



COMMONWEALTH FENCING FEDERATION

CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

Introduction

The Rules for the Commonwealth Fencing Federation (CFF) 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 Committee is empowered to make changes at short notice to the rules in order to ensure the smooth running of the Championships, without the right of appeal. Any such changes can only be temporary, unless subsequently ratified by Congress.

Participants

All participating fencers must be registered with the FIE by the Commonwealth nation they are representing (or GBR in the case of the Home Countries) and must hold a valid FIE athlete licence for the season specified in the Invitation Letter. For NIR only, fencers licensed by the FIE for IRL may also be entered. It is the sole responsibility of the NIR federation to procure any entries required from IRL.

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)

Age Limits

All participants must have reached their 13th birthday.

For the Junior event the participating fencers must be under 20 years of age on 31st December of the year preceding the year in which the competition takes place.

For the Cadet event the participating fencers must be under 17 years of age on 31st December of the year preceding the year in which the competition takes place.

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. Each CFF Championship consists of twelve events, individual and team, in all six weapons.
4. In the individual events, each Country may enter up to 5 fencers per event; entry in the Veteran event is unrestricted.
5. 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.
6. The **India Trophy** is awarded to the Nation with the best overall results in the Junior 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 remaining the same for all weapons. Team events will be run by direct elimination, except where there are only three (3) teams competing, in which case the format will be pool unique.
8. The para events will be run according to IWAS rules using an approved CFF format, to be agreed with the OC.

9. 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.
10. Delegations are exempted from supplying referees for these events as the referees will be appointed by the CFF.

Championship Formula

The Championships 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.

See below for specific changes to the organisation rules for each Championship.

Exceptions to the FIE Rules

Clothing

1. Fencers must wear their name and 3-letter country 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.
2. National colours/logo (for UK fencers, these are NOT GBR colours/logo) on both legs, optional on arms. Veteran fencers from the UK may wear the GBR colours/logo for Veteran events only.
3. Any other advertising or national identification must be removed or covered up.
4. The rule requiring all team members to be dressed the same will not be applied.

Formula

1. Individual Events: the formula will normally be pools with everyone promoted to the DE Tableau, followed by direct elimination.
2. Team Events: classification matches will only be fought for first place. 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) or fewer teams, the event will be run as a round of pools.
3. For the Veterans Championships, when run in conjunction with the Senior:
 - a. An overall champion will be determined from the final classification.

- b. Age category gold medals to be taken from the final classification, **unless** organisers have sufficient time, space and resources to run age category championships for the event determined by separate DEs for each age category.
4. For the stand alone Veterans Championships:
 - 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 fewer) 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.

Technical

1. Radio-controlled scoring equipment (wireless) need not be used.
2. Video arbitrage need not be used but is strongly encouraged. When it is used, the FIE rules regarding video arbitrage will apply.

Protests

1. 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.

Seeding

The fencers will be seeded using the following criteria:

1. Add together the FIE points from:

Cadet	Junior	Senior	Veteran
The FIE Junior Ranking	The FIE Junior Ranking	The FIE Senior Ranking	The FIE Veteran Ranking
The most recent Cadet World Championships	The most recent Senior World Championships	50% of the most recent Junior World Championships	The FIE Senior Ranking
	50% of the most recent Cadet World Championships	25% of the most recent Cadet World Championships	The most recent CFF Veteran Championship ^{1,2}

Sort the fencers from high to low total with fencers on equal points having an equal seeding.

2. Of the remaining fencers, seed at most 3 from each nation, grouping by the national seeding order for non-GBR fencers or the most recent GBR ranking list matching the age category of the Championships for GBR ranked fencers.
3. The bottom ranked fencer from each nation shall always be unseeded unless they have FIE points.
4. The remaining fencers shall be unseeded.

Nations are reminded that entries must be listed in seeding order. For GBR home nations, this must match the relevant GBR ranking order.

Team Seeding

Teams will be seeded based 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 shall be determined by adding 1 to the lowest possible rank that could have been obtained in the individual event.

¹ Points awarded based on final position using the FIE scale to the top 75% of each final ranking.

² Where a fencer has changed age category between championships, they may use points from the previous age category 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 **at least two (2) shall have fought in the individual 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; the fencers need not have actually fenced in a team match but must have been named as the Replacement or Reserve on a scoresheet.

“Spirit of the Commonwealth” Team Challenge

Nations which are unable to enter a team in the normal Team events and fencers who were not entered in a national team may join together to form combined or scratch teams to enter this special team event.

The Team Challenge, which is provided at the discretion of the OC and DT, will run alongside the Team Championships subject to the available resources.

Fencers who were named in a team for the main team event shall not normally be eligible to participate in Challenge teams. The DT may admit individual fencers who were members of teams eliminated in the first round of the DE of the Team Championships at their discretion.

Challenge Teams must be made up of fencers from at least two nations.

The OC may choose to recognise the winners with a certificate or other award.

Para Events

The inclusion of para events is encouraged. All para fencers must be in possession of a current IWAS licence and their entries will be managed directly by the OC.

Further regulations governing para events, licensing and insurance requirements are currently being examined and these rules will be updated once more information is available.

Protocol

The CFF Technical Committee will maintain a library of approved National Anthems in MP3 or other commonly used format. Member nations are responsible for ensuring that the library version is correct and identifying a clip of no more than 80 seconds to be used during medal ceremonies. Team managers will be required to confirm these details in advance of each Championships.

Flags must be provided in accordance with the instructions of the OC.

The DT member responsible for protocol will liaise with the OC Protocol Officer.

Procedures will be based on the latest [FIE Protocol Handbook](https://fie.org/fie/documents/handbooks) which can be found on <https://fie.org/fie/documents/handbooks>

Accreditation

The OC is expected to operate a system of accreditation with varying access rights to the venue, field of play, accommodation and administration offices. All fencers, officials and members of the public must comply with the published access rules.

All fencers must collect their accreditation in person by 3pm on the day prior to their first event or they will be scratched.

Officials may collect their accreditation at any time permitted by the OC.

Publicity Rules

The CFF Championships will follow the latest [FIE Publicity Code](https://fie.org/fie/documents/rules) which can be found here <https://fie.org/fie/documents/rules>

Armoury & 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 this is not a personal armoury and repairs to individual equipment will not normally be possible.

Weapon control will be performed in accordance with the [latest FIE protocol](#) which may be found here

<https://fie.org/fie/documents/documents-of-commissions-and-councils/7>

except that the equipment to be controlled will be as shown in the following table.

Jacket Underplastron Breeches Gloves	Controlled on the piste or in the call room
Lamé Jackets	Max 2 items
Masks	Max 2 items
Body Wires	Max 3 items
Mask Wires	Max 3 items
Weapons	Max 4 items

Call Room

A call room will be operated in line with the latest FIE protocol (see FIE Weapon Control link above).

The call room will be used from a point to be agreed between the OC and the CFF Technical Committee but normally no later than the quarter finals in each weapon.

Fencers who fail to present themselves to the call room at the appropriate time or who do not have the required equipment will be subject to the normal penalties.

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 as requested by the anti-doping authority by any competitors currently taking any medications.** Fencers are advised to seek the advice of the Medical Officer of their national federation.

Safeguarding

At least one safeguarding officer shall be appointed by the CFF Technical Committee.

The safeguarding officer's role shall be based on the FIE Safeguarding Policy per the [FIE Statutes \(December 2022\)](#) Chapter XIII (see <https://fie.org/fie/documents/statutes-and-admin-rules>)

As the duties and responsibilities for this role are still being developed, the appointed safeguarding officers may currently undertake additional roles.

Directoire Technique (DT)

The DT shall be responsible for the technical organisation of the Championship. The DT will be appointed by the CFF Technical Committee in accordance with the CFF Championships Organising Handbook. The decision of the DT shall be final.

Referees

The DT will expect referees convoked for each day to arrive on time and be 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 support for a particular nationality by either word or deed.

Appointed referees may not serve in any other capacity, such as a coach or competitor.

Entries

Preliminary and final entries shall be made in accordance with the instructions provided by the OC.

This will require entry of athletes and teams via the FIE website as well as the provision of additional information directly to the OC.

Championship Schedule

The Championship Schedule shall be as published by the Organising Committee (OC) after consultation with the Directoire Technique (DT).

Meetings

There will be meetings at the venue on the first day (as identified on the schedule) for the team managers and for all referees.

Arrival Time

Teams must arrive in good time to collect accreditation, submit equipment to weapon control and participate in mandatory meetings.

Failure to obtain documents or arrange travel will not be accepted as a reason for missing deadlines set by the OC or mandatory meetings.

Awards

Medals

- For individual events, one (1) gold, one (1) silver, and two (2) bronze medals to the top four (4) fencers.
- For team events, up to four (4) gold medals for the champion team, up to four (4) silver medals for the second placed team, two (2) sets of up to four (4) bronze medals for the two third-placed teams (or one third placed team if six (6) or fewer teams compete).

Wilkinson Sword Trophy (Senior Event)

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
5 th to 8 th	12 points
9 th to 16 th	8 points
17 th to 32 nd	4 points
33 rd to 64 th	2 points

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

India Trophy (Junior Event)

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

1 st	32 points
2 nd	26 points
3 rd	20 points
5 th to 8 th	12 points
9 th to 16 th	8 points
17 th to 32 nd	4 points
33 rd to 64 th	2 points

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

Appendix A: Method of seeding fencers without points

Nation	Fencers with points	Fencers without points
A	5	0
B	4	1
C	3	2
D	2	3
E	1	4
F	0	5

The fencers with points shall be seeded 1 to 15 according to the points calculation.

Of the remaining fencers:

Nation	A	B	C	D	E	F
Seeding						
700			4	3	2	1
750				4	3	2
800					4	3
Unseeded		5	5	5	5	4 5

Numbers in the cell refer to the fencer in national ranking order - e.g. 5 is the lowest ranked fencer, 1 is the highest.

The actual seedings used are irrelevant as long as they are higher than the highest seed with points.