

## INTRODUCTION

The AFF utilises two types of referees for competitions held in Australia:

- a) Independent referees are those selected or appointed, either as volunteers or paid officials who are not participating as fencers in the competition in question.
- b) Fencer referees are those designated to referee while being competitors in the event.

This Policy does not apply to Cadet, Junior or School Competitions, where separate procedures are in place to provide referees. The preferred method for allocation of referees for all AFF Competitions is to only use independent referees. However, in National Open, Under-23 and Veteran events for which there are not enough independent referees to cover all the refereeing responsibilities, then this document provides guidelines as to how fencer referees will be selected.

## PROCESS FOR DETERMINING FENCER REFEREES

### 1. DESIGNATED REFEREES

- 1.1 A fencer may elect not to be involved in refereeing in that event at all. In this case, they will be required to pay during the registration for the event a premium for not refereeing – this fee is equivalent to the current entry fee for the competition. Fencers under 15 years of age are not required to pay the premium.
- 1.2 Once the final list of entries for an event is known (including any late entries), then the Officiating Delegate for the event will create and display a list of the designated referees for the event. All National and State Accredited officials in the relevant weapon will be considered designated referees, as well as anyone else selected at the discretion of the Officiating Delegate.
- 1.3 The designated referees may be required to referee any bout in the competition and therefore must be present for the whole competition, regardless of when they are eliminated, unless released by the Officiating Delegate.

### 2. POOLS

- 2.1 For the pools, the Officiating Delegate assigns any available independent referees to specific pools. For pools which do not have an independent referee, the Officiating Delegate will mark the designated fencers on the pool sheet. One of the designated referees will be selected to perform preliminary checks of equipment and referee the first bout.

- 2.2 For each bout in the pool, the designated referee with the primary obligation to referee that bout is the one who has the longest wait until their next bout. Fencers are expected to manage this process within the pool – however, if there are any issues then the Officiating Delegate should be consulted.

### 3. DIRECT ELIMINATION

- 3.1 At every phase of the direct elimination, the Officiating Delegate assigns any available independent referees to specific bouts or quadrants. Where designated referees are assigned, they will, wherever possible, be used to referee outside of their own quadrant.
- 3.2 Where designated referees are allocated to direct elimination bouts, the Officiating Delegate may assign any designated referee at their discretion. However, the general priority for assigning designated referees, in order, is as follows:
- a) designated referee who has a bye in the phase of the direct elimination
  - b) designated referee who has been eliminated in a previous phase of the direct elimination
  - c) designated referee who has finished their bout in this phase of the elimination
  - d) designated referee who has yet to complete their bout in this phase of the direct elimination, provided they would have at least one other bout between when they referee and when they are required to fence
  - e) any other designated referee
- 3.3 Where designated referees are selected from those involved in that phase of the direct elimination, the Officiating Delegate may either elect to determine the referee from available designated referees based on the result of other bouts (e.g. the winner of the previous bout) or alternatively nominate specific designated referees for each bout.

### 4. SEMI-FINALS AND FINAL

- 4.1 For each of the bouts in the Semi-Finals and Final, the Officiating Delegate will assign one referee and two assistants (assesseurs). These can be assigned from any available independent referees or any designated referees from the competition.

## 5. TEAM MATCHES

- 5.1 Designated referees from the relevant individual event will also be considered designated referees if they are involved in the team event. The Referee may also select any other designated referees from team members who were not involved in the individual event.
- 5.2 For each phase of the team competition, the Officiating Delegate will assign any available independent referees.
- 5.3 Where designated referees are allocated to team matches, the Officiating Delegate may assign any designated referee at their discretion. However, the general priority for assigning designated referees is as follows:
  - a) designated referee whose team has a bye in the phase of the competition (this means that teams with a bye will need to be available at the start of the competition regardless of when their first match will be)
  - b) designated referee who has been eliminated in a previous phase of the direct elimination

## 6. RELEASING DESIGNATED REFEREES AND PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

- 6.1 Designated referees must be available to referee any bout until the end of the competition or until notified by the Officiating Delegate. At any stage of the competition, the Officiating Delegate can release any designated referee who is no longer required to referee.
- 6.2 If a designated referee is no longer going to be available to referee in a competition for some reason, they must seek approval from the Officiating Delegate to be released.
- 6.3 Where a designated referee defaults on an obligation to referee, they will be sanctioned at the discretion of the Officiating Delegate with a fine equal to the initial premium to opt out of refereeing. For the second and any subsequent offence, a designated referee will be sanctioned at the discretion of the Officiating Delegate with a Black Card for the competition – this Black Card carries the standard penalties as specified in the AFF Black Card Policy.