

Crucible Dueling Society



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Last modified: 3/29/2026

Statement of Purpose

Crucible Dueling Society is a Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA) organization located in Pittsburgh, PA. We are dedicated to the reconstruction and practice of historical fencing techniques. We combine scholarly research and hands-on martial training, with a particular focus on the Italian fencing traditions of the 16th -17th century.

Our primary sources are the writings of renowned fencing masters, including Ridolfo Capoferro, Nicoletto Giganti, Salvator Fabris, and Antonio Manciolino. By engaging in experimentation and collaborating with amicable individuals, we explore and apply historical techniques through sparring and occasional competition.

Membership at Crucible Dueling Society is considered a privilege, not a right. The Code of Conduct is intended to help build and preserve a community that is inclusive and welcoming to all people interested in Italian fencing. We do not condone harassment of any kind and we aim to be transparent so that if our safe environment is violated, there will be a clear line of accountability. Any violation of our Crucible Dueling Society's rules will result in consequences that may include removal from the group, removal of support, and other services we provide, as well as a report to appropriate authorities depending on the severity.

Code of Conduct

1. Expectations

Everyone within the Crucible Dueling Society's community is entitled to respect and dignity within a supportive environment -- one free of racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, ableist, and otherwise abusive attitudes, comments, behaviors, and actions.

2. Non-Harassment Policy

The Crucible Dueling Society does not condone nor does it tolerate any form of harassment, either general interpersonal harassment or harassment based on race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender, genetic information, national origin, age, disability, or religion.

"Harassment" includes offensive language, jokes, and/or other conduct, whether visual, verbal, written, or physical, that would make the subject or a bystander experiencing such behavior feel unsafe, disrespected or excluded, or would interfere with the person's participation in the HEMA Community. Any complaints regarding discriminatory behavior or actions that create a hostile environment for members will be thoroughly investigated and addressed by the Crucible Dueling Society Board, in accordance with the Disciplinary, Complaints, and Appeals Procedures. The degree of transparency or confidentiality of the investigation findings, with regard to the wider community, will be determined by the affected member.

3. Safety

It is vital that all members wear instructor approved protective gear regardless of the intensity of the exercise. Every practitioner is expected to maintain control of their actions, be aware of their surroundings, and demonstrate good judgment and consideration for the age, size, experience, and abilities of their training partners at all times. By fostering an environment of mutual respect and awareness, we can reduce the potential for injury while ensuring a safe and productive training experience.

Please print name:

I, _____, acknowledge that I have read and agree to the Code of Conduct and will uphold Crucible Dueling Society's values.

Signature: _____

Date: _____