

Ridge High Fencing FAQ

1. Are there tryouts for fencing?

A: At this time, there are no tryouts to get on the team. Anyone who signs up is in. No prior experience is necessary. Our coaches will teach your son/daughter what he/she needs to know and there are usually a couple Captains' practices right before the real season starts to help your son/daughter out. We do however encourage fencers to supplement this training by attending lessons from other fencing clubs.

2. Can you provide general information about where, how often, and the length of time they will meet for practices, tournaments, etc?

A: The season starts right when students come back from Thanksgiving break and ends sometime in February. Practices are held daily at William Annin Middle School from 2:45-4:45. A school bus brings students from Ridge over to the middle school but does not provide transportation back. Meets occur typically twice a week (usually Tuesday and Thursday, but there are a few exceptions). Meets usually do not start until 2 weeks after practices have begun. When they are home meets, they are hosted at Ridge itself, NOT the middle school. They last approx. two hours, but all fencers are required to come an hour early for set up and warm up. The specific times vary. However, most of our home meets are at 4:00 or 4:30. Away meets are usually the same in regards to time and length however, transportation and distance from the opposing school naturally makes away meets more time consuming. During away meets, a bus provides transportation to and from Ridge.

3. How do they acquire equipment? If it needs to be purchased, where is it sold?

A: Initially, the association has some equipment for your son/daughter to borrow. But once your son/daughter finds the weapon he/she wants and is committed to the sport, he/she needs to purchase his/her own equipment.

Two of the most popular places to get equipment would be Absolute Fencing, in Bridgewater (<http://www.absolutefencinggear.com/shopping/>) and Blue Gauntlet Fencing, in Saddlebrook (<http://www.blue-gauntlet.com/>).

We encourage and recommend students to join group lessons/summer camps offered in local areas to try out and decide if fencing is right for him/her and determine what weapon to fence.

4. Your site has a link to join the Ridge High Fencing yahoo groups. What is this for?

A: This group is used to foster communications. With this tool, parents will get involved and be able to share ideas and collaborate with regards to the fencing teams. This group contains meeting minutes, photos and discussion threads about the team. We hope that this will foster closer ties among the Ridge Fencing family with only one goal in mind, that is, to support our fencers.

5. What type of parent involvement is needed to join the committees?

A: Any help is appreciated. Parent involvement and support is greatly encouraged for our students to be successful. Our board meets a few times a year but mostly communicate via email. If you are interested to volunteer in any committees, please contact ridgehighfencing@yahoo.com.

