



NSWFA Policy on Minimum Competition Entries and Mixed Events

If competition entries at close of registration* do not reach a minimum number of fencers of both genders, the event will be cancelled. Fencers who have registered at that point will be advised by email and their entry fee refunded.

If there are low entry numbers in one gender, the Competition Manager/Tournament Director may decide the event will proceed as a mixed competition.

In mixed competitions, a full set of medals will be awarded for each gender. Ranking points will be awarded to each gender.

These rules are designed to ensure that State competitions are viable and give value to the participating fencers.

*Close of registration is usually at 6pm on the Friday preceding a Sunday competition. Fencers who have entered for the event will be advised of the cancellation by email no later than 10am Saturday.

Minimum competition entries

U8 – U14

The competition will be cancelled if there are fewer than 4 fencers (including male & female) at close of registration.

U15 – Veteran

The competition will be cancelled if there are fewer than 6 fencers (including male & female) at close of registration.

Mixed competitions

U8 – U14 Mini-Series

If the entries for one gender are lower than 5 fencers, the competition will be run as a mixed event in both the poules and direct elimination rounds. When parents register a child for these events, they are accepting that their child may be participating in a mixed event. If they do not want their child to participate in a mixed event, they can withdraw the child before the competition and their entry fee will be refunded.

U8 – U14 State Championships

If the entries for one gender are lower than 5 fencers, the poules will be run as a mixed event and the direct elimination rounds will be run as separate gender events. If there is only one fencer in one gender, the competition will be run as a mixed event in both the poules and direct elimination rounds. When parents register a child for these events, they are accepting that their child can participate in a mixed event. If they do not want their child to participate in a mixed event, they can withdraw the child before the competition and their entry fee will be refunded.

If there is only one fencer of one gender, that fencer will be awarded the gold medal for that gender regardless of the final placings in the mixed DE.

U15 – U17 (Sydney U15 & Cadet Circuit)

Regardless of gender entry numbers the Sydney U15 & Cadet Circuit events (a new development event added to the 2021 calendar) will be run as a completely mixed event in both the poules and direct elimination rounds. There will be two rounds of poules followed by direct elimination. When fencers register for these events, they are agreeing to participate in a mixed event.

U15 – U17 State Championships

If the entries for one gender are lower than 5 fencers, the poules will be run as a mixed event and the direct elimination rounds will be run as separate gender events. If there is only one fencer in one gender, the competition will be run as a completely mixed event in both the poules and direct elimination rounds. When fencers register for an U15 – U17 State Championship, they are agreeing to participate in a mixed event if necessary.

If there is only one fencer of one gender, that fencer will be awarded the gold medal for that gender regardless of the final placings in the mixed DE. The fencer may choose to accept the medal earned in the mixed event but will not then also receive the sole gender gold medal.

U20 – U23 – Open – Veteran

If the entries for one gender are lower than 5 fencers, the poules will be run as a mixed event and the direct elimination rounds will be run as separate gender events. If there is only one fencer in one gender, the competition will be run as a completely mixed event in both the poules and direct elimination rounds. When fencers register for U20 – Veteran competitions, they are agreeing to participate in a mixed event if necessary.

If there is only one fencer of one gender, that fencer will be awarded the gold medal for that gender regardless of the final placings in the mixed DE. The fencer may choose to accept the medal earned in the mixed event but will not then also receive the sole gender gold medal.

Team competitions

NSW team events will be mixed except where there are sufficient team entries of the same gender to justify separate gender events. This decision will be made by the Competition Manager/Tournament Director.

A mixed team event means teams comprised of one or both genders competing equally in the same event.

In a mixed team event, medals will be awarded according to results regardless of gender.

Results, Ranking Points

The official results for mixed events will specify each gender and ranking points will be awarded according to the results in each gender.

Medals

In New South Wales individual events, a full set of medals will be awarded regardless of the number of competitors.

A full set of medals will be awarded to each gender according to the placings achieved in each gender.

A full set of medals will comprise a gold medal for first place, silver for second place and two bronze medals for equal third place. Where the competition format allows for a contest to decide third place (e.g. the Sydney Olympic Cup series and the Sydney U15 & Cadet Circuit), only one bronze medal will be awarded.

- When the direct elimination (DE) rounds are separated by gender, medals will be awarded to each gender in accordance with this Policy.
- When the DE rounds are fenced as a mixed event, medals will be awarded for each gender according to placings in the event.
- If questions arise about the application of this Policy to any NSW competition, they will be resolved at the time by the Competition Manager/Tournament Director (DT) whose decision will be final.

The award of medals must be consistent with the official results of the competition on which ranking points are based.

Competition Entry Thresholds & Mixed Events – summary

1. Competition Entry Thresholds

U8 – U14

Fewer than 4 entries in total (both genders) at close of registration – competition cancelled, registered fencers advised via email, entry fee refunded.

U15 – Veteran

Fewer than 6 entries in total (both genders) at close of registration – competition cancelled, registered fencers advised via email, entry fee refunded.

2. Mixed Events

Category	Entries	Poules	DE	Medals	Rankings
U8 – U14 Mini Series	Fewer than 4 in total	Mixed	Mixed	As per results by gender	As per results by gender
U8 – U14 State Champs	Fewer than 4 in total	Mixed	Separate	As per results by gender	As per results by gender
	Only one in one gender	Mixed	Mixed(see notes below)	As per results by gender	As per results by gender
U15 – U17 Cadet Circuit		Mixed	Mixed	As per overall results	As per results by gender
U15 – U17 State Champs	Fewer than 6 in total	Mixed	Separate	As per results by gender	As per results by gender
	Only one in one gender	Mixed	Mixed (see notes below)		As per results by gender
U20 - Veteran	Fewer than 6 in total	Mixed	Separate	As per results by gender	As per results by gender

Notes:

- Fencers cannot be forced to compete in a mixed DE against their wishes, except in the U15 – U17 Cadet Circuit competitions which are specified in the calendar as mixed events. Fencers who register for these competitions are agreeing to fence in a mixed event.
- In all other events, if a female fencer (or her parent) does not wish to compete with males in mixed DE rounds, she may withdraw before the start of the event and her entry fee will be refunded. This will only arise when there is only one female in the event.
- If there is only one female entered and she/her parents agree she can participate in a mixed event, then she will be awarded the female gold medal regardless of her placing in the mixed event. She may choose to take the medal placing she achieved in the mixed event, but not both. The same rule applies to male fencers.
- If there are two or more females, after mixed poules they will fence in a female only DE. The same rule applies to male fencers.
- If a female fencer (with parental approval for those under 18) chooses to fence the DE rounds with male fencers, she may do so and will be awarded a medal consistent with her placing. If there are only two females and one chooses to fence in a mixed DE, the

other will receive the female gold medal and ranking points. The same rule applies to male fencers.

- **If circumstances arise that are not covered by this Policy, the Competition Manager/Tournament Director has discretion to apply a fair and practical solution.**

Approved by the NSWFA Board – December 2020