

Fencing electronic
scoring system was
introduced in



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Fencing dates back thousands of years to 1200 BCE where swordsmanship was performed as a form of military training for war, combats between two people and pastime by the Romans, Persians, Greeks, and Germanic tribes (Evangelista, 2017). Throughout the Middle Ages, sword combat became a mastery of skill. As the popularity of swordfighting increased, sword training schools with fencing masters also developed.

Changes to the sword was also made for easier handling and protection of the human body so they were no longer used as weapons. The Italians and French altered the cross-bar of the sword so the bar would not pierce through the protection layer worn by the fighter, this added to the ease of handling but lost some of the strength of the sword (Castello, 1933). By the end of the 16th century, the sword had changed to become lighter and simpler to enhance control and speed.

This fencing style was spread and developed across Europe and soon fencing became recognised as a form of art. Schools continued to teach fencing, emphasising strategy and form in safe training environments. A mask was also later developed to provide protection. It was only in the late 19th century that fencing became an organised sport, using a light sabre in a duel (Evangelista, 2017).

Technology impacted the scoring system of fencing majorly as traditional scoring was done by five individuals giving votes, which led to issues such as cheating. This was when an electronic scoring system was introduced in the late 1800s. A buzzer was attached to the wall, with a wire wrapped around each fighter's neck to the handle of their sword. When a hit was made, the

blade of the sword would be pressed back into the handle, completing a circuit and activating the buzzer. As technology advanced, wireless systems were developed and fencers wore conductive jackets, masks and cuffs to improve the signal. Lights now appear on the fencer's mask to signal whether a hit has been successful