing Federation. The championship takes place in 3 qualification stages and one trial for the assignment of the Italian Title.

From 2014 until today, every year the national trials and the Italian Absolute Championship are held. Usually the championship takes place in June.

Anyway the situation is still evolving, because there are a lot of people with a visual disability who began to be interested in this sport; the curiosity of other sport clubs is increasing as well.



schermanonvedentiitalia.it



Facebook

CONTACT US

Contact person for the Italian fencing for the blind:
M° Giancarlo Puglisi - (+39) 339 73 18 663
Contact person for the athletes:
Pietro Palumbo - (+39) 342 00 10 78
E-mail: info@schermanonvedentiitalia.it
www.schermanonvedentiitalia.it



SCHERMA NON VEDENTI ITALIA

There is a virtuous circle in sports:
the more you enjoy yourself the more you train;
the more you train the better you get;
the better you get the more fun you.

(pancho Gonzales)

HOW THE FENCE WITHOUT SEEING?

The fencing for blind only makes provision for the sword. This is a weapon without conventions. The legal target is the whole body. The hits are considered to be valid only if generated by actions that are preceded by a touch of the opponent's sword. It is important that the blades of the two fencers come into contact in order to be able to assign the point, because in this way casual hits can be ruled out. It's a duty of the referee to evaluate whether the point is valid or if it's better not to assign it.

The athlete's move on a regular 14 meters platform, with a central guideline placed over its entire length, where they are obliged to hold a least one foot. Thanks to their feelings and sensations the athletes can understand their position and their opponent's; also they are able to develop strategies. Before the assault begins, the trainers/accompanying persons can provide the athlete with information about the opponent they're going to face (height, armed hand, etc.), in addition, during the assault, they can have a time out for further advice. Finally the scoring apparatus gives out a differentiated two-tone sound, in order to make the attacking fencers understand who has touched, during the assault.



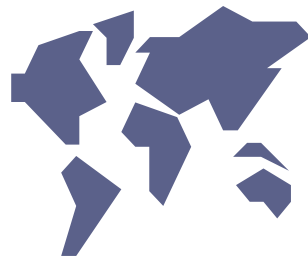
IN THE WORLD

Fencing for blind has got a foothold not only in Italy but also abroad, in fact the representatives of the movement are engaged outside Italy as well, where the efforts have been oriented to the drafting of an international regulation in order to give common rules to all those who are approaching this sport with a competitive spirit.

Starting from 2015 some International tournaments have been held, with the participation of athletes from different European Countries and more. The purpose was: promoting this discipline and finding rules commonly shared.

All this was possible thanks to the Erasmus+ Sport Project financed by the European Union that have reached their goal in 2018, when the fencing movements of France, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Belgium and obviously Italy have agreed on a single regulation .

The aim is to obtain an official recognition and bring fencing for the blind to the Paralympic Games.



WHY?

Why visually-impaired people should decide to fence?

If you are asking yourself this question, now you will find more than an answer.

It's an amusing discipline from a competitive, educational and technical perspective. It improves personal autonomy, considering the need to move around in a conditioned space. It trains mentally and fiscally. It helps to manage anxiety and emotions. It trains on strategy and tactics. It involves the trainees within realities that intend to include rather than isolate.

As you may have noticed, there are few adaptations that distinguish fencing for blind from the one for the able-bodied; in fact, by wearing a mask over the eyes everyone can practice it. This makes it an inclusive sport because it's possible to organise integrated competitions and training that involve both sighted and visually-impaired athletes. The weapons aren't dangerous. The uniform and the mask protect from the blows brought with a little more strength. Everything takes place under the watchful eye of the specialists. It's a chance to enter in the world of sport, with the ambition that in the future it will become a Paralympic sport.

