



Fencing - an inclusive sport

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land in NSW and pay our respect to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Fencing is an inclusive sport by its essential nature. Everyone is equal when they step on to the piste.

Fencing embraces diversity and difference.

The values we follow are fairness and equality.

The rules of fencing apply equally to everyone.

Courtesy and respect is shown to all.

The New South Wales Fencing Association is committed to upholding these values, deeply embedded in our tradition.

Female participation

In fencing, there's no difference in how the game is played by women and men, girls and boys. They often train together and can compete together in mixed events on equal terms.

Still, participation is uneven with females making up only about a third of all fencers.

NSWFA is working to improve this ratio with education and promotion to attract more women and girls to take up fencing.

It's important for everyone in the fencing community, and especially women and girls, to feel safe.

Our member protection policy, child safe policy and code of conduct clearly set the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in fencing and how breaches of these standards are to be dealt with.

Children and young people

Fencing is an ideal sport for children and young people. It teaches them to be physically and mentally agile without the injury risk of body contact sports.

It teaches good values of courtesy and respect.

NSWFA and our associated clubs will continue to place priority on teaching children how to become top competitive fencers or just how to enjoy our sport and keep fit.

Today's children are the future of our sport.

Cultural & Linguistic Diversity

Like many sports, fencing reflects the diverse nature of the Australian community. People from many cultural backgrounds enjoy fencing. All are welcome and all are treated equally.

While fencing's traditional roots are in Europe, it is growing as a popular sport across the world, particularly in Asia. This is reflected in the broad cross-section of the NSW fencing community.

Wherever people come from, whatever their culture and first language, they enrich the cultural diversity of fencing and all are welcome.

Indigenous participation

People who identify as indigenous are welcome to join the fencing family. We recognise that participation in fencing is challenging for many indigenous people due to location and distance. Wherever practical we will work with indigenous communities to find ways around these barriers.

On registration, fencers are asked if they wish to identify as indigenous for the purpose of our annual report to the NSW Office of Sport. Otherwise, we make no inquiry about our members' cultural background.

Regional Participation

NSWFA has an associated network of 30+ local fencing clubs in metropolitan and regional areas. About a third of them are in regional NSW. A Regional Director sits on the NSWFA Board.

NSWFA encourages the expansion of fencing in all parts of NSW while recognising the reality that creation of a new club anywhere depends on the availability of skilled coaches, club organisers, enthusiastic fencers and parents.

Athletes with a Disability

Wheelchair Fencing is an ideal sport for athletes with a disability who have upper body mobility. The action is fast and vigorous.

It's one of the original Paralympic Games sports.

NSWFA offers a Wheelchair Fencing Program at the NSW Fencing Centre, open to all athletes with a disability for whom wheelchair fencing is an option.

Our goal is to have wheelchair fencers from NSW good enough to compete in the Paralympic Games in Brisbane in 2032, or even before then.

LGBTQI+ athletes

Athletes who choose to identify as LGBTQI+ are welcome to take part in fencing along with all members of our diverse Australian community.

NSWFA believes the personal life choices of members are entirely a matter for them.

We respect the right of our members to be whatever they want to be.

Trans-gender athletes

The participation of trans-gender athletes in sport can raise issues of fairness and safety if there is a physical mismatch between competitors. If these situations arise, NSWFA will be guided by FIE & AFF policies. Designated mixed events are open to everyone in the relevant age groups.

This statement of NSWFA's welcoming approach to all who wish to join our sport is made by the
NSWFA Board of Directors - November 2022