



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

## **FENZ – MASKS – Weapon control/competition requirements – May 2021**

1. The 2018 FIE mask fastening requirements are compulsory at all FeNZ competitions from 20th May 2021. These are outline in rule m.25.7.f

### **m25.7.f**

The mask must contain two different safety systems at the rear of the mask, with the two ends of the straps of the systems firmly affixed to the two sides of the mask.

These straps must meet the following requirements approved by the S.E.M.I. Commission :

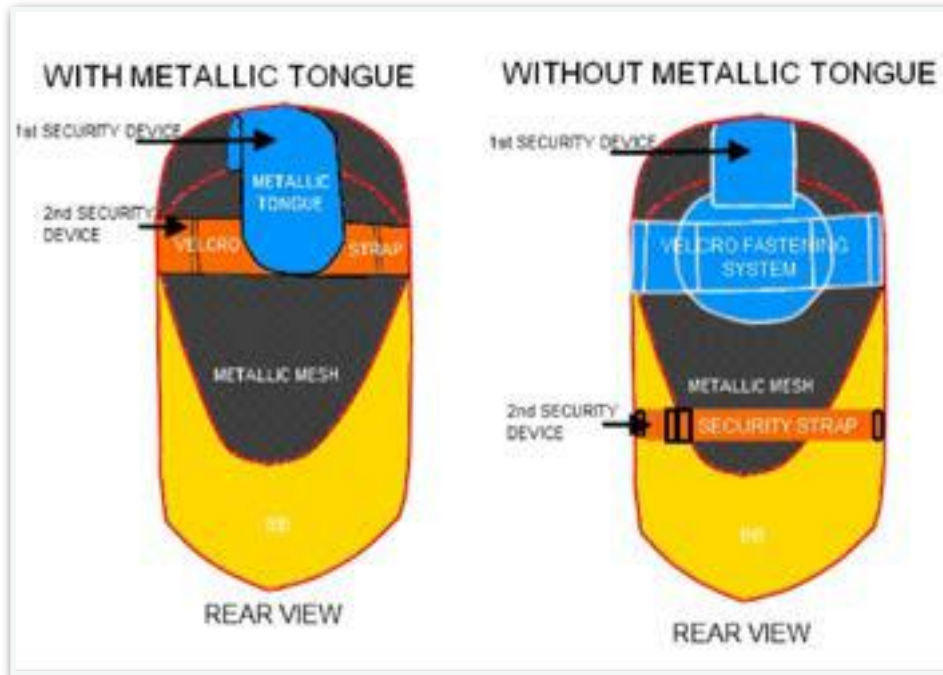
#### **Mask with metallic tongue**

- The central band (strap) should not be less than 45 mm wide.
- The strap must be positioned low enough across the rear of the cervical region that the position of the strap on the head ensures that the mask cannot slide off.
- The band must be in solid material : when stretched the material should not sustain permanent plastic deformation and should quickly return to its original shape and size
- The fastening system must be doubled: it must be closed with a double security system (this means that the Velcro™ has to be attached at least twice).
- The Velcro™ must have a minimum breaking strain of 750 N/cm
- The tags to which the strap is attached by Velcro must be secured to each side of the mask with the same breaking strain.

#### **Mask without metallic tongue**

- The position of the main strap must be low enough to ensure that the mask cannot slide off; the correct distance should be decided by the manufacturer (typically 25/30 mm).
- The strap must incorporate 3 fixing points.
- The use of a magnetic strap, already existing, remains mandatory.

Please refer to the examples in the drawings below:



These images are only provided for information. When in doubt, the wording of the relevant text prevails.

2. The following protocols also still apply to all masks at FeNZ competitions (note that these are not new requirements - they are to highlight the existing rules and manufacturers' recommendations for masks):

- The control and application of rules regarding masks and how they are worn shall be monitored closely, for example the condition of the elastic and the hook and loop fasteners.
- Both security systems in place on the mask shall be in good working order.
- The mask (the metal tongue variety) is to be worn in such a way that both security systems can independently hold the mask onto the fencer's head i.e. the metal tongue part is positioned correctly, and the elastic is worn correctly e.g. not on the metal tongue.
- The elastic shall be in good working order and return to original position – i.e. shall not be deformed and shall have elasticity.



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- The hook and loop securing the elastic shall be in good order and capable of retaining the elastic and resist being removed (compare new vs older hook and loop). For example, does:
  - the hook and loop resist the holding the weight of mask? o The Leon Paul “Comfort Plus” mask to utilise
  - Second security device
  - Hook and loop fastening especially to be in good working order
  - Mask is to be worn in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions – i.e. especially the internal forehead padding
- The elastic is to be approximately 45mm wide. Some discretion should be given. If a mask fails to function properly then it must be replaced immediately, even if during a bout. *In the main this is the elastic coming off the hook and loop fasteners as the fastening is old and not able to hold the elastic strip.*

If this occurs the referee shall inspect the mask, and may require the fencer to remedy or replace the mask as referee sees fit (e.g. require the tongue to be properly position, the Leon Paul mask to be fitted correctly etc).

A mask that fails in terms of the security devices should be treated the same way as a failed weapon or body wire.

In summary, masks are to be worn properly and be well-maintained, including the elastic and fastenings.