

# **Products Modification of Fencing's Blades for Beginner Fencing Athletes' Practices**

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## **Abstracts**

Fencing is still included in the line of minority and unpopular sport in Indonesia. But, nowadays, one of this legendary and popular sport has been growing and becoming more popular than before even though not as popular as soccer, basket ball, volley ball, badminton and or any other sport-branches yet. Fencing, with its historical background as one of sports played in the kingdoms' surroundings in some European countries, is also famous as one of elite sport-branches because of its equipments' prices which are high enough to catch.

On this modified blade, there were not so many changes basically, on which the sizes that used on the modified blades is still the real size, such as the length of the blade, the grip length, the shape, and the wide side of the kom. On this modified tool the changes are on the weight, and also the material used to make the modified blade whose price is catchy.

Fencing's blade which is modified just blade's material of the real blade. The modified components are:

1. Blade is made of stiff elastic heavy fiber.

2. Kom is made of aluminums/fiber/plastics with the size and the shape of the real kom is match to the real fencing blade.
3. Grip is made of wood/fiber grip's classical form a little bit longer than modern fencing blade pistol-grip.
4. Point d'arret made of plastic knop which is encircled on the fiber-blade's tip so that it became obtuse on the tip of modified fencing blade.

Modified fencing blade products can give a huge contribution on the efforts of developing and popularizing fencing sport. Modified blades can facilitate the beginner fencing athletes to develop practices patterns, techniques, and also it can make fencing easier and cheaper, and also more benefits. As fencing clubs are growing and developing in schools and also other public's surroundings and they are so many, so that modified fencing blades are of course having a wider market.

Key words: modification, blades, fencing.

## **ANTECEDENT**

Fencing match is one of sport-branches which often performed in multi events championships as well as individual or group matches such as in regional degree championships (among the clubs, KEJURDA, CLASS SPESIFIKASI, KEJURDA OPEN, and PORDA), national degree (KEJURNAS and PON), or international degree championship (*Malaysia Open, Singapore Open, SEA GAMES, ASIAN GAMES, UNIVERSIADE, FIE WORLD CMPETITION, OLYMPIC GAMES*).

Fencing is still included in the line of minority and unpopular sport in Indonesia. But, nowadays, one of this legendary and popular sport has been growing and becoming more popular than before even though not as popular as soccer, basket ball, volley ball, badminton and or any other sport-branches yet. Fencing, with its historical background as one of sports played in the kingdoms' surroundings in some European countries, is also famous as one of elite sport-branches because of its equipments' prices which are high enough to catch.

The chances to get any achievement on this sport are so big and open wide. So that, because of the price of the fencing equipments is too high to be caught by the public, it is necessary to modify some of these practicing tools on the way to support the efforts to get achievements by still conducting practices without getting difficulties or some headache of buying the fencing practicing tools especially for the beginners.

This fencing sport is still having so many big chances and also from the business side, in which are found that just a few Indonesian people who think to make any plan to modify these fencing practicing tools, especially for beginner practicing category.

Based on the simple thoughts and analysis, so I consider, why people afraid to participate this classical sport-branch. Though this sport-branch is really interesting to be taken apart, because there is such a unique art of playing blades which so many weapon specifications.

## **FENCING REALITIES**

Fencing is a sport-branch which conducted as well as by males or females. As for the success of playing fencing is not only on the physical strength, but on the skill level of the subjects which is supported by enough physical skills. As *Gaugler* (1999: 33) said, “*Fencing is a sport in which both sexes can participate on equal footing because success depends on skill rather than physical strength*”.

Blades are one of oldest weapons used by the ancient armies on wars. There were so many different shapes as the centuries went by. Many of them were heavy tools with a sword leave on them so that they needed a big enough strength to carry or to hurt their enemies, as well as an infantry or cavalry. Since it is used as self-defense, swords were made bigger and heavier so that they needed both hands to use (*R. T. Dewitt, Dugan, Ken, 1972: 3*).

By its history, fencing became activities on patrician families in the kingdoms. To show somebody's powers, fencing is often used as the individual performance instrument to be the best. *Ma'mun, Amung* (2002: 2) suggested fencing is a sport-branch which uses weapon as the attacking and shield media, fencing is not very popular yet in Indonesian society because the high price equipments, but IKASI (Ikatan Anggar Seluruh Indonesia) is the institution who has to take apart to socialize fencing to be people sport in Indonesia.

On the effort of its socialization, IKASI is trying to make age groups as beginner cadets, junior cadets, and senior cadets. All of the age groups take apart on kind of matches as well as individuals or groups by using three kinds of weapons that are: *Floret (foil)*, *Sabel (saber)*, and *Degen (epee)*. Gaugler (1999: 33) suggested, “*Italian should make it especially appealing to foil teachers engaging in saber and epee instruction for the first time*”.

## GENERAL EXPLANATION OF FENCING BLADES

On the below are the explanations of kinds of fencing blades by their specification according to *Masssik, Michael* (2004: 3-5):

### 1. Floret (foil)

#### a) Floret's parts

Floret is divided by two parts, those are: a) Protector (*guard*) and b) the sword's eyes (*blade*). *The Guard* is consisted of four elements:

- Hand protector (*bell guard*) is a circle-shape sheet of metal with less than 12 cm diameter.
- Pad (*cushion*) is a leather, fiber, or rubber which is located on the opposite side of the bell guard.
- *Socket* is a bag which connecting the *body wire* of the sword to the *rolling cable* and than to the *recording*.
- *Grip* is the weapon prop which is made of some kind of plastic materials and the function as the holder of the fencing player.

According to the rules, floret must have less than 500 grams weight, and the length is 110 cm maximum, this size is measured from the blade to the nut point.



*Pict. Garrison, Michael. (2007). Page : 02*

## 2. Saber (sabel)

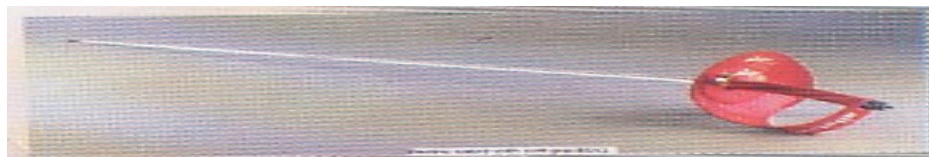
### a) Saber's parts

Saber, just like floret, consists of two important parts, which are: *guard* and *blade*.

*Guard* is consisting four important elements:

- Hand protector (*guard*) is made of oval metal with the diameter is less than 15 cm x 14 cm.
- Pad (*cushion*) is made of leather, fiber, or even rubber which is on the back middle of the guard.
- *Grip* is made of wood or plastic with two metal bobbins.
- *Nut* is made of metal with longing position on the weapon's guard point.

According to the rules, floret must have less than 500 grams weight, and the length is 105 cm maximum, this size is measured from the blade to the weapon's holder point.



*Pict. Harlins, Craig. (2005). Page : 03*

### 3. Degen (epee)

#### a) Degen's parts

Degen, just like floret and saber, consists of two important parts, which are: *guard* and *blade*. *Guard* is consisting four important elements:

- *Bell guard* is a circle-shape sheet of metal with less than 13,5 cm diameter and 5,5 cm thick.
- *Cushion* is a leather or rubber which is sticked inside of the bell guard.
- *Socket* is a socket bag which used to connect the electrical ware of the sword that is the *body wire* of the sword to the *rolling cable* and than to the *recording*.
- *Grip* is the weapon prop which is made of some kind of plastic materials.
- *Nut grip* is the metal which holds on the weapon tip.

According to the rules, floret must have less than 770 grams weight, and the length is 110 cm maximum, this size is measured from the blade to the holder point (*pommel/nut*).



*Pict. Harlins, Craig. (2005). Page : 05*

## THE BEGINNER FENCING ATHLETES' REALITIES

The beginner fencing athletes are the fencing athletes who just practicing fencing and never take apart in any fencing event of any class and any level. In the fact that the beginner mentioned here are two groups, they are; 1) fencing athletes who just started taking apart of practicing and the average age is on the cadet groups (junior-senior). 2) the really beginner fencing athletes who just start practicing and also practiced children with the age is below than 15 years old (cadet/pre-cadet) (*Soerjono, 2006: 21*).

## FENCINGS SWORDS MODIFICATION

Fencing swords modification is a way to make a replica or an imitated sword of the real fencing sword. On this modified blade, there were not so many changes basically, on which the sizes that used on the modified blades is still the real size, such as the length of the blade, the grip length, the shape, and the wide side of the kom. On this modified tool the changes are on the weight, and also the material used to make the modified blade whose price is catchy.

Modifying this fencing blades was having aim for he practicing children (beginner athletes) to have their own swords although not the real ones yet, but at least as the practicing simulation processes the practicing children can practice it with the modified blades as the media, in which the basic things of playing fencing are jabbing, parrying, and cutting, so that in modifying the fencing blade we have to specialize the modification by seeing the function of the sword itself.

The main thought of modifying the fencing blade is one of the efforts to socialize fencing to the civil society so that in the near future the practicing children can get their own practicing tools which is considered as high price tools by just having modified blades first before they can buy the real ones and they also can conduct simulation or practice without having tools problems.

The fencing blade which has been modified are different only on the sword materials to the real ones. The modified sword elements are:

1. Blade is made of stiff elastic heavy fiber.
2. Kom is made of aluminums/fiber/plastics materials with its size and shape are the same to the real fencing blade.
3. Grip is made of wood/fiber with the classical grip shape and a little bit longer than the fencing blade's modern pistol grip.
4. Point d'arret is made of plastically knop which is encircled on the fiber sword tip so that it is blunt on the final point of the modified fencing blade.

For that, modifying this fencing blade is really can be installed by every fencing coach in Indonesia. So that on the way of its development, it will not timely depend on the tools which is still relatively expensive to support the practices. Basically the making of this modified fencing blade is relatively easy.



**Pict.** Jargon-Buster. (2007). *Page : 01*

## **MODIFIED FENCING BLADE PRODUCTS MARKET SEGMENT**

The fencing practice age can also be started since childhood ages to adult ages even old people, as well as both sexes. *Soerjono* (2006: 9) suggested that beginner group of playing blade can be started on beginner cadet ages (under 15 years old). On the age of 10-12 years old are the precise times to learn new technique skills. It was also intactly explained by *Bompa* (2000: 7), the ages of 10-12 years is the standard general category to start practicing fencing for beginners, the ages 14-16 years is special guidance of specification of fencing practices match to special weapon/sword which is also match to the child's talent, and the ages 20-25 years is the top prestige achievements on fencing sport-branch.

So the ages of the beginner athletes (beginner cadets) is one of the good areas to socialize the fencing practices beside the specialization ages (cadet - junior), it makes the most ideal market segment for modified fencing blades is the beginner fencing athletes.

## **MODIFIED FENCING BLADE'S IMPLICATION TO THE FENCING TECHNIQUES**

Basic concept of modificating this fencing blade is just to make fencing practice processes of beginner athletes can run fluently and well done without facing the problems of the



lack of mediums so that beginner athletes can mastering basic techniques of playing fencing. On the otherwise, beside the benefit of modificating this fencing blade is to learn fencing skills, it is also can be used by the beginner athletes as the media to learn accuracy, coordination, and also concentration skills.

In a word with simple analysis above, technically there is no negative impact to the technique mastering of playing fencing by using modificated blade. It is caused by the aims of this modificated fencing blade are to facilitate the fencing builders of finding solution supplying mediums to practice fencing especially for the beginner athletes and also to make easier of mastering the skills of playing fencing. By using the modificated blade with only a few different on its weight hence for the beginner can improve the concentration element, keep the jabbing/cutting accuracy and also good coordination on the time doing jabbing/cutting.

Other also this modificated blade can help the beginner athletes to try distance practices of playing fencing by group, because of the fencing blade here is also the lengthening of hands, so that the beginner athletes could learn and master the distance skill practices and also concentration of sword controlling.

## **CLOSING**

Modificated fencing blade products can give big contributions on the hands of developing and socializing fencing. This kind of blade also facilitates the beginner fencing athletes to develop the practice, techniques, and also playing patterns cheaply, easily, and beneficially. As fencing clubs are growing and developing in schools and also other public's surroundings and they are so many, so that modificated fencing blades are of course having a wider market. The next hope is to help the socialization process and also beginner fencing athletes seeding can grow rapidly. Beside that, the hope is also to give positive effects to small industries by creating new job opportunities.

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