

# State Championships Operation Guidelines

## PLEASE NOTE:

As of **January 2, 2023**, the AFF, through the HPC, has suspended the awarding of State Points for Senior Category. AFF approved guidelines (this document) are hereby changed to incorporate the suspension of points for Senior category.

As of **September 1, 2023**, the AFF, through the HPC, has suspended the awarding of State Points for All categories. The AFF approved guidelines (this document) are hereby changed to incorporate the suspension of points for all categories.

## Overview

This document sets out guidelines and protocols for conducting State Championships and State Finals to meet the requirements for AFF age-appropriate championships **prerequisites** and Australian Rankings Points. Where the term **State Championships** is used, it is also to include State Finals as is the case in Western Australia.

State Championships are a prerequisite to fencing in any of the following Tournaments:

- Australian Junior Championships
- Australian Youth Championships
- Australian Cadet Championships
- Australian Senior Championships

For example, a fencer must fence in the State Junior Championships, or a nominated Alternative Junior Event, to meet the prerequisite to fence in the Australian Junior Championships

## Definitions

**Active Fencer** defined as a fencer that have either fenced an age-appropriate State level competition or National competition (within 12 months prior to the date of the State Championships). Fencers that have not fenced in either a state or national competition prior to entering the state championships will not be considered “Active”

**AFF Rankings** means the rankings as held by the AFF, based on the current AFF Ranking Policy (See **Related Documents**)

**AFF Representative** means the person appointed by the AFF to observe the running of the State Championships

**Age-Appropriate** event means an event for the same age group as the national championship the fencer wishes to enter

**Alternate Events** means events as proposed by the fencers State and agreed by the HPC as alternate events fencers can attend if they are granted an exemption from the State Championships

**Cadet** is as defined in the Rankings Policy

**HPC** means the AFF High Performance Commission

**Junior** is as defined in the Rankings Policy

**Senior** is as defined in the Rankings Policy

**National Competition** mean one of the following tournaments:

- Australian Junior Championships
- Australian Youth Championships
- Australian Cadet Championships
- Australian Senior Championships
- Australian Fencing Circuit #1 / #2 / #3 / #4
- Australian Youth Circuit #1 / #2 / #3

**State Championships** means the state championships for each age group as held by the fencer's state. This includes the State Finals in Western Australia

**State Level competition** means any age-appropriate tournament run by the fencer's state association

**FIE XML Format** means the export file that meets the FIE requirements for data transfer. This is available from several Fencing competition softwares. eg. Engarde, FencingTime

**Youth** is as defined in the Ranking Policy

## Points

AFF Ranking Points will be awarded in accordance with the Australian Rankings Policy and the following parameters:

- The running of the State Championships must meet the minimum requirements and operation protocols as defined here in this document and periodically instructed by the AFF in writing.
- For rankings scaling purposes, the number of fencers is equal to the number of Active Fencers.
- The HPC will sign-off the State Championship event as having met the necessary operational guidelines before points will be added to the AFF Rankings, within 7 days of receipt of the results in FIE XML format.

## Operational Protocols

- All State Championships must be observed by an AFF appointed representative. This may be done in person or remotely at the discretion of the AFF's HPC in consultation with the state in question.
- Each State will advise at least 4 weeks before the events, its calendar of State Championships, its nominated Alternative Events, and its key contact to [admin.hpc@fencing.org.au](mailto:admin.hpc@fencing.org.au). The AFF will advise the State its appointed representative and confirm Alternative events.
- All State Championships must be streamed live online if the AFF representative is remote to the venue. This can be either to the AFF representative only or available publicly. This is to remove the necessity of imposing costs on both the State and the AFF requiring observers to be in-person and to grant flexibility. Where possible a public stream of the event should be provided, even if the AFF Representative is at the venue, to give comfort to athletes in other states regarding matters of integrity.
- Online streams are to include poulé-wide vision wherever possible together with dedicated vision of semi-finals and finals for all weapons. This may be phone captured or camera.
- Semi-Finals of weapons of priority (foil and sabre) must be refereed by a nationally accredited referee, refereeing in line with National standards, who does not have a conflict of interest as defined by the conflict-of-interest register, **unless an exemption** has been sought prior to the Championships from the HPC. Where circumstances arise during the Championships whereby referees become unavailable an exemption must be sought from the AFF Representative.
- State Championships must ensure the integrity of fencers' equipment.
- Each State Championship results must be observable in real time via FencingTimeLive or similar and entered upon completion of bouts without delay.
- Upon completion of the Championships, event results must be provided to the AFF within 7 days in the FIE XML format allowing upload into the Fencing Australia Competition Tracking System (FACTS).
- Dispute Resolution protocol – the AFF appointed representative may be consulted in any dispute resolution process during the Championships.
- State Championships must observe the AFF's COVID Safety Measures as published on the AFF website.

## Seeking Exemption from Participating in the State Championships

- An athlete may seek exemption from fencing in the State Championships under exceptional and reasonable circumstances. These include medical incapacity supported by a medical certificate, work commitments, school examinations, and/or personal circumstances.
- An athlete must apply as soon as possible but no later than 7 days after the championships, to the HPC for exemption at [hpc@fencing.org.au](mailto:hpc@fencing.org.au). In doing so, they need to copy or contact their State in the process and provide all relevant information to support their exemption request.
- Assessment of exemption requests is at the sole discretion of the HPC, whose decision will be final.
- If an athlete is granted an exemption, they will need to fence an Alternate Event to meet prerequisites for fencing in age-appropriate National Championships.

- If an athlete is not granted an exemption and fails to compete, they will not meet the age-appropriate Championship prerequisite and will not be permitted to enter the relevant event.

## Alternative Events

- An athlete with an exemption from State Championships may compete in their state nominated Alternative Event to satisfy the relevant age-appropriate Championships prerequisite, however they will not receive any Ranking Points for the Alternative Event.
- Alternative Events are required to be approved by the HPC in advance of the State Championships.
- Member States will give the HPC, at least 30 days-notice of Alternative Events, which will be displayed on the AFF website.
- Ideally, States will host one Alternative Event, at seniors' level, in a regional location.

## Scheduling of State Championships

- The scheduling of State Championships in each category must reasonably consider factors such as the timing of the age-appropriate championships, an athletes' ability to participate and not disadvantage any substantive number of athletes who may be competing elsewhere overseas.
- State Championship Events will be advertised on the AFF website in the Competition Event Calendar.

## Concerns

- A state may lodge a notice of concern regarding the nature of any state championships no later than 24 hours after the completion of the championships. The HPC will consider any such matter and make clear to all states the nature of the complaint and its consideration, at its sole discretion.

## Related Documents

AFF Ranking Policy

<https://www.ausfencing.org/wp-content/uploads/AFF-Rankings-Policy-FINAL-Sept-2021.pdf>