Selection Policy

Australian Fencing Federation Limited ACN 161 544 752 (**AFF**)

SELECTION POLICY

1. Purpose of this Policy

The Australian Fencing Federation Limited (**AFF**) is the National Sporting Organisation (**NSO**) for the Olympic sport of fencing.

The AFF's vision is to have fencing recognised as an exciting, accessible and challenging sport providing opportunities for participation at all levels – recreational, competitive and elite.

The mission of the AFF is to administer and promote the sport of fencing in Australia through national plans and programs, services and opportunities that enable athletes to reach their maximum potential.

The AFF has established this Selection Policy (**Policy**) to apply to the selection of athletes to International Events and the High Performance Program.

2. Application

2.1 The Policy applies to selection for:

(a) admission to the National Squad;

(b) representation at International Events, including but not limited to World Championships and Zonal;

(c) HPC Designated Events; and

(d) any other fencing event that the AFF determines requires selection under this Policy.

2.2 In this document, the expression "event" is used to refer to a series of fencing competitions organised in conjunction with each other in the same location, while the expression "competition" is used to refer to each separate individual and/or team competition within the overall event.

2.3 The following matters are outside the scope of this Policy:

(a) the qualification, nomination and selection criteria for the Olympic Games individual and team competitions;
(b) the qualification, nomination and selection criteria for the Youth Olympic Games; and
(c) for any team selected under this Policy, the order of the individual athletes in that team event. The AFF will assign a person (such as a coach, manager or team captain) to determine the athletes that will fence in each team match, the order in which they fence, and their substitution within any particular match on the day of the competition at that person's sole and absolute discretion.

2.4 This Policy was adopted by resolution of the AFF Board on [28 September 2025]. This amended policy will be effective from 1 November 2025 and will operate until amended, repealed or replaced in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

2.5 This Policy supersedes and replaces all previous versions of the Selection Policy from the effective date of 1 November 2025.

2.6 This Policy will not alter any selection already made prior to the effective date of this Policy.

3. Athletes

3.1 Athletes wishing to be considered for selection must:

(a) be an Australian citizen who is eligible to represent Australia;

(b) meet all nomination eligibility criteria, including any age and licensing requirements, for the relevant event (where applicable);

(c) be a registered member of, and in good standing with, a Member State;

(d) be in good standing with the AFF; and

(e) comply with any requirements laid down by the AFF for the relevant event (including compliance with this Policy).

3.2 If the controlling body of a particular event imposes conditions or pre-requisites for entry beyond the control of the AFF, those conditions or pre-requisites will be implemented. While the AFF will make reasonable efforts to notify athletes of such conditions or pre-requisites, this may not always be practicable.

3.3 Any athlete who accepts an offer of selection or nominates for a particular event must make themselves available for that event. Where the AFF has designated that both individual and team events are compulsory in order to nominate for an event, athletes must make themselves available for both individual and team events in order to be eligible to nominate for that event.

3.4 Where an Athlete is in breach of this Policy, the AFF may do any one or more of the following:

(a) withdraw the athlete from any event;

(b) suspend the athlete from participation in any AFF event or activity;

(c) suspend the athlete from the High Performance Program, including participation in any High Performance Designated Event or activity;

(d) impose a fine; and/or

(e) anything the AFF otherwise reasonably considers appropriate or necessary.

3.5 Without limiting the above:

(a) if the AFF has reason to believe that an athlete is injured or ill, then the AFF may require the athlete to undergo an examination by an AFF-Approved Health Practitioner to confirm whether the athlete is fit to compete in an event. Until such time as a clearance is provided to the AFF, in a form acceptable to the AFF, then the AFF may:

(1) withdraw the athlete from any event;

(2) suspend the athlete from participation in any AFF event or activity; and/or

(3) suspend the athlete from the High Performance Program including participation in any High Performance Program event or activity; and

(b) any fines, penalties, fees or charges imposed by the controlling body of a particular event or event organisers due to the actions of any athlete or group of athletes will be payable by that athlete or group of athletes in a manner that will be determined by the AFF in its absolute discretion.

4. Selection for National Squad

4.1 The National Squad is the name for the group of athletes who are selected and join the High Performance Program. All athletes selected for the National Squad will be selected for their relevant age category and weapon.

4.2 The AFF will call for nominations for the National Squad for each weapon in the following age categories:

(a) Senior;

(b) Junior;

(c) Cadet; and

(d) Youth.

Athletes must meet the age requirements for an age category in order to nominate for the National Squad for that age category.

4.3 The AFF will determine when the call for nominations for the National Squad for each age category will be made. Generally, a call for nominations will be made after the conclusion of the Senior World Championships or Summer Olympic Games.

4.4 For Senior and Junior age categories, Athletes must satisfy one of the following criteria in order to be eligible to nominate for the National Squad:

(a) meet the High Performance Age Point Aggregate Requirement in the weapon for which the athlete is seeking selection; or

(b) finished in the top 50% of the field in an AFC event in the weapon for which the athlete is seeking selection in the preceding 12 month period; or

(c) by invitation from the AFF.

4.5 For Cadet age categories, Athletes must satisfy one the following criteria in order to be eligible to nominate for the National Squad:

(a) meet the High Performance Age Point Aggregate Requirement in the weapon for which the athlete is seeking selection; or

(b) by invitation from the AFF.

4.6 Selection will be determined as at the date published by the AFF.

4.7 Membership to the National Squad will be subject to a selected athlete entering into an Athlete Agreement with the AFF.

5. Selection for High Performance Program Events

5.1 National Squad Members participate in High Performance events from time to time, including camps, and other events. The HPC at its sole absolute discretion may invite athletes who are not members of the National Squad to join such activities.

6. Competition Selections Under this Policy

6.1 Selections under this Policy will be made by the Selection Committee.

6.2 The Selection Committee will select athletes to the team or individual event for which a selection is being made.

6.3 If the Selection Committee considers that, in relation to a particular matter, this Policy:

(a) is silent in respect of that matter;

(b) is capable of alternative and competing interpretations; or

(c) is otherwise ambiguous,

then the AFF Board will make a determination in respect of the relevant matter, taking into consideration the drafting intention of this Policy and/or the strategic objectives of the AFF.

6.4 Where the Selection Committee determines that an event that is not explicitly noted in this Policy requires selection under this Policy, selections for that event will be made in accordance with specific selection criteria determined by the AFF. Any such specific selection criteria will clearly identify the extent to which those criteria supplement or replace (whether wholly or in part) the provisions of this Policy.

6.5 All selections made under this Policy will result in the selection of named individual athlete, unless explicitly stated otherwise in this Policy.

6.6 Any appeals under this Policy must be made in accordance with this Policy.

7. Selection for International Events

7.1 In order to be eligible to nominate for an International Event, Athletes must:

(a) be fit to compete (or reasonably expect to be fit to compete as at the start date of the relevant event); and

(b) meet the relevant age category nomination eligibility criteria at Schedule 1 for the event (for example, if a Junior athlete wishes to enter a Senior event, that Junior athlete must meet the selection criteria in the Senior table at Schedule 1 in order to nominate for that Senior event).

7.2 Athletes who do not meet the required Performance Thresholds or Competition Thresholds specified in Schedule 1 may apply to the Selection Committee for an exemption at least 14 days prior to the date of selection for that event. The Selection Committee may grant or deny the exemption in its absolute discretion.

7.3 All National Squad Members are automatically considered for selection for all International Events.

7.4 The Selection Committee will make selections for the following events from National Squad Members:

(a) World Championships;

(b) Zonal Championships;

(c) HPC Designated Events and activities (including tours)

(d) International (Other) on a priority basis; and

(e) any other fencing event that the AFF determines requires selection under this Policy.

7.5 The Selection Committee will open nominations for the National Squad in each applicable age category through automatic selections delivered via email shortly after the selection dates specified by the HPC.

7.6 National Squad Members offered selected positions in clause 7.5 will have a limited period of time, as determined by Selection Committee, to either accept or relinquish selection, in which case the position is offered to another National Squad Member as determined by the Selection Committee according to this Policy.

7.7 Athletes who are not National Squad Members wishing to be considered for selection in an International Event (Other) must apply to the Selection Committee to be considered for selection on a non-priority basis for that event. The application must be made using the following process (unless otherwise specified by the AFF):

(a) apply and pay for any requisite international licence (e.g. EFC, FCA or FIE); and

(b) complete and submit an international event nomination form at least 40 days prior to the start of the relevant event.

Athletes must go through the above process themselves. The only exception is for minors, in which case the process must be completed by a parent or guardian.

7.8 7.4, 7.5, 7.6 and 7.7 do not apply to Veteran events. Selection for Veteran International Events and International Championships will be made in order of Australian Ranking.

7.9 The selection date for an International Event will be the date that the AFF advertises as the selection date unless otherwise amended and published by the AFF.

7.10 Where the AFF has not published a Selection Date for an International Event the selection date for that event will be the date that is 35 days prior to the start of the relevant event.

8. Selection for Senior and Junior International Events

8.1 Selection for 7.4 (a) and (b) will be limited to National Squad Member athletes who are eligible in order of their Australian Ranking as at the selection date.

8.2 Selections for 7.4 (c) will be made in order of Australian Ranking of National Squad Members as at the Selection Date. For these events:

(a) The top 10 ranked National Squad Members will be automatically selected for the competition.
(b) The remaining individual places for the competition will be determined by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will consider the criteria in Schedule 3 for determining selection.

8.3 National Squad athletes must accept selection within the time specified by the Selection Committee or they will be deemed to have not accepted selection for that event.

8.4 Where an athlete subsequently becomes unavailable the position will be offered in order of Australian Ranking to remaining National Squad Members.

8.5 International Events (Other) are open to athletes that are not members of the National Squad on a non-priority basis. Athletes seeking selection for these events who are not members of the National Squad must follow the process in 7.7

8.6 Selections for 7.4 (d) and (e) will, in the first instance, be offered to National Squad Members in order of Australian Ranking. If there remain available positions after this process, these positions will be offered in order of Australian Ranking to those athletes who applied under clause 7.7. Where there are more places available than athletes accepting selection then all athletes who have applied to the AFF will be selected.

9. Selection for Cadet International Events

9.1 Selections for 7.4 (a), (b) and (c) will be made in order of Australian Ranking of National Squad Members as at the Selection Date.

9.2 National Squad athletes must accept selection within the time specified by the Selection Committee or they will be deemed to have not accepted selection for that event.

9.3 Where an athlete subsequently becomes unavailable the position will be offered in order of Australian Ranking to remaining National Squad Members.

9.4 Selections for 7.4 (d) and (e) will, in the first instance, be offered to National Squad Members in order of Australian Ranking. If there remain available positions after this process, these positions will be offered in order of Australian Ranking to those athletes who applied under clause 7.7. Where there are more places available than athletes accepting selection then all athletes who have applied to the AFF will be selected.

10. Selection for Senior and Junior Teams

10.1 This clause applies to Senior and Junior team selection for all single weapon, gender and age category team competitions held in conjunction with a corresponding individual competition at an International Event.

10.2 Where an International Event has corresponding individual and team competitions, athletes who have accepted selection for the individual competition will be deemed to have accepted selection for the team competition and must make themselves available for that team competition.

10.3 If enough athletes who have accepted selection (or are deemed to have accepted selection) for a team competition have been selected to compete in the individual competition, an Australian team may be entered in the corresponding team competition at the relevant International Event.

10.4 For events under 7.4 (a), (b), (d), and (e), the team will be selected in order of Australian ranking at the time of individual selection.

10.5 For events under 7.4 (c) the team will be selected from:

(a) The top 3 ranked National Squad Members who have accepted selection for the competition.
(b) The remaining team places for the competition will be determined by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will consider the criteria in Schedule 3 for determining selection.

11. Selection for Cadet Teams

11.1 This clause applies to Cadet team selection for all single weapon, gender and age category team competitions held in conjunction with a corresponding individual competition at an International Event.

11.2 Where an International Event has corresponding individual and team competitions, athletes who have accepted selection for the individual competition will be deemed to have accepted selection for the team competition and must make themselves available for that team competition.

11.3 If enough athletes who have accepted selection (or are deemed to have accepted selection) for a team competition have been selected to compete in the individual competition, an Australian team may be entered in the corresponding team competition at the relevant International Event.

11.4 For events under 7.4 (a) to (e) the team will be selected in order of Australian ranking at the time of individual selection.

12. Selection for Veteran Teams

12.1 This clause applies to team selection for Veteran International Events.

12.2 Where an International Event has individual and team competitions, athletes who are eligible to nominate for the individual competition may also nominate for the team competition at the same time. Athletes who nominate for a team competition must make themselves available for that team competition.

12.3 If a sufficient number of athletes who have nominated for the team competition have been selected to compete in the individual competition, one or more Australian teams may be entered in the corresponding team competition at the relevant International Event.

12.4 Each position on a team will be selected from the pool of athletes:

(a) selected for the individual competition who nominated for the team competition; and

(b) are eligible for that position on the team,

in order of their Australian Ranking as at the selection date. The team selection date will be the same as the selection date for the individual competition for the relevant International Event.

12.5 If, after applying clause 12.4, a vacancy on a team exists and the event rules allow, an athlete who has been selected to compete in the individual competition in another weapon at the same event may be selected, provided that such selections must be made in accordance with the order of Australian Ranking as at the selection date when selecting between fencers in the same weapon. This process may be repeated as many times as is necessary to complete a team.

12.6 If, after applying clauses 12.2 and 12.5 to any mixed age Veterans team competitions subject to an aggregate age threshold, the aggregate age of the team members do not satisfy the aggregate age threshold for the event, then:

(a) the lowest ranked athlete in a team will be de-selected and removed from the team selection pool, and a replacement athlete will be selected by applying clauses 12.2 to 12.5;

(b) if after applying 12.6(a), the aggregate age of the team members does not satisfy the aggregate age threshold for the event, the fencer referred to in 12.6(a) and the next lowest ranked fencer will be de-selected and removed from the team selection pool, and two replacement fencers will be selected by clauses 12.2 to 12.5 for each position; and

(c) if after applying 12.6(b), the aggregate age of the team members does not satisfy the aggregate age threshold for the event, then the fencer with the highest ranking of those selected by applying clauses 12.2 to 12.4 will be selected and the AFF will exercise their absolute discretion to select the remaining team members, with the objective of achieving the highest possible placing in the team competition.

12.7 Where this clause 12 cannot be applied to a team competition at a Veteran International Event for any reason, the AFF will determine the selection criteria for that competition as required.

13. Withdrawal of a Selected Athlete from a Team

13.1 Where a selection for an event is made under this Policy, the Selection Committee may identify an athlete as the reserve for that event. The reserve will be the athlete who was next in line for selection in accordance with the applicable selection criteria for the event.

13.2 Where a reserve has been identified and a selected fencer subsequently withdraws from the event, the Selection Committee may, at its discretion, invite the reserve to take the place of the withdrawing fencer, in which case no further selection will be required under this Policy.

13.3 Subject to 13.5, where no reserve has been identified and a selected fencer withdraws from an event, the Selection Committee may identify an athlete who has been selected to compete at the same event to replace the withdrawing athlete in the team. The replacement athlete will be the fencer who was next in line for team selection in accordance with the relevant selection criteria at the time the original selection was made.

13.4 Subject to 13.5, if a vacancy on a team still exists after applying 13.3, the Selection Committee may identify an athlete who has been selected to compete at the same event in a different event category to replace the withdrawing athlete in the team.

13.5 Where an athlete withdraws from a team competition and there is insufficient time for a

replacement athlete to be selected in accordance with clauses 13.3 and 13.4, then that athlete will be replaced in the team by:

(a) the athlete (of those not already selected in the team) who achieves the highest placing in the individual competition held in conjunction with the team competition;

(b) the athlete who achieves the highest placing in an individual competition for the same weapon in a different age category at the event, provided that athlete satisfies the requirements to compete in the applicable team competition; or

(c) an athlete who is has been selected for an individual competition in a different weapon category at the event;

in descending order of precedence, without any requirement for a formal selection under this Policy to be made.

14. Equality of Australian Ranking

In the case of equality of Australian Ranking among athletes in a selection pool, and provided that all other selection criteria are met, the Selection Committee will decide the order of priority among those athletes in its absolute discretion.

15. Definitions

AFC Events means the Australian Fencing Circuit events as published by the AFF from time to time and includes the Australian National Championships.

AFF means the Australian Fencing Federation Ltd.

AFF-Approved Health Practitioner means a medical practitioner, dentist, clinical psychologist, physiotherapist or other specialist that the AFF approves in its sole discretion.

Age Point Aggregate means the age point aggregates as determined by the AFF Rankings Policy.

Age Ranking List means the Age Ranking List to be maintained in accordance with the AFF Rankings Policy.

Australian Ranking means an athlete's ranking on the relevant Age Ranking List as determined by the AFF Rankings Policy.

Australian Ranking Points means the number of points an athlete holds in the relevant age category in the relevant Age Ranking List.

Board means the board of directors of the AFF.

Cadet means the 'Cadet' age category as defined by the FIE. Eligibility will be pursuant to the FIE eligibility requirements.

Competition Threshold means the Competition Threshold specified in the applicable tables in Schedule 1.

Constitution means the constitution of the AFF (as amended from time to time).

Eligible Australian Citizen means an Australian citizen and passport holder who satisfies the requirements of this policy.

FIE means the Federation Internationale d'Escrime.

High Performance Age Point Aggregate Requirement means the High Performance Age Point Aggregate Requirement specified in Schedule 2.

High-Performance Commission or **HPC** means the AFF's High-Performance Commission.

High Performance Program means the AFF's high performance program.

HPC Designated Event means an event that is designated by the High Performance Commission for participation in by National Squad Members.

International Events carry the broadest possible definition and are those events that require the AFF to field, process or enter an athlete's or team's entry or involves the endorsement of the AFF or otherwise confirmation of the AFF to any entry for any event.

International Event (Other) means any International Event that is an FIE Satellite Event (FIE B Grade) determined by AFF, or any other International Event, or otherwise not dealt with in the policy.

Junior means the 'Junior' age category as defined by the FIE. Eligibility will be pursuant to the FIE eligibility requirements.

Member State means a Member State as defined in the Constitution.

National Squad is the name given to the group of athletes who are selected in each weapon and each category to represent Australia and are participants in the High Performance Program.

National Squad Member means an athlete who is a member of the National Squad.

Performance Threshold means the Performance Threshold specified in the applicable tables in Schedule 1.

Selection Committee means the Selection Committee, as appointed by the AFF Board and governed by the Selection Committee Charter.

Senior means the 'Senior' age category as defined by the FIE. Eligibility will be pursuant to the FIE eligibility requirements.

Youth means the Under-15 age category. In order to be eligible for this age category an athlete must be under the age of 15 years on December 31 of the previous year of the competition, and at least ten years of age on the first day of the Event.

Veteran means the 'Veteran' age categories as defined by the competition policy or rules applicable to each veteran International Event.

Zonal Championships means the Asian Fencing Championships, sanctioned by the FIE and Asian Fencing Confederation, in all age categories.

Schedule 1 – International Competition Selection Criteria

Australian Selection Criteria – Senior

Event	Minimum Australian Ranking Points	Performance Threshold	Competition Thresholds
World Championships	N/A	N/A	N/A
Zonal Championships	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other FIE Competitions	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commonwealth Championships	N/A	N/A	N/A
Any International Competition not listed above	N/A	N/A	N/A

Australian Selection Criteria – Junior

Event	Minimum Australian Ranking Points	Performance Threshold	Competition Thresholds
World Championships	N/A	N/A	N/A
Zonal Championships	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other FIE Competitions	N/A	N/A	N/A
Any International Competition not listed above	N/A	N/A	N/A

Australian Selection Criteria – Cadet

Event	Minimum Australian Ranking Points	Performance Threshold	Participation Thresholds
World Championships	N/A	N/A	N/A
Zonal Championships	N/A	N/A	N/A
Any International Competition not listed above	N/A	N/A	N/A

Australian Selection Criteria – U15

Event	Minimum Australian Ranking Points	Performance Threshold	Participation Thresholds
Any International Competition	N/A	N/A	N/A

Australian Selection Criteria – Veterans

Event	Minimum Australian Ranking Points	Performance Threshold	Participation Thresholds
Any International Competition	N/A	N/A	N/A

Schedule 2 – High Performance Age Point Aggregate Requirements

The following table specifies the number of Australian Ranking Points that are required to meet the High Performance Age Point Aggregate Requirement for each age category based on Age Point Aggregate as determined by the AFF Rankings Policy.

Category	**Number of Australian Ranking Points Required**
Youth	N/A
Cadet	As determined, and published, by the AFF. If nothing is published, then N/A.
Junior	As determined, and published, by the AFF. If nothing is published, then N/A.
Senior	As determined, and published, by the AFF. If nothing is published, then N/A.

Schedule 3 – Criteria Considered for HPC Designated Event Selection

The following criteria are considered by the Selection Panel in determining selection under clause 8.2(b).

Criteria	Factors Considered
Recent Competition Results	• Performance in recent national and international competitions • Competition performance trajectory including FIE and Australian Rankings • Results against other potential team members
Attendance and Involvement in National Trainings and Training Camps	• Participation rate in mandatory AIS Training camp and other state/national training sessions and training camps • Quality of engagement and commitment observed during these events
Commitment to National Squad Program	• Adherence to the training program supervised by the AFF • Commitment to the collective goals of the national team • Participation in previous HPC Designated Events and International Championships
Availability and Commitment Within a Dual Career Context	• Demonstrated capacity to manage sporting commitments alongside academic or professional obligations • Willingness and ability to prioritize key international events during critical preparation periods • Mental and physical readiness for major competitions, despite the challenges of a dual-career pathway
Injury or Medical History	• Recovery level in case of return from injury (with validation by medical staff working with the AFF) • Ability to consistently perform at a high level
Consideration of Pregnancy and Postpartum Recovery (For Female Athletes)	• Consideration given to previous results, long-term potential, and commitment to return to high-level competition • Medical clearance and progressive return-to-sport plan validated by a qualified health professional working with the AFF.
Short- and Medium-Term Potential	• Results in other age categories • Rapid progression or realistic podium prospects in the near future • Development indicators (age, level of opposition, growth margin)
Observable Behavior in Competition and Training	• Respect for rules, coaches, and fellow athletes • Positive and constructive attitude within a team environment (based on camp or competition reports as objective evidence) • Documented unsportsmanlike conduct (such as skipping meetings, receiving black cards in competition, etc.)
Adherence to AFF policies	Including but not limited to: • Travel Policy • International Representation and Tour Rules • Athlete Agreement • Drug and Alcohol Policy • Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy • Competition Manipulation and Sport Gambling • Communications and Social Media • Code of Conduct • Member Protection • Safeguarding Children and Young Persons Policy