



# COMMONWEALTH FENCING FEDERATION SENIOR AND VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018 FINAL REPORT

Prepared by the CFF Technical Commission

## INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth Fencing Federation (CFF) wishes to thank the Australian Capital Territory Fencing Association and the Australian Fencing Federation Ltd. (AFF) for hosting this edition of the Commonwealth Senior and Veteran Fencing Championships (individual and team) in Canberra, Australia. The AFF has been a committed partner of the CFF over the years, as demonstrated by the fact that this is the third time a CFF event has been hosted in Australia.

The event was run over 6 days, preceded by the Annual General Meeting of the CFF and other technical meetings.

The following 16 nations were registered for this event. In the end, Malaysia & Rwanda did not attend:

Australia	Malaysia
Bermuda	New Zealand
Canada	Northern Ireland
England	Rwanda
Guernsey	Scotland
India	Singapore
Isle of Man	Republic of South Africa
Jamaica	Wales

- There were 432 entries across all categories, Foil, Epee, Sabre, Men's and Women's with roughly equal numbers of Seniors (215) and Veterans (217).
- 64 teams competed in the team events, split between 43 Senior and 21 Veteran teams.
- 90 gold medals were awarded, 66 silver and 78 bronze.
- We had 52 people volunteer over the 10 days of set-up, training, competition and bump-out, contributing a combined 1,290 hours of work.
- In the three months preceding this report, there were over 7,727 unique visitors to the event website [www.cfc18.net](http://www.cfc18.net), most of whom visited in the week before and during the events in November.

- There were 43 different videos streamed live, with a combined number of 9,700 views.

A highlight of the event was a well-attended wheelchair fencing demonstration commented by Vivian Mills (Secretary British Disability Fencing) and involving Australian wheelchair fencers Rodney Woolley and Tom Edwards, with their coach Andrew Kalinowski. The CFF is hoping to introduce Wheelchair Fencing events into future Championships.





## **DATE AND LOCATION**

These Championships were held from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2018, at the Australian Institute of Sport, in Canberra, Australia.

## **ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOIRE TECHNIQUE**

The CFF gratefully acknowledges the assistance and logistical support provided by the members of the Organising Committee (OC) headed by its Chairman, Garry Webster. Mr. Simon Hamm was the Event Manager and Jeff Gray, along with his able assistants, was responsible for the Armoury and Weapon Control.

The Directoire Technique (DT) was headed by CFF Technical Commission Chair Marie-France Dufour CAN, assisted by CFF Technical Commission members Denise Dapr  AUS and Heather Claydon NZL, with Helen Smith AUS, President of the CFF, as ex-officio member. Although another Technical Commission member, Steven Clarke NZL, had been delegated by the CFF to act as referee coordinator for the event, he was unable to attend and M.F. Dufour took on the task. Additionally, Alex Donaldson AUS represented the AFF on the DT and he and his team were responsible for managing all results and computer entries.

## VENUE AND EVENT

**Facilities** were rented at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), with the main section housed in the large hall of the AIS Stadium where the qualifying rounds were held on 14 pistes, with a curtained-off finals section fronted by tiered seating for spectators.



There was a separate training area in a nearby hall and fencers were also allowed access to pistes in the main hall for warming up at those times when no fencing was scheduled on them. All qualifying rounds and elimination bouts were held in the main hall (no coloured pistes were provided) and the number of pistes available was sufficient for the participants registered. At no time was the fencing held up for lack of pistes; however, some delays were unavoidable due to the limitations associated with the limited number of referees available.

The organizers had provided ample room for bag drop-off and each delegation had a sectioned-off area in which to leave their equipment. The weapon drop-off area and Armoury was conveniently located on the same level as the fencing, in an area adjoining the main hall, and there was a large, unencumbered area in which armourers could proceed with both weapon checks and repairs.



A similar smaller section had been outfitted next to the finals piste to act as a Call Room, where the finalists could have their weapons checked and be mustered as they waited to be called to the Finals piste.

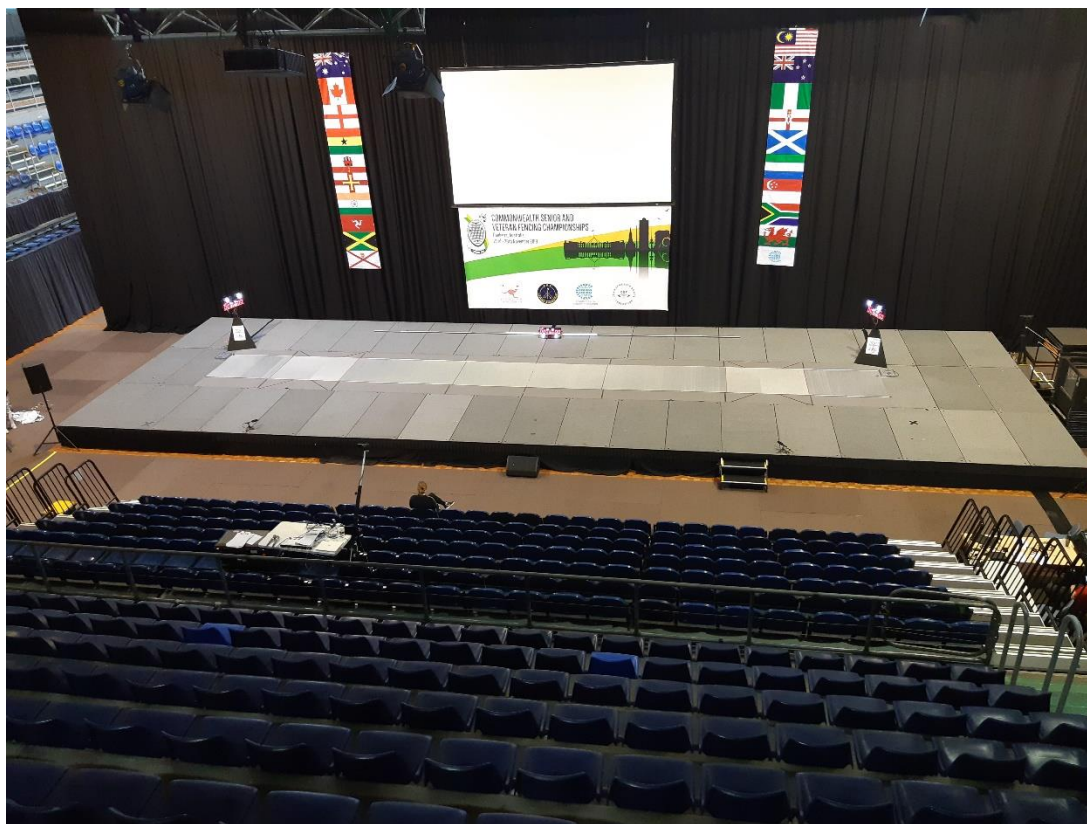
### **Directoire technique.**

A most suitable area had been organized to house the DT and Secretariat, located just across a hallway from the main fencing area. Access to the pistes was quick and simple, and coordination of team events rendered easier by the proximity of the DT to the fencing area. A curtained-off area in the DT had been reserved for the referees, who also found this arrangement convenient.

All results terminals were located in the same room as the DT and the flow of the competition was optimal due to the close working relationship of the DT members and the Secretariat. This team consisted of two experienced results operators working under the direction of Alex Donaldson. We could also follow on a large white board the representation of events overall as they unfolded according to the pistes and referees allocated.

**Lighting** was adequate for the most part, both in the main hall and in the finals area. The lighting was enhanced to accommodate the needs of live video streaming of finals.

**Seating capacity** was sufficient with a large area of tiered seating facing the finals area, accommodating several hundred spectators. The event gave free access to all spectators, with a front row of reserved seating for honoured guests.



**Training and warm-up areas** were provided in a nearby hall close to the main stadium. As stated previously, it was agreed that pistes not actually in use between stages of the competition in the main hall could be used for warm-up purposes as needed. This arrangement proved satisfactory and delegations did not complain about the lack of dedicated training space after the DT modified its original decision to keep unused pistes empty during the competition. This required additional supervision on the part of the members of the DT, who had to carefully monitor activity and presence of people that might interfere with the smooth running of the competition in the main hall.

**Changing rooms** were large, clean and well-appointed, and there were many of them within easy reach for all.

A **Meeting room** (lecture theatre) was available at the venue and was used on several occasions preceding the fencing. It served for the CFF General Assembly, Team Managers' Meeting and Referees' Meeting.

**The Referees** provided extremely reliable service and generally responded positively to all requests made of them. However, a number of the FIE licensed referees originally identified were unable to attend for a variety of reasons and the refereeing team therefore had fewer 3-weapon accredited referees than it normally should have had; furthermore, the developmental group was larger than anticipated.

The referee corps at CFF Championships usually consists of a cadre of CFF referees chosen to represent as many Commonwealth zones as possible, supplemented by the addition of 2-3 FIE grade non-CFF referees. Under normal circumstances, this group would have proven just sufficient to handle the event but the fact our group consisted of a larger proportion of developmental-level referees created a challenging problem. This did not impact materially on the quality of judging, but made it difficult to provide referees when different weapon events were running concurrently. This situation was acutely felt on the days involving the two priority weapons, foil and sabre, as the shortage of qualified sabre referees made it difficult to schedule bouts. Fortunately, fencers were not inconvenienced, and we were able to function efficiently despite this drawback.

The refereeing team consisted of:

Non-CFF Internationals

Andreas Douvis (FIE)

Kai Masahiko (FIE)

CFF Referees

Peter Creese (AUS)

Robert Di Pasquale (AUS)

Michael Hoeller (AUS)

Anna Kamynina (NZL)

Nicola Shackelton (NZL)

Ernest Chua (SIN)

Thomas Nguyen (CAN)

Andrei Kovrunykh (RSA)

Rashid Ahmed Chowdhary (IND)

Adrian Speakman (ENG)

Nick Payne (ENG)

Developmental Referees

Anna Crawford (AUS)

Boston Fawkes (AUS)

Michael Nelson (AUS)

Victoria Mentor (AUS)



**Equipment control** was of the highest quality as it was provided by a very senior and most experienced Armourer, Jeff Gray, and his team of able assistants. Calls to technical problems at the pistes were efficiently and quickly handled and monitored, and Call Room duty swift and professional.

The sufficient number of pistes meant we never had to double-flight any poules; all pistes were fully equipped with radio-controlled scoring apparatus. The pistes were kept in good working order by our armourers and event team members, who proved remarkably reliable when asked to trouble-shoot at the piste.

A recurring situation was that of the overall lack of volunteers in sufficient numbers to ensure scoring at the pistes (referees had to keep score themselves) although this was never the case for the finals, when adequate numbers of volunteers were able to ensure the smooth running of the event, working both the Call Room and the equipment table for timing and scoring.

For the most part, the whole competition ran smoothly and according to the posted schedule, at times well ahead of schedule.

**Marshalling and protocol** was undertaken only for the medal matches in both team and individual, including full podium presentations. Due to video streaming requirements, we were at times challenged to make the competition progress at a pace that would allow matching final bouts with the video streaming schedule. This also meant that, when we were ahead of the proposed schedule, there were gaps in the pace of the event between the conclusion of the elimination bouts and the start of finals or,



in those cases where the final bout in a weapon finished too quickly, then an unusually long gap would occur between its conclusion and the launching of the next finals event.

**Doping Control** did not take place; however, the national authorities had been advised that the event was taking place and a check could have occurred had they so wished.

**Accreditation and Security** were handled by the Organizing Committee although no accreditation badges were issued. Access to this public venue was available to all although there was a measure of monitoring provided for the delegation areas to ensure security of equipment left by fencers. Overall, there was good order in the fencing area and most people were cooperative. The volunteers at the access points to the fencing hall were vigilant and helpful and no significant problems were reported.

**Information and Publicity** as is the practice now, were mostly guaranteed through social media and streaming on the Internet. The event website was the main vehicle for pre-event information. Team managers were kept informed throughout the competition by regular communications sent to their phones by the DT Secretariat (Alex Donaldson) and advised rapidly of changes and concerns by texted messages or email.

There were no screens installed in the venue as such to keep fencers and others informed of results in real time; however, results were quickly and regularly provided via e-mail to all team managers, who could easily forward them to the members of their delegations

Between November 2018 and January 2019, there were over 7,727 unique visitors to the event website [www.cfc18.net](http://www.cfc18.net), most of whom visited in the week before and during the events in November.

A total of 43 different videos were produced of finals sessions and other significant moments, attracting 9,700 combined views. Nick Payne ENG is to be thanked for coordinating and personally carrying out the majority of the commentary on the video streaming in a thoroughly professional manner.

Consular mission representatives of both New Zealand and Canada were on hand at times to meet with their nations' athletes and also award medals.

**Catering** had been arranged by the OC and consisted of an ample provision of cold cuts, sandwiches and similar fare for lunches for both the DT and the referees. Breakfast was left to the discretion of individuals as the start times made it difficult to have it provided by the hotels.

Fencers made use of the two snack bars available on site that provided for both breakfast and lunch.

The organizers hosted the usual banquet evening, which was attended by a capacity crowd. The menu was diversified and portions generous, served buffet style. The evening was a complete success with most athletes remaining until the arrival of arranged transport at the close of the event, after a solid evening of music and dancing. It was a well-arranged and highly appreciated closing activity for all concerned.

**Transport and Lodging.** For the most part, transport was not required for athletes and referees as they were lodged at the venue in athlete facilities belonging to the AIS. By all accounts, the lodgings were of good quality and with all necessary amenities and all meals provided. Organizers assisted with airport transfers and laid on transport for the banquet. All in all, people seem to have been quite satisfied with these arrangements.

## ISSUES

A number of issues had been identified at the previous championship event in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England. The major problem identified there having to do with the use of unwieldy event management software was not an issue here as the reliable En Garde fencing software was used. Although there remains a problem associated with the running of senior 5-member team events, there is currently a manual work-around for this problem and the experienced Secretariat had little difficulty dealing with it.

Another issue in England was related to seeding of fencers that, according to the regulations in force at the time, proved inadequate and non-representative. The Technical Commission had addressed this problem in the hiatus leading to the Canberra event and was able to have new criteria approved in time for these championships. The new system allows for a better differentiation of relative abilities and respects current rankings. Some fine-tuning is still required and new seeding protocols will be introduced in time for the next round of CFF Championships.

## RESULTS

WEAPON	# FENCERS	DELEGATION	MEDALISTS
MF SR	35	ENG AUS AUS ENG	G Ben PEGGS S Sholto DOUGLAS B Edward FITZGERALD B Kamal MINOTT
WF SR	29	SCO ENG SCO AUS	G Chloe DICKSON S Ayesha FIHOSY B Katie SMITH B Violet HALL
ME SR	42	ENG SCO ENG AUS	G Curran JONES S Calum JOHNSTON B Paul SANCHEZ-LETHEM B Kristian RADFORD
WE SR	41	CAN ENG ENG CAN	G Lenora MacKINNON S Katrina Smith-Taylor B Julie HENSON B Leslie-Ann GERVAIS
MS SR	37	ENG ENG	G William DEARY S Jonathan WEBB

		ENG IND	B Zach HAMILTON B Karan SINGH
WS Sr	30	IND ENG AUS SCO	G Bhavani Devi CHANDALAVADA S Emily RUAUX B Samantha AUTY B Catriona THOMSON
MF Vet	38	SCO SCO SCO AUS	G Nicholas MORT S Michael McKAY B Paul STANBRIDGE B Andrey TYSHCHENKO
WF Vet	20	AUS AUS AUS ENG	G Abigail NUTT S Julia LYASCHENKO B Annabelle BALLARD B Nicola HULL
ME Vet	61	CAN AUS CAN NZL	G Michael BUCKLEY S David COOK B Kyle FOSTER B Kyle MacDONALD
WE Vet	46	AUS ENG CAN CAN	G Sarah OSVATH S Nicola HULL B Lisa HUZEL B Karen Ann LAANSOO
MS Vet	34	AUS AUS ENG	G Davide WHEELER S Radu VINTILE B Attila BRUNGS B Alexander ELLISON
WS Vet	22	CAN AUS ENG WAL	G Wendy YANO S Min Ye DU B Jane HUTCHISON B Emma WALLER
MF SrTm			G AUS S ENG B SCO
WF SrTm			G SCO S ENG B AUS
ME SrTm			G ENG S AUS B SCO
WE SrTm	7		G ENG S CAN

			B	WAL
MS SrTm	8		G	IND
			S	ENG
			B	AUS
WS SrTm			G	ENG
			S	SCO
			B	AUS
MF VetTm			G	SCO
			S	ENG
			B	AUS
WF VetTm			G	AUS
			S	ENG
ME VetTm			G	CAN
			S	NZL
			B	AUS
WE VetTm			G	AUS
			S	ENG
			B	NZL
MS VetTm			G	AUS
			S	ENG
			B	CAN
WS VetTm			G	AUS
			S	ENG
			B	SCO

For complete results, please visit <https://www.commonwealthfencing.org/index.php>

In most weapons, Veteran entries were very large, as is proving the case with all veteran events. Veteran competitions draw huge numbers of competitors and are quite popular. Participation numbers keep growing and this is a significant factor in any prospective host's expectations as well as planning.

The Wilkinson Sword Trophy was yet again decisively won by ENG, followed by AUS and SCO. This was the first time the trophy was awarded in its new plaque format, with the original mounted sword remaining on permanent display in England.

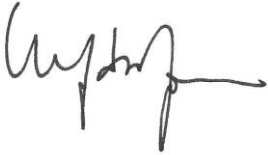
Organizing such large events is quite a challenging task and the CFF recognizes the effort and dedication of all who were involved in making these Championships a success.

## CONCLUSION

The CFF wishes to thank the International Fencing Federation (FIE) and the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) for sanctioning and supporting the events in Canberra. The CFF also wishes to thank the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) and Ms Viv Mills for providing financial support to make the Wheelchair Fencing Demonstration possible.

Once again, the CFF and its collaborators have delivered a world-class international event. It therefore bears repeating that, the continued presentation of such successful fencing events clearly demonstrates the Commonwealth Fencing Federation's relevance as a significant fencing partner of the FIE and as a valuable contributor to the ideals and life of the Commonwealth by the CGF.

Submitted 2 February 2019 by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.-F. Dufour', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

M.-F. Dufour (CFF Technical Commission Chair)