



Australian Schools Championships – 2018 Information Sheet

This year, for the first time, the Australian Individual and Teams School Championships will be held in Sydney.

On behalf of the host, NSW Fencing Association, the AFF extends a warm welcome to eligible school-age fencers from around Australia to participate in this premier schools fencing event.

Please note that a number of changes to eligibility, qualification, rules and format have been made to the competition to encourage school participation from all Member States so please read the following information carefully,

AFF has also lowered the cost of participation by allowing 'participative' fencers to attend along with 'competitive' fencers and by reducing the entry cost.

1. DATES AND LOCATION

The AFC Schools (Individuals) Championships and AFC (Teams) Championships for Senior fencers will take place on the weekend of 28 and 29 July 2018.

The AFC Schools (Individuals) Championships and AFC (Teams) Championships for Intermediate fencers will take place on the weekend of 25 and 26 August 2018.

The NSW Fencing Centre
Building 2.04
Sydney Corporate Park
190 Bourke Road
Alexandria NSW 2015

In a change from previous years, there will be no State team competition held in conjunction with the Individual Championships. The team competition will be solely among school teams, consistent with the principle that individuals and teams competing in the Australian School Championships are representing their schools rather than their States.

2. CATEGORIES

The categories for each weapon and gender are:

- **Intermediate** - up to the third year of secondary school
- **Senior** - open to any secondary school student (including Intermediate fencers)

3. ELIGIBILITY

The AFF has agreed that entry to the Australian Schools Championships will be open to both 'competitive' and 'participative' fencers.

For example, Junior Registered fencers in NSW who are 'participative fencers' and usually fence only in NSW schools competitions can enter the Australian Schools Championships if they qualify. The AFF will use the current junior participative membership criteria for each Member State as the qualification for entry.

4. INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES

The individual competition timetable will be arranged sequentially by weapon so that individual fencers can nominate for one, two or three weapons.

Round 1: Expressions of interest will be invited from each Member State two months before the competition date. Member States will be requested to submit a ranked list of individual fencers per weapon and gender. This list should include the names of all fencers who wish to nominate, without limitation on numbers but subject to any selection criteria used by Member States. States will have one week to submit expressions of interest. The AFF will initially allocate spots equally by number among the Member States.

Round 2: If there are vacancies due to there being low demand in a particular category, more spots will be allocated to those Member States that have high demand.

The AFF will use its best endeavours to allocate individual spots equitably among fencers from each Member State following these objectives:

- Maintaining equity among Member States in terms of weapons and gender in proportion to the demand from Member States for entries;
- encouraging participation and maximising the opportunity to fence.

5. TEAM ENTRIES

Team entries for each of the Senior and Intermediate school teams competitions will be determined by a series of nomination rounds which will commence two months before the competition is held. Each Member State is responsible for selection and nominations on behalf of schools in their jurisdiction.

Round 1: In the first round there will be spots available for 12 teams in each weapon and gender category, subject to a maximum of two teams from each Member State. States will have one week to nominate entries in this round, including the names of team fencers.

Round 2: If there are vacancies after the first round (if some Member States do not take up their quota) these spare spots will be offered to other Member States until all spots are filled. If there is more demand for spots than are available, the AFF will allocate spots pro rata according to State membership numbers.

Round 3: If there is a low uptake for any particular weapon and gender category, the AFF may make more spots available for the team competition in another weapon and gender.

To facilitate this process, two months before the event Member States will be asked to provide a ranked list of all school teams that want to nominate (notwithstanding that the initial allocation is two teams per State). Based on the AFF's understanding of potential demand per State, it is highly likely that Member States with high demand will be given more than two team spots.

The timetable will be arranged so that fencers can compete in their school's team in one, two or three weapons. A school team must be comprised solely of fencers from that school.

6. FORMAT

The format of team and individual competition will to some degree depend on the number of individual and team entries. The following formats are indicative and may be changed at the discretion of the Tournament Management Commission and the Directoire Technique (with AFF approval) once final entries are known.

Individual:

Two rounds of pools (bouts to 3 hits in 2 minutes) with no direct elimination round. Final placings to be decided by the overall results from pools subject to a barrage for medals if required.

Teams:

One round of pool matches. The format of pool bouts (hits/timing) to be decided when entry numbers are known. Pools to be seeded based on individual results. Placings will be based on overall results from pools.

If there are only two entries in a team event, a final match will be fenced even if both entries are from the same State. If there is only one entry in a team event, that team will win by default.

7. TIMETABLE

The timetable will be published on the AFF website as soon as possible after entries close and no later than one month before the competition.

The timetable may be varied once final entries are known.

8. MEDALS AND TROPHIES

A full set of medals (gold, silver, two bronze) will be awarded for both Individual and Team events. Fencers who win medals must be present for the medal presentation ceremony, wearing their school tracksuit.

9. EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

Mask - 1600N in good condition with two securing points

Under plastron - 800N

Jacket/breeches - 350N

Glove - in good condition with no holes

Sabre glove - FIE standard (sabre glove and cuff acceptable)

Socks - long socks

Weapons - FIE/S200 stamped

Note: Fencers must present on the piste with at least two weapons and body wires.

There will be a Weapons Control check before competition. Weapons Control inspection times will be specified in the timetable. Rusty blades and those without clearly visible FIE stamps will be rejected.

10. REGISTRATION

Competitors must be current junior competitive or participative fencers registered with their Member State in an appropriate category and whose State membership is recorded by the AFF. They must be in good standing (owing no money) with the AFF and their Member State.

Registration will be open only to individual fencers and school teams who have been nominated by their Member State.

The entry fees for the Australian School Championships are:

Individual entry per competition: \$95

Second and third individual entries per competition: \$67

Team entry per competition: \$130

The closing date and link for registrations will be published about six weeks before the competition.

11. Contact

If Member States or schools, have any queries, please contact the AFF Operations Manager, Caitlin Fox-Harding, at: operations@ausfencing.org.au