



ICELANDIC FENCING FEDERATION
Engjavegi 6, 104 Reykjavik, Iceland



THE NORDIC SABRE CENTER

Project for the development of sabre fencing in the Nordic countries 2008 - 2012

Competitive fencing does not have a very long history in Iceland, yet Icelandic fencers have managed to obtain a leading role in sabre fencing in the Nordic countries. The man behind this success is Nikolay Mateev. He came to Iceland 1991 and built the fencing sport especially the sabre fencing from the beginning. Nikolay Mateev is a member of the Training and Fencing Masters Commission of the European Fencing Confederation.

Nikolay Mateev had the inspiration to establish a center for sabre training for the Nordic countries in Iceland. The sabre leaders from Denmark, Finland and Sweden encouraged him to start this project. The Nordic Fencing Union has also approved this project.

The Icelandic Fencing Federation has been developing a grading system for young fencers to use for Iceland. The other Nordic countries are interested in implementing this grading system in their countries.

With the **Nordic Sabre Center** our objective is to:

- Improve the level of sabre coaches and sabre fencing in the Nordic countries.
- Build a solid foundation for the further development of sabre fencing in Iceland and the other countries involved in the project.
- Furthermore we hope that the project will help the participating countries to develop a steady number of fencers who are able to participate in international competitions at a high level.

Description of the project:

The venue:

The city of Reykjavik has invested more than one million Euro in building a new fencing center for the Reykjavik Fencing Club. The hall is 800 m² and located in Laugardalur area. Where all major sport facilities in Iceland are to be found, it will be a huge improvement for all fencing in Iceland.



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The dimension of the venue is 10m x 80m and it is divided in to three sections.

1. An area of 80m² at one end to be used for footwork and similar exercises, equipped with mirrors on three sides.
2. An area of 80m² at the other end with two rooms. One of them is for meetings, teaching and video-analysis and the other is weapon control and repair facility.
3. Middle area with 12 fully equipped pistes. Eight of those pistes will be central competition pistes with FIE approved scoring machines. All the pistes are equipped with cables and spools installed under the floor.

* Please refer to the attached drawings.

In addition, the center will have an office and rooms for meetings, teaching and video-analysis and our ambition is to build a fencing library with books, DVDs, CD-ROMs on coaching and fencing. This, we believe, should significantly improve the standard of fencing training and help us to create a more inspiring and motivating environment for our young fencers.

Just 50 meters from the fencing center is one of the best GYMS in Europe, called “World Class”. The Icelandic Fencing Federation has made an agreement with the gym for our fencers and visitors to use the facilities.

Contents:

With the **Nordic Sabre Center** we want to ensure further development and growth of sabre in the Nordic countries. We intend do this by annually hosting a number of training camps at the Center for trainers, referees and fencers at all levels.

The intention is to establish a core of competitive sabre fencers that would come for high performance training camps on regular basis, i.e. a few long weekends a year.

Additionally once a year, to hold a two week intensive camp for young fencers from all countries, as a part of a development project to see Nordic sabre present in the Olympics. Given the limited number fencers in each country at the moment this kind of collaboration would be very beneficial for athlete development.



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Also, and as importantly, the intention is to methodically organize courses for trainers and instructors in combination with these camps, to improve standard of teaching and the technical basis of trainers and instructors. We would like to invite fencing masters from different countries to conduct some of these courses so that Nordic trainers will be introduced to different methods and schools of fencing. The objective is train Nordic masters to establish the sport in their countries.

The Sport and Olympic Association of the Nordic countries have similar regulations for instructors and trainers. The National Olympic and Sports Association of Iceland has already approved coach program of the Icelandic Fencing Federation. All participating trainers will be award a Diploma for Sabre instruction which will be recognized in all the Nordic countries.

We believe that the **Nordic Sabre Center** will further the growth of sabre in the Nordic countries. We hope that its advent will also eventually to lay ground for the introduction of the other arms in Iceland.

Management:

A project manager will head the center, organize and schedule camps and seminars, apply for funding etc.

A full time fencing master will be needed at the center to provide training for fencers and instructors.

A committee, appointed by the federations of the participating countries will outline major policy and financial decisions.