USFCA NCDP Level 3 and 4 Northeast Regional Spring Clinic
PIONEER VALLEY FENCING ACADEMY
May 30 and 31, 2026

Clinic Description

This clinic is ideal for CITs working toward a Moniteur or Prevot certification. Material will be presented at differing skill levels. CITs must register to participate in the clinic and in only one weapon. This clinic will include four separate modules of four hours each, with a choice of modules for the fourth module time-slot. Each module will include an assessment. A small number of practical exams at the Prevot and Maitre level in all three weapons will be offered Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. Please email Paul Sise if you wish to take an exam.

Coach Developers

Paul Sise USFCA #475: Epee

John Krauss USFCA #6456: Foil

Bruce Gillman USFCA #271: Foil, Epee

RJ Ferullo USFCA #7296: Saber

David Brown USFCA #184: Saber

Primary Contact and Location

Paul Sise

Pioneer Valley Fencing Academy

94 Cottage St. Easthampton, MA 01027

413-204-6387

paul.sise@pioneerfencing.com

Hotel

2026 USFCA Fencing Academy Clinic, May 30-31, (Hampton, MA)
https://groups.reservetravel.com/group.aspx?id=93680

Book by: April 27, 2026

Schedule

May 30 and 31, 2026

Arrive between 8am and 8:30am

9am-1pm: Modules 1 (Saturday), 3 (Sunday)

1pm-1:45pm: Lunch

2pm-6pm: Modules 2 (Saturday), 4 (Sunday)

At the end of Sunday's clinic, there will be certificates of attendance awarded and time for online evaluations to be filled out.

Continuing Education Hours

16

Cost

$300 (members) $400 (non-members)

Fencers of ages 13+ with at least a year of competitive experience or equivalent skills are encouraged to attend the clinic as students. Cost: $100

Weapon Focus

Foil, Epee, Saber

Equipment Needed

Coaching equipment and athletic attire. Epee coaches must have knickers or long pants. Street shoes are not allowed on the fencing floor.

Learning Objectives

CITs will learn:

1) what is required to teach safely and professionally.

2) a variety of skills to cue for various fencing techniques.

3) skills to correct a variety of common errors.

4) how to construct individual lessons and increase their difficulty to suit the student's needs.

5) skills related to working with a variety of formats of group classes.

Module 1

What is Professionalism? - What do your students expect of you?

The Physical Job of the Coach – Teaching Techniques

Using distance and direction as a cue for attacks
Cueing with Footwork (Distance and Direction

Cueing with the Blade

Different types of Ripostes – direct, indirect, compound

Parries

Point in line

False Cues

Module 2

Basic Teaching Methods

Classical method and EDGCC

Error Correction

Problem Solving / Task method / Discovery Method

Teaching Simple Lessons

Blocked-Serial-Random

Building a progressive chain

Go / No-go Lesson

Module 3

Progressive lessons that start simply and build complexity and difficulty, incorporating:

Varying distance and footwork

Changing lines

Direct to indirect actions

Tempo changes in footwork and bladework

Adding a preparation such as a beat

Modifying to second intention

Simple to compound actions

Adding a remise, reprise, or redoublement (good for epee)

Unforeseen actions by the coach (an unexpected parry or attack, etc.)

Student control of footwork

Student initiated bladework

False cues by coach

For Module 4, CITs may choose learning how to work with groups or delve deeper into more advanced individual lessons.

Module 4A

Group Class Construction

Basic Structure of a Class
Constructing and Supervising Drills
Group Formats
Managing Groups of Fencers

Module 4B

Student Led Options Lessons

One student preparation leads to multiple responses by the coach

Multiple student preparations lead to specific responses by the coach

<u>Required Reading Prior to Clinic</u>

Foil Technique and Terminology
By: Jeans Jacques Gillet
Link: https://usfca.org/wpfd_file/foil-technique-and-terminology/

Fencing Actions- Their Terminology, Their Classification, and Application in Competition
By: Czajkowski
Link:
https://usfca.org/wpfd_file/fencing-actions-terminology-their-classification-and-application-in-competition/

Suggested Reading Material

(X)

Diversity, Inclusivity, and Accessibility Statement

This clinic is committed to diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility espoused by the USFCA. Specifically, students from diverse backgrounds and perspectives will be welcomed and served by Pioneer Valley Fencing Academy and this clinic, students' learning needs will be addressed both in and out of class, and diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is our intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Presentations will be accessible to individuals with mobility disabilities and will mitigate the effects of other disabilities that might present a barrier to attendees.