

## Australian Schools Championships 2019 Information Sheet

The Australian Individual and Teams School Championships is held annually in Sydney at the NSW Fencing Centre.

On behalf of the host, NSW Fencing Association, the AFF extends a warm welcome to eligible school-age fencers from around Australia to participate in this premier schools fencing event.

Participation from all Member States is encouraged.

Please note that competition eligibility, qualification and rules are the same as last year but there are some changes to the format.

Please also note that the AFF will likely re-name the events from next year to Open and Junior (from Senior and Intermediate, respectively). This is to better align the terminology with the participation eligibility and the naming conventions held by most of the states.

The AFF has maintained the reduced cost of participation by allowing 'participative' fencers to attend along with 'competitive' fencers.

### 1. DATES AND LOCATION

The AFC Schools (Individuals) Championships and AFC (Teams) Championships for Senior fencers will take place on the weekend of 24 and 25 August 2019.

The AFC Schools (Individuals) Championships and AFC (Teams) Championships for Intermediate fencers will take place on the weekend of 14 and 15 September 2019.

The NSW Fencing Centre  
Building 2.04  
Sydney Corporate Park  
190 Bourke Road  
Alexandria NSW 2015



The team competition will be solely among teams representing their schools (no composite teams) consistent with the principle that individuals and teams competing in the Australian School Championships are representing their schools rather than their States.

## 2. CATEGORIES

The categories for each weapon and gender are:

- **Intermediate** - up to and including the third year of secondary school. Primary school aged fencers may enter with the approval of their Member State.
- **Senior** - open to **any** secondary school student (including Intermediate fencers but not primary school age fencers).

## 3. ELIGIBILITY

The AFF has again agreed that entry to the Australian Schools Championships will be open to both 'competitive' and 'participative' fencers.

For example, Junior Registered fencers in NSW who are 'participative fencers' and usually fence only in NSW schools competitions can enter the Australian Schools Championships if they qualify. The AFF will use the current junior participative membership criteria for each Member State as the qualification for entry.

## 4. ENTRIES

It is not anticipated that the individual competition timetable will be arranged sequentially by weapon. If any Member State wishes to nominate individual fencers to complete in more than one weapon, the Member State should advise accordingly in Round 1. The timetable will accommodate such fencers if scheduling allows.

Round 1: Expressions of interest are invited from each Member State by 24 June 2019 in the Senior category and by 14 July 2019 in the Intermediate category.

### **Individual:**

Round 1: Member States are requested to submit a ranked list of individual fencers per weapon and gender. This list should include the names of all fencers who wish to nominate, without limitation on numbers but subject to any selection criteria used by Member States. The AFF will initially allocate places equally by number among the Member States.

Round 2: If there are vacancies due to there being low demand in a particular category, more places will be allocated to those Member States that have higher demand.

The AFF will use its best endeavours to allocate individual places equitably among fencers from each Member State following these objectives:

- maintaining equity among Member States in terms of weapons and gender in proportion to the demand from Member States for entries;
- encouraging participation and maximising the opportunity to fence.

### **Teams:**

Each Member State is responsible for selection and nominations on behalf of schools in their jurisdiction.

In Round 1 there will be places available for 12 teams in each weapon and gender category, subject to a maximum of two teams from each Member State. The names of team fencers should be included in the Round 1 expression of interest in order to determine if there are fencers entered in multiple weapon categories.

Round 2: If there are vacancies after the first round (if some Member States do not take up their quota) these spare places will be offered to other Member States until all places are filled. If there is more demand for places than are available, the AFF will allocate places pro rata according to State membership numbers.

Round 3: If there is a low uptake for any particular weapon and gender category, the AFF may make more places available for the team competition in another weapon and gender.

To facilitate this process, Member States are requested to provide a ranked list of all school teams that want to nominate (notwithstanding that the initial allocation is two teams per State). Based on the AFF's understanding of potential demand per State, it is highly likely that Member States with high demand will be given more than two team places.

The timetable may be arranged so that fencers can compete in their school's team in one, two or three weapons if there is demand from Member State nominations to do so. A school team must be comprised solely of fencers from that school.

## **5. FORMAT**

The format of team and individual competition will to some degree depend on the number of individual and team entries. The following formats are indicative and may be changed at the discretion of the Tournament Management Commission and the Directoire Technique (with AFF approval) once final entries are known.

### **Individual:**

Pools with direct elimination round.

### **Teams:**

One round of pool matches. The format of pool bouts (hits/timing) to be decided when entry numbers are known. Pools to be seeded based on individual results. Placings will be based on overall results from pools.

If there are only two entries in a team event, a final match will be fenced even if both entries are from the same State. If there is only one entry in a team event, that team will win by default.

## **6. TIMETABLE**

The timetable will be published on the AFF website as soon as possible after entries close and no later than one month before the competition.

The timetable may be varied once final entries are known.

## **7. MEDALS AND TROPHIES**

A full set of medals (gold, silver, two bronze) will be awarded for both Individual and Team events. Fencers who win medals must be present for the medal presentation ceremony, wearing their school tracksuit. Medal presentations will be made as each competition finishes.

## **8. EQUIPMENT STANDARDS**

Mask - 1600N in good condition with two securing points

Under plastron - 800N

Jacket/breeches - 350N

Glove - in good condition with no holes

Sabre glove - FIE standard (sabre glove and cuff acceptable)

Socks - long socks

Weapons - FIE/S200 stamped

Note: Fencers must present on the piste with at least two weapons and body wires.

Fencers must wear jackets and breeches. Track suit pants and tights are not permitted.

There will be a Weapons Control check before competition. Weapons Control inspection times will be specified in the timetable. Rusty blades and those without clearly visible FIE stamps will be rejected.

## **9. REGISTRATION**

Competitors must be current junior competitive or participative fencers registered with their Member State in an appropriate category and whose State membership is recorded by the AFF. They must be in good standing (owing no money) with the AFF and their Member State.

Registration will be open only to individual fencers and school teams who have been nominated by their Member State.

The entry fees for the Australian School Championships are:

Individual entry per competition: \$95

Second and third individual entries per competition: \$70

Team entry per competition: \$130

### **Individual:**

The closing date and link for individual registrations will be published by 13 July 2019 for Seniors and by 3 August 2019 for Intermediates.

If a school requires payment of entry fees by way of invoice, this will be done by the Member State to the school. The Member State will then need to advise the AFF, who will in turn invoice the Member State for the referable individual entry costs.

**Teams:**

Member States are to register their teams at [schools@fencing.org.au](mailto:schools@fencing.org.au). The AFF will invoice Member States for their team entries.

To the extent that a Member State passes team entry fees to the individual or school, it will be the responsibility of the Member State to collect those fees from the individual or the school. The Member State should contact [schools@fencing.org.au](mailto:schools@fencing.org.au) before 30 June 2019 if they intend on placing a levy for their state at the collection of the individual entry fee.

**10. CONTACT**

Member States are asked to provide contact details for the person responsible for co-ordinating State entries.

If Member States or schools have any queries, please contact the AFF Operations Manager, Caitlin Fox-Harding, at: [schools@fencing.org.au](mailto:schools@fencing.org.au)