

# **LOCAL REGULATIONS FOR THE ORGANISATION OF FFSA COMPETITIONS**

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## CHAPTER 1.ALLOCATION OF COMPETITIONS

- There are 3 FFSA Open Ranking Competitions and two National Championships one for Juniors (u20 to U11) and one for Seniors (FFSA Events) , in South Africa during the fencing year.
- The Location and allocation of dates of FFSA Events should preferably be done by September for the following year.
- Below is the Council Approved (Nov 2017) Allocations of National Competitions.

Excerpt from existing “National Competitions providing for 6 competitions spread across 8 hosts and 6 provinces, Capex2, Gautengx2 over an 8 year cycle”

Year/Province	Cape	Gauteng	KZN	Limpopo	Free State	Cape 2	Gauteng 2	EC
2017	Open	Open	Nationals	Bye	Open	Open	U20	Bye

New proposed schedule:

Year/Province	Cape	Gauteng	KZN	Limpopo	Free State	EC
2018	Open	Open	Open	Nationals	Bye	U20
2019	U20	Open	Open	Open	Nationals	Bye
2020	Open	U20	Bye	Open	Open	Nationals
2021	Nationals	Open	U20	Bye	Open	Open
2022	Open	Nationals	Open	U20	Bye	Nationals
2023	Open	Open	Nationals	Open	U20	Bye
2024	Open	Open	Bye	Nationals	Open	U20

Source: Louise Proposal

- The FFSA Fencing Season begins on the 1st of September, and ends on the 31st of August, each year. This period is in line with the FIE Fencing Season is relevant to the FFSA Ranking System.
- The FFSA Ranking facilitates the selection process of the South African Team.
- **National Competitions & Championships:**
  - o There are 3 Open South African National Ranking Competitions in one FFSA Fencing Season in which a Fencer may participate, along with 1 Senior National Competition

or 1 Junior National Competition. For the method of calculating a Fencer's National South African Ranking, please see 7.10 for the purpose of being selected to a National Team.

- **World Championships:**

- The Cadet & Junior World Championships, (Cadet (u17 & Junior (u20) ) are held in April,
- The Senior World Championships, (Seniors) are held in July. No Senior World Championship is held in the Olympic Year.

- **ZONAL:**

- The Senior **African Championships** are held annually in June.
- The **Junior African Championships** are held annually in March.
- A Zonal **Olympic Qualifier Event** is held in the year of the Olympic Games.

- **REGIONAL GAMES:**

- The **African Youth Games** are held in July every 4 years.
- All **Africa Games** are held every 4 years.
- The **Junior Commonwealth Fencing Championship** are held every 3 years and
- **Senior Commonwealth Games** are held every 4 years.

- **WORLD GAMES:**

- **OLYMPICS:**

- The **Olympics** replaces the Senior World Championship for that same year. The Olympics is held every 4 years. The next Olympics is in 2020 in Tokyo.
- The **Youth Olympics** does not replace the Junior World Championship. The Youth Olympics is also held every 4 years, but is staggered as to be held 2 years after the last Olympics. The next Youth Olympics will be held in Rio in October 2018.

- **UNIVERSIADE GAMES** are held every 4 years.

## **CHAPTER 2. BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANISATION AND CONTROL**

- **THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

The Organising Committee is the group of people responsible for organising the competitions.

After being appointed by the FFSA to host the FFSA Events, namely Junior or Senior National Championships and/or National Open Ranking Competitions, a Host Province must appoint its Organising Committee, further referred to as the L.O.C. (Local Organising Committee).

- **THE DIRECTOIRE TECHNIQUE**

The Directoire Technique, usually referred to as the DT will be appointed and arranged the week before the competition takes place and should be made up as follows:

- Consists of an uneven number of individuals either 3 or 5, but not exceeding 5.
- One individual must be a National Competition Supervisor or a Ophardt System Qualified Local Competition Organiser.
- At least one member must be from a different province, other than the hosting province.

- **THE REFEREE COMMISSION DELEGATE**

The Referee Commission Delegate on the DT is responsible for the following:

- All aspects of refereeing - from invitation to attendance, management during the Event and assignment in the Direct Elimination rounds.
- The Delegate should be a FIE qualified referee.
- The Referee Commission Delegate has the authority to handle appeals against the actions of a referee and cannot be overruled by the DT.

Together, the Directoire Technique and the Referee Commission Delegate:

- Have jurisdiction over all the fencers who take part in or are present at a competition which they are running.
- When necessary they can intervene on their own initiative in all disputes.
- They are also responsible for maintaining order and discipline during competitions, and may use the penalties specified in the Rules.
- The Directoire Technique is responsible for sending directly to the Secretary General of FFSA announcements of disciplinary penalties pronounced during the

competitions, as well as any requests for censure, suspension, extension of penalty or permanent suspension, and requests for ultimate appeals.

- The disciplinary decisions of the Directoire Technique and the Refereeing Delegate that they take spontaneously or in their own right (as the first level of authority) may be subject to appeal to the Disciplinary Commission of FFSA.
- All the decisions of the Directoire Technique and the refereeing delegate are immediately enforceable. No appeal against a decision can suspend that decision during a competition.

### **CHAPTER 3. ENTRIES FOR COMPETITIONS**

- To Enter an FFSA Event a fencer must be a member of a Fencing Club.
- The Fencer must be a paid up member of the FFSA (See Annexure D).
- The Fencer must be a paid up member of their Provincial Association.
- The FFSA uses the FIE sanctioned Ophardt Fencing Software to manage registrations, run Open and National competitions, and up load competition results which then indicate the placement of a fencer on the National Ranking.
- All fencers who wish to compete are required to enter the Open and National competitions by the closing dates published on the Programmes. Failure to do so, may result in paying a penalty.
- The fencer should instruct their club administrator to enter them in the correct age group and weapon according to the local rule, a fencer being allowed to enter two events per weapon, in your own age group and one age group up.
- Ophardt also offers the facility for the Fencer to enter themselves.
- If a fencer needs to withdraw from the Competition they must notify the Competition Organisers any time before the start of the event. A medical certificate is required to be sent to the L.O.C. to receive a refund.

#### **CHAPTER 4. TIMETABLE**

The Hosting Province's Organising Committee (L.O.C) is responsible for drafting the Competition Programme, following the guidelines in (Appendix XYZ), which must then be sent, along with all information pertaining to the competition, to the Competitions Commission/Senior National Competitions Supervisor for approval no later than 60 days prior to the date of the competition. On approval by the Senior National Competitions Supervisor, the programme must be published to the FFSA website and distributed, via email, to all Provinces and Clubs at least 30 days prior to the date of the competition.

The DT reserves the right to amend/change/alter the running order of the event/s at its own discretion, even after the closing date for competition entries.

The Hosting Province will not be held responsible for any loss incurred by an individual as a result of any changes to the running order of events. The Hosting Province also reserves the right to amend/change/alter the running order of the event/s on the day of a competition.

However, only the time of a published event may be changed and not the day, unless the Hosting Province is faced with circumstances beyond their control, such as a Power Failure, Natural Disaster, Hazardous situation etc.

## **CHAPTER 5. INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS**

The Individual Competitions of the FFSA are organised by using direct elimination with a mixed system consisting of one round of eliminating pools, followed by a direct elimination table to qualify 2 fencers for a direct elimination final.

### **NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIONS**

The Schedule will include Individual Events for Cadet, Junior and Seniors and a Senior Men's Epee Team Event.

- All three weapons will be fenced.
- Senior, Junior and Cadet Age Categories.
- One round of pools followed by direct elimination will be fenced.
- Pools will be seeded according to the latest National Ranking System.
- If there are only 4 entries in an event, a Pool and only a final DE will be fenced for Gold and Silver medals.
- If there are only 5 entries a match for third place will be held.
- Events with less than four entries will be scratched.
- These are Open competitions so foreign nationals, nationals from neighbouring states may enter.

### **JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**The schedule will include** Individual Events - No provision is made for Team Events at this stage.

- All three weapons will be fenced in U20 & Cadet, Foil and Epee in U15, U13 & U11.
- The following age groups will compete if there are **4** or more fencers per age group: U/20; U/17; U/15; U/13 and U/11.
- If there are only 4 entries in an event, a Pool and only a final DE will be fenced for Gold and Silver medals.
- If there are only 5 entries a match for third place will be held.
- Male and female Championships will be hosted on the same weekend.
- One round of pools followed by direct elimination will be fenced.
- Pools will be seeded according to the latest National Ranking System.
- The minimum Pool size will be 4 fencers.
- Events with less than four entries will be scratched.
- This is a Closed competition so foreign nationals, nationals from neighbouring states may NOT enter.

## **SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The schedule will include All three weapons, individual and team events.

- Male and female Championships will be hosted on the same weekend.
- One round of pools will be fenced followed by direct elimination.
- Pools will be seeded according to the latest National Ranking System.
- An event will take place if there are **4** and more fencers per age group.
- The minimum Pool size will be **4** fencers.
- If there are only 4 entries in an event, a pool and only a final DE will be fenced for Gold and Silver medals.
- Events with less than four entries will be scratched.
- This is a Closed competition so foreign nationals without a work permits and nationals from neighbouring states may NOT enter.
- Female Fencers may not enter Male Events.

## **CHAPTER 6. TEAM COMPETITIONS**

### **INTERPROVINCIAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- All three weapons will be fenced.
- Male and female Championships will be hosted on the same weekend as the individual National Championships.
- Teams will be ranked according to the individual team members' ranking on the National Ranking.
- Each Province is allowed to enter 2 teams per event.
- An FFSA Invitational Team made up of combined smaller Provinces may be entered.
- Gold, Silver and Bronze will be awarded for team matches, with a match for Bronze, as only one set of Bronze medals will be awarded.

## **CHAPTER 7. ORGANISATION OF OFFICIAL FFSA COMPETITIONS**

### **7.1 COMMON CONDITIONS**

- The Competition programme of an FFSA Event shall be:
  - An Open competition is comprised of 23 Events - 22 Individual and 1 Senior Men's Epee Team Event.
  - A Junior Nationals is comprised of 24 events: 6 individual Junior events, 6 Individual Cadet events, 4 u15 Events, 4 u13 Events, 4 u11 Events.
  - A Senior Nationals is comprised of 12 Events: 6 individual events and 6 Team Events
- The Organising committee must submit the Programme of events to the FFSA Competitions Commission for its approval.

### **7.2 PROGRAMME OF COMPETITIONS**

#### 7.2.1 Competition programmes

The Programme is drafted by the L.O.C and should follow the following when establishing timetables, using the following minimum duration of actual fencing time:

7.2.1.1 All pools for Individual competitions should be made up of equal number of fencers in each pool. Ideally, pools of 7 Fencers where the entries are divisible by 7, otherwise pools of 7 & 6.

Duration of a pool can be estimated as follows:

Using the formula  $(n \times (n-1)/2) \times 5$ . Where N=Number of fencers, 2 = Divide by number of bouts and multiply by 5 minutes duration equals in minutes the duration of the Pool:

- Epee - 135 minutes
- Foil - 120 minutes
- Sabre - 60 minutes

7.2.1.2 Duration of the Direct elimination duration can be estimated at:

- Epee: National 20 minutes
- Foil : National 20 minutes
- Sabre: National 10 minutes

7.2.1.3 Team competitions:

- Matches: Foil/épée 60 minutes, Sabre 30 minutes

In addition sufficient time must be allowed for the preparation of the different rounds, Including:

- A period of 10 minutes from when the results of the first round pools are posted, to allow for possible protests - after this time has expired no protests will be accepted by the Directoire Technique.
- Detailing of teams
- Assigning of referees.

#### 7.2.1.4 Format of competitions

- Distribution of Fencers in the pools is established by the use of the latest National Ranking for the individual events, and drawing lots among any fencers not in the ranking. (The Ophardt system does this automatically).
- The round of pools will eliminate between 20% to 30 % of fencers, followed by a direct elimination table.
- **FENCERS ARE SEPARATED BY CLUB IN THE POOLS WHERE POSSIBLE.**
- **BARAGE WILL APPLY ONLY TO ABSOLUTE EQUALITY AMONG THE LAST TO QUALIFY.**
- **A FENCER WHO WITHDRAWS, OF WHO IS EXCLUDED, IS SCRATCHED FROM THE POOL AND HIS/HER RESULTS ARE ANNULLED AS IF HE HAD NOT TAKEN PART.**

### 7.3. VENUES, INSTALLATIONS, EQUIPMENT ACCREDITATION ETC

The venue(s), in which the events will be held, must have:

- Enough space around pistes to ensure safety, a minimum area of 18m x 5m per piste.
- Enough pistes to efficiently run the Competition according to the number of entries in the Competition (A minimum of 8 pistes is recommended for efficiently running a competition with 120 entries spanning over 2 Genders (Male and Female), 3 weapons (Foil, Epee, Sabre), and 3 Age Groups (Cadet, Junior, and Senior).
- Backup generators, in case of unplanned Loadshedding/Power failure.
- Adequate Showers where possible.
- Adequate Toilets.

Note: The preparation of the venue will largely determine the Events success and the ability to stick to the schedule.

### 7.4 ENTRIES BY MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

- FOR ALL COMPETITIONS OF THE FFSA THE OFFICIAL INVITATION IS THE PROGRAMME OF THE COMPETITION AND MUST BE SENT TO THE INVITED PROVINCES NO LATER THAN THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO THE EVENT.
- ENTRIES TO THE EVENT MUST BE MADE BY THE CLOSING DATE AS STIPULATED ON THE PROGRAMME. VIA OPHARDT ONLINE REGISTRATION. A PENALTY FOR LATE ENTRIES MAY APPLY. (SEE ANNEXURE D)
- A FENCER MAY NOT BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE EVNET AFTER THE CLOSE OF ENTRIES, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF FORCE MAJEURE DULY JUSTIFIED.

## 7.5 AGE OF PARTICIPANTS

### FOR PROVINCIAL OPEN OR NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

A fencer must be 12 years of age on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the year of competition to enter a Provincial Open or National Championship. **(This is a local rule)**

- o A Fencer will only be permitted to enter 2 Age Groups:
  - his/her own age group (determined by year of birth),
  - and ONE age group up.
- o Exceptions:
  - In the event a fencer's own age group is scratched. The fencer will then be allowed to fence in the next age group up, and one up.
  - The top 4 ranked Cadet fencers in each weapon, as of the start of the competition, may choose to enter Senior competitions (two up). In this case, a Cadet fencer must forego the Cadet event , thus entering only two age groups.

### FOR JUNIOR NATIONALS ONLY:

#### Pupille (U11)

- A fencer must be a minimum of 8 years of age on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January in the year of competition to be eligible to compete in a Junior National Championship.
- A fencer must be Under 11 years of age on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the previous year to participate in the U11 age group.
- A minimum of 4 Fencers per gender are required to constitute an Event.
- Where there are less than 4 fencers per gender a mixed event will be held.
- No foil specific masks are required for U11 events.
- Size 3 Blades are recommended for this age group.
- A pool bout will be 4 hits or 2 minutes, and a Direct Elimination 10 hits.

#### Benjamin (U13)

- A fencer must be Under 13 years of age on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the previous year.
- No specific foil masks are required for U13 events.

- A pool bout will be 5 hits or 3 minutes, and a DE – 15 hits (3 periods of 3 minutes)

#### Minime (U15)

- A fencer must be Under 15 years of age on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the previous year.
- Specific Foil masks are required
- A pool bout will be 5 hits or 3 minutes, and a Direct Elimination 15 hits (3 periods of 3 minutes).

#### Cadet (U17)

- A fencer must be Under 17 years of age on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the previous year to be **eligible** for National selection to enter the F.I.E. Junior World Championships.
- Specific Foil masks are required
- A pool bout will be 5 hits or 3 minutes, and a Direct Elimination 15 hits (3 periods of 3 minutes)

#### Junior (U20)

- A fencer must be Under 20 years of on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the previous year to be **eligible** to qualify for National Selection for a Junior World Championship.
- Specific Foil masks are required
- A pool bout will be 5 hits or 3 minutes, and a DE – 15 hits (3 periods of 3 minutes).

#### Seniors

- A fencer must be 20 years of on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the previous year to be **eligible** to qualify for National Selection for a Senior World Championship.
- Specific Foil masks are required

## **7.6 PARTICIPATION OF FEMALE FENCERS IN MALE EVENTS**

- The Top 4 Ranked women in all age categories will be permitted to fence in the corresponding men's event.
- No female fencer is allowed to enter Senior National Championship Men's events.
- A Women's Rankings in the Men's event will be calculated once entries are closed.
  - Their final Ranking from the previous event will be used to determine their position in the mens event.
  - To accommodate these fencers and give them a fair ranking while working with the limitations of the Ophardt system the following will take place:
  - If a female fencer has competed in a male event in the past fencing year, the ranking from the latest event will be used as her ranking. For example, if she fenced in the Male Epee event and received a Ranking of 10 for that competition, that ranking will be loaded in the following competition on Ophardt as her ranking at the start of that specific competition.
  - If the female fencer has no ranking for a male event as this is her first male competition she will receive an average ranking. For example, her ranking will be worked out by dividing the number of fencers present and giving her the average middle ranking. (If there are 50 fencers, she will receive a ranking of 25.)
- This ranking will be loaded by the Ophardt administrator for the competition when the seeding list has been applied in the Competition.

## **7.7 PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN FENCERS**

- All Foreign Fencers, including Fencers from African Countries are allowed to fence in the Open Ranking Competitions.
- Foreign Fencers & Fencers from African Countries are not permitted to fence in the Senior or Junior National Championships.
- Fencers who have permanent residency are allowed to fence in all competitions.
- Fencers with temporary residence permits will be treated as Foreign Nationals.
- A Foreign Fencer will be unranked in the Pools.

## **7.8 TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS**

### **FINANCES AND EXPENSES**

The L.O.C. undertakes to source and secure an adequate Venue, experienced Personnel, and to supply, or deploy, the sufficient equipment that is required for the efficient running of a competition, based on the number of entries received for the Competition (Generally: 8 Pistes, 8 Scoring Boxes, 16 Reels, Electric cables, plugs and a fully-equipped Weapons Check.

The L.O.C. is responsible for the management of income and expenses relating to the promotion and organisation of the Competition.

The L.O.C is required to report the FFSA's portion of the income/expenditure to the FFSA Treasurer within 30 days after the Event.

On the FFSA's behalf, at a Competition, the L.O.C. is obliged to:

- Collect the FFSA's portion of the Entry Fees (determined annually by the FFSA),
- Confirm that Fencers are paid up members of the FFSA (report to be supplied by the Provinces)
- Report the participation of Development Fencers. (See attached format)
- Remunerate Referees according to FFSA Policy (??)
- Pay suppliers (Venue, Car Guards, Medical Services, Caterers, Cleaners).
- Any extra income obtained from other sources, such as T-shirt sales, tuck shops, sponsorships, etc., remains the property of the hosting province.

### **PROMOTION AND PARTNERSHIPS**

In accepting the responsibility of hosting the National Championships and the Open Competitions, the organizers are allowed to promote the event through media coverage, including, but not limited to, posters, clothing, radio interviews, social media posts, and television broadcasts.

### **FENCER MANAGEMENT**

- Each Province shall nominate a Team Manager to manage their own Provincial Team of Fencers at a Competition or Championship.

- A Team Manager may be any person willing to perform the role, not just a Fencer or Coach, as long as they uphold the standards and etiquette of Fencing as well as active manage their Fencers.
- The Role of the Team Manager is to ensure that Fencers are organised and well informed regarding the running of a competition.
- Any disputes arising within the Provincial Team should be addressed to the Team Manager who will approach the DT on the Fencers' behalf.
- No direct approach to the DT by a parent will be entertained.
- No direct approach to the DT by a fencer will be entertained, unless a Team Manager is absent from the venue due to circumstances beyond the Fencer or Team Manager's control (e.g. Injury, illness, etc.).
- A Team Manager is obliged to put the dispute in writing as soon as possible on the day of the event.
- The DT will report the outcome of their decision to the Team Manager/s who will then report back to the Provincial Team/Fencer.
- No dispute that does not require immediate attention will be considered until after the end of the last event of the Competition. The Team Manager is obliged to put the dispute in writing and send it to the L.O.C. before the end of the Competition.
- The L.O.C. will forward the disputes to the Hosting Province, who will then either deal with the disputes or, if the dispute is a national problem, forward them to the FFSA.
- The FFSA will report their decision back to the Hosting Province within 7 days, who will then report back to the L.O.C., who will report back to the Team Manager/s, who will, ultimately, report back to the Provincial Team/Fencers.
- When a Fencing Competition is held in a municipla hall an **attendance register** is required to be submitted to the Municipality by the Management of the Facility. All Visitors, fencers and Administrators who are present on each day are required to sign the document.
- All Fencers are required to sign the Indemnity Form, at Sign in.

## REFEREES

- As accepted by the Council (July 2017 minutes). It is the responsibility, with the assistance of the Referee committee, for the Organising Committee to ensure there are sufficient Referees. Provinces must submit names of Referees to preside and these individuals must referee when called upon to do so.
- Each participating province must make referees available based on the table below:

● 1 - 4 competitors	0 Referee
● 5 – 10 competitors	1 Referee
● 11 - 20 competitors	2 Referees
● 21 - 30 competitors	3 Referees
- Allocation of referees to Pools & DE is the responsibility of the Referee Commission Delegate and the Competition Supervisor.
- The sourcing and organisation of referees will be finalised by the Referee Commission Delegate in conjunction with the L.O.C and confirmed Referees will be entered into Ophardt by the closing date of the entries for the Competition.

## MEDICAL

- It is the responsibility of the L.O.C. to ensure that there is a Qualified First Aider on site and on duty for the duration of the Event. (From Start to end of Fencing each day).
- The L.O.C.'s First aid kit must be available at the Competition and the telephone numbers and address of the nearest doctor and ambulance service posted on the Notice Board.

**See Annexure C for safety regulations.**

## CATERING

The “non-stop” nature of the event necessitates catering at reasonable prices, at the Venue.

A tuck shop should be run if no other place to buy food is nearby, profits will go to the Hosting Province .

## OPENING AND FINAL CEREMONIES

The organisation of opening and final ceremonies will be at the discretion of the Provincial Organisation Committee.

## THE AWARDING OF MEDALS

- Presentation of medals must take place at least every four hours.
- The medals and trophies must be ready
- The officials scheduled to award the prizes, having been warned beforehand.
- Fencer must be dressed in either fencing attire or national or provincial tracksuit to receive a medal on the Podium.
  - Medals will be awarded as follows:
    - For events with 4 competitors, only a gold and silver medal will be awarded.
    - For events with 5 competitors, a gold medal, a silver and a bronze medal will be awarded as a competition with only five entries will fence off for third place.
    - For events with 6 or more competitors, a gold medal, a silver and two bronze medals will be awarded.
    - A Veteran fencer is defined as any fencer age 40 and over. A Veterans Medal will be awarded in each senior event category to the Veteran with the highest placing in the overall ranking.
  - The L.O.C must ensure that there are sufficient medals for a competition.
  - FFSA supplies the medals for National Championships. The L.O.C is to request the quantity of medals at least 3 months prior to the event.

## **CONTROL OF WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT**

See **ANNEXURE B**

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PISTE AREA**

### **FEATURES**

- Space for the competitors' equipment as well as 2 seats at each end of the piste for fencer and coach must be provided.
- The pistes must be numbered.
- No spectators may be allowed in the proximity of the pistes.
- Piste area should be demarcated with tape or barriers where possible

## **EQUIPMENT**

- The equipment must be tested.
- Scoring apparatus and reels in good working condition.

- Extra reels, cables and connections must be readily available in the hall for immediate replacement in case of equipment failure.
- Visiting Provinces are required to have available at the Competition for use by the L.O.C. a scoring box and 1 set of reels.

## **COMMUNICATION**

- All the participants, Team Managers, the media and the public, have a right to access information about the event and its results which are to be posted by the D.T.. on the official notice board.
- No person, other than a designated member of the L.O.C. may amend or remove official notices.
- A vertical area (on the wall or on panels), accessible to all the participants, the Team Manager's, the media and the public, must be available for posting all the information and documents issued by the Directoire Technique.
- Documents must be displayed according to weapon and gender and age.
- Documents must be clearly legible. The following are essential:
  - Present/Absent
  - Format
  - Piste Allocation & Composition of the pools
  - Ranking after Pools (Qualified & Eliminated)
  - Direct Elimination table
  - Final Placement
  - Notices
  -

### **7.9 Supervision by the FFSA**

When a person other than the Senior National Competitions Supervisor runs an event on Ophardt, the Competition Results must be emailed to the Senior National Competition Supervisor directly after the competition (as least within 24 hours from the last event) in order to publish the results and upload the results to the National Ranking via Ophardt.

## 7.10 NATIONAL RANKING POINT SYSTEM

The number of competitions taken into consideration for Ranking is the best 3 of 4, for Seniors (3 Opens and a Senior Nationals) and the best 3 of 4 for Juniors (best 3 Opens and a Junior Nationals).

- The National Ranking system is based on the following points Key for National Open Competitions:

Placement	Points
1	24
2	20
3 & 4	16
5	12
6	11
7	10
8	9
9 – 12	7
13 – 16	6
17 – 24	4
25 – 32	3
33 – 64	1

- Senior and Junior Nationals Championships use a table where the points awarded are weighted 1.5 x (see Below)

Placement	Points
1	36
2	30
3	24
4	20
5	18
6	17
7	15
8	14
9 – 12	11
13 – 16	9
17 – 24	6
25 – 32	5
33 – 64	2

- The National Ranking lists are updated after each Open Competition or National Championship, on a rolling basis with the latest competition/ Championship replacing the previous competition/championship of the previous season.
- In the event of an equal placement, the order of the Placement will be decided by the better result of the National Championship.

### 7.11 Ranking Points for Fencers participating in International Competitions:

- International competitions which may be considered are FIE, CEE, OFC (all continental confederations) sanctioned competitions as well as any national competitions which have that host nation's top ranked fencers participating.
- South African fencers, both resident and non-resident, may submit up to three results from international competitions per fencing season, subject to these events being pre-approved by the FFSA Team Managers & Coaches Commission.
- These points are allocated to the National Ranking on a case-by-case basis by the FFSA Team Managers & Coaches Commission, if the specified guidelines have been followed:
  - Permission to have the event considered must be requested prior to the event taking place.
  - An F.I.E. license must be applied for from the Coaching Commission of the FFSA for the year in which the competition takes place.
  - It is the responsibility of the fencer to submit the international results to FFSA Team Managers & Coaches Commission who must independently verify the results and approve the ranking points awarded.
- These points will not replace the local competitions the fencer missed. But will be added as a new competition in the Ranking list and the number of competitions to count will be increase from 4 to 5 and so on.
- Where possible the Event will be added to the National Ranking List as a separate event and will be replaced or removed from the Ranking on the anniversary of that event.
- Events where a fencer is participating in an International competition/s as a result of his/her selection to the national team (e.g. JWC & SWC) do not qualify for addition to the national ranking. – (this is contrary to FIE o.83)
- Competitions must have a minimum of 60 participants in a female event and 80 in a male event.

Placement	Foreign National Event e.g. A Grade	International F.I.E, CEE, OFC
1	24	24
2	24	24
3	20	24
5 - 8	20	24
9 - 16	16	20
17 - 32	16	20
33 - 64	8	16
65 - 128	4	8
DE table		4

**8. ANTI DOPING TESTING**

The FFSA subscribes to WADA. A fencer may be tested at any time during an FFSA Event. A fencer may not refuse to be tested.

# Planning Manual

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## SUGGESTED TIME FRAMES

### 6 Months PRIOR TO THE EVENT

- Arrangements must be made to book the halls for the event.

### 2 Months PRIOR TO THE EVENT

- Programme of Event to be issued by L.O.C and submitted to FFSA for posting on Website.
- Programme to be uploaded to Ophardt
- Medals must be ordered by the L.O.C. for Nationals (FFSA Cast Medals) otherwise by the Hosting Province for the Opens.
- Appoint the person who will run the competition, using the Ophardt Competition Software.
- Indicate desired closing time of entries.
- Provisional starting time of the events should be given.
- Distribute competition notice/ invitation to all Provinces (covering closing date for entries).
- Make arrangements for the loan of equipment i.e. boxes and reels from other provinces.
- Transport for the pistes must also be arranged.

### 1 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE EVENT

The L.O.C. must arrange for the ALL trophies (Senior Nationals) to be brought to the tournament.

- Go over checklist of all equipment and personnel needed to make sure everything has been provided for.

# Planning Manual

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## ONE WEEK BEFORE EVENT

- Reconfirm availability of all personnel and those provinces bringing equipment and ensure that the pistes have arrived.
- Contact person in charge of hall and finalize arrangements for access to hall before the tournament starts in order to set up and that the necessary tables and chairs will be provided.
- Confirm with medical personnel.
- Confirm who will be supplying the computer for the DT
- Confirm that the medals have been organized and who will be responsible for bringing them to the tournament.
- Check local equipment for the tournament and plan layout of hall and see how many extension cords will be necessary.
- Confirm with DT what type of weapons checks will take place and ensure the necessary equipment and personnel are available.
- Purchase masking tape and other necessities.
- Make necessary Hard Copies. Photostats i.e. Blank pool sheets, DE slips, Tables, penalty charts.

## THE DAY BEFORE THE EVENT

- Set up the pistes, tables, chairs and as much of the electrics needed as possible.
- Tape a penalty chart to every table next to the pistes.
- Clearly mark all equipment loaned from other provinces either today or on the first day of tournament, have the necessary masking tape and markers.

# Planning Manual

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## AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT

- Make sure the hall and toilets have been cleaned & adequate supply of toilet paper has been provided.
- The lights and air-conditioning has been turned on
- The toilets and necessary committee rooms etc. are open.
- A referee meeting is held before the start of the competition.
- Roll Call will consist of signing in at the correct event at least 45 minutes before the event will take place.
- The number of entries at the final roll call will be displayed as well as, the format of the event and the number of people who will be eliminated.
- Pool sheets, clipboards, pens/pencils and if necessary weights and feeler gauges must be handed out.
- After the first round a list must be put up on the notice board of those fencers who were eliminated from the event.

## EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Weapons will be checked on the piste before every event, during pool and DE event.
- Clothing will be checked on the piste at the beginning of every pool and DE event.
- Plastrons must be worn.
- No tracksuit pants may be worn. Breeches and long socks only.
- All fencers on the piste must have access to at least one spare working weapon, body wire and mask clip and the side of the piste.
- Coaches and fencers must be in fencing gear for coaching lessons at the event.

## ANNEXURE A

# CHECK LIST

### A. PLANNING

ITEM	DATE COMPLETED	FURTHER ACTION
Meeting of organising committee		
List of tasks		
Budget		
Invitations (VIP / Participants)		
Book venue		

### B. TUCK SHOP

ITEM	DATE COMPLETED	FURTHER ACTION
Information to participants		
Tuck shop		

### C. VENUE

ITEM	DATE COMPLETED	FURTHER ACTION
Tournament hall		
Generators (if necessary)		
Cleaning		
Security		
Tables and chairs		
Public address system		
Lighting		
Air-conditioning		

**ANNEXURE A****CHECK LIST****D. DIRECTOIRE TECHNIQUE**

ITEM	DATE COMPLETED	FURTHER ACTION
Staff		
Registration of fencers		
Ranking of fencers		
Public address system		
Score sheets		
Computer		
Printer		
Results display - notice board		
Referee Cards /Clipboards /Penalty sheets/Pens /Guages/Weights		

**E. PISTES**

ITEM	DATE COMPLETED	FURTHER ACTION
Staff trained and present		
Pistes numbered and functioning		
Scoring table		
Scoring apparatus (check remote batteries OK !)		
Power for scoring apparatus (extensions)		
Reels & spares		
Scoreboards for pistes		

## ANNEXURE A

# CHECK LIST

### F. WEAPONS CHECK

ITEM	DATE COMPLETED	FURTHER ACTION
Table		
Marking material		
Rules		
Test weights & gauges		

### G. REFEREES

ITEM	DATE COMPLETED	FURTHER ACTION
Person in charge		
Referee allocation		
Gauge for each piste		
Weight for each piste		
Clipboard		
List of penalties		
Pencil		
Warning Cards		

### H. CO-ORDINATION

ITEM	DATE COMPLETED	FURTHER ACTION
Meeting of referees		
Meeting of DT		

**ANNEXURE A**

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**CHECK LIST**

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**I. PROGRAMME**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>	<b>FURTHER ACTION</b>
Pools		
DE		
Finals		
Running of bouts		
Medals		

## ANNEXURE B

# WEAPONS CONTROL

### What needs to be checked?

Depending on the weapon(s) you fence, please present the following items of equipment for weapons check:

Weapon	Items
<b>Epee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mask (non-conductive) / No Foil Mask Allowed</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Epees<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bodywires<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Foil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mask (conductive)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Foils<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bodywires<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lamé</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Head clip</li> </ul>
<b>Sabre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mask (conductive)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sabres<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bodywires<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lamé</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mask clip</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conductive glove or manchette</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>For opens and nationals, access (on the piste) to at least 2 working weapons and body wires is required.

If an item of equipment passes weapons check it will be marked with a weapons check mark. Weapons check marks will change from tournament to tournament and day to day. All weapons must be checked on the day on which they will be used.

## ANNEXURE B

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# WEAPONS CONTROL

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### What checks are performed?

#### ***Body wires and mask clips***

The insulation on the body wire should be complete and whole and in the case of foil/sabre body wires, the crocodile clip should be robust.

Foil/sabre body wires are tested with a test box by plugging it in to the test box and shorting across the two pins (with e.g. a screwdriver or coin). The red light should come on the test box. When the alligator clip is connected to the thin prong, the green light should come on. For bayonet body wires, tip and the “ring” of the bayonet must be shorted.

Epee body wires are tested similarly. When shorting across the centre prong and the one closest to it, the red light should come on. Shorting across the centre prong and the one farthest away from it should cause the green light to come on.

#### ***Lamé, conductive glove and manchette***

A visual inspection of the lamé will be performed. It should have no holes and the interior should be electrically insulated. The conductivity of the lame will be tested for dead spots. This will be performed by using a body wire and test box or an ohm meter.

When testing with a body and test box, the body wire will be plugged into the test box with the crocodile clip attached to the lamé. The other end of the body wire will be run over the entire surface of the lame ensuring both pins – or the tip and the “ring” of the bayonet plug – are in

## ANNEXURE B

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# WEAPONS CONTROL

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contact with the lamé. The lights on the test box should be on during this process to indicate conductivity. This test must be performed with a body wire that has already passed weapons inspection.

Conductive gloves and manchettes for sabre are tested in the same way.

### **Mask**

A visual (and tactile) inspection of the mask will be performed. The mask should be in good condition with no rust or dents. All rivets or screws should be secure. If there are any broken wires, the mask is unsafe and should not be used. The bib should be securely attached and have no holes. The safety strap of the mask must be in place.

For sabre masks, the conductivity of the mesh and the bib will be tested as well. This is performed in the same manner as the lamé conductivity test. The conductivity of the mask will be tested for dead spots.

### **Weapons (General)**

Weapons should not be capable of injuring opponent; they should not have sharp edges/angles and should not be rusty. Curves in the blade should be continuous – there should be no sharp bends.

## ANNEXURE B

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# WEAPONS CONTROL

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### Epee

An epee can weigh a maximum of 770g. The maximum length of the epee blade is 90cm (110cm for the total weapon) and the curve of the blade should be less than 1 cm. The blade must be mounted so that the groove in the blade is uppermost. This also means that an orthopaedic/pistol grip must be mounted so that the thumb position is uppermost. The blade can be mounted off-centre (max 3.5cm) of the guard. The barrel should not be loose and both grub screws must be in place.

The guard and grip will be inspected to ensure that a part of the grip or socket does not extend past the edge of the guard (i.e. afford more protection than the guard) and that the guard should not be able to hold or catch the opponent's point. The guard should include a cushion/padding wide enough to protect the electric wires from the fencer's fingers. Both wires must be insulated – right up to the socket and should not protrude past the socket. The socket should not include any part with allows contact to be made or broken

If the grip fixes the position of the hand (i.e. orthopaedic/pistol) grip,

- It must determine and fix only one position for the hand (i.e. not changing grips/ can't pommel with a pistol grip)
- hand position should have the thumb within 2cm of inner surface of the bell guard
- Orthopaedic/pistol grips cannot be covered in any material, e.g. leather, tape etc. which could cover a switch.

## ANNEXURE B

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# WEAPONS CONTROL

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Using a test box and shims, the weight and travel of the epee will be tested. It must take more than 750g to register a hit (there is tolerance of 3g for test weights, so the test weight used might in fact be 753g) and it should require a minimum of 1 mm of travel to register a hit (the maximum travel should exceed 1.5mm).

When first plugged into the test box, the epee should not register a hit (as indicated by a light on the test box). When the tip is depressed, a hit should be registered (indicated by a light on the test box). The epee should be able to support the test weight without registering a hit. When the weight is pushed down, the epee tip spring should be able to lift it back up. The tip should be able to accommodate a 1.5mm shim and should not register a hit with a .5mm shim in place.

### Foil

A foil can weigh a maximum of 500g. The maximum length of the epee blade is 90cm (110cm for the total weapon) and the curve of the blade should be less than 2 cm. The blade must be mounted so that the groove in the blade is uppermost. This also means that an orthopaedic/pistol grip must be mounted so that the thumb position is uppermost. The blade must be mounted in the centre of the guard.

Using a test box and shims, the weight and stroke of the foil will be tested. It must take more than 500g to register a hit (there is tolerance of 2g for test weights, so the test weight used might in fact be 502g) and the stroke should be 1mm or less.

When first plugged into the test box, the foil circuit should register as closed (as indicated by a light on the test box). When the tip is depressed, the light should go off, indicating the circuit is broken. The foil should be able to support the test weight without breaking the circuit. When the weight is pushed down, the foil tip spring should be able to lift it back up.

## ANNEXURE B

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# WEAPONS CONTROL

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### ***Sabre***

The maximum length of the sabre blade is 88 cm (105 cm for the total weapon). The end of the blade should be folded over on itself or formed into a button presenting a rectangular section of between 4-6mm. The curve of the blade should be less than 4 cm and must not bend in direction of the edge, i.e. the blade should bend left or right when viewing the edge. S2000 or greater should be marked on the blade. For your benefit, the exterior of guard must be insulated for 7-8 cm from the pommel.

## ANNEXURE C

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# SAFETY

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### 1. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

350N Plastron is compulsory for Opens and Nationals competitions from January 2017.

### 2. FENCERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY

Fencers must ensure that their equipment adhere to minimum fencing equipment requirements.

### 3. STANDARDS MUST BE CONSISTENTLY APPLIED

Officials and coaches must ensure safe conditions at practices as well as at tournaments.

### 4. REFEREES MUST ENFORCE SAFETY MEASURES

If the referee is not satisfied with the safety of a fencer's equipment s/he is entitled to override any equipment marks.

Referees must enforce all rules pertaining to safety (e.g. turning, corps-a-corps and equipment) strictly.

### 5. PLASTRONS

Plastrons should be emphasised as the most important part of the protective clothing. Plastrons to be insisted upon in club practice as well as tournament. Plastrons must be complete with half sleeve.

### 6. MASKS

Safe mask straps are necessary. The strap must fit tightly across the back of the head. Mesh must be un-cracked & strong – the mask must not deform under hand pressure. Bib attachment to be secure.

## ANNEXURE C

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# SAFETY

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## **7. JACKETS:**

Jackets must have high enough collars (minimum 3 cm) which do up completely as well as a fold-down double layer across the front, to catch any blade which slips up under the mask and long enough sleeves – must come down to the wrist. Zippers must be correctly sided opposite the sword arm, or up the back. All seams must be complete & secure.

A fencer's name on the back is not mandatory.

## **8. BREAST PROTECTION**

Protection is recommended.

## **9. SCROTAL BOXES**

Protection is recommended.

## **10. BREECHES**

Breeches must be tight enough not to catch weapon tips. NO pockets in front with a double thickness band reaching 10 cm above the waist.

## **11. GLOVES**

Gloves must be long enough to cover at least the lower half of the forearm with no holes.

## **12. T-SHIRTS**

T-shirts must be tucked inside breeches to avoid snagging the opponent's tip.

## **ANNEXURE C**

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# **SAFETY**

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## **13. HAIR**

Before the start of the bout, the fencers' hair must be fastened and placed inside the clothing and/or mask in such a way as to ensure that:

It does not cover a valid surface (and thus prevent a touch from being scored);

It does not conceal the name and nationality of the fencer;

It does not need to be put back in place during the bout, thus interrupting it.

**13. BLADES**

No blade may be used which has been damaged or abnormally bent.

## ANNEXURE D - 2017

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### ENTRY FEES

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Entry fees for one and/or two events is R350 (2017).

This fee consists **of R250** for the hosting province and **R100** Referee Levy which is due to the FFSA.

Any additional event entered is R50 per event and is due to the FFSA.

An event is defined as a distinct age and weapon category.

Development fencers have to pay an entry fee of R50 per competition, and R50 per additional event (in excess of 2) entered. Development fencers are defined as fencers identified by their province and ratified by a FFSA.

Late entry after the prescribed cut-off date will result in paying a fee of double the competition entry fee. As circumstances vary, the acceptance of late entries will be at the discretion of the L.O.C, which will not be unreasonably withheld.

Payment cut-off date and method are at the discretion of the L.O.C..

The Entry Fee reconciliation of events hosted by the Province must be sent to FFSA within a maximum of three weeks after the competition took place.