

WMAW 2007 Travel Advice

With the ever-changing seas of airport security, it's hard to know exactly what will "cause a problem" and what won't. In order to avoid unnecessary complications while traveling to WMAW 2007, use common sense, good humor and candor. Be courteous, patient and respectful with airport security, and kindly comply with any of their requests. Remember, their measures are in place to insure everybody's safety.

Those of us who travel fairly regularly with our swords and gear, have found that the following travel pointers will usually eliminate any problems:

1. It is FENCING EQUIPMENT. It is NOT "swords," "blades," "weapons," "rapiers," "wooden wasters," "daggers," "sparring gear," "armor," or anything else. It is FENCING EQUIPMENT.
2. Pack your FENCING EQUIPMENT in a hard case, such as a golf-club case. Snowboard cases are also convenient to use. Tape rubber blunts onto all points, and you may even want to tape the edges of your blades. Rapiers may be disassembled for ease of packing.
3. Carry a copy of your WMAW 2007 confirmation letter with you, and keep a copy in the case with your FENCING EQUIPMENT.
4. Do not attempt to carry any of your FENCING EQUIPMENT onto the plane. Check it with your other luggage.
5. If you have a club patch or logo, place it on the outside of your equipment case.
6. If asked by airport personnel, be candid, and tell them it is FENCING EQUIPMENT.
7. If you are going to travel with sharp blades of any kind, remember that, while it is legal to check them in your luggage, IT IS AT THE WHIM OF SECURITY AS TO WHETHER OR NOT IT IS "A PROBLEM".
8. Be sure to wear clean, matching socks with no holes in them, and trim your toenails in the quite likely event of a shoe search.
9. Make sure your carry-on bags are free of any items proscribed by your airline. For more information see the [FAA web site](http://www.faa.org). (<http://www.faa.org>)
10. Arrive at the airport at least two hours before your departure time for domestic flights; three hours for international flights.

Travel safe. Travel smart. We look forward to seeing you at WMAW 2007!