

N.S.W. Fencing Association Inc.  
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## **CALLS FOR INTEREST OVERVIEW – SQUAD COACHES AND VENUES**

Under the AFF's High Performance Plan, the National Coaches in each weapon will be supported by Assistant National Coaches in the States where the National Coach is not based.

Antonio Signorello is the appointed National Coach, Sabre. Accordingly, the AFF has asked NSWFA to nominate Assistant National Coaches for Foil and Epee. The NSWFA Executive is now calling for expressions of interest in these positions.

Appointment to these positions will be in accordance with contractual terms drawn up by the AFF and will be paid positions. The contractual terms require Assistant National Coaches to conduct two squad training sessions per week as part of a structured training and assessment program. Assistant National Coaches will also play a crucial role in the management of the squad structure as well as the development and recruitment of junior fencers.

The introduction of these new National positions operating at a State level has required NSWFA and other State associations to consider how to best manage their responsibilities to support the AFF's High Performance Plan and their own fencing development programs.

In NSW, the National and State weapons squads will be integrated. This is more practical, effective and financially efficient than maintaining separate National and State squads.

As well as the Assistant National Coaches, NSWFA will need to appoint State Coaches for each weapon and gender. As with the Assistant National Coaches, State Coaches will be engaged on contract and will be paid.

Likewise, the Executive is now calling for expressions of interest in these positions.

The NSWFA Executive recognizes and appreciates the dedicated effort shown by the assistant coaches who have worked co-operatively with the Head Coach as unpaid volunteers over the past 18 months in order to develop State squads. This proven

commitment and the benefit of continuity will be influential factors in deciding appointments to the new squad coaching team.

The AFF's High Performance Plan challenges State Associations, coaches and fencers alike to step up to a new, more professional approach to developing elite fencers. Equally, and in the longer run more importantly, the implementation of combined squads in NSW will give all talented fencers the opportunity to train with the best as well as create a pathway for our young fencers to develop into top rank athletes.

This call for expressions of interest is the first step in the process. It is intended that coaches who express an interest will be interviewed by a panel comprising members of the Executive and the NSW Head Coach. The appointment of Assistant National Coaches will be in consultation with the High Performance Program Manager. The terms on which appointments are made will be the result of discussions and agreement with coaches.

NSWFA is also calling for expressions of interest from affiliated clubs interested in hosting a weapons squad for one session per week. The club will be paid a fee for providing space for the squad.

When expressions of interest have been received from coaches and from clubs, and NSWFA is confident that a viable squad system can evolve from the present squad arrangements and be sustained into the future, the Head Coach will extend invitations to fencers to join the squads. Membership of squads will be reviewed on a quarterly basis and provisions will be made for those fencers with external commitments that affect their availability for squads training.

The overall objective is to build on the progress made over the past 18 months under the Head Coach and his assistant coaches, to make squad membership an attractive value proposition for all talented fencers and to promote NSW as the premier fencing state in Australia.

Regards,

Duncan Fairweather  
President, New South Wales Fencing Association