



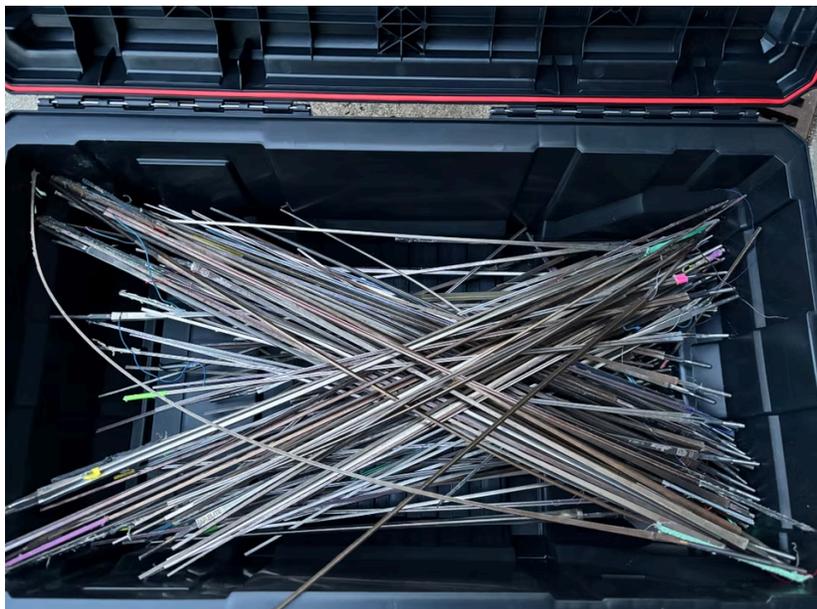
Blades for Better Guide / Online Toolkit

Mission

Every year, thousands of fencing blades break and are thrown away—ending up in landfills where they contribute to long-term waste. Blades for Better was created to change that. Our mission is to collect these broken blades and recycle them through certified metal facilities, giving them a second life while promoting environmental sustainability in the fencing community. This is not a fundraising campaign. The money earned from recycling is minimal. What matters is the impact: reducing waste, raising awareness, and creating a culture of responsibility within our sport.

Required Materials (Minimum)

- Wheeled storage bin (preferably longer than it is wide to fit fencing blades)
 - Printer access to print the premade signage provided
 - Passenger car with a trunk or rear cargo space
 - Phone or email access (for coordination and reporting)
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Steps for Collecting Broken Fencing Blades

1. Collect from Your Own Club

Begin by gathering any broken blades available at your fencing club. Ensure they are safely stored for transport. I recommend using a wheeled storage bin that is longer than it is wide to accommodate the blades during transport.

Below is an example of a wheeled storage bin.



2. Contact Nearby Clubs

Reach out to fencing clubs in your area to ask if they have broken blades they are willing to donate.

3. Arrange Pickup

- If the club is within driving distance, arrange a time to pick up the blades.
- If the club is farther away, ask if they can bring the blades to an upcoming tournament, where you can collect them.

4. Tournament Collection Option

- Bring a wheeled storage bin to the tournament to facilitate collection.
- Request permission from event organizers to place the bin in a visible location, such as near the registration area.
- Clearly mark the bin with signage indicating it is for broken blade collection.

- If a tournament collection is decided, contact blades4better1@gmail.com ahead of time so they can put it on the website/social media.

5. Transport Collected Blades

Once a feasible amount of blades has been collected, transport as many as safely possible back from the tournament.

6. Identify Recycling or Artistic Use

Locate metal recycling centers that accept maraging steel (note: these blades contain nickel and cobalt).

If no suitable recycling centers are available, identify local artists who may be interested in using the metal for projects.

If assistance is needed in locating recyclers or artists, contact me for guidance.

7. Delivery and Reporting

Transport the blades to the recycling center or artist.

Any proceeds received from recycling the metal should be donated to the GoFundMe campaign listed on my website.

After delivery, email me the total weight of metal saved in kilos or pounds.

2. If no money is received, or if the metal is donated to an artist, reporting the weight is still required.
3. Artist Follow-Up:
If the blades are given to an artist, request that they send a photo of the finished artwork once completed.

Email to Fencing Club for At-Club Pickup

[Fencing Club Coach]

I hope you are doing well! I am [Name] from [blank fencing club] and I wanted to contact you to ask if your club would be willing to participate in a broken fencing blade recycling initiative.

If your club has any broken blades available, I would be happy to arrange a quick pickup at a convenient time. I can transport them safely using a storage bin and bring them directly to an appropriate recycling center or repurpose them through a local artist.

Please let me know if this would be possible, and if so, what day and time would work best for pickup. If you have any questions or would like more information about the program, I would be happy to provide details.

You can find more information from our parent organization's website, <https://www.blades4better.org/>.

All the best,
[Your Name]

Email to Fencing Club for Tournament Pickup

[Fencing Club Coach]

I hope you are doing well! I am [Name] from [blank fencing club] and I wanted to contact you to ask if your club would be willing to participate in a broken fencing blade recycling initiative.

If your club has any broken blades available, an easy option is to bring them to the upcoming tournament, [Tournament Name], on [Date]. If you are already attending, we can arrange a simple handoff during the event, and I will collect the blades directly from your club.

I will also have a clearly labeled collection bin available at the venue, and pickup can be done quickly at a time and location that is convenient for your team (such as near registration or weapon check).

Please let me know if your club would be willing to participate and approximately how many blades you may be bringing. If you have any questions or would like more information about the program, I would be happy to provide details. You can also find more information from our parent organization's website, <https://www.blades4better.org/>.

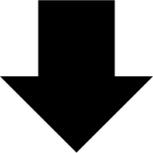
All the best,
[Your Name]

Pre-made Signage

Broken Fencing Blades

Fencing Blade Recycling Initiative

Please Place **ONLY** Broken Blades In the Bin



QR Code to Website



FAQ

Where can I recycle the metal or find places to recycle?

Fencing blades are generally made of maraging steel, containing nickel and cobalt. Search using terms such as *Scrap Metal Recycling Near Me* to find metal recycling centers. Call them and ask if they accept maraging steel, or if there is a minimum weight or certain drop off procedure. If there are no local centers, look for local artists, metal sculptors, or community art centers.

How much should I aim to collect before transportation?

Generally there is no minimum requirement, make sure to call the centers ahead of time and ask this. Aim for 20-50 kilos for efficiency. However, always remember that the goal is impact and awareness, not maximizing profit, so as much as you are willing to transport is always enough.

Do the blades need to be prepared or cleaned before transportation?

Minimal preparation is needed, however, this may differ by recycling center. Call ahead and ask, however, generally none is fine. If willing then simply pulling off easily detachable loose tape may be helpful.

Does it matter which to separate into foil, sabre, or epee.

No, all blades can be put altogether in one group, it does not affect recycling in any capacity.