



NSW FENCING ASSOCIATION

Rules of Entry to the NSW Fencing Centre

1. Application

These Rules of Entry govern the admission of all persons to the NSW Fencing Centre and their involvement in the activities conducted at the Centre, including fencing competitions, training sessions and all activities related to the sport of fencing.

As the entity responsible for managing the leased premises of the Centre, NSWFA has the authority and responsibility to set rules and conditions of entry to the Centre and participation in Centre activities.

These Rules of Entry apply to all persons involved in activities at the NSW Fencing Centre (the Centre) including fencers, coaches, referees, teachers, parents and spectators who are involved in fencing activities conducted at the Centre. They also apply to any other venue used by NSWFA.

The Rules apply to AFF events hosted by NSWFA.

All participants are subject to the FIE Technical Rules of Fencing, the NSWFA Black Card Policy, the NSWFA Code of Conduct, the AFF Member Protection Policy (which covers NSWFA) and these Rules of Entry.

All participants must comply with any rule, protocol, practice or procedure implemented by NSWFA to protect public health and safety including those directed or advised by the Australian and/or NSW Governments and health authorities.

Only fencers who are currently Affiliated or Registered Members of NSWFA (or another Australian or overseas fencing association) and who have paid the relevant entry fee may participate in fencing competitions and training programs held at the Centre. This rule does not apply to non-members who are invited to attend learn to fence classes and other promotional activities.

2. Responsible Person

In this policy, "Responsible Person" means:

- the Board of NSWFA;
- the President, Vice President or Secretary of NSWFA;
- A member of the AFF Board during any AFF event taking place at the NSW Fencing Centre;
- the Directoire Technique or Competition Manager at any NSWFA or AFF competition (DT);
- a Supervising Referee;
- the NSWFA Head Coach and State Coaches;
- a Covid Marshal present at the Centre.

3. Entry to the Fencing Centre

The Centre is not a public place. There is no automatic right of entry. Entry is only granted by NSWFA in accordance with these Rules of Entry as amended from time to time by the NSWFA Board.

Responsible Persons, at any time, in their discretion, based on what they consider to be in the best interests of users of the Centre as a whole, having regard to their physical, mental or emotional well-being, may:

- prohibit any person or groups of persons from entering the Centre or participating in Centre programs and activities or ask them to leave the Centre; or
- restrict or impose conditions on the manner in which any person or group of persons uses the Centre or engages in Centre activities or participates in Centre programs.

4. The Rules of Fencing

Each individual competition bout or team match is under the primary control of a referee. The referee will apply the FIE Technical Rules, including the issue of penalty cards, as appropriate and necessary. The referee may choose to seek guidance from the Supervising Referee and/or the Directoire Technique on the interpretation of a fencing rule and its application. Penalty cards may also be issued by the Directoire Technique, the Supervising Referee, the Head Coach & State Coaches and any Director of the AFF or NSWFA.

Penalty cards may be issued to any person present at the competition including any participant or spectator. Any person against whom a black card penalty is issued may be asked to leave the premises immediately in accordance with the FIE Technical Rules and the NSW Black Card Policy.

Fencers must present themselves for competition and training with equipment that is in accordance with the standard specified by NSWFA in the Safety and Equipment Policy and by the AFF, as relevant.

5. Protection of children

The personal safety of children (under the age of 18) is of paramount importance. Any instance of a child being placed at any risk must be reported immediately to a Responsible Person.

Children under the age of 12 must be in the immediate charge of a parent, guardian or other responsible adult, except for school competitions where teachers or school coaches are present.

If parents believe their child, or any other child, is at risk of physical harm during a competition bout or training session, they should draw their concern to the attention of the referee or supervising coach or a Responsible Person.

6. Behaviour

All participants must at all times conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner. Aggressive, abusive and anti-social behaviour, e.g. swearing, is not permitted. Participants must observe appropriate standards of decorum when in changing rooms and other areas.

Participants must not engage in any form of behaviour that could be confronting and distressing to children and their parents.

Parents* and other spectators must not interrupt or try to intervene in any fencing bout or training session.

Parents must not question, criticise or argue with a referee. If parents have any concerns about a referee's management of a bout, they should raise their concerns with the DT.

Spectators must not enter the roped-off fencing area and the space between fencing pistes while a bout is in progress and must obey any direction from the referee or any other tournament official. If a young

fencer is not supported by a coach, a parent may enter the fencing area briefly to support and comfort the child if need be, with the agreement of the referee.

Parents should encourage their children to enjoy fencing and not place them under pressure while they are competing or training through berating or scolding them, criticising them or trying to act as their coach.

Parents may be asked to leave by a Responsible Person if their behavior is distressing to their own or other children.

If a parent is concerned about the safety and welfare of their child or another during competition, the parent should tell the DT.

These rules of behavior are consistent with *Play By The Rules* and guidance by Sport Integrity Australia and the NSW Office of Sport.

*Parent includes a carer or other adult responsible for the child.

7. Distractions or disruptions during training and competitions

A Responsible Person may require any person to leave the Centre during any coaching, training or competition session, any competition, any fencing camp or any National or NSW Squads training session if the Responsible Person considers that such person's presence is either a distraction or a disruption. In serious cases, a Responsible Person may award a Black Card against offenders and instruct them to leave the Centre immediately.

8. Coaching

Coaches may attend competitions held at the Fencing Centre to assist their students. If the students are under the age of 18, the coach must have a current NSW Working With Children Check certificate and produce it when asked.

Coaches should not overtly coach fencers while a bout is underway.

Coaches should refrain from criticism of referees and must not approach the referee during a bout or after it without the consent of the referee.

Coaches who are not designated State Coaches may not participate in training and other programs at the Centre without the prior approval of the Head Coach.

9. Restriction on inviting guests or non-Centre coaches

A person entering the Centre and any fencer:

- is not permitted to bring guests to train or to "try out" fencing without permission from a Responsible Person;
- is not permitted to bring a coach who is not a designated Centre coach to train them personally or to be involved in activities during Centre programs or training (including NSW Fencing Academy training sessions, NSW Squads training sessions and camps) without permission from a Responsible Person or unless their coach is invited to do so by the Head Coach or the Board of NSWFA.

10. Recording and use of images

Images of competitors, including children, engaged in fencing and of any person attending a NSWFA event may be used by NSWFA in publications providing information to members, e.g. newsletters, websites, social

media, and to generally promote the sport of fencing. Entry to the Centre is tacit acceptance of NSWFA's right to use images for this purpose.

Images may be recorded of fencers participating in bouts or receiving medals on the podium provided the person recording the image does not enter the piste area or otherwise distract the fencers. Images may be posted to social media.

Images should always portray fencing in a positive light.

The recording of images in the bathrooms and changing area is strictly forbidden.

A continuous closed circuit television recording system is in operation in accordance with the NSWFC-CCTV Operational Procedures Policy. By entering the Centre, a person consents to NSWFA's use and operation of this recording system.

The NSWFA Board may impose restrictions on the recording of images within the Centre.

'Images' includes still camera shots and videos.

11. Smoking, alcohol and drugs

Smoking, including vaping, the consumption of alcohol and the taking of non-prescription drugs are not permitted, except that alcohol may be served to adults at social events organised by NSWFA.

12. Safety & tidiness

All participants should take reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accidents and mishaps. Equipment should not be left on the floor where it will be a trip hazard. Drinks (except water bottles) and food must not be taken onto the roped-off fencing floor. Spilled liquids must be mopped up immediately.

Please dispose of rubbish and recyclable items in the bins.

Approved by the NSWFA Board

August 2018 – updated January 2021 & June 2022