



COMMONWEALTH FENCING FEDERATION

SENIOR-VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

Introduction

The Rules for the Commonwealth Senior/Veteran Fencing Championships should be read in conjunction with the latest version of the FIE Rules.

Except where specifically stated, the FIE Rules for Competitions shall be taken as paramount.

The CFF Technical Commission is empowered to make changes at short notice to the rules to ensure the smooth running of the Championships, without the right of appeal. Any such changes can only be temporary, unless subsequently ratified by Council.

Participants

All participating fencers must hold the passport of the Commonwealth nation they are representing.

All questions relating to the matter of 'Eligibility' (to compete in the Commonwealth Fencing Championships) are to be directed to the Board of the CFF who shall delegate authority to the CFF Technical Committee to make a ruling on the question.

Decisions made by the CFF Technical Committee are subject to the right of appeal directly to the CFF Board, whose decision shall be final and binding. Rulings on all matters relating to Eligibility shall be made in strict accordance with the spirit and principles of Byelaw 17 of the Commonwealth Games Federation Constitutional Documents, Section B: The Byelaws.

Please note that the CGF Constitutional Documents may be updated from time to time, but the current version (as at 1 January 2022) can be found at [Constitutional Documents of the Commonwealth Games Federation 2020.pdf \(thecgf.com\)](https://www.thecgf.com/Constitutional%20Documents%202020.pdf)

In the Veteran event, athletes must be 40 years of age or over in the year of the competition (birthday can be after the competition date). The age categories are:

- Age category **40-49**: Must be at least 40 years old and less than 50 years old in the year of the competition.
- Age category **50-59**: Must be at least 50 years old and less than 60 years old in the year of the competition.
- Age category **60-69**: Must be at least 60 years old and less than 70 years old in the year of the competition.
- Age category **70+**: Must be at least 70 years old in the year of the competition.

General rules

1. Nations entering must be members of the Commonwealth and be current members in good standing of the CFF.
2. The official language of the CFF is English and at least one person in every delegation must be reasonably fluent in English.
3. The CFF Championships (both Senior and Veteran) consist of twelve events, individual and team, at all six weapons.

4. In the individual events each Nation may enter up to 5 fencers per event; entry in the Veteran event is unrestricted.
5. In team events, the national Team Manager must nominate, not later than 24 hours before the start of the Team Event, a team of 3 or 4 fencers of whom at least two must have fenced in the individual event. The Team Captain, for each match, will name three fencers (two of whom [for Senior events] must have fenced in the individual event), may name one reserve, **from the nominated fencers**, and may vary the team between matches, which will be fought on the relay system.
6. The **Wilkinson Sword Trophy** is awarded to the Nation with the best overall results in the Senior Event, please see below for the rules governing the Trophy.
7. The Championships will be run according to the FIE Rules; with the formula, that will consist of at least one round of pools in the individual events, being announced by the DT before the start of the competition and will be the same for all weapons. Team events will be run by direct elimination, except when there are only 3 teams competing, in which case the format will be pool unique.
8. Clothing and all personal equipment must comply with the current FIE Rules for World Cup events; a control will take place. The CFF reserves the right not to implement a recent or pending FIE rule change, unless the issue is safety related.
9. Referees: Delegations are exempted from supplying referees for these events as the CFF will appoint all referees.

Please note:

- As an international event recognised by the FIE, all competitors must hold an FIE licence from the current or preceding season.
- Appointed referees may not serve in any other capacity, such as a coach or a competitor.
- The nominated Team Manager for each Nation shall be regarded as the point of contact between the Nation and the DT for both the Senior and Veteran events. The Team Manager may designate an Assistant Team Manager to act as his/her delegate for an event.
- ALL entries must be made by the recognised governing body of each Nation (as listed by the CFF – see CFF Championship Organisation Handbook).

Championship Formula

The fencing Championship shall be conducted in accordance with the current Statutes and Rules of the FIE. The Directoire Technique shall deal with any unforeseen incidents not covered by the Rules.

The formula for the Senior Championship will be:

- a. One round of pools followed by direct elimination tableau for individual events.
- b. Everyone promoted to DE, unless unworkable due to constraints caused by number of entries.
- c. Direct elimination for team events, as approved by the CFF.

The formula for the Veteran Championship will be (when the event is held in combination with the Seniors):

- a. One round of pools followed by a complete DE (unless unworkable due to constraints caused by number of entries) to provide an overall champion at each weapon.
- b. Age category gold medals to be taken from the final classification, **unless** organizers have sufficient time, space and resources to run age category championships for the event determined by separate DEs for each age category.
- c. Direct elimination for team events, as approved by the CFF.

The formula for the Veteran Championship will be (when the event is held on its own):

- a. Two rounds of pools including all competitors followed by DE events for each separate age category
- b. Age categories for the DEs are not combined except where small numbers (i.e., 5 or less) warrant them being run as a pool.

- c. No overall champion will be determined, instead Age Category Championships with awarding of medals to each age category.
- d. Direct elimination for team events, as approved by the CFF (secondary team competitions encouraged).

Exceptions to the FIE Rules

- While all clothing must comply with the FIE rules, the rule requiring all team members to be dressed the same will not be applied.
- In the team events, classification matches will only be fought for first place only. Medals will be awarded for first, second and third places (so long as 6 or more teams are registered in the event, otherwise there will be a fence-off for third place); in the event there are three (3) teams or less, the event will be run as a round of pools.
- Radio-controlled scoring equipment (wireless) need not be used.
- Video arbitration need not be used.

Seeding

The Senior Championship fencers will be seeded using the following criteria (in order of precedence):

- 1) Current Official FIE Ranking using places 1 to 64
- 2) Of the remaining fencers, ranking from the most recent World Championships (1–64), then
- 3) Of the remaining fencers, ranking from the most recent Junior World Championships (1–32), then
- 4) Of the remaining fencers, ranking from the current Official FIE Ranking using places 65 onward (only if they have earned points), then
- 5) Of the remaining fencers, ranking using the national seeding order (for non-GBR fencers) combined with most recent Senior GBR ranking list, which will apply to GBR-ranked fencers. **Nations are reminded that entries must be listed in seeding order** – in the event of a conflict involving fencers from the Home Countries, the GBR ranking list will have precedence.

The Veteran Championship fencers at the Age Category Championship event will be seeded using the following criteria (in order of precedence):

- 1) Current Official FIE Ranking using places 1 to 64
- 2) Of the remaining fencers, ranking from the most recent World Championships (1–64), then
- 3) Of the remaining fencers, ranking from the most recent Commonwealth Veterans Championships (1-64), then
- 4) Of the remaining fencers, ranking from the most recent World Veteran Championships (1-64, by age category), then
- 5) Of the remaining fencers, ranking from the current Official FIE Ranking using places 65 onward (only if they have earned points), then
- 6) Of the remaining fencers, ranking from the most recent World Veteran Championships using places 65 onward (by age category), then
- 7) Of the remaining fencers, ranking using the national seeding order (for non-GBR fencers) combined with most recent Senior GBR ranking list, which will apply to GBR-ranked fencers. **Nations are reminded that entries must be listed in seeding order** – in the event of a conflict involving fencers from the Home Countries, the GBR ranking list will have precedence.

The Veteran Championship fencers at the Combined Championship event will be seeded using the following criteria (in order of precedence):

- 1) Current Official FIE Ranking using places 1 to 64
- 2) Of the remaining fencers, ranking from the most recent World Championships (1–64), then
- 3) Of the remaining fencers, ranking from the most recent Commonwealth Veterans Championships (1-64), then
- 4) Of the remaining fencers, ranking from the current Official FIE Ranking using places 65 onward (only if they have earned points), then

5) Of the remaining fencers, ranking using the national seeding order (for non-GBR fencers) combined with most recent Senior GBR ranking list, which will apply to GBR-ranked fencers. **Nations are reminded that entries must be listed in seeding order** – in the event of a conflict involving fencers from the Home Countries, the GBR ranking list will have precedence.

Teams will be ranked on the results in the individual events at the Championships, using the results of the three highest placed fencers in the appropriate individual event. In the event that a fencer has not competed in the individual event, then the rank of that fencer will be determined by adding 1 to the lowest possible rank that could have been obtained in the individual event.

Team Events

No later than 24 hours before the start of each Team Event, the Team Manager shall nominate three or four fencers to form the team of whom (for Senior events) at least two shall have fought in the individual event.

Before each round, when required by the DT, the Team Manager will nominate three fencers (two of whom must have fenced in the individual event) and may name one reserve, from the nominated fencers; the Team Captain may vary the team between matches, which will be fought on the relay system. The nominated team may not include any fencer where, due to the scheduling, a clash may occur between another event (Team or Individual) and the Team event.

NOTE: Medals will only be awarded to those fencers who have been named on at least one scoresheet as a member of the 4-person team for that match.

Publicity Rules

The CFF Championships will follow the FIE rules, which in summary are:

- A. Marks - These identify the manufacturer or seller of an item of equipment and the sizes are clearly laid down. Manufacturers know what they are and items purchased from all well-known retailers will have marks conforming to the rules.
- B. "Exploitation of the Fencers Image" - This refers to exploitation in the media etc. where the fencer is paid for his/her image. If this applies to anyone please read the rules carefully.
- C. Advertising that is worn or carried - A logo from the company being advertised must not exceed 30cm² and may be worn on top of sleeve on the unarmed arm (not sabreurs) or side of breeches; logos displayed on gloves, socks or shoes may not exceed 10 cm², whereas those appearing on the mask may not exceed 12.5 cm². A maximum of four logos, total area not to exceed 500 cm². Any advert must be lawful within the nation where the event is taking place and not endorse alcohol or tobacco products.

Clothing Rules

Fencers must wear their name and 3-letter national code (for UK fencers this is NOT GBR) on the back of their jackets - letters in dark blue capitals between 8 and 10 cm in height.
Authorized national colours/logo (for Senior UK fencers these are NOT GBR) on both legs, optional on arms.
Veteran fencers from the UK may wear the GBR strip.

Track suits may carry the National Identification on the back and one logo on the front, right-hand side of the track suit, not exceeding 50 cm², together with one small logo on the back collar. Fencers should consult their National Federation before wearing any advertising on their track suits.

If the tracksuits are sponsored, then the sponsor may already have put their logo on the track suit; if so, this corresponds to the total allowable and no further logos may be worn.

Any other national identifications must be removed or covered up. The general clothing standards must adhere to the FIE standards.

Armoury and Weapon Control

All equipment shall be in compliance with FIE Rules and Regulations for competition. A weapon control will take place and all relevant equipment must be presented to Weapon Control at the times specified. Normal penalties will be applied for the use of uncontrolled equipment.

It must be stressed that this is not a personal armoury and repairs to individual equipment will not normally be possible.

Equipment for weapon control from each team should be delivered as a batch. To relieve individual fencer from personally having to attend to this, all the kit can be delivered by a coach.

Emergency tests will take priority – for example, a retest of a weapon after a repair. Failure to deliver kit at the right time does not constitute an emergency.

All competitors should ensure their kit complies with the rules – a description of what constitutes compliant kit is found in the rules.

The following equipment should be submitted for control: masks (only approved designs on masks), all lamé equipment, all wires and weapons. It is the responsibility of the Team Managers to ensure equipment is handed in at the right time.

Referees on the piste will check for control marks, verify that clothing complies with FIE rules and that National Identification stripes, names and national abbreviation are being worn in conformity with the rules.

Drug Testing

Drug Testing may take place and all contestants must be familiar with the current FIE/WADA rules. **Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs) must be provided AT THE EVENT by any competitors currently taking any medications.** Fencers are advised to seek the advice of the Medical Officer of their national federation.

Directoire Technique (DT)

The DT shall be responsible for the technical organisation of the Championship. The DT will be comprised of up to four members of the CFF Technical Commission from different CFF Nations and one representative from the Host Nation. The decision of the DT shall be final.

Referees

As for an FIE event, the DT will expect referees convoked for each day to arrive on time and dressed appropriately.

Those convoked are entitled to the support of their colleagues and it should be remembered that referees are 'neutral' in respect to the competition. This is very important and, when on duty, they must not show any National support by either word or deed.

Protests

Appeals against the decision of a referee should be immediately made by the competitors (individual events) or their team captain (team events) to the referee, before any decision is made regarding a subsequent hit. If the referee maintains his decision, the complaint may be brought to the attention of the DT.

Entry details

Preliminary entry details must include:

- Name, address, telephone, fax number and, if possible, email address of a **national representative or Team Manager**. This person will be the contact point before the Championships and **ALL correspondence will be sent by the CFF DT and the Host Nation to that named person**, with a copy to the President or Administrator of the Nation concerned.
- Name, address, telephone, fax number and email address of **the Team Manager**. Each Nation **MUST** specify a Team Manager who may, or may not, hold some other post within the team. However, the CFF, DT and Host Nation will regard the named Team Manager as the senior person in that team and the only one delegated to speak on behalf of both the veteran and senior team members throughout the Championships.
- Provisional numbers entered in each event.

Final entry details must include:

- Names of accompanying officials, together with their duties for accreditation purposes.
- Names of competitors and their weapons, in ranking order for each weapon.
- Indication of the strength of competitors, if not on the World Cup rankings then their best five recent results.
- Copy of passport information page of all persons requiring accreditation.
- Biographical details of leading fencers suitable for inclusion in a programme or news sheet.

Championship Schedule

As published by the Organising Committee after consultation with the Directoire Technique.

Meetings

As in the published FIE rules, there will be meetings at the venue on the first day (as identified on the schedule) for the team managers and for all referees.

Awards

- a. For individual events, one (1) gold, one (1) silver, and two (2) bronze medals to the top four (4) fencers and certificate to the top eight (8) fencers.
- b. For team events, up to four (4) gold medals for the champion team, up to four (4) silver medals for the second placed team, and up to eight (8) bronze medals for the third placed teams (so long as 6 or more teams are registered in the event, otherwise there will be a fence-off for third place), and certificates to the members of the top eight (8) teams.

The awarding of certificates by the Organisers is optional.

Wilkinson Sword Trophy

The trophy is awarded to the nation earning the most points in the Senior Event, calculated as follows:

1 st	32 points
2 nd	26 points
3 rd	20 points

5th to 8th 12 points

9th to 16th 8 points

17th to 32nd 4 points

33rd to 64th 2 points

Note: - points cannot be earned in an incomplete series of the tableau.

NOTE:

On arrival, each nation must provide:

1. National anthem on a CD – or provide a link to the official version of national anthem.
2. A 3 ft x 5 ft National Flag

APPENDIX A – Methodology for use of GBR rankings as seeding criteria

To ensure more representative seeding of GBR fencers, the most recent GBR Senior ranking is used to rank fencers accordingly.

Once all FIE- and CFF-based seeding tools have been applied (as outlined in the rules), any remaining unseeded registered fencers are seeded in the usual fashion, based on the order provided by the national federation. The competition-management software then proceeds to rank them for pool-creation purposes based on this initial input. The DT reviews the ranking list thus generated and proceeds with a further adjustment using the most current GBR Senior ranking. The position of any GBR fencer seeded not according to his/her position on the GBR ranking is adjusted to reflect his/her position on that ranking.

EXAMPLE

STEP 1

Having seeded all fencers using FIE- and CFF-based seeding criteria (as outlined in the championship rules), the field of remaining unseeded fencers consists of:

2 AUS; 2 CAN; 3 ENG; 2 IND; 1 JER; 1 MAS; 1 NIR; 2 NZL; 1 RSA; 2 SCO; 1 SGP; 2 WAL = Total 20

STEP 2

These 20 remaining fencers are seeded following the standard process where, based on the order provided by the national federations, they are distributed according to that original order in the following manner:

AUS 4th	27
CAN 4th	27
ENG 3rd	27
IND 4th	27
JER 3rd	27
MAS 3rd	27
NIR 3rd	27
NZL 4th	27
RSA 5th	27
SCO 4th	27
SGP 3rd	27
WAL 4th	27
AUS 5th	39
CAN 5th	39
ENG 4th	39
IND 5th	39
NZL 5th	39
SCO 5th	39
WAL 5th	39
ENG 5th	46

STEP 3

However, this seeded list will then be randomly ordered by the competition-management software to assist in creating the pools. The randomized software-generated ranking appears in the 3rd column:

CAN 4	27	27
IND 4	27	28

AUS 4	27	29
NIR 3	27	30
RSA 5	27	31
NZL 4 4	27	32
WAL 4	27	33
ENG 3	27	34
MAS 3	27	35
SCO 4	27	36
SGP 3	27	37
JER 3	27	38
SCO 5	39	39
AUS 5	39	40
IND 5	39	41
ENG 4	39	42
WAL 5	39	43
CAN 5	39	44
NZL 5	39	45
ENG 5	46	46

STEP 4

The GBR ranking of the 9 GBR fencers is now taken into consideration (column 4):

NIR 3	27	30	58	(5)
WAL 4	27	33	61	(6)
ENG 3	27	34	45	(2)
SCO 4	27	36	46	(3)
JER 3	27	38	50	(4)
SCO 5	39	39	65	(8)
ENG 4	39	42	41	(1)
WAL 5	39	43	63	(7)
ENG 5	46	46	UNRANKED	

STEP 5

The DT manually adjusts the ranking based on the current GBR ranking and the final ranking of GBR fencers, for the purpose of the competition, corresponds to their order and position as they appear on the GBR ranking. In the following table, the first number corresponds to the original seeding; the second number corresponds to the software-generated randomized ranking; and the third number corresponds to the final ranking, as adjusted by the DT to take into consideration the GBR ranking:

CAN 4	27	27	27	No change
IND 4	27	28	28	No change
AUS 4	27	29	29	No change
ENG 4	39	42	30	1 st GBR fencer – ENG 4 (41) replaces NIR 3 (58)
RSA 5	27	31	31	No change
NZL 4	27	32	32	No change
ENG 3	27	34	33	2 nd GBR fencer - ENG 3 (45) replaces WAL 4 (61)
SCO 4	27	36	34	3 rd GBR fencer – SCO 4 (46) takes ENG 3 (45) spot
MAS 3	27	35	35	No change
JER 3	27	38	36	4 th GBR fencer – JER 3 (50) takes SCO 4 (46) spot 4
SGP 3	27	37	37	No change
NIR 3	27	30	38	5 th GBR fencer – NIR 3 (58) takes JER 3 (50) spot
WAL 4	27	33	39	6 th GBR fencer – lowest ranked (61) from this tier
AUS 5	39	40	41	No change, shift down 1 due to ENG 4

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IND 5	39	41	42	No change, shift down 1 due to ENG 4
WAL 5	39	43	43	7 th GBR fencer – WAL 4 (63) replaces SCO 5 (65)
SCO 5	39	39	43	8 th GBR fencer – lowest ranked (65) from this tier
CAN 5	39	44	44	No change
NZL 5	39	45	45	No change
ENG 5	46	46	46	9 th GBR fencer, no change - unranked

This final ranking (third column) is the one that is used to create the pool, which may be further adjusted per standard practice to avoid as much as practicable duplication of nations in pools.

This allocation using the current GBR ranking is deemed the most equitable manner to ensure no group (either GBR or non-GBR) is given any undue preference or advantage, while respecting fencers' demonstrated level of proficiency.