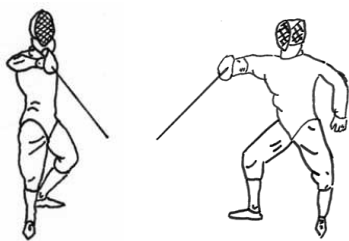
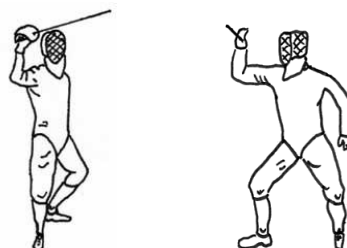


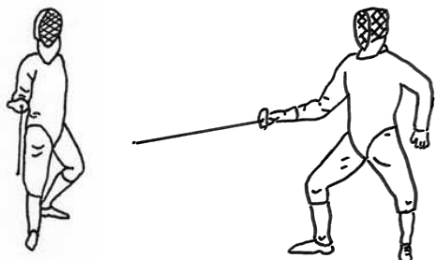
**The Seven Sabre Guards for a Right handed fencer.**



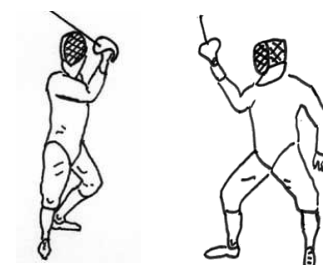
“Prime” 1<sup>st</sup> Guard or Parry (Hand in Pronation)



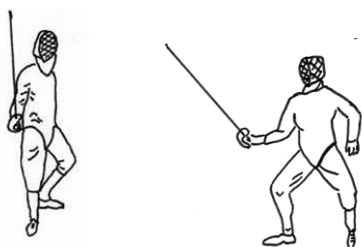
“Quinte” 5<sup>th</sup> Guard or parry (Hand in Pronation)



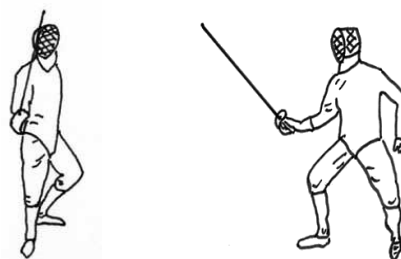
“Seconde” 2<sup>nd</sup> Guard or Parry (Hand in Pronation)



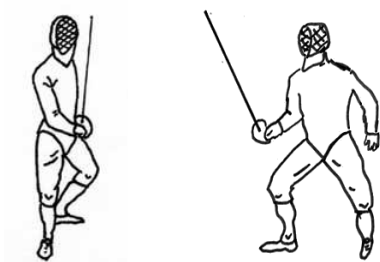
“Sixte” 6<sup>th</sup> Guard or Parry (Hand in half Supination)



“Tierce” 3<sup>rd</sup> Guard or Parry (Hand in Pronation)



“Offensive Defensive position” 7<sup>th</sup> Guard of Parry (Hand in half Pronation)



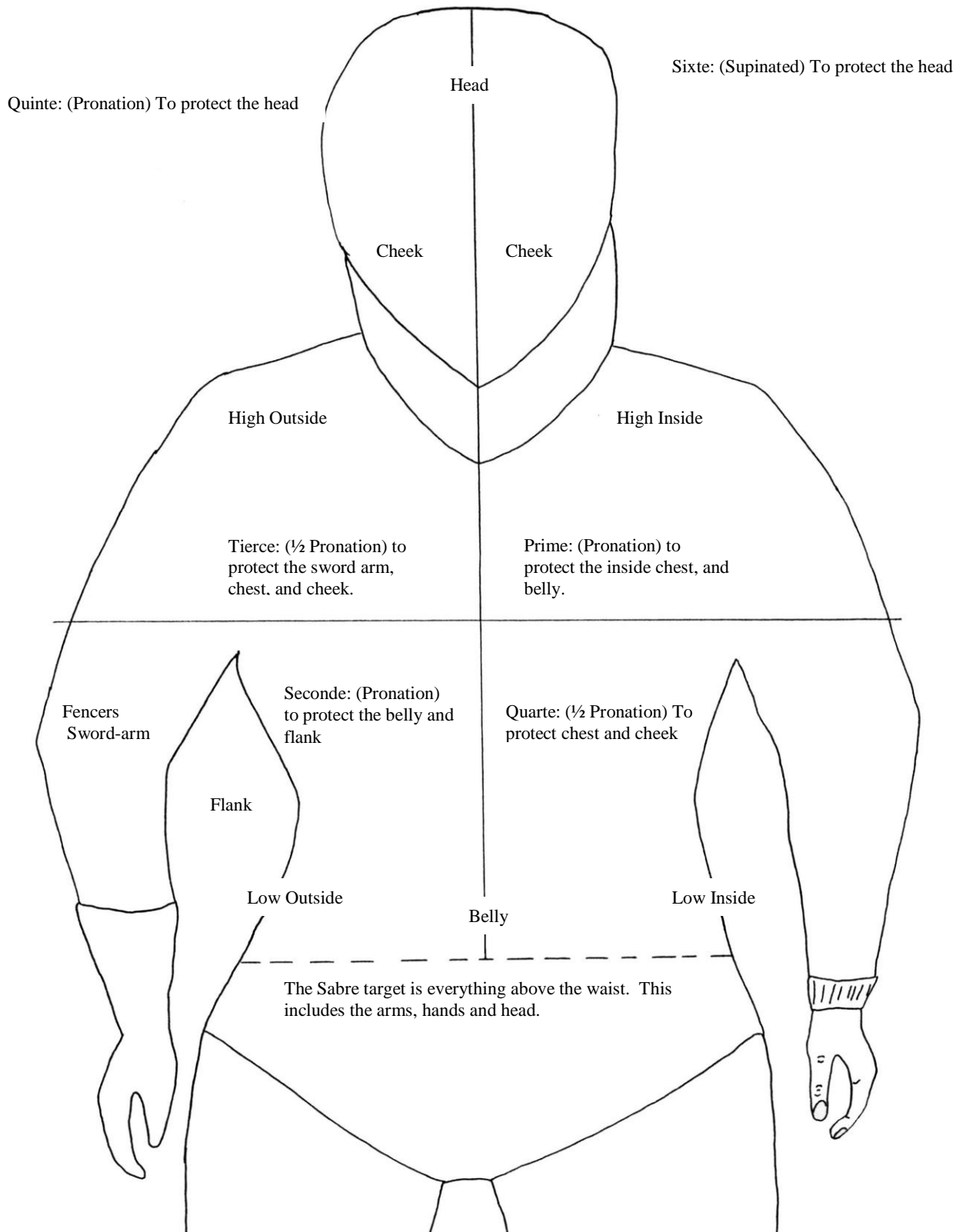
“Quarte” 4<sup>th</sup> Guard or Parry (hand in Half Pronation)

**Supination:** Means knuckles of the sword hand pointing down.

**Half Pronation:** Means knuckles pointing towards the sword arm side of the body with the thumb on top of the sword handle.

**Pronation:** Means knuckles of the sword hand pointing upwards.

Below is a diagram showing where the Six fencing positions for Sabre are assuming the fencer is right handed (sword arm indicated) the Target has been Quartered to show the High and Low line Guards (note the offensive/defensive position is an adaptation of tierce and quarte).



## Fencing Lines.

Fencing lines can cause a great deal of confusion, so for ease I shall divide them into four separate categories.

- a) The Fencing line (as most often referred to in modern fencing).
- b) Guard Lines.
- c) Lines of Engagement.
- d) Lines of Attack.

### A). The Fencing Line.

This is referring to the imaginary line that can be drawn between the Fencers leading foot and their opponents leading foot. This line helps the fencer show as little of their target as possible, as well as allowing the Fencer to execute small blade movements whether they are OFFENSIVE or DEFENSIVE.

### B). Guard Lines.

First of all look at the diagram of the target area that has been divided into quarters. On the drawing you will see that on the sword arm side the guards of **Quinte and Tierce** occupy the **High Quarter** of the target. Therefore these are known as **High line Guards**. Below in the low quarter are the guards of **Seconde**, this is known as **Low line Guard**. The same applies to the non-sword arm side of the target and are labelled according

When a Fencer assumes a guard position the line of that guard, is considered covered. For example assume the guard of Tierce yourself and the line of Tierce is covered so that if a Fencer attacks you down the outside (also known as the Tierce side) of your blade then their cut or point will glance harmlessly away from your target. Now assume the guard of Seconde and you are now covered in the Seconde line, the same principle applies for all the other guard positions.

### C). Lines of Engagement.

Please note that the whole nature of Sabre fencing does not lend itself to engagements making their occurrence very rare, however below are described the principles.

When a fencer's blade remains in contact with their opponents the blades are said to be in a state of "Engagement", it is vital that the fencer engages their opponent's blade so that they are engaging in a guard line this is then called the line of engagement. For example assume the guard of Tierce "make sure you are in the fencing line as discussed in paragraph (A). Now move your blade laterally across your body so that the centre of your blade comes in contact with the foible of your opponents blade, you have now engaged your opponents blade in the Quarte line. Now ask your opponent to lunge while remaining in contact with your blade, and their sword should slide harmlessly past your target. If you do not make sure that you are covered then your opponent will hit you. Many fencers have been caught unawares

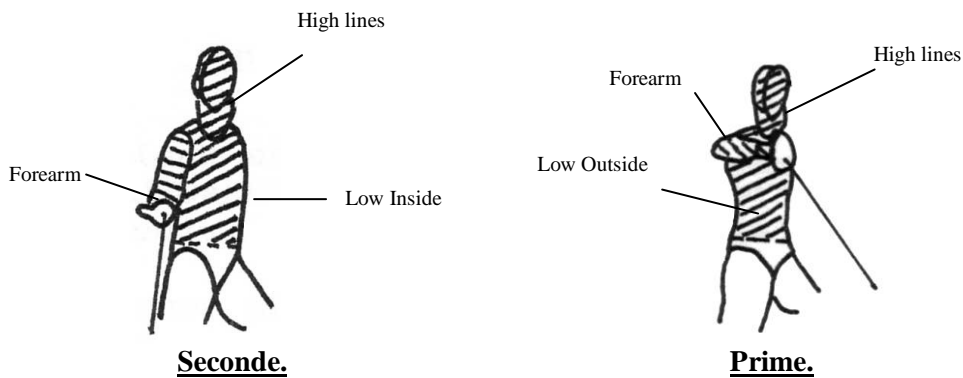
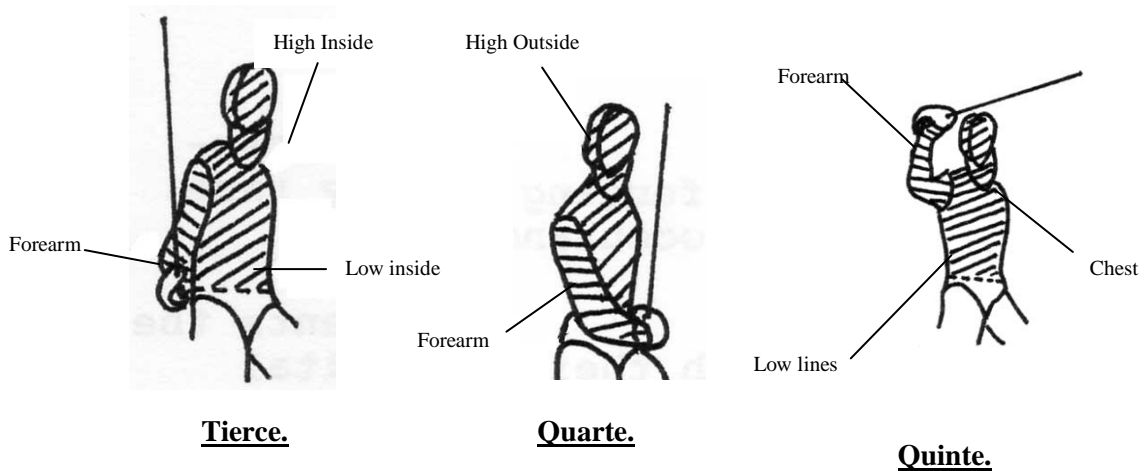
by not making sure that they are not covered. The same rule applies when you engage your opponent's blade in other guard lines.

**D) Lines of Attack.**

The guard adopted by the opponent governs a Fencers line of attack. Again I find it easier to understand if I quarter the target area of the body. **The SWORD ARM SIDE** is known as the **OUTSIDE** of the target area. The **NON-SWORD ARM SIDE** is known as the inside of the target area. Both the **INSIDE** and the **OUTSIDE** of the target area, are then split into two and are called as follows:

- **HIGH OUTSIDE.**
- **LOW OUTSIDE.**
- **HIGH INSIDE.**
- **LOW INSIDE.**

Below are drawings of five of the seven guards, these are Tierce, Quarte, Quinte, Seconde and Prime. The guard name describes the name of the line which is to be considered covered.



Also marked are the lines that can be considered open to attack, for example the guard of Tierce covers the Tierce line (High Outside line) leaving the High Inside

(belly) and forearm lines exposed to attack. You will also notice that I have marked the forearm on some of the guards, this is because the arm and wrist are considered valid target areas and should be treated as such, (beginners at sabre quite often forget about the arm and head as being part of the target).

Considering the above, if a Fencer found themselves to be weak in one defensive line, it would be a sound tactic to assume the guard which covers that line, and so they purposefully expose the lines in which they are more confident in defending.