



National Team Selection Policy & Awarding of National Colours

Updated January 2019

1. In order to be selected to represent South Africa, fencers must be South African Nationals and comply with SASCOC and the FIE's rules for national selection, which will take precedence over the contents of this policy document.
2. Teams are compiled by the National Team Managers and Coaches Commission and submitted to the National Council for ratification.
3. Fencers will be notified of their selection by the National Team Managers and Coaches Commission and / or their provincial chairperson.
4. Selection to national teams for FIE, Commonwealth Fencing Federation and other international competitions.
 - 4.1. Selection to the national team for FIE and Commonwealth Fencing Federation competitions is based on the national rankings maintained by FIE-approved online ranking software that is accessible to all fencers.
 - 4.1.1. Regardless of their ranking, no fencer may receive national colours for the first time without a minimum of two years' uninterrupted fencing experience.
 - 4.1.1.1. The period of experience to be confirmed by the coach and/or administrator of the fencer's club as well as the chairperson of the fencer's provincial or district fencing body.
 - 4.1.2. No fencer may receive national colours for the first time without competing in three national ranking competitions in the year preceding their selection.
 - 4.1.3. In the case of exceptional ability and performance, a fencer may be awarded national colours for the first time within two years of their starting to fence and/or with less than three national ranking competitions in the year preceding their selection, provided
 - 4.1.3.1. A written motivation provided by their coach accompanies the application for the early awarding of national colours and the application receives 80% of a vote by the FFSA National Council with all council members voting.

- 4.2. The selections are based on the best three results from a rolling roster of national ranking and internationally approved competitions immediately prior to the selection date.
- 4.3. Selections for specific international competitions are to be decided and announced after a national ranking competition specified by the National Council during the finalization of the annual fencing calendar. The competition will be roughly two months before the commencement of the international competition for which the fencer is selected.
- 4.4. The number of fencers selected per weapon / gender / age category is based on the total number of individual fencers competing in the category over the selection period ending with the national ranking competition as specified in 4.3. The number of fencers selected cannot exceed the maximum number of entrants allowed per country for a specific competition.
- 4.4.1. A ratio of one selection per nine fencers in the category is to be used.
- 4.4.1.1. As way of example, a category with 32 individual competitors can have three fencers selected whilst a category with 16 individual competitors can have a single fencer selected.
- 4.4.2. The Executive Committee may annually request the National Team Managers and Coaches Commission to review the ratio. A recommendation by the National Team Managers and Coaches commission to retain or change the ratio will be submitted to the National Council for consideration at the next AGM.
- 4.4.3. The National Team Managers and Coaches Commission must consult with the Athletes Commission on the ratio and the view of the Athletes Commission must be recorded in the final recommendation.
- 4.5. A fencer is only eligible for selection if their points for the selection period as per 4.2 are within 50% of the points of the number one ranked fencer in their category for the same selection period.
- 4.6. A fencer is only eligible for selection if they have provided necessary training and competitions logs as required by SASCOC and/or FFSA. Details of the required training logs will be posted on the official FFSA website.
- 4.7. Fencers are selected from the number one position in their age / gender / weapon category in a descending order to the number of entrants per country allowed in that specific international competition and by the selection limit specified by 4.4
- 4.8. If a weapon / gender / age category has sufficient fencers for at least one fencer to be selected A reserve is to be selected for the category in case one of the selected

fencers is unable to compete in the competition and/or the reserve fencer is required as a reserve in a team event.

4.8.1. The reserve fencer will either be the highest ranked, eligible fencer, not meeting the requirements of 4.7 but meeting the requirements of 4.5 and 4.6

4.8.2. In the case of Commonwealth Championships there will be two reserve fencers being the highest ranked, eligible fencers not meeting the requirements of 4.7 but meeting the requirements of 4.5 and 4.6.

4.9. In the case of smaller categories with less than the required number of competitors to select the maximum number of fencers for a specific competition, a fencer not selected under the requirements of 4.4, but ranked in the top 64 of the FIE's international ranking and meeting the other selection criteria will be granted a wildcard selection.

4.9.1. Wildcard selections as per 4.9 can equal the number of positions in a specific category not offered for selection under 4.4.

4.9.2. Preference will be given to fencers meeting the requirement of 4.9 in descending order of their international ranking.

5. Selection to national teams for competition falling under the management of SASOC, including, but not exclusive to, the Olympic Games and African Games.

5.1. If there is no additional selection requirement then the selection policy per section 4 is to be used.

5.2. If selection requires a diversity or other specific quota, the selection policy is as follows:

5.2.1. The team is selected as per 4 and should that team meet the SASCOC selection criteria then the team stands.

5.2.2. If the team selected as per 4 does not meet the SASCOC selection criteria then the following applies:

5.2.2.1. Working through individual age / gender / weapon categories the lowest ranked selected fencer is replaced by the highest ranked fencer meeting the SASCOC selection criteria until such time as the SASCOC selection criteria is met.

5.2.2.2. Reserve fencers are selected as according to 4.8 taking into account the SASCOC requirements and the process outlined in 5.2.2.1

5.2.2.3.If the SASCOC selection policy can not be reasonably met, including but not exclusive to the ability of eligible fencers, the FFSA National Executive Committee can apply exemption to rule from SASCOC.

6. Before a fencer can compete in the World Championships, or be nominated for a national team selected and managed by SASCOC, they need to compete in the same age and weapon category in at least one of an African Championship, Universiade Games, Commonwealth Fencing Championship, or a FIE A-Grade competition and achieve acceptable results which are defined as:

6.1.1.From 1 January 2017, having finished in the top 75% of an individual event

6.1.2.From 1 January 2020, having finished in the top 70% of an individual event

6.1.3.From 1 January 2022, having finished in the top 65% of an individual event

6.1.4.From 1 January 2024, having finished in the top 60% of an individual event

6.1.5.From 1 January 2026, having finished in the top 55% of an individual event

6.1.6.From 1 January 2028, having finished in the top 50% of an individual event

6.2.The fencer does not need to compete in the African Championship, Universiade Games, , or Commonwealth Fencing Championship, or FIE A-Grade competition in the same year as the world championship or a national team selected and managed by SASCOC

6.3.All fencers who have previously medalled in any individual event in an African Championship, Commonwealth Fencing Championship or reached the last 64 of an individual event in any FIE A-Grade competition, zonal or world championship will be allowed to compete in world championships, dependent on their national rankings and possession of a valid international licence.

6.3.1.This exemption is valid until 31 December 2020.

6.4.For team events, fencers, not having the met the criteria outlined in 6, can be selected provided their nomination by the National Team Managers and Coaches Commission receives 80% support by the National Council with all council members voting.

6.5.Selection to the African Championships and Commonwealth Fencing Championships will be based on national rankings and possession of an international licence

7. From time to time, fencers are invited to attend a non-competition event such as an international training camp. In these case a more subjective selection policy needs to be applied. The procedure is as follows:

7.1.The FFSA Secretary-General will forward notification of the event to the provincial fencing associations who may nominate any fencer that they feel meets the criteria for selection.

7.1.1.Criteria for nomination can include, but is not limited to:

7.1.1.1.Eligibility according to age, gender and weapon requirements of the event.

7.1.1.2.National ranking of the fencer.

7.1.1.3.Performance of the fencer in recent international competitions.

7.1.1.4.General conduct of the fencer.

7.1.1.5.Contribution of the fencer to the advancement of fencing in South Africa.

7.2.The nomination will then be sent to the National Team Managers and Coaches Commission and the Athletes Commission for recommendations.

7.2.1.The recommendations must be accompanied by a written rationale.

7.3.The list of nominees and recommendation by National Team Managers and Coaches Commission and Athletes Commission is then sent to the National Council for a final selection vote.

7.4.The decision of the National Council is final.

7.4.1.The FFSA Secretary-General or relevant team manager will then notify the successful candidate of their selection.

7.4.2.The FFSA Secretary-General or relevant team manager will inform the other candidates that their nomination was not successful.

8. Selection of foreign-based South African fencers.

8.1.Foreign-based South African fencers are eligible for selection under 4 and 5 provided that they hold a valid FFSA fencing licence and the requirements of 6 are met.

8.2.Foreign-based South African fencers may substitute two of their three best results as identified in 4.2 with international results.

8.3.The international results need to come from competitions approved by the FFSA National Council. FFSA will the publish the type of approved international competitions on the FFSA website.

- 8.3.1.Excluded from the list of competitions will be any competition requiring a national team selection, such as a zonal championship, world championship or Commonwealth championship.
- 8.4. Results in approved international competitions will be awarded points determined by FFSA.
- 8.4.1.The maximum number of points awarded to a fencer for a result in a foreign-based tournament may not exceed the maximum number of points earned in a South Africa national ranking competition.
- 8.4.2.A fencer can only earn points from an international competition if they are promoted from the poule stage of the competition.
- 8.4.3.The awarded points for international competitions will be published on the FFSA website for reference.
- 8.5. All results submitted by a foreign-based fencer need to be independently verifiable by FFSA.
- 8.6. Fencers need to submit their results within two weeks of the completion of the competition to the National Team Managers and Coaches Commission .
- 8.6.1. The submitted results needs to contain the following information:
- 8.6.1.1. The name and type of competition
- 8.6.1.2.The complete list of entries to the competition
- 8.6.1.3.The final ranking from the competition
- 8.6.1.4. Full poule and DE results for the fencer
- 8.6.1.5. If the results are in a foreign language, the fencer must provide an English translation if requested to by the National Team Managers and Coaches Commission
- 8.6.2. Results not submitted or submitted after the published selection date for a national team will not be considered for that team selection.
- 8.7.Where a foreign-based fencer and a South African-based fencer tie on points for the final position in a team, preference will be given to the South African-based fencer.
- 8.8.South African-based fencer are entitled to compete in an appropriate international competition and substituting their result and allocated points for a domestic national ranking competition result and points.

8.8.1.The South African fencer must comply with the competition selection criteria outlined in 8.3, and submission of results as outlined in 8.7.

8.9.International results will be subject to the same rolling principle as domestic competitions and are only valid for one selection period.

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