



SELECTION APPEALS POLICY

Policy Name: Selection Appeals Policy

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1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1. Definitions

In this AFF Selection Appeals Policy the following words have the corresponding meaning:

AFF means Australian Fencing Federation Limited, the governing body for Fencing in Australia.

Appeal means an appeal, however described, against non-selection to a Team for an Event.

Appeal Tribunal means a Tribunal convened in the NST Appeals Division for the purpose of hearing a 'Final Appeal' in accordance with cl. 5.3 of this Selection Appeals Policy.

Appellant means a person who has commenced a '**Selection Appeal**' in the NST whether in the General Division (First-Instance Appeals)

Athlete means a competitive member of the AFF.

AUD means Australian Dollars.

Business Day means a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in Sydney, Australia.

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the referenced organisation.

Chair of the AFF High Performance Commission means the AFF's High Performance Commission Chair.

Child means a person under the age of 18 years.

Event means any sanctioned or other competition for which an AFF Team is selected to compete.

Event Specific Selection Criteria means the relevant parts of the AFF **Selection Policy or Policies** which detail the selection criteria adopted by the AFF to the selection of Athletes to represent Australia in an AFF Team to compete at a specific Event.

Fencing Expert means an expert tribunal witness with particular expertise in Fencing, drawn from a pool of suitably qualified experts provided by the AFF, appointed under paragraph 68(1)(b) of the NST Act to provide assistance to the NST in the arbitration of a selection appeal by responding to specific questions posed by the NST relating to technical aspects of Fencing.

Hearing Tribunal means a Tribunal convened in the NST General Division for the purpose of hearing a 'First-Instance Appeal' in accordance with Part 5.2 this Selection Appeals Policy.

Interested Party has the meaning given in clause 4.4.

National Sports Tribunal means the Australian Government entity established by the *National Sports Tribunal Act 2019*, comprised of the General Division, the Anti-Doping Division, and the Appeals Division.

Non-Selected Athlete means any Athlete who is not selected by AFF to a Team for an Event.

NST means the National Sports Tribunal, and all of its three Divisions.

NST Legislation means the *National Sports Tribunal Act 2019* (Cth) (NST Act) and all legislative and notifiable instruments made under the NST Act.

NST Procedure means the process and procedure by which the NST operates, including as set out in the NST Act; the *National Sports Tribunal Rule 2020*; and the *National Sports Tribunal Practice and Procedure Determination 2021* as and in effect at the time of the commencement of a Selection Appeal.

Official means any person selected or appointed by the AFF as an official.

Policy means this AFF **Selection Appeals Policy** which documents the selection appeal process, as amended by AFF from time to time.

Selection Appeal has the meaning given to that term in cl. 4.1.

Selected Athlete means any Athlete selected by AFF to a Team for an Event.

Selection Policy means the AFF Selection Policy, which describes the principles and specific selection criteria that apply to the selection of all AFF Teams and Squads, as amended by the AFF from time to time.

Service charges means the charges that may be payable to the NST to cover the cost of the arbitration under section 46 of the NST Act which may include the cost of services provided by a Fencing Expert.

Squad means a National squad of athletes selected by the AFF and who have entered into an athlete agreement with the AFF.

Team means an Australian Fencing Team selected by AFF to represent Australia at an Event, either in an individual event or a team event.

Written Notice means notice in writing by letter, email or other written means of communication.

1.2. Interpretation

- (a) Unless the context otherwise requires, reference to:
 - (i) a clause is to a clause of this Policy; and
 - (ii) the singular includes the plural and the converse also applies.
- (b) If a person to whom this Policy applies consists of more than one person, then this Policy binds them jointly and severally.
- (c) A reference to time, day or date is to time, day or date in Sydney, Australia.

- (d) Where a word or expression is given a particular meaning, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or expression have a corresponding meaning.
- (e) Headings are for convenience only and do not form part of this Policy or affect its interpretation.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THIS POLICY

- 2.1. This Policy sets out the Selection Appeal process to be applied in respect of the selection of all AFF Teams.
- 2.2. This Policy, read and applied with Selection Policy or Policies and the applicable Selection Criteria, forms the **AFF Selection Policy** for any relevant Event for which AFF selects a Team.
- 2.3. The **AFF Selection Policy** exhaustively sets out the parameters, process and criteria (both eligibility and performance) that will be applied to determine the selection of individuals for an Event or in a team generally.

Nomination to a Third Party Responsible for Selection for an Event

- 2.4. For completeness, AFF notes that in respect of certain Events (for instance, the Olympics, Paralympics or the Commonwealth Games), AFF does not select athletes or officials, but rather nominates them to another entity (for example the Australian Olympic Committee, Paralympics Australia or Commonwealth Games Australia) that is responsible for the final selection of athletes for the Event.
- 2.5. For convenience, where no other Selection or Nomination Policy administered by a Third Party for such an Event as described in cl. 2.4 above applies, the AFF Selection Policy will apply to the nomination process undertaken by the AFF for these Events as though the term 'selection' is interchangeable with the term 'nomination'.

3. APPLICATION

- 3.1. This Policy applies to:
 - (a) Athletes; and
 - (b) AFF.
- 3.2. Athletes have a right of appeal against their non-selection to a Team for an Event, except where a specific Selection Policy excludes such a right
- 3.3. Athletes have no right of appeal against their non-selection to a Squad.
- 3.4. For clarity, Officials have no right of appeal against their non-selection to a Team for an Event.

4. GENERAL RULES

- 4.1. A Non-Selected Athlete may appeal against their non-selection to an AFF Team for an Event (Selection Appeal) in accordance with the procedures set out in cl. 5 of this policy. For clarity, Athletes can only appeal their non-selection for an AFF Team that has been formally selected under the provisions of the relevant Selection Policy.
- 4.2. In the event that two or more Selection Appeals are brought under this Selection Appeals Policy and it appears to the NST that:
- (a) the Selection Appeals involve a common question; or
 - (b) the relief claimed in them are in respect of, or arise out of, the same instance of selection; or
 - (c) there is some other reason for it being desirable to have the Selection Appeals consolidated,

the Selection Appeals must, so far as practicable, be consolidated and heard together and the Athletes involved in the Selection Appeals must provide reasonable assistance to the NST to achieve this outcome.

Parties to a Selection Appeal

The Parties to a Selection Appeal will be:

- (a) The Appellant;
 - (b) AFF; and
 - (c) any Interested Party.
- 4.3. An Interested Party to a Selection Appeal must be either:
- (a) a Selected Athlete for the Team which is the subject of the Selection Appeal; or
 - (b) a Non-Selected Athlete otherwise eligible for selection to the Team which is the subject of the Selection Appeal.
- 4.4. AFF and the Appellant must identify and propose to the NST Athletes who may be Interested Parties. Athletes may also identify themselves to the NST as potential Interested Parties.
- 4.5. In the event that any doubt should arise as to the eligibility of a person as an Interested Party, AFF shall determine the matter in its absolute discretion.
- 4.6. An Athlete identified as a potential Interested Party must, in order to participate in the Selection Appeal, indicate to the NST that they wish to be a Party to the Selection Appeal.
- 4.7. In accordance with the NST Procedure an Interested Party:
- (a) must receive notice of the Selection Appeal from the NST;

- (b) must be given the opportunity to make submissions in the Selection Appeal and give evidence;
- (c) must receive a copy of the determination handed down by the NST; and
- (d) will be bound by any such determination.

5. APPEAL PROCESS

5.1. Steps prior to Selection Appeal

- (a) A Non-Selected Athlete must not commence a Selection Appeal in the NST unless the provisions of this cl. 5.1 have been complied with.
- (b) Within 4 days of the scheduled Selection Date, as published on the AFF website a Non-Selected Athlete receives notice of their non-selection, the Non-Selected Athlete must provide Written Notice to the Chair of the AFF High Performance Commission that the Non-Selected Athlete disputes their non-selection.
- (c) The Non-Selected Athlete must provide reasons to support their notice of dispute. The Written Notice must be accompanied by an AUD200 application fee, which will be refunded to the Athlete should the outcome of the dispute or appeal process result in their selection for the Team for the Event.
- (d) Within 24 hours of the Non-Selected Athlete providing Written Notice to the Chair of the AFF High Performance Commission in accordance with cl. 5.1(b), the Chair of the AFF High Performance Commission must provide the Non-Selected Athlete with a written statement of the AFF reasons supporting the non-selection of the Non-Selected Athlete.
- (e) Within 48 hours of a Non-Selected Athlete receiving AFF's written statement in accordance with cl. 5.1(c), the Non-Selected Athlete must provide a written response to the Chair of the AFF High Performance Commission which indicates whether the Non-Selected Athlete intends to proceed to a hearing of their Selection Appeal in accordance with cl. 5.2.
- (f) The Parties must use their best endeavours, acting in good faith, to resolve the dispute through communication in accordance with this cl. 5.1, made on a without prejudice basis and kept confidential between the Parties.
- (g) For the avoidance of doubt, any formal written notice (and reasons) or statement made by the Chair of the AFF High Performance Commission or the Non-Selected Athlete in accordance with 5.1 (b)-(e) may be submitted to the NST for the purposes of the First instance Appeal and or Final Appeal.
- (h) For clarity, time periods referred to in cl. 5.1 may be extended by agreement of AFF and the Non-Selected Athlete in advance.

5.2. Appeal to the General Division of the NST

- (a) A Non-Selected Athlete may bring a Selection Appeal to the General Division of the NST for hearing on one or more of the following grounds, which the Non-Selected Athlete (Appellant) bears the onus of making out:
- (i) that the Selection Policy was not properly applied by AFF with respect to the Non-Selected Athlete;
 - (ii) the Non-Selected Athlete was not afforded a reasonable opportunity by AFF to satisfy the Selection Policy;
 - (iii) AFF was affected by actual bias in making its decision to not select the Non-Selected Athlete; and
 - (iv) there was no material on which AFF's decision could be reasonably based.

Making an Application for a Selection Appeal

- (b) A Non-Selected Athlete wishing to make an application for a Selection Appeal by the General Division of the NST must, within 24 hours of indicating to the AFF Chair of the High Performance Commission their intention to proceed to a hearing of their Selection Appeal under cl 5.1:
- (i) complete and lodge the required NST Application Form with the NST Registry in accordance with the NST Procedure, setting out the grounds of appeal relied on by the Non-Selected Athlete; and
 - (ii) pay any filing fee required by the NST.

For clarity, unless agreed by AFF and the Non-Selected Athlete, an extension of time to make an application for a Selection Appeal may be granted by the NST under this clause only in extenuating circumstances outside the control of the Non-Selected Athlete concerned.

- (c) Service Charges may also be payable to the NST, which will be negotiated as between the Parties and the NST at the Preliminary Conference, and Determined by the NST CEO. Generally, Service Charges will be apportioned evenly between the Appellant and AFF.

Selection Appeal Procedure

- (d) A Selection Appeal heard in the General Division of the NST will proceed in accordance with the NST Procedure including with respect to the specific procedural matters set out below, which apply to all AFF Selection Appeals:

- (i) A Fencing Expert, approved by the AFF and without any conflict of interest, may be appointed by the NST CEO to assist the NST in the arbitration of the Selection Appeal in accordance with section 34 of the *National Sports Tribunal Practice and Procedure Determination 2021*.
 - (ii) Where the NST considers it appropriate to do so and all the involved Parties to the appeal agree, the NST may determine the appeal without a hearing.
 - (iii) The NST must provide Written Notice to the Parties of its **determination** as soon as reasonably practicable after the conclusion of the hearing (in most cases, within 24 hours of the conclusion of the hearing). The NST will provide the Parties with a **statement of the reasons** for its determination within 3 Business Days of notifying the Parties of its determination.
 - (iv) The determination of the NST is final and binding on the Parties and, no party may institute proceedings in any other court or tribunal.
- (g) The length of the Selection Appeal Procedure will vary depending on time available in accordance with the NST Procedure regarding expedited resolution of disputes (see also cl. 5.4).

Selection Appeal Outcomes – Reconsideration and Redetermination

- (h) The NST may uphold or dismiss a Selection Appeal.
- (i) Subject to cl. 5.2(k), where the NST upholds a Selection Appeal overturning the original selection decision, the NST must refer any subsequent decision regarding the Appellant's non-selection or if required, any broader decision regarding selection of the Team for the Event back to the AFF for reconsideration and redetermination.
- (j) In reconsidering and determining the Appellant's non-selection or if required, any broader decision regarding selection of the Team for the Event, AFF must observe the principles of natural justice. Any decision made by AFF regarding the Appellant's nomination after such referral, is final and binding on the Appellant, subject only to the Appellant commencing an appeal to the Appeals Division of the NST in accordance with cl. **Error! Reference source not found..**
- (k) Notwithstanding cl. 5.2(i) the NST may itself determine the issue of the Appellant's selection, or broader decision regarding selection of the Team for the Event where the NST determines that:

- (i) it would be impractical to refer the selection decision for redetermination to AFF given the time available; or
 - (ii) in making its original decision, AFF had such disregard for proper application of the Selection Policy that a reasonable person would apprehend that it is unlikely that the Selection Policy would be applied properly by AFF if the decision regarding the Appellant's non-selection was referred back to AFF.
- (l) Prior to making a determination under cl. 5.2(k) the NST must advise the Parties that the NST intends to make such a determination and provide the Parties with a reasonable opportunity to make submissions in relation to the NST's proposed determination. The NST must give proper consideration to any submissions it receives pursuant to this cl. 5.2(l).

5.3. Where an application to deal with a dispute requires expedition

- (a) If, on receiving an application for arbitration of a Selection Appeal, the NST CEO is satisfied that it is necessary to deal with the application expeditiously, the NST CEO is to convene a preliminary conference (if appropriate) and then immediately appoint one or more NST members to deal with the dispute.
- (b) The NST CEO and the appointed NST member(s) are to take all steps necessary to deal with the dispute as expeditiously as the case requires. This may include, but is not limited to, waiving compliance with any provision of the NST (Practice and Procedure) Determination 2021 that a party to the dispute would otherwise have to comply with.